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Website Address: <http://www.area50wny.org>
AREA 50, WESTERN NEW YORK

Area officers & chairs (Panel 68): Delegate: Chuck B., Chair: Hank K., Co-chair: Patti S., Treasurer: James C., Secretary: Denise M., Registrar: Sandra H., Webmaster: Karen S., Archivist: Tom B., Accessibility Chair: Karel H., Archives Chair: Lila M., CPC Chair: Ryan L., Corrections Chair: Susan P-S., Finance Chair: Amy H., Grapevine Chair: Heidi M., GSA Education Chair: Nadav W., GSR Education Chair: David D., PIC Chair: Patrick K., Treatment Chair: Roman C.

ASSEMBLY

Area 50 WNY

Saturday, January 6, 2018

12:00 PM

Weslyan Southtown Campus

2063 Shadagee Road, Eden, NY 14057

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 12:09pm by Area 50 Chair Hank K. with the Assembly stating the Responsibility Statement of AA.

Introduction

Hank opened the meeting with welcoming all to the Assembly and reminding us of the real honor and responsibility in being Trusted Servants of AA. Hank presented a vision for Area 50 Panel 68, for the Assembly, Committees and officers rotating in for 2018-2019.

Vision points for the next 2 years includes:

- Reminder of importance of the history of A
- Expressed gratitude for the service work of Panel 66, noting over 3x the attendance today as at GSAs in beginning of Panel 66
- Panel 66 developed and worked toward a six point vision plan called "Turning on the Lights" for Area 50
- Continue this work of turning up the lights, and to have Panel 70 first Assembly look as different as today's (Panel 68) does from first assembly in Panel 66
- Carrying the message of General Service

Our AA Medallion is a circle around our three legacies of Unity, Service and Recovery. Put into practice, this is the program of AA, and our job is to live the three legacies. Those AA members in general service may be the only Service Manual that other AA members see. Our job is to learn how general service works.

Unity- We are here to serve the interests of AA ahead of our own personal interests. Read from

Tradition 1 (Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions) that “The unity of Alcoholics Anonymous is the most cherished quality our Society has.” Stressed the importance of staying whole in Area 50 for the spiritual health of AA in our area.

Service-is our expression of love and unity. It is 12th step work and is how we carry the message. Without the Area structure, the message does not get carried. Quoted Bill W. from our service manual that General Service is the most important, but least understood of 12th step work. The responsibility for the future of AA lies with the groups and general service. We all must actively support service outside of our homegroups.

The Theme of Panel 68 is Together We Can. We will continue with the six points of Unity from Panel 66. (Reference made to 3rd Strategic Planning Report). The area cannot function without the direct connection between the groups, GSA and the Districts. Our Delegate is our connection to AA as a whole.

First time GSR Assembly Attendees were identified and welcomed:

Jim S. – GSR, The Grove (District 5)
Kathy M. - GSR, Easy Does It (District 4)
Zack - GSR, Three Legacies (District 6)
Peter - GSR, How it Works (District 4)
Bobby - GSR, Fireside PM (District 7)
Lynn - GSR, Monday Morning Lockport (District 1)
Matt - GSR, High Noon (District 7)
Mike - GSR, The Giving Group (District 11)
Matthew - Alt GSR, North Buffalo (District 11)
Chuck- GSR, Williamsville (District 7)
Laurie - Alt GSR, Lockport #1 (District 1)
Patrick -GSR, Depth & Weight Speaker Group (District 6)
Jack - Alt GSR, Lighten Up (District 6)
Jim - GSR, Chapter IX (District 4)
Ann - GSR, Daily Reflections (District 4)
Gail - GSR, Serenity (District 4)
Allison - Alt GSR, Lockport Ladies (District 1)

First time and Interim DCMs were identified and welcomed:

Donna -Alt DCM District 7 (Achievement Group)

Delegates Report

I have been assigned to the Committee on Co-Operation with Professional Community. The assignments are made randomly, but it works well in my case. I have a lot of experience carrying the message to the Professional Community. I hope that will be useful to the committee. The list of proposed agenda items was distributed at the Assembly and is available by email to anyone who wants to see it. The final list of agenda items will be distributed in early February and will be emailed out as soon as received. The background for Agenda items will be available electronically for all who want to study it.

I would like to meet with as many Districts as possible, preferably in clusters, prior to the General Service Conference which starts

Beginning Balance at 10/1/2016		25,820.02
December Expense	for	
	buff fall conv	60.00
	GSA computer	554.60
	Service Manuals	929.26
		1,543.86
December contributions		
	executive committee contributions	62.00
	group contributions	2,490.82
		2,552.82
	Balance at 12/31/17	26,828.98
	Bank Statement	26,828.98

April 22. Please contact me by email at: Delegate@area50wny.org and we can arrange a meeting place and time. The Delegate's pre-conference assembly will be held on April 14 at First Trinity Church, 1570 Niagara Falls Blvd., Tonawanda, NY 14150. This will be an open Assembly, all members of AA are welcome to attend and to provide input on the final Agenda items to be discussed at the Conference.

Yours in love and service,
 Chuck B, Delegate, Area 50, Panel 68

Secretary's Report

Minutes presented from 11/11/17 Assembly. Motion was made by Jim to waive the reading of the minutes. Seconded by Pat M. No further corrections. Motion to accept minutes made by Karel H. Seconded by Jim. Unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report

David Drost, Outgoing Treasurer

Area finance reporting is being migrated from Excel Spreadsheets to Quickbooks. This will help expedite acknowledgement of contributions to groups. Motion to accept the Treasurer's report made by Jim. Seconded by Sue L. Unanimously Approved.

Co-Chairperson's Report

Patti S, Area Co-Chair

1.) District Status at a glance:

District 1 – Organizing	District 2 – Open	District 3 – Organizing
District 4 – DCM	District 5 – Open	District 6 – Organizing
District 7 – DCM	District 8 – Organizing	District 9 – Open
District 10 – Open	District 11 – DCM	District 12 – Open
District 13 – Organizing	District 14 – Organizing	District 15 – Organizing
District 16 – Organizing	District 17 – Organizing	District 18 – Organizing
District 20 – DCM	District 21 – Open	District 22 – Open

Please continue to update me on election results – this information along with when and where the district meetings are held are contained in the excel workbook which I forward to participants.

2.) An educational effort, I have ordered workbooks for PIC, CPC, Accessibilities, Corrections and Treatment. These GSO guidelines are used to organize committees within the districts and as a guide to the chairs of these committees. As I meet with the Districts I will hand these out and am available for questions on implementation since I have utilized these workbooks in past positions.

3.) If you can, please provide me an email of your respective district meeting minutes.

4.) A project I am working on is reviewing the 93 area delegate reports. Contained in these are actions these areas have taken to increase unity and service to carry A.A.'s 12 step.

5.) A second project I am working on is cross referencing meeting schedules to the information contained in Registrar files. As all projects move forward I will continue to update the Assembly.

6.) Attended the following events & District meetings: NY/Penn Intergroup November meeting. Flyers for their events are on the information table here.

I attended District 4, 6 & 8 organizational and election meetings

District 3 organizers meet at my house in December to kick start off efforts.

I have been invited in January and February to attend Districts 1, 3, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 & 18. I will attend NERAASA in Cromwell, CT. in February. Thank you for allowing me to serve this Assembly. Patti S.

Accessibility Report

Karel H, Chair

Communications with the various districts are in progress. Area 16 has added an accessibility volunteer. The very issue of access has come to light in re a long time fellow who has been transplanted from district 16 to the area of the Falls & west. Trying to help in getting groups to accommodate his lack of transportation requires many somewhat cumbersome steps at present. Let's work on another orientation than days of the week, geographic, to reach out to make the connection. Perhaps, it is my misunderstanding, so apologies if I am simply uneducated.

Archives Report

Lila M., Chair

Thank you so much for the honor and privilege of serving all of your groups for this past month. We of the archives committee have reported to 3 of the 4 inter-groups this past month! We continue to have work nights on the 2nd and 4th Monday evenings each month at 6:30 in the archives office. Special attention has been going toward getting oral histories from long-timers. Please check out this month's New Frontiers article, and know that especially if you are interested in any topics you'd like to see articles about - we'd like to hear from YOU.

The monthly archives meeting - which are now on the third Saturday of each month at 10am in the Buffalo Central Committee offices - needs your attention. If you know of someone who can donate just one hour to archives for the monthly meeting, in person or via conference call, please let me know. Having a God Conscience is crucial to the nature of our efforts - and an extra set of ears to reach out to the sick and suffering alcoholic in a way we've not yet tried might come to mind of the listener. If you know of someone with an interest in AA history, please let them know we are hoping to hear from them! Don't hesitate to reach out to me by phone or by email at ARCHIVES @AREA50WNY.ORG for details!

We displayed at the Main and High Christmas Vigil on Wednesday December 20th. And will be displaying at the NYPenn Day of Sharing in Eldred PA and are looking forward to the March 2018 Cataract City Spring Convention in Niagara Falls, New York.

Though we are part of the Area General Service structure, since archives is an autonomous committee receiving no funds from no unorganized parts of AA, the thanks goes directly to you groups and individuals who have donated to archives for affording me the privilege of attending this past National Archives Workshop in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada! The massive loads of concepts and photographs brought back are having results - which will be up on the website soon!

Mark the date of May 5th for the Archives Breakfast at Infant of Prague!

Know that the history of your group is one of the main reasons for our existence - and if you know a bit about it or have access to that type of detail about your group, please step up to this small way you can do a bit of service for your group! We'll provide the Group History form and if there's already data about your group, we'll get that to you as well. Some issues, such as the

address for your group, are not included in some group histories – you’ll be so glad to update what data is already turned in to Alcoholics Anonymous so that accuracy can be possible for our future generations. Currently recording oral history for long-time members is happening – please contact us for more details if you or someone you know may be interested in looking over a list of the type of questions, such as how the person learned about AA in the first place.

We’d love to display the archives at your group anniversary or special event - remember we appreciate a 30 days advance notice so transportation can be set up! Your PRIMARY PURPOSE efforts may be assisted by this sharing the history of AA at YOUR MEETING more than you can know.

And the usual reminder to all AA members of these 8 counties of Western New York – throw NOTHING group-related away without considering your unborn alcoholics to come, which is the purpose we work hard at keeping our area documented accurately and the reason for the existence of this ARCHIVES Committee.

Yours in service, Lila M., your grateful Area 50 Archives Committee Chair

Co-operation with the Professional Community (CPG)

No Report.

Corrections

Susan S.P., Chair

Committee is determining what we do well and what we don’t do well. Covers 8 county jails; the Erie County Holding Center,; State facilities such as Gowanda, Collins, Lakeview, Wende; Federal Detention Center in Batavia. Will be starting impact in Batavia. In process of determining when all the meetings are and gathering information on who can enter each facility.

Finance

Area 50 Finance Committee Report

The move to quick books for managing area contributions is almost complete. When complete, it will streamline recording and acknowledging area contributions in a much more efficient manner.

Our new treasurer and committee will meet in the next month to assign the tasks of picking up checks, recording and acknowledging contributions and beginning some new projects. These new projects will include getting the word out to groups regarding AA guidelines on distribution of funds to the district, area and GSO levels. A suggestion was made also that educating AA members on exactly where their dollar goes may help foster more transparency and lead to more support for the area and WSO.

As the districts become more operational the committee will attempt to communicate with each district treasurer and foster cooperation between the districts and the area as well.

Yours in service,

Amy Hardick

Area 50 Finance Chair

Grapevine

Heidi M, Chair

Grapevine committee also has goal of switching to Quickbooks. Gathering information on who the Grapevine contacts are/will be for each area district. Committee has been attending and is available to attend events. Purchasing literature through Grapevine Committee is generally cheaper than online because literature is purchased in bulk.

GSA Education

Nadav W., Chair

GSA education began as a new committee 2 years ago. Shows how we can bring spirituality in with business, and move forward with God-consciousness. Will organize after the February committee meeting.

GSR Education

David D., Chair

Will be holding GSR education at lunch for any new GSRs, or other interested attendees. Mentioned that GSR education is also available to the groups if requested.

PIC

Patrick K., Chair

It is quite important to note that at present time the PIC committee is essentially not functioning in any meaningful capacity and therefore is essentially starting from ground up. I have spoken briefly with the past area chair and am expecting the transfer of material presently in his possession. I have also spoken with the Buffalo intergroup chair on a few occasions in the recent past and also plan on attending their committee meeting on Sunday January 7, 2018. It appears this is the only functioning PIC committee in the area.

Currently, a formal inventory of the PIC committees' vision has not taken place. However, based on the current state of affairs it seems prudent that building and educating an area PIC committee and assisting the nonfunctioning district and intergroup with establishing the same would take first priority. A formal inventory can take place at that time.

Some possible ideas for moving forward:

Given that the Buffalo PIC committee appears to be the only area PIC committee established and functioning a possible course of action may be to see how we can best assist them at the present time with coordination and attempt to assist the other inter-groups and the newly forming districts with formation of their own committees

Further, the planned merger that is anticipated between the PIC/CPC area committees by the end of the panel 68 tenure will require a significant attention once a PIC committee is formed.

Making headway in these key areas by the end of panel 68 tenure would be a significant achievement.

Yours in service,

Patrick K., Area50 PIC chair Panel 68

Registrar

Sandra H., Registrar

Registrar now has a dedicated laptop. Registrar is responsible for Group Info including the group GSRs, as well as DCM info and officer info for the area. Will be working with Co-chair Patti Stephens with the Districts.

Treatment

Roman C., Chair

Currently working to set up Treatment Facility Committees within the districts.

Website Committee

No Report.

Assembly resumed at 2:10pm with Recap of previous reports, and questions for area officers and chairs.

Recap

Question from the floor to Treasurer regarding earlier comment from Chair that Area 50 only pays \$1800 of the approximate \$8,000 cost to send our Delegate to the General Service Conference. Questioned why this is so when we have \$25,000 in the area treasury. Outgoing Treasurer, David D., answered that while there is an overall goal to be able to send our delegate to the General Service Conference without relying on the the Generosity of AA as whole, there is a need for a prudent reserve.

(Note that during Billy N's keynote later in the Assembly, he pointed out that less than 25% of the 93 Areas are able to pay 100% of their Delegate's cost to attend the General Service Conference).

James C., Treasurer, reported that the 7th Tradition collection for today's assembly was \$287.70.

Question from the floor for Corrections Chair regarding whether there is a list for Corrections opportunities and instructions on how to get involved. Corrections Chair, Susan S.P. indicating that ideally each district would elect a corrections person and that would be the corrections contact. Clarified that Corrections meets every month, and phone contact information was exchanged.

Question from the floor for Registrar regarding correct district for a group. Directed to CoChair Patti Stephens.

District Reports

District 1: Lisa S, DCM (Lockport Ladies) -

We had a "kick off" event with 5 people on December 22nd.

We reviewed a list of the meetings in our area and divided up the labor to reach out to known points of contact at each, and to encourage people to attend the Lakeshore GSA meeting.

We were rewarded by these efforts with 13 people attending our next meeting on Friday, January 5th. This enabled a more in-depth discussion of how we might better “orient and educate” (or at least introduce) people who are new to AA. This led to the predictable discussion on “drugs and NA” vs. “alcoholism and AA.”

We agreed that we needed to do a better job of supporting the immediate area around us which includes at least one hospital with a treatment facility (Lockport), a jail (Niagara County) and several points for treatment in Lockport, as well as a significant number of churches, schools and libraries.

We agreed to meet again (likely at 2 week intervals) on Friday, Jan. 19th (6:30p) at Christ Church in Lockport, the new location of the “Lockport #1” group. We have circulated the majority of the materials to our district GSR's, as well as notes from the agenda and Billy N.'s talk. I have included the Billy N. notes in case they are of use. (Lisa's notes are provided later in minutes)

In service,

Lisa Stephens on behalf of Nick B. our District Leader

District 4: Sue L, DCM (Spiritual Progress) -

District 4 was happy to report 11 persons in attendance at the Assembly today. District 4 has been meeting regularly since August of 2017. Continues to meet Tuesdays directly after GSA meetings at the Deerhurst Presbyterian Church at 6:30pm. Recently elected District Chair, Co-chair, Secretary and Treasurer, and now discussing responsibilities.

District 7: James O, DCM (High Noon) -

District 7 has now elected an alternate DCM, Treasurer and Secretary. District 7 meets the last Thursday of the month at 6pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church on Main Street in Williamsville. Next meeting is January 25. Getting arms around the committees that need assistance. Announced new meeting High Noon II meeting Thursdays at 2pm at the Horizon Facility at 3297 Bailey Avenue.

District 8: Cory E, Alternate DCM (Matt Talbot) -

Next District 8 meeting is January 28. District meets last Sunday of the month at 5pm at Brothers of Mercy, Ransom Road entrance. District has 14 groups, with between 7-14 actively attending District meetings. Has 1 new group registered. Has conducted one group inventory. Wende is in District 8, so District will work with Susan S.P. on service there.

District 11: Lud P, DCM (Set Aside Group) -

District 11 has had some challenges of “What does the District want from me?” Within the district. Elections were held in November. District 11 meets the 2nd Sunday of the month at 5pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church on Elmwood Avenue. Working to make helping PIC a pri-

ority. Priority of getting District 11 information into the New Frontier. Has had some difficulty with Banking as well.

District 16: Brian B, DCM -

District 16 has established chairs for all service positions on interim basis. Elections will be held the 3rd week of January. Approximately 30 people have been participating in the 8-9 meetings that the district has held. Has reached out and visited all of the meetings in the District. District 16 has a treatment appointment at Turning Point. Will be working with the Inter-groups going forward. Is distributing group inventories to all groups in the District. Focusing on attraction rather than promotion.

GSR Reports

Patrick, GSR Depth and Weight Speaker Group - reported that the group will be celebrating its 2nd anniversary on 1/26/18 at 6:30pm with a potluck followed by speaker Barclay, from TN.

Courtesy Reports

Buffalo Intergroup: No Report.

Niagara Intergroup: No Report.

Genesee/Wyoming: Currently reviewing and updating meeting info. A request was made to contact the intergroup with meeting info for both Genesee and Wyoming.

NY/Penn: No Report.

Old Business

No old business on which to report.

New Business

No new business.

Open Mic

James O., DCM District 7 - Mentioned Bobby B.'s flyer for organizing districts and district meetings. Suggested its helpfulness for other organizing districts.

Will O'N., GSA Liaison for ESCYPAA announced that Buffalo has been awarded the ESCYPAA convention which will be held 10/19-10/22 at the Adam's Mark Hotel. Elections for the committee will be held Saturday 1/13 at 5pm at 216 Beard Avenue, Buffalo (location of Sober Train).

Chuck B, Delegate - indicated he had copies for us and available today, of the 45 Proposed Agenda Items for the 68th General Service Conference. Reminded us that the Trustees set the final agenda items, such that not all of the 45 items will be on the final agenda. Many will be assigned to a Committee that will debate whether an advisory action is required.

Mike - Question as to whether proposal of having AA General Service Conference every other year, rather than annually, was on Agenda for 68th Conference.

Chuck B, Delegate - Clarified that it is not an item proposed for the Conference Agenda.

Lila, Archives Chair- confirmed that the 2018 Archives Breakfast is 5/5/18, with doors opening at 9am, breakfast at 10am and speaker at 11am. Location is Infant of Prague, Cheektowaga.

Confirmation that May Area 50 Assembly is 5/12 (not 5/5).

Keynote Address

Business meeting concluded at 2:50pm. Hank K. Introduced Billy N. Former Chair of AAWS Board of Trustees, as keynote speaker.

Key Summary Points (Graciously provided by Lisa S., DCM, District 1)

Know where the money goes. Transparency supports “carrying the message” and makes our mission possible.

Districts are the front lines of providing 12 step work, e.g., responding to calls for help, disseminating literature, taking meetings inside institutions, providing information about what AA is (and isn't).

Need to responsibly leverage technology to carry the message.

Need to keep focus on helping young people coming in to AA.

Bill W. wrote that we needed to be an effective business organization in order to carry the mission forward. God takes care of us, we have the responsibility to take care of AA, which is through an effective business operation.

Notes:

AA reacts cautiously to issues. Forward progress is not quick, and it's not bad. Servant Leadership (Greenleaf) is a good text to read, but anyone familiar with the Marine Corps would recognize the principles. A new idea to me is to be last. When invited, I never eat first. It's helped me understand that I am not first.

We have been too interested in protecting the doctrine rather than carrying out the mission. We need to take better care of people who have less than us. We need to be true to the mission, not the bureaucracy or the doctrine. We're not a religion, but we're falling victim to what happens to all societies – we become protective of the early days, as if they were magical. Need to focus on the future, not the past.

Each month there are 93 area assemblies. They're supposed to get together to support people who are NOT in AA yet. Somewhere along the line, we became more concerned about rules and guidelines.

For me, AA is standing outside welcoming newcomers in my Harley shirt and a cigar, not standing here in a suit. WE need to keep the focus on the newcomer. There are regional service forums no longer in place – why? Because they became inwardly focused rather than externally focused.

We need to demonstrate that we “walk the walk.” In my personal life, do I really believe in Safety in my work, or do I just keep a binder on the shelf for when OSHA comes by? I start all meetings with an announcement of where the emergency exits are, I look for where the defibrillator

machine is, and explain where we'll meet if we need to evacuate. I live my beliefs in safety.

Even with the lousy voting record in the USA, there's more voting by percentage than there is in AA. This area is unique – you're making good strides in service, and it's very exciting. Change is not easy. Young people's conferences seem to be growing. The people in charge are more in tune with what's going on with the grassroots groups than most service groups.

“Trust the process, but verify” hold your leaders accountable. Encourage questions, hard questions. When I donate to my local food pantry, their newsletter illustrates through charts and graphs how donations are used. But in AA we do a terrible job of showing people what we do with your money. New changes have not been well communicated. We have made a pathway for recurring donations.

(I presume this is the anniversary envelope system?)

We looked at where people gather outside of formal service structure:

Roundups – that can host anywhere between 1,200 and 8K people).

We get 6K letters from inmates every year.

We have an astronomical number of people who click the link “I have a drinking problem” – but there is a real PO Box 459.

We have to stop representing ourselves as the “enlightened ones.” Maybe lots of groups think we're “too into bureaucracy” – those kinds of hard questions have to be asked. We also need to maximize service and meet people where they are. (This includes cautious use of the Internet)

Conference agenda items – the document illustrates the status of ideas (see Scan)

Everyone has to decide whether they are a group or a meeting. Don P. used to say that you can evaluate the quality of the meeting by the content in between the opening/closing prayer. To evaluate how a GROUP is doing, evaluate how it functions from the opening prayer to the following week's opening prayer (which covers the service functions outside the meeting).

The function of the Area and GSO was to do things that groups can't. But never the things they can. The more we became centralized, the more likely the services became more centralized. Districts are the front lines of providing 12 step work, and we now see a lot of groups and districts trying to go back to that. That's a good thing!

We need GSR's from groups that care about AA. No trusted servant should ever be offended with questions from the people they serve. No GSR should be chosen because they were in the bathroom when the election was held!

There was a time where people were convinced that the Web was going to destroy AA. We did not have a website. The issue became one of identity – as late as 2000, AA was still not on board. In 2005, we needed to concede that used well, modern technology was a useful tool.

Web pages function as advertisements. We need to go to where the alcoholics are – investigate where people go to find help. Often it's on the web. We need to get those people to our hotline. It's iffy at best.

Public Service Announcements are owned by AA. (Show of hands to whether we've seen a PSA on TV that let's people know that AA is available to help with a drinking problem).

AA.org now has a YouTube channel. But if you go to YouTube and click the wrong button, you get a call from an insurance company asking if you're covered.

Anonymity – we've got members who are suggesting that all anonymity ought to be wiped out. Others are not explaining the principles of anonymity correctly. AA members are creative, crafty and enterprising. When beta and VHS tapes were marketed, some members suggested that travel expenses could be saved by, "bringing speakers in through videotape!" No, we don't need famous AA members on video, as that would violate the principle of humility as part of anonymity. Now we're looking at skype meetings that allow members to be present at AA meetings. This is probably a good thing. Also helps with bad weather.

The Federal prison system has its own radio system. There's a channel for Christian, Jewish, Hindu services, etc. Wouldn't it be great to have an AA speaker's channel?

The Big Book has been translated into 71 languages. There are 61 different service structures that interpret the traditions differently. One group down south (I think he said in Africa?), built an artificial intelligence (AI) website, and recorded a couple of thousand stories that were coded by age, gender, the number of years drinking, etc. A person interested in quitting drinking could plug in basic information, and it will automatically play you a 12-step call from the best story they have available.

(Think IBM Commercials about the power of Watson's AI)

The number of requests for F2F 12 step calls have increased 1,200%. We need to get our heads wrapped around technology.

When the Big Book moved from a 3rd edition to the 4th edition, "Doctor, Alcoholic, Addict" which contained the reference to "acceptance" on p449 was renamed. (It's now on P. 417 in the 4th ed.). A lot of people were upset and unsettled by that change, but the reality is that the 4th edition did a lot to make the message more relevant to younger people.

Prediction – we will soon be asking for a 5th edition. It's not the treasure, but it's the map to the treasure. And that book is our program of recovery. It's critical that groups be connected to the middle of AA.

GSO contributions have gone up over the past 7 years. Now that we're describing what happens

to the money, more funds have gone in the basket. A lot of our services have not come cheap – e.g., the Navajo edition of the BB.

80% of countries that have AA in their country, can be traced to an American or Canadian in the military. That's where money should go. I have a major VA place near me. I've not seen more veterans come into AA than in the last few years. We NEED to be servicing these areas.

Young people in AA – the first meeting was in Cleveland was started at Dr. Bob's suggestion, because he thought returning Vets might have difficulty identifying with people 50-60 years old in AA.

Most of the Vets today coming back from combat are very different than the experience from Vietnam. They were drafted and saw a single tour. Now they see 2,3 or 4 series of combat.

In 1983, there was Jay stationed in Beirut... He wanted to stay sober, but had no literature available. He was sent literature. Wrote back and asked for more literature several times, Later, he was KIA, but another member wrote and let them know the meeting was still going. If you look in the Beirut area, there are T, Th & Sat AA meetings going that were started by Jay, – that's where your money goes!

As a Trustee – when I vote to spend AA money I divide whatever the cost is by the number of soft cover big books (\$5). Is whatever we're about to buy worth 50 books that could go to a corrections institution? That's a useful metric to keep in mind.

Business is not a bad word. It implies accountability. Spirituality does not necessarily do that. We want to be transparent and accountable. Bill W. wrote that we needed to be an effective business organization in order to carry the mission forward. God takes care of us, we have the responsibility to take care of AA, which is through an effective business operation. We need to be ethical in order to ensure the donations are provided to continue to carry our message.

Billy was thanked by the Assembly with a standing ovation.

Closing

Billy N. Was thanked again for joining the Area 50 Assembly. The Lakeshore Group and District 16 were thanked for so graciously hosting the Assembly today.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Cory E. Seconded by James O. Unanimously passed. Assembly was adjourned at 4:00pm with the stating of the Declaration of Unity.

Respectfully submitted by Denise M., Area Secretary.

(A gracious thank you to Lisa S., DCM, District 1 for notes from Keynote by Billy N.)