



MINUTES

Southern Illinois Area 21 Assembly

Sunday March 8, 2026

Zoom ID: 844-1903-0614

Passcode: 177777

TO BE APPROVED

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 – Area Chair – Tom H.
2. G.S.R. Preamble – GSR – District 10 – Doug V.
3. Tradition 1 – Long Form (Common Welfare of Group) and Short Form
Concept 12 (General Warranties regarding Use of Principles – no Government only agreement) – Alternate Chair – Warren S.
4. Review of voting eligibility and hybrid format procedures (PPT on screen)

Recognition:

1. Area 21 Officers Present (PDF of Names, Emails, Phone #s on virtual flyer table)
All Area 21 Officers present in person at this Assembly.
2. Area 21 Committee Chairs Present (PDF of Names, Emails, Phone #s on virtual flyer table)

The following Chair persons were present:

Carl M. – Archives

Ed. H. and Jeff D. – Corrections

Michael R. – CPC

Gordon N. – Grapevine via Zoom

GSR Workshop – Paula E.

Literature – Bob S.

Laura K. P. I. via Zoom

Structure and Policy – Dean S.

Treatment and Accessibilities – Karin S.

Rosemary T. Website and Technology Chair has resigned per Tom H. She has been replaced with Karin S. This leaves an opening for the Accessibilities and Treatment Committee Chair. Tom H. asks that if any person is interested to contact him to discuss this Committee Chair position.

3. Past Delegates Present (PDF of Names, Emails, Phone #s on virtual flyer table)

Panel 73 – Tom H.

Panel 71 – Gordon N. - via Zoom

Panel 67 – Patrick W.

Panel 65 – Paula E.

Panel 63 – Becky B.

Panel 59 – Dean S.

Panel 55 – Carl M.

Panel 53 – Mike F.

9:18 am: District Introductions and Reports

Please use form on the Area 21 website and email written report to secretarysia21@gmail.com in order to have report included in the written minutes.

District 5:

DCM – Not present

GSRs – None present

District 6:

DCM – Robin S. (newly elected DCM)

Alternate DCM – Shari D.

GSRs

Riverside Group – Dan B.

Pioneer Group – Shari D.

Celestial Group – Sarah B.

“Serenity Seekers Group – Jude R.”

***** See notes below under District 20 *****

District 7:

DCM – Gordon R. Zoom

GSR

Rule 62 Group – Dennis S.

District 8:

DCM – Not present

GSRs – None present

District 9:

DCM – Not present

GSRs – None present

District 10: Assembly Host District

DCM – Mike H.

GSRs

Primary Purpose Group – Dan D.

Second Tradition Noon Time Group - Doug V.

Saturday Morning Live – Brett M.

District 11:

DCM – Tim C.

GSRs

Step Sisters Group – Angel E.

Friday Night Forum – Bill D.

Tuesday Night Beginners Group – Maggie D.

Sobriety at Six – Chris B.

Sunday Morning Serenity Group – Dennis J.

Unity at Six – Alex R.

The Friday Group – Steve S.

District 12:

DCM – Linda Z. (Zoom)

Alternate DCM – Diane G. (Zoom)

GSRs

Noon Bird Group – Linda Z.

Common Solution Group – Mindy E.

Primary Purpose Group – Eric E.

Unity, Service and Recovery Group – Karen C.

Better Way Group – Tara M.

District 13:

DCM – Warren S.

GSRs

Mulberry Grove Firehouse Group - Warren S.

District 14:

DCM – Megan G.

GSR's

How It Works Group – Laura K. (Zoom)

Reflections Group – Jason R. (Zoom)

District 15:

DCM – Bob K. (Absent)

GSRs

New Berlin Group – Jason L. (First time at an Assembly)

District 16:

DCM – William W. (Absent)

GSRs

Halt Group – Marsha ?

District 17:

DCM – Vacant

GSRs

Friday Night Uncommon Group – James F.

District 18:

DCM – John G.

GSRs

Hillsboro Group – Rose M.

Desire to Stop Drinking – Annie K.

Bunker Hill Friday Night Group – Pat K.

Alton Wednesday Night Group (Hybrid Group) - Melanie M.

North Alton Group – Alex T. (Zoom)

District 19:

DCM – Trevor P.

GSRs

Man Cave Group – Blaine F.

District 20:

DCM - Nancy W.

GSRs

Midday Group – Nancy W.

Rushville Group – Tommie P.

Lewiston Group – Pat K.

**** Serenity Seekers – Jude R. ****

This group is located in Canton, IL and Jude R. is in the process of changing the Group location from District 20 to District 6. This writer was not sure of current status of this transition within the established procedural change process within Alcoholics Anonymous.

Also, after these minutes were approved, Jude R. stated that her name was incorrect in prior minutes. As the minutes had already been approved by the Assembly; this notation serves as the correction of her name.

BREAK 10:15 AM to 10:30 AM

10:30 AM

OFFICER REPORTS

Recording Secretary – Karen D. Requesting approval of minutes from last Area 21 Assembly on December 14, 2026. Assembly. There was not any request for deletions, additions or corrections by members in person or on Zoom. Bill D. made a motion to accept these minutes. This motion was seconded by Dean S. Minutes approved.

Treasurer – Leo S. presented two documents. One was the End of Year accounting for 2025 as well as the current three-month fiscal picture. There was a question regarding the accounting for the 2025 fiscal year. This was cleared up when Leo directed Assembly to corrected copy of this document. In regard to the current Treasurer's Report there was a long discussion in regard to two amounts of money accepted by the Treasurer for Area 21.

One was a check presented by the Hamilton County Recovery Group. Many members expressed the opinion that money should not be accepted by Area 21 as it is not coming from an member of Alcoholics Anonymous or from a group of Alcoholics Anonymous. The same concerns were put forward about a check that came from a Peoria Group – Shared Clean Air. A member felt that the group could not have made such a large contribution due to groups' financial position.

A motion was made to accept the report with the proviso that these issues would be cleared up. The Treasurer would either verify that the contributions came from an A. A. Member or an A. A. Group as required by AA Guidelines. If this could not be verified then the money would be returned to its issuer.

The motion to accept with corrections was made by Annie K. and seconded by Paula E.

However, another member stated that this was NOT acceptable. This member stated that the report should not be approved until the issue was resolved. Either the money was actually verified as coming from an A. A. source; or the money was returned because it came from a non A. A. source.

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The idea of not approving these minutes until the issue was actually resolved was discussed.

Members had questions about the correct approval procedure. Eventually the original motion to accept these minutes with the proviso that the concern regarding acceptance of non AA funds was resolved. The Treasurer Leo S.t state that he would report at next Area 21 Assembly regarding corrective action that was taken per direction of members of this Area 21 Assembly Body. Current Treasurer's Report is attached to these minutes.

Registrar – Thom J. explained to Assembly about group designations. He has Gmail contacts for 417 members in Area 21. Sometimes he cannot get information to members due to incorrect email addresses. He requested that DCMs get correct information to him so that he can share it with Fellowship Connect. He remains willing to help information flow from Area 21 to New York and also back from New York to Area 21. Report is attached.

Alternate Delegate – Pam B. was present and stated the following: She attended several events including the Conference Delegates Past and Present in Benton Harbor, MI. She stated that her knowledge was increased immeasurably by this experience. She was also present for a Mock Conference hosted by our Delegate Jodi B. which was very worthwhile. She has also been present via Zoom at regular monthly Alternate Delegate Meetings. She is also involved with the planning for the upcoming Pre General Service Conference which she will Chair in Decatur on April 11, 2026.

Delegate – Jodi B. Her full report is attached. She stated that work goes on year-round in preparation for the upcoming General Service Conference which will be held the week of April 27, 2026 in New York City. She will be driving there. Since the last Area 21 Assembly she has attended the following:

Area 21 Committee Meeting;

Illinois State Conference Planning in Area 19;

Delegates Roundtable each month with focus on the Twelve Concepts;

Chairs the Report and Charter Committee and attended the New York Board Meeting in January;

Set up a Mock ECR Conference in preparation for actual Conference.

She is looking forward to the upcoming Pre General Service Conference held in Decatur, IL on April 11, 2026. This will prepare her for her main duty which is to represent Area 21 in regard to all of the issues put before the 2026 A. A. General Service Conference. She also provided information regarding upcoming Zoom Meetings before the Pre General Conference in Decatur so that members of Area 21 who wish to express their individual or group take on the issues can do so. There will be four sessions.

She stated that a GSR is responsible for talking to their group about upcoming agenda items. This encourages education of group members.

She stated that her responsibility is to be a conduit between Area 21 and General Service Office. Additionally, she gets information from GSO and prepares a synopsis of this information to present to members of Area 21 which is primarily done at the Area 21 Assemblies.

She stated that there is concern in New York about the decline in contributions to A. A. World Services; which are down by 1,000,000.00.

She shared that the money invested in the A A Grapevine regarding digital outreach has now paid for itself.

Alternate Area 21 Chair – Warren S. His report is attached.

He stated that he continues to learn more about his duties in this new position. He has done the following:

He visited District 16 with Thom as a guide to his role;

He participated in Zoom DCM meetings.

He is grateful to be able to serve.

Area 21 Chair – Tom H. His report is attached.

He has traveled within Area 21;

He has been involved with Zoom meetings involving the following: DCM, Treatment, Roundtable, and with Conference Delegates Past and Present;

He is involved with the planning of the Pre GSC Workshop; and he has tried to encourage members of Area 21 who he is in contact with not to feel alone in service.

12:00 N to 12:45 PM – LUNCH

12:45 PM – Call meeting to order – Tom H.

Committee Reports

Archives – Carl M.

Corrections – Jeff D. (Zoom)

Cooperation With the Professional Community – Michael R.

Grapevine – Gordon N. (Zoom)

GSR Workshop – Paula E.

Public Information – Laura K. (absent no report)

Literature – Bob S.

Structure and Policy – Dean S.

Treatment and Accessibility – Karen S. (Chair Tom H. is seeking any person interested in this Chair Position to contact him)

Website/Technology – Karin S. has replaced Rosemary T. in this position.

Tim C. filled in and gave report in absence of Rosemary T.

1:00 PM to 1:30 PM – Break Out Sessions for Committee members to meet with Committee Chairs.

1:35 PM – Tom H. noted upcoming event of ECR on Area 21 Calander.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Proposed Agenda Item: Area Website Change (full reasoning is attached to minutes) This item suggests that Area 21 create a section of their website that is password protected for use by members of the Area only.

This password would be distributed to Area members through the Registrar, as all information is distributed now. They would have access to all information that they need to complete their specific responsibilities.

The public-facing section of Website would have more specific information about Alcoholics Anonymous and Area 21 and would not require a password.

It was noted by Delegate that currently 13/14 Areas within the East Central Region have a section of their websites that is password protected or have a link which is sent out to members.

Karen S. suggested that a link could be sent to members for access in place of a password.

Tom H. "Do we need a motion if our new website chair if a link is conceivable?"

Jodi B. amended motion to state that "Area 21 create Google Drive folders available to Area 21 members only.

Rose seconded this Motion.

Note: By link or password was not specified.

Some questions were about the way in which this password would be sent to each member so that each member receives it;

It was suggested that the password could be accessed through DCM, GSR, or even Area Chair;

Link could be repetitively sent each time email is forwarded;

A concern was expressed that a member might add to their own file and accidentally send out.

Thom J. asked to amend motion to send a link as opposed to a password as he is concerned that he will get bombarded with requests for the password.

Tim C. offered an explanation of what would occur.

Registrar would send out a **link** or a **password** to Area 21s Google Drive. Either one would be an option and then Technology person would organize.

Members expressed the following:

Having the GSC information available is helpful;

The anonymity protection of members could be assured by a protected folder;

Password could be easily forgotten and a lot of wasted time would be spent to find it out.

The issue was called for a vote:

The question put forward for the vote was "It is recommended that Area 21 create a Google Drive Folder for members of Area 21 only. (Jody B. Motion)

It would be in the form of a link which would be included in Area 21 emails." (Thom J. Amendment to Motion).

With 32 present and 10 on Zoom it was 42 to 0 in favor of this motion. Motion carried.

2. PAI (possible agenda item) for the GSC; submitted by Bob S.

The idea is to create a category of "original versions" of the books "Alcoholics Anonymous" and "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions" and allow no changes to these going forward. This would then allow for consideration of creation of new "revised" versions of both books which could reflect changes in language, social customs, medicine, culture and society" as reflected in the conscience of AA, if desired in the future.

Bob S. explained that this would end any fighting about changing either book as there would already be a protected version. New versions could be created but the name of the original books could not be used.

Tom H. invited Jodi B. to discuss how this may fit into request for action in her Conference and Committee Charter Committee. They had asked the Archives Committee to define what exactly is the definition of the "FOUNDERS WRITINGS". This has yet to be accomplished according to Jodi B.

Many members chose to express their ideas on this motion.

Some comments were:

This is a good idea because it preserves the original version;

There are many versions of the book available; which is the original version;

The Plain Language is not the original so this has already happened;

The Twelve and Twelve has already been revised;

Stop interfering with what has worked;

The book itself states "The Book is meant to be suggestive only." Being so restrictive may be interfering with God's Will for Alcoholics Anonymous;

This would include opportunity for everyone to request changes decreasing current divisions;

Original writing does not include new information discovered about alcoholism;

Keeping the original program as written without changes is the best way to ensure that all members have access to the same program;

This should be tabled and taken back to groups for more input;

Exactly what version would be considered as the original version?

Jody B. noted that this vote is only saying that we are sending this Proposed Agenda Item to the 2027 General Service Conference for review and discussion; not stating what exactly are the Founder's Writings.

The motion was called to question:

There were 35 members present and 3 on Zoom. There were 37 in favor of motion and 3 opposed. Motion carried.

Minority Opinion was expressed but no member that had voted for this motion changed their vote so there was not a reconsideration vote.

2:40 pm: New Business

1) Bid for hosting March 2027 Area Assembly

This was put up for discussion and there were not bids put forward for a bid on the 2027 March Area Assembly.

2:45 PM: Calendar Review – Future Area/State/Regional Events

- 1.) Pre-GSC Workshop – April 11, 2026; D-11 Decatur (see flyer)
- 2.) 76th General Service Conference – week of April 27, 2026 in New York
- 3.) Area 21 Assembly – June 7, 2026; D-12 Mattoon (see flyer)
- 4.) ECR Convention – June 26 -28, 2026 – Eau Claire, Wisconsin
- 5.) Illinois State Conference – Aug 21-23, 2026; Oak Brook, IL
- 6.) Area 21 Assembly – September 13, 2026 D-13 Effingham, IL
- 7.) Area 21 Assembly – December 13, 2026 D-18 Edwardsville, IL

Various members expressed enthusiasm regarding the upcoming Area 21 Assembly in Mattoon, IL. There will be:

Catered Breakfast
Mexican Fiesta for Lunch
Ty Die T shirts for sale.

Also, participation in the upcoming ECR Convention was encouraged. It will be held in Eau Claire, WI and people will be there from our region which includes five surrounding states. It is a good opportunity to see Alcoholics Anonymous at work in a broader context.

Also, there is a reminder that Area 21 will be hosting the 2027 Illinois State Conference on September 17th to September 19th of 2027. More information will be posted as it becomes available.

3:00 PM: AA Birthdays Since December 14, 2025

Per Jodi B. the official sobriety count of the persons participating was 212.

3:15 PM: Reports on Today's Assembly

1. Hosting District D.C.M. – Mike H.
2. Area 21 Treasurer – Leo S.

There were 58 persons eating at a cost of 932.03.

There was 811.00 collected.

District 10 was given a check for \$121.03 to cover difference between cost and collection.

Motion to Adjourn and Responsibility Statement

Respectfully submitted;

Karen Downey, Area 21 Recording Secretary

Note: These minutes were completed without the aid of a recorded backup.