

# Spirit of Service



## Greetings from the Chair

Welcome to the final edition for Panel 71 of our Area 14 newsletter, the *Spirit of Service*.

I hope you have found its content informational and inspiring. Our ad hoc committee producing the newsletter has done a bang-up job pulling a professional piece together for NFAC's benefit.

Looking toward October's Assembly please note that our Area 14 Business Meeting will be held on Saturday evening, October 8, with elections following on Sunday morning starting at 9 am.

Please check the Agenda, which will be posted on [aanorthflorida.org](http://aanorthflorida.org) 30 days in advance of assembly. For other details. Also, see "Assembly Highlights" (this page, right) for important information

about election day procedures.

As we start to wrap up Panel 71, it's important to note that we have come a long way together over the past two years. We've experienced pandemic separation while leveraging virtual contact as we continue to trudge the road of happy destiny together.

We have embarked on new ways of doing and thinking as we take one step at a time toward embracing change for today and the future of Area 14. Join me with a deep sense of gratitude in thanking our fellows who have served and continue to serve our area and fellowship.

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

## AREA 14 ASSEMBLY

**October 7-9, 2022**

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

### Assembly Highlights

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

**BUSINESS MEETING** Saturday 7:00 pm. In person and virtual.

**ELECTION MEETING** Sunday 9:00 am

#### In-Person Voting

- Members voting in person must sign in with the Election Registration Desk to confirm your status.
- A "yellow dot" on your badge will signify you are a voting member per *Structures and Guidelines*.
- Only voting members should sit at district tables to help our ballot handlers and counters do their jobs easier and more efficiently.
- Non-voting assembly members will be seated on the perimeter.

#### Virtual Voting

- Members voting virtually must register prior to the meeting.
- Voting members will be assigned to the "election" Zoom room. Others will watch and listen from the "observation room."
- If you are an observer standing for an elected position, inform the observation room host who will enable you to present your resume at the appropriate time.

#### IMPORTANT NOTE

To be eligible to vote, you must be registered and in your seat, physical or virtual, by 7:00 pm for Saturday's business meeting and by 9:00 am for Sunday's elections meeting.

## Notions of Motions

### Tabled motions for consideration at the October Business Meeting.

**From Finance Committee:** Adopt the 2023 budget presented by the Treasurer and published in the July minutes.

### Changes to *Structures & Guidelines*

**From the Secretary:** Change to *Structures and Guidelines*, Site and Agenda Committee, Section 9: Delete the sentence "Manages the A/V needs for Workshops, Panel Members, and the Sunday Business Meeting." (The Technology Committee now does this)

**From Growth Committee:** Change the names and sense of function from "Service Coordinators and Other Positions" to "Committee Chairs and Other Positions."

**From Website Committee:** Integrate the Technology Service Committee, the Web-

site Administrative Committee, and the Website Committee into a single committee to be called the Communications and Technology Committee.

**From Ad Hoc Newsletter Committee:** Establish a permanent Newsletter Service Committee.

**From the Floor:** Treatment Committee to build and maintain a separate website for Bridging the Gap – [btgaanorthflorida.org](http://btgaanorthflorida.org) at a cost of \$179.87 for the first year and \$81.87 for each year thereafter, to be paid for by the Area 14 Treasurer.

**For complete information** on each of the motions, please visit the password protected section of [www.aanorthflorida.org](http://www.aanorthflorida.org).

You'll also find minutes of the July Assembly posted at least 30 days in advance of the October assembly. Please review those in advance as well.

Ask your DCM for user ID and password or email: [webchair@aanorthflorida.org](mailto:webchair@aanorthflorida.org)

# Delegate's Corner

Hello Everyone!

I hope this finds all of you happy and healthy. As we approach the October elections for Panel 73, I find myself reflecting on my time as your delegate to the General Service Conference.

The first year, when I received the background material, I thought to myself, "I can't believe I have to do this for two years!"

I thought there was no way I could manage the workload since I also have a full-time job. I also thought that I hadn't spent enough time working my way down the triangle to be worthy of this position.

I was told many times, "God doesn't call the qualified, he qualifies the called."

I found out quickly that being delegate is a multi-person job—that it takes a village, a village of past delegates and other trusted servants—to do it.

So many folks stepped up to help me that first year. Thank God for them!

Soon I was thinking, "I can't believe I get to do this."

Now, as we approach October, I'm thinking, "I can't believe I only have a few months left."

I've loved every moment of my time as your delegate, and I've learned so much in the process. As much as I believe in the spirit of rotation, I wish I could do this for another year—or two!

So when the time comes, swallow your fears, step up to the mic, and declare your intent to stand for a position. Whatever position you stand for, whether or not you are selected, you will be helping the area, and you will learn and grow from the experience.

I'm so excited for all of you who are either just beginning or continuing this service journey. Enjoy the ride!

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

## Lunch with the Delegate Saturday, October 8

We'll have an open forum discussion on the key issues generating interest and lively debate from various factions in our rooms around the United States and Canada.

These issues include the AA Preamble, an accessible version of the *Big Book*, previous changes to *Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions*, and other hot-button topics.

If you feel strongly—one way or the other—on any of these issues, we'd love you to come and express your opinion.

*"This we owe to AA's future, to place our common welfare first, to keep our fellowship united. For on AA unity depend our lives and the lives of those to come."*

AA's Declaration of Unity

## Area Assembly Scholarship Room Fund

NFAC budget provides for scholarship rooms for members of the assembly belonging to groups unable to support funding their member's Saturday night room charge. Here's an update and partial summary of the guidelines:\*

- The voting requirement has been waived for the October Assembly.
- You must be willing to share a room with another member of the same gender.
- Recipient must inform the Alternate Chair within seven days of the Assembly if unable to attend.
- Applications for October rooms must be received prior to September 14.

The applicant's District DCM should make the request at:

<https://www.aanorthflorida.org/docs/fillable-scholarship-request-form.pdf>

\*See the [Agenda Page](#) of the NFAC website for full Scholarship Guidelines.

## Get ready and informed to vote

Have you ever experienced an election assembly meeting? If so, you know that AA's unique voting procedure can involve fun, drama, excitement, and suspense.

If you're a voting member of the assembly planning to attend in October, now would be a good time to familiarize yourself with our Third Legacy Procedure.

It's described beginning on page 110 in the new *AA Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service*. If you don't already have a copy, you can purchase or read it online at [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)

## Reserve Your Assembly Hotel Room by September 14

The cut-off date for reservations under the NFAC room block rate at the host hotel is September 14. Reserve now!

[Hotel Reservation Link](#)

## Area 14 North Florida Celebrate Service with Us

### Every Wednesday Online

Session 6:00 pm EST

Hospitality 5:45 pm EST

- ♦ **September 7** National Archives Workshop, Joyce C, Past Delegate
- ♦ **September 14** How do we handle our differences? Annette D, Past Delegate
- ♦ **September 21** TBD
- ♦ **September 28** Prep for Assembly I
- ♦ **October 5** Prep for Assembly II
- ♦ **October 12** Assembly debrief

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.

# October Workshops & Sessions Previews

## Observe, Learn, Participate

All sessions will be held in person only unless marked “hybrid.” Please reconfirm times and Zoom information on the “[Assembly Agenda](#)” page of [www.aanorthflorida.org](http://www.aanorthflorida.org)

### Accessibilities

We’re going to talk not only about compliance and rules, but also the right thing to do to help everyone have equal access. Also, ways to reach the professionals who work with these populations. We will share the experience, strength and hope we have gained with topics drawn from “the hat.”

### Archives

We’ll discuss “The History and the Future of the book *Alcoholic Anonymous*” presented by the GSO Archivist. Also, we’ll hear about the National Archives Workshop.

### Archivist

Please check out the most recent Archivist Report, available on the Area and AA News section of the NFAC website. You’ll find there the *Grapevine* information that was shared in the Archivist Report at the assembly.

### Concepts Workshop HYBRID

Discuss Concepts 10, 11, and 12.

### Cooperation with the Professional Community

We will discuss the Tri-District Service Fair held in Melbourne August 20, a tentative service fair being planned for Tallahassee in September, and final preparations for the Florida Society of Addiction Medicine’s Health Conference, October 27-30, 2022, in Orlando.

### Corrections

In this hands-on workshop, we will divide into groups, each of which will review and discuss two pieces of AA corrections literature. Groups will then share their ideas with all participants.

### DCM/Panel Workshop

Voting in Hybrid meetings. Epilogue—taking our panel inventory.

## Saturday, October 8

### Finance Committee HYBRID

Review 2023 North Florida Area Conference budget.

### GSR Workshop HYBRID

We’ll review “Getting into the motion, getting out of the motion,” and most important, how to navigate the process using the Concept of Precedence. After this review, you will feel more comfortable using *Robert’s Rules of Order* at our business meetings. In the remaining time, we’ll practice using a motion to amend on two tabled motions.

### Grapevine/La Vina

We’ll be talking about news from [grapevine.org](http://grapevine.org) and sending in a resume for the *Grapevine* chair for the next panel. And, we’ll also have some fun.

### Growth

With an eye always on the future of the NFAC, this committee monitors and helps manage growth to keep the NFAC as inclusive as possible. Any boundary adjustments are presented to Growth, which gives assistance whenever possible to keep districts active and involved in general service.

### Intergroup

We will review a letter composed for the collective use of Area 14 intergroup offices. With any remaining time, we will assess intergroup and personal service goals.

### Literature

We’ll discuss the Gift of Desperation: from old *Big Book* stories to new pamphlet queries and everything in between followed by sharing of personal experiences with “the gift.”

### Lunch with the Delegate

See page 2, column 3 .

### NFAC Florida State Convention Oversight Committee,

Join us for a report from the 65<sup>th</sup> Florida State convention in Ft Lauderdale. Hear updates from the 66<sup>th</sup> FSC to be held at Saddlebrook (Tampa area) and the bid for the 67<sup>th</sup> FSC to be held in Jackson-

## Plan your schedule now

ville. It’s the time for a 68<sup>th</sup> FSC bid if one is to come from North Florida. Could it be Orlando?

### Public Information,

We’ll be recapping this panel’s seven previous workshops and summarizing for the incoming PI person. Hopefully they will be there.

### Service Manual HYBRID

### Service Sponsorship

Presented by Annette D, Past Delegate.

### Site & Agenda

We will review a new bid packet from the Hilton Daytona Beach Waterfront hotel. We’ll welcome a member from the Ad Hoc Committee on Hybrid Assemblies for a status report.

### Technology

We’ll share on topics from the National AA Technology Workshop, which may include: Concept 12 and Technology, Communication Channels in AA, AAWS and GSO Staff Report and Discussion on Technology, tips and tools for online groups, managing area contacts, what makes a great hybrid experience, key elements and spiritual ingredients of an AA website.

### Treatment

Review videos on young people in AA. What can we do to help young people in AA? Does your district have a young people’s group? How do we carry the message to young people in treatment. What AA literature is available for young people?

### Website HYBRID

Continued discussion of background for the tabled motion considering combining the Website and Technology Committees.

Refer to [Assembly Agenda & Info](#) page of [www.aanorthflorida.org](http://www.aanorthflorida.org) for meeting times, room assignments, and hybrid meeting information. To be posted approximately 30 days in advance of the assembly.

# Stand Up for Service Panel 73

## Elected Officers & Appointed Service Positions

Elections for North Florida Area Conference Panel 73 officers will take place at the October 9, 2022, Area Assembly Sunday meeting.

The previous issue of *Sprit of Service* focused on the elected officer positions. You can access detailed information about the duties and requirements for those positions in the "Area and AA News" section of the NFAC website under Area 14 News, Panel 73 Elections Information.

This issue of the newsletter focuses on the Area 14 service positions appointed by the Chairperson-elect, including service coordinators, administrative committee chairs, and other service positions as described in Area 14 [Structures & Guidelines](#).

### Considering an appointed service position?

If you are interested in being considered for one of the appointed service positions or administrative committee chairs, here are some tips to help you decide.:

- ◆ Check out the position descriptions in [Structures and Guidelines](#) on 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 you're interested in an appointed position, download and complete the [Service Coordinator Resume](#) form from the "Documents" section of the area website and submit it to the newly-elected Chairperson as soon as possible at or after the October assembly.

### Standing for an elected officer position?

The elected officer positions include delegate, alternate delegate, chairperson, alternate chairperson, treasurer, registrar, and secretary.

- ◆ If you want to stand for an **elected officer** position, and did not announce your intention at the July assembly, please review the position descriptions and qualifications on the Structures and Guidelines page of the area website.
- ◆ If you decide to stand for an **elected position**, download and complete the [Officer Service Resume](#) template from the "Documents" section of the area website
- ◆ You'll be asked to announce your intention to stand and read your resume at the Sunday October 9 election meeting either in person or virtually.
- ◆ Resumes submitted at the July Assembly will be included in that meeting's minutes to be posted on the website 30 days in advance of the October assembly. All resumes will be presented orally at the assembly.

### Appointed Service Positions

#### Service Coordinators

A willingness to learn and an enthusiasm to carry the message are more important qualifications than knowledge of a particular area of service. If you're interested in a position, present your name to the Chairperson-elect after the election assembly. The service coordinators are appointed by the Chairperson after the election. It is suggested that service coordinators have at least two (2) years of sobriety.

[ACCESSIBILITIES](#)

[ARCHIVES](#)

[COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY \(CPC\)](#)

[CORRECTIONS](#)

[GRAPEVINE/LA VIÑA](#)

[INTERGROUP](#)

[LITERATURE](#)

[PUBLIC INFORMATION \(PI\)](#)

[TREATMENT](#)

#### Other Appointed Service Positions

The following service positions are also appointed by the new Chairperson:

[PARLIAMENTARIAN](#)

[TECHNOLOGY](#)

#### Administrative Committee Appointed Chairs

Administrative Committees exist to assist with the business of the NFAC. The following Administrative Committee Chairs are appointed by the new Chairperson.

[FINANCE](#)

[WEBSITE](#)

#### More information

To learn more about all elected officer and appointed service positions, please visit the *Structures and Guidelines* page at [www.aanorthflorida.org](http://www.aanorthflorida.org)

### The Voices of Experience

On the following page, you'll find excerpts from what current Area 14 appointed position holders have shared about the most rewarding aspects of 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 their complete answers from Panel 71 [service coordinators, administrative committee chairs, and other appointed positions here](#).

You'll also find the Panel 71 [elected officers complete answers here](#).

# Service Positions Preview. In Their Own Words.

The following excerpts are from the more in-depth [responses from current appointed service position holders](#) found on the Area and AA News page of our website. You find corresponding [responses from current elected officers](#) there as well.

## Accessibilities Melanie E

I have learned so much! There are challenges that apply to any alcoholic who may have difficulty participating in Alcoholics Anonymous. ,,We have many amazing stories about going to any length!

## Archives Bob C

[Most rewarding was] discovering the rich history not only of AA, but also of Area 14. Also, enjoyed researching and looking into different districts' histories and how the area was basically formed into what it is today...Come into the position with fresh ideas on how Area 14 and/or AA history can be presented so all of the fellowship can see how AA was formed.

## Cooperation with the Professional Community Tom S

The most rewarding moments of this service position were when CPC committee members "caught fire" and embraced the opportunity to get involved in their communities with CPC activities.... Reach out [to others in the Area] with introductions, and follow up. Be persistent. I found that I had to be!

## Corrections Nanette L

The most rewarding part was the incredible people who serve our "inside" AAs by carrying the message of love and hope to the suffering alcoholic....Before starting this position, I was clueless ...Everywhere I turned, there were dedicated, solid people in AA who stood up and taught me what I needed to know ab

## Grapevine/La Viña Linda G

The most rewarding thing that I have learned is the history of how *Grapevine/La Viña* came about...For the person wanting to be the next service coordinator, the first thing is to have fun. The next is to know a little about the books and things you are making available...But remember, we are not a glum lot!

## Intergroup Lyndi J

The most rewarding aspects were not just gaining a better understanding of how an AA intergroup functions, but also an understanding of the heart of intergroup trusted servants...It is a different view of the fellowship from general service. I am grateful to have had my mind opened and my views softened as a result of having had this opportunity to serve.

## Literature Nina V

What an unexpectedly wide, deep opportunity to learn and to give back! I learned more about AA, its history, its current challenges, and more about the literature than I ever imagined...Get ready for a great ride!...The challenge [is] well worth the new knowledge you will gain and the fun you will have.

## Public Information Tim S

Public information takes many forms—the simple sign outside a meeting place that says, "AA meeting tonight," a listing in local home directories, distribution of AA literature, and radio and television shows using sophisticated media techniques....Whatever the form, it comes down to "one drunk carrying the message to another drunk."

## Treatment Carson F

Service in treatment is like shining a bright light on what has been a dark path. The reward is to see someone grab hold of recovery and watch the "light" come on in their eyes as they take off on the recovery road...Being a service coordinator opened a new level of service for me. I've met people from all over the North Florida Area Conference at assemblies. New friendships are precious!

## Parliamentarian Terri C

Being Parliamentarian is more involved than I thought. It isn't just a Sunday morning business meeting position. And every assembly presented a different challenge...Be familiar with the AA General Service Modified Robert's Rules of Order and be willing to learn the Area 14 Structures & Guidelines.

## Technology Committee Katie P

Since this is a new service position, there is an opportunity to learn throughout—trying to learn how technology fits with the "that's the way we've always done it" mentality...The committee is still in its infancy so continuing to shape the committee and being adaptable are key...get creative with recruiting members.

## Finance Committee Bob E

The most rewarding thing about serving as Finance Committee Chair is the opportunity to become acquainted with the people most involved with the operation of the area, and the skills and attributes that each brings to the fellowship. I've learned, or at least begun to learn, the ways in which the *Twelve Concepts for World Service* can be applied to the everyday operation of this fellowship.

## Website Committee Kevin B

The most rewarding part of being a committee chair is leading and directing a team. Sometimes, this can seem like extra work ...But it is rewarding in that any accomplishments are actually measured by the committee's accomplishments.....Leading a committee is exactly what Bill W wrote about in his leadership essay that was published in the *Grapevine* in 1959 and is in Concept IX. I feel like I get to be a service sponsor to a whole team once a quarter.

Read more insights on the "Area and AA News" page, "Panel 73 Elections Information" section of [www.aanorthflorida.org](http://www.aanorthflorida.org).

## Area Activities Mark Your Calendar

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

**September 24, Jacksonville, FL**  
[Sponsorship Workshop, Dist. 30](#)

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

**October 7-9, Maitland, FL**  
[NFAC Area Assembly](#)  
[Hotel Reservations Deadline Sep 14](#)

**October 22, Edgewater, FL**  
[Dogs with the Delegate](#)

**October 23, Wildwood, FL**  
[District 7 Gratitude Dinner](#)

**October 29, Tallahassee, FL**  
[Trick or Treat Service Fair](#)

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

**November 12, Merritt Island, FL**  
[Gratitude Picnic, District 15](#)

**November 19, St. Augustine, FL**  
[Attitude of Gratitude Dinner, Dist. 6](#)

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

## Service Spotlight Accessibilities Service Coordinator

Accessibilities Committees explore, develop, and offer resources to alcoholics with significant barriers to receiving the Alcoholics Anonymous message and participating in our program of recovery. We want AA to be available to all alcoholics.

Committees focus on projects that support members with a variety of accessibility challenges, communications that keep the public and appropriate agencies informed about AA accessibility, and providing resources and guidance to groups so that they can accommodate all AA members.

While there are no "special" AA members, there are many who have special needs. This would include alcoholics who may be but not limited to: blind/vision loss; physical constraints or homebound (chronic illness); caregivers or parents needing child care; elder; deaf/hard-of-hearing/speech-impaired; underserved or remote communities; limited reading or writing skills; need easy-to-read literature; isolation; any obstacle to participating in AA.

In July, I attended the "North/South Connections Virtual Special Forum – AA in Remote Communities" along with members from Argentina, Canada, Chile and the United States. It was truly amazing!

Area 14 has an "Accessibilities Special Needs" document on our website [www.aanorthflorida.org](http://www.aanorthflorida.org) and the AA website ([www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)) offers many resources for accessibilities committees and those they serve, including items in Braille, Audio, DVDs, brochures, updated translation of the Big Book in American Sign Language, and much more.

According to North Florida Area Conference, "This Service Coordinator covers how to carry the message to those who have problems which limit their attendance at regular AA meetings, and also enlightens AA members and groups to their special needs." All true but it is oh, so much more!

Melanie E., Area 14 Accessibilities Service Coordinator  
[access@aanorthflorida.org](mailto:access@aanorthflorida.org)

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

The following are excerpts. Read the full reports at the "Area & AA News" section of the NFAC newsletter. [www.aanorthflorida.org](http://www.aanorthflorida.org)

### District 13, Hernando County, Eleanor B, DCM

District 13 had a pre-conference workshop in March, and this October we will have a traditions workshop. We had a Founder's Day celebration in June with a "crazy hat" theme, and in November we will have a gratitude dinner. Intergroup and district work closely together.

To help keep groups aware of district activities and opportunities for service, as DCM, I visit two groups each month. For district meeting each month, I give the GSRs a task to do that encourages participation. Whoever does it gets a prize.

#### My suggestions for future DCMs include:

- Most important, it's not about you. Take yourself out of the equation.
- Stay neutral in all cases, being fair and calm.
- Know your stuff, including *Structures and Guidelines* and *Robert's Rules of Order*.

Read District 13's full report at [www.aanorthflorida.org](http://www.aanorthflorida.org)

### District 23, Beach Side, south of Cape Canaveral down to Melbourne Beach, AI W, DCM

We had several workshops this year including: The AA Group—Where It All Begins; Working with Others; Donuts with the Delegate; The Group Inventory; Post-conference Report; and a Service Fair. We typically include a big catered breakfast or lunch.

Many of our committees are very active, including Intergroup Rep, Archives, and Special Events. Corrections and Treatment are ready to go into action soon. We also have *Grapevine*, Accessibilities, CPC/PI, and Literature Committees.

#### My suggestions for future DCMs are:

- Be patient. Everything doesn't have to be done at once
- Let people be who they are. We don't have to sell anything.
- Look for what can be done better and do it.
- Try your best.

Read District 23's full report at [www.aanorthflorida.org](http://www.aanorthflorida.org)

To have your district featured, email: [newsletter@aanorthflorida.org](mailto:newsletter@aanorthflorida.org)