

# Annual Report 2022 Chairperson Area 87

If I may, I would like to take a few minutes to review the year 2022 as it ends.

The theme of this year's General Service Conference was "A.A. Becomes Adult 2.0; United in Love and Service." It is as if to say that all the changes and challenges we experienced with the pandemic, propelled us collectively to make the changes we needed to make to continue to carry our message of hope.

The Meeting Guide application has become a part of our routine for finding a meeting. It exists worldwide and helps our members like the still-suffering alcoholic to find meeting information.

At the height of the lockdown period, virtual meetings allowed people who were homebound to attend meetings and, even with the return to the hall, continue to welcome people who would otherwise be deprived of our A.A. message. Virtual meetings have been a great development for A.A. and are part of the means available to us to recover and also to serve in A.A.

Today, our area, district and committee service meetings have gone from virtual to hybrid with a majority still opting for virtual meetings but with a number of servants also showing up in person.

I must acknowledge the work of the Technical Committee who for over 2 years have made virtual meetings possible, helped train members to connect, provided support for events such as the Regional Convention, The Big Book Conference, Gratitude Weekend. With their help, RSO is now equipped to hold hybrid meetings. Thanks to the servants who have just merged with the Technology Committee and will continue to provide technical support.

With the approval of the Regional Committee, we have given the green light to the proposed redesign of our website in 2022. If you have not already done so, I invite you to go there and take note of the wonderful work the Technology Committee has done to make AA's digital presence more user-friendly for the growing number of visitors.

The still-suffering alcoholic can easily reach us with their smartphone, tablet or computer and find answers to their questions. Our members and our district and committee servants also enjoy accessing and navigating the pages that concern them.

Take a tour of the [aa87.org](http://aa87.org) homepage to see how much information is there. If you are like me, you will learn something you didn't know about our Region.

"United in Love and Service". If you remember, we started the year with a number of our districts being orphaned on both the French and English sides and District 32 was inoperative. Thanks to the work of our friend André D, our assistant delegate, along with our supervisor, Ginette, it was possible to recruit willing servants to take over. I accompanied André on several of his visits to the GSRs in these districts. I want to congratulate our new GSRs in these districts. Have you noticed that with the return of our Spanish speaking friends, our agenda reflects the linguistic makeup of our Area 87 with the use of all 3 languages.

We came out of the pandemic with financial surpluses that were the result of our reduced activities during containment. Area 87 took the opportunity to invest in an upgrade of our RSO equipment for lighting, heating, hybrid meeting rooms. I can tell you that the RSO staff and the servants who visit regularly appreciate the work that has been done.

The management that affects our entire Region is the Region's insurance file and coverage for our meetings and special events as well as the RSO. I want to acknowledge the tremendous work that our Assistant Treasurer, François A. has done to ensure that we collectively have adequate coverage.

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Among the challenges we have faced and continue to face are the resignations of trusted servants at the Executive Committee level. Five people have submitted their resignations for valid personal reasons in each case and we will be left with two vacancies in the positions of Assistant Treasurer and Assistant President in 2023. We have nominations in hand. Since we are in a rotation period, I invite you to ask yourself the three questions and submit your nomination. (Do I have the desire to serve, do I have the time to serve and do I have the ability to serve).

Our delegate Claude G. often reminds us that all regions of the Conference are struggling to recruit servants. The same is true of André D. in his contacts with the North American Assistant Delegates meetings.

We have identified two avenues to support the recruitment of servants and to reduce the drop-out and resignation rate that can be encountered in Area 87: service sponsorship and participation in provincial and territorial events.

An ad hoc committee and a working group were created to promote service sponsorship and to create a bank of sponsors. You will hear about this later this morning.

Encouraging servants to attend a Provincial Assembly, Area Forum or ASTECAA (A.A. Eastern Canada Service Assembly) meeting is one way to get servants or potential servants excited about A.A.'s greatness and the service structure of our Fellowship.

I attended the Charlottetown Area Forum this summer and it was a wonderful experience. To learn, to meet like-minded people like me who are passionate about A.A. and service with new, first-time servants. I experienced it as a 3 days service sponsorship intensive as well as having fun sharing with my peers.

With the ASTECAA event on February 24-26, we will reconnect with the bus and experience the preparation for the 2023 Conference and get our members in the thick of service. More on that later.

In 2021, the Week of Gratitude rested almost entirely on the frail shoulders of Ginette W., our supervisor. In 2022, the event became Gratitude Weekend and had been taken over by our assistant delegate but he will not be able to do so in 2023. June 10, considered Founders Day in the United States, is associated with a tradition of Gratitude in our region. If we wish as an area to mark this date of A.A.'s founding in 2023, we will need the cooperation of servants willing to form an ad hoc organizing committee.

If any of you are interested in commemorating A.A.'s 88th anniversary, I invite you to send your name and contact information to our secretary, Pierre C, at his office address by January 20. If you want to get involved we can help you develop the project. Thank you for your possible participation.

The Big Book Conference is another popular event, the first of which was a resounding success. Unless there is a tide of volunteer organizers for 2023, there will be no Big Book Conference.

The first French-language edition of the Big Book Conference will mark its 60th anniversary in 2023.

Here again, I repeat, if there are some among you who feel challenged by such a commemoration of 84 years for the original version and 60 years for the French version, please send your name and contact information to our secretary, Pierre C, at his service address by January 20, specifying which event interests you. If you want to get involved we can help you develop the project. Thank you for your possible participation. Thank you again for your possible participation. If there are no volunteers, these events will not be held next year.

The experience of the past year has been stimulating for me. I would like to thank the members of the Executive Committee for the confidence they have shown in me by assuring me of their support as President. I

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would also like to thank you for the same confidence and support that I have received from the Regional Committee.

Last Tuesday, at the coordinators' meeting, there were 13 of us present with outgoing coordinators and others starting in January. I would like to extend a special welcome to our new servants. We shared the good and the not so good of the past year and for the most part, it is the recruitment of servants that is lacking.

We are moving towards the end of the pandemic and a return to normalcy, so they say! We must continue to roll up our sleeves to get to this normal that will not resemble what we have known.

I want to continue with you to do my best out of gratitude for those who trust us.

Reaching the alcoholic who does not know us yet, wherever they are and at all hours, will come through increasing our digital presence like Facebook, for example, or Instagram or YouTube. It will also come through our allies the professionals who treat them.

Communicating to our members what is happening in our inverted pyramid, letting them see the greatness of our self-help movement and how they can be the helping hand of A.A. in our groups, in our districts, in our committees.

There is no shortage of challenges, but as we have experienced with the pandemic, there are opportunities and we just need to not fear change but trust.

I thank you for serving 2.0, for serving in love and unity.

Parenthesis before the endorsement of the guidelines and coordinators. If you want to have dinner at the RSO, we will have the chef's choice for \$15 (taxes included). François Audet, our Assistant Treasurer, will process your order at the break.

*Kathleen R. Chairperson Area 87*