

Hello everyone. My name is Sherri P., and I am an alcoholic. It is an honor and a privilege to currently be serving as your Area 52 Panel 71 delegate.

I am busy preparing for the 72nd General Service Conference, which will be held at the New York Marriot at the Brooklyn Bridge in Brooklyn. I am on the Report and Charter committee. We have been meeting as a committee on zoom getting to know each other. We haven't done any conference business. We meet every other Wednesday, and we share our experience, strength, and hope, both in personal stories and service. We share what we've been up to since the last time we met and answer any questions the Panel 72 delegates may have. This is so helpful because we have had the chance to get to know each other and we won't feel like strangers meeting for the first time in person.

As you've all been able to witness so far this weekend, there is a lot of background material. This means a lot of reading for me! I am planning on using our Area 52 Zoom account to host "Diving In with the Delegate". I will have 6 different days with scheduled times for us to have some discussion on the 72nd Agenda Items. This is something new that I am trying. It might be a learn as we go type of thing, so I'd appreciate your love and tolerance. 😊 My hope is to go to New York with a more informed conscience than I had last year. I'm hoping it will get more people interested and involved. Dates and times are as follows:

Saturday March 26 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Sunday March 27 3:00pm - 5:00pm

Monday March 28 6:00pm - 7:45pm

Monday April 4 6:00pm - 7:45pm

Monday April 11 6:00pm - 7:45pm

Sunday April 17 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Keep an eye on the website for more information. I'm hoping we can maybe place this in the events. 😊

I also get the privilege of serving as the Chairperson of the Serenity Meeting. It is an AA meeting held each morning before the conference begins. Julie C Area 42 Panel 71 Nevada is serving with me as the Secretary-Treasurer. We met via zoom in January to choose our daily topics for the meetings. It has been great fun getting to know her. Our topics came from the *AA Service Manual*, *As Bill Sees It*, *The Big Book*, and *The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*.

I attended the West Central Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Conference in St. Louis Park March 3rd – 6th. Thursday evening, we had a current Delegates Meeting (which our alternates could attend as observers) Friday Morning/Afternoon was the Past and Current Delegates sharing sessions (Rachel also was able to attend this with me). Experience was shared and helpful tidbits of information were passed onto those of us heading to NY. The conference started at 7pm Friday night. The weekend had presentations from various areas in the region, breakout sessions, an open speaker meeting with Bob W, our General Manager, sharing his experience strength and hope. There were 4 general service conference sessions where each delegate presented their committee's agenda items. Discussion was had. Sunday was the Past Trustees Sharing/Ask it Basket. We had 4 people from Area 52 there in person. The WRCAASC was offered virtually, and I know we had some from Area 52 that participated in that way. Thank you to Jason G for moderating the breakout Area 52 hosted, Coming of Age: What is the Next Step. Next year the Service Conference is in Nebraska with a location to be determined and in 2024 it is here in Area 52.

Finances:

The Grapevine: Originally it was thought that there would be a surplus of \$28,000-\$29,000. However, that became a deficit of \$29,000 due to some late billing that resulted of transitioning from one vendor to another (invoices came 6 months late from a vendor). The initial budget was \$324,000 deficit. We also missed out on some revenue due to the Prayer and Meditation book being sold out and backordered. In 2022, they are looking for a surplus of \$23,000. If you don't have a Grapevine subscription yet, you should. 😊

AAWS: Contributions on the year were \$10,782,000 – the highest annual contributions total in the history of the General Service Board. 23% of the contributions were received online.

Gross literature sales for 2021 were \$11.7 million. \$2.5 million more than 2020.

Expenses:

Payroll and benefits were at \$9.3 million (\$7 million less than last year). Of that, there was \$6.2 million related to the retirement program offering (VRIP) We were \$700,000 under where we would have been had the VRIP not happened.

Data automation and website expense was \$626,000.

Facility and equipment expenses were \$2.2 million.

Total operating expenses were \$15.6 million which is 99% of the budgeted amount.

The operating surplus was \$1.8 million. Compared to a budget of \$1.1 million. 2020 had a deficit of \$5.3 million. The Reserve Fund went down to 7.9 months. It was back up to 8.5 months at the end of the year.

The 2022 budget will struggle with activity carry-overs from conference actions and reopening of the office. Most of the surplus funds will go to cover that. \$250,000 has already been returned to the Reserve Fund.

There are some requests of the fellowship:

There's a Request for Shared Experience: "Inside" Sponsorship. The trustees' Committee on Corrections is requesting shared experience on the methods by which A.A. members on the outside sponsor members inside correctional facilities. This request is to address an unmet need for sponsorship of A.A. members in custody. Once compiled, this can be added to corrections service material. There is a questionnaire that can be filled out and returned by June 30, 2022, to: corrections@aa.org. You can find it in the What's New tab on AA.org. Go to AA.org and scroll all the way to the bottom and click on What's New.

I sent out an email to the Area 52 committee about the ARMED FORCES MEMBERS INTERVIEW PROJECT. The Trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities is initiating the production of more interviews from members of the United States and Canadian Armed Forces. The goal of this effort is to improve A.A.'s outreach and identification with members of the U.S. and Canadian military. A major part of this work will be the production of several audio/video products where individual A.A. members who are currently serving or recently retired will share their experience with particular emphasis on recovery in A.A. while serving in the military. We are looking for A.A. members who are willing to be interviewed for this project. We would like to have representation from all Services from Canada and the U.S. The aim is to have recovered A.A. members from all ranks, across the spectrum of age, gender, orientation and varied operational experience speak to what it is like to recover and stay sober while serving in the military. Topics which we hope to highlight would likely include but not be limited to: staying sober while deployed, perceptions of prejudice toward sober people, fears of negative impact on a person's career if they become a non-drinker and dealing with stresses and psychological impacts unique to military deployments and experiences. We're also looking for A.A. members who wish to help find those who might be good candidates to be interviewed.

A.A. Members who wish to learn more about this project or to volunteer to participate in the interview process can contact our U.S. and Canadian points of contact by email at: militaryoutreach@aa.org

So, in closing, I want to encourage you to go back to your groups and inform them about the upcoming agenda items, get a group conscience about them and relay that back to me. My email is delegate71@aanorthdakota.org.

If you are planning on snail mailing me anything during the conference, you may want to mail it the week or 4-5 days before the conference. As mentioned earlier the hotel address and my home address is printed on a sheet of paper up here. Please put my home address as the return address, if it arrives in NY after conference and they return it to sender, it will then come to me. I appreciated everything I received last year. It helps me remember that I am here to serve you.

I want to thank you all for the privilege to serve as your Area 52 Delegate. It truly has been a humbling experience thus far and is another way that Alcoholics Anonymous has saved and blessed my life. Thank you.