

GRAPE FREE PRESS

Area 25 Kansas
Spring 2018
Issue 1 / Vol 58

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

April 14-15, 2018

Quality Inn

2110 W. Crawford Street
Salina, KS 67401
(785) 825-2111

Activities

- Committee Meetings
- Mock General Service Conference

CHAIR REPORTS

New chairs! Check out what's going in with the new team.



DELEGATE

Greetings, Area 25!

Sometimes when I'm about to make a big mistake, my H.P. intervenes and saves my bacon. Such was the case a couple of days ago, when writing an article for this issue of the GFP was the furthest thing from my mind. I was at the Sunflower Roundup when I ran into the GFP editor and she reminded me that the deadline was (Yikes!!) 5 days away. I now have reminders on my phone until 2020. Thank you, Molly!

It's a privilege & honor to be serving as your delegate for 2018-19. It's also truly a humbling experience. We are blessed here in Kansas with an abundance of talented & enthusiastic members willing to serve in any capacity, and our current rotation of servants is an excellent one, “..of which...” to quote Bill “..it is a wonderful thing to feel a part.”

I continue to visit district meetings – I've been to 20 of them so far, and hope to complete my “tour” of the remaining 8 in the next few months. **Please continue to send me copies of your district minutes, as they keep me informed about your district.** People have already started scheduling me for giving the delegate's report. To date, I have the following:

Aug. 12 – District 16 (Garden City)

Aug. 18 – District 5 (Salina)

Nov. 10 – District 13 (Newton)

I'm looking forward to scheduling yours soon!

Kudos to the committees that worked so hard to put on a successful weekend both at the SW Conference in Dodge City, and at the Sunflower Roundup in K.C., KS. I thoroughly enjoyed both of these and the chance to visit with so many people.

Last year District 10 brought forward a proposal for a CPC pamphlet, and the Area voted to submit it to N.Y. to be considered for the 2018 General Service Conference. In October, the Trustee CPC Committee considered it and decided not to send it forward, encouraging us to use it locally instead. Other areas also submitted items, GSO staff researched many of these, the Trustee Committees considered them, and now the final agenda has been set for the 68th GSC. There are 91 items, which will be thoughtfully discussed, keeping in mind our principles and our primary purpose. Some of these will be put into action, some will be sent back for further research & development, and others will be rejected as we realize they are not the best for all of A.A. This process has been working since the first GSC in 1951, and I trust it will continue to work for all generations to come, as long as we all mean it when we say “I am responsible.”

In grateful appreciation for my sobriety

David R., Delegate

Panel 68 Area 25 Kansas

AREA CHAIR

Greetings trusted servants

I had the opportunity to take some new guys to an AA conference recently and, as is so often the case, I got to watch them catch fire for AA. It's always good to be reminded that, although I might be accustomed to AA and take some of it for granted, newcomers only get one first impression—and I need to do my part to make sure it's positive.

Hopefully January Assembly was a positive first impression for new attendees—I know I enjoyed it. We have some excited and motivated committee chairs and I'm looking forward to seeing what they accomplish in the next two years.

At the April Committee meeting we will be conducting our mock General Service Conference. This is your chance to inform our Delegate of the group conscience of Area 25 so I encourage everyone to participate.

We will also be discussing the findings of two ad hoc committees. I've asked a committee to look at the Area's prudent reserve and come up with some recommendations. This is necessary because in the past, the prudent reserve was established by the KAAAAI Board bylaws. The new KAAAAI bylaws, which were adopted in January, make no mention of the prudent reserve, and our Area Service Guidelines are also silent. Therefore I've asked an ad hoc committee to come up with a few recommendations; the Area can then decide which is best.

I've also asked an ad hoc committee to research the possibility of changing the number of Assemblies per year—this topic has been raised more than once in recent years, so I've asked the committee to gather experience from other Areas and to informally survey members within Area 25 to find out what the Area wants.

We've gotten some good feedback and inquiries since January and I encourage everyone to feel free to reach out to their DCMs, committee members and Area trusted servants with any questions or comments. Thank you for your service!

Jon R.
Area Chairperson

AA Preamble

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy, neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

ALT. DELEGATE



Greeting Area 25 Members,

I am grateful to have the opportunity to serve as your Kansas Area 25 Alt. Delegate and look forward to my new responsibilities for the next two years. I attended the Southwest Regional Forum last October in San Antonio Texas. It is always exciting to work together with members from General Service Office, and Southwest Region. There were a lot of workshops, presentations and sharing sessions that weekend. I was also invited to the Alt. Delegate luncheon / business meeting. It was a great opportunity for me to meet with the other Alt. Delegates in our Region. They covered the 2018 Southwest Regional AA Service Assembly that will be held in Branson, Missouri, October 5th -7th . "Service Begins with Us" This will be held at Branson Hilton Hotels and Convention Center. There is a lot to do in and around Branson, so think about making it a getaway for the entire family! **Go to www.swraasa2018.org and get registered.** March 9th – 11th I will be attending Southwest Regional Delegates Assembly (SWRDA) in Oklahoma City to assist in preparing our Delegate(s) for the General Service Conference in New York this April. I am looking forward to this opportunity and can't wait to share my experience with you. Your Delegate, Dave R. has asked that I facilitate the Area 25 General Service Mock Conference at our April Committee Meetings which will also assist in preparing him for New York. **Please join us for Kansas Area 25 Committee Meetings, April 13th – 14th in Salina, Ks.** You will be able to enjoy fellowship with other members throughout the state, sit in on committee meetings, work on the Mock Conference, and see how Area 25 conducts business. We hope to see you there.

Yours in Service,

Sheri P., Alt. Delegate, Panel 68

LITERATURE



At the January Assembly, the Literature Committee had 8 in attendance from 4 different districts and opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer. Each member shared about literature usage within their groups and districts. It was suggested that each group and district should make sure they have a literature chair on board. Several suggestions were made by the members, including selecting a pamphlet for the group to review, distributing literature to various places (hospitals, jails, etc.) and maintaining phone lists for both male and female. Also suggested was groups having "donation libraries" where newcomers can take free books and pamphlets to help them out. Another suggestion was groups having a "literature study meeting night " to use as topics for the meeting from various books such as "AA Comes of Age", "As Bill Sees It", the 12 by 12, etc.

The 2018 literature catalogs are out and if anyone needs a service manual you can see me or order online. It was also mentioned that groups and districts can combine orders to save money on the shipping and handling. We then closed with the Lords Prayer.

Thanks for the opportunity to serve,

Terry L. – Area 25 Literature Chair

CPC



I hope everyone is warming from the winter. I hope everyone was able to distribute the "Letter to the Healthcare Professionals" (F-210) to members so they can get it into the hands of Healthcare Professionals. I have seen some positive reaction with A.A. members and professionals in my area. We will be discussing the CPC conference agenda items which is the implantation of LinkedIn. **I have already sent out the background material but if you did not receive it please email me and I will send it to you.**

I asked Molly to add a Grapevine article to this Grape Free Press titled "The Shape of Things to Come" written by Bill W. in this Grape Free Press. I find this Bill W. writing a good guide to the changing of A.A. and the world around us. I also believe that the book Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age is a must read when it comes to understanding where we came from and where we are headed.

If we have time left, we can discuss moving forward with EAP's and Courts. I have seen some work already happening in a few Districts. **Bring any ideas of how we can reach more professionals in the state of Kansas.** There was also an article in the Spring 2018 Box 459 titled, "After the Storm, the Best Way to Help". **Please read this article and let me know what your thoughts are. We have seen other area's in the country go through some major disasters in the past few years and how would we in Area 25 handle similar circumstances?**

In love and service.
Ed M.



AL-ANON LIAISON

The 46th Annual AL-Anon State Conference is June 8-10, 2018 in Park City, Kansas. It will be held at the Best Western Wichita North Hotel. Mention code "Kansas AFG" for a special room rate of \$87.99. There will be speakers from Kansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, and California. The AA speaker will be Paula D. from Joplin, Missouri. Pre-registration is \$20 until May 18th, and \$25 after that. There will also be several drawings for those who have registered by May 1st, so register early! Doors open on Friday, June 8th at 3pm, and the conference closing is on Sunday at 11am. We hope to see many AA's there! Let me know if you have any questions. Thank you for letting me serve.

Anissa P.
Al-Anon Liaison

WEB CHAIR

There were 10 people in attendance at the committee meeting. I am currently training with the past chair to learn how to use and update the website and e-mails; thank you for your patience in this transition. We spent most of the time talking about what does and what does not need to be on the website, this is a work in progress - **please send your suggestions to the web chair**. Some features you will find on the website are: upcoming events, group change forms, meeting app, emails for all of Area officers and more. We're going to continue to work on improving the flow of the website and make it the effective tool we need it to be. Thank you for the opportunity to be of service and I look forward to working for you

Peter C. -- Web Chair

GRAPE FREE PRESS

Hello friends!

I'm excited and honored to service as your Area chair for the Grape Free Press (GFP). The previous chair did a great job and started making efforts to generate enthusiasm; I will try and keep this going by making the GFP more like the Grapevine for Area 25. Some ideas we have to improve the GFP are: create a GFP Facebook/ Separate website, have a hotlink to GFP on the Area website, have more stories from members, jokes, comics , birthdays and Q & A for our Delegate. We also discussed creating a uniform form for reporting. We would like to coordinate with Corrections and Treatment to promote GFP in jails and treatment centers. Another idea is to host article writing workshops throughout the Area 25.



DCMs: please help create enthusiasm for GFP by printing it out every quarter and distributing them to your group and / or emailing it out.

We will jazz up the format to make it more appealing. Five members agreed to be part of the GFP committee. If you would like to participate, please contact me!

Love and service!
Molly M.

TREATMENT

Hello Area 25,

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Treatment Chair for the next 2 years. It is always an honor and a privilege to be of service in Alcoholics Anonymous.

Had a wonderful turn out at Area Assembly, both young and not so young in attendance. We all shared our experience with treatment centers. A lot of discussion on adolescence or young people in recovery, showing them how much fun life can be. We only get one chance to make a first impression on people when they walk through the doors for the first time. Do we make them feel welcome and want to come back? I am in the process of getting a couple of people committed to help serve on the treatment committee, and am looking forward to working with them and learning myself as much as possible about treatment and Bridging the Gap between treatment and the real world. Carrying the message to treatment centers and being there to help when they leave so they don't get lost in the transition.

Treatment gives us tools to use, but we usually don't know how to use them when we leave. That's where we need to be, to teach them and lead by example of how we did it, and give away what's been given to us.

Will be working on getting a list of treatment centers across Kansas and how we can help them.

I received a treatment workbook that has valuable information in it on to work with treatment centers and professionals. I'm looking forward to reaching out to treatments to see how WE of Alcoholics Anonymous can work together.

Cindy L.

Area 25 Treatment Chair
treatment@kansas-aa.org



"Nobody gets a newbie into that zombie state quicker"

PUBLIC INFORMATION

We talked about how to keep district informed on changes in area and how to get them the information. Also, how to get your foot in the door without wearing out your welcome, having a PSA at the library, wanted to keep PI from getting confused with CPC. We're not sure what the goals this year will be. PI will be getting info out so it is available to those who need it. Principals before personalities (don't be a spectacle) ! Ask where and what can we do? Another member had a good idea of tear off flyers at grocery stores etc, or getting a business card for P.I. and CPC.

J.R. R. --- P.I. Chair



GRAPEVINE

There were 11 in attendance from 7 different districts. Some ideas were to have book drives / Grapevine drive for the newcomer, treatment or corrections. Also, raffles at group or district events where we raffle off a subscription of the grapevine (Sunflower Roundup raffles off 2). The Grapevine topics for the year will be provided at the next committee meeting. Districts could purchase subscriptions for treatment facility and districts could have GV on literature racks.

Groups could give subscriptions to one year birthday celebrants. Some ideas about having writing workshops are: smaller districts combine, know someone who wrote a story in the grapevine have them as a speaker at the workshop. Goal it to have 75 (New) Subscriptions by the next committee meeting

Dawn M. -- Area Grapevine Chair

CHRONICLER

We had a great meeting with 7 people in attendance, opened the meeting with the serenity prayer. I read the information in the white book on chronicler and archives, also in the service manual. We then started a lively discussion talking about the archives. Questions I couldn't answer I found Dave R who got me the answers. We do have copy's of the minutes and the Grape Free Press, there are two hard drives with this information on them. We then closed with the lords prayer

Tom L -- (standing in for Bridget B - Chronicler)



REGISTRAR

There were 8 people in attendance from 4 different districts. **Even if you are rotating from old GSR to New GSR please fill out a group change form so we can let GSO know.** GSO and Area Websites has an electronic group change form also. I will get changes updated done as quickly as possible the roster in July should reflect all the changes that I am aware of

Sandy O. -- Registrar Chair

CORRECTIONS

Greetings from the Area 25 Corrections Desk! First and foremost I would like to thank you, the members of Area 25, for the opportunity to serve. The opportunity to facilitate or directly carry Alcoholics Anonymous' message of hope to our brothers and sisters behind the walls has proven to be one of the most rewarding blessings of AA life.

With this in mind, I would like to invite each and every one of you to share in the joys of correctional service.

Area 25's 24th annual Corrections Conference will be held on Saturday, March 24th from 9:00am - 3:00pm at the Range Hall at Lansing Correctional Facility located at 301 E Kansas Ave, Lansing, KS 66043. This is a free event celebrating the past, present and future of correctional work in Kansas. Come early for Donuts, coffee and fellowship. Stay for fantastic speakers and lunch and the opportunity to hear from sober members of Alcoholics Anonymous on both sides of the walls. For additional details please see the flyer on the Area 25 Website. I also wanted to pass along a request for shared experience from the General Service Office.

The trustee's committee on Corrections would like to request sharing from local corrections committee on the following topics:

- Struggles and resolutions by local committees on starting service as a corrections chair which may be included in the development of a frequently asked questions (FAQ) sheet for the Corrections Kit.
- Struggles and resolutions by local committees with ongoing communication with corrections administration.
- Suggestions of ways to utilize available online materials from the AA Grapevine website and the Corrections Committee page on the AA website.
- Struggles and resolutions by local committees with emerging corrections technology, paper-free libraries and how emerging corrections technology in the form of tablets and email has changed how local committees carry the A.A. message at various correctional facilities.

Any experience around these issues would be greatly appreciated. You can send your responses to me at corrections@kansas-aa.org or respond directly to G.S.O. at corrections@aa.org

If possible, we hope to hear back from you by April 16, 2018.

Thanks again for the Opportunity to serve and I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the Committee Meetings in April.

In love and service,

Christian E.
Area 25 Corrections Chair



ACCESSIBILITIES

We had participation of GSR's from groups in Kansas City, Garden City, Wichita, Salina, and Dodge City. Kate H. from Kansas City volunteered to be the Alternate Chair for the Committee.

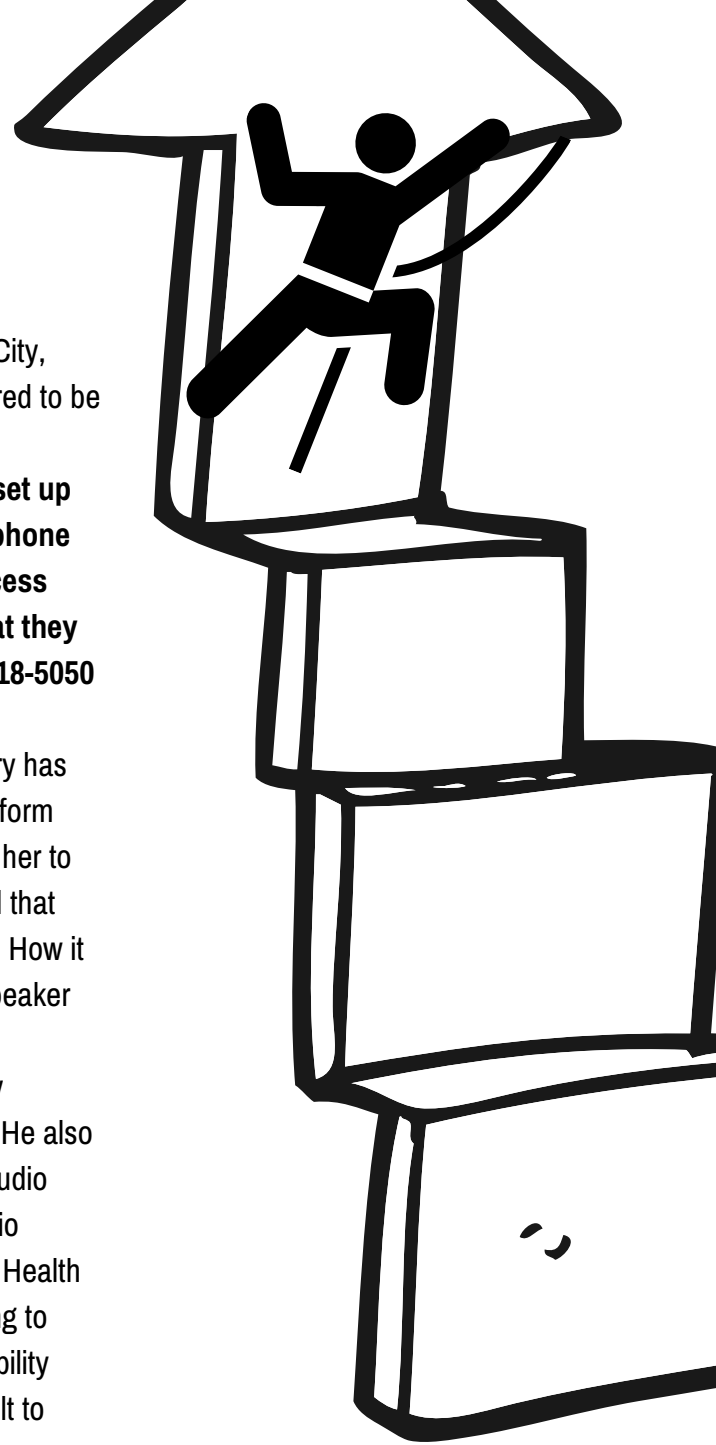
The GSR from the 11th Step Group in Wichita shared that they set up two years ago a meeting held on Mondays at 8:00 pm over the phone called Hope at Home. You must dial (712) 770-4010 and use Access Code 688-992. District 31 (Hispanic) from Dodge City shared that they have one like that in Spanish set up in California dialing (408) 418-5050 Access Code 401-975.

Michelle from Garden City shared that her becoming blind in recovery has not been a problem for her recovery as she has had a lot of support from other AA members. They gave her the Big Book in Braille, they take her to meetings and they get to be of so they can laugh together. She said that she has memorized the preamble and the beginning of Chapter Five How it Works so she can lead and open a meeting. She has also been a speaker and DCM.

District 10 Accessibilities chair shared that they welcome the visually impaired and that they have some extra Braille Big Books available. He also shared that the Libraries affiliated with the State System have free audio players for the visually impaired and those can be used with the audio literature. Ben also mentioned that they take meetings to the Mental Health and Senior living facilities. He said that they have had problems trying to help the deaf with sign language interpreters, but their scarce availability and the randomized attendance of deaf members has made it difficult to take off.

Dennis from District 8 reported that they have taken care of requests for meetings by the home inbound. He also mentioned that they have had problems with some members that have mental disabilities and being disruptive in meetings. He shared that they have assigned some other members who are or have been counselors in the past to deal with these situations as they arise. We talked about the safety of all group members, not only the disabled. The GSR from Salina shared that she has been appreciative of other members being tolerant about her being slow and not able to say some words like anonymity. We talked also about some members who can't read and how they shouldn't be shamed or forced to read from the literature or preamble and to be caring and empathetic with them. We closed with the Lord's prayer.

Carlos W. --Accessibilities Chair



THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME

AA's FIRST quarter-century is now history. Our next twenty-five years lie in prospect before us. How, then, can we make the most of this new grant of time? Perhaps our very first realization should be that we can't stand still. Now that our basic principles seem established, now that our functioning is fairly effective and widespread, it would be temptingly easy to settle down as merely one more useful agency on the world scene. We could conclude that "AA is fine, just the way it is." Yet how many of us, for example, would presume to declare, "Well, I'm sober and I'm happy.



What more can I want, or do? I'm fine the way I am." We know that the price of such self-satisfaction is an inevitable backslide, punctuated at some point by a very rude awakening. We have to grow or else deteriorate. For us, the "status quo" can only be for today, never for tomorrow. Change we must; we cannot stand still.

Just how, then, can AA go on changing for the better? Does this mean that we are to tinker with our basic principles? Should we try to amend our Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions? Here the answer would seem to be "no." Those twenty-four principles have first liberated us, have then held us in unity, and have enabled us to function and to grow as AA members, and as a whole. Of course perfect truth is surely something better understood by God than by any of us. Nevertheless, we have come to believe that AA's recovery Steps and Traditions do represent the approximate truths which we need for our particular purpose. The more we practice them, the more we like them. So there is little doubt that AA principles continue to be advocated in the form they stand now.

So then, if our basics are so firmly fixed as all this, what is there left to change or to improve? The answer will immediately occur to us. While we need not alter our truths, we can surely improve their application to ourselves, to AA as a whole, and to our relation with the world around us. We can constantly step up "the practice of these principles in all our affairs."

As we now enter upon the next great phase of AA's life, let us therefore re-dedicate ourselves to an ever greater responsibility for our general welfare. Let us continue to take our inventory as a fellowship, searching out our flaws and confessing them freely. Let us devote ourselves to the repair of all faulty relations that may exist, whether within or without.

And above all, let us remember that great legion who still suffer from alcoholism and who are still without hope. Let us, at any cost or sacrifice, so improve our communication with all these that they may find what we have found—a new life of freedom under God.

- Bill W. Grapevine February 1961 Copyright© Grapevine, Inc. February 1961. Reprinted with permission.

Kansas Area 25 Committee Meeting
April 2018 Agenda

A.A. – A Solution for All Generations

April 14, 2018

Quality Inn 2110 W. Crawford, Salina, Ks. (785) 825-2111

Saturday, April 14

8 – 8:50 a.m.	Committee Meetings		Dukes Room
<u>Committee</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Chair</u>	
Accessibilities	3, 10, 19	Carlos W.	
Chronicler	26, 31	Bridget B.	
Corrections	24, 27	Christian E.	
Cooperation w/Professional Community	6, 11, 22	Ed M.	
Grapefree Press	8, 13, 16	Molly M.	
Grapevine	2, 17	Dawn M.S.	
Literature	5, 18, 21	Terry L.	
Public Information	20, 23	J.R. R.	
Registrar	4, 9, 30	Sandy O.	
Treatment	1, 7, 14	Cindy L.	
Web	12, 15	Peter C.	

9 – 10:50 a.m. Mock General Service Conference Sheri P. Dukes Room

11-11:30 a.m. Delegate skit Dukes Room

11:30 a.m. – 1 pm LUNCH BREAK

1 p.m.	Business meeting		Dukes Room
Chair report		Jon R.	
Secretary		Andy K.	
Treasurer's report		Janet B.	
Delegate		Dave R.	
Alt. Delegate		Sheri P.	
Alt. Chair		Darin H.	
State Conference Chair		Josh R.	
Accessibilities		Carlos W.	
Al-Anon Liaison		Anissa P.	
Chronicler		Bridget B.	
Corrections		Christian E.	
Cooperation w/Professional Community		Ed M.	
Grapefree Press		Molly M.	
Grapevine		Dawn M.S.	
Literature		Terry L.	
Public Information		J.R. R.	
Registrar		Sandy O.	
Treatment		Cindy L.	
Web		Peter C.	

DCM reports

Old Business:

1. Report from ad hoc committee on prudent reserve and excess funds

Kansas Area 25 Committee Meeting
April 2018 Agenda

2. Report from ad hoc committee on timing and number of Assemblies.
3. Update re: 2019 Assembly/Committee hotel.

New Business:

1. SWRAASA seed money update (Sheri P.)
2. Report and recommendation from Corrections Committee on registered groups in jails and prisons

Upcoming Events

April 13-14, 2018: Area Committee Meeting, Quality Inn, 2110 W. Crawford, Salina, Ks.

April 22-28, 2018: 68th General Service Conference, New York.

July 20-22, 2018: Area Assembly, Quality Inn, 2110 W. Crawford, Salina, KS.

Cut-off date to reserve rooms at group rate: July 13, 2018.

Sept. 14-16, 2018: Kansas State Conference, Hyatt Regency, 400 W. Waterman, Wichita, KS.

October 5-7, 2018: Southwest Regional A.A. Service Assembly (SWRAASA), Branson, Mo.

Information at <http://swraasa2018.org/>

Oct. 19-20, 2018: Area Committee Meeting, Quality Inn, 2110 W. Crawford, Salina, Ks.

January 18-20, 2019: Area Assembly, Salina.

April 13, 2019: Area Committee Meeting, Salina.

April 28-May 4, 2019: General Service Conference, New York.

July 19-21, 2019: Area Assembly, Salina.

October 11-13, 2019: Southwest Regional Forum, Houston.

October 19, 2019: Area Committee Meeting, Salina.

July 2-5, 2020: A.A. International Convention, Detroit, Michigan.

KANSAS AREA

24th Annual **CORRECTIONS CONFERENCE**

MARCH 24TH, 2018

Range Hall at Lansing Correctional Facility

301 E Kansas Ave, Lansing, KS 66043

9am - 10 *Donuts, Coffee, Fellowship and Registration*

10am - 10:30 *Welcome by the Area Chair*

10:30am - 11:15 *Speaker*

11:20am - 11:45 *Speaker*

12pm - 1 *Lunch*

1pm - 1:45 *Panel of Inmates*

2pm - 2:45 *Speaker*

2:45pm - 3 *Closing*

**RAFFLE &
LUNCH**

*Pulled Pork, Brisket,
Sides, and Desserts*

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS

Contact Melissa B. 9135680729

- or -

Email: KScorrectionsconference2018@gmail.com

Please RSVP

