

## **Area 45 Fall Assembly Minutes 2020**

The summer assembly was held Virtually on November 22, 2020 in New Jersey.

GSR/DCM orientation was held at 8:45AM.

### **Assembly Meeting**

The assembly meeting began at 10AM and was opened with the serenity prayer.

Minutes were dispensed and accepted.

### **Special Election: Area 45 Nomination for Class B Trustee**

Rose S was elected by substantial unanimity

### **Intergroup Chair Reports:**

#### **Cape Atlantic Intergroup – No Report**

#### **Central Jersey Intergroup -**

1. Office: Office Hours are Wednesday 11am to -1pm and Covid-19 protocols are strictly enforced, literature curb side pick-up.
2. Website has links to online and in person meetings. Please email [webmaster@centraljerseyintergroup.org](mailto:webmaster@centraljerseyintergroup.org) with any changes to groups dynamics.
3. Social Committee is offering an online via zoom holiday wreath class and transactions would be made Venmo.
4. Answering Service is Always looking for help with taking at home hotline commitments. Attached Schedule, instructions are a download away.
5. Our Newsletter is available from our website please download to see current happenings.
6. Corrections Meeting – Held regularly to help folks get certified, check website for details.

Next Body Meeting December 2, 2020

Central Jersey Daytime Phone Commitment 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM								
OPEN	Confirmed							5/29/2019
Week	Time	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	8:00 AM- 12:00PM						Mike W.	Lorraine V.
	12:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Matt. M	Terri B.	Tracy C.	Tracy C.	Tracy C.	Jason U	Jason U
2	8:00 AM- 12:00PM							Lorraine V.
	12:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Jason U.		Tracy C.	Tracy C.	Tracy C.	Jason U	Jason U
3	8:00 AM- 12:00PM							Lorraine V.
	12:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Jason U.					Jason U	Jason U
4	8:00 AM- 12:00PM							Lorraine V.
	12:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Cristina L.					Jason U	Jason U
5	8:00 AM- 12:00PM							Lorraine V.
	12:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Cristina L.					Jason U	Jason U

Central Jersey Night-time Phone Commitment 5:00 PM - 8:00 AM								
OPEN	Confirmed							5/29/19
Week	Time	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	5:00 PM - 11:00PM	Ken	Allentown Men's BB	Pete A 5 to 10	Carlo	Steps in Succession 5 - 10	John F 5-11	Live & Let Live 5 - 10
	11:00 PM - 5:00AM	Ken	Allentown Men's BB	Mary Jo L.				
2	5:00 PM - 11:00PM	Ken	Sean B.	Pete A 5 to 10	Blind Faith 5-10		5 - 10 Princeton Alternative	Carlo
	11:00 PM - 5:00AM	Ken	Sean B					
3	5:00 PM - 11:00PM	Ken	Sean B.	Center Group	Randy J	Pennington Wed Night 5 - 8	Cristina L.	Carlo
	11:00 PM - 5:00AM	Ken	Sean. B	Center Group	Randy J			
4	5:00 PM - 11:00PM	Ken	Sean. B	Pete A 5 to 10	Carlo		Cristina L.	Carlo
	11:00 PM - 5:00AM	Ken	Sean. B					
5	5:00 PM - 11:00PM	Ken	Judy	Judy	Carlo	Judy	Judy	Judy
	11:00 PM - 5:00AM	Ken	Judy	Judy		Judy	Judy	Judy

7.

## South Jersey Intergroup – Verbal Report

### Section Leaders and DCMs

**Section 1** - Good morning, I am the Section 1 Leader. Thank you to *everyone* who has made today's Assembly possible. Preparing for the Virtual Assemblies is so different. Change is a challenge but also rewarding.

- I have attended the Budget Review, Area Inventory and Day of Sharing along with other GSRs and DCMs in the Section.
- I have attended Workshops on the Service Manual and Concepts that stretched over weeks n months.

- The Section Leaders hosted 2 DCM Roundtables, in September and November, which are great opportunities for information exchanges! We are tweaking the format as we go to see what options work best.
- District 4 had a Kick-Off meeting in October and their first District meeting on November 1st. The next District Meeting we expect to have more participation and hopefully an election.
- District 30-31 is still work in progress.
- We did have a Workshop, more details to follow

Our Section is excited to be hosting a Speaker Extravaganza 'Recovery Through Service'. Our speakers are our Class B Trustee, Francis G., and Class A Trustee, Nancy M., who has an extensive background in Corrections. This has been so much fun planning. Hats off for District 24 for getting the ball rolling for this event! The event will be on Sunday, December 13, 2020, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm. The Zoom ID is: 863-4207-8471 Password: section1.

More Workshops are in the planning stage.

Thank you for this opportunity to be of service.

**District 3** - We continue to meet on zoom the second Sunday of the month at 3:30. We are planning a February 13 workshop with the history of AA as our topic.

Our November balance is \$826.29.

Thank you for letting me serve,  
Michelle C.

#### **District 4 – VACANT**

**Districts 22 & 23** – District 22/23 meets the 4th Monday of the month via zoom at 7pm. This is a change of day.

We are in the planning stage of a possible New Year's Day virtual event in lieu of our annual alkathon. More info to follow.

We have welcomed some new groups and GSRs to our district!

Our acct. balance is \$2775.11

We have had much discussion regarding reopening and closing protocols due to COVID.

In service,

Gina F DCM District 22/23

#### **District 24 – No Report**

**District 25** - The Three Legacies Workshop held on Zoom in September was well attended. We are working on planning a Winter Zoom Event

- District 25 is currently looking for a Treasurer.

- We discussed making sure your group information is listed accurately on the intergroup website and meeting guide app.

Our current bank account balance is: \$3,703.93

The district meets the first Monday of each month at 7pm

Location: Currently held virtually on Zoom (the church we normally meet in is closed)

**District 30 &31 – VACANT**

**Section II - No Report**

**District 5 – VACANT**

**District 6 – VACANT**

**District 7 – VACANT**

**District 8 – No Report**

**District 9 – VACANT**

**District 10** – Since the Summer Assembly 2020, I have remained secretary for District 26, and have written the minutes for the September, October and November hybrid meetings.

Donations from District 10 have been made to District 26 and to the GSO in New York.

I have attended: 2 roundtables sponsored by Scott P., the 20-21 Area 45 budget Zoom meeting, the Day of Sharing, and finally the workshop on the 3 Legacies.

In November, Sue W., gsr, gave an update on the Magnolia, Wednesday night meeting, Unity is the Spiritual Foundation... It remains on Zoom only. The 400 Club, in District 7, which does not have a DCM has never stopped having some in- person meetings. They are now having more meetings daily. They follow basic COVID-19 protocol: sanitizing, spacing seating, and mask wearing.

Each meeting that I attend I try to emphasis the importance of supporting the GSO during this very difficult period.

In Service,

Peg I.

**District 26 - No Report**

**District 27 – No Report**

**Section III – Verbal Report**

**District 12** – The district is planning the following **events** (please note date, time, place, etc.):

\_\_Workshop on how to successfully host online, hybrid and face-to-face meetings in the “New Normal”. January 17, 2021. Remote. Flyer to follow.

At the last District meeting, the following items were discussed and/or actions were taken:

\_We have begun meeting virtually on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month. We are planning a winter workshop and have selected the date of Sunday, January 17, 2021. We are in the planning stages and discussed creating a PowerPoint presentation, including tips and tricks, best practice, etc. We can also create a PDF of a cheat sheet, similar to what groups have as a script for their meetings, for hosting virtual or hybrid meetings. We can have a panel discussion with hopefully 2 or 3 speakers and be a moderator. We are also interested in hosting with another district if there is interest. I attended several online meetings in my district, and I hope to attend more during the upcoming months. We have had a few groups with new GSR's, have been informed of one group that is not meeting during the pandemic, and a new group which has not been assigned to a district yet, but I plan on attending this week (via zoom).

Our current bank account balance is : \$537.37

Location: \_Remote for now (Zoom)

### **District 13 - VACANT**

### **District 14 – Verbal Report**

**Section IV** – Good morning and thank you for the opportunity to serve. As we begin to wrap up 2020, Section IV continues to carry the message of hope and service throughout. We have had several workshops:

- Accessibilities and how it affects modern day AA. A fantastic workshop that had speakers sharing on this topic and showing the importance of how Zoom has been a positive impact on our fellow members with accessibility issues
- General AA Service membership: What is a GSR and how to better serve your local service community. Here, the group focused on building a solid foundation for both self-learning and GSR representation throughout the district
- An in-person, unity picnic, focused on service. In a time where spirits were low, a ray of sunshine was cast upon AA and how service can change your AA program

I have also had the opportunity to participate in the DCM roundtable, in which, is a bi-monthly call that both the Section Leaders and DCM share discussion about what is going on in their districts, best demonstrated practices, questions, and presentation of information. Presently, we have utilized a committee chairperson to come on and present on their committee, what they do, and how to get involved. In addition, we have been able to get our panel members involved, with both Rich H. and Ken T. joining us to share their experience, strength, and hope. We will look to get other panel members involved as well.

Carrying the message of service and AA unity will continue to be the mission in Section IV, as we venture into 2021. All groups have started to form a plan as to what they want the rest of their service journey to look like for this panel. I am extremely fortunate that these districts allow

me to be a part of their family. Thank you for the opportunity to serve Section 4 and Area 45. I am looking forward to continued service and am looking forward to seeing all of you in the future.

**District 15 – Greetings** Everyone! I am again relying on Alt. DCM District 15 Joanne R. to read my report. I am grateful for the 'we' program. Kevin H., an alcoholic DCM District 15. Our-virtual workshop "Heart of the Fellowship!" Saturday, October 10, 2020 was a great opportunity to serve. Despite a few in attendance, we (the speakers: Joanne R., Joe E., Corinne C., and others) had the opportunity to share our understandings and experience exploring the services of GSR's, ALT. DCM's, and DCM's. This experience has motivated us in planning another workshop. We just returned to our location in following the guidelines of Holy Spirit Episcopal Church, 220 Main St./Rt. 9, Tuckerton, NJ 08087. We meet at 6:30 p.m. every second Wednesday of the month. Our treasurer reports \$2,711.61 balance. Working on humility and responsibility Kevin H. DCM District 15.

**District 16 & 17** - I'm an alcoholic; my name is Cecilia. I gladly serve AA as DCM of district. Personally I attended both DCM ROUNDTABLEs, a Unity Picnic, the 3 Legacies Workshop, Area 45 Budget Review, Area 45 Day of Sharing, my home group's business meetings and group conscious meetings as well as the National AA Archivist Workshop. 16/17. Since our Summer Assembly, we have held 3 monthly business meetings, with an attendance range of 12-15. We held an amazing workshop in September on Accessibility. Strong Attendance and speakers from the newly formed AAAC presented many important points of information to bring back and implement with our home groups. In 2 weeks, on 12/6/2020 3:30-5 pm, we are fortunate to be hosting a virtual workshop entitled 'CARRYING THE MESSAGE IN THE COVID ERA'. Recounting actual experiences and coping mechanisms employed by all levels of AA service show us how significantly all of us have been affected. Every one is welcome. The event flyer is on the Area 45 website. Our District bank balance is \$3300. Donations have diminished but so have our expenses, so I continue to keep the faith and serve with gratitude.

**District 18 – Verbal Report**

**District 19 – No Report**

**Area Committee Reports**

**Ad Hoc** – Hi, My name is Wendy, and I'm an alcoholic.

I want to thank Area 45 for allowing me to be of service.

So, far I've been able to help with the last assembly, the area inventory, and the planning meetings for the December 13th date.

I would not be able to do any of this without a fantastic security committee's help.

They have been doing a fabulous job behind the scenes to ensure an event to be done without a hitch.

I've had a great time planning security for the convention too and looking forward to helping with future events.

In Love and Service,

**Archives** - The Archives committee is active and consists of myself ( chair-person ), Cecilia B. ( co-chair/alternate ), and several other fellowship members that serve as assistants and advisors. The archives are housed in a storage facility in Egg Harbor Twp., now named Cubespace. We have no set meeting time and communicate via phone and e-mails.

Since last report, there have been seven visits to the storage facility by myself and Cecilia. We have received and stored donations of three posters from the convention committee and a private donation of audio cassettes purchased at past conventions. Inventory and display of the archives continues and the progress is documented on the Area 45 website. This process has been greatly enhanced by the purchase of a laptop computer and accessories by Area 45. Many thanks to all.

Activities of the committee are mainly availability. The storage facility is open and viewing of the storage locker can be arranged by appointment with a member of the committee. I have worked with the webmaster and panel chair to keep communications open and e-mails are sent to the archives laptop from the web address posted on the website. I was honored to attend the National A.A. Archives Workshop on Zoom, September 26,2020. This day-long presentation was enlightening and informative. I urge all to visit their website @ naaaw.org.

Plans for the future are tentative. We look forward to involvement in the upcoming Area 45 convention. Our budget for 2020 is exhausted, but no expenditures are expected until the 2021 budget is in place.

Yours in service, Roy C.

Archives Chairperson, Area 45 panel 70

### **Audio – Verbal Report**

**Budget & Finance** – Good Morning Everyone,

I would like to thank the Panel and all of the people behind the scenes in the tech world that have made this virtual Assembly possible.

I would like to thank Kelly our chairwoman for asking me to serve as Budget and Finance Chair and create the current proposed budget.

Additional thanks go to Joe E., Phil K., George H, and Rich H. for serving on the committee and dedicating time out of their busy schedule to provide valuable input and service, which, without, this budget would not have been possible.

The Budget and Finance Committee held two workshops in conjunction with all the Sections. On Saturday September 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> virtual meetings were held in which Phil K. and Joe E. both presented the budget given to the Assembly in August and fielded questions and concerns from members of the fellowship. As a result of these sessions several changes were suggested and discussed by the Budget and Finance committee at a committee meeting on October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Several changes were made to the proposed budget and those changes were posted to the Area website for all to view a head of today's vote to approve the budget.

Again, I would like to thank the Committee, Kelly and the Area for trusting me with this responsibility and it is a honor to serve and io look forward to future opportunities to be of services.

Thank you,

### **Convention - Verbal report**

### **Cooperation with Professional Community/Public Information - No Report**

**Corrections** – Hello Everyone, My name is Tressa, I am Blessed & Grateful to be serving as your Area 45 Corrections Chair.

- There's nothing new to report as far as getting back into the facilities or about bringing virtual meetings in. The lockdown on the institutions continues with no end in sight at this time. I wish I had better news to bring to you regarding this matter.

- We have however continued to get literature into three more prisons making our total of 11 institutions between county and state facilities. We have also sent corrections correspondence application forms to the volunteer coordinators at several prisons. We feel this is a vital service at this time & continue to make efforts to meet the needs of the alcoholic inmates.

- I attended & participated in the area 45 budget review on September 26. I am hoping to attend the national corrections conference in New Orleans in person in November 2021.

- I attended the area 11 virtual corrections correspondence workshop it was very informative. I regularly attend the weekly national corrections conference call & continue to network with corrections chairs from all different states.

- I am looking forward to attending NERAASA.

- Thank you for your continued contributions to LIPS

Our account balance as of our Nov. 14th Business meeting was \$7053.55 including online contributions of \$36.41. We purchased \$838.35 in literature which was sent to Bo Robinson & Garden state youth correctional facility. Bringing our current balance to \$6215.20

- Area 45 corrections committee meets virtually the second Saturday of every month at 9 AM our zoom ID is listed on the Area 45 calendar. At our business meeting in December we are hoping to discuss the possibility of an upcoming virtual workshop.

- Look for our upcoming article or blurb in the next newsletter

- We encourage you to attend the central jersey corrections workshop on December 6 at 10 AM, The Area 45 corrections committee will be speaking about LIPS

- And lastly, if your committee or district is holding a virtual workshop and you would like Corrections to give a few minute talk about corrections correspondence or applications please reach out to me.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to today's assembly and thank you to the budget and finance committee for all your hard work. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

**DCM/GSR Orientation - 6 GSR's 1 Alt. GSR's 1 Alt DCM**

In love and Service

Rose S

### **Grapevine – No Report**

**Policy** – This committee welcomes new members Tanya and Marcella. Thank you for your service. We held a virtual meeting on October 26th where we discussed the committee responsibilities, Area Handbook, potential agenda items for this assembly, and goals for the upcoming year. The committee is currently coordinating with Intergroups in order to have area handbooks available at all three offices. Thank you for allowing us to serve.

**Registration** – 75 – 77 people 29 GSRs 2 Alternate GSRs 9 DCMs 2 Alternate DCMs 3 Section Leaders 13 Area Committee Members 6 Panel Members 3 Past Delegates 2 Intergroup Chairs 7 Visitors

### **Accessibility/Special Needs – Verbal Report**

**Website** - Ok since the last time we meet

The new meeting form has been finished and is now up on the website. I worked with Roy and we put the Archives form on the website. Now you can record your group's history with area 45. With a few clicks of the mouse. I've been keeping up with our area and district calendars. And I'm pleased to say our calendars are getting full. Thank you to the DCMs and everyone that sent me links to their meetings so we could get the calendars full again. We also got away from our old area email hosting company saving the area a good amount of money. I with the help from Richie M (S Jersey tech chair) we created the 22 area emails. We migrated old emails and then closed the old email accounts. The new email accounts are up and running. I have 17 out of 22 set up. I've had zoom meetings with panel members and committee chairs to get their email accounts set up. I've also worked with Richie and Randi on a minor problem with sending bulk email. Which we set up via a bulk email service. Which gives us and the recipient many more options. I've helped on the tech committee  
With gratitude and service sobriety Rules

### **Newsletter – No Report**

### **Young People - VACANT**

### **Area Panel Reports –**

**Secretary** – Good Morning My name is Randi J, and it is my pleasure to serve you as your Area 45 Secretary.

The following is a summary of some of my activities this past quarter.

I went through the last assembly virtual chat record to find information to send out PowerPoint slides from Delegate Rich and Trustee Francis to all who requested them.

I wrote the minutes one week after the virtual assembly which were then posted on the snjaa.org website

I sent out approximately 93 of this year's Lighthouse Panel pins to the Conference Delegates of United States and Canada. This included a small note from Rich in a small purple bubble envelope. A cute little gift from Rich indeed!

I mailed out a few Final Conference reports to people who requested them.

I designed the flyer for the Day of Sharing. I participated in the Day of Sharing and the Area 45 Inventory.

I sent out many flyers during the course of 3 months.

I spent a considerable amount of time learning our new email system for the area emails which was a challenge for me. I took a couple of courses to help me also. I learned how it works, how to design and send emails to our large mailing list I am in charge of.

August 29<sup>th</sup> I attended the 2020 Service Fair hosted by Northeast Texas Area 65 which was an all day event where there were speakers including the GSO General Manager, a Regional Trustee and several delegates.

September 5-6 I attended the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Unity and Service Conference Labor Day Weekend on "Applying our 12 Traditions & 12 Concepts to Real Life" out of Concord, California. It was an excellent event, and I learned a lot about service.

I Sat in on two DCM round tables. A DCM Roundtable is a bi-monthly meeting of all area section leaders and DCMs.

I went to two Area 45 Convention meetings on the second Sunday of each month at 10am. I try to help out this committee where I can.

I attended one panel meeting on zoom.

I attended two Stepping Stones events, "Writing the Big Book", and "Day of Gratitude" of Stepping Stones, the historic home and archives of the Wilsons in NY. This included Rare recordings presented by author Mike Fitzpatrick & a live interview with Bill W's great Niece. I additionally zoomed in on a Live World-Wide Benefit, "An Evening for Dr. Bob's Home". Which included a virtual tour of Dr. Bob's Home.

I went to the Area 45 Budget Review and the District 4 Kick off events

I observed 2 Tech committee meetings. The Tech committee does all the behind the scenes management and coordination for our digital platform meetings.

I am Participating in two an ongoing weekly workshop/classes one where we are going through the service manual page by page and another one where we are weekly reading and discussing the book "A.A. Comes of Age".

I attended the Jalcon Convention which is the Al-Anon convention where we offer A.A. meetings and there is an A.A. speaker as well.

I attended the Waves Roundup put on by a committee from the Cape Atlantic Inter-group. It was a two day affair with various speakers and workshops. The Area 45 Panel in fact had one workshop spot where we did our best to thrill and entertain.

In Love and Service,

**Registrar** - Good morning to all of today's assembly attendees and to Panel 70. My name is Scott and I'm an alcoholic. I have the privilege of serving as your Area 45 Registrar. I'd like to thank the Area 45 Tech Committee for facilitating today's assembly. Without you we most certainly could not connect with each other and I want you all to know that your efforts and hard work is greatly appreciated.

Its been a flurry of Virtual activity here in Area 45 and the AA world abound since the last assembly. It was my pleasure to attend or take part in these virtual events :

GSO's My Portal Registrar Survey, the 2 rounds of the Area 45 Budget Review, District 25 3 Legacies Workshop, our Area 45 Inventory, the Area 45 Day of Sharing, District 4 KickOff Meeting, the DCM RoundTable Meetings, Cape Atlantic Waves Roundup, and today's Assembly.

I'm looking forward to attending the Northeast Regional Forum on Dec 5, participating at CJI Corrections Event Dec 6th, and attending both District 16/17 Carrying the message in the covid era Dec 6th & Section 1 Class A & B Trustee Speaker Event w Q&A on Dec 13, all of which can be found on our Area 45 Website in the District / Area events Calendar.

There's been over 200 updated files sent to G.S.O. from our Area Registrar database along with 20 conversion corrections. Talk about straightening out our past Whew!

Here's the latest news from G.S.O. concerning the NetSuite / My Portal Release 2.0 for Dec 2020  
Items related to the Release 2.0 are listed below:

1. Edit/update capabilities
2. Search, filtering and down loading information
3. There will be a new "Position" created for an Alternate Registrar that will be provided the same capabilities as the Area Registrar if requested by the Area. Delegates and DCM's will be provided 'read only' access at the area-level.
4. We are currently envisioning several Waves of training/rollout
  - a. Training/Rollout Wave 1: The Area Registrars will be trained beginning December 15th
  - b. Training/Rollout Wave 2-3 :Alternate Registrars, Delegates and DCMs (sequence and timing TBD)

Any further questions concerning the 2.0 Release can be directed to Beau B.

Chair of Alcoholics Anonymous World Services

Lastly, a gentle reminder to anyone from the GSR/DCM orientation this morning, please get the applicable change forms to me as soon as your able. Thank you for allowing me to Serve.

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott P

Area 45 Registrar

[Registrar@snjaa.org](mailto:Registrar@snjaa.org)

Treasurer –

1) 2020 Contributions. - Thank You to All Groups/Individuals!!!

- Jan. \$4562
- Feb. \$2518
- Mar. \$3326
- Apr. \$1414 (\$77 Online)
- May. \$1203 (\$286 Online)
- June. \$2182 (\$384 Online)
- July. \$2083 (\$24 Online)
- Aug. \$1811 (\$97 Online)
- Sept. \$2268 (\$0 Online)
- Oct. \$2150 (\$127 Online)

2) 2019 Average \$3000+/Month

June-Oct 2020 Average \$2000+/Month

3) Online Area 45 Contributions

- Individuals 7th Tradition & LIPS Option

• Expenditures Jan-Oct.	Actual	Budget
- Core	\$6973	\$12010
- Committees	\$4408	\$13500
Conv Com Refund (\$3460)		
- Events	\$12266	\$20100
Nat Conv (\$9070)		
NERAASA (\$2612)		
- Panel.	\$2923	\$5900
<b>Total.</b>	<b>\$26570</b>	<b>\$51510</b>

- **TD Bank Accounts**
  - Operating (Checking/MM) \$19305
  - CDs 3 Month (\$30225 Prudent Reserve) \$50225
  
- **Completed NJ Articles Incorporation/Annual Filing**
  
- **Filed 2019 IRS Form 990**
  
- **Budget & Finance Com**
  - **Worked with Committee on Finalizing 2021-22 Budget for Assembly Approval**

**Chair** - My name is Kelly W. and I am an alcoholic. It is my privilege to serve as your Area 45 Chair.

Since our Summer Assembly, a large part of my focus has been on our Ad Hoc Committees. After careful consultation with our Immediate Past Delegate (and Ad Hoc Chair) Rose along with our Panel, it was decided that at this time we will no longer pursue converting Area 45 over to the platform of Microsoft 360. Although a future Panel may wish to take this back up, for now we will set it aside.

That being said, as our current needs have dictated, a new Ad Hoc (and potentially future standing committee) has been formed to take responsibility for all Area 45 Virtual Events. I am so thankful to Wendy for stepping into the very important role of chairing this committee and to every single person who has made themselves available to serve on the committee. To date, the Virtual Ad Hoc has already hosted our Area 45 Inventory and today's Assembly, and moving forward will host the Section 1 event with our Class B Trustees on December 13th, our Area 45 General Service Convention March 19th-21st, as well as the 2021 Mini-Conference to be held on March 14th.

At this time I would like to welcome Tina R. as our new Newsletter Chair. Thank you so much for your willingness to serve!

Lastly, please consider registering for the upcoming Northeast Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly February 26th-28th. Committee chairs should have by now received an email from me with information on paying for their registrations.

at this time I would like to invite anyone interested in helping out with the Newsletter Committee to please reach out to me at [chair@snjaa.org](mailto:chair@snjaa.org).

Respectfully submitted,

Alternate Delegate – Greetings everyone,

I'm an alcoholic, my name is Ken.

I'm grateful to serve as your Area 45 Alternate Delegate for Panel 70.

Since our Summer Assembly I've had the privilege of watching our entire fellowship go to any lengths to meet our Primary Purpose. Our entire service structure, groups, and individual members going above and beyond for the still suffering alcoholic. More than ever, I am grateful to be a member of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Sine then, I've attended, and participated in the following events.

9/26: Area 45 Budget Review.

10/2: Area 45 Inventory

10/17: Area 44 Election Assembly

10/18: Area 45 Panel Meeting

11/1: District 16/17 monthly meeting

11/14: Cape Atlantic Intergroup Roundup

11/15: Area 48 HMB (NY) Inventory

11/17: Area 45 DCM Roundtable

In addition, I've continued meeting with the Northeast Regional Delegates, Alternates, and Trustee on a regular basis. I've also had the privilege of being invited to share my experience in recovery and service at many groups. It's been a very gratifying few months.

Thank you All for your service to Area 45, and to your groups.

In Love, Service & Unity

Ken T

Area 45 Alternate Delegate

Panel 70

609/339-4386

**Delegate** – My name is Rich H and I'm an alcoholic. I am honored to serve as your Panel 70 delegate to the General Service Conference.

And the General Service Conference is the first thing I wanted to address today. The 71st General Service Conference will be held virtually from April 18 thru April 24, 2021. Even with a week to work, it is going to be a struggle to address the many items of important AA business. The agenda includes items unaddressed last year, floor actions added at the last conference, and all the new items that make the agenda for the first time. To say I am excited to get to work is an undresrannete.

To help me prepare, Area 45 has scheduled a virtual "mini conference" for March 14, 2021, the weekend before our virtual convention . on March 19-20 For those of you who are not familiar, the moni conference is your best opportunity to directly address the issues that I will be dealing with at the General Service Conference, questions that have an immediate impact upon AA life in Area 45 and issues that will affect us for years to come. For example, do you want a new edition of the Big Book? Do you want to make the Preamble gender neutral? This is your opportunity for your voice to be heard.

A couple of other events I wanted to push. On 12/5/20, there will be the virtual Northeast Regional Forum, which is free but registration is required. On 12/15, Section one is hosting two AA trustees, an A and a B. Registration for the virtual 2021 NERAASA is open. It runs February 26, 27 & 28, 2021. The cost is \$21.00

I also need to bring you up to speed on the economics of our program. AA Grapevine, Inc.: The A.A. Grapevine is facing some challenges during this time. The cumulative effect of COVID-19 on book sales and the decline of La Viña subscriptions (due to the cancellation of large-scale Spanish events) has brought some financial hardship. As a result of the decline in income, Grapevine has withdrawn approximately \$250,000 from its Subscription Liability Fund. if you want to help you need to subscribe and make gifts of subscriptions.

GSO. To date GSO has drawn down 4.5 million from reserved funds. Estimates are that there is still a million of that unused. Of the recently authorized \$1.5 million drawdown, we've only had to use \$1.0 million, and Our Prudent Reserve is somewhere around 7 – 8 months. Time will tell. GSO paid for early retirements, which will save money in the long run, and has other expenses.

Regardless of what we may sometimes think about some elements of the fellowship's reaction to the pandemic, the 7th tradition contributions groups are making are fantastic! We got these numbers yesterday.....

Type	Jan-	Sept	Oct	Total	YTD
Mail	5,912,833	721,297		<b>6,634,130</b>	
Online	1,234,732	147,726		<b>1,382,458</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,147,564</b>	<b>869,023</b>		<b>8,016,588</b>	

**Presentation by Area 45 Treasurer, George H. on newly established Articles of Incorporation for Area 45.**

**Resolution:** The Panel and Policy Committee, having considered the increasing complexity of tax preparation and corporate governance, hereby resolves to retain Tanner Shields as its CPA and Thomas H. Ehrhardt, Esq. as its legal counsel for Panel 70, such relationships terminable at will at any time by either party.

**Motion:** The Assembly approves the Panel and Policy Committee's resolution retaining the Area's accountant and the Area's lawyer for Panel 70 at the cost of \$1200 which included the cost of a safe deposit box to store pertinent legal documents.

The motion passed

**Motion:** To approve 2021-22 Budget as put forth by the Budget and Finance Committee after input from the Area Committees and Assembly.

The motion passed



## Area 45 2021 and 2022 Budget

This budget is a plan for spending 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition funds, in Southern New Jersey Area 45 for the calendar years of 2021 and 2022. The funding timeframe is typical in that Area 45 regularly adopts a spending plan or budget for a 2-year time frame.

This budget cycle in particular has been nothing but typical for Area 45. Early in March 2020, an outside issue (COVID 19) quickly started to impact our society in a way that none of us have experienced before. With the NJ Governor's announcement of the "stay-at-home order" and the "limitations put on personal and private gatherings", many of our meeting places closed their doors and meetings, Groups, Intergroups and the Area were forced to quickly find a resolution and continue to meet and provide services to our members.

As a testament to our Fellowship's resilience, and leadership from our existing virtual and online meetings and Loners International, groups throughout South Jersey embraced internet-based meeting platforms within days of the Governor's announcement and coffee makers and greeters quickly became online hosts and meeting moderators. As a result of this change, meeting attendance slowed for a couple of weeks and groups began experimenting with virtual banking applications to ensure private and secure financial transactions for the collection and redistribution of 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition funds. During this transition, meeting's and Group's 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition collections have been significantly reduced and the redistribution of funds to Service entities like Intergroups, Districts, Area, and the General Service Office have all suffered.

This budget is very much a response to the rapidly changing national health crisis brought on by COVID 19, the transition from in-person meetings to virtual meetings, and the reduction of 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition funds being sent to Area 45. Currently, Area 45 is experiencing a reduction of revenue due to the reduced amount of 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition funds being sent by Groups. The 2020 Area 45 Budget planned revenue is \$37,000. Based on actual contributions through the first 6 months of 2020, it is anticipated that Area will collect approximately \$25,000 in 2020. This would be a \$12,000 reduction, compared with planned revenue, which is approximately 35% less than was anticipated for 2020. In response to the reduction of 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition contributions to the Area, and due to the disruption to many service activities at various levels, 2020 expenditures have been reduced and are predicted to be comparable to the projected \$25,000 revenue.

In comparison to previous budgets, the 2021/2022 Budget is a fiscally conservative plan that responds to both the reduction in 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition collections and reduced spending due to the severe reduction of in-person gatherings. The Budget and Finance Committee attempted to predict spending and revenue based on several assumptions related to the current health crisis, the

advanced notice about NERASSA 2021 being virtual, and the opportunity for a full return to in-person meetings sometime in 2021. There are 5 sections of this budget. They are Revenue, Core Expenses, Committee Expenses, Event Expenses, and Panel Expenses.

First is Revenue. In close consultation with the Area Treasurer, this committee is projecting contribution levels in 2021 and 2022 that we feel are realistic and achievable. 2021 and 2022 revenue is predicted to be \$24,000 and \$30,000, respectively. This assumes that funds received will be \$2,000 per month in 2021 and \$2,500 per month in 2022. For perspective, during the 3-month period when NJ was experiencing the most (to date) disruption due to COVID 19 (April, May, June 2020), monthly 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition contributions to Area averaged \$1,350. During the three months prior (January, February, March 2020), monthly 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition contributions to Area averaged \$3,470.

The Expenses sections are similar to previously approved budgets and represent a more fiscally constrained spending plan than previous years. All four Expense sections have been reduced from prior year budgets and line item costs have been more closely aligned with 2019/2020 related actual costs. Core expenses provides items that are regular predictable expenses related to the ongoing annual operations of the Area. Committee expenses are line item allocations that allow for each committee to function during this time of fiscal uncertainty. Event expenses have been reduced in the first year of the budget (2021) but return to more normal spending amounts in 2022. Panel expenses are a blend of the 2019 and 2020 budget with previous year budget recognizing each Panel member in relationship to Concept X where a *“Every Service responsibility should be matched with an equal authority”*, with the authority being funds to successfully complete their assigned task.

The 2021/2022 budget attempts to spend down a portion of previous years’ additional (unspent) contributions while allowing for the continuation of Area operations on January 1, 2023. The Prudent Reserve of \$30,000 remains intact and is not affected by the intent of the 2021/2022 budget to disburse more money than is received.

\*\*\*The Budget and Finance Committee recommends a review of revenue and expenses prior to the May (Spring) 2021 Assembly so that the Committee along with the Treasure, Chair and Delegate can provide recommendation and budget adjustments if necessary.

## Highlights Section

To provide perspective with regard to the unprecedented disruption of COVID 19, during the 3-month period when NJ was experiencing the most (to date) disruption due to COVID 19 (April, May, June 2020), 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition contributions to Area averaged \$1,350 per month. During the three months prior (January, February, March 2020), monthly 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition contributions to Area averaged \$3,470. The projected average monthly contributions in 2021 (\$2,000) are approximately 48% more than the average monthly contributions during the most disruptive period of 2020 (\$1,350), but approximately 58% less than the average monthly contributions immediately preceding the pandemic (\$3,470). The projected average monthly contributions in 2021 (\$2,500) are approximately 85% more than the average monthly contributions during the most disruptive period of 2020, but approximately 28% less than the average monthly contributions immediately preceding the pandemic.

We are anticipating a modest, progressive increase in 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition contributions during the 2021/2022 period, based upon the “learning curve” in Groups utilizing electronic 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition options, financial support appeals from General Service, an already-realized (methodical) return to in-person meetings, and general improving economic conditions for members in 2021 and 2022.

#### **Budget Notes:**

Below are individual line item notes that are important to adoption of this budget.

\*\*\* **Revenue** is projected to be significantly reduced for the next 2 years. Revenue in 2020 is expected to be about \$12,000 less than what was expected. Expected 2021 revenue is \$13,000 less than the original 2020 target and expected 2022 revenue is \$7,000 less than the original 2020 target.

This budget is reflective of the anticipated reduced contributions and multiple line items have been reduced as a result.

The projected revenue for budget years 2021 and 2022 are based off of the monthly contribution amounts from 2020 and the current COVID 19 contribution levels. These are very good predictions of revenue and represent 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition funds and personal contributions to the Area over the next two years.

2021 revenue is projected to be \$24,000, representing average contributions of \$2,000 per month and 2022 revenue is projected to be \$30,000, representing average contributions of \$2,500 per month.

In previous version of the budget there was a line item include as Other. This line item has been removed. It represented contributions received by the Area that were intended for other Service entities. I situation like this the Treasure simply redistributes the funds.

*Please note that if at any time over the next two years contributions exceed the predicted amount the Area Chair, Treasurer and Delegate will inform the Assembly and the Area can discuss what to do with the increased amount of contributions.*

It is important to recognize that even though this budget represents spending at a reduced amount, the Area checkbook is predicted to have \$35,000 on January 1, 2021 and this budget makes accommodations in the first year (2021) to spend \$7,170.00 more than the predicted contribution level and in the second year (2022) spend \$14,800.00 more than the predicted contribution level, leaving the Area checkbook with a total of \$13,030.00 on January 1, 2023.

### **Core Expense**

**Area Handbooks** – The Area only makes and purchases new Handbooks every other year to reflect the changes from the previous Panel and Assembly and the budgeted amount has been reduced from previous years to more accurately reflect the actual cost of production.

**Assembly Hall Rentals** – The Area is not expecting to meet in person during the winter of 2021. This expense is based on 3 rentals @ \$750 each in 2021 and 4 rentals @ \$750 each in 2022. This line item is strictly for Assembly rental charges; other Area events have rental charges built into their line item costs. Please note that not every rental cost \$750, rather this is a blended rate that is most likely to be the actual total cost over the year. Rental charges for specific Area Assemblies will vary.

**Banking and Legal Fees** – These are fees associated with the Area incorporating.

**Safety Deposit Box** – As part of the advice that the Area has received during incorporation, it was recommended that the Area purchase a safety deposit box to store legal documents that require security.

**Taxes** – this line item was combined with Legal Fees last budget. Over the years it has become increasing more difficult to file taxes for a non-profit organization and the Area has successfully

sought the help of a tax professional to file taxes. This is a big help to the Area Treasurer and recommended as a consistent future practice of the Area.

**Service Manuals** – the price is reflective of 200 S.M. @ \$2.91 a book. Service Manuals are a very important part of service and the Area is happy to provide members with a copy of the manual.

**Bulk Mail Permit** – this item has been removed from the budget as the Area no longer maintains this service.

**Website/Hosting and Domain fees** – this expense is for the Annual renewal of the website and additional charges for the website hosting.

**Committee Expenses** – the Budget and Finance Committee reached out to and spoke with every Committee Chair. It was explained that contributions are currently down, that it is expected that contributions will not rebound to pre-pandemic levels until 2023, and that each Committee's expense were carefully examined, and the appropriate reductions were made. It is important to note that not all Committee budgets were reduced. The Committees with the biggest reductions are Convention, Workshop, Cooperation with the Professional Committee / Public Information and Accessibilities / Special Needs. Keeping in line with Concept X – where *“Every Service responsibility should be matched with an equal authority”* the Young Peoples Committee was funded at a level of \$100 for each year. In previous budgets this Committee was not funded.

**A note about the Workshop Committee** – this committee is not funded in this budget. The Districts and Sections do a very good job at providing workshops and events and it is not necessary for the Area to do the same. By not funding this Committee the quarterly Assemblies can be streamlined and focus on current business items.

## **Event Expenses**

**International Convention** – This event takes place every 5 years. The event was canceled in 2020 and does not occur again until 2025. It has been tradition that Area 45 sends the current Delegate to the International Convention and when asked support the display of our Archives at the Convention. ( GSO has asked Area 45 to participate in a Archives room with Area 44 consistently over the past several conventions) The Budget and Finance Committee recognizes that this event has had widespread support in past budgets and can be extremely difficult to fund during one budget cycle and therefore is making the consideration of escrowing funds to support travel of

the Delegate and Archives to Vancouver, BC, CA in 2025. With the passing of this budget the Treasurer will create a new bank account for the purpose of escrowing or saving money for the International Convention in 2025.

**Area Convention** - please note that because this is a large public gathering the 2020 Convention was canceled and the 2021 Convention is scheduled to be virtual and will not incur overnight hotel stay and meals for the Panel.

It is expected that the Area will be able to hold an in-person convention in 2022. Please note that this budget does not predict a financial return from the 2022 Convention. If a financial return is realized, the Area will accept it as general Revenue.

**Day of Sharing** – the amount represents the Area’s cost for this event. Each Intergroup and the Area contribute \$300 to host this event.

**General Service Conference** – the “per delegate” cost of the General Service Conference is significantly more than what Area 45 typically contributes. In 2020 we were able to send more money than the actual “per delegate” GSO costs to hold the conference. The annual cost of the General Service Conference is about \$8,400.00; GSO only ask Areas to contribute \$1,800.00. Over the past several years, Area 45 has been able to give more than the requested amount. Knowing that the next two years are going to be marked by reduced contributions, the Budget and Finance Committee recommends funding the General Service Conference at a level not to exceed \$4,000.00 for 2021 and 2022, with the knowledge that the contribution could be considerably less due to the Conference being held virtually .

**NERAASA** – the Delegates of the North East Region have voted to hold NERAASA 2021 as a virtual event. It is not known if there will be a registration cost. The budget for 2021 represents a nominal \$35 registration cost for all Panel and Committee members. In 2022 it is expected that NERAASA will be a live event and this budgeted cost represents an amount of money to pay for Panel members attendance and includes reimbursement up to \$200 for each Committee Chair who attends NERAASA in 2022.

**NERD** – the 2021 NERD Event has been canceled. The amount of \$70 in 2021 has been budgeted for this event in case there is a virtual event that charges a registration fee. Typically, in the second year of a budget and the first year of a Panel the Immediate Past Delegate attends NERD as the new Delegates and Alternate Delegates guest and this is the reason for the fluctuation between the two years.

**NERF** - the North East Regional Forum is held every other year and the Panel is supported to attend. It is not known if this event will take place in 2021, therefore the budget was provided as if the Forum will be an in-person event.

**Update: this event has been cancelled. The original amount of \$2800 budgeted for this event has been reallocated to other items in the budget, specifically \$2000 for the International Convection escrow and \$800 for the National Corrections Conference.**

**National Corrections Conference** - this is a new item to the Area 45 Budget. The Budget and Finance Committee recommend sending the current Area 45 Corrections Chair or appointee of the Area Chair to this important service event. The attendee will be encouraged to report back from the Conference during the Fall or Winter Assembly.

### **Panel Expense**

this section seeks to dignify each panel position as it relates to Concept X – where a *“Every Service responsibility should be matched with an equal authority”*, by allocating a direct line item for each Panel Position.

**Mileage** – this line item represents Area-related travel (fuel and vehicle “wear and tear” at \$0.40 per mile plus tolls) for the Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, and Registrar. This allotment of funds should only be used to offset mileage, tolls, and related expenses that the Panel members is a direct member of (or directly invited). Mileage is not reimbursable for Panel members attendance at Committee meetings in which they voluntarily attend.

This line item specifically includes reimbursement for the Treasurer to travel to and from their home to pick up Area mail from the Area PO Box.

All Panel members are encouraged to only seek reimbursement for travel when traveling to an event, Assembly or Committee Meeting outside one’s home Section.

**Delegate** – the allotment of funds for the Delegate includes cost of producing the Conference Report, conference keepsakes (typically pins), travel related to Delegate interaction with Area-related service entities (i.e. Districts, Sections) and other items that are needed for the Delegate to achieve success in their role.

**Alternate Delegate** – this allotment includes travel-related expense for the attendance at all three intergroup meetings on a monthly basis and other items that are needed for the Alternate Delegate to achieve success in their role.

**Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and Registrar** – these positions are provided funds for items unrelated to mileage that will help to ensure success in their role. The Actual 2019 total included costs related to travel for each position. These costs have been relocated to the Line Item Mileage.

**Prudent Reserve** – Budget and Finance Committee encourages the Assembly to consider approving a motion to gradually increase the Prudent Reserve to \$40,000 with any under expenditures in 2021-22 and/or higher than forecast levels of contributions.

### **Afternoon Committee Meeting**

The afternoon committee meeting was opened with the serenity prayer.

**Motion I** – Presented by Randi J.

“To change the location of Election Assemblies

to Rotate between Sections every two years.

This would likewise affect the regular Assembly schedule

to accommodate the Election Assembly Rotation.”

Motion Failed to Pass

**Motion !!** - Presented by Jean W.

"Motion to include and elaborate on the "Financial Support" reference currently found in the Budget and Finance Committee section of the Area 45 Handbook(1) in the descriptions for the role of the GSR, DCM and DCM At Large (Section Leader) descriptions.

The “Financial Support” references are in the AA Service Manual(2) for GSR and DCM as well."

References:

Area 45 Handbook Budget and Finance Committee page 11

The A.A. Service Manual pages GSR page S26 and DCM page S31

Result - It was determined by the committee to send this motion for Financial Support involving a change in the Area 45 Handbook, to the Policy Committee for review.

The committee meeting was closed with the Responsibility Pledge.