

SIA 21 Delegate's Report – Fall Area Assembly

September 13, 2026

I. Activity Since last Assembly

As I learned last year, the 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 GSO/GSB. Similarly, my conference committee, Report & Charter, has continued communicating as we reviewed the Final Conference Report and Service Manual before they went to Publishing at the end of June. There was also another General Sharing Session for GSC members in the last week of August.

II. Delegate's Roundtable

The monthly Delegate Roundtables continued this spring and summer through July. The sessions included presentations of the Concepts by our past Delegates Mike F., Dean S. and Gordon N. I would like to thank all of them for their wisdom and willingness to participate. Topic presentations in the past few months were given by Larry S., past delegate from Area 20, Jennifer B. our TAL-US and John W. the Editor in Chief of the Grapevine. All these sessions were very interesting and a great conversation. I have chosen to end the Delegate Roundtables before the end of the year due to other conflicts. I hope the new Delegate will revive the idea in some format for next year.

III. East Central Regional Conference

The ECR Conference was held in conjunction with the Northern Wisconsin Conference in Eau Claire, WI from June 26-28th. For anyone who is new, the ECR ("Extremely Cordial Region") is comprised of IL, WI, MI, IN and OH. The Regional Conference is held yearly on a rotating basis with one of the 5 State Conventions. As this was a state and regional conference happening together, there was a great deal of activity going on, including several excellent speakers, one from as far away as New Jersey, panel presentations on Saturday, a wonderful banquet, many social activities, and a presentation by our ECR Trustee. The ECR Conference next year is in Area 56, SW OH in August.

IV. Illinois State Convention

This year the ISC was hosted by Area 19 from August 21-23rd at the Doubletree Hotel in Oak Brook, IL. We in Area 21 were well represented, presenting and participating on 4 of the 12 panel discussions and 3 of the sharing sessions, with 9 of our members contributing. The conference was well attended and very enjoyable. Next year, Area 21 is back to hosting when we will be in O'Fallon on Sept. 17-19th!!

V. News from AAWS/GSO

Highlights from Quarterly Financial Report – Second Quarter 2026:

- AAWS/GSB:
 - Contributions are up 8% vs. Q2 of last year and 4% better than budget. In 2025 contributions cover 57% of operating expenses and in the first 2 quarters of 2026, it covered 52% of operating expenses.

- o Gross literature sales are 15% less than budget and 2% less than prior year (Primarily due to decline in sales of the PLBB). Gross margin on Sales is 6% better than budget and 8% better than last year.
 - o Total operating revenue is \$10,329,213 which is almost the same as the YTD budget.
 - o Total operating expenses are \$9,561,563 which is \$400,000 less than YTD budget.
 - o The reserve fund is currently at 4.97 months which is down from 6.42 months at this time last year (versus a target range of 9-12 months).
- GV/LV:
 - o GV print-only circulation is down 3% from last year.
 - o GV complete circulation (print+online+app) is up 21% vs. last year and 900 subscriptions ahead of budget.
 - o GV total circulation is 4% increased over last year.
 - o GV operating expenses are 1% less than last year and 1% lower than the budget.
 - o LV total circulation is down 17% compared to last year and 9% behind the budget, but operating expenses are also down.
 - o LV Support from GSB is 13% less than last year and \$11K improved over budget

Literature:

- The digital version of the Final Conference Report is available online at aa.org. The print version will be available for sale at a list price of \$5.00 by mid-October.
- The 2026-2028 Edition of the A.A. Service Manual will be available for purchase by the end of Oct.
- The Fifth Edition of Alcoholics Anonymous will be published with a removable dust jacket at a list price of \$20. It is on track to be published in February 2027.

GSC:

- The most recent PAI Grid was released on 8/25/26 with the 2 PAI's from Area 21 as #4 and # 37. At least ½ the items are about reverting changes to, or protections for changing the Founder's Writings.
- 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.

IC/RF:

- The next International Convention is scheduled for 2030 in St. Louis, MO. There is currently a call out open for Theme Suggestions for this convention to be sent to the GSO by 10/9/26.
- The next ECR Forum is June 25-27th, hosted by Area 74, in **Green Bay, WI!!!**

Everything AA App:

- Changes have been made and first release of the app under the ownership of A.A.W.S is now available. Update your app if you already have it. It remains free to download, however there is an option to subscribe at \$1.99/mo. or \$19.99/year to support the app. Subscribers will get additional content.

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

In service, *Jodi Blades, Delegate A21 P75*