UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Southern Illinois Area 21 Assembly

Sunday June 7, 2026

Zoom ID: 844-1903-0614 Passcode: 177777

Link:

https://www.google.com/url?q=https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84419030614?pwd%3D7AxCewFs4fflVOLogXDeWH8VuDhCx2.1&sa=D&source=calendar&usd=2&usg=AOvVaw3ZDaiaeWDo33b5cn66pHjD

QR code for virtual flyer table for PDFs of handouts

9:00 AM: Call to order: Recite: Serenity Prayer & Statement of A.A. Unity (PPT on screen)
Readings:

1. A.A. Preamble (D 12)
2. G.S.R. Preamble (D 12)
3. Tradition 7 (Long Form) and Concept 5 (Short Form)
4. Review of voting eligibility and hybrid format procedures (PPT on screen) Recognition:

1. Area 21 Officers
   Jodi B. – Delegate – Panel 75
   Pam B. – Alternate Delegate – Panel 75
   Tom H. – Chairperson
   Warren S. Alternate Chairperson – Has resigned per Tom H. Letter attached
   Thom J. Registrar
   Leo S. Treasurer
   Karen D. Recording Secretary
2. Area 21 Committee Chairpersons
   Carl H. – Archives
   Ed. H. and Jeff D. – Corrections
   Michael R. - Cooperation With the Professional Community
   Gordon N. – Grapevine - Zoom
   Paula E. – General Service Representative Workshop
   Laura K. - Public Information – Zoom
   Bob S. – Structure and Policy
   Karin S. – Website and Technology

3. Past Delegates

Tom H. Panel 73	Gordon N. Panel 71	Paula E. Panel 65
Fariba M. Panel 61	Dean S. Panel 59	Carl M. Panel 55
Mike F. Panel 53 (Area 38)		

9:18 am: District Introductions and Reports from DCMs (4 min.) and GSRs (2 min.)

Please use form on the Area 21 website and email written reports to secretarysia21@gmail.com or give to Recording Secretary at this Assembly.

District 5:
DCM – Steven M. Absent – no report
GSR – None Present

District 6:
DCM – Robin S. Absent
Alternate DCM – Shari D. gave report – attached
GSR – Shari D. – gave report for Pioneer Group – attached

District 7:
DCM – Absent
GSR – Dennis S. gave report for Rule 62 Group - attached

District 10:
DCM – Mike H. gave report via Zoom (some technical difficulties);
He has been very busy attending Delegate Roundtables, hosting 2 GSR Workshops, and introducing 2 new GSRs to service.
GSR – Doug V. Second Traditions Noontime Group – report given

District 11:
DCM – Tim C. gave report stating that his District has a main purpose which is to carry the message. He has been traveling around his District visiting meetings and encouraging members. Their District Business meetings are well attended.
GSR – Steve S. Friday Group – report given
GSR – Allison H. Serenity Group – report given
GSR – Chris B. Sobriety at Six – report given
GSR – Wyatt C. – Saturday Night Live – report given

District 12:
DCM – Linda Z. gave report – attached
GSR – Linda Z. Noon Bird Group – attached
GSR – Tara M. Better Way Group – report given
GSR – Andy E. Design For Living Group – report given
Eric E. Primary Purpose Group – report given - attached
GSR – Shey G. Home at Last (Women's Group) – report given
GSR – Elizabeth M. Cellar Dwellers Group – report given
GSR – Diane G. Looney Toons Group – report given
GSR – Mindy E. Common Solution Group – report given
GSR – Ryan SWAT Group – report given

District 13:
DCM – Warren S. Absent – no report
GSR - None

District 14:
DCM – Megan G. gave report stating that a treatment center in the District (Gateway) now has more intensive requirements in order for volunteers to enter. Now background and drug tests are required of volunteers. Members visit the St. Clair County Jail. Additionally, the district is reaching out to The Illinois Recovery Center. The current goal is to streamline outreach.
GSR – Paula E. – Reflections Group – report given
GSR – Laura K. (Zoom) How It Works Group – report given

District 15:
DCM – Bob K. Absent
Alternate DCM – Shane P. reported that there has been some decrease in District participation. The District Meetings are now held monthly. The local A A meetings are good and well attended.
GSR – None
District 16:
DCM – William W. Absent
GSR – None
District 17:
DCM – Dave S. – Has taken over for Dava S. He reports that he has filled most of the District Chair positions. He has engaged an Ad Hoc Event Committee to encourage coordination of fellowship events. There are usually 15-20 at District Business meetings. Report attached.
GSR – Dave S. – Birds of a Feather Group – gave report
GSR – Kevin B. – Renegade Group – gave report
GSR – Philo S. – New Radicals Meeting – gave report - attached
GSR – James F. – Friday Night Uncommon Group – gave report
District 18:
DCM – John G. reported that there is low GSR attendance at the District Business meeting. He is finding members to join committees in order to spark interest. He is working on the idea in Concept 3 which is mutual trust. He has completed a project with Area 21 Registrar to identify all groups. There is a new Big Book Study Meeting in the District. He reaffirmed the importance of door greeters to welcome members.
GSR – Ron - Greeter at New Beginnings Meeting in Troy, Il. The meeting is at 8:00 PM on Saturday. He gave verbal report.
Deb G. – GSR of Life After Group in Carlinville, Il. Report is attached
Alex M. GSR of North Alton Group on Monday. Report given..
Rose M. GSR of Hillsboro Group. Report given.
Brett GSR of Serenity Circle in Litchfield, IL. Report given.
District 19:
DCM – Trevor P. Absent
GSR – Mike S. Thursday Night Big Book Study at 7;30 PM at Cherry and Bates. Report given.
GSR – Josiah K, Thursday Night Character Defects Group at Easy Does It Club. Report given
Caitlin D. (via Zoom) GSR for Eye Opener Group at Discovery. Report given.
District 20:
DCM – Nancy W. Absent
GSR - None
10:25 AM
Tom H., Area 21 Chairperson discussed the “Upside Down Triangle” unique to Alcoholics Anonymous. The main purpose of any Area is

1. Elect a Delegate to represent wishes of A A members within the Area at the yearly General Service Conference
2. Then to support that chosen Delegate as outlined in the Fifth Concept of World Service.

10:30 AM – Break

10:45 AM – Officer Reports

Recording Secretary – Karen D. was present with written minutes. At first, the body approved the minutes as were distributed. Paula E. made motion to accept and Linda Z. seconded motion. When a vote was called there was an objection from Alternate Chairperson. She stated that due to a computer glitch; these minutes were actually not made available to all members of Area 21. Therefore, they could not be approved at this time. After some discussion, other members of Assembly agreed that this was a correct course of action. Paula E. rescinded her original motion to approve. There was more discussion from members. At this point. Area 21 Registrar explained that there was a glitch in his system which caused these minutes not to reach intended senders. At this point, Tom H., Area 21 Chairperson recalled approval. A vote was called. Of 28 votes there was 11 voting to approve the minutes and 17 voting not to approve. Minutes were not approved. The minority opinion was heard which stated that they could be amended, later. When asked for any change of opinion none was heard. March minutes will be reviewed at next Area 21 Assembly on September 14, 2026. Report attached.

Treasurer – Leo S. presented his written budget to Assembly. It had been sent out in prior email, as well. At the last Assembly there had been two contributions which were questioned as not being from approved sources. This was investigated and the Treasurer was satisfied that these contributions were indeed from legitimate groups, however, the checks were from businesses (which caused the original confusion). The Treasurer asked members to be more careful when sending contributions in order to limit misunderstanding with information that names the group as well as a group number. He has received a Postal Money Order made out to Area 21. This requires extra work to figure out where these contributions should be placed within report.

For June 2026:

Group Contributions to Area 21 (Mar, Apr. May)		$4,201.95
Expenses for Area 21 (Mar Apr. May)		($7,417.17)
This leaves the following:	General Fund Balance	$ 20,768.25
	Prudent Reserve	$18,695.00
GFB – PR is the	Working Balance	$2,073.25
	Corrections Literature	$3,394.75
SO: The Current Balance is		**$24,163.00.**

There was a question from a member regarding confusion of the numbers $6,033.16 and $
6,513.16 in March Contributions. This misunderstanding was cleared up by Leo S. to the satisfaction of all.

The Area 21 Chairperson asked for any other feedback and none was proffered. The report was accepted with no further discussion.

Report attached.

Registrar – Thom J. stated the following:

Area 21 has:
18 Active Districts
360 Active Groups
68 Unknown Groups
01 Pending Active Group

He also reported that he has 400 GMAIL CONTACTS and the email limits have been exceeded. He is working on this.

He has been involved with attending GSR workshops with Paula E. and explaining his role in Area 21 at these events.
He continues to add and change information ono Fellowship Connect as needed.
He has also attended a Forum with other Registrars to share and learn new information.

Alternate Delegate – Pam B. (Panel 75) stated the following:
She attends a monthly Alternate Delegate Meeting the 1st day of each month via Zoom. She has contact with Alternate Delegates from the other 92 Areas in the United States and Canada. It is will attended with about 60 to 70 each month. She has learned a great deal from these interactions.
She monitored the Pre General Service Conference held in Decatur to provide the current Delegate with information regarding the will of Area 21 in regard to issues addressed in New York at the General Service Conference. She desires to help the current Delegate more. She does this by praying for the success of the Delegate and therefore the success of Area 21.
She has plans to attend Founder's Day in Akron, Ohio at the end of June and will report back regarding this at the next Assembly in September

Area 21 Chairperson – Tom H. stated that the recently elected Alternate Chairperson, Warren S. has resigned. Tom H. has determined to leave the position vacant. He feels that with the Area 21 elections coming up in September, having an election now would not be productive.
He noted that he was very interested in Jodi's experience in New York. He is looking forward to her report this afternoon.
Report is attached.

11:22 AM
Area 21 Delegate – Jodi B. stated that she is open to traveling to Area 21 Districts to go over the information she is presenting today. Contact her to make arrangements, if desired. She has not decided about scheduling Zoom interaction, at this time.

She reviewed the entire process of the General Service Conference. As an overview she said:
There are 93 Areas in the United States and Canada;
There are 21 Trustees
There are 27 General Service Office Staff who make up the GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE. This allows for representation of both the membership and the General Service Office Staff to have a part in the decisions facing Alcoholics Anonymous each year.
She reviewed what happened each day during the week that the GSC went on.
Jodi stated that it was her impression that the following things have occurred at GSO.

Staff grievances have been addressed;

There is more cooperation among members of the GSB and members of the GSC;

Therefore, more trust has been generated between Delegates and Trustees.

She noted that there is a new APP named EVERYTHING AA which has been acquired by the A A General Service Office. It is free to use but a member can contribute to it financially.
In regard to the financial report the following was noted:

The bottom line is that Alcoholics Anonymous is in good shape financially. They have saved money by condensing office space from two floors to one floor. In a retrofit. She was given a tour and felt like the new floor plan was more open.

Book Sales are increasing but voluntary member and group contributions are decreasing.

Departments are cutting staff in an effort to save money.

Her conclusion is this:

Literature sales can no longer sustain the operation of A. A World Services and that members need to consider making financial contributions directly to A A World Services in order to sustain this Office.
She stated that Grapevine and LaVina are currently on a 5 year plan to become self- supporting. They will probably break even.
The Grapevine APP has paid for itself and the subscription gives a member the full experience.
She noted that the PAI sent by Area 21 passed by a vote of 129 FOR and only 5 AGAINST; so the pamphlet A A Members: Medications and Other Drugs will be updated by the Literature Committee and will possibly come up for vote at the next General Service Conference.
The following items did not come out of Committee to be addressed:
Location change of upcoming General Service Conference:
Workbook for a Twelve Step Study.
She stated that the Self Support Pamphlet will now have a paragraph telling people that a member can support the A A Grapevine by getting a subscription.

12:00 N – LUNCH

Tom H. asked that the Committee Chairs meet with their members during the lunch break in order to catch up on what is going on in each District.

1:00 PM – Continued review of events of recent General Service Conference by Area 21 Delegate, Jodi B.

Literature -.
The agenda item that wanted Grapevine to be able to accept contributions did not pass as it would require change to A A Charter.
The five -year plan is moving forward.

Fifth Edition was approved and kept 12 stories and deleted some. The added stories represent a broad spectrum of members current in A A today. The vote was 125 for publication and 9 against. It may come out by the end of 2026.

Next issue was not put on the agenda for this GSC and came out of the Literature Committee. It involved changing one word in the Big Book as well as the same word used in the Twelve and Twelve. The word is Eskimo. Apparently, this word is considered a racial slur by people who live in Alaska and Canada. This was a highly charged issue.

As your Delegate, I voted against it as I felt that this change although small should have been discussed with the membership for direction. Also, since as a fellowship we do not have a policy on changing words in the Big Book and Twelve and Twelve that is stable, The Conference declined to consider a suspend the Fifth Edition until the Conference develops further consensus around procedures and practice respecting changes to "Founders' Writings" This could be a slippery slope. It could sow more seeds of discontent regarding decisions not discussed ahead of time such as happened when a change in the A A Preamble was made in 2020. In my opinion this was not an emergency and should have been handled in the same way all issues are handled in discussion with A A groups.

However, the change did pass as members of the GSC felt that the word should be changed in the Fifth Edition before it is published in 2026.

Another concern that I had is that the GSC did not consider what word to use as a replacement word and left the decision up to the Literature Committee. The members of this Committee are only a microcosm of A A members. Who are they to make a exact word choice?

There was no rush to publish a new edition of Experience, Strength, and Hope.

Policy and Admissions

The trial tactic to reduce specific committee workload by Equitable Distribution or Workload is on the agenda to be discontinued. This passed.

Public Information

A membership survey costing no more than $10,000 to explore "who are we" passed.

The agenda item to change the name of the revised pamphlet Understanding Anonymity to *A*nonymity – Our Spiritual Foundation. This did pass

Report and Charter

Several paragraphs were added Frequently Asked Questions in 2026 edition of the Service Manual to answer question, **What happens if a group decides to hear a GSR report?**

There was a discussion to stop publishing a print version of current and upcoming Final Conference Reports. It would be available on line for review and printing. After several votes it passed.

As the chairperson of this committee, I put forward a floor action that it be made available in print for sale of members who want to purchase it. This passed.by 1 vote.

Class A Trustees (non-alcoholic) are identified by first and last name;

Class B Trustees (alcoholic) are identified by first and last initial. Now it will be the same for both groups first name and initial of last name.

Floor Action

Minimum Delegate fee paid is $2,200.00 to $3,00.00. Action to raise to minimum amount that Areas are suggested to pay to $4800.00. This passed.

There was discussion with the Delegate from several members of this Assembly. The most charged item was the change of the word, ESKIMO in the Big Book and Twelve and Twelve.

On one hand, members wondered if there had been a more racially polarizing name being considered for change would the Delegate have voted not to change it in the Big Book and the Twelve and Twelve? If it was a name that she herself felt was personally offensive?
Other members expressed their agreement with her decision to vote against the change based upon her expressed reasoning and experience.
Jodi stated that she still feels that the action was too quick and did not take into account the long- term damage that it may cause.

There were some general questions about other issues but no strong feeling was expressed at the microphone by members of this Assembly.

Jodi expressed her gratitude at being able to have this Delegate experience and the Assembly expressed their satisfaction of her stellar service.

All of the above items and more are available in writing on handout entitled, GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE – QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE – Attached

Jodi estimated that:
Final Conference Report will be available in August 2026;
New Service Manual will be available in October 2026, and
Fifth Edition of the Big Book will be available for sale in December of 2026 or in January of 2027.

1:50 PM
Committee Reports
Carl M. - Archives -He has been active in repairing books. He has had a request for some archival information that he is providing. Report is attached.

Ed. H. and
Jeff D. - Corrections- First of all Jeff reported that volunteers are need for all the State Prisons that are being covered. He has applications and information with him and will be happy to help any person complete.

There is an upcoming Corrections Workshop being held on June 27, 2026 at the Easy Does It Club in Springfield, IL. All are welcome to attend.

Jeff D. will be speaking at the Illinois State Conference in Oak Brook, IL on the Corrections Panel.
Michael – Cooperations with the Professional Community – He has been reaching out to other Districts in various ways. A complete written report is attached.

Gordon N. Grapevine – He had no report at this time via Zoom.

Paula E. General Service Representative Workshop – She is open to any person who would like to schedule a time for an in-person workshop. She has completed on in District 11, District 12 and District 18. Her complete report is attached.

Laura K. Public Information - Via Zoom, she reported that Facebook Ad is reaching a large number of people. There is a recorded 4,000 clicks. There were some concerns expressed by a DCM in another District. The concerns were in regard to the following:

1. There are old events on this page that need to be removed,
2. There are concerns because full names are being used.
3. There is confusion as to it being a private or a public page.

Laura K. stated these events move down the page and she cannot remove. Facebook pulls date off the page.
Another DCM stated that if people use their full name in public; it is not an anonymity break. He quoted several sources available at aa.org regarding anonymity in regard to social media usage.
Some other comments were that this page is pioneering and is in the process of clarification.
The Facebook Page at Area 21 is intended to be a public facing page for reaching the still suffering alcoholic.
We must meet them where they are.
She encouraged for members to visit page and evaluate.

Bob S. Literature – He did participate in Zoom meetings in regard to General Service Conference. He told members that he is available if any person needs products or information. His full report is attached.

Dean S. Structure and Policy – He reminded this Assembly that elections will be held at the next Area 21 Assembly the second Sunday in September. He can have a draft of the Area Handbook with updates.

Karin S. Website and Technology – She has been working to upgrade the Area 21 Website. She has upgraded WORD PRESS. She also has met with Laura K. and Tom H. to see if she can be of help with the Area 21 Facebook Page. Her full report is attached.

2:05 PM
Tom H. suggested that we work with Dean regarding time limits for reports, etc as he his updating the Area 21 Handbook.
He also suggested that if Districts are unwilling to host in-person Area 21 Assemblies, perhaps we will need to host them virtually.

2;10 PM – BREAK

OLD BUSINESS
Need bids for the March 2027 Area 21 Assembly. As previously stated perhaps it will need to be done virtually. Leo S. speaking for District 19 around Springfield, bid for this Area 21 Assembly. There were no other bidders. He will notify Website when he has secured a location for Business Meeting and Food Service.

NEW BUSINESS
Need bids for the June 2027 Area Assembly which is one year away.
Shane P. who spoke on behalf of District 15 around Jacksonville, IL put in a bid for this Assembly. There were no other bidders. He will inform this body when place for Business Meeting and Food Service has been secured.
Need bids for the September 2027 Area 21 Assembly.
Shari D. who spoke on behalf of District 6 which is Peoria and the surrounding area put in a bid. There were no other bidders so this bid was approved. Information will be forwarded to Website person when it has been confirmed.

Proposed Agenda Item
RE: Social Media Guidelines and how they intertwine with the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The Proposed Agenda Item was proposed by Karin S. and states "Guidance is needed in regards to maintaining traditions for social media pages that use the A. A. name."

There was a spirited discussion about this PAI.
Some members felt that there is already enough information available from A. A. World Services. Perhaps more information would be confusing.
Another point of view was that we (the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous) are to give guidance to New York and they package it according to our desires and return to us through the GSC.
Other members acknowledged that they are confused as well and perhaps more guidance is needed.

Tom H. called for a vote and it passed as written above; except for three votes against. When asked for the minority opinion, Jodi B. stated that she thought that the wording of the PAI could be more concrete. Karen S. asked for her feedback. The new suggested wording was *"Provide more* guidance in regards to maintaining traditions for social media pages that us the A.A. name *at the level of Groups, Districts, and Areas."* This change was accepted as a friendly amendment to the PAI by Karin S.
A new vote was called and it passed with YES 25 and NO 2. The PAI passed.
The minority opinion said that if we already use the internet incorrectly in regard to anonymity it is unlikely that more guidance will be followed.

2:45 PM
Calendar Review
1. ECR Convention – June 26-28. 2026 – Eau Claire, Wisconsin
2. Illinois State Conference – Aug 21-23, Oak Brook, IL
3. Area 21 Assembly – September 13, 2026 D-13 Effingham, IL
4. Area 21 Assembly – December 13, 2026 D-18 Edwardsville, IL
5. Area 21 Assembly – March 2027: D-19 Springfield, IL
6. Area 21 Assembly – June 2027 D-15 Jacksonville, IL
7. Area 21 Assembly – September 2027 D-6 Peoria, IL
8. Illinois State Conference – September 17-19, 2027; O'Fallon, IL

There is also an upcoming ISCAPAA event. Check for details on the Area 21 Website at area21aa.org/events

3:00 PM
A A Birthdays since March 8, 2026
There were 138 years of sobriety celebrated today.

3:15 PM
General Fund was $23,983.49
Expenses Paid was $ 3,337.70
Remainder is $20,645.79
Expenses for this Assembly were $1,076.00 and $1,1096.00 was collected by District 12.

Meeting was adjourned with the Statement of Responsibility being recited by members of this Area 21 Assembly

Respectfully submitted,
Area 21 Recording Secretary
(These minutes were prepared without the use of an audio recording)