

# SIA 21 Delegate's Report – Winter Area Assembly

December 14, 2025

## I. Introduction

Thank you for the continued opportunity to serve as the Area 21 Delegate for Panel 75. I cannot believe we are here in the last month of 2025 already! I thought things this past quarter (September-December) would quiet down as we are 6 months past the GSC, however I was wrong. This quarter has continued to be one of traveling and Area 21 activities. I had the opportunity to visit the last of the Area 21 Districts to give the GSC Delegate Report, including D7 (Mount Vernon), D17 (Herrin) and D16 (Carmi). The opportunity to see everyone at the District meetings has definitely been the highlight of my year. I have been met with great participation, good questions and warm fellowship.

## II. Activity Since last Assembly

I am learning for the last 2 quarters of this year that activities surrounding the GSC go on all year round. We continue to have monthly online meetings of the ECR Delegates and Trustee to stay up on what's happening around the region and at the GSB. Similarly, my conference committee, Report & Charter, continues communication and updates with our Trustee ad Hoc liaison. We had a committee call in October to give our input on the list of PAI's prior to the October Board weekend. There was also another General Sharing Session for GSC members on the topic of financial support this past week.

## III. Delegate's Roundtable

This year I started a monthly Zoom meeting on the first Thursday of each month. These meetings are an open forum which start with a presentation on the Tradition of the month, followed by a presentation by a speaker or a sharing session on items of importance to the Area. The past three months have included presentations on Traditions 10-12 by Rich Healless (a visiting past delegate from Area 20), Pam Burkhart and me. Following these were topic presentations by Mike Lewis (A24/P53), a former interim GSB Chair and a discussion of the current PAI list. I plan to continue the Delegate Roundtable format into next year, starting on a monthly Concept presentation and new topics of discussion. If you have a topic you would like to see discussed or a suggestion for an interesting speaker, please let me know.

## IV. Illinois State Convention

This year Area 20 served as the hosts for an unusually late-in-the-year Illinois State Conference from November 14-16<sup>th</sup> at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Schaumburg, IL. We in Area 21 presented 6 of the 18 panel discussions, as well as helping staff the Archives and Literature Rooms. We also lent the conference our esteemed past chair, Mike Foster, as the Friday night General Session Speaker. As always, he rose to the occasion and represented Area 21 well.

## V. News from AAWS/GSO

### Highlights from Quarterly Financial Report – Third Quarter 2025:

- AAWS/GSB:
  - Total Contributions are down 13% vs. last year (more than \$1M less) and 11% below budget for 2025. Contributions cover 60% of operating expenses.
  - Net literature sales are up 11% vs. last year and 7% more than budget for 2025.

- Combined income from contributions and literature sales was about \$914,000 less than the same period last year and \$617,000 less than budget.
- Operating Expenses before depreciation are 3% less than budget but 2% more than the prior year.
- The reserve fund is currently at 6.20 months which is down from 6.42 months 3 months ago and 6.41 last year at this time (versus a target range of 9-12 months).
- GV/LV:
  - GV print-only circulation is down 8% from last year (about 3800 less).
  - GV complete circulation (print+online+app) is up 24% from last year and only 66 subscriptions below the reforecast budget.
  - GV total circulation is 192 subscriptions above the reforecast budget.
  - GV operating expenses are 12% less than last year but 2% higher than the reforecast budget.
  - LV total circulation is up 15% over last year but 437 subscriptions below the reforecast budget.
  - LV Support from GSB is 18% less than last year.

### Literature:

- It has been confirmed that a draft of the 5<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Big Book will be ready for consideration at the 2026 GSC.
- The new pamphlets “Indigenous People in A.A.” and “Twelve Steps Illustrated” are now available.
- The 2025 Final Conference Report is available in print and online format.
- Two new ACMs were approved to begin project work in development of the transgender alcoholic and on the Asian American Alcoholic pamphlets.

### Retrofit of GSO:

- The GSO office is currently in the process of consolidating operations from the 8th and 11th floors of their current building to the 11th floor only. The office began operating remotely on August 11 and it was expected that the work would be completed within 10-12 weeks. However, shortly after work began, the contractors unexpectedly encountered asbestos, and work had to cease immediately. Since then, they have been working on an appropriate plan to carry out the necessary asbestos abatement. The construction company has assumed all responsibility for the cleanup and abatement costs as they did the assessment for asbestos before work began.
- The cleanup will begin in the coming days, and the completion date is not certain. They are hoping to finish early in the new year. The office continues to operate remotely with all mail, shipping and phones remaining fully operational.

In addition to AA activities this past quarter, Darrin and I have also sold our house in Wayne City and completed the move to Green Bay, sustained a fairly bad ankle injury (me) a fracture/dislocation of the elbow which required surgery (him), started a new job in Green Bay (me), celebrated 4 years of marriage (both of us) and gotten much better acquainted with the snow blower (him).

We have been almost too busy lately, but we realized every day that none of it would be possible without Alcoholic Anonymous and without service, which keeps me sane and spiritually fulfilled. I continue to feel blessed and grateful for this opportunity to serve Area 21, more each year.

In service,

*Jodi Blades, Delegate A21 P75*