

SIA 21 Delegate's Report – Spring Area Assembly

March 8, 2026

I. Activities Since last Assembly

Thank you for the continued opportunity to serve as the Area 21 Delegate for Panel 75. How did we get to 2026 already?? This first quarter of 2026 has flown by, despite the cold and snow. As I mentioned in my report last December, I have come to realize that activities surrounding the GSC go on all year round, particularly for Committee Chairs. As a Conference Committee Chair, I had the incredible honor of attending the January Board Weekend in New York the last weekend (4 days) of January. Conference Committee Chairs are there to observe the functioning of the GSB and give input on agenda items related to our committees. I cannot overemphasize what an amazing experience it is to see the work and dedication put forth by the GSB members and GSO staff. It is also a great opportunity to get to know the other Committee Chairs better and share experiences with committee work.

Other activities this quarter have included, continuing to attend monthly online meetings of the ECR Delegates and Trustee. I attended and participated on a panel at the "We Are Not Saints" Conference in A19 in January. There was also another General Sharing Session for GSC members on the topic of the GSC and the HSCO document this past week.

II. Delegate's Roundtable

Our Area monthly Delegate Roundtables have continued. The past three months have included presentations on Concepts 1-3 by our Area 21 Past Delegates, Tom H, Paula E. and Becky B., all of whom have done an excellent job explaining the significance of each Concept and how they fit into our daily service and recovery. Our first presenter in January was Don Miller (A10/P49), a past NTD on AAWS and past General Service Trustee on the GV Board, who did an introduction to the Concepts as a whole, why Bill wrote them and how they apply to the entire A.A. structure, not just the GSB. We then had Sherry Snider (A55/P72), our ECR Trustee share on her experiences as a first year Trustee and give us a preview of the changes coming to the CDPP this year. This past week, Virginia Rogers (A23/60), Past Delegate from Area 23 Southern Indiana, joined us to share on her years of experience in sobriety and service, particularly at the GSC.

III. CDPP (Conference of Delegates Past & Present)

The first East Central Regional event of the year is the Conference of Delegates Past & Present, which occurred from 2/13-15/26 in Benton Harbor, MI, hosted by Area 34 (Western MI). The ECR ("Extremely Cordial Region"), comprised of IL, WI, MI, IN and OH, started the CDPP in 1974 to help prepare the current delegates of the region for the upcoming GSC. This year's conference was attended by 4 Trustees, the 14 current ECR Delegates and Alternate Delegates, and over 52 past delegates, including 7 from Area 21!! That made us the Area with the most past Delegates attending, which I think is an amazing tribute to the dedication of our past delegates! We should be proud to be from an Area with this many past delegates committed to staying active in the area and region.

The conference this year was structured differently to more closely represent the experience at the GSC, and the feedback has been positive on the changes. The conference includes presentations from some of the current delegates, a GSO Staff Report, the ECR Trustee report, reports on upcoming ECR events and the ECR business meeting. The highlight of the conference is the Mock GSC Session where an agenda item

is presented, discussed and voted on to simulate the process which will occur at the GSC in April. This year's Mock Conference was held entirely on Saturday, and I found it to be a big improvement over last year's event, both in scheduling and the demeanor/seriousness in the room.

IV. Pre-GSC Workshop

We have begun planning for the upcoming Pre-GSC Workshop, scheduled for 4/11/26 hosted by District 11 in Decatur, IL. The final list of agenda items and the background for each item have been posted to the Area 21 website under the GSC tab.

We are planning 4 - Zoom meetings leading up to the Pre-GSC Workshop. The schedule for these Zoom meetings is listed on the Pre-GSC Workshop flyer. On a separate sheet is the list of Agenda items we will concentrate on in our discussions. The agenda items listed as "Voting Items," means I potentially will be voting on these items at the conference. For these, I need to get a sense of the Area's opinion (the Group Conscience). Other items are listed as "Discussion only Items", meaning they may be of interest for you to read about and ask questions, but will not be voting items at the GSC. I encourage you to read the background material on the items which interest you and ask questions at these sessions.

I am relying on you for your participation in this preparation process so I can get a good sense of the group conscience of Area 21 and can carry that with me to the GSC. For your "voice to be heard" at the GSC, I need to know what that voice is saying. It is my goal this year to hear from as many people as possible and gain as much input as I can from the fellowship in Area 21. Please do not hesitate to contact me by Email or phone.

V. News from AAWS/GSO

Financial:

- Nick S. has been appointed as the Self-Support Coordinator. His desk is publishing a monthly communication on self-support.

Highlights from Quarterly Financial Report – Fourth Quarter 2025:

- AAWS/GSB:
 - Total Contributions are down 6% vs. last year, but 7% better than last quarter. Overall, this year 4% less than budget (\$421,000 short of budget). Contributions cover 57% of operating expenses.
 - Gross literature sales are up 6% vs. last year but 5% less than budget for this year. Net sales are 2% less this year than last year.
 - Combined income from contributions and literature sales was only \$142,000 less than the same period last year but \$1.157M less than budget.
 - Total operating revenue is \$18, 853,249 which is 7% less than budget.
 - Total operating expenses are \$18,528,182 which is 2% less than the budget.
 - The reserve fund is currently at 5.92 months which is down from 6.2 months 3 months ago and 6.47 last year at this time (versus a target range of 9-12 months).

- GV/LV:
 - The Apple and Google payments to Grapevine now exceed the original \$400K app investment from the GSB in 2023.
 - GV print-only circulation is down 8% from last year.
 - GV complete circulation (print+online+app) is up 22% from last year and 3.8% ahead of budget.
 - GV total circulation is 0.7% above the reforecast budget.
 - GV operating expenses are 12% less than last year but still 2% higher than the budget.
 - LV total circulation is up 6% over last year but 7% behind the budget.
 - LV Support from GSB is 17% less than last year and 3% improved over budget

Literature:

- The Meeting Guide app now has an “Online Meetings” section.
- The Twelve Concepts video is available to download from aa.org.

Corrections:

- The Corrections Correspondence program really needs more men to sign up. Hundreds of male inmates waiting to be paired. Forms to sign up are on AA.org website.
- Many more requests for Grapevines to incarcerated persons than they can fill with the current number of “Carry the Message” subscriptions.

GSC:

- Starting in 2026, the delegate Conference Committee Chairpersons will be invited to attend the October Board weekend instead of the January board weekend, so the chairs are more involved in the consideration of PAIs and EDW plans.
- For the 2027 GSC, there is discussion to shift the distribution date for the background materials to one single date, instead of over 4-5 days.
- Some of the cost-cutting measures at this year’s GSC will include:
 - Less coffee and beverage services
 - Fewer meals served and more “on our own.”
 - Limiting the Sunday Opening Dinner to current Conference members (no significant others) and a smaller invitation list to other participants from the past.
 - The trip to Stepping Stones will be “pay-your-own-way” on the Saturday the Conference ends.
 - The workday will continue to start at 8:00AM and there will be a hard stop to business at 9:00PM on Friday night.
 - Trialing a new voting system this year (using phones) which will save \$10,000.
 - The conference manual will no longer be printed in a paper form.
 - The Final Conference Report will no longer be printed and distributed; however a print-ready version will be available on the AA.org website. (\$80,000 savings).

IC/RF:

- The final financial reporting for the IC in Vancouver has not been submitted due to a delay in 2 bills being submitted, however the preliminary figures indicate that the Convention broke even financially.
- The next International Convention is scheduled for 2030 in St. Louis, MO.
- The 29th World Service Meeting is being held in Lisbon, Portugal this fall.

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 entire project is nearing completion and the GSO will be open for the upcoming GSC in last April. Currently the office continues to operate remotely with all mail, shipping and phones remaining fully operational.

I continue to feel blessed and grateful for this opportunity to serve Area 21, more each year.

In service,

Jodi Blades, Delegate A21 P75