

DISTRICT 02

NEWSLETTER

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

January 2024

Volume 40

Issue 1

Circulation 862

WELCOME to 2024 !!!

It's a New Year, and a new crew at the District level - District 02 in Area 74. Our District includes Appleton, Oshkosh, Weyauwega, Clintonville, Bonduel, Winchester, Stockbridge and many more fun places nearby to catch a meeting!

I sure hope to see LOTS of group GSR's and any and all AA members at our upcoming District meetings. There, we will have important and exciting things to discuss regarding interpreters for the hearing impaired, AA billboards, and whether Bill and Bob's writings should ever be changed....to name a few.

Our first District meeting for the year is Sunday, JAN 14, 2024 at SOLUTIONS CLUB, INC 621 Evans St OSHKOSH 54901.

Roundtable discussion for GSR's starts 1:30pm
District meeting starts 2pm

Or, Zoom in....
Meeting ID 875-9555-4987
Password 844696

Participation is the Key to Harmony!

Yours in Service,
Jane M. - DCM District 02 (Area 74)

**Have an AA flyer that
you would like to
publish in the
newsletter? Please
email it to
newsletter@district02aa.org**

Want the newsletter delivered
directly to your email? Subscribe at
the "newsletter" tab at
www.district02aa.org

**IF YOU HAVE PREVIOUSLY SIGNED
UP BUT ARE NOT RECEIVING IT,
PLEASE CHECK YOUR SPAM FOLDER!**

DISTRICT 02 MEETING MINUTES – DECEMBER 2023

District 02 Meeting Minutes for December 2023

12/10/2023 District meeting was held hybrid at First United Methodist Church, 325 E Franklin St. Appleton, WI starting at 2 p.m. with 17 in person and 7 on zoom 24 people total. We opened the meeting with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. DCM Kendra went over general housekeeping, welcomed newcomers, and invited introductions of guests and new GSRs.

New GSRs Tim- Wed night Big Book study in Appleton.

Harold read the 12 Traditions.

Maggie read the 12 Concepts.

Approval of November meeting minutes- Barry made a motion to accept the report as presented Maggie seconded motion passed.

Secretary: Amanda B. Please committee chairs and GSRs submit your reports to me by the Tuesday after District to ensure I can get the notes to John in a timely manner. Thank you for letting me be of service.

Treasurer Report: Digger. Kendra made a comment about removing last names from the treasures' report. Motion was made to accept the Treasurer's report amended to remove the member's last name by Maggie and seconded by Steve motion carried.

GSR Reports

Aimee- 101A Algoma group- We had our last business meeting on Tuesday, December 5 at 6:30 p.m. It was discussed that 101A has a decent supply of Big Books and 12 and 12s. Previously 101A had a library of AA literature that included Living Sober, Experience, Strength, and Hope, AA in Prison, Came to Believe, Acceptance Booklet, Pass It On, and As Bill Sees It. The library currently has zero copies of this literature at 101A. A motion was made to carry at least 2 copies of each of these books at 101A. The motion was voted on and it passed. In addition, service positions were voted on. All trusted servant positions were filled which included the secretary, treasurer, co-treasurer, GSR, and alternate GSR. These new positions will start in January of 2024. Very Excited!

Harold- Had first business meeting at Southern Friend group on Wed nights talked about the district budget and housekeeping items.

LCMs

Subdistrict A: Jane. At the online Area Committee meeting on Dec 9th. I made a District report after my report someone expressed concern about our shortage of volunteers for bringing AA meetings into the jails. At meetings I've been alerting members of the St. Pius Intergroup (now passed) and the Dec 10th District meeting. Dispersing materials such as pamphlets, service manuals and the final report of the 73rd Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference to GSRs and other trusted servants. Describing to groups the problems GSO is having financially at this time.

DISTRICT 02 MEETING MINUTES – DECEMBER 2023

Subdistrict B: Dale. No Report

Subdistrict C: James. No Report

Subdistrict D: Brad. No Report

Subdistrict E: Open

Subdistrict F: Open

Officer Reports

Archives: Open

Grapevine: Steve. Steve has been collecting back issues of Grapevines and sending them into the correction facility. Attended Appleton Intergroup and auctioned off some subscriptions at the meeting. He has been meeting with the incoming Grapevine chair to let him know the projects he's been working on.

Corrections: Jeff. Notes from Corrections meeting held on December 10 at First United Methodist Church, 325 Franklin Steet, Appleton. Thank you to the seven people in attendance, including four new volunteers. I think we had a great meeting and probably could have gone longer.

Captured Meeting Notes: **** There is a new orientation which will be held on zoom or in person December 18, at 1:00PM. Location: Oshkosh State Correctional Institute, Oshkosh. Please help spread the word and reply with interest. For more details reply by December 13th.

Winnebago County Jail, WCJ, will open from its covid lockdown on December 11.

Wisconsin Resource center will require masks until further notice.

Change BTG form to remove reply in two weeks. Continue to seek out a BTG or Bridging the Gap male volunteer to take over the BTG role.

Reply with interest Create an agenda and a flyer for our Workshop on March 16, 2024, from noon to 2:00PM at Solutions Recovery in Oshkosh. We are looking for past volunteers and people with corrections experience to be speakers at our next Correction Workshop on March 16th .

****Next Corrections meeting will be held January 14th at 12:30PM at Solutions Recovery, 621 Evans St in Oshkosh.

Bridging the Gap: Jeff. No Report.

Newsletter: John. No Report.

DISTRICT 02 MEETING MINUTES – DECEMBER 2023

Public Information: Barry B. The PI committee did not meet in November as most members were unavailable, I just want to thank the district for the opportunity to serve as Public Information chair for this last rotation. Although I didn't get everything that I had hoped accomplished, I think the committee did a lot to inform the public as to the presence of Alcoholics Anonymous in our communities within District 2. I want to express my sincere gratitude to the members of the wonderful PI committee for their hard work and contributions to make our goals a reality. I wish our incoming chair Susan B. all the luck in the world to continue the great work that has been done. I will not soon forget this experience. I brought the PI display to the Appleton Intergroup on 12/09. Our last meeting of 2023 is scheduled for December 21, 2023, via zoom. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Webmaster: Trevor. A reminder to email me at webmaster@district02aa.org with any changes to meetings. You may also fill out the meeting change form on the website. This is the best way to get changes to me, as they are documented and I can go back to them as needed. Also, to add a new meeting PLEASE fill out the meeting form so we can capture all of the specific meeting information that will be put on the list. Meeting change forms can be found on the website under Resources > Group Resources. If you are changing information for a group that is already on the list, please fill out the "Change a groups information" form which has been updated to reflect some changes to the form available from GSO.

We became aware that there have been delivery issues with the newsletter being sent to the over 1,000 subscribers on the district list. Historically, we have used a free simple relay service to send out the newsletter. Unfortunately, this service has flagged the web server as spam and we have been unable to send in the quantity that we historically have. We have switched services however we can only send about 350 emails per day with the free service. The newsletter delivery will now be spread over several days. This will also affect any flyer distribution as we will be moving away from email distribution of flyers unless they are in the newsletter. The newsletter and event flyers will be posted on the website as well. There were 3,141 unique views to our website in November.

Treatment & Accessibilities: Rita. Our understanding is the deaf community feels marginalized and isolated when it comes to addiction. They are not very trusting. People tell them what they need instead of asking. We are pursuing the office for deaf and hard of hearing, options for independent living, national association for the deaf and hearing aid places to point us in the right direction to assess the needs of the deaf community. We will also reach out to Nicholas S, incoming delegate who has been mentioning the need for ASL at assemblies and conferences. We continue to reach out to facilities to assess the need for literature and workshops.

DCM: Kendra. No Report.

DISTRICT 02 MEETING MINUTES – DECEMBER 2023

Old Business

Open positions 2024 Elections

Archives

LCM's (A, B, C, D, E, F)

All positions carried over.

District 02 Guidelines Amendments for consideration

Article VIII: Amendments to the Guidelines, Section 1.00 - The Guidelines may be amended at a District Meeting by a two-thirds majority vote, provided that the amendment been presented in writing at the two previous District Meetings.

1. Article IV: District Standing Committees and Duties, Section 5.00 currently reads:

The District 02 Newsletter Committee is the medium for communication of District 02 business and events to the groups, G.S.R.s, and individual members. The Newsletter is published monthly and the editorial staff is responsible for determining the content of each issue. All content/events must be AA-related. There is an \$18 charge per single-sided flyer, other than for events hosted by District Committees and District Officers. The Editor will inform the Treasurer of money that is to be collected from a Non-District AA-related flyer. The Editor shall request appropriate funding from District 02 to meet the costs of publication and submit reasonable documentation to the Treasurer for reimbursement. The Editor shall also submit an annual budget to the District for the upcoming year The Chairperson or a delegate representative provides monthly reports at District Meetings.

Change this section to read:

The District 02 Newsletter Committee is the medium for communication of District 02 business and events to the groups, G.S.R.s, and individual members. The Newsletter is published electronically on a monthly basis and the editorial staff is responsible for determining the content of each issue. All content/events must be AA-related. The Editor shall request appropriate funding from District 02 to meet the costs of publication and submit reasonable documentation to the Treasurer for reimbursement. The Editor shall also submit an annual budget to the District for the upcoming year. The Chairperson or a delegate representative provides monthly reports at District Meetings.

Background-Traditionally the newsletter was printed and mailed to subscribers. Over the past two years there has only been one request. The past two months, district 02 has not printed newsletters for distribution. Charging groups \$18 to submit a flyers was introduced to offset the additional costs for printing and postage – if produced electronically, there is no need to charge groups this fee. In reaching out to other districts and Area 74, the majority are providing electronic versions with option to receive a printed copy if required/requested.

DISTRICT 02 MEETING MINUTES – DECEMBER 2023

After discussion at the district meeting and feedback from AA groups, we are submitting guideline changes.

(Changes presented at 12/10/23 district meeting.)

Budget 2024

Archives-Barry asked if the fee for printing the Now and Then is needed if it is electronic. It was shared that the printed version is for the archives.

Corrections-Barry asking for clarification on the conference budget of \$500. Kendra shared that is for attending the National Conference of Corrections last year it was in Chicago, IL.

Digger brought up that the stipend for the Delegates Workshop is inconsistent through the committee chairs he was wondering if it should be the same throughout. Barry shared it's only a 1-day event that is held in Green Lake and \$50 should be able to cover it. Maggie asked if it was an all-day event, yes it is an all day event. Maggie shared if a person is willing to make the event should we deprive them the opportunity to be able to attend. It was brought up that they can attend virtually if need be. Amanda stated the chair should be able to decide the budget as they are the ones attending.

DCM-Barry asked if the conference frequency is going down. Kendra shared that she is not aware of that. Maggie asked why the hybrid budget was removed. Kendra stated because we bought the equipment. Kendra shared that the Tech Fellas are now included in having a stipend in the DCM budget.

Grapevine- Budget was increased by about \$50 to add inventory of the new Grapevine books.

Newsletter- Budget decreased we do not print the newsletter anymore, but the software fee was added to the budget. The fee was previously not in there because the previous chair was using the software for work and therefore, we did not have to pay. Maggie was asking if the software would be purchased and used on a district computer or a personal. Digger shared it is an annual fee so when the chair switched over so would the fee.

Public Information- no questions

Treasurer- no questions

Treatment and Accessibilities- \$3600 was added for the monthly ASL speaker meetings. Maggie

DISTRICT 02 MEETING MINUTES – DECEMBER 2023

Treatment and Accessibilities- \$3600 was added for the monthly ASL speaker meetings.

Maggie brought up that at the last business meeting talking about the budget of Treatment and the group had concern that the full \$3600 is a lot to fund right off the bat. The suggestion was considering doing the meetings every other month to see how it goes for a while.

Harold shared at their business they shared there are other technologies that can be used that may be more cost efficient and there are likely other resources available, and group is against spending the money.

Barb shared their group stated they would suggest compromising on approving the full budget.

Cindy shared at her business meeting they said hands down we shouldn't be spending the money.

Jeff shared.

Aimee stated their group talked about the money being spent and they did not agree to approving the expense.

Bev shared their group is concerned about the expense and that other options should be pursued does not approve the budget.

Barry made a motion to remove the \$3600 out of the budget to do further research on what other cost friendly resources that are available Digger seconded, motion passed.

2024 District budget has been approved minus the \$3600 in Treatment and Accessibilities for the ASL interpreter.

New Business:

2024 District Calendar

Please look through the dates if your group is planning on hosting a district meeting to make sure that your group is still planning on hosting the meeting.

GSO call to action

GSO in need of contributions, please talk to your groups.

GSO letter

Questions on changing Bill W's handwriting, please talk to your groups.

A motion was made to close the meeting at 3:15 p.m. by Jeff and Maggie seconded motion passed.

Closed with the Responsibility Statement.

The next District meeting is Sunday January 14th, 2023, at Solutions Recovery, 621 Evans St. Oshkosh, WI

DISTRICT 02 FINANCIAL REPORT - NOVEMBER

District 02 Monthly Financial Report – November 2023

	Beginning Balance 11/1/2023	\$ 5,461.92		December 10, 2023 District Meeting Report
Contributions			Bank Reconciliation	
Date	District Group Contributions		Community First Credit Union	
11/30/2023	Serenity Seekers Group – Kaukauna	\$50.00	Beginning balance	\$ 5,461.92
11/30/2023	Serenity Seekers Group – Kaukauna – Corrections Literature	\$50.00	Deposits	\$ 639.02
11/30/2023	Sunrise Meeting Group	\$33.02	Withdrawals	\$ (144.20)
11/30/2023	Design For Living Group – Corrections Literature	\$268.00	Outstanding checks	\$ (498.36)
11/30/2023	Design For Living Group – Corrections Literature	\$238.00	Total	\$ 5,458.38
			Balance available to District	
			Register balance	\$ 5,458.38
			Prudent reserve	\$ (500.00)
			Corrections Literature	\$ (853.08)
			Total available to District	\$ 4,105.30
			Petty Cash	
			Petty cash beginning balance	\$ 50.00
			Petty cash ending balance	\$ 50.00
			Committee Budget Balance (Remaining)	
			Archives	\$ 263.97
			Corrections	\$ 935.34
			DCM	\$ 1,482.11
			Grapevine	\$ 654.93
			Newsletter	\$ 1,940.00
			PI	\$ 1,368.63
			Treasurer	\$ 430.77
			Treatment & Acces.	\$ 719.77
			BUDGET BALANCE TOTAL (Remaining)	\$ 7,795.52
			*Corrections Literature	
			Starting Balance	\$ 810.44
			Contributions	\$ 506.00
			Total deposits	\$ 1,316.44
			Withdrawals	\$ 95.26
				\$ 368.10
			Total withdrawals	\$ 463.36
			Ending Corrections Literature Balance	\$ 853.08
			*NOTE - Separate from district balance	
			Tom "Digger" A., District 02 Treasurer	
Total deposits				
\$ 639.02				
Withdrawals				
Date	Check #	Expenses (checks/withdrawals)		
11/7/2023	2143	Perry P (Snacks – Oct District meeting)	\$21.66	
11/7/2023	2144	Changing Lanes Alano Club (Rent – Nov District meeting)	\$35.00	
11/8/2023	2145	Kendra R (District meeting printing & stipend)	\$60.00	
11/9/2023	2146	Kendra R (District meeting printing)	\$27.54	
11/12/2023	2147	First United Methodist Church (Rent – Dec District meeting)	\$35.00	
11/27/2023	2148	Jeff R (Corrections Literature)	\$95.26	
11/27/2023	2149	Jeff R (Corrections Literature)	\$368.10	
			Total withdrawals	\$ 642.56
Register balance - Month end				
		Beginning balance	\$ 5,461.92	
		Deposits	\$ 639.02	
		Withdrawals	\$ (642.56)	
		Register balance	\$ 5,458.38	
Outstanding Checks				
11/12/2023	2147	First United Methodist Church (Rent – Dec District meeting)	\$35.00	
11/27/2023	2148	Jeff Romenesko (Corrections Literature)	\$95.26	
11/27/2023	2149	Jeff Romenesko (Corrections Literature)	\$368.10	
			Total Outstanding checks	\$ 498.36

DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA TO MAKE IMPROVE
OUR NEWSLETTER? PLEASE EMAIL YOUR
SUGGESTIONS TO newsletter@district02aa.org

DISTRICT 02 MEETING AGENDA

January 14, 2024 - 2:00 PM

Solutions Club – 621 Evans St – Oshkosh

Open with Serenity Prayer

- Introduce DCM: Meeting Chair
- Introduce GSR's
- Housekeeping items: info on side table, etc.

Twelve Traditions

Twelve Concepts

Secretary's Report

Treasurer's Report

Committee Reports

- a. GSR's
- b. LCM's
- c. Archives - vacant
- d. Grapevine - Patrick R.
- e. Corrections - Kendra R.
 1. Bridging the gap - Jeff R.
- f. Newsletter - Digger A.
- g. Public Information - Susan B.
 1. Webmaster - Trevor
- h. Treatment and Accessabilities - Jodi L.
- i. DCM - Jane M.

Old Business:

- Available positions > LCM's A-F; Archives; BTG
- Newsletter: Totally electronic? Eliminate \$18 fee for flyers? What do groups think?

New Business:

- Online GSR form. Checkbox for hard copy GSR kits?
- Upcoming GSR Orientation workshop Feb or Mar
- GSO requesting contributions (check vs digital)
- GSO letter and questions re: founder's writings

The NEXT District Meeting: Sun Feb 11, CHANGING LANES Alano Club, 344 Broadway St Wrightstown

See  You There !!!

2024 District 02 Meeting Schedule

(Meeting Location is Subject to Change)

GSR Roundtable at 1:30 / District Meeting at 2:00

Jan 14	Solutions Club Inc. 621 Evans St, Oshkosh
Feb 11	Changing Lanes Alano Club 344 Broadway St, Wrightstown
Mar 10	Genesis Club 1213 N Appleton St, Appleton
Apr 14	Solutions Club Inc. 621 Evans St, Oshkosh
May 5 Early due to Mothers Day	St Mark's Church 140 S Green Bay Rd, Neenah
Jun 9	Prince of Peace Lutheran Church 2330 E Calumet, Appleton
Jul 14	Solutions Club Inc 621 Evans St, Oshkosh
Aug 11	St Paul Catholic Church 410 Wallace St, Combined Locks
Sep 8	Peace United Methodist Church 2300 W Wisconsin Ave, Kaukauna
Oct 13	Emmanuel Lutheran Church 349 N Main Street, Seymour
Nov 10	Changing Lanes Alano Club 344 Broadway St, Wrightstown
Dec 8	First United Methodist Church 325 E Franklin St, Appleton

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

JANUARY 2024

First Friday of the Month, January 5th, Open AA Speaker Meeting at 7pm **Genesis Club**, 1213 Appleton St, Appleton. Potluck at 6pm, please bring a dish to pass!

Monday January 8th, Steering Committee nominations and election at 7pm. **Fox Valley Central Office**, 1528 N Ballard Rd, Appleton. All are welcome!

Second Sunday of the Month, January 14th, District Meeting at 2pm, **Solutions Recovery**, 621 Evans St, Oshkosh. GSR Roundtable 1:30 *This is a hybrid meeting* Meeting ID: 875 9555 4987 Passcode: 844696

Second Sunday of the Month, January 14th, Open AA Speaker Meeting at 7pm, **First Congregational Church**, 724 E South River St, Appleton *This is a hybrid meeting* Meeting ID: 897 8011 3671 Passcode: 027543

Third Friday of the Month, January 19th, Open AA Speaker Meeting at 8pm, **Peace United Methodist Church**, 2300 E Wisconsin Ave, Kaukauna Al-Anon speaker if available

Saturday January 20th, Eye Opener 17th Annual Anniversary Speaker Meeting at 7:30am, **Prince of Peace Church**, 2330 E Calumet, Appleton. Pancakes and sausages will be served, bring a dish to pass.

Last Sunday of the Month, January 28th, Open AA Speaker Meeting at 10am, **St. Elizabeth Hospital**, 1506 S Oneida St, Appleton

Last Sunday of the Month, January 28th, Open AA Speaker Meeting at 7pm, **Solutions Recovery**, 621 Evans St, Oshkosh

FEBRUARY 2024

First Friday of the Month, February 5th, Open AA Speaker Meeting at 7pm **Genesis Club**, 1213 Appleton St, Appleton. Potluck at 6pm, please bring a dish to pass!

Second Sunday of the Month, February 11th, District Meeting at 2pm, **Changing Lanes Alano Club**, 344 Broadway St, Wrightstown. GSR Roundtable 1:30 *This is a hybrid meeting* Meeting ID: 875 9555 4987 Passcode: 844696

Second Sunday of the Month, February 11th, Open AA Speaker Meeting at 7pm, **First Congregational Church**, 724 E South River St, Appleton *This is a hybrid meeting* Meeting ID: 897 8011 3671 Passcode: 027543

Third Friday of the Month, February 16th, Open AA Speaker Meeting at 8pm, **Peace United Methodist Church**, 2300 E Wisconsin Ave, Kaukauna Al-Anon speaker if available

Last Sunday of the Month, February 25th, Open AA Speaker Meeting at 10am, **St. Elizabeth Hospital**, 1506 S Oneida St, Appleton

Last Sunday of the Month, February 25th, Open AA Speaker Meeting at 7pm, **Solutions Recovery**, 621 Evans St, Oshkosh

***EMAIL YOUR EVENT TO
newsletter@district02aa.org***

District 02 Committee Information

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE: Responsible for the collection and care of archival documents and items for the District.

Chairperson: (open) archives@district02aa.org

CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE: Provides coordination and support for groups and individuals wishing to carry the message to alcoholics in jails and prisons within the District.

Chairperson: Kendra R. corrections@district02aa.org

GRAPEVINE COMMITTEE: Relays information about the Grapevine magazine and other materials to the individual groups via their Grapevine Representatives (GVR's).

Chairperson: Patrick R. grapevine@district02aa.org

PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE: Provides information about AA to the general public and is also responsible for the District 02 website.

Chairperson: Susan B. publicinfo@district02aa.org

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE: Medium for communication of District 02 business and events to the groups, GSR's, and individual members.

Chairperson: Digger A. newsletter@district02aa.org

TREATMENT & ACCESSIBILITIES COMMITTEE:

Provides coordination and support for groups and individuals wishing to carry the message to clients in treatment facilities within District 02.

Chairperson: Jodi L. tfc@district02aa.org

Bridging the Gap: Jeff R. corrections@district02aa.org

OTHER DISTRICT CONTACTS

DCM – Jane M.

dcm@district02aa.org

Secretary – Karla K.

secretary@district02aa.org

Treasurer – Cindy L.

treasurer@district02aa.org

Webmaster – Trevor F.

support@district02aa.org

District 02 Website

www.district02aa.org

Area 74 Website

www.area74.org

AA DONATIONS

General Service Board

James A Farley Station

PO Box 2407

New York, NY 10116-2407

212-870-3023

District 02 Treasury

PO Box 2632

Appleton, WI 54912

Area 74 Treasury

PO Box 171

Manistique, MI 49854

Fox Valley Central Office

1528 N. Ballard Rd., Suite 16

Appleton, WI 54911

920-997-0221

Fox Valley Hotline

PO Box 2382

Appleton, WI 54912

(Joe S., Coordinator)

OTHER INFORMATION

Oshkosh Helpline

920-410-4620

Now and Then

(Area Newsletter)

PO Box 192

Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

AA International

www.aa.org

**Please direct all
communications to:**

P.O. Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163
Fax: (212) 870-3003

November 17, 2023

To: GSB Trustees, AAWS Board, AA Grapevine Board, Trustees Emeriti, Appointed Committee Members, Current Delegates, Past Delegates, Past Trustees, All Conference Members, IGCOs: U.S. and Canada, International GSOs, GSRs, DCMs, Area Officers, Area Registrars, GSO/AA Grapevine Employees

Dear A.A. Friends:

As a Fellowship, we celebrate and recognize November as Gratitude Month. This is a time when we A.A.s reflect on the many gifts and blessings sobriety has given us. The program of Alcoholics Anonymous encompasses many facets: our home groups, sponsorship, the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, Fellowship among each other, service on many levels, and many more. As the General Manager of the General Service Office (GSO), I'm grateful to see firsthand the many services GSO provides that support the spiritual purpose of Alcoholics Anonymous – carrying the message of sobriety to the alcoholic who still suffers. These services assist the many facets of the A.A. program.

With the spirit of Gratitude Month in mind, I write today to share with you the difficult news related to the current financial health of Alcoholics Anonymous and the potential continued challenges ahead as we strive to fulfill our spiritual purpose. I hope this letter will be met with understanding, and that the honesty and sincerity in my heart are apparent throughout. The last four years have been very challenging for A.A. in many respects. This began with the worldwide shutdown in early 2020 due to the pandemic, which immediately forced nearly all A.A. groups to close their physical doors and either stop meeting altogether or find other means of gathering. This was followed by a slow return of groups meeting in person, an economy filled with uncertainty, and a workplace that changed in many ways. During this time, GSO and our Boards, like other organizations and businesses, were forced to change dramatically. We quickly transitioned to working 100% virtual to continue serving the Fellowship.

The office, along with the A.A. World Services (AAWS) and General Service Boards (GSB), have worked hard to manage our finances through these last four years with the hope that many of the challenges we faced would subside and return to pre-pandemic conditions. It is apparent now that the financial challenges we face cannot continue to be met with the deferral of essential projects and office development that are necessary to carry out Advisory Actions of the General Service Conference and support the vital services GSO provides.

Our tradition of self-support has always been vital to the health and future of the Fellowship and been our main source of income. However, there has always been a need for additional support from the sale of our literature. When the pandemic hit in early 2020, the initial impact on our revenue was significant, with a steep decrease in contributions. Income from sales of A.A. literature was also significantly reduced as sales came to an almost complete halt. The Fellowship responded with tremendous generosity, resulting in contributions reaching record levels. That continued in 2021, and contributions in 2022 nearly matched the 2021 level. This year to date, we are on pace to reach similar levels to the last three years. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and heartwarming.

Unfortunately, literature profits have not rebounded back to pre-pandemic levels. In addition to the slow return of sales, inflation has resulted in substantial increases in the cost to produce and distribute literature. Conscious of the challenges facing groups and members, the AAWS board held literature prices steady for as long as possible until earlier this year, when it became apparent the costs to produce and distribute were not going to

return to pre-pandemic levels. Despite increased contributions after the pandemic, the loss in literature revenue has left our total revenue short by approximately \$1,000,000 compared with per-pandemic times.

The pandemic has also had a significant impact on virtually all our expenses. Of note are increased costs related to meetings, events, and travel, which are a key necessity to support the Regional Forums, board meetings, and the General Service Conference. However, we have managed to reduce total operating expenses to an average of \$15,768,000 compared with pre-pandemic levels of \$16,258,000. Reducing total expenses below pre-pandemic levels truly illustrates the diligence the office and the boards applied to the budget and operations to offset losses.

Because of the significant decline in literature sales and revenue and the large cash outlay needed to continue printing and distributing our literature, we have also experienced a very tight cash position. Our reforecast budget for this year estimates a loss of \$997,000, after depreciation and the GSB support of *La Viña*.

The office and all three boards have worked diligently to address these financial challenges. A systematic and dedicated approach to budgeting has been developed over recent years and allows for the most informed group conscience possible. Throughout, budget managers and the AAWS Board work together to find the most effective ways to prioritize and execute services, maximizing the use of each A.A. dollar. In addition to the annual budget process, a reforecast is done midyear to adapt to the direction brought forth by the April General Service Conference and other factors impacting original estimates.

As difficult as this letter is to write, I'm hopeful and optimistic for A.A.'s future. Together we can overcome the challenges we're facing. We need your help to continue to adjust to and plan for the reality of current economic conditions and changes in our Fellowship. As members we often say that when

A.A. needs money, the Fellowship will respond. This is one of those times. Your generosity has sustained us through very difficult times in the past. If your group is able, in the spirit of Gratitude Month, please consider a special contribution to the General Service Board. You can make a contribution through aa.org by clicking [here](#) or by mail.

Moving forward, more frequent, and incremental contributions would be much appreciated as the office incurs many of its expenses during certain parts of the year. In particular, many of our more significant expenses are incurred from January to May, due to planning, preparation, and operation of the General Service Conference each April.

[Attached to this letter](#) you will find a summary of the operations of GSO and details of many of the vital services GSO provides. I hope this information gives you a greater understanding of the vital work and services your contributions help to support. Thank you so much for everything each of you do for Alcoholics Anonymous.

With gratitude for all the sacrifices you make for A.A.,



Bob W.

General Manager, GSO

**Please direct all
communications to:**

P.O. Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163
Fax: (212) 870-3003

November 13, 2023

Dear Trusted Servants:

A.A.'s Co-Founder, Bill W., in his 1953 address to the General Service Conference, stated that he did not consider himself the author of *Alcoholics Anonymous*, the Big Book (*Our Great Responsibility*, p. 92). He also alluded to the fact that in the various A.A. literature published prior to his passing, he borrowed heavily from other sources, and that other A.A. members made significant contributions.

On the other hand, addressing the historical context of some of the writings of our Founders, many members in our Fellowship have expressed strong sentiment against any changes in the first 164 pages of *Alcoholics Anonymous*, the Big Book, as well as the Preface, the Forewords, The Doctor's Opinion, Doctor Bob's Nightmare, and the Appendices. In fact, as early as 1995 and most recently in 2022, Advisory Actions designed to protect the above-referenced contents have been passed by the General Service Conference.

In response to a Committee Consideration from the 73rd General Service Conference suggesting that trustees' Literature Committee *seek input from the Fellowship (including but not limited to Area delegate feedback) regarding any possible future changes to literature written by A.A.'s Founders*, the trustees' Literature committee agreed it would be beneficial to gather shared experience from the Fellowship regarding this topic.

We would like to hear from you – the top of the triangle! While we hope that the suggested questions will help to spark thoughtful sharing and discussion, please feel free to add questions that we may not have thought of that you feel may best inform the discussion. Most of all, we are grateful for and thank you for your participation.

In fellowship,

The trustees' Literature Committee (2023-2024)

Attachment: Suggested Questions

HOW SHOULD WE TREAT A.A. FOUNDERS' WRITINGS

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Do you think that A.A. Founders would object to or embrace revisions to their writings? If yes, why? If not, why?
2. Do you think the Founders' writings are effective in reaching new members? If not, what measures do you think can be taken to resolve this issue?
3. What reasons would you consider for changing our Founders' writings?
4. How do you feel about changing A.A. Founders' writings to replace outdated references?
5. What suggestions do you have for preserving the Founders' writings, along with keeping pace with our current A.A. Society and its future?
6. Should there be a special Conference process for approval of changes to our Founders' writings? (e.g., super, or qualified majority – 75%, and/or 2-year consideration process.)
7. What additional ideas, thoughts or suggestions can you share about changing or not changing the Founders' writings?

Note: Please be as concise as possible in your responses to the questions.

Please share your responses with your GSR, or you can send them directly to the Literature Committee, General Service Office, PO Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163

CORRECTIONS WORKSHOP

SATURDAY

MARCH 16, 2024

NOON - 2:00PM

SOLUTIONS RECOVERY
621 EVANS ST, OSHKOSH

We need A.A. members to facilitate “carrying the message” of A.A. into jails and prisons. Hear from speakers with lived experience who have benefited, A.A. volunteers, and correctional staff.

Volunteer applications will be available for all seven institutions in District 02.

*REFRESHMENTS
PROVIDED*

corrections@district02aa.org



The graphic features the year '2024' in a large, stylized font. The '2' is black, the '0' is white with a grey shadow, and the '4' is gold. The word 'Party' is written in a black cursive font below the '4'. Two bursts of fireworks in gold and grey are positioned behind the '0' and '4'. The entire design is set against a light grey background. On the left and right sides, there are clusters of balloons in gold, white, and black, with small gold confetti scattered around them.

2024 Party

31 | DECEMBER | 2023
8PM-MIDNIGHT

Ring in 2024 at Changing Lanes Alano Club
Music, Dancing, Food, Fellowship
Door Prizes
50/50 Raffle
Raffle Prizes

\$10 Suggested Donation

344 Broadway St. Wrightstown, WI
920-532-9046

FOX VALLEY CENTRAL OFFICE STEERING COMMITTEE OPEN POSITIONS

Elections Monday, Jan. 8, 2024 at 7 pm
1528 N Ballard Rd., Suite 16, Appleton, WI 54911
Must attend in-person to be nominated.

Chairperson:

- Prepare agenda for and lead all steering committee and group rep meetings.
- Assure that all activities adhere to FVCO by-laws, AA Traditions and Concepts, as well as state and local requirements.
- Distribute meeting notices to all members.

Secretary:

- Document minutes for monthly Steering Committee meeting.
- Distribute minutes to all members and store files in the FVCO.
- Meetings will record attendance and business transactions.
- Prepare all motions to be presented to Group Reps for vote.

Office Manager:

- Compare bank statement to purchasing transactions for accuracy.
- Order literature and office supplies. Ensure that all merchandise is priced accurately.
- Pay office expenses. Collect and process donations. Balance checking account.
- Present current and proposed expenditures for committee review and approval.
- Ensure that taxes are filed annually either by manager or outsourced.

Media Coordinator:

- Update, maintain, and manage FVCO website, including answering questions submitted.
- Work with office manager to ensure that all website related expenses are paid.
- Create and distribute bi-monthly online newsletter which includes FVCO news, finances, meeting minutes and District 02 events.

FVCO Steering Committee meets on the second Monday of each month.



**Eye Opener 17th Annual
Anniversary Meeting**

Saturday, January 20th, 2024

Join us in person:
7:30 AM Speaker Meeting



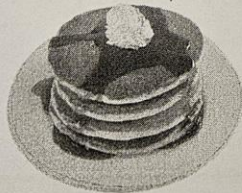
AA Speaker –TBD

Pancakes & Sausages will be served.
Please bring a dish to pass
Join us for the fellowship

This is our way of remembering the founding of this meeting

Location: Prince of Peace Church
2330 E Calumet St, Appleton, WI 54915

Any questions please contact:
Stephanie H. 920-944-7594



APPROVED Area 74 District 02 2024 Budget

			2024	YTD
			BUDGET	JAN
				SPENT
Archives	1	Space at Central Office	\$200.00	\$0.00
	2	Miscellaneous	\$100.00	\$0.00
	3	Grapevine	\$28.97	\$0.00
	4	Stipend for District Meetings	\$60.00	\$0.00
	5	FVCO Rent	\$0.00	\$0.00
	6	Now & Then Subscription	\$25.00	\$0.00
	7	Stipend for Delegates Workshop	\$50.00	\$0.00
			\$463.97	\$200.00
Corrections Kendra R	1	Workshop	\$150.00	\$0.00
	2	Conference	\$500.00	\$0.00
	3	Office Supply/Trave	\$100.00	\$0.00
	4	Stipend for District Meetings	\$60.00	\$0.00
	5	BTG P.O. Box, Postage, Supplies	\$300.00	\$0.00
	6	Stipend for Delegates Workshop	\$100.00	\$0.00
			\$1210.00	\$0.00
DCM Jane M	1	Stipend for District Meetings	\$180.00	\$0.00
	2	Printing Expenses	\$936.00	\$0.00
	3	LCM Stipends for District Meetings	\$360.00	\$0.00
	4	LCM Miscellaneous Expenses	\$50.00	\$0.00
	5	LCM Meeting Rent	\$0.00	\$0.00
	6	Area 74 Literature - (Service Materials	\$200.00	\$0.00
	7	GSR Workshop	\$100.00	\$0.00
	8	Our Common Welfare Workshop	na	na
	9	Registration Spring and Fall Conference	\$40.00	\$0.00
	10	Banquet Spring and Fall Conference	\$50.00	\$0.00
	11	Conference Lodging	\$500.00	\$0.00
	12	Gas for Conference	\$0.00	\$0.00
	13	Gas for Conf/Assem/ACM/Workshops - current federal charitable rate	\$500.00	\$0.00
	14	Gas for Conference - Mileage @ \$.35 per mile	na	na
	15	Assembly/ACM 4-Trips (\$40.00 Each)	\$0.00	\$0.00
	16	Stipend for Delegates Workshop	\$50.00	\$0.00
	17	Other Workshop	\$100.00	\$0.00
	18	Past DCM Luncheon	na	na
	19	Zoom Account	na	na
	20	Hybrid Equipment'	na	\$0.00
	21	Tech Fellows Stipend for District Meetings	\$60.00	\$0.00
			\$3126.00	\$0.00

Grapevine Patrick R	1	Grapevine Subscription for Intergroup	\$350.00	\$0.00
	2	Postage & Office Supplies	\$10.00	\$0.00
	3	Stipend for District Meetings	\$60.00	\$0.00
	4	Additions to Grapevine Library Display	\$175.00	\$0.00
	5	Grapevine Display at Genesis Club	\$0.00	\$0.00
	6	Past Grapevines for Distribution	\$0.00	\$0.00
	7	Workshop	\$100.00	\$0.00
	8	Electronic Subscription for Grapevine Chairperson	\$50.00	\$0.00
	9	Stipend for Delegates Workshop	\$75.00	\$0.00
		\$820.00	\$0.00	

Newsletter Digger A	1	Postage	\$0.00	\$0.00
	2	Printing	\$0.00	\$0.00
	3	Postage & Printing	\$0.00	\$0.00
	4		\$0.00	\$0.00
	5	Software	\$300.00	\$0.00
	6	Postcards, labels & miscellaneous supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00
	7	Stipend for District Meetings	\$60.00	\$0.00
	8	Ink	\$0.00	\$0.00
	9	Stipend for Delegates Workshop	\$0.00	\$0.00
		\$360.00	\$0.00	

Public Info Susan	1	Web Service (Maintenance, software upgrades	\$600.00	\$0.00
	2	Pamphlets	\$200.00	\$0.00
	3	Postage	\$30.00	\$0.00
	4	Meeting List Copies	\$0.00	\$0.00
	5	Outreach	\$500.00	\$0.00
	6	Webmaster Computer	\$0.00	\$0.00
	7	Stipend for District Meetings	\$60.00	\$0.00
	8	Stipend for Delegates Workshop	\$50.00	\$0.00
	9	Printing	\$30.00	\$0.00
	10	Booth Space at County Fairs	\$650.00	\$0.00
	11	Grapevine Subscriptions (2)	\$60.00	\$0.00
	12	Facebook PSA	\$250.00	\$0.00
		\$2,430.00	\$0.00	

Treasurer Cindy L	1	District Rent	\$420.00	\$0.00
	2	Refreshments	\$180.00	\$0.00
	3	Stipend for District Meetings	\$60.00	\$0.00
	4	Miscellaneous Expenses (copies, postage, supplies, checks	\$200.00	\$0.00

5	Petty cash	na	na
6	P.O. Box Rent	\$240.00	\$0.00
7	Stipend for Delegates Workshop	\$0.00	\$0.00
		\$1,100.00	\$0.00

Treatment
Jody L

1	Workshop	\$200.00	\$0.00
2	Zoom Account	\$160.00	\$0.00
3	Literature - Facility Racks	\$500.00	\$0.00
4	Office Supplies	\$100.00	\$0.00
5	Stipend for District Meetings	\$60.00	\$0.00
6	Stipend for Delegates Workshop	\$50.00	\$0.00
7	ASL for Monthly Speaker Meetings	\$0.00	\$0.00
		\$1070.00	\$0.00

Totals		\$10,579.97	\$0.00
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