

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Southern Illinois Area 21 Assembly
Sunday September 14, 2025

Zoom ID: 889-8949-4288 Passcode: 177777

QR code for virtual flyer table for PDFs of handouts
OR

<https://bit.ly/3POxL5A>

9:01 AM: Call to order: Recite: Serenity Prayer & Statement of A.A. Unity (PPT on screen)

Readings:

1. A.A. Preamble (D19) - Trevor P.
2. G.S.R. Preamble (D11) - Bill D.
3. Tradition 9 (Long Form) and Concept 4 (Short Form) Tom H. – Area Chair
4. Review of voting eligibility and hybrid format procedures (PPT on screen) Recognition: Tom H. (Area Chair) read description from Area 21 Handbook which reflects ideas expressed within the Service Manual under Warranty 4 of Concept 12 regarding discussion, voting procedures including listening carefully to the minority opinion. If a person from the majority opinion changes their vote; then there will be a new vote following outlined procedures. The General Service Conference uses a slightly different procedure. He also reviewed Zoom procedures for successful participation in this Area Assembly. He acknowledged that the instructions are numerous and can be confusing. He encouraged all participants at this Area Assembly to ask questions, at any time, to gain understanding and competence.

9:15 am: Area 21 Officers present were: *(PDF of names and contact info on virtual flyer table)*

Area 21 Chair – Tom H.
Area 21 Delegate – Jodi B.
Area 21 Alternate Delegate – Pam B.
Area 21 Registrar (Zoom) – Thom J.
Area 21 Recording Secretary – Karen D.
Area 21 Treasurer – Leo S.

Tom H. noted the sadness of this group due to the death of Sean M who died suddenly while holding the office of Alternate Area 21 Chair. He initiated a moment of silence in remembrance of him and his outstanding service to Area 21.

9:20 am: Area 21 Chairpersons present were: *(PDF of names and contact info on virtual flyer table)*

Archives – Carl M.
Corrections – Ed H. and Jeff D.
Public Information – Laura K (Absent)
Grapevine – Gordon N.
GSR Workshop – Shari D.
Literature – Robert S.
Cooperation with the Professional Community – Michael R.
Structure and Policy – Dean S.
Treatment and Accessibilities – Karin S.
Website – Rosemary T.

9:25 am: Area 21 Past Delegates present were:

Panel 53 – Mike F.	Panel 67 – Patrick W.
Panel 55 – Carl M.	Panel 69 – Bobby D. – (Not Present)
Panel 59 – Dean S.	Panel 71 – Gordon N.
Panel 51 – Fariba (Not Present)	Panel 73 – Tom H. – Serving as Area 21 Chair
Panel 53 – Becky B. (Not Present)	
Panel 65 – Paula E.	

9:30 am: District Introductions and Reports

DCM Reports (that are given to Area 21 Secretary or sent to secretarysia21@gmail.com will be included in long form of the minutes).

District 20 – Absent; Nancy W.

District 19 – Report given by Trevor P. DCM;

District 18 - Report given by John G. DCM)

District 17 – Absent; Dava S

District 16 – Carl H. DCM via Zoom; District Secretary may become DCM going forward

District 15 – Absent; Bob K.

District 14 – Report given by Megan G. DCM

District 13 – Report given by Warren S. DCM

District 12 – Report given by Linda Z. DCM via Zoom

District 11 – Report given by Tim C DCM

District 10 – Absent; Mike H.

District 09 – Inactive

District 08 – Inactive

District 07 – Report given by Gordon R. DCM

District 06 – Report given by Kevin H. DCM

District 05 – Absent; Stephen M.

District 04 – Inactive

10:00 am: GSR Introductions and Reports

GSR Reports that are given to Area 21 Secretary or sent to secretarysia21@gmail.com will be included in long form of the minutes).

District 20 – No GSR reports

District 19 – Report from Discovery Eye Opener by Caitlin D. GSR;

Report from Discovery Rush Hour by Amanda B., GSR;

Report from Tuesday Unity Group by Mike D., GSR;

Report from Monday Cherry and Bates by Ed. H.; GSR;

Report from FieldYPAA by Graham K.; GSR (New group;- Springfield)

District 18 – Report from New Beginnings by Carl .; GSR

Report from Hillsboro Group by Rose M.; GSR

Report from Desire to Stop Drinking by Annie K.; GSR

Report from Life After by Pat .; GSR

Report from Alton Wednesday Night (Hybrid) by Melanie .; GSR (Zoom)

District 17 – Report from In Common Group by James F.; GSR

District 16 - Report from Cornerstone Group by Marsha .; GSR (Zoom)

District 15 – No GSR report

District 14 – Report form How It Works by Gordon N. (reporting for Laura K. GSR)

Report from Reflections by Paula E.; GSR

District 13 – Report from Mulberry Firehouse by Warren S.; GSR

District 12 – Report from Noon Bird by Linda Z.; GSR (Zoom)

Report from Design for Living by Andy A.; GSR (New group – Mattoon);

(Is submitting bid to host Area 21 Assembly in June 2026)

Report from Better Way by Tara M.; GSR

Report from Common Solution by Mindy F.; GSR

Report from Primary Purpose by Eric E.; GSR (Zoom)

Visitor – Yasmin A. (Zoom) Observer

- District 11 - Report from Beginners Group by Maggie D.; GSR
 - Report from Friday Night Forum by Bill D.; GSR
 - Report from Happy Hour Group by Amy S.; Alternate GSR
 - Report from Decatur Intergroup
 - Report from Unthirsty Thursday Group by Jacob L., GSR
 - Report from Friday Group by Steve S.; GSR
- District 10 – Report from Saturday Cedar Lake Group by Brett M., GSR
 - Report from Oakland Avenue Noon Town Group by Ellen F., GSR
- District 9 - Inactive
- District 8 - Inactive
- District 7 - Report regarding meeting in Breeze, IL by Dennis . as Bill H. absent
- District 6 - Report from Pekin Celestial Group by Robin ., GSR
 - Report from Chillicothe Riverside Group by Crystal F., GSR
 - Report from Shared Air Group by Melinda F., GSR
- District 5 - No GSR reports
- District 4 – Inactive

10:30 Gordon N. Tom H. recognized new members of Area Assembly Body. He requested that all new members to Assembly give their names to Gordon N. so they can be entered into drawing for Grapevine.

10:45 Tom H.; Area 21 Chairperson recalled members with reading of Concept 9 regarding leadership and its four ingredients according to Co-Founder, Bill Wilson.

Area 21 Registrar, Thom J.; gave report via Zoom. His written report is included in an addendum to these minutes. He stated that according to Fellowship Connect There are 20 Districts with 1000 Groups which includes 382 Active and 649 Inactive. He has a backlog of groups to enter. He views his purpose as an intersection of Inside and outside in order to maintain the flow of information between the Area and New York. He noted that he has 131 contacts in Area 21 with no email addresses to link. He is attempting to find out this information and record.

Area 21 Recording Secretary, Karen D., read minutes in regard to old and new business. One minor correction noted and a motion was made by Bill D., District 11 to approve minutes and it was seconded by Tim,; District 11.

There was some discussion as to the appropriateness of voting to approve minutes. Statement was made that Area 21 Minutes represent the official record of the meeting and the only action taken should be to ask if there are any additions, deletions, or corrections. Other members noted that it was the custom to have the minutes approved as is the Treasurer's Report. With the motion and second noted above the Minutes for June 1, 2025 Area Assembly were approved.

Area 21 Treasurer, Leo S., gave his report. His full report is included in an addendum to these minutes. He stated that after all of the June expenses are paid the General Fund Balance will be \$27,610.81. There was some discussion of the contribution made to Area by Alanon. Leo noted that Area 21 is down in regard to contributions from the groups by about half. Also, no money was received from ISCYPAA or Alanon as has been in the past. Twenty-Seven % of the current budget has been used. Tom H. approved this report. This brought up new discussion as a member noted that this report requires a vote to approve the Treasurer's Report. A former Delegate noted that it is past practice to vote to approve both the Secretary's and Treasurer's Report. One member asked if a vote by acclamation would be acceptable in lieu an exact count of voting members. There was an expressed desire to call for a vote. Additionally, there was some question as to why this Area would except any money from Alanon. This was not directly addressed as we have not done so this year. Therefore; a vote was called. Tom H called for all voting members to state if they were in favor of passing the report and there were none opposed of voting members. Treasurer's Report was approved.

11:15 AM

BUDGET AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT:

Tom H. introduced this item by stating that Dean S. had chaired this committee with seven other respected members of this body. He asked that the report be shown on screen for all to review. It had previously been sent via email to Area 21 via Thom J. It will be included as addendum to these minutes.

Dean spoke about this report at some length. There were eight proposals in order to reduce Area 21 spending, which has been taking from a prudent reserve to pay for budgeted expenses.

He noted that there is no definition of prudent reserve in the Area 21 Handbook Which could be remedied by Structure and Policy Committee using a definition from current service literature. He suggested adding an appendix which specified common expenses. He also stated that perhaps the prudent reserve and milage amounts could be budgeted annually as needs change rather than a set in stone number listed in the Area 21 Handbook. He stressed that these are only suggestions not current voting items.

There was some discussing by members as to the purpose of this Ad Hoc Committee and the report presented. Tom H. stressed that it was only suggestions of possible solutions to our current budget shortfall. The intent of the report is only to offer possible suggestions not to have these become items on the business agenda. Other members suggested that report with all of the recommendations be set up for a sharing session for the next Area 21 Assembly.

At this juncture; Dean S. made a motion that the current mileage rate of .45 per mile and amount of prudent reserve (which is currently ½ of the money in the bank at the time of budget); be considered each December when a new budget is voted upon. At this point, Tim C. noted that this could be reviewed today; if a correct floor motion is made during New Business session today. Other members introduced ideas such as discussing ways to inform Area 21 AA members about the valid use of funds without pushback.

At this point; Dean S. noted that suggestion # 8, which puts the most expensive items first in order to expedite budget process be instituted as a procedure. He also stated that the amount of the prudent reserve on paper is hindering contributions of members and groups as it seems that it more money that could possibly be needed. He noted that the prudent reserve is often viewed as a savings account which could be often be off putting to members considering contributing to Area 21.

Further discussion by members was as follows:

Prudent Reserve is really only meaningful as a warning light to Area 21 regarding budget overspending.

The budget should be strictly tied to the exact amount of contributions not what is expected.

The amount of money for mileage is important so that all members can have the opportunity to be of service.

Asking for more money from groups may not be effective in order to cover all expenses.

The \$5.00 registration fee is currently in place as our expenses are currently being paid from prudent reserve money.

The question of how far out we currently can operate is concerning. Should we adjust the budget as we move forward?

The prudent reserve money could be lowered on the new budget.

The prudent reserve which covers 6 months of expenses in case there is no money coming in is not an inviolate bank account.

This 6 month reserve should be kept in case it is needed to pay expenses.

Changing the prudent reserve each year is not a good idea.

Note that we are stewards of this money and are responsible to those members in Area 21.

Also, we as an Area; in the past we have relied on outside contributions to bolster budget as opposed to member contributions

At this point, Tom H. stated that the Area 21 Committee would be meeting to clarify the upcoming budget and consider concerns expressed: how budgeting is done, mileage reimbursement, and definition of prudent reserve. Notice of that Zoom meeting will be sent out to Area 21 members by the registrar when scheduled and requests for attendees will be sent out by Area Chair. This Zoom meeting will be in addition to the regularly Area 21 Committee meeting which includes Area Officers, Past Delegates, DCMs and perhaps Alternate DCMs.

In closing more discussion will be in the afternoon if a Floor Motion is made to continue discussion.

Members of Area 21 who had attended the recent East Central Regional Forum will be encouraged to share about their experience.

Also, Chair requested that upcoming lunch break be used for Committees to meet and discuss business. There were 7 Committee Chairs present and Tom H. encouraged participation by committee members with their Committee Chairs.

Seven members of this Assembly gave report of their experience at the recent East Central Regional Forum. All shares were positive and enthusiastic. Most attended in person but some also via Zoom. The only real concern was that the workshops went on the same time as the reports making it difficult to choose what to participate in. Also noted that many of the people at that Forum were new to participating on such a venue. This was viewed as hopeful for the ongoing wider service structure of Alcoholics Anonymous.

12:00N

Lunch/Area 21 Committee Group Meeting

12:45 PM

Name drawn for Grapevine prize to a new attendee which was Graham K. of District 19
Reports:

Area 21 Alternate Delegate, Pam B. Panel 75; shared her experience at the recent East Central Regional Forum. This was her first experience with this entity. She expressed her enthusiasm for the venue. She found it interactive, educational and encouraging. She was especially moved with Area 21 Delegate, Jodi B.'s presentation on the nexus of spirituality and atheists in A. A was enlightening. I got a different picture of the service structure and the duties of a Delegate. She highly recommended attendance and will be going again herself.

She attends Alternate Delegate Zoom Meetings. Has made 2/3 in the last quarter. In October this entity will be discussing the topic: How to get AA members involved in service. (She noted that this was the same topic as recent ECR Forum).

She also traveled to District 13 meeting and presented Delegate's Report.

She also enjoyed the Delegate's Roundtable and gained valuable from information regarding tradition discussed. She noted her inspiration at the presentation given by Trustee from Minnesota regarding their Corrections program. She is learning so much from these Round Table presentations and encourages all members to participate.

Area 21 Delegate, Jodi B. Panel 75; in a power point she discussed her ongoing project named DELEGATE ROUNDTABLE which is held on the first Thursday of the month. The format is to have a past delegate discuss a Tradition. Next year the format she plans to have the Concepts reviewed by past delegates.

She is on the Conference Report and Charter Committee the new Conference Report has been reviewed. The final draft was done 3 days ago. It was held up due to International Convention held in Vancouver Canada but will be out by December 2025. She has presented information regarding the General Service Conference to several Districts and has four more to visit. She has enjoyed this contact.

The next East Central Regional Forum will be in 2027 in Green Bay Wisconsin. There are Forums available in other regions of the U. S. The ECR venue occurs every 2 years.

In regard to Alcoholics Anonymous World Services (AAWS) the following:

Contributions are down by 17%

Budget is down by 10%

Literature sales are up by 19%

The money used to support AAWS is 60% from Contributions and 40% from Literature. In regard to Grapevine (GV) and LaVina (LV) they are in deficit. The circulation is up and the deficit is decreasing.

The AAWS Board have committed to a 2.1 million from the prudent reserve for retro fit of the current AAWS office. They are consolidating two floors to one floor which will save money in the future. The office is currently operating remotely and no visiting to office is available. The General Service Board (GSB) has redone two pamphlets. She noted that District 19 will be hosting the 87th All Chicago Open and encourages all members to attend.

She has spent \$3682.00 of a \$3700.00 stipend and will have all numbers available at the December 14, 2025 Area 21 Assembly. She calculates mileage to and from commitments from her Illinois not her Wisconsin address.

Entire written report is available in the addendum to these minutes.

1:15 PM

Area 21 Chair, Tom H. stated:

Monthly DCM meetings via Zoom will continue;

Regarding International Convention the Committee for the Hospitality Room directed Ad Hoc Committee to come up with budget suggestions. AA is represented by an upside-down triangle and is a never-ending cycle.

He attended the ECR Forum as he had discussed before which is the responsibility of the Area 21 Chairperson. He gave reports to Districts 10,11, 12, and 17 to discuss and plans to go to more Districts as well.

He encourages all to participate in the Delegates Round Table.

Written report is available in the Addendum to these minutes.

Area 21 Archives – Carl M gave report;

Area 21 Co-Chair Corrections – Ed Higginson gave report;

Area 21 Co-Chair Corrections – Jeff D. gave report;

Area 21 Cooperation with the Professional Community Chairperson – Michael R. gave report;

Area 21 Grapevine Chairperson – Gordon N. gave report;

Area 21 General Service Representative Workshop Chairperson Shari gave report;

Area 21 Public Information Chair Laura K., was absent and her report was given by Megan G. – DCM – District 14;

Area 21 Literature Chairperson – Robert S. gave report;

Area 21 Structure/Policy Chairperson – Dean S. gave report;

Area 21 Treatment/Accessibilities – Karin S. gave report;

Area 21 Website Chair – Rosemary T. gave report.

1:50 PM

New Business:

Bids for hosting District for upcoming Area 21 Assemblies:

After some discussion due to some ambiguity in the acceptance by District 10 to host the March 2026 Area 21 Assembly; a motion was made by Paula E. to accept bid of District 10 to host the March 2026 Area 21 Assembly however if something changes the Area Chair will notify this body of change. Seconded by Ellen. Passed

Linda Z. DCM from District 12 via Zoom made a bid to host the June 7, 2026 Area 21 Assembly in Mattoon IL. Accepted by acclamation

There is no bid for September 2026 Area 21 Assembly at this time.

1:50 PM – Break

2:00 PM

Motion for Area Endorsement /Approval of a PAI to update and revise the pamphlet titled The A. A. Member Medications and Other Drugs. This was suggested by Rose M. because the current version was not useful to her when she was ill.

The formal proposal with background is being reviewed for formal approval by Area 21 to be submitted for review by the next General Service Conference in April of 2026. The last date to be accepted is September 30, 2025. This proposal was approved by the Area Committee.

Discussion to consider submitting this PIA to the General Service Conference followed: The pamphlet does not consider medical marijuana, pain medication and cancer, cross addiction or over the counter medication;

The medical section of pamphlet was taken out of the book Living Sober.

Giving any medical direction in pamphlet would be difficult for the literature committee to address;

This PAI is only asking for a revision not telling any committee what it should say or who must work on it.

A vote was called for and it was unanimously approved.

Area Chair, Tom H. will send to the GSO next week

Area Chair, Tom H. asked if any person present or on Zoom has interest in assuming the position of Alternate Area 21 Chair which is open due to the sudden death of Sean M.

There was a discussion which included the following;

Alternate Delegate and Alternate Chair could serve in dual roles;

Current practice should be followed or other words – “Do it by the book.”;

Have a past Delegate take over the position;

Duties of Alternate chair be posted;

No decision was reached at this time. Area Chair welcomes any person interested to contact him.

Floor Motion made by Dean S. Alternate Delegate Pam B., seconded

Make the Area 21 Prudent Reserve and mileage rate reviewable yearly during the annual budget process.” This is # 5 on the formally presented Budget Report and Recommendations by Ad Hoc Committee discussed this morning at this Assembly.

The following discussion followed:

The exact amount could be stricken;

Changing each year would cause uncertainty among this body;

Yearly review seems to be reasonable;

This would block people from doing Area Service due to their inability to travel because of the expense required;

Review and change as needed based upon current circumstances;

The budget reviewed yearly so why not other specific amounts done yearly.

A vote was called: 27 persons present and 3 online - **For** Passage of above Floor Motion

4 persons present – **Against** passage of above Floor Motion

No minority opinion expressed.

Motion Carried

Second Floor Motion by Dean S. Seconded by Robert S.

The motion is to adopt # 8 of the previously presented recommendations of the Budget Ad Hoc Committee which adds an appendix to the Area 21 Handbook named Budget Procedures which explains the committee budget process. In essence, it requires everyone submitting a budget to cover expenses should be able to explain it; including any changes from last year. The Area 21 budget will be considered by each line individually beginning with the largest to the smallest.

Some comments were that:

Budgeting is frustrating because there are some items people do not agree with but that it is part of a package;
Concern about how much time that budgeting will now require,
Possibility of chairs publishing budget numbers with ability of others to post comments before budget is presented;
Not sure about voting on this today;
Technology Chair made commitment to get footwork done and have lines done;

Question was called:

In person – 28 yes + Zoom – 3 = 31

In person - 2 abstentions

Motion Passed

2:45 PM: Calendar Review –

Future Area/State/Regional Events

1. National Corrections Conference – Nov 7-9th Nashville
2. ILL State Conference – Nov 14-16 Schaumburg, IL
3. Area 21 Assembly – Dec 14 Dist 7 (flyer)
4. Conference Delegates Past and Present – Feb 13-15 Benton, MI
5. Area 21 Assembly – March, 2026 District 10 Bloomington (if approved by District 10)
6. Area 21 Pre-GSC Workshop – April 11, 2026 – TBD
7. 76th GSC – April 27, 2026
8. Area 21 Assembly - June 7, 2026 Dist 12 Mattoon
9. ECR Convention – June 26 -28, 2026 – Eau Claire, Wisconsin

2:50 PM

Persons with A A Anniversaries between June 1 and September 30 stood:

Eleven members together celebrated 265 of continuous sobriety.

End of Area 21 Assembly Financial Information:

64 persons were registered for Assembly and 54 persons ate lunch for an intake of \$968.00 which is approximately \$20.00 over cost.

General Fund started at \$24,216.06

Debits paid today \$ 4,539.63

Current General Fund \$19,676.43

3:00 PM

Motion made to adjourn and seconded by Robin.