

# Spirit of Service



## Greetings from the Chair

Welcome to *Spirit of Service*, the North Florida Area Conference newsletter designed to inform and share service information in Area 14.

Our next quarterly assembly will be upon us quickly July 8-10 at the Sheraton Orlando North. I look forward to seeing everyone there. Please make your hotel room reservation by June 15 to secure the NFAC room block rate.

As you know, most of the sessions at assemblies over the past two years have been virtual or hybrid. For the upcoming July assembly, our workshops, committee meetings, and speaker meetings will return to in-person sessions only.

However, to make sure no group's voice is left out, our Sunday morning business meeting and the Saturday afternoon delegate's post-conference report will be hybrid, in person and online.

With Area 14 officer elections for Panel 73 just one assembly away, it's

important to note that the July assembly is the first opportunity for those who wish to stand for an elected position to announce your intention and present your service resume to the assembly.

See our special Panel 73 elections preview on page 3 and 4 for more an overview of elected and appointed service positions. For more detail, visit the Panel 73 Elections Information documents on the "[Area and AA News](#)" page of our website.

Although we of Panel 71 have turned a corner and are headed toward our final two assemblies, the work continues. This panel has truly been one of embracing change on many fronts.

Please come and raise your group's or district's voice as we trudge this road of service together. See you in July.

**Lori P, Area 14 Chair**  
[chairperson@aanorthflorida.org](mailto:chairperson@aanorthflorida.org)

## Come prepared

### Tabled Motion Coming to the Floor, Business Meeting, Sunday, July 10

[Summary] Change to Structures and Guidelines: Allow the Special Reports and the Service Coordinator Reports as well as the next day's motions to be read at a combined meeting of the DCMs and the GSRs on Saturday instead of the Sunday morning business meeting. This should help to shorten the Sunday meeting and create a more relaxed atmosphere for the body to consider the business of the day on Sunday.

For more detail on all passed and tabled motions, please visit the password protected section of [www.aanorthflorida.org](http://www.aanorthflorida.org). Ask your DCM for user ID and password or email: [webchair@aanorthflorida.org](mailto:webchair@aanorthflorida.org)

## Reserve your assembly hotel room by June 15

The cut-off date for reservations under the NFAC room block rate at the host hotel is June 15. Reserve now!

[Hotel Reservation Link](#)

## Post-Conference Report Area 14 Delegate

### In person & virtual

**Saturday, July 9, 4:30-6:30 pm**

See page 2 for more details about the in-person and virtual meeting

Visit [www.aanorthflorida.org](http://www.aanorthflorida.org) for the full agenda and other information about participating in area assembly.

## AREA 14 ASSEMBLY

**July 8-10, 2022**

Sheraton Orlando North Hotel  
 600 North Lake Destiny Road  
 Maitland, FL 32751

### Highlights

**Registration** Friday, 6—8 pm; Saturday, 8 am—4:15 pm; Sunday, 8—8:45 am

**Discussion Meeting** Friday, 8:00 pm

**Grapevine and Archives Rooms**  
 Saturday, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

**GSR Orientation** Saturday, 9:00 am

**Officers, Panel, DCM meeting** Saturday 9:00 am

**Service Workshops & Committee Meetings** Saturday, 10:00 and 11:15 am; 12:30, 1:30, and 2:45 pm

**Lunch with the Delegate** Saturday 12:30 pm

**Linguistic District** Saturday 12:30 pm

**Ask the Officers** Saturday 1:30 pm

**Delegates' Post-Conference Report** Saturday, 4:30 pm, in person and virtual

**Speaker Meeting** Saturday 8:00 pm, hosted by District 6 with Jeff R of St Augustine sharing his experience in general service at the group, district, and area levels.

**Business Meeting** Sunday, 9:00 am. In person & Virtual. You must be in your seat, physical or virtual, at 9:00 am to be eligible to vote.

Please review the previous meeting's minutes in advance on the password protected section at [www.aanorthflorida.org](http://www.aanorthflorida.org). Ask your DCM for user ID & password or email: [webchair@aanorthflorida.org](mailto:webchair@aanorthflorida.org)

Visit [www.aanorthflorida.org](http://www.aanorthflorida.org) for the full agenda, virtual meeting details, first-timer tips, and more.

# Delegate's Corner

As many of you know, I recently attended the General Service Conference in New York, representing Area 14's voice and carrying your vote on agenda items. It was quite a week, with meetings starting at 7:30 in the morning and sometimes going until 11:00 at night.

I heard and learned so many things, and I really wish I could share everything with you. Hopefully, you can attend one of my post-conference workshops around the area or at our July assembly.

Until then, I'd like to share some of my favorite things I heard that week at conference—things that touched me, things that made a huge impression on me, and things that made me change the angle from which I looked at some current topics being discussed around the rooms.

I'll start with my absolute favorite thing I heard. My eyes teared up the first time I heard it—and many times since. This is a quote from a Class A Trustee, Judge Nancy McCarthy. Nancy is not an alcoholic, yet she gave us six years of her life, voluntarily serving on our behalf. She was a trusted advisor to us on all matters regarding the courts and judicial system.

Nancy has a member in her family, who referred her to the General Service Board when there was an opening for a trustee. She told us how much she really wanted to be selected and how excited she was when they notified her that she had gotten the position.

Can you imagine someone who is not an alcoholic wanting so badly to serve us? That in and of itself really touched me. But what made me cry was when she said, "Service is what prayer looks like when it gets up off its knees and walks around the world."

I loved the idea that we are all prayer in action whenever we are serving others. As Dr. Bob said in his farewell talk, "Our 12 steps, when simmered down to the last, resolve them-

selves into the words 'love' and 'service.' So let's bear those two things in mind."

How about this memorable comment heard at conference?

*"If you have a home group, you are part of the General Service Conference, whether or not you came to the annual GSC meeting in April."*

I love that this stresses the importance of having a home group and expressing your voice and vote there, so that you can contribute to the decision-making for AA as a whole.

Since we have elections coming up in the fall, here's a very pertinent remark from the conference.

*"When choosing servant leaders, am I choosing those like me, or am I choosing a member who can bring new and diverse ideas to servant leadership in AA?"*

With all the hubbub over the preamble change, how about this one?

*"We all want to believe that we are inclusive in our minds and our hearts, but can we say that we are inclusive in our actions?"*

And this one.

*"As a fellowship, we should be trying to open the door for people in the future—and they may have a different idea of what an invitation looks like."*

As Bill said in his last message to the fellowship, "AA must and will continue to change with the passing years. We cannot, nor should we, turn back the clock."

Finally, when AA in Poland reached out for more materials recently, they said, "With all the death we're hearing about from Ukrainian refugees pouring across our borders, we want to try to prevent more death."

I don't think it gets any clearer than that, do you? We are, after all, in the business of saving lives. Thank you for doing your part.

**Ruth R, Area 14 Delegate**  
[delegate@aanorthflorida.org](mailto:delegate@aanorthflorida.org)

## Delegate's Post-Conference Report Event Schedule

**ORLANDO** Saturday, June 18, 2022, 10 am-noon, St Stephens Church, 2140 W State Rd 434, Longwood

**SPACE COAST** Saturday, June 25, 11am-1pm, St John's Church, 610 Young St, Melbourne

**OCALA/HYBRID** Sunday, June 26, 1-3 pm, Unity Place, 525 NE Sanchez, Ocala. Zoom ID: 842 7812 4669, Password: Gratitude

**AREA ASSEMBLY** Saturday, July 9, 4:30-6:00 pm, in person and virtual.

**In person:** Sheraton Orlando North Hotel, Oscar Wilde I meeting room

**Zoom ID:** 857 1434 7210

Zoom Password: area14

**Dial-in:** (301) 715-8592

Phone Passcode: 934973

## Area 14 North Florida Come Celebrate Service with Us

### Every Wednesday Online

Session 6:00 pm EST

Hospitality 5:45 pm EST

♦ **June 15** Southern States AA Service Assembly, Introduction

♦ **June 22** Ask the Panel: Looking to the Future

♦ **June 29** Ask the Panel: A Glimpse at Area Service

**Zoom meeting ID:** 828 5682 4762

Zoom passcode: service

**By phone:** 646 558-8656

Phone password: 8865328

Updates at [www.aanorthflorida.org](http://www.aanorthflorida.org)

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The Area 14 Newsletter will be sent only to those who have opted to receive emails from NFAC. Make sure you're on the list.

# July Workshops & Sessions Previews

## Observe, Learn, Participate

### SPECIAL NOTE

At the July assembly most workshops, committee meetings, and speaker meetings will return to in-person sessions only.

However, the Saturday afternoon delegate's post-conference report and the Sunday morning business meeting will be hybrid meetings accessible both in person and online. Please re-confirm times and Zoom information on the "[Assembly Agenda](#)" page of [www.aanorthflorida.org](http://www.aanorthflorida.org).

### Accessibilities, 1:30 pm

Review the results from the General Service Conference. Share information from the All Access Virtual Meetings. Evaluate the Area 14 accessibilities pamphlet that was distributed in April and can be accessed at <https://aanorthflorida.org/documents.asp>

### Archives, 11:15 am

Gather district histories and talk about the National AA Archives Workshop (NAAAW) to be held in September.

### Concepts Workshop, 11:15 am

Discuss Concepts 7, 8, and 9.

### Cooperation with the Professional Community, 1:30 pm

Discuss attendance at one of two statewide health conferences coming this year. Come and hear the details.

### Corrections, 10:00 am

Several corrections speakers will share best practices for getting the AA message into corrections institutions. Discuss the new corrections information brought by our delegate.

### Ask the Officers, 1:30 pm

Thinking about standing for a Panel 73 elected position for 2023-2024? Meet with our officers to ask the hard questions about the jobs they hold and see if the position is right for you.

### Finance Committee, 2:45 pm

Review 2023 North Florida Area Conference budget.

## Saturday, July 9

### GSR Orientation, 9:00 am

An introduction to the responsibilities of a GSR.

### Grapevine/La Vina, 10:00 am

Discuss results of the General Service Conference. Share *Grapevine/La Vina* news and a little about the upcoming election. Hear sharing from district *Grapevine/La Vina* committees.

### Growth, 2:45 pm

Continue to explore ways to best assist members with an understanding of the motion process and all other business duties provided the committee by Structures and Guidelines

### Intergroup, 1:30 pm

Briefly review challenges and roadblocks that have been discussed in the past and create a service piece that all Intergroups in the area can collectively use, if they wish, to generate strength and cooperation between themselves and general service in Area 14.

### Linguistic District, 12:30 pm

Review of the newly published *Our Great Responsibility, A selection of Bill W.'s General Service Conference talks from 1951 to 1970*.

### Lunch with the Delegate, 12:30 pm

Bring your lunch and hear our Delegate talk about what it was like to represent Area 14 at the General Service Conference, what she saw, felt, and heard. Time permitting, we'll get deeper into details of why the conference voted the way it did on issues of interest to you.

### NFAC Florida State Convention Oversight Committee, 11:15 am

Please attend if you have interest in participating with the Florida State Convention process or being of service.

## Plan your schedule now

### General Service Conference, Post-Conference Report, 4:30 pm

Area 14 Delegate presents detailed information from the April 2022 General Service Conference, including how the conference voted on key issues. In person and virtual.

### Officer, Panel, DCM Meeting 9:00 am

### Public Information, 10:00 am

A continuation of what public information "is" and what it "isn't."

### Site & Agenda, 2:45 pm

Discuss the results of the nine hotel bid request packets sent for the 2025-26 year. Create a directory of bids for the Site and Agenda Committee of 2023 to use in its hotel selection process for 2025-26 assemblies.

### Technology, 10:00 am

Sharing and discussion of how free communication tools from GSO, Area 14, and other sources are working. Cover Fellowship Connection for group and district information management, as well as Technology in AA Forums for exchange of ideas. Open session up for further sharing, questions, and ideas.

### Treatment, 11:15 am

Discuss yeas and nays at Area 14 treatment programs. Using the AA treatment guide, review how to set up time with treatment administrators and do some skits on suggestions on what to do when meeting with treatment staff.

### Website, 2:45 pm

Discuss recruitment of volunteers, review audio content to be added to the Area 14 website. Continue to build website content. Webmaster says this is the most events he has ever seen on our website. Also, a short sharing session on Area 14 newsletter, *Spirit of Service*.

# Stand Up for Service Area 14

## Panel 73 Elections & Appointments Preview

Even though the elections for Area 14 officers for 2023-2024 won't occur until the October assembly, now is the time to start considering if you want to stand for an elected office or for one of the appointed service positions.

Here are some tips to help you decide.

- Check out the position descriptions on the [Structures and Guidelines](#) section of the area website to see if one interests you, and if you meet the qualifications.
- Discuss your interest with your service sponsor and, if possible, talk to someone who's held the position previously to get a first-person perspective.
- If an elected officer position isn't right for you, consider standing for an appointed position—committee chair, service coordinator, or other service position—all good ways to gain area-level experience and build your service resume. (Note: The chairperson-elect appoints these positions soon after the officer elections.)
- If you intend to stand for an elected officer position, download and complete the [Officer Service Resume](#) form from the "Documents" section of the area website (another good opportunity to enlist your service sponsor's help).
- You'll be asked to announce your intention and read your resume at the July assembly during the Sunday business meeting and submit a copy to the secretary, who will include it in the July meeting minutes.
- If you decide to stand for an appointed service position, download and complete the [Service Coordinator Resume](#) form in the "Documents" section of the area website and submit it to the new Chairperson as soon as possible after the October assembly. You will not be asked to announce your intention or read your resume to the assembly.

### Come prepared and informed to vote

Whether or not you stand for a position, if you're a voting member of the assembly, it's a good idea to familiarize yourself with the Third Legacy Procedure described on page 110 in the new *The AA Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service*. Purchase or read it online at [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)

### More Great Ways to Learn About Service

- **Celebrate Service**, online every Wednesday, see page 2 for details.
- **Ask the Officers**, July Area Assembly, Saturday, 1:30 pm, see page 3 for details.

## Area 14 Officer and Appointed Service Positions

Click on a position name to learn more or visit the "Structures and Guidelines" page at [www.aanorthflorida.org](http://www.aanorthflorida.org)

### Elected Officers

[Qualifications And Duties Of Officers](#)

[Delegate](#)

[Alternate Delegate](#)

[Chairperson](#)

[Alternate Chairperson](#)

[Treasurer](#)

[Registrar](#)

[Secretary](#)

### Appointed Service Positions

[Service Coordinators And Other Service Positions](#)

[Accessibilities](#)

[Archives](#)

[Cooperation with the Professional Community \(CPC\)](#)

[Corrections](#)

[Grapevine/La Vina](#)

[Intergroup](#)

[Literature](#)

[Public Information \(PI\)](#)

[Treatment](#)

[Parliamentarian](#)

[Technology](#)

[Finance](#)

[Website](#)

## The Voices of Experience

On the following page, you'll find excerpts from what current Area 14 elected officers have shared about what's been most rewarding about serving in their positions, something they've learned they didn't know before, and advice for those considering standing for the position.

You'll find the [elected officers complete answers on the area website here](#).

You'll also find answers to same questions from Panel 71 [service coordinators, administrative committee chairs, and other appointed positions here](#).

# Election Preview. In Their Own Words.

The following excerpts are from the more [in-depth responses of current elected officers](#) describing their service experience found on the Area and AA News page of our website. You also find corresponding [responses from current appointed service coordinators, committee chairs and other service positions](#).

## Delegate

Ruth R

### What has been most rewarding?

I wake up every day knowing that I am doing my small part in helping to ensure that AA will be here for many, many years to come.

### What have you learned?

If we want our area, and indeed, our entire fellowship, to continue to grow, we must change with the times and population to ensure that all feel welcome—both now and in the future. Who better to help us in that regard than our younger, newer, and more diverse members?

### What advice would you share?

If you are considering standing for the position of delegate, and you are qualified to do so, you should stand. If elected, be real—be you! Be willing to learn. Be open to doing things differently than they've been done previously. You can make a difference. But it all starts with going to the microphone and declaring your intention to stand.

## Alternate Delegate

Mary A

### What has been most rewarding?

I quite simply love general service... Hearing the voices of the members from all over the area and having the privilege to be entrusted with carrying that message.

### What have you learned?

The commitment that the members who dedicate themselves to the years of work that go into providing the membership with these amazing fellowship opportunities is astounding.

### What advice would you share?

Do your homework and give prayerful consideration to all that may be asked of you...Be aware that you may be asked to step into the position of Delegate at any time... Be ready to grow spiritually and enjoy the ride!

## Chairperson

Lori P

### What has been most rewarding?

The most rewarding part of my job is seeing our fellowship work together toward our primary purpose—helping the alcoholic who still suffers... I appreciate that our Area has not been afraid to embrace change as difficult as it may have seemed at times.

### What have you learned?

That many times it's not as easy to make a decision as I would have thought it would be. Careful and thoughtful consideration is needed always.

### What advice would you share?

Know the literature. Our *Structures and Guidelines* along with *Advisory Actions* provide a wealth of history of our area and why we do the things the way we do them. Listen intently to suggestions, then make a decision. Read Bill's "Essay on Leadership"—and use it, ever remembering that our trusted servants work for the body.

## Alternate Chairperson

Terri-Lynn S

### What has been most rewarding?

Interacting with the body in terms of asking them to help the area as well as being available to help them with any issues with the hotel.

### What have you learned?

One of the main duties of the Alternate Chair is to be the first voice GSRs hear when attending assembly.

### What advice would you share?

Be prepared to perform many tasks as the alternate chairperson. The list is long.

## Treasurer

Richard C

### What has been most rewarding?

The continual opportunity to give back to a wonderful fellowship. And the ability to remember to stay teachable.

### What have you learned?

That the position has more to it than meets the eye.

### What advice would you share ?

If you don't have financial experience, in the beginning it will be hard, but not impossible provided you ask for help from those before you. Remember to have fun.

## Registrar

Mary P

### What has been most rewarding ?

Being Registrar has allowed me to learn about service at the area level and the area's relationship with AA's General Service Office.

### What have you learned ?

There's so much! Especially how to host the registrar room on Zoom while also doing it in person!

### What advice would you share?

Stay in touch with other registrars...Stay organized. Trust God!

## Secretary

Maureen

### What has been most rewarding?

I collaborated with our registrar to ensure we were doing all we could to have an efficient process for mailing the minutes... saving over \$2,000 per year.

### What have you learned?

I learned about the safeguards we have in place to protect the anonymity of our members: Not using last names in the reports included in the minutes ...

### What advice would you share?

The keys for me were to have willingness to learn and to ask for help. Time management is important since it sometimes takes a few extra days for the minutes to be emailed or mailed out to the body.

## Area 14 Events Mark Your Calendar

**July 8-10, Maitland**  
[NFAC Area Assembly](#)  
[Hotel Reservations Deadline June 15](#)

**August 3-7, Fort Lauderdale**  
[65th Florida State Convention](#)

**September 9-11, Tukwila WA**  
[National AA Technology Workshop](#)

**September 22-25, N. Little Rock**  
[National AA Archives Workshop](#)

**October 7-9, Maitland**  
[NFAC Area Assembly](#)  
[Hotel Reservations Deadline Sep 17](#)

**November 11-13, Chicago area**  
[National Corrections Conference](#)

**December 2-4, New Orleans**  
[Southeast Regional Forum](#)

More at: [www.aanorthflorida.org](http://www.aanorthflorida.org)

## Service Spotlight Intergroup Service Coordinator

My primary purpose in this role is to serve as a liaison between Intergroups and the NFAC, facilitating shared common problems and solutions.

Did you know that Area 14 installed this position, now known as Intergroup Service Coordinator, as a result of the 1991 General Service Conference endorsement that areas should support intergroups?

Prior to this, Area 14 would invite representatives from various intergroups to area assemblies, and there would be only sporadic attendance by them. I have been happy to continue this work of connecting these two very different yet equally essential entities of service.

For anyone who may be considering serving in this position, I would encourage you to do so whether you have intergroup experience or not.

Standing between these two structures that serve Alcoholics Anonymous

has been enlightening. It may require you to think of service from a different angle, or to be softer in your thought process.

Even though there may be a lack of volunteers and the occasional “personality before principles” issues that arise anywhere in service, many who serve Intergroups have an emotional attachment. Many trusted servants of Intergroups speak to still suffering alcoholics daily. Sharing sessions of common problems and solutions are filled with stories of being in the trenches.

For so many in the fellowship, intergroups have held the doors of AA open, and gratefully some of those who have found sobriety have found their niche in general service.

Lyndi J, Area 14 Intergroup Service Coordinator, [intergroup@aanorthflorida.org](mailto:intergroup@aanorthflorida.org)

*“When anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that, I am responsible.”* AA’s Responsibility Statement

## The District Insider. Tell us what’s happening in yours.

The following are excerpts. Complete reports at [www.aanorthflorida.org](http://www.aanorthflorida.org). Want your district featured? Contact: [newsletter@aanorthflorida.org](mailto:newsletter@aanorthflorida.org)

### District 1, Central Duval County

District 1, the first district in the state of Florida, has about 32 groups, with only about 10 having an active GSR. We currently meet virtually only, with about five to 10 people in attendance. Before the pandemic, we met at the intergroup office and once had as many as 18 people in attendance.

In the past few months, we’ve had a sponsorship workshop, with panel of long-timers from the Jacksonville area. It was well attended. We also had a pre-conference workshop where the Area 14 Delegate came and talked about the upcoming agenda items and a post-conference workshop on June 5.

Both of these activities were held at the San Marco Club, located within the District 1 area. We like holding them at San Marco because District 1 ... [READ MORE](#)

### District 14, Alachua County

AA in Gainesville has a history of being centered on service, and this is reflected in support for District 14. We have over 50 active groups, and our district business meetings lately have about 15 to 20 groups represented by their GSRs.

Earlier this year, District 14 and District 7 co-hosted the Area 14 Delegate and Chairperson for a cookout that combined “Dogs with the Delegate, Chips with the Chair” and the pre-conference report. It was held on a lovely Spring day under a pavilion at a local park, and we had about 50 people in attendance. It was wonderful to see our local AA in action again! The Delegate was gracious enough to also give a post-conference report on June 4, where we had bottomless coffee and a continental breakfast ... [READ MORE](#)

### District 19, West Volusia County

District 19 covers most of Volusia County. We meet at the 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational Church in Orange City on the fourth Thursday of the month but have recently had low participation due to COVID. Some groups in our district have had to move because they lost their spot at the church, and some new groups have sprung up.

A former DCM is starting meetings and working to get a club started, all in an effort to get people together again. Our district business meeting is currently hybrid, but about 90% of the meetings are back in person. We’re trying to get back to normal!

We don’t have enough volunteers right now to put on any events like picnics, dinners, etc. However, we did put on the Fourth Annual Unity Under the Stars Campout the third week of ... [READ MORE](#)