

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Southern Illinois Area 21 Assembly
Sunday December 14, 2025

Zoom ID: 889-8949-4288 Passcode: 177777

QR code for virtual flyer table for PDFs of handouts
OR

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

9:03 AM: Call to order: Recite: Serenity Prayer & Statement of A.A. Unity (PPT on screen)

Readings:

1. A.A. Preamble (D7) – DCM - Gordon R.
2. G.S.R. Preamble (D7) – DCM – Gordon R.
3. Tradition 12 (Long Form) and Concept 10 (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. These procedures are covered in the Area 21 Handbook under 8.4 Discussion and 8.4.3 Minority Opinion Procedure. The General Service Conference uses a slightly different procedures Jodi B. also reviewed Zoom procedures for successful participation in this Area Assembly. Tom H. 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.

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
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 DCMs and GSRs

District 5 – No DCM or Alternate DCM present

No GSR present

District 6 – Kevin H. present, but will be moving; introduced Robin S. as new DCM

Alternate DCM will be Shari D.

GSRs:

Sarah B. – Celestial Group

Judy O. - Canton Woman's Group – New

Shari D. – Pioneer Group

District 7 – Gordon R. DCM (Assembly Host Site)

GSRs:

Vickie – Centralia Group

Judy K. Circle of Friends Group

District 8 - No participation

District 9 – No participation

District 10 – DCM - Absent

GSR – None present

District 11 – DCM – Tim C.

GSRs

Bill D. -Alternate GSR of Friday Night Forum Group

Steve S. - Friday Group

Allen S. - Wednesday Night Group

District 12 – DCM – Linda Z.

GSRs

Linda Z. – Noon Bird Group

Eric E. – Primary Purpose Group

Shey G. – Home At Last Group

District 13 – DCM – Warren S.

GSRs

Warren S. Mulberry Grove Firehouse Group

District 14 – DCM – Megan G.

GSRs

Laura K. How It Works Group

District 15 – DCM – Bob K. – Absent

GSRs

None Present

District 16 – DCM- Carl H. (There will be a new DCM soon)

GSRs

Marsha - Cornerstone Community Church Group

District 17 - DCM – Dava S. – Absent

GSRs

Kevin B. – Renegade Group

James - Incommon Group

Filo - Carbondale New Radicals Group

Dave S. – Birds of a Feather Group

Jason – GOYA Group

District 18 – DCM – John G.

GSRs

Melanie – Alton Wednesday Night Group

District 19 – DCM – Trevor P. (Zoom)

GSRs

None

District 20 – DCM – Nancy V. – Absent

GSRs

Tommie – Rushville Group (struggling to remain active)

10:10 AM

Poll taken of members present in person or via Zoom who are at Assembly for the first time:

2 in person and 2 via Zoom

Tom H. gave a special greeting for these new members. Gordon N. will enter names into a drawing for a Grapevine prize.

10:15 AM – Break

10:30 AM – Minutes of September 2025 reviewed by body. New and Old Business read from presented minutes by Area 21 Recording Secretary, Karen D. Tom H. inquired how they could be accessed by all members of Area 21. In fact, they are available in paper copy at this assembly, been sent out by Area 21 Registrar and reside on Area 21 Website. Megan G. made a motion to accept minutes as presented. Gordon N. made a second and Motion passed with no further discussion

10:40 AM – Leo S. Area Treasurer verbally reviewed written Treasurer's Report to this Assembly. He reminded members that there are still outstanding transactions for December 2025 and the actual final report will be presented at the March 7, 2026 Area 21 Assembly. There were physical copies at this Assembly and they had been sent out to members of Area 21 by the Registrar. Balance at this time is \$24,418.30.

There was a clarification to Area 21 Assembly Body regarding the Corrections Literature Fund; which due to its source (National Corrections Conference) is only to be used for purchase and distribution of A. A. Approved Literature to Area 21 jails and prisons. Tim C. made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented and motion was seconded by Paula E. Motion passed with no further discussion.

10:45 AM – **NEW BUSINESS**

Review and Approve 2026 Area 21 Budget as provided by paper copy to current members and on line by Area 21 Registrar.

Motion made to reduce mileage reimbursement from .45 cents a mile to .40 cents a mile in order to save money.

The following points were made:

Why should the amount be reduced when gas prices are so high?

Since we have a reduced amount of money in comparison when the mileage reimbursement was .30 cents a mile; the reduction will show that Area 21 is prudently using their funds.

Another motion was made to lower the rate even further to .37 cents a mile. This was not presented properly as a motion so remaining discussion was about the .40 cents a mile motion.

Further discussion noted that .40 cents a mile was still enough money to pay for gas.

It was pointed out that gas mileage reimbursements are only available to Area 21 Officers and Committee Chairs; not to DCMs or GSRs.

The motion to reduce mileage reimbursement from .45 cents a mile to .40 cents a mile was called for a vote.

For Reduction: Present 26

Zoom 11

Against Reduction: Present 1

Zoom 3

Vote 37 in Favor and 4 Opposed

Tom H. asked for the Minority Opinion (meaning anyone who opposed reduction can speak in the event that they could change a pro- opinion).

Discussion: One member still is not in agreement with the reduction and never will be.

Another expressed the opinion that they were neutral; could see little difference in the amount, noted that gas prices are not high, and people can ask for more funds.

Tom H. asked if any person who voted for reduction to .40 cents a mile had changed their mind. Hearing none the motion to reduce gas mileage reimbursement from .45 to .40 passed with a vote of 37 to 4.

Discussion of Prudent Reserve:

It was noted that to change the amount of Prudent Reserve (amount held back in budget for emergency expenses – Currently 50% of Area 21 Budgeted Expenses); does not require a motion.

Others disagreed. Therefore; Laura K. made a motion to establish new Prudent Reserve amount to 30% of Area 21's overall budget. Tim C. seconded the motion. The following discussion ensued.

So many services are ensured payment with current prudent reserve;

More services could be offered with reduction of 20% of Area 21 funds in reserve;

Member noted that she had been discouraged from using budgeted funds for her Area 21 Committee work in an effort to save money;

Feels that the reduction is reckless as Area 21 must be able to pay bills which occur as a result of operations such as meeting rental, Zoom costs, food and travel costs;

Six months of reserve funds is done by General Service Office;

The prudent reserve at 50% or 30% can be used at any time by an approved motion;

By looking at the expense report, one can see that we are losing money each quarter;

Perhaps by spending more on services and less on a reserve fund; groups may feel more trusting of Area 21 and contribute;

If God is in charge we do not really need to worry about money.

Clearly, group contributions are down signaling us that we need to be good stewards of any money allocated and used;

There was a Friendly Amendment to make the Prudent Reserve Amount – 40% by Megan G. Laura K. (who made motion to make the prudent reserve 30%) agreed to the change to 40%;

Now motion is to change current 50% Prudent Reserve to 40%;

Discussion of Prudent Reserve changed from 50% of budget to 40% of budget:

Perhaps it would be better to name a specific amount instead of a percentage;

There is usually enough money and it was noted that Chair Persons frequently do not spend their allotted amount;

Current Treasurer: Leo Stork was asked to comment on Prudent Reserve issue:

He stated that:

Area 21 really does not know exactly how much money is in the budget because:

All of the bills for 2025 have not been paid;

Zoom costs will be increasing;

At present Area 21 will be using perhaps 3,000 to 4,000 dollars from the Prudent Reserve to pay these incoming bills;

He could support 40% of the Area 21 Funds as a Prudent Reserve.

More discussion of current motion to make Prudent Reserve 40% of Area 21 Budget:

Statement that General Service Office has prudent reserve of 50% of budget; however, they have a different philosophy regarding "Prudent Reserve".

There are miscellaneous line items in the budget that can be used to cover emergencies;

Therefore; 50% is not a set in stone number.

Motion to make the Prudent Reserve amount to be 40 % of the budgeted expenses was called for a vote.

11:20 AM – Tom H. stated that this vote would require 2/3 to pass.

Those in favor of changing Prudent Reserve to 40% from current 50% were:

Present -12

Zoom - 7

Those opposed to changing PR to 40% thereby leaving it at current 50% were:

Present – 15

Zoom - 3

For – 19

Against - 18

MOTION FAILS.

Tom H. requested a minority opinion;

Instead, Bobby D. made the following motion:

The Prudent Reserve be the average of monthly expenses so the prudent reserve would be 50% of actual expenses not 50% of budgeted expenses incurred in 2025.

Pam B. suggested that if we vote today the vote would cover 50% of actual expenses from December 2024 through November 2025.

Actual motion by Bobby D.

Area 21's Prudent Reserve will be 50% of previous 12 months actual expenses beginning on January 1, 2026.

Discussion:

Will this be the Prudent Reserve calculation until we change it to another configuration ?;

Budget amount could change throughout the year which will affect this number;

Need actual numbers to compare:

December 2024 through November 2025 the actual expenses were 21,929.70 which would

Make the current or the new Prudent Reserve at 10,964.85.

So: if expenses go up the prudent reserve will go up as well.

The sky is not falling.

There will be enough for both planned projects and any emergencies;

Prudent Reserve was used by many groups during the Covid Pandemic;

Noted **again** that a lower Prudent Reserve would free up money for projects designed to reach out in Area 21.

At this point in the discussion; Jodi B. provided this perspective;

At A A World Services the current Prudent Reserve is 6.2 months of money. The actual goal is to have 9 to 12 months of money in reserve. This is what is considered wise to have in reserve.

Vote called to have the Prudent Reserve be 50 % of the amount of operating expenses logged from December 2024 to November 2025.

For were 10 in room and 10 on Zoom = 20

Against were 18 in room and 2 on Zoom = 20

Motion Fails

Tom H. noted that after all discussion and voting the prudent reserve will stay at 50% of budgeted expenses.

11:45 AM **BUDGET for Fiscal Year 2026** – Review of expense requests – Substantial Unanimity needed for passage or 2/3. Proposed budget was reached by a Committee headed by Area 21 Chair;

Budget Total Requests is:

Total	36,390.00
If Prudent Reserve is 50%	18,445.00
If Prudent Reserve is 40%	14,556.00

Area Chair – Tom H. requests 3,000.00;

Notes that he went over budget this year by 700.00,

There will be more travel this year to Michigan, Wisconsin, and Chicago.

Vote:	FOR	AGAINST
In Person	20	0
Zoom	9	0

MOTION CARRIES

Alternate Area Chair – No person currently in this position; request of 1000.00

Vote	FOR	AGAINST
In Person	25	0
Zoom	9	0

MOTION CARRIES

Delegate – Jodi B.

Notes: Delegates mileage is configured based on Illinois residence;
This amount is an allowance and is not based upon expenses;
5,500.00. It is a set allotment.

Vote	FOR	AGAINST
In Person	27	0
Zoom	11	0

MOTION CARRIES

Delegate General Service Conference Fee – Cost is 10,000 per Delegate

General Service Office asks for a minimum of 2,200.00 for this expense.

Motion made to add 1000.00 to Area 21s paid amount and seconded by Jude C.

The motion is to increase Delegates payment to New York Office from 2,200.00

To 3,200.00 to reduce burden on GSO for Delegate expenses.

Vote	FOR	AGAINST
In Person	7	19
Zoom	10	3

MOTION FAILS

Minority Opinion

This Area is not being self- supporting when it only pays the minimum amount requested as opposed to the actual cost.

Motion to pay 2,200.00 to New York Office towards Delegate expenses incurred at General Service Conference in April of 2026.

Vote	FOR	AGAINST
In Person	21	2
Zoom	7	3

MOTION CARRIES

12:00 Noon – Lunch – Also Committee Meetings with Committee Chairs present.

12:30 PM – **Budget requests continue:**

Alternate Delegate – Pam B. requests 2,600.00;

This is same amount as last year.

Vote	FOR	AGAINST
In Person	22	0
Zoom	8	0

MOTION CARRIES

Registrar Thom J. requests 700.00 to cover expenses;

He has used budget to buy software to help with his duties to keep Area 21 Group lists current;

He has used less money than anticipated due to the fact that he attends Area Assemblies via Zoom rather than by vehicle.

Vote	FOR	AGAINST
In Person	24	0
Zoom	10	0

MOTION CARRIES

Recording Secretary – Karen D. requests 800.00 which is the same as last year.
Question: Are there any persons here or on Zoom who are opposed. None noted.
APPROVED

Treasurer Leo S. requests 800.00 which is 200.00 less than last year.
Question: Are there any persons here or on Zoom who are opposed. None noted.
APPROVED

Assembly Cost – The budget amount proposed is 1000.00 which is 1000.00 less than last year.

Noted that no money was spent from this line item so it was reduced.

Question: Are there any persons here or on Zoom who are opposed. None noted.
APPROVED

Miscellaneous – The amount requested in proposed budget is 500.00 which is a reduction.
Question: Are there any persons here or on Zoom who are opposed. None noted.
APPROVED

Pre General Service Workshop – The amount proposed is 1000.00. Same as last year.
Question: Are there any persons here or on Zoom who are opposed. None noted.
APPROVED

Storage – Amount requested to keep items secure is 840.00.
Question: Are there any persons here or on Zoom who are opposed. None noted.
APPROVED

Archives – Chair requests 500.00 for storage and supplies needed to keep Archival material safe and viable.
Question: Are there any persons here or on Zoom who are opposed. None noted.
APPROVED

Corrections – This Committee is requesting 7,500.00 to continue work in Southern Illinois Area 21 Correctional Facilities.

Money is generally used to pay for AA approved literature to persons that are currently in the custody of county or state facilities in Area 21.

The following were questions presented to Correctional Committee Alternate Chair:

Why is there money left over in the current budget?

There are pink can collections in Districts throughout Area 21 for AA approved literature; so why is this committee asking for more?

With the money left over; why asking for more?

What are your exact expenses?

Response:

There are 24 prisons (state) and 28 county jails serviced by members of this committee; and material that is provided does not stay in these places; it leaves with the incarcerated person;

It is constantly being circulated as new people are being admitted and others are discharged;

The money left over has literature needs attached to it; we just have not been able to buy and distribute before this Assembly;

We also want to have an inventory available for any new needs by persons in custody;

Pink Can collections are not done in all Districts within Area 21 and is voluntary;

This money is not being used for travel expenses to the next National Corrections

Conference in Utah – 2026.

Vote	FOR	AGAINST
In Person	14	7
Zoom	8	3

MOTION CARRIES (by 1 vote)

Cooperation With the Professional Community – This Committee is requesting 300.00.

Question: Are there any persons here or on Zoom who are opposed. None noted.

APPROVED

Grapevine – This Committee Chair is requesting 500.00.

This covers travel to and from four Area Assemblies and Pre-GSC Workshop;
As well as expenses of planned workshop with Literature Chair.

Question: Are there any persons here or on Zoom who are opposed. None noted.

APPROVED

GSC Workshop – This committee provided training throughout Area 21 about AA Group Service Positions. Current Chair Shari D. is stepping down from Committee but is asking for 1,000.00

This will mainly cover travel expenses as the tools used (curriculum, etc.) are available.

Question: Are there any persons here or on Zoom who are opposed. None noted.

APPROVED

Literature – Current Chair is requesting 750.00.

This money will be mainly used for travel to Area Assemblies and GSC Workshop;

Additionally, it will be used to fund collaborative workshop with Grapevine Chair to be held in District 18.

Question: Are there any persons here or on Zoom who are opposed. None noted.

APPROVED

Public Information – Chairperson is requesting 3000.00.

This money is to be used for the following:

Advertising across Area 21;

Travel to Area 21 Assemblies;

Travel to General Service Workshop;

Big Books to Area 21 Libraries.

There were several questions regarding this request;

Should AA be advertising?

Should Area 21 be utilizing FACEBOOK?

Was utilizing FACEBOOK approved by members of Area 21?

Seems like this approach breaks anonymity?

Were other advertising avenues explored?

Why is radio Public Service Announcements (PSAs) **that are free** being used?

How is budget being broken down specifically? Travel? Facebook? Etc.

There was a spirited discussion and many members expressed concern about P I current plan to use funds which ended with a chastisement of Area 21 members for being resistant to new ideas of younger members.

The chairperson response to the above concerns was;

She had sought direction from the Area 21 Chair, GSO Staff, other long-term AA members before she launched project.

She also reminded members that her report regarding this venture was reported to this Area by DCM who read the PI Report at last Area Assembly.

She feels that this approach reaches out to the whole Area and can be looked at to see how many people are being reached.

She stated that her plan was well within the scope of her authority as Public Information Chairperson for Area 21 to implement this project.

The question was called with acknowledgment that this Committee Chair had sought direction and was within the scope of her authority by member who called vote.

Vote	FOR	AGAINST
In Person	20	3
Zoom	9	1

MOTION CARRIES

The minority opinion expressed was that as a DCM he could not justify to his District why a Facebook Advertisement was done without prior vote of entire Area 21 Assembly.
No other comments and no new vote called.

Structure and Policy – Chairperson is requesting 400.00.

He has only had two meetings

Has added one appendix to the Area 21 Handbook.

Question: Are there any persons here or on Zoom who are opposed. None noted.

APPROVED

Treatment and Accessibilities is asking for 500.00.

This money will be used for

- Travel
- Workshop

There was an opinion expressed by an Area 21 member that this amount was not enough. The member felt that this committee should have at least as much as Corrections (7,500.00) as taking AA Approved Literature into Treatment Facilities was just as important and taking literature into correctional facilities.

Another member shared the experience of her District that giving Treatment Facilities Literature was done until they discovered that client's insurance was also being paid to these facilities for literature as well. Her district determined that supporting outside enterprises was not a District or an Area responsibility.

Question: Are there any persons here or on Zoom who are opposed. None noted.

APPROVED

Website and Technical - Committee Chair requested 2000.00;

430.00 – 5 Area Functions

17.00 – Zoom Charges

324.00 – Web Hosting

200.00 – S S L

46.00 – Domain

46.00 – Protection

300.00 – Webcam

109.47 – 365 Microsoft

218.00 –

350.00 – Red Laptop

This equals 1999.00

Karin S. made a motion made to increase budget by 1000.00 to 3000.00 due to likelihood that Web Hosting costs will increase. Tim C. Seconded

Question: Are there any persons here or on Zoom who are opposed to adding 1000.00 to budget request of 2000.00. None noted.

Budget for Website will be 3000.00.

APPROVED

Therefore, the current projected budget is 37,390.00;

The Prudent Reserve of 50% of projected budget is 18,695.00.

Remaining Officer Reports

Registrar - Thom J.

Thom stated that there is no real change from September Assembly:

There are 18 Active Areas in Area 21;

There are 375 Active Groups in Area 21;

There is 1 Active Virtual Group in Area 21;

In Area 21 there are 404 verified email contacts;

On Fellowship Connect there are 89 Unknown Groups;

Currently working on recording and forwarding changes to DCMs, GSRs. And Groups.

Alternate Delegate – Pam B.

She noted that she attended the Illinois State Conference in Chicago Area. She reported that it was very well done but the attendance was low.

She hosted several panels at this Conference.

She also traveled to one District to give Delegate's Report.

Delegate – Jodi B.

She has visited most of the Districts in Area 21 to give her report about the General Service Conference;

Two Area 21 Districts had no interest in getting an in-person report;

She attends an East Central Region talk via Zoom one time a month;

She hosts a Delegate Roundtable each month on the first Thursdays. Discussion of each of the 12 Traditions has been completed. Next year she will have panelists discuss a Concept a month;

She reviewed current P A I for upcoming General Service Conference;

She attended the recent Illinois State Conference and facilitated 8 Panels;

She noted that Area 21 was well-represented at the Conference and that Mike F. had been a main speaker and participated in several panels;

She reported that the General Service Office is behind in Contributions by 1 Million Dollars but that Literature sales are up;

The Prudent Reserve has 6.2 months of funds in reserve;

Ideal desire is to have 9 to 12 months of expected expenses in reserve;

Draft edition of the 5th Edition of the Big Book will be voted on for approval at the 2026 General Service Conference;

At this time, there is free shipping for AA Approved Literature;

Area 21's Proposed Agenda Item regarding updating the pamphlet on medications will be going to the Conference.

Area Chair – Tom H.

Provided list of activities that he has attended since September 2025;

He complimented members of Area 21 who attended the Illinois State Conference;

He acknowledged Mike F. for being a featured speaker and panelist on several service panels at the same Illinois State Conference.

2:00 PM – Special Election for Alternate Chair

The position is necessary in case that the current Area Chair becomes unable to complete duties. There are two members who are willing to take on this position.

Their service histories were shared by each of them prior to vote to fill this position.

Warren S.

Is currently the DCM for District 13 of Area 21;

He is also a GSR for the Mulberry Grove Firehouse Meeting;

He is new to the General Service Structure;

He has an active sponsor who expects him to be active with Alcoholics Anonymous;

He wants to become more involved in service in order to learn and grow;

He wants to be approachable, available, and helpful to people in his group, District,

and Area.

Paula E.

She is a Prior Delegate from 1986;

She has a sponsor and sponsors other members;

She has held multiple service positions at all levels of AA.;

She is a business owner;

She has been the Area 21 Chair, in the past;

She has a work history in non-profit agencies;

She is detail orientated;

She has grown as a person and an AA member through prior service.

Tom H. stated that a 2/3 margin would be required or Substantial Unanimity.
The following votes were executed and monitored by Jodi B.

	Warren	Paula
First Ballot:	25	16
Second Ballot:	29	10

Warren S. will become the new Area 21 Alternate Area Chair. Tom H. thanked both people for their willingness to serve.

Committee Chairs- Reports

Archives – Carl H.

Corrections – Jeff S. (Zoom) and Ed H. (Present)

Cooperation with the Professional Community – Michael R.

Grapevine – Gordon N.

GSR Workshop – Shari D. (will be stepping down)

Literature – Robert S.

Public Information – Laura K.

Structure/Policy – Dean S.

Treatment and Accessibility – Karin S

Website – Rosemary T.

OLD BUSINESS:

Per Warren S. – DCM of District 13 (Effingham and surrounding area) stated September 26, 2026 will be held in District 13.

When details are available, he will share with Area 21 members.

John G. – DCM of District 18 put forward a request to host the December 2026 Area 21 Assembly.

Approved by acclimation

NEW BUSINESS:

The next Illinois State Conference will be held in Area 21.

It will be during the 3rd week in August 2026

It will be held in District 14 (Metro East St. Louis/Belleville/O'Fallon)

This area has 22 active groups

Approved by acclimation

Due to lack of time to complete the following items tabled:

Discussion of website change;

P A I

Note that any events within Alcoholics Anonymous – Area 21 – Southern Illinois can be accessed at the following address: [area21aa.org/ Events](http://area21aa.org/Events). A list of that events that are currently on the site were stated by Tom H.

Also, this site provides complete information regarding upcoming Pre- General Service Conference Workshop to be held on April 11, 2025 in Decatur, IL. This includes proposed agenda items and background information.

Ten members of Area 21 had significant sober time since last Area 21 Assembly and all together there were 231 years of continuous sobriety.

Report from District 7 is that they broke even with food and rent for this Assembly.

Leo S. stated that the current Area 21 Account Balance **22,827.69** with all expenses paid as of this December 14, 2025.

Motion to Close made by Paula E. and seconded by Warren S.

Statement of Responsibility was spoken in unison.