

Region 87 – 87 Area – Area 87

Réunion régionale – Area Meeting – Reunión del Área

Minutes of the meeting held on August 9, 2025
Area Service Office – 3920 Rachel Street East – Montreal H1C 1Z3

Opening of the meeting

Reading of the Traditions

1-6 Marie-Ève (English)

7-12 Carol S. (French)

Roll call by the chair – Lucien welcomes everyone, especially those attending for the first time.

Adoption of the agenda

Withdrawal of the proposed agenda: Area communication to the district

Addition to the proposed agenda: presentation of a document entitled "Voting Procedure"

Proposed: Richard, RDR 87-10

Sec.: Kathleen, CSG Coordinator

- Lucien asks everyone to respect their speaking time as the agenda is busy. Please turn off your cell phones or put them on vibrate mode. Please identify yourself each time you speak to facilitate the preparation of the minutes. During plenary discussions, if your point has already been made, there is no need to repeat it. Please line up for the microphone and address your comments to the chair of the meeting. When parking across the street, don't forget to leave the sign provided for this purpose on your dashboard.
- Don't forget to complete the survey to give your feedback on the meeting. Your comments are read and contribute to the preparation of future meetings and assemblies. Here are a few comments we have received:
 - *"Brunch helps people share and relaxes the atmosphere."*
 - *"All documents are available online and on site."*
 - *"Respecting the time allocated (for interventions) helps the meeting run smoothly."*
 - *"There is a tendency to ignore groups and stifle discussion with the 3^(e) Concept."*
 - *"I believe that under the current circumstances, the format, the premises, and the running of the meeting are well suited to the needs of the committees, the DCMs, and visitors."*
 - *"The secretary and their alternate should note any points raised by a DCM or coordinator that may require follow-up or additional information and return to them at a future meeting."*

- *"I think if we take a topic from the inventory and apply it throughout the year, like a theme for the Area, it could reinforce that members' opinions matter."*
- *"There is confusion during votes."*

Treasurer's report

Lynda presents the financial report for May. It is dated, but it is the latest one adopted by the Steering committee. As of May 31, the results show a surplus for the first five months of the year, despite a deficit of only \$16,177 in May. We need to track the cumulative total because, from month to month, some months have more expenses than others or more revenue than others. There is nothing to worry about.

Important information: adjusting entries have been made in the accounting system following review by the accounting firm. The next financial report will better reflect our financial reality. Nothing is out of the ordinary, everything is perfect, except that the figures will change. It helps us make financial decisions when we have the right figures.

Adoption of the financial statements, moved by Lynda B., seconded by Renald, CIP, and Carole, RDR 87-24. No one objects.

On August 25, there will be a very important meeting for committee coordinators. It is the most important meeting of the year because I will be there and we will be discussing the budget. You will need to prepare your detailed budgets for 2026.

There has also been a change in the office. We no longer have a vending machine in our premises. We have decided not to buy or rent one. Instead, it has been replaced by a refrigerator, which is much less expensive. Since we are all in our program, we are honest and will put the dollar in the basket provided for payments. You can also put in more if you can afford it.

On another note, renovations will be carried out starting in mid-August. There will be new cabinets in the shared kitchen, and the premises will be repainted. The owner has had the roof repaired, so it should no longer leak, and we can now proceed with the work. A budget of approximately \$25,000 was allocated in 2024 to upgrade our premises. The quote we received is below the planned budget. The work will take place over a few weeks starting on August 15.

We now have a mobile payment terminal for our meetings and assemblies. You will no longer need to have cash to pay for your meal, and the terminal will print a receipt that you can use for your reimbursement claim.

Ginette is back at work. The employees were extraordinary during her absence, but we are very happy to have her back with us. I just want to point out that the team is so well managed by Ginette that even when she is not there, everything runs smoothly!

If you would like me to visit your districts, please feel free to email me attresorier@aa87.org . I would be happy to visit you.

Lucien, President: Thank you, Lynda, for mentioning Ginette's return. We have had good cooperation from the employees. We have met with them a few times. We are there for them, and they appreciate it. They have their monthly meeting, and Lynda and/or I attend. They appreciate that.

Director's comments

My name is Ginette Williams; I am an alcoholic and one of the "qualified" employees. I don't know if an office would hire "unqualified" employees! Indeed, I am back. I would like to thank the Steering Committee and my colleagues for taking over. My absence was not noticed. Maybe the office doesn't need me anymore after all... During my absence, there was the mid-year inventory, a newsletter to prepare, and a mailing to supervise. Everything went smoothly. Well done to the team!

At the end of July, we sent out the annual election documents. If you are a DCM or coordinator, you should have received them. If you have not received them, it means we do not have the correct contact information for you, so please let us know so we can make the necessary corrections.

At the end of July, we also prepared the Mid-Term newsletter, which we send out... halfway through the term! The newsletter is published every two months, but at the end of the first month covered by the current newsletter, we send out an email with news from groups that are unable to plan their activities three months in advance. There are always some who miss the deadline. This newsletter is sent by email only.

On June 21, the ASO participated in the Catch the Spirit activity. Alexandra brilliantly replaced me. The event was held in District 19 (English-speaking). Alexandra and I had a virtual meeting to prepare a presentation. I think it was well received. I mention this for other event organizing committees that are more service-oriented; we would be happy to give the same presentation in French. In this presentation, we talk about what the office does and does not do; we also talk, very superficially, about the committees and the importance of their contribution to our^{12th} step mission. Without committees, there would be no newcomers in our rooms.

The new book, A BOOK OF FRIENDSHIP – Souvenir Album of the 2025 International Convention. I have a copy. It is available at the counter. According to our formula for setting publication prices, we should sell it for \$30—which is not expensive considering the quality of the book. But for a limited time, we are offering it at for only \$24. Until when, you ask? I don't remember! So don't delay and get your copy quickly.

Another new item from the GSO – AAWS: a new "policy statement," **FMG-25 AA Policy Statements – Safety and AA Groups**. These are available for download from www.aa.org. For single use only, do not print multiple copies. We will have hard copies as soon as they are available in print.

The service brochure entitled Serving Alcoholics with Special Needs has been revamped. It has a new look and a new title. The document is now called: Making the AA Message Accessible. The English version is now available. The French and Spanish versions will also be available soon. It is part of the "Service Literature" series and is

available free of charge. It addresses interesting topics about communities that are difficult to reach. These are not remote communities, but they are often isolated for all sorts of reasons.

I also wanted to share a thought with you about the frequency of the newsletters. Since 2013 or 2014, the newsletters have been published every two months. I looked to see if there had been a resolution by the area committee to change the frequency of the newsletters from monthly to bimonthly. I found nothing. Over time, experience has shown that this no longer meets the needs of groups to communicate their information. We now produce the Mi-Parcours electronic newsletter, which is almost as voluminous as the printed newsletter. And we have no idea if the information reported in it is communicated within the groups. Do the GSRs read it, print it out, and bring it to their groups? We don't know here at the ASO. My thought or question is: Should we go back to a monthly newsletter? That means more mailings, which means higher postage costs. If you could survey the groups in your districts, it would help us make a decision. But nothing has changed yet! Don't say that the news will now come out monthly! Just survey whether a monthly newsletter would better suit the needs of the groups.

I saved this for last because I know I'm going to get emotional. I would like to thank everyone for your support throughout the summer. It has been enormously comforting and appreciated. Thank you all.

A word from the secretaries

Hello, everyone. My name is Alain, and I am an alcoholic. I am responsible for serving you as Alternate secretary. With the upcoming renovations in the office, we felt that the beige had had its day. We will purchase the paint from the budget allocated for this purpose. But we wanted to suggest that we do the painting ourselves. "We" includes everyone here. Anyone who would like to lend a hand. We don't have the official dates yet, we need to coordinate with the office to avoid any scheduling conflicts, but if any of you are interested in pitching in, come see me during the break. We can't have 60 people in the office, but it would be fun to do this as a group. We'll even pay for pizza! Thank you.

DCM special meeting report

Hello, everyone. My name is Sophie, and I'm an alcoholic. We had our first DCM and ADCM meeting on May 20. My presentation this morning is a little like honey to lure you to the next meeting. I explained at the time that this meeting has a very specific purpose: to promote unity within the area, to bring the districts closer together, to improve communication between the districts to find solutions or suggest ideas to the Steering committee, and to make changes in the way we do things.

At the May 20 meeting, 10 out of 22 districts were present. That's half. We are very pleased with the outcome of this meeting. Many things were discussed. We had chosen a wide variety of topics: contact with groups; how communication works in

the districts; we talked about the activities of each district; participation in area activities; issues encountered within the district.

Everyone took turns speaking. One question that came up was: why not hold elections during the area convention? This would generate interest among members and encourage involvement.

We also discussed activities in the districts and taking the area calendar into account before setting a date for activities. Improving communication between districts to perhaps combine efforts and join forces to organize a joint event rather than holding two activities on dates close together.

Another idea put forward was to organize an activities coordination committee within the area. Perhaps streamline all activities a little to allow as many people as possible to participate without diluting the number of participants.

The importance of regularly consulting the area's activity calendar was raised.

The twinning of districts with committees was discussed. The DCMs and ADCM believe that the choice of committee should be left up to the individual and, in case of doubt, a committee should be assigned at random. Some did not appreciate being forced to change committees.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 19. François, from 87-01, and I met to brainstorm topics that could be discussed. Following our delegate's comments on involvement and giving groups a voice, we think it would be important to ask ourselves how we can improve the involvement of GSRs in area activities?. How can we enhance the role of the GSR in the group, because there are many groups that do not have an GSR? The GSR is there to serve as a bridge between the group and the area. How can we include them in meetings, give them the right to speak, etc.? It would be important to discuss these topics.

There will be another meeting in October or November. The date is still to be determined, but we will keep you informed. If you cannot attend as DCM, it would be nice if the ADCM could be there. And if you can both be there, that would be even better. We hope to exceed the attendance of the last meeting.

English-speaking districts are welcome.

Question from the floor: Pierre C., Archives Committee coordinators: Are these meetings exclusively for DCMs and ADCM? Or could we attend as observers?

Answer: Yes, you can attend as observers. However, only DCMs have the right to speak. If you are interested, please let us know. These meetings are for DCMs and ADCM. We believe that the role of the DCM could be better understood. But if you really want to be there, let me know. I will send you the information. But we will not send the invitation to everyone.

(Pierre mentions that the Archives Committee would be interested in having a summary of these meetings.)

Nancy C. DCM 87-18: To answer Pierre's question, it's interesting if he's there. But it's interesting for the DCMs to have a space to talk among ourselves. We are in the middle. There are the groups and there is the area... And we are between the two.

Presentation of the document "Voting Procedure" by Lucien J., Chair

Gilles will distribute the booklet. There aren't many copies, so we'll give priority to the DCMs and Coordinators. We'll print additional copies. This should be done in silence... Hands don't talk. It's difficult, Gilles talks all the time!

In one of the meeting surveys, there were comments, including one that said, "You guys and your voting procedures! We don't understand how it works."

I created the document in collaboration with two other experienced members from the area. We tried to illustrate it a little to make it clearer.

Lucien presents the contents of the booklet: (here are the main points)

- A proposal that is not seconded is not discussed. We simply move on to another item on the agenda.
- A seconded motion is discussed. All voters have the right to express their opinion and should do so.
 - Speeches are limited to 2 minutes.
 - In order to promote informed discussion, the topics covered by the proposals are introduced in advance, accompanied by relevant information.
 - We try to avoid premature actions by not allowing sufficient time for discussion: do not call for a vote or an amendment too quickly. The recognition of such requests is left to the discretion of the chair of the meeting.
 - Request for a vote: during the discussion, a request for a vote may be made at any time. It must be seconded. If not, the discussion continues. If seconded: end of comments. The assembly votes on whether or not it is ready to vote on the proposal. A simple majority is sufficient to proceed with the vote on the proposal. Without this majority, the discussion continues.
 - Any decision concerning area policy requires a substantial majority (i.e., two-thirds of the votes cast) to be implemented.
- The expression of the minority following the adoption of a proposal by 2/3 of the voters
 - Under the 5^e concept, the minority must be given the right to speak.
 - When the proposal is accepted, the minority comprises those voters who voted against the proposal.
 - If the proposal is rejected, the minority includes voters who voted in favor of the proposal.
- Please note: members who abstain from voting are not considered voting members and therefore cannot speak during the minority right to speak. These members withdraw from the entire process.

- Reconsideration of a vote: This is done mainly when a new issue is raised during the minority's right to speak. In this case, a voter from the majority may request that the vote be taken again. This request must be seconded. If it is not seconded, the vote is not taken again and the decision stands. If it is seconded, a simple majority of the assembly is required to restart the process: discussion, request for a vote, vote. This reconsideration of a vote can only be done once for the same proposal.
- Amendments
 - An amendment is a change made to a proposal before it is adopted.
 - During the discussion, someone may suggest an amendment that adjusts the proposal to improve or clarify it without changing its essence.
 - The amendment must be seconded. Otherwise, the amendment is dropped. If the amendment is seconded, the assembly must debate the amendment and no longer the original proposal.
 - If a second amendment is proposed, it must also be seconded. If so, the second amendment is discussed before returning to the first and concluding with a vote on the main motion.
 - No more than two amendments may be brought forward according to Morin or Robert's Rules of Order.

In the booklet, the last pages contain the illustrated comments, but in text form only.

The floor is open for questions:

Question from Philippe, ADCM 87-06: Are votes on amendments adopted by a simple majority, 50% + 1? **Answer:** No, they must obtain a two-thirds majority. Only votes on whether to proceed to a vote require a simple majority.

Question from Raymond D., Convention Committee Coordinator: There has been no mention of an "amicable" amendment. For example, if there are two amendments, instead of taking them one by one, the two could either be combined or one of them could simply be withdrawn by the proposer. **Answer:** Everything can be settled fairly quickly if everyone agrees, if the two amendment proposers agree.

Questions from Nicole A., Helpline Committee Coordinator: Thank you very much for this document and the presentation. I would like this document to be available on the area's website. It would certainly be very useful during group inventory and even group business meetings.

Question from Suzanne B., RDRA 87-02: Thank you very much. This is very enlightening. And it will definitely help us. My question: during the first amendment, is it necessary to have completed the round table discussion on the initial proposal? **Answer:** As soon as there is an amendment, the amendment must be discussed before returning to the discussion on the initial proposal. But amendments must be seconded. Otherwise, the amendment is dropped, and we return to the main proposal.

Question from Richard D., RDR 87-10: For amendments, if a second amendment is accepted, it supersedes the first amendment. We no longer discuss the first amendment. **Answer:** That's exactly right. We hope this tool will be useful.

Question from (inaudible): Could this document be included in the GSR packet?

Answer: Ginette W.: Unfortunately, that is not possible. The GSR packets are manufactured and shipped by the GSO. What we can do is keep a supply of this document and ship it ourselves to the GSR. Each time a new GSR registers, we send them a copy of the Area Booklet. It should be noted that the lifespan of an GSR is approximately six months. We welcome them once a year in January, but by June, most are no longer in office.

Comment from Nicole A., Helpline Committee Coordinator: Perhaps we could give a presentation at the GSR welcome meeting in January.

The floor is open to the Delegate.

Hello, friends. My name is André Daigle, and I am an alcoholic. Delegate for Area 87, Panel 74.

André gives his introduction in Spanish and English. A printed document is also available. Here are the highlights:

A look back at the International Convention in Vancouver: There were 34,000 members from 89 countries. The organizers and volunteers all did an impeccable job. Meetings, sharing sessions, and workshops took place throughout the convention. The most impressive event was the flag ceremony at the opening of the convention. We will meet again in 2030 to celebrate AA's 95th anniversary in St. Louis, Missouri.

Area elections will be held in October, in person only. GSRs will elect a delegate to represent them at the 76th and 77th General Service Conferences. We will therefore be electing the servants for Panel 76. The positions up for election are Delegate and Chair, and their respective alternate. There are currently 328 active groups in the area, 22 DRRs, 12 coordinators, and 8 steering committee members. So potentially 370 members are eligible to vote in October. If your name does not appear on the eligibility list, the deadline to add your name is September 13, the date of the September area meeting. Also, in 2026, the Conference will elect a new territorial trustee for Eastern Canada. Area 87 is invited to nominate a candidate for this election. All delegates from the area prior to Panel 74 are eligible.

The General Service Board is also seeking candidates for the appointment of a Class A trustee. There are seven trustees who sit on the Board. They are non-alcoholics. They are usually professionals who have worked in the legal, medical, or administrative fields, who are familiar with Alcoholics Anonymous and are friends of the program. They are volunteers and are appointed for a six-year term. The Board is responsible for implementing the resolutions adopted at the Conference in the year following the Conference.

Our Panel 72 delegate, Claude Gauthier, passed away on July 8. He called me around June 15 to inform me that he would not be able to fulfill his commitments to the CMP at the Vancouver Convention and asked me to replace him in these duties. I visited him in the hospital a few days later. I learned of his death upon my return from Vancouver. I offer my condolences to all those who knew him.

I received an email from a member who had a bad experience at the last discussion group meeting: members made sexual , and racist comments. The member was outraged by the situation and wrote to me for my opinion. My response: beyond my personal opinions, in AA, we should emphasize our principles (Steps, Traditions, and Concepts). And that is what we should talk about in our meetings. The AA movement was born out of sponsorship and has grown through sponsorship. We should look in that direction rather than trying to figure out who is wrong.

I would like to remind you about the workshops on the 12 Traditions; the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 11, in person only at the ASO. Please bring your 12X12. There was a resolution at the 2021 or 2022 conference to amend the essay on Step⁶ in the 12X12 and the essay on Step 12. The book was reissued in 2023. If you want to get the updated version.

A word from the Alternate Delegate

Hello, everyone. Sylvie Béland, alcoholic. Alternate Delegate for Area 87.

I would also like to talk to you about elections. We talk about elections in the area, but there are also elections coming up in your districts. And there are elections coming up in the groups.

What do we need before accepting a task? A service sponsor! And guidelines. If you could emphasize how important it is to read the guidelines of the AA entity they are considering serving BEFORE accepting a position. Perhaps the term of office will be extended from 6 months to 9 months for GRPs.

We always say that in AA, there are no cabals and we don't know who will run for election to a position in advance. But you can prepare for an election. How? By talking to potential candidates before nominating them for a position. Present the position to them so they have time to answer the three questions of time, ability, and willingness to do the job. This principle applies to all levels of the service structure, from the group to the area.

DCMs Reports

District 27: Francis V., RDR: The district is doing well. We also enjoyed the holidays. The groups seem to be doing well. The gratitude committee held its event on June 23. A ^{third} edition, a kayaking and paddleboarding day, followed by a meeting and fireworks on the lake. A very popular event. The committee is preparing the next activity, which will be a corn roast on August 16. Everyone is welcome. The district committees are all active. All positions were filled before the holidays. The mini convention on

October 4 and the 12X12 are also in preparation. There is only one group in the district that does not have a GSR.

District 26: Marie-Élaine P., RDR: This summer, I did not receive any requests from groups. We are ready to resume in September. We had our gratitude day in June. Several of our members attended the Vancouver Convention, including many extended their trip. This led to exchanges between GSRs upon their return. We are awaiting confirmation from Guy, who will visit us to present the area convention.

District 24: Carole M., RDR: The district is doing well overall. Except for a controversy about quorum. We realized that we did not have quorum to make and implement decisions. I relied on the Area, but when I read the guidelines, I realized that I was interpreting them as applying to the area, whereas the district still has a quorum of 2/3 of groups represented. We had to amend the guidelines in order to function. The guidelines are scheduled to be revised in October. Without a quorum, we were unable to vote to send a contribution to the area. Everything was analyzed and prepared with the help of my service sponsor. Not all groups have a GSR, which does not help us achieve a quorum at our meetings.

District 18: Nancy C., DCM: We have a lot of fun in our district, maybe too much! We had a meeting in June, in July, and our next one is in August. We decided to have meetings during the summer because we love each other so much! In June, we had our post-mortem for our Newcomer Event. In July, we discussed the elections. The district GSRs are very enthusiastic about AA. And that discussion was very interesting. The groups organize special events (dances, BBQs, etc.). We lost a GSR who was with the Shadows group and who passed away this week. But she is still with us!

District 16: Alain P., RDRA: We did not have a meeting this summer. The next one is in September. Our secretary resigned, but he would have been removed from his position anyway. His work and attitude were not appreciated by the GSRs. It's unfortunate that this happened, but it reminds us that we are here to serve the groups and not our own ambitions. There was also a group in financial difficulty that had asked the district for help. After discussion, it was decided not to intervene financially, but rather to help increase attendance and involvement in the group. We continue to send regular contributions to the area.

District 14: Laurence C., RDRA: Our district was on hiatus in July and August. At the June meeting, there were about 20 people, a great atmosphere, and good energy. Most of the GSRs were present with their alternates, as were the committee chairs. Someone came as a visitor and complained that a group was acting outside the traditions. When he filed his complaint with the group, he was invited to join another group. This upset the person. Sophie and I are trying to provide support in the situation.

District 13: François D., RDR: Our district is quieter during the summer. We had to deal with a problematic situation in one group. There was a man who was intimidating the women. I asked the delegate for advice. The situation was resolved within the

group. Two groups elected new GSRs, which is encouraging. There is a trend in the district with younger members becoming interested in service. That is also encouraging. Our big activity this summer was preparing for Detention Center Day with the Detention Center Committee. We found all the volunteers we needed. And we are preparing for the fall.

District 10: Richard D., RDR: The district is on hiatus. We are full of energy. All positions are filled. All groups have GSRs and several have alternates. We are considering taking a two-month break. I hope everyone will be there when we resume.

District 06: Philippe J., ADCM: We are also on hiatus. We are also taking a two-month break. The suggestion to switch to one month was declined. We will have the inventory and review of the District guidelines on September 7. Elections for DCM, ADCM, and treasurer will be in October. The district has been approached by a treatment center to hold meetings. I will meet with the treatment center committee to respond to this request. There were several people from our district in Vancouver.

District 04: Serge F., RDRA: I am an alternate RDR. I have been in AA for 33 years and have never served as alternate. In recent years, I returned to the group where I had my first meeting. And I've stuck with it. We will be resuming work in the district soon. This week, we had a public information activity that had been inactive since last year. We had a meeting with Renald and we are going to try to revive this committee in the district. We must work hard to attract members to service. Almost all the groups are represented and present at the district meeting. I am happy with how things are going.

District 02: Suzanne B., RDRA: Sophie and I decided this year to visit each of our groups to meet people. We started with the groups that didn't come to district meetings. It was really enjoyable. We managed to raise awareness among two groups to appoint a GSR and provide support to these people while they wait to choose a service sponsor. It's been an excellent experience. With the others, we realize that everything is pretty good at our meetings, but when we visit them, we see that there is a need for support. We talked about service sponsorship and the short lifespan of GSRs. Indeed! There is a lot of information missing. Last week, there was one who didn't know where the service office was. We see that there is a great need for support. We will hold our next meeting in August.

District 01: François D., RDR: We are also on hiatus. We will resume in September. I took advantage of the summer to visit the groups. There are four or five large groups, but all the others are small groups. It is more difficult to get people involved in these small groups. In September, we will resume with a lot of work on our hands. We will have our inventory and guidelines. There is still no district secretary, and the RDRA has left his position. So, we have that to deal with as well.

Before moving on to the next item on the agenda, I would like to acknowledge the presence of a delegate from Panel 40, Ovila. It is always nice to have him with us again.

Committee Reports

Gilles F., Alternate Chair of Area 87, is chairing this part of the meeting.

Public Information: Renald D., coordinator: Good news! I am pleased to announce that MONQYPAA (Montreal Quebec Young People in AA) has officially joined the structure by joining the Area 87 Public Information Committee as one of our modules. Julien is currently coordinating the module. This is excellent news because by joining forces, we will be able to reach a new audience. This is important: that the message also be directed toward younger generations. In fact, on June 24, the module organized a barbecue; they are currently organizing an activity for Halloween and, of course, New Year's Eve. On the other hand, for our committee, more districts are giving themselves the means to carry the message. There are now nine French-speaking districts with a district public information officer. Michel has just been appointed coordinator of the English-speaking module. We hadn't had anyone for years. Michel is very enthusiastic and energetic. Guylaine (committee secretary) and I participated in the provincial gathering. We were in the Public Information workshop, which allowed us to talk face-to-face with several people involved in CIPs from different areas. Since then, we have collaborated with the Area 88 committee by providing them with postcards and our poster with a detachable phone number to distribute at the mental health nurses' conference held in Drummondville. We provided Area 89 with our contact information for the FTQ social delegate coordinator in the Sherbrooke region. And we collaborated with Area 90 in their preparations for a meeting with the Saint-Jérôme police department by sharing our PowerPoint presentation with them. If the tools we have are used by other areas, it means they can be used by any district. Guylaine did a tremendous job making these tools available on our intranet platform. There's no need to reinvent the wheel. South Shore Convention, we were there. Catch the Spirit, our English-language module, was there. We met with District 27 at the end of the spring. Following this meeting, we ordered two banners with the 12 questions. We are also present at the Pride Festival and will be at the Area Convention. Our meeting is held on the first Monday of each month, at 7 p.m., in a hybrid format.

Technologies: Pierre A., coord.: We had a quiet summer with no meetings. Our next meeting will be next week. Benoît and Mélanie attended the Provincial Gathering. They participated in a workshop on social media. Despite the semi-break over the summer, we continue to maintain and update the website. The graphics and social media team (YouTube and Instagram) have remained active. We are looking for replacements to support hybrid meetings and maintain social media. We have job descriptions that will be sent to the groups in an upcoming mailing. We also have a survey project to find out who uses our website and how. We had someone who was in charge of email addresses, but that person has stepped down. We can still respond to requests, but we are looking for someone to fill this role.

Group Services: Kathleen R., Co-Chair: It's always a pleasure to meet you. My summer began with the International Convention in Vancouver. I quickly saw about 35,000 members with contagious smiles. There were many inspiring stories shared. I came back with lots of ideas, but unfortunately, I have to slow down and work within the committee's capacity. We continue to help with inventories and are preparing for upcoming workshops. There will be a seminar on October 4 in English and October 11

in French, here at the RSO. The committee has completed the translation of our committee pages on the website into three languages. Kayla, the alternate coordinator, presented our committee at the Catch the Spirit event. We are looking for a secretary and an alternate to be responsible for the Inventory-Guidelines module. If you would like to get involved with us, please let me know by sending me an email at servicesauxgroupes@aa87.org.

Helpline: Nicole A., coordinator: We were at Catch the Spirit; thanks to Jennifer for the PowerPoint she put together. We also appreciated Gilles' visit to the committee meeting. Our committee is the only one that did not have a paired DCM. But Jennifer from District 8 offered her support. It is greatly appreciated. ...(inaudible)... I visited the Vancouver intergroup. If you ever travel, it is always nice to go and support servants in other areas. You can have interesting exchanges of experience.

Correctional Facilities: Geoffrey P., coord.: We have increased the number of members on our committee since the beginning of the year. We have gone from 6 to 12 members. We were at Catch the Spirit to present the committee and the Bridging the Gap program. Following our presentation, we had 6 people who showed interest. We also had a table at the West Island Round Up. We now have two meetings in Bordeaux, on Thursday and Friday. We still have a meeting every two weeks at the youth center. We are working on making the meetings weekly. Currently, we have 10 meetings per month. For BTG, we have had two requests for support. JCDD, I invite you on August 23. The program will be in English and French. The day will conclude with a BBQ. I have tickets.

Area Convention: Raymond D., coordinator: We did not have a meeting in July. An invitation is sent out for all our meetings, but we have few people. It is disappointing, and we sometimes wonder if it is worth continuing to organize a convention. We have a great team of motivated people who want it to work. But participation is lacking. I'm not happy to say this, but that's how it is. I'm very disappointed by the lack of interest. We're going to hold the conference this year, but we'll have to decide whether to do it again next year. Every month, we sent out a flyer to promote our event. There are two QR codes, one to buy your ticket through the area's online store, and the other takes you to the conference website. There you will find all the information about the conference. I also participated in Catch the Spirit. Thank you for the invitation. We also went to the Granby convention yesterday. And today, the alternate coordinator is here. ...(inaudible)... I need to know how many tickets will be sold by September 15 so we can plan for meals. Last year, we overbooked meals. We will call the districts to get the information, so we don't repeat last year's experience. This year, there will be an improv game instead of a play. We still need volunteers. A form is available on our website.

CMP: Lynda B., committee representative: The committee does not have a coordinator. We have some great activities coming up, including one on Wednesday, August 13. In the Bill and Bob room, we will replicate a meeting, with sharing and members. You are welcome to attend. We will welcome recruits from the SPVM and give them a demonstration of what happens at an AA meeting. The decision to

replicate a meeting came after a negative experience bringing recruits to a regular meeting. The police officers received a rather cold reception from the members. There will be a few evenings like this, as the police department wants every recruit in its service to be aware of what AA is.

Treatment Centers: Johanne B., Alternate Coordinator: At Treatment Centers, we could also add "accessibility," "special needs," etc. In short, it's a big committee. The committee is doing well and there's a lot going on. We also have some things on hold due to a lack of staff. The Douglas Institute could host at least one more meeting, but we don't have anyone to take charge of it. There is also the Anchorage meeting, the English meeting at the Salvation Army; we have people who have come forward. The French meeting is going well. Our last meeting was held in May. We decided to review the guidelines, which haven't been reviewed in over three years. Committee meetings are generally enjoyable. Attendance is better when we call people ahead of time. I would like to inform you that the treatment center meetings are not listed in the printed directory. This is our fault. It was our responsibility to provide the information to the registrar. We did not do so... We also have a program called Bridging the Gap with a dedicated phone line. If you would like to make yourself available to accompany people who are coming out of treatment to meetings, you are welcome to do so. I will conclude by sharing with you a visit I made to Sutton. There is no age limit for serving. Jane is 93 years old and runs a meeting at a treatment center in Dunham. It was an inspiring encounter. Thomas and Ginette are planning to go back and see Jane.

Centres de détention: Isabelle F., coordinator: Thank you to Lita from the Telephone Support Committee and the members of her committee who refer inmates and former inmates who want to contact us. My full report is available in writing. I am working on an inter-area collaboration. I met with the heads of detention center committees from other areas to create a kind of symposium to share our experiences on issues, problems, and solutions. The reality of prison environments in Canada is very different from that in the US and elsewhere in the world. This is all the more important in the context of the Fostering Reconciliation program. We have included Spanish speakers from Montreal who are joining us. We are trying to integrate other linguistic minorities into the meetings with inmates. I would like to emphasize the importance of the Fostering Reconciliation program. It is extremely important for inmates who want to continue with the meetings after their release. We have held meetings at home; another person we picked up when he was released and who absolutely wanted to do his^{5th} step right away upon release. And he stays in touch. I just received a text message from him: "Wow! I just came out of one of the best meetings of my life. What sharing! I love the movement..."

Archives: Pierre C., coord.: I have a written report that is not on the table. If you wish, I can send you a copy. There were eight participants at our last committee meeting, which was held on June 8. Three of them were RADs (District Archives Representatives). These individuals bring us archival documents. It's very enjoyable. We have finalized our guidelines. Now we need to translate them into English. We have also updated our mailing list. We send a lot of documents to a lot of people, but

we don't know if they are interested in receiving them. Pierre V., our archivist, participated in Catch the Spirit. He also contacted someone from the Quebec Archivists Association who gave him guidance on our position with regard to Bill 25. At first glance, we comply with the principles of the law and can be considered a resource for representatives of the responsible authority. Our guidelines are very clear and should be sufficient to meet the requirements of the law on the protection of citizens. We will not have to destroy any documents because they are very useful for their historical and heritage value. The same applies to administrative needs. Access to them is very limited and all research is supervised. A cursory reading of the document sent by the association confirms that we agree on most points. However, we still need to describe this in a document that could be submitted to the responsible authorities (Steering Committee) and our hierarchy (Districts and groups). So, overall, there is no problem with Bill 25. We still need to produce this document. Following my sharing on the archives at the International Convention in Vancouver, a member asked me to send her letters from Dave B. to Bill W. during the early years of the movement at Montreal. I did so. We will also purchase the audio recordings of the International Convention meetings at a cost of approximately US\$200. I am working with Ginette on this transaction. Still in connection with my sharing at the convention, I mentioned that in March 2020, when all the groups closed due to the pandemic, we posted shares on our website. These shares are still there, by the way. This provoked a strong positive reaction. Several documents were sent to us by the RAD of 87-22. Documents from the St-Paul-de-Beauharnois group (87-04) were archived, as were archives from the Chateauguay Bassin group of 87-04. On June 21, I sent Lita a link to the archives of area meeting minutes since 1976, so that she could access the reports of the telephone support coordinators in order to write the committee's history. This week, I will be working on the years 1944 to 1975. We will be at the area convention. And finally, Ginette forwarded an email she received from a member in Area 49 who has documents concerning us. He will send them to us. Otherwise, everything is fine.

Aide téléphonique: Lita S., coord.: A quick note to Isabelle about ex-prisoners requesting attendance certificates for meetings. Does your committee have any on hand? The committee is doing very well. You may have noticed that our office is closed this morning. I have two employees working remotely. Many of our shifts are covered by two members per shift. Even though the volume of calls is down, we realize that our new way of doing things, thanks to the IT specialists in Quebec City, is meeting a need. Before the pandemic, we had around 1,000 calls; during the pandemic, we had 1,500. Currently, we are receiving around 600 calls per month. Thank you also to the RDRs who are talking about our committee and the remote response system. Our team of workers consists of 36 people. The remote platform is operational and well integrated into our cascade system. I have given eight training sessions to new workers over the past two weeks. They work remotely from Saint-Ours, Granby, Saint-Hyacinthe, and Châteauguay. I would like to thank the people in Quebec City (Pierre, Clément, and Carl) who set up the entire system. I would also like to thank Brigitte, who is in charge of the Quebec City hotline and has been a great help to me. Thanks also to Ginette. For those who wish to answer calls remotely, as

they say, there are many who are called, but few who are chosen. You need to have a minimum level of technological skills. You need a computer. A phone is not enough. Our committee meetings are hybrid. Generally, two-thirds of the workers participate. We will have a general training session on September 24, a four-hour session, for anyone who wants to provide telephone assistance, either at the office or remotely. The announcement has already been sent out. If you want to register, just contact me at atidetelephonique@aa87.org.

Gilles F., Vice-President:

- The agenda for today's meeting included the approval of the Detention Centers Committee guidelines. The motion was made by , and Isabelle F., coordinator. A second was needed: Kathleen R., CSG coordinator. Who agrees with the approval? Is there anyone who disagrees? No. Thank you very much. The guidelines are accepted.
- To conclude the committee section, I would like to remind you of the coordinators' meeting on Monday, August 25. Lynda will be there to discuss the preparation of committee budgets for 2026.
- I invite you to consult the calendar of activities on the aa87.org website for committee meetings or activities on Zoom. Please also consult it before setting dates for your projects to avoid, as much as possible, having two activities at the same time.
- Twinning: District 27 has been reassigned to a different committee. It's been a while, but if your district is unable to participate in the twinning committee, please let me, Benoît, or Alain know.
- I would like to remind you of our motto: Love and service.

Lucien, the chair of the meeting, introduces André D., who would like to submit a topic for discussion.

André D., delegate:

At the last two General Service Conferences, we attempted to give a presentation on La Vigne. Circumstances prevented us from doing so. During the "open mic" sessions, we have three minutes at the microphone to speak on various topics. This year, I was well prepared, but despite this, I was unable to say everything I wanted to say in three minutes. My microphone was cut off. I was disappointed about that. We discussed it at the La Vigne board meeting. We decided to submit an item for the agenda of the next conference. The procedure requires us to do so before September 30. And we need the approval of the groups and members. What was decided was to propose the addition of this item by the four delegates from Quebec who sit on the board of La Vigne. In Area 87, we have not yet sought the approval of our members, but today I would ask you to comment, if you wish, or to express your opposition. Here is the proposal:

- With reference to the excerpt from the report of the 64th General Service Conference: "*Following Donald C.'s excellent presentation, Terry Bedient asked Conference members to inform French speakers in their areas, districts, and groups about La Vigne. Conference members agreed to recognize La Vigne as the magazine of French-speaking AA members within our Conference*

structure, and that the magazine could serve French-speaking AA members in the US and Canada."

- The board of La Vigne wishes to submit a request to the AA General Service Conference for a maximum of 10 minutes at each Conference to present La Vigne magazine, as recognized at the 64th Conference. This presentation would be made by one of the four Quebec delegates present at each Conference, in the language of his or her choice.
- The purpose of this presentation would be to highlight the work of the entirely volunteer team at Éditions La Vigne, which produces the bimonthly magazine La Vigne 2.0, with a print run of 5,250 copies per issue. We believe that this presentation would raise awareness of the magazine among Conference members, highlight its essential contribution to spreading the AA message in French in North America, and strengthen French-speaking members' sense of belonging to the General Service structure.

I move the motion. Does anyone second the motion? Richard D.

The floor is open for comments and questions. No one responds. The chair asks if the assembly is ready to vote on the proposal.

The chair, Lucien J., calls for a vote. Seconded by Serge F., RDRA 87-04

By a show of hands, the motion is carried to support the initiative of the board of directors of La Vigne to submit a request to add an item concerning La Vigne to the next General Service Conference.

Discussion session

Lucien J., Chair: After talking with Pierre, who felt that this was a topic of area interest, I would like to share an experience I had in Vancouver. We arrived in Vancouver on Wednesday. That evening, during dinner, I received a call from Robert L., Universal Administrator of Canada, who told me that Scott, from the BSG, needed a French speaker the next day. "I don't know why. Can I give her your name?" I said yes. A little later, I received a call from Micha, the BSG's public information officer. She told me that CBC wanted to do a two-minute interview in French tomorrow (Thursday). I told her I was available. Around 10:30 a.m. on Thursday morning, she calls me to give me the time. She will pick me up at the hotel and we will take a taxi to the Radio-Canada studio in Vancouver. I was greeted by the TV host, Julie, who is the French-speaking anchor. She said, "I'm the Patrice Roy of Vancouver." When I was done, I told my wife, "I'm not telling anyone about this!" And since then, I haven't been able to stop talking about it...

At the studio, everything was set up to ensure anonymity, including the lighting. Micha also confirmed this. The interview lasted six minutes and was broadcast in its entirety on Radio Canada's TV news at 6:08 p.m. Vancouver time. They did the same thing in the morning with an English-speaking guest. The best comment I've had since then was about the quality of the questions. I understood why at the end of the interview, as everyone was packing up, the reporter took me aside and told me that she was very

familiar with the movement, as her father had been a member for several years. She confided in me that she had been very moved throughout the interview. As she told me this, we both cried.

The interview was conducted to reach an audience that has probably never heard of AA.

The microphone is now open to everyone for your comments.

Nicole A., Helpline Coordinator: (comments were inaudible)

Richard D., RDR 87-10: I would like to come back to Raymond's comments about the convention. We are a large area with a lot of people. And already, those in charge are questioning the interest of members in our convention. Should we continue? While all the other areas are holding conventions with good attendance. I invite you to seriously consider this question. Area 87 is holding a convention, and no one seems interested.

Isabelle F., Centres de détention Coordinator: I wanted to share with you the discussions I had with people involved in committees in other areas. They are asking for information on how to start groups in courthouses, for example, etc. This week, I spoke with the person in charge of District 88-06, in the Rimouski and Bas-du-Fleuve area. I have spent summers in this region and I remember that before the pandemic, there were about 30 meetings within a 40-minute drive. Now there are only a dozen. The reality is not the same everywhere. And I want to say thank you to everyone. I would like all DCMs and GSRs to pass on the message to the Detention Centers Committee to thank them for their donations of literature. Last year, these donations were worth nearly \$2,600, in addition to what the committee's budget covers in literature purchases. When I spoke with the person in charge of 88-06, he told me that their annual budget, which he shares with the public information department in his sector, is \$800. He asked me if we donate books to prisons. I replied that the value of the books we donate to inmates each year is around \$14,000. We see them using them. They hold meetings in their cells every day. They fill out their roadmaps, they use the vines, they take topics from the 12X12. So your donations are making a difference, and I wanted to thank you and thank the groups.

Pierre C., Archives Coordinator: Going back to Lucien's story, we can't put the recording of his interview on our website. We can put a link to the interview. I'm glad we accepted the proposal to ask the Conference for 10 minutes of space during Conference week. It would be nice to have the same thing in our area. I know there have been welcome meetings in the past where we had a presentation of La Vigne. There was also one on the online store and on the website. It would be nice to have that back because it has been at least four or five years since we have had that kind of presentation at the welcome meeting. It would be nice to start with our area before going to talk to 89 other delegates.

Visitors' comments

Louise: I went to the international convention. If we could take note: there was a hospitality suite, but unfortunately, we weren't there. Even if it's only every 5 years, it

might be a good idea to have a policy in place at the Steering committee or area committee level to organize something. There were many members from Area 87 there. And I remembered the convention in San Antonio. It had been so enjoyable because we had organized the hospitality suite. This year, I found it ordinary. We went there and there was no one to welcome us, even though that's the whole point.

Simon: I don't have a position in the service yet. I'm treasurer of a group. I think it's important to be here today to learn how it works within the service structure. Thank you for your work. I also appreciate the document on voting. It's often confusing in our business meetings. Since I've been treasurer of my group, we've sent contributions to the area. And we also have a container to collect contributions for prisons. Thank you for your service.

Guy: I'm on the convention committee. A lot has been said about the convention today. I'd like to remind everyone that an AA convention is the essence of AA, an event for public information, celebration, sharing, and all that. You may meet people you haven't seen in a long time and have a lot of fun with them. There's the countdown, dancing, and improv league. All opportunities for celebration. The AA movement is not a sad one. It is a great joy and privilege for me to meet people I haven't seen in a long time. If you want to have fun in a festive atmosphere, share and learn more about the committees, come see us. I agree with Raymond; it would be a shame if our area convention disappeared due to a lack of involvement. I look forward to seeing all of you here in the room on October 24, 25, and 26.

Marie-Ève: I hear talk about the convention and that there is a lack of involvement. Is it possible to know what is missing? I am ready to get involved, and I believe that in the groups, we will be able to find people who are ready to roll up their sleeves, but it would be interesting to know the specific needs. This is my first time participating in an area meeting. I am the secretary for District 13. I find it inspiring to see so many inspiring and committed people. It is impressive to see the magnitude of the movement when you participate in gatherings like this one, but also at ASTECAA, the Provincial Gathering, or the International Convention. All of this is for the alcoholic who is still suffering. It is truly powerful.

Jonathan: AGSR in 87-04; We heard about sponsorship in AA and that's what led me to serve in the movement. Someone told me they needed help in a group, and I raised my hand. There were experienced members who helped the younger ones and didn't let them go. We talk about involvement, but don't be afraid to grab us by the scruff of the neck and drag us into service.

Carol: I would like to say thank you to everyone. I only heard one swear word today, which I won't repeat. There has been improvement. I also noticed that the world map in the cupboard has been repaired. It had been coming off for two years. I was told that the Archives Committee oversees this. I'm not pointing fingers but thank you for fixing it. I'd like to tell you about an anniversary that is close to my heart: the Au Pain du Jour group is celebrating its 60th Anniversary on September 7 at 6450 Pie-IX Boulevard at 10 a.m. Those of you who know the group, we welcomed people to the

Botanical Garden! There are still some old members with us, and I'm touched to see that they're still with us after all these years.

Damien: GSR in 87-04; Serge convinced me to come here. Otherwise, I was expecting a very busy Saturday... but not so much in the end. We recently discussed the possibility of giving GSRs the right to vote at area meetings. But if no GSRs come to these meetings, it will be difficult to give them the right to vote. That's mainly why I'm here. This is the second or third time I've come to an area meeting. And I'm always amazed by the tremendous work that goes into organizing the movement to welcome new members. I'm coming to the end of my term, and this gives me information about where I could get involved after my term ends. Thank you all.

Lucien and his final remarks:

I was on my way to the meeting this morning and I was looking forward to arriving. I shared with my fellow travelers during the trip that during my first term as president, the last six months had been difficult. I was reluctant to go. But this time, it's quite the opposite. It's nice to be with you. You are doing a tremendous job. And we, the Steering committee, would like to thank you for all the work you do.

Thank you to the ASO team for the preparations. Thank you to Jean-Philippe for logistics. Thank you to Maude for Zoom support. Thank you to the interpreters, Daniel and Robert. Thank you to the Group Services Committee, Districts 87-04 and 87-10, and the Detention Centers Committee.

The next meeting will be held here at the ASO again. And it's District 87-01 and the Correctional Facilities Committee to help Jean-Philippe.

Who would like to move to adjourn the meeting?

Prop. Carole M., 87-24

Sec. Marie-Élaine P., 87-26

The meeting ends with the Declaration of Unity.