

GRAPE FREE PRESS

Area 25 Kansas
Winter 2018
Issue 4 / Vol 58

AREA ASSEMBLY

New Location!

January 18-20

Hilton Garden Inn
3320 S 9th St.
Salina, KS
(785) 309-0440

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Chair Reports
- Committee Meeting Agenda

ORDER GFP

Visit ks-aa.org to order copies for your districts or groups

WANT TO SUBMIT CONTENT??

The GFP is looking for AA member stories, birthdays, memorials, events, art, and comics. Email submissions to gfp@ks-aa.org by March 1st, 2019 to get your entries into the Spring issue.

District 10: NE Johnson County's new location!

THE TWELVE STEPS

- 1. We admitted we were powerless over alcohol—that our lives had become unmanageable.**
- 2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.**
- 3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.**
- 4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.**
- 5. Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.**
- 6. Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.**
- 7. Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.**
- 8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.**
- 9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.**
- 10. Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.**
- 11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.**
- 12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.**

THE TWELVE TRADITIONS

- 1. Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.**
- 2. For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.**
- 3. The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.**
- 4. Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.**
- 5. Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.**
- 6. An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.**
- 7. Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.**
- 8. Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.**
- 9. A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.**
- 10. Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy.**
- 11. Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.**
- 12. Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.**

CONTACTS

Delegate	David R. - delegate@ks-aa.org
Alt. Delegate	Sheri P. - altdelegate@ks-aa.org
Area Chair	John R. - chairperson@ks-aa.org
Alt. Chair	Darin H. - altchairperson@ks-aa.org
Secretary	Andy K. - secretary@ks-aa.org
Treasurer	Dennis G. - treasurer@ks-aa.org
Accessabilities	Carols W. - accessibilities@ks-aa.org
Alanon Liason	Anissa P. - alanon@ks-aa.org
Chronicler	Bridget B. - chronicler@ks-aa.org
Corrections	Christian E. - corrections@ks-aa.org
CPC	Lori C. - cpc@ks-aa.org
Grapevine	Dawn M. - grapevine@ks-aa.org
Grape Free Press	Molly M. - gfp@ks-aa.org
Literature	Terry L. - literature@ks-aa.org
Public Information	JR R. - publicinformation@ks-aa.org
Registrar	Sandy O. - registrar@ks-aa.org
Treatment	Cindy L. - treatment@ks-aa.org
Webchair	Peter C. - webchair@ks-aa.org

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BIRTHDAYS & MEMORIALS

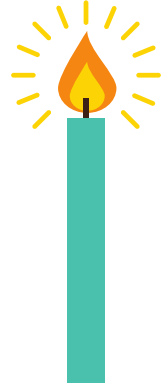


MEMORIALS

Bucky Moore 33 years

District 18 Protection Group

Bucky helped start so many groups in our community. Helped save many lives. He will be missed!



Email all memorials and birthdays to gfp@ks-aa.org

* Birthdays should be submitted after they occur.

AREA 25 NEWS AND UPDATES



- New treasurer: Dennis G.
- New Assembly Location:

Hilton Garden Inn
3320 S 9th St.
Salina, KS

DELEGATE

Hello, Area 25!

1) At the Area Committee meeting in October, we divided into small groups and brainstormed ideas for the theme for the 2020 General Service Conference. This is something the Conference asked for – that delegates seek ideas from their areas.

We had a lot of fun with this, and then gathered as a committee of the whole to select 3 top choices. Here they are:

Theme for the 70th General Service Conference

1. 2020: A Clear Vision For You
2. Moving Into the Future With Singleness of Purpose
3. Unity In a Divided World

Along with a theme, we brainstormed possible presentation topics related to the themes, and then ideas for general workshops. The **presentation topics** that corresponded to the above 3 Themes were:

- 1: A. Attracting Generation 2. B. Spirituality for Gen 2 C. Keeping AA Relevant
- 2: A. Singleness of Purpose B. Engaging Absent Members/Groups C. Embracing Tech while Protecting Anonymity
- 3: Using Steps, Traditions, & Concepts to Avoid Polarization

And finally, we had these **workshop topics**:

- GSR Training
- Making AA a Safe Place for the Next Generation
- Connecting Groups to the A. A. Service Structure

Great ideas, and of course, all appropriate for anyone to use at group, district and area events.

2) I have traveled to 35-40 events as your delegate – reports, inventories, speaking, etc. I have spent my entire budget doing so, and I am very appreciative of your support as I couldn't have done this otherwise.

3) In 2019, the Conference will be a month late – May 19-25. I come back on Memorial Day weekend. This puts a bit of a time crunch for getting delegate reports scheduled, so I encourage everyone to start working on those dates now. I didn't get to report to all 28 districts as some didn't schedule it. Can we increase the participation in 2019?

4) This late GSC date also means there will be a longer stretch between the release of the Final Agenda and the start of the conference. Our Alternate Delegate did a great job designing and conducting the Mock Conference in April this year. However, that event had limited participation. Please consider holding "Mini-Mock Conferences" throughout the state, where a limited number of items would be considered – maybe only 3-4. Getting larger numbers of members to participate means more of the true voice of the Area will be heard by me, and thus I'll be better informed.

AREA CHAIR

Greetings trusted servants

They say in A.A. service that once you've finally figured out how to do your job, you rotate out. Since I'm halfway through my rotation as your Area Chair, I guess that means I'm half-good at my job? (I'm not sure that's how that works—I'll have to think about that a bit.)

Joking aside, I'm honored to have the opportunity to serve and I can't believe how quickly the time has gone by. I'm also looking forward to meeting all of the new GSRs and DCMs that are beginning their rotation this January, and I'd like to encourage everyone who has been at this for a while to mentor and share their experience with the newcomers to service.

The Area will discuss the 2019 budget in January—the budget committee has sought to find a balance between being responsible fiduciaries of the Area's financial assets while also heeding the warning in Tradition Seven against accumulating “funds for no stated A.A. purpose.” The Area's bank account balance has increased every year since KASO shut down, and the balance between hoarding versus a spending spree is one that the budget committee has taken seriously.

We will be electing an Alternate Treasurer and Alternate Secretary. Our Area 25 Treasurer had to step down for personal reasons; therefore the Alternate, Dennis G., will fulfill the remainder of that rotation, and the Area will elect a new Alternate Treasurer in January. (See Section 3 of the Area Service Guidelines.) Also, our Alternate Secretary has also had to step down and his position will need to be filled. Please join me in thanking Janet B. and Bruce S. for their service.

Please spread the word to your districts and groups, if anyone is interested in Area Service please encourage them to show up to the January Assembly.

I look forward to seeing everyone in January as we come together to make it possible for the groups in Area 25 to help those still suffering alcoholics.

Yours in Service
Jon R.

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 had the pleasure to go to the Southwest Regional Delegate Assembly in Oklahoma City in March and had an incredible experience being able to work with other officers, current and past trustees, current and past delegates and alternate delegates all over the Southwest Region. There were a lot of workshops and presentations during the weekend. We did a mock General Service Conference that weekend and on Sunday had business proceedings. The alternate delegates met on Saturday for lunch and we covered Southwest Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (SWRAASA) 2018. We're looking at more translation equipment and also considered the use of a cell phone translation app to go along with that. Everything seems to be on track and going very well. Would you talk about the seed money and the financials that go into a SWRAASA Conference? We are also responsible for finding five topics and having five different people from our area present in October at the Southwest Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly in Branson, Missouri:

- Dave R. will present sponsorship
- Cherie H. will present Tradition 11
- Bridget will present archives
- JR will present accessibility
- Carol R. will present singleness of purpose

There are flyers available. It's a great opportunity to work with others in the Southwest Region. I would like to thank all the people that I have asked to present for her.

They also did an update for the Southwest Regional Forum in 2019 that will be held in Houston. They elected a new alternate delegate chair and a secretary for 2019. I was elected to the alternate delegate chair position and Bill from New Mexico was elected the secretary.

Thank you!

Sherri P.



ACCESSIBILITIES



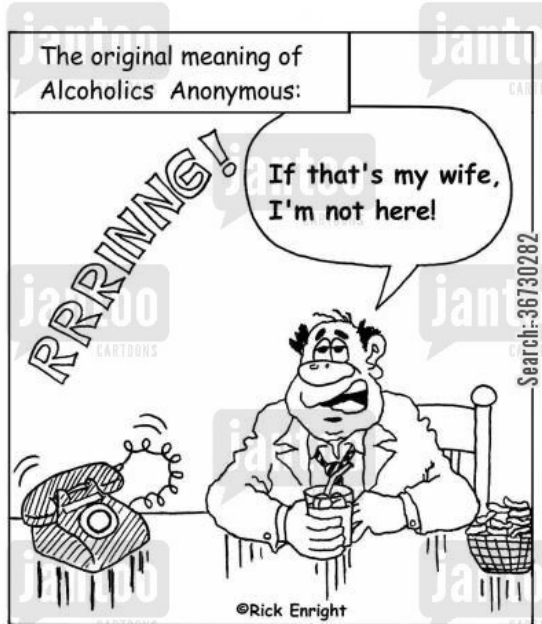
In our meeting today, we were more focused on the problems with hard of hearing people in the groups. District 19 has been very active in this part they're found some solutions they have been shopping around for devices to help such as a Bluetooth microphone that would go around so that people could hear the speaker the prices of these range from 50 to \$320, and it would be the decision of the group to purchase such equipment and they would have the option to let other groups use the equipment with someone being responsible for it. We also talked about wheelchair accessible groups and letting people know what groups are wheelchair accessible and if their bathrooms are wheelchair accessible.

There has been contact with Kansas School for the Deaf they have contacted central office to see if they had any resources available for American Sign Language. We need to find out if there's any people in our groups that are knowledgeable with American Sign Language. And, if people that need these are going to be at the meetings when they are scheduled to be there.

Talked about the meetings online and in writing for people that are unable to make it to meetings. There was a meeting at the VA in Wichita that was created.

AL-ANON LIASON

- There are some flyers for Al-Anon state conference on June 8-10 in Park City, registration \$20, Paula from Joplin will be the AA speaker
 - Al-Anon international in Baltimore, Maryland July 6-8
 - Al-Anon area assembly in Salina May 4-6
- Thank you for letting me serve



GREAT MOMENTS IN A HISTORY



CHRONICLER

Hello Area 25!

We have been busy over the last 3 months. District 5 reported that they have provided to group history form to active groups within their district as well as the inventory showing the last time groups have completed a history. District 26 plans on passing out the information for the group histories at their next district meeting. At this point all DCMs with valid emails have been mailed a copy of the new group history forms. There are some minutes from Area Assemblies and Committee Meetings missing from our inventory so we are trying to trace these down.

The new group history form has been translated into Spanish and we will be talking to the WebMaster about getting both forms uploaded to the website.

For 2019 our project will focus on getting the cassette tapes of Assembly minutes converted into digital format.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service
Bridget B.

Live and let live!

CORRECTIONS

Greetings from the Area 25 Corrections Desk! It remains a pleasure to serve as the Area 25 Corrections Chair. I am refreshed and invigorated after an incredible experience at the National Corrections Conference in Portland Maine! I am happy to share that I was able to share Area 25's experience, strength and hope with Correctional Enthusiasts from all over these United States. It was a memorable weekend for all who attended and I look forward to putting in a bid to host the National Corrections Conference in Kansas in the very near future. The 2019 National Corrections Conference will take place next November in Chicago Illinois.

Area 25 Corrections Conference: The annual Area 25 Corrections Conference will be returning to Salina this coming March and we are all looking forward to another great day of food, fun and fellowship this spring.

Yellow Can Fund: The Yellow Can Fund is entirely for providing conference approved literature for our members behind the walls of correctional institutions. I am pleased to report that the Yellow Can Fund had another solid quarter of contributions and has already provided almost **\$22,000** in AA literature to groups behind the walls in 2018. Keep it coming!!! Contributions have been amazing and we are on pace to collect more yellow can fund donation in 2018 than in any previous year.

We completed a thorough audit of the yellow can fund at the October Committee meetings and I am happy to report that the Yellow Can Fund has been operating efficiently and in accordance with area guidelines. As always, we appreciate any feedback on how the Yellow Can Program might be improved to better serve the A.A. the Alcoholics Anonymous community on both sides of the walls.

*Please include Group Name, Group #, District # on Yellow Can contribution checks.

The Yellow Can Fund mailing address is:

Yellow Can Fund
PO BOX 23117
Overland Park, KS 66283

When ordering corrections Yellow Can literature please contact Christian E. by phone or text message to verify order details

Christian E.,
Corrections Chair
corrections@ks-aa.org
(913) 710-8169



I have some good news and some bad news. The good news is, the judge ruled court orderd AA is inhumane. The bad news is, he reduced your sentence to waterboarding.

CPC

We had 3 members from 3 Districts. Discussed the progress of getting the "Letter to the Health Care Professionals" (F-210) into members' hands. I had positive responses when I handed them out at meetings when I explained to members what the purpose of the letter was. Brought 500 copies of the letter in January and took home 350. We need to do our best to give every member at least one copy to give to their doctor. Don't forget there is a Spanish version.

Getting in touch with companies through EAP and Human Resources. What is best policy and pamphlets to use? "Is There an Alcoholic in the Workplace" (P54) is one of the pamphlets. We also have the chapter "To Employer" with a cover page titled "What About the Alcoholic Employee?" that has been made into booklet form. How can we best work with the courts? What are some of the courts in your area? Drug Courts? VA Courts? Johnson County has a Veterans Court that we will be looking into. Are there Veterans Administration offices, health clinics, or hospitals that we can contact? Districts 9 and 10 created a list of volunteers that are working with the KU hospital transplant program.

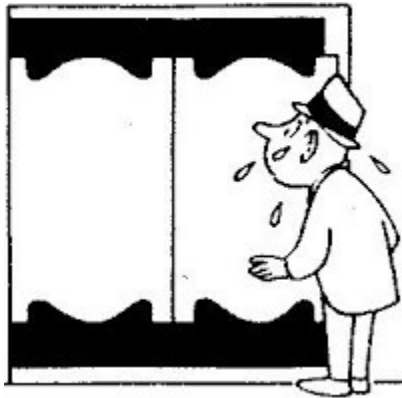
Was involved in the Health Fair at Kansas City, Kansas, Community College on April 10.

District 5 is talking to members to get them more involved. District 10 is working on making connections with Fire Departments and EMS. I am hoping to make it to the Bridging the Gap Conference in Denver September

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If you or someone you know has a story, picture of your AA hall, birthday, memorial or idea please email to gfp@kansas-aa.org.

- Molly M., GFP Chair



GRAPEVINE

- There were 6 people in attendance from 5 different districts
- Willing to come to district meetings with Grapevine. July, Overland Park, Hunters Ridge and Topeka area banquet, state conference will have subscription raffles for grapevine
- Get subscriptions for 1st year birthday, corrections, doctors offices
- Area workshop- read/write/how to speak
- Available phone in submission

LITERATURE

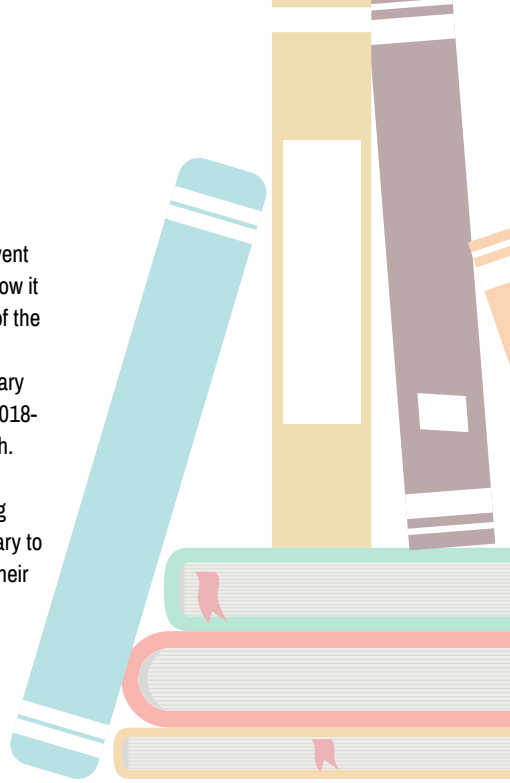
At the Area Committee meeting in Salina in October, we went over the 2018 literature catalog from GSO and reviewed how it was organized and how to make orders, etc. Nearly 100 of the catalogs were passed out and the 2019 literature catalogs should be out soon and I will try to bring those to the January meeting of the Area Assembly. I should also have more 2018-2020 service manuals by then and they will sell for \$3 each.

Hopefully GSO will have some in Spanish also by then.

Literature catalogs are free. In any event, I will try to bring whatever catalogs and manuals are available in mid January to the Assembly so that DCM's and GSR's can stock up for their districts and groups. Hope to see you all then.

Thanks for the opportunity to serve,

Terry L., Area 25 Literature Chair.



PUBLIC INFORMATION

Discussed how do people find us online? Siri, Google or anything Search engine. Tim talked about a fellow in a meeting that said this is where Siri sent him. One goal for July is to figure out how this happens and the chain of communication from meetings to district to area. But still be able to continue to do what we do now. AA flyers at the gas stations, grocery store etc

Thank you for letting me serve

- JR R., PI Chair

REGISTRAR



Thank you all for your updates; the use of the change form is very appreciated!. Our Roster does not show anything but the alternate GSR's name, phone number, and e-mail. GSO still needs the full address; please put your full info on forms. Thank you all for your help

Sandy O. Registrar Chair



TREATMENT

We discussed several different topics, BTG (Bridging the Gap), sponsorship and carrying the message to Treatment Centers.

I attended the BTG Workshop Weekend in Denver and gathered a lot of information that I was able to share. It is a process that starts with Treatment Centers being willing to talk and implement the program. If Treatment Centers are willing to do this, they get the person information before they are released and it sends it to BTG and from there, the information is sent to whatever Area they will be going to. From there, the Treatment Chair receives an email with the information and contacts someone in the District to make contact with them before they are released. We will be discussing this topic more at Area Assembly in January.

Questions were brought up about sponsorship and how to sponsor people that the age difference is significant. Was shared it doesn't matter the age difference, we just give away what's been given to us. Sometimes we might be a "temporary" sponsor, but we continue to carry the message and get them started on the steps.

Shared some BTG handouts that Utah is using. Each Area comes up with how they do BTG, as it varies from state to state, but the overall goal is to make contact and get them to a meeting and introduce them to others in the fellowship as soon as they are released. This doesn't mean we are sponsoring them, we introduce them and then step back and let them make decisions.

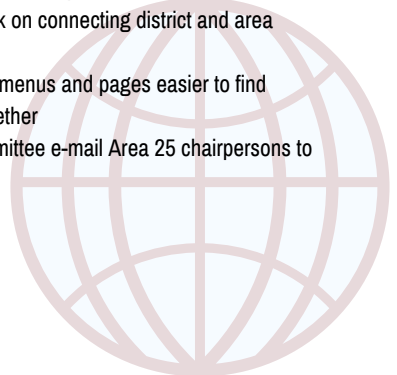
Cindy L.
Area 25 Treatment Chair

WEBCHAIR

- 5 in attendance from 2 districts
- We have 847 e-mails active in mailchimp; you can sign up under email on area website
- Committee reviewed some bullet points from last committee meeting; look to get search bar on homepage; figure out naming convention for files; how we want to keep and handle files on site; create some hot buttons for GFP, agenda and guidelines; work on connecting district and area website for meeting app.
- New Items: look into restructuring website navigation, making menus and pages easier to find
- Look into how web chair and chronicler/archivist can work together
- Remember if you have suggestions or questions use the committee e-mail Area 25 chairpersons to the right person.

Thank you

Peter C.



MEMBER STORIES

Dave's Dragon by Dave M.



My dragon is there when I wake up in the morning. He tells me its okay to doze awhile. Why do I need to go to A.A. at 6:00 a.m. anyway? Later in the day is better—if I have time.

He sits on the bathroom counter while I get dressed. He's about the size of a four year old child, yellow (my favorite color), wearing a really cool hat and cheerfully holding a cocktail. His idea for the day is that we go to the nearby 24-hour convenience store, buy a pint and drive around for awhile. You know, just cruise. Later, I can text in sick to work and come home and sleep. That would be a lot more fun than going to A.A. and then to work.

About 5:30 a.m. I get in the car. He sits beside me in the passenger seat, still chattering playfully. At the intersection he wants me to turn left, to the convenience store. I go right, to A.A. Funny, things that used to sound so good to me now look like felonies.

Parked in front of the A.A. hall, he's not so chipper. He won't go in. He doesn't think I need to either. He says I'm not an alcoholic like those people. I'm better than them. I've never been to jail because of my alcoholism. But I know just because I don't have a vehicular manslaughter conviction, doesn't mean I don't have a problem.

In the meeting we meditate and pray. I take the first step which is to recognize my dragon and admit I'm powerless to defeat him alone. Others express themselves and I learn from them. We're a group of people who want the best for each other. We pray again at the end.

When I get back in the car he's shriveled up into a little ball. This also happens after I've been to see my sponsor who my dragon thinks is an old fool. The dragon won't even get in the car when I go to church. As I go about my daily business he gradually regains his shape, only now he's a tiny bit smaller. My dragon wants it to be like it was, when he was bigger, more important. He wants to be the size he was a year ago when he dominated my life. Then, he was so big there wasn't room for me in my house, my marriage, or my job. He had taken over my life and, instead of a cute little playmate, had become the Red Dragon of the Apocalypse.

New Year's Day is my birthday. One year sober! A new record! My dragon will always be with me, but diminishes in size and importance each day I can maintain sobriety.

Kansas Area 25 Assembly
January 2019 Agenda

Our Big Book – 80 Years, 71 Languages

January 18-20, 2019

Note: New venue

Hilton Garden Inn, 3320 S. 9th St., Salina, KS (785) 309-0440

Friday, January 18 (travel day, optional activity)
7:30 p.m. Literature workshop Terry L., Literature Chair

Saturday, January 19
8:30 – 9 am KAAAAI Board Meeting

9:30-10:30 am DCM Orientation and sharing session
GSR Orientation and sharing session

11 am - noon Committee Meetings

<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	Lori C.
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.
Treatment	1, 7, 14	Cindy L.
Web	12, 15	Peter C.

12 pm – 1:30 pm LUNCH BREAK

1:30 – 2:50 pm Committee and DCM reports

Accessibilities	Carlos W.
Al-Anon Liaison	Anissa P.
Chronicler	Bridget B.
Corrections	Christian E.
Cooperation w/Professional Community	Lori C.
Grapefree Press	Molly M.
Grapevine	Dawn M.S.
Literature	Terry L.
Public Information	J.R. R.
Treatment	Cindy L.
Web	Peter C.

DCM reports

Note: Please provide estimate of voting members from each district and written copies of the report

3 – 3:50 pm Presentation and discussion of proposed 2018 budget

4-4:30 pm General sharing session & ask-it basket

Kansas Area 25 Assembly
January 2019 Agenda

4:30 – 6:30 pm **DINNER BREAK**

7 pm Grapevine Workshop Dawn M.S., Grapevine Chair

Sunday, January 20, 2018

8:30 – 11:30 am	Closed Business Meeting	
	Opening of Assembly	Jon R.
	Roll Call	Darin H.
	Secretary Report	Andy K.
	Treasurers Report	Dennis G.
	KAAAI Board Report	Jim H.
	Delegate Report	Dave R.
	Alt. Delegate Report	Sheri P.
	Alt. Area Chair Report	Darrin H.
	2019 State Conference Report	Nathan N.

Old Business:

1. (Non-voting item) discussion; ad hoc committee re: 3 Assemblies.

New Business:

1. Elect Alternate Treasurer
2. Elect Alternate Secretary
3. 2019 budget
4. Request from Accessibilities for approximately \$2200 to purchase 25 headsets to update and expand the Spanish translation capabilities.
5. Request to approximately \$2300 on portable steps, traditions, and concepts displays in Spanish and English.

Upcoming Events

April 13, 2019: Area Committee Meetings, Salina.

May 19-25, 2019: General Service Conference, New York.

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

September 20-22, 2019: Area 25 State Conference, Wichita.

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

October 19, 2019: Area Committee Meetings, Salina.



Northeast Johnson County - new location!
 8720 Grant Street, Overland Park, KS 66212

The Promises

If we are painstaking about this phase of our development, we will be amazed before we are half way through. We are going to know a new freedom and a new happiness. We will not regret the past nor wish to shut the door on it. We will comprehend the word serenity and we will know peace. No matter how far down the scale we have gone, we will see how our experience can benefit others. That feeling of uselessness and self-pity will disappear. We will lose interest in selfish things and gain interest in our fellows. Self-seeking will slip away. Our whole attitude and outlook upon life will change. Fear of people and of economic insecurity will leave us. We will intuitively know how to handle situations which used to baffle us. We will suddenly realize that God is doing for us what we could not do for ourselves.

Area 25 Kansas AA | www.ks-aa.org