

NORTH CAROLINA

General Service Committee

OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Chair
4239 The Oaks Drive
Raleigh, NC 27606
chair@aanorthcarolina.org

Secretary
PO Box 339
Harrisburg, NC 28075
secretary@aanorthcarolina.org

DATE: JULY 20, 2020

TO: Area 51 Committee (D.C.M.s, Alternates, L.C.M.s (Local Committee Members), Standing Subcommittee Chairs, Coordinators, Officers and Past Delegates)

SUBJECT: **Area 51 Summer Committee Meeting September 5-6, 2020.**

Our Summer Committee Meeting will be held at the Village Inn Hotel and Events Center in Clemmons, NC provided we are able to meet in-person in accordance to NC state guidelines.

Hotel Reservations

Group Code: AA
Group Name: NC General Service AA
Group Rate: \$89.00 per night Single/Double
Phone: (336) 766-9121

For best results:

- Call as soon as possible. It's easier to cancel a reservation than to get one at the last minute! Please note, once the rooms in our block sell out, it's unlikely there will be other rooms left in the hotel. There is no penalty for room cancellations if we have to meet virtually due to state restrictions on large group gatherings.
- **PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY!**
- Specify the group code "AA" and the group name "NC General Service AA." They should confirm that your room is booked at the negotiated group rate.
- Please call the Village Inn Hotel and Events Center at 336-766-9121 during business hours Monday through Friday. This gives you the best chance to speak with a reservations clerk at the hotel.
- Always be sure to get a confirmation number.
- NOTE: The Village Inn is a two-story hotel without an elevator. If you have difficulty with stair be sure to request a 1st floor room. Check in: 3:00 pm. Check out 11:00 am.
- If you have ANY trouble with Room Rate or Availability please contact Julie R., the Area Chair, at chair@aanorthcarolina.org.
- **Thank you for your service and support of Area 51. See you at the Area 51 Summer 2020 Committee Meeting!**

Welcome past and present Area Committee Members! Our Summer Committee Meeting will be held on ***Saturday and Sunday, September 5-6, 2020*** at the Village Inn Hotel and Events Center. In accordance with a February 2001 Committee Action, our full Area Committee Meeting will begin at **12:30 p.m. Saturday, September 5, 2020.**

The full Committee will reconvene Saturday evening at 8 p.m. and for a Sunday morning session from 8:00 a.m. to Noon. Breakout meetings for the Subcommittees and the Work Group are scheduled on Saturday from 6:30-7:50 p.m. before the full Area Committee business session at 8:00 p.m.

There will be a **Voluntary DCM.s and Alternates - Only Meeting on Saturday from 10:00-11:00 a.m. for an orientation and sharing session.** Although no business will be conducted, **all DCM.s and Alternates, especially incoming ones, are encouraged to attend if possible.**

Important Notes and Deadlines:

- **Subcommittee Chairs:** please email the Area Chair immediately at chair@aanorthcarolina.org if you need space for a Saturday morning meeting. Also, Subcommittee Chairs must inform members of any such extra meetings of their Subcommittees that may be scheduled over the weekend.
- **There are five (5) known Area Committee Agenda Items** at this time: To determine districts to host the 2021 Pre-Conferences; Select the Area 51 nomination for Southeast Regional Trustee and Trustee-at-Large (US); to approve the 2021 proposed Area 51 budget; to approve dates of the 2021 Area 51 Corrections Conference Freedom from Bondage; Suggestion to GSO to create a virtual area for virtual groups. **Additional Agenda items are expected.**
- **Area Chair Julie R. MUST receive any other Agenda items for our Summer Area Committee Meeting agenda with written background information by email or mail by **August 15, 2020.** If you need information from Archivist Keith M. for the Summer Committee Meeting, please request it by mail or email from him as soon as possible. Items submitted after August 15th may not be considered. At the Summer Committee, we will consider the 2021 Proposed Budget. Budget requests must be made to Treasurer Jerry W.**

AGENDA ITEM #1

Determine the districts hosting the 2021 Pre-Conferences.

Background Information: An Advisory Action passed at the 2008 Fall Assembly provided that in order to promote an informed group conscience, the Delegate and Alternate Delegate are to attend up to three Pre-Conferences annually to discuss General Service Conference agenda items, when hosted by the districts in the Coastal, Piedmont and Mountain regions of Area 51. Background information to the Advisory Action makes clear that the districts from these areas of the state will take responsibility for hosting the Pre-Conferences between mid-March and mid-April and that the districts hosting the Pre-Conferences for the upcoming year will be decided at this Committee Meeting. The format of the Pre-Conferences – the topics and structure – ultimately should be decided by the Delegate, though recommendations supporting direct participation can be made. A three-hour event is recommended for each Pre-Conference. **PLEASE SEE FLYER (page 6) WITH MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PRE-CONFERENCES. THIS FLYER PROVIDES NECESSARY INFORMATION TO HELP DISTRICTS PLAN THE 2021 PRE-CONFERENCES. ANY DISTRICT WISHING TO HOST A 2021 PRE-CONFERENCE EVENT SHOULD COME TO THE SUMMER COMMITTEE PREPARED WITH A PROPOSED DATE AND A PROPOSED LOCATION. THIS PRECON ADVANCE INFORMATION IS AN EFFORT TO BETTER PLAN OUR AREA 51 PRE-CONFERENCES!** If you have questions about Pre-Conference planning, please contact Area 51 Delegate Katy P. at delegate@aanorthcarolina.org.

AGENDA ITEM #2

Select the Southeast Regional Trustee and Trustee-At-Large (U.S.) nomination for Area 51.

Background Information: Every four years, a new Southeast Regional Trustee and a new Trustee-At-Large U.S. are elected at the General Service Conference. The next such elections will be held at the 2021 Conference. Area 51 may nominate one candidate for the regional trustee position and one candidate for the at-large position. We may not nominate the same candidate for both positions, and we do not have to nominate anyone at all. Any candidate we do choose to put forward must be selected no later than our Fall 2020 Election Assembly. Requirements for trustee positions are stated in *The A.A. Service Manual*.

Anyone meeting these requirements may be considered for nomination by Area 51. Prospective candidates are required to submit resumes to the Area in the format prescribed by G.S.O. Instructions and forms for this purpose are distributed to by the Area 51 delegate sometime in the summer of the year the nominations are made.

In Area 51, trustee candidates are elected by the Area Committee using Third Legacy Procedure. The candidates are then presented to the Assembly for approval. In 1996, the Area Committee recommended that trustee nominations be handled by the Committee. The Assembly concurred unanimously. In 2000, the Area Committee offered the Assembly the option of “add(ing) the election of trustee candidates to the agenda of the Fall Assembly.” This motion failed, was reconsidered, and failed again.

The election of trustee candidates will be conducted by Third Legacy Procedure at the Summer 2020 Committee Meeting. Any candidates so chosen will be presented to the Fall 2020 Election Assembly for approval. Resumes for the trustee positions must be submitted by email or mail to the Area 51 Chair by August 15, 2020.

AGENDA ITEM #3

To approve the proposed Area 51 2021 Budget.

Background Information: The proposed 2021 budget will come moved and seconded from the Budget and Finance Subcommittee. Copies of the proposed 2021 budget will be distributed at the Area Committee Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #4

That the 2021 Area 51 Corrections Conference, “The 33rd Freedom from Bondage,” be held at the Hampton Inn & Suites in Aberdeen, N.C. on March 12-14, 2021.

Background Information: The Area Committee and Area Assembly must approve the proposed location and dates of the annual Area 51 Corrections Conference.

AGENDA ITEM #5

Proposed Agenda item: That Area 51 request GSO to allow participation of all virtual groups not affiliated with a physical meeting space by creating a 94th Area to our Service Structure that will encompass those A.A. groups.

Background Information:

Currently there is no way for a virtual group to be registered with GSO, have a group number, or a voice in AA affairs. While many of the new Zoom meetings are affiliated with face to face meetings, there are also virtual meetings which serve a need in AA but are not associated with a home group that has a GSO number and listing. In addition to the new meetings created in response to COVID, the On-Line Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous (OIAA) has supported virtual meetings for years. Allowing them to have a GSN would ensure their voice in the AA service structure.

The OIAA Directory features 1,000+ online AA meetings worldwide, ranging from video or telephone conferences to email or chat groups in many languages, available 24/7.

Virtual groups utilize technology to conduct their meetings.

- Current technology in use includes video conference platforms such as Zoom, phone conference, message boards, email listservs, chatrooms. As technology evolves, the tools Alcoholics use to get and stay sober will undoubtedly change.
- AA is not a place; a home group doesn't need a permanent physical address.
 - Our service manual states “the home group affords individual A.A.s the privilege of voting on issues that affect the Fellowship as a whole; it is the very basis of the service structure.” Service Manual S25
 - Tradition 3 states “any two or three alcoholics may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation.”
- Providing a Group Service Number for Virtual Groups creates communication from the GSRs through the Delegate to GSO.
 - “The GSR represents the voice of the group conscience, reporting the group's thoughts to the district committee member and to the delegate, who passes them on to conference.” Service Manual S26
 - “To assure direct and regular communication between the group and GSO, each group is assigned a service number.” Service Manual S28
- The A.A. virtual population has grown but their voice is not heard through a Delegate.
 - “If the A.A. population seems to have grown to the point where the current delegate and other trusted servants can no longer provide adequate service and communication, there may be local interest in forming a new area. In such a case, the area committee or committees involved may write to G.S.O. and request an application for an Additional Delegate Area.” Service Manual S42

- Are we including the whole fellowship when virtual groups are excluded from the service structure? Concept 1: The final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.

Since all Areas are autonomous, the new Area should organize in the way that is most effective for the groups and members involved.

By allowing virtual groups to become part of the service structure, AA as a whole will benefit from the unique experiences of members that are unwilling or unable to attend traditional meetings. In addition, members that are only able to attend virtual meetings will become knowledgeable of the larger AA world and resources available to them through GSO.

"Nothing matters more to AA's future welfare than the manner in which we use the colossus of modern communication. Used unselfishly and well, it can produce results surpassing our present imagination."

-- Bill W., The Grapevine, November, 1960

In Love and Service,

Julie R., Area 51 Chair

Anna R., Area 51 Secretary

All the 2019 and 2020 Officers and Coordinators and 2019 Standing Work Group and Subcommittee Chairs are grateful for the opportunity to be of service. Please contact us if we can be of assistance to you.

Delegate Katy P. delegate@aanorthcarolina.org	Registrar Clayborne T. registrar@aanorthcarolina.org
Alt. Delegate Rainer L. altdelegate@aanorthcarolina.org	Treasurer Jerry W. treasurer@aanorthcarolina.org
Area Chair Julie R. chair@aanorthcarolina.org	Treatment Facilities Coordinator Marty M. tf@aanorthcarolina.org
Alt. Area Chair Denise M. altchair@aanorthcarolina.org	Archivist Keith M. archivist@aanorthcarolina.org
Secretary Anna R. secretary@aanorthcarolina.org	Webmaster Rick H. webmaster@aanorthcarolina.org
Literature Coordinator Steven D. literature@aanorthcarolina.org	Accessibilities Coordinator Pat B. access@aanorthcarolina.org
Grapevine Coordinator Corey S. grapevine@aanorthcarolina.org	Site Investigation Chair Lindsey S. site@aanorthcarolina.org
CPC/PI Coordinator Greg K. cpc-pi@aanorthcarolina.org	Web Site Chair Roger A. webchair@aanorthcarolina.org
Corrections Coordinator Angel S. corrections@aanorthcarolina.org	Budget & Finance Chair Rick M. bf@aanorthcarolina.org
Convention Chair Beth R. convention@aanorthcarolina.org	Growth & Maintenance Chair Bill W. gm@aanorthcarolina.org
Spanish-Language Translator (open) translator@aanorthcarolina.org	Theme/Workshop Work Group Chair David L. twgroup@aanorthcarolina.org
Spanish-Language Interpreter Rick L. interpreter@aanorthcarolina.org	

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING AREA 51 EVENTS

<i>All Area 51 events below will be held at the Hilton North Raleigh, 3415 Wake Forest Rd, Raleigh, NC unless otherwise noted</i>	
2020	
Fall Committee Meeting	October 30, 2020
Fall Election Assembly	October 31-November 1, 2020
2021	
Winter Committee Meeting <i>Village Inn Hotel and Events Center</i>	March 6-7, 2021
33 rd Freedom from Bondage <i>Aberdeen, NC</i>	March 12-14, 2021 (pending approval)
Spring Committee Meeting	May 21, 2021
Spring Assembly	May 22-23, 2021
74th North Carolina State Convention	July 15-18, 2021
Summer Committee Meeting <i>Charlotte Airport Hotel 2800 Coliseum Centre Drive</i>	August 20-22, 2021
Fall Committee Meeting	November 12, 2021
Fall Assembly <i>Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center</i>	November 13-14, 2021

2021 Area 51 Pre-Conferences

Attention Area 51 DCMs & Alternates

Planning for next year's Pre-Conference events will take place at our Summer Committee meeting: Saturday, September 5, 2020 at The Village Inn Hotel and Events Center

The Pre-Conference is opportunity to involve, inform, and inspire all Area 51 AA members with a more thorough understanding of the General Service Conference structure and process. This is accomplished by reviewing and discussing the actual GSC Agenda items and background material for each of the GSC committees. Area 51 members will come together and share their views, opinions and thoughts on the agenda items. This allows the area delegate an opportunity to understand how our Area feels about the more important agenda items. It also provides a more thorough understanding of the most important challenges and opportunities facing our fellowship. Additionally, it helps provide a perspective of what our area delegate will be experiencing while participating in General Service Conference in New York, in late April.

- Pre-conferences are hosted in three geographical regions of North Carolina (West, Central, & East) and one for the Spanish Language districts.
- DCMs who are interested in hosting one of next year's Pre-Conferences, please come to the Summer Committee meeting with a date or two in mind & a location or two in mind.
- Things to consider when selecting the date...
 - The 2021 Pre-Conferences will take place between our Winter Committee Meeting (March 6-7, 2021) & the General Service Conference (which is April 18-24 2021)
 - Freedom from Bondage will be held March 12-14, 2021 (pending approval)
 - Crystal Coast Roundup
 - Easter is Sunday April 4, 2021
 - If possible, the date should not conflict with any regional AA events
 - The East & the West should be on separate weekends, but the Central should coordinate to be on the same weekend as either the East or the West
- Things to consider when selecting the location...
 - One big room & 6 break out spaces
 - Up to 150 people
 - Availability of Parking
 - Highway access
 - A balance between a central location & the spirit of rotation
- A few other things to consider...
 - Usually a lunch or "pot luck" is served
 - The Pre-Conference lasts approximately 3-4 hours, including lunch, plus set up & clean up
 - The Pre-Conference should not be held in conjunction with an event that charges a registration fee
- Districts will caucus together by region Saturday evening at the Committee meeting to decide together on a date, location, & how they would like to work together hosting & supporting the regional Pre-Conference.

Involve, Inform, Inspire!