

Minutes

Area Committee Meeting / Area 87
November 8, 2025

General Information

Date	November 8, 2025	
Time	9 a.m.	
Location	Area Service Office, 3920 Rachel Street East, Montreal	
Chair	Lucien J.	
Secretary	Benoît P.	
Vacancies	District 87-08; CPC Committee	
Absent	Gilles F., Alternate Chair Isabelle F., C. Detention Pierre A., Technologies Melissa H., 87-07 John F., 87-19 Hector Z., 87-32	Alain D., Alternate Secretary Geoffrey P., Corrections Steven G., 87-05 François D., 87-13 Yves G., 87-22
Quorum	19	

1. Opening of the meeting with the Serenity Prayer

Lucien invites participants to observe a few seconds of silence to reflect on what we have come to convey in this meeting before beginning with the Serenity Prayer. He welcomes everyone.

2. Reading of the Traditions:

French 1-6: by Carole M. DCM 87-24

English 7-12: Simon B. Helpline Committee

Lucien draws attention to the repainting of the premises and other refurbishment work. He congratulates the newly elected members of the Steering Committee: Sylvie as delegate and Nancy as alternate delegate; Gilles as chair. The position of alternate chair remains vacant for the time being.

3. Roll call: 28 voting members out of a possible 40.

4. Reading and adoption of the agenda:

Prop: Francis V., DCM 87-27

Sec: Thomas G., Coord Treatment

5. Reading and adoption of the minutes of the meetings:

June 14, 2025: Prop: Raymond D., Area Convention

Sec: Pierre C., Archives

August 9, 2025: Prop: Carole M., 87-24

Sec: Richard D., 87-10

6. Chairperson's remarks:

Lucien highlights the changes to the agenda format following comments received from participants. A little more time has been allocated for each person to speak. Please identify yourself when you take the floor, as this will facilitate the preparation of the minutes. If your point of view has already been expressed by someone else, there is no need to take the floor to repeat it. Please speak close to the microphone and wait your turn near the microphone, as this will save a little time. Please be respectful in your comments. There are survey forms on the table that you can fill out and return to us when you leave, or you can also complete them online.

7. Office Manager's Report: Ginette W.

Good morning, my name is Ginette W., and I am an alcoholic. I have the pleasure and privilege of being one of four special workers at the Area Service Office. Our primary goal is to support you in your work of carrying the message. I would also like to congratulate the newly elected members of the steering committee, as well as those in the districts and committees. Thank you all for your service and involvement. Everything is going well at the ASO. We are in the final stretch of the year. This week, we prepared the **Mid-Term News newsletter**. I have not received any comments in response to my request to survey the groups in your districts to see if we should return to a monthly newsletter that would be mailed out to all groups. Currently, there is a bimonthly mailing of our newsletter, and a Mid-Term newsletter distributed by email to GSRs or group contacts. Next week, we will prepare **the Holiday Special Edition**, which will be mailed out at the end of November. Then we will work on the **January-February newsletter**. Since December is shortened by the Holiday break, we must do a little more with one less week. We are also preparing **for the year-end inventory of the sales counter stock**. The new decor is not yet complete. It has been a challenge to synchronize the work since we had to continue operating as if nothing had changed. There are still some decorating details to be completed. I am also working solo on the **2026 calendars (ASO rooms, Zoom rooms, and district meetings)**. I am also finalizing the **2026 Area Booklet**. I don't know if there will be a Trusted Servant's Workbook; that remains to be seen. I will try to continue sending out the "dates to remember" at the beginning of the month so that no deadlines are missed. I don't know if this has been helpful. Please don't forget to let me know about elections in your committees and districts so that I can make the necessary updates. Keys, for servants who have keys and are at the end of their term: do not hand your keys directly to your successor. They must go through the ASO so that we can follow up as we are responsible for doing.

Question: With the premises closed during the holidays or on weekends, we can no longer assume that there will be phone workers to open the door. Therefore, it is now particularly important to let us know your needs regarding the premises so that we can organize access to the rooms. Ideally, we would be informed on the Wednesday before the weekend so that we can plan your access. Thank you all.

8. Committees' Reports:

Aide téléphonique, Lita S. Coord.: Hello, everyone. Our committee is doing very well. I appreciate having a little more time to give my report. We held our committee elections on October 28. I was unanimously elected as coordinator for the next two years. I really enjoy this role. The position of secretary has also been filled. We don't have anyone as alternate coordinator. It takes at least a year of training to feel comfortable in the role of coordinator. If you know anyone who might be interested, please let me know. Workers appreciate remote work, but it requires more training in the use of the Internet. We therefore give preference to people who have a minimum of knowledge about Internet navigation and computer use. We also prefer alcoholics who are well into the program and can also pass on their knowledge. We offered Zoom training to seven or eight new candidates. Four of them stayed. As the saying says, Many are called, but few are chosen. We have also reviewed the committee structure, and the guidelines will be revised in the coming months. Forty percent of respondents are currently working remotely. This explains why no one is in the office this morning, but the shift is covered. This increases my workload, which requires a review of the subcommittee structure, but we will get there. We are still looking for workers from outside Montreal, as remote shifts are 2 hours long instead of 4 hours for shifts covered here at the office. For DCMs, if you want to do an initial screening to assess the Internet skills of those who express interest, and if the results are positive, please refer them to me. Thank you and have a good day.

Archives, Pierre C. Coord.: Hello, everyone. Thank you to Districts 10, 26, and 16 for their invitation. It is always a pleasure to meet with the GSRs and talk to them about the archives. Our last meeting was held on October 23. There were eight participants, including the alternate archivist for Area 90. We will try as much as possible to collaborate with archivists from other Areas. Our guidelines have been translated into English. The alternate chair has received the French and English versions, with the goal of having them approved by the Area Committee in December. The consent form for the recordings will also be updated. We have decided to provide committees that need them with back issues of Grapevine. We have a few boxes of Grapevine and La Vigne magazines, some of which are about 40 years old. If you need any, please let us know. We now have access to them on the Internet, but this is not always the case for people in treatment or detention centers. Also, the next few weekends will be dedicated to cleaning up our basement space. The digitization work continues. Thank you to the groups and districts for submitting their documents to us. The audio sharing forms from the last Area Convention are all archived. Our next meeting is scheduled for December 18 at 7 p.m. in virtual mode. You are welcome to attend. There is a written report on the document table.

Treatment Centers, Thomas G. Coord: Hello, everyone. Our committee is doing very well. The pandemic has been exceedingly difficult for our committee. All meetings were closed. And we must start the work of making contact again, often

with different administrations. It's a lot of rebuilding work. We currently have 14 active meetings. I would like to thank Johanne, my alternate, and Maxime, the secretary, two valuable collaborators. There is a challenge to be met in a few centers for First Nations and Inuit people. It's a different approach and a different culture, it takes more time, but it works. We also need women to run meetings in women's centers and shelters. We are also talking with a few treatment centers and hospitals. Let's keep in mind that one-third of new members come through treatment centers. This is therefore an avenue that should not be overlooked. We are available to visit your districts and talk about the committee and the Fostering Reconciliation program, which is different from the one in detention centers. We have revised the form with the material available from the GSO. Our meetings are held every other month. We are always in need of members who are willing to host meetings in the centers. Our next meeting is scheduled for December. In order to keep a closer eye on the committee's budget, we have established that all literature orders must be approved by the coordinator. And their orders are delivered at the committee meeting. As a result, we have better attendance at our meetings! The phone line for Fostering Closeness is now operational. My term ends at the end of the year. I enjoyed serving in this capacity. Congratulations to the steering committee and their work.

Area Convention, Raymond D. Coord: Hello, everyone. I would like to thank all the committee members and module leaders for their work at the last Convention. They all formed an exceptionally energetic team. A huge thank you to the districts for their collaboration in ticket presales. Thank you to everyone who participated in the convention in one way or another. Until early September, we were unsure of the financial results of the convention. But in the end, we broke even. So, thank you all. The committee members never lost faith in our success. I thank them for that. Thank you all.

Helpline, Simon B., Alt. Coord.: The committee is doing very well now. We have welcomed five new workers. Our efforts to promote the committee are paying off. Word of mouth is a key factor in recruiting workers. We emphasize that working on the phone is a great way to get involved in the service aspect of the program. I, myself started as a DLP (Daily Liaison Person), responsible for providing phone workers to cover all shifts one day a week, which means confirming scheduled workers, replace them if necessary, etc. We also have three shifts per day. Last month, I was appointed alternate coordinator. We have our day of gratitude for our workers, we are present at the WI Round-Up and Catch the Spirit day, at the Area Convention, at the South-Shore Round-Up. We are present and visible. We have tokens with our phone number and bracelets. All of this ensures the committee's visibility. **Question:** How many workers are there on your committee? **Answer:** Three shifts per day, seven days a week, with relief for each shift. So, around 80.

9. Treasurer's report:

Lynda B.: Hello, everyone. Thank you to those who have taken their documents. There are the statements of income as of August 31 and September 30. At the end of August, there was a deficit of \$5,147.67 for the 2025 fiscal year ending August 31. Total expenses are below what was budgeted. However, total revenues are also below our projections. We are doing everything we can to limit expenses. Thank you to the groups for their generosity. The same applies to the results as of September 30. We had budgeted revenues of approximately \$345K. We received \$319K. Expenses were below budget. The problem is therefore more on the revenue side than on the expense side. We understand that the economic situation is not great for anyone, and the same is true for our members. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask. I don't want to spend too much time on the results, as I have other things I want to talk to you about. But I will answer all your questions.

Adoption of financial reports:

Prop: Lynda B, Treasurer Sec: Lita S., Telephone Assistance Coordinator

Important topics: Financial statements from previous years: Our ASO team is wonderful. For your information, I am a professional accountant. I have gone through the books and the work is impeccable. However, according to our guidelines, we are required to review our financial statements. The last financial statements that were audited date back to 2018. It became apparent that the accounting firm at the time had not really done the work. Our books had contained a major error since 2004. Everything has been corrected, and the figures presented to you today are accurate. The bank reconciliations have been done. It wasn't fraud, it was clerical errors that had been dragging on for years. The new accounting firm did the work and confirmed that everything is now in order. But the honesty and efficiency of our employees is in no way questioned. I checked all the transactions. **Budget 2025:** I was the one who presented the 2025 budget to you, but I wasn't the one who prepared it. And a lot of information was missing, such as obligations to our employees that had not been fulfilled for several years. This will be included in the October statement of earnings. But know that ASO owed \$18K to employees who had not been paid their due according to their employment contract. We will therefore ensure that we monitor this issue more closely in the future to avoid such situation. Legally, from an accounting perspective, even if these amounts are from previous years, we must recognize them in the current fiscal year. There were also penalties to pay because the documents and reports had not been produced by the former accountant. Rest assured, everything is now in order. **Announcements:** On November 29, at 9 a.m., in Saint-Lambert, the annual Service Brunch will be held. This year's organizers have chosen to focus on involvement in groups. There will also be committees and DCMs. But we felt that involvement at the executive committee level comes first from involvement in the groups. You are all invited. For DCMs: please ensure to present our financial reports to your district's GSR.

They have the right to know the financial health of the Area. For the Area Convention, we have agreed to advance \$10K so that it can meet its obligations before the event takes place. Everything is in accordance with the guidelines. **I am available** to visit the districts and to answer any questions you may have. The situation I mentioned has been resolved and regularized. For lunch, if you haven't ordered yet, please see me before the break.

Break

10. DCMs have the floor

District 01, François D., DCM: The district is doing relatively well. Meeting attendance is stable. We have decided to change our meeting format by eliminating the roundtable of GSR reports, which were becoming redundant, and replacing them with thematic discussions. The district inventory has been completed. Our guidelines should be revised in December. Currently, our biggest project is the AA Christmas activity. It is a large undertaking, and the person in charge is very competent.

District 02, Sophie S., DCM: Not much to report. Suzanne and I will try to meet with people to raise awareness about respecting the principles of the movement. District 02 hosted the first three editions of the Service Brunch. District 05 took over this year. Originally, this initiative was designed so that the event would move from one district to another each year. The goal is to promote our services. If you think your district would be interested in hosting the event in 2026, please contact District 05 DCM Steven. I would also like to remind all DROs that we have a DRO meeting on November 19, in a hybrid format, here at the ASO or on Zoom. An invitation and relevant documentation will be sent to you soon. The purpose of these meetings is to promote unity in the Area, discuss the distinct realities of each of our districts, and improve support for our groups. I hope many of you will attend.

District 04, Daniel L., DCM: Our district is doing well. Meeting attendance is very good, between 21 and 25; only one group does not have a GSR. The big event coming up for us is the 12 Hours of New Year's Day. It is a very well-organized event, and the committee reports regularly to the district. It will be held in Saint-Constant. We found a candidate for secretary after a three-month search. Our district elections are held in December for all positions. Everything is going well. Thank you.

District 06, Philippe J., DCM: We held our elections last month. Twelve people were present. I was elected DCM for January 2026. The positions of Alternate DCM and treasurer were not filled. We also had a representative from WI Roundup who spoke about the lack of interest among members in getting

involved. I was also elected JCDD activity chair. I mentioned bi-monthly or monthly news, but there has been no feedback.

District 10, Richard D., DCM: We held our district elections at our last meeting. The entire district leadership committee was re-elected for two years. We were all serving on an interim basis. The only position that was not filled was treasurer. He was absent for medical reasons. That will be for the next meeting. Good turnout, with 17 out of 21 groups represented. The election was conducted by Pierre C. Following the roundtable discussion, we can conclude that all groups have good participation in their group conscience. There is good involvement from members. The problem lies in the place given to GSRs in the groups. It remains difficult to explain the nature of the GSR's work.

District 14, Sophie D., DCM: We held our convention on October 4. Attendance was lower than usual, which disappointed us a little. The Trois-Rivières convention took place on the same day. Next year, we have decided to hold the convention in November. On December 25, we have the 12 Hours of Christmas, from noon to midnight, but it starts at 10 a.m. We had a new member share his story, who came to us through the 12 Hours of Christmas. He immediately got involved in the committee. He came in through service, but he is in recovery. It was very touching to hear him share. The committee also changed its guidelines so that the coordinator is in office for two years, and that makes a difference. Things are done more calmly. Treasury: the coexistence of money and spirituality is quite a challenge. The biggest one for me since the beginning of my term. Some members noticed the lack of contributions from one particular group, and many were perplexed. The difference between the contributions from the same group in 2024 and 2025 is surprising and has caused some discussion. I found it interesting to be able to meet with the group's GSR and point out the lack of transparency to him, simply and without judgment. Money is a very sensitive subject. The group made a contribution at last week's meeting. We are not here to judge, but to welcome and guide as best we can. It is fascinating to see the wave that a situation like this can create and to observe human behavior. We had a great discussion about how the RSGs feel about their work. Laurence, who was elected DCM, will be taking over. Benoît was also elected treasurer, and Josianne was elected secretary.

District 15, Roger P., ADCM: I am ill-prepared to present my district. I was recently elected. We have two special parties for new members, the first on December 22 to prepare them for Christmas, and the second on January 2 to welcome the same new members who will come and tell us how they spent the holiday season. It is always a privilege to come and see you. I have a hearing problem and wear a hearing aid. You know that there is a brochure that suggests ways to welcome a person with a disability. There is a lot of information available

on accessibility. I invite you to learn more so that you can welcome all members into your groups.

District 16, Martin R., DCM: Things aren't too bad in the district, but we don't have any replacements. All three positions are open: DCM, ADCM, and secretary. The ADCM has announced that it will not be running for DCM. Despite everything, there are some interesting things happening. One of them is the group Il y a une solution (There is a solution) from Sainte-Julie, which had never come to the district before but now finally has a representative and is coming to the district. This is the first time I've seen them in all the years I've been attending district meetings. They have enough members to afford a GSR. The other groups are doing well. The Meditation group celebrated its^{50th} anniversary. Welcome to Beloeil, which always has four activities, including one for Step⁴. They have registrations for a year in advance. Have a good day.

11. Delegate's Report

André D., Panel 74 Delegate: Before giving my report, I would like to remind the coordinators elected for 2026 that you should send me your complete personal contact information so that I can register you with the GSO. Please send the information to my work email address: delegue@aa87.org. Thank you. Two weeks ago, we received copies of the final report from the 2025 Conference. Boxes have been prepared for each district. Please pick up yours. Those who are not here today, please make sure to pick up your copies of the report as soon as possible.

André introduces himself in the three official languages of the Canada-United States Conference.

The delegate's written report is available in the appendix 1 to the minutes.

12. Report from the Alternate Delegate

Sylvie B., Alternate Delegate: Thank you for your confidence in the elections. And please thank the GSRs in your districts. I will begin by talking to you about La Vigne. There has been a change in the board of directors of La Vigne. A new Chairperson has been appointed: Normand P., former delegate from Area 90. Having seen him often in service, I have no doubt that he will be a competent chairperson. The next meeting is scheduled for November 22. The book **Un Coeur rempli de gratitude**: 7,250 books were printed. Over 4,000 have been sold. It's a success. This morning, I would like to talk to you about service sponsorship, once again. Sylvie will read us an excerpt from the Service Manual on the subject, on page 10. Talk about it in your districts. Group members and trusted servants are the next generation. Also, be wary of "I've seen it work, I know how it works." I encourage you to get a service sponsor.

Question: (about the Provincial Committee meeting) We are told this morning that membership in Area 87 is declining. Is the same phenomenon being observed in other Areas? Did you discuss this at the Provincial meeting? What did you discuss last Saturday at this meeting? It would be interesting to hear about the meeting this morning.

Answer: (by Lucien, the chair) One thing that was discussed is that there is a glaring lack of sponsorship in all Areas. There are also vacant positions. I will pull out my notes and talk to you about this a little later this afternoon.

Response from André: There are statistics available. Until 2021, the General Service Conference Final Report included figures on the number of groups and members. Since 2022, this is no longer done for an obvious reason: something is happening. After my analysis, I see that Covid has hit Quebec harder than elsewhere. At the Provincial meeting in May, I presented some figures. We talked about it briefly, but it didn't go any further. It's a bit dramatic to see this fact. But the important thing is to see the reality and organize our work accordingly. We cannot go back to the past. In his closing address at the 2025 conference, Scott talked about making a sacrifice. Not about looking for someone to blame but about looking to the future. What is at stake is not the future of the movement; it is the lives of others. The lives of current members and the lives of those who have not yet come to know us.

Other comments from the Chairperson reminding us of the DCM welcome meeting on December 13 at the St-Zotique Center. We invite you to bring alternate DCMs, alternate coordinators, newly elected members, and other members of your districts and committees.

A question for committee coordinators that was asked of me last month, and I would like to hear the coordinators' response: In your committees, there are one or more paired DCMs. Do DCMs have the right to speak and vote? The answer is yes.

Lunch break

Return from lunch. The chair thanks everyone for staying for the afternoon portion of the meeting. Special thanks are given to Maurice, who attends all our meetings and makes sure we never run out of coffee.

Follow-up to the question about discussions at the last Provincial meeting: The Provincial meeting is a gathering of the executive committees from Quebec's four Areas.

- There were 34 attendees from all 4 Areas of the Province.
- The provincial website www.aa-quebec.org was discussed. It is the best-referenced site in the province of Quebec. It is a project of the Provincial committee that began in March 2002 in Trois-Rivières. The site will be revamped in the coming months to eventually become a trilingual site.

- There is a new chairperson for the provincial telephone line committee: Brigitte (from Quebec City).
- Area 90 has requested that the Grapevine book Prayer and Meditation be translated. This has been discussed throughout the year without reaching a consensus. A comment from the Area 89 delegate: "Why ask Grapevine to translate books when we have Éditions de La Vigne here in Quebec, a publishing house that can produce books with local material?"
- There was also discussion of the Provincial Gathering to be held in Area 89 in 2026. Each Area's delegate received a theme for a presentation. It will be held in the Quebec City area, with details to follow. Following the discussion on declining membership, it was decided that there would be a workshop on the newcomer topic.
- The temporary contact program for detention center committees was discussed.
- There was discussion of the CDQ (Quebec Delegates Committee), similar to the ODC (Ontario Delegates Committee, which has been in existence for 30 years). We held the first CDQ meeting here in 2017, 2018, and 2019. Former delegates were invited to inform new delegates about what to expect at the General Service Conference. The project has been on hold since the pandemic. It is difficult to restart the initiative.
- The position of chair of the Provincial Committee is vacant. Normand P., who was chair, resigned following his appointment as chair of the board of directors of La Vigne.

13. Plenary discussion: "Area Convention: Looking to the Future"

Following the Convention Committee's request for financial support, the Executive Committee had a discussion, and we felt it would be good to have a discussion at the Area Committee meeting about the future of the convention, hence the title "Looking Ahead." We would like to hear your comments on your expectations for the Area 87 convention. Before opening the floor for comments, the treasurer gave an overview of the financial situation for the 2025 edition as it stood a few days before the event. The decision to cut one day this year avoided a deficit of approximately \$1,500, which would have depleted the already modest reserve for the 2026 convention.

- My question: is there any coordination between all the conventions and roundups that exist in the Area? We are talking here about the "Area" Convention. Are we not cannibalizing ourselves by having so many local Conventions, which resulted in the cancellation of Sunday morning? This made our "Area" Convention no more significant than any smaller event organized in a district. Wouldn't it be better to coordinate and hold one big event in Montreal, lasting three days, and put all our eggs in one basket to create an Area convention at the scale of the whole Area? Let's go all out. I don't understand why we don't coordinate more, why we don't talk to each other more.

- This year's program was difficult to understand. We had to answer a lot of questions from people who didn't understand how the program was presented.
- Should the Area 87 Convention always be held in Montreal? Does the Area also include the South Shore and Montérégie? If we looked for venues outside Montreal, the rental cost might be lower.
- The Area convention is no longer the event it once was, with all the events held locally. How can we make the "Area" convention the event we want it to be again? Would the districts be willing to sacrifice their local events? Could the "Area" Convention be "mobile," held in a district that has "bid" to host it? Can we rethink the formula?
- A convention is a public information event, not a closed meeting for members. Whatever form the convention takes in the future, the most important thing is to prepare a detailed budget before preparations begin, months in advance. The proliferation of conventions is a problem. We must include this reality in our reflections.
- Why not advertise our convention, for which we would pay? Why not survey the GSRs at the welcome meeting about the possibility of purchasing space on a large billboard on the side of the A40 or at the Jacques Cartier Bridge exit? It costs money, of course, but in 2025, nothing is free!
- There is a serious lack of collaboration among the districts. Many of them are unaware of what is being done and what the service committees are doing.

In the end, the discussion on the future of the Area Convention did not take place. The discussions focused largely on the 2025 Convention: signage, program, advance sales, etc. The 2025 Convention was unanimously appreciated as a whole. But that was not the purpose of the discussion.

In conclusion:

- It will be status quo for the convention.
- People liked the 2025 Convention
- The majority are against the idea of the Area Convention being a one-off event
- The ticket price could be raised.
- We should be wary of our tendency to procrastinate and think a little more ahead at all levels of the Area structure.

14. Committee reports:

Public Information Committee: Renald D., Coordinator – We held our committee elections last week. We elected a coordinator, Raymond P., an alternate coordinator, Michel L., a secretary, Isabelle L., and an alternate

secretary, Christian P. All will take office in January 2026. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, at our November meeting, we will elect a new manager for the One Day at a Time module. The English-language and MONQYOPAA modules will remain unchanged for 2026. Another achievement in October was that Hélène (Al-Anon) and I did a morning radio interview to talk about the convention. The workshop at the convention was a success. Our goal was to present all the work done by the One Day at a Time radio show and the new podcast formats with mini interviews on specific topics. We are targeting a younger audience. We met with SPVM police officers and special education students.

Publications Committee: André L., coordinator – Since February, we have not had any paired DCMs. Daniel C., former coordinator, is now the RLVR. He is the one who visits the districts to talk about the committee, since it is difficult for me to get there myself. During a district visit, he met a young member who was curious about what we do, and since then he has been attending our committee meetings. On December 6, from 10 a.m. to noon, there will be a meeting with representatives of La Vigne in the groups. Daniel will be facilitating the meeting. I invite the DCMs to talk about this meeting to the GSRs to raise awareness of La Vigne. At our December meeting, we will focus our attention on the brochure Blacks in AA. We would like to hear from someone in the Black community about how they felt when they first joined us. I would like to remind you of the comment made by the delegate at the June assembly, who mentioned the penetration rate of La Vigne magazine. More copies of La Vigne are sold in Canada than Grapevine. We need to talk about our magazine, which is produced entirely by a team of volunteers. However, Area 87 sells the fewest magazines. So, please talk about the December 6 meeting. We are still reviewing the committee's guidelines. I asked the Area if any research had been done to replace the Publisher application used to produce the Écho Echo Eco and The AArt of Recovery newsletters, since Publisher will no longer be available in a few months. I invite you to participate in our meeting.

Group Services Committee: Kayla W., alternate coordinator – Elections for the committee will be held on November 16. All positions are open. I will be running for coordinator. We will need an alternate and module leaders (inventory/guidelines; seminars and workshops; meetings and assemblies logistics). Jean-Philippe is currently responsible for logistics, but we need help assisting him. In a few days, I will send you a description of these modules, in case you are interested and are an outgoing DCM. We are paired with Districts 01 and 13. It is very pleasant to work with both DCMs. We have been asked to organize a workshop on welcoming and a workshop on anonymity in District 13. This is a request from a GSR in the district. This is the approach we will take, responding to requests from districts and GSRs. If you could put this on your district meeting agenda and let us know what your requests are.

15. Secretary's remarks: Benoît, secretary: Meetings when we are at the St-Zotique Center. The experience of this year's election meeting, for registration and setting up the room. We seemed disorganized. I would like to remind you that we have a schedule for setting up the room. If you have not been contacted to help with the setup and installation, please wait in the hallway to allow time for everyone to get settled. When everyone enters at once, we lose control of the registration process. And at the election, there were ballots that had not been distributed properly or with instructions for use. We appreciate the willingness to help, but the teams are planned in advance. If we need help, we will ask for it. Also, for meetings, coordinators, you can come in early and help set up the banners and committee tables. I also want to talk to you about the meeting and assembly satisfaction survey. I have sheets here, and the form is also available online. Your comments are important and help us plan Area meetings.

16. Additional information from Sylvie B.: We often hear that sponsees and sponsors study the Big Book together. Why not study the Service Manual? I have done this with my service sponsees. It helped them, but it helped me even more. For those who are finishing their term, why not volunteer your time to organize Service Manual study meetings?

17. DCMs have their say (continued)

District 17, Gilles V., ADCM: Since my appointment, I have realized that I need a service sponsor. My approach with GSRs is to listen to them so that we speak the same language. I decided to rename the Service Manual: The Big Book of Service. It makes it more popular. We have several new GSRs in the district. There is good attendance at our meetings. We want to work with public information in the district.

District 18, Nancy C., DCM: At our last meeting, we talked about the upcoming elections. It's time for rotation, both as DCM and GSR. We have a great group of GSRs. Our elections are scheduled for November. We have a very good candidate for DCM. We are looking for a secretary and alternate DCM. We experienced a situation in the district groups with a member who had mental health issues that affected unity and the primary purpose. This is the kind of discussion we have in our district. By sharing experiences, we found practical solutions and adopted an approach. That is why GSR meetings are important.

District 21, Alain B., DCM: Everything is going well in our district. Meeting attendance is good. We elected a new treasurer and secretary at our last meeting. We are still looking for a deputy DCM.

District 24, Carole M., DCM: Our district is doing relatively well. Ten out of 13 groups are participating. The absent groups are those without GSRs. We include

them in our communications. We held our elections and Daniel D. was elected DCM. We also elected a ADCM, Patrick H. As for convention tickets, the GSRs did not appreciate being forced to purchase tickets. They would have preferred to have the tickets on consignment, as was done in the past. In our district, we decided that we would read the Service Manual, a few pages at each district meeting. In the end, we never had time to do so, as our meetings were taken up with dealing with all sorts of other issues. Fortunately, my service sponsor helped me out several times. We send regular contributions to the Area.

District 26, Marie-Élaine P., DCM: Our elections were held at our November 3 meeting. A DCM was elected, Mylène N.; an alternate DCM, Marie-Andrée V.; the treasurer will be Marco L.; we are looking for a secretary. Everything went well. Regarding comments on monthly or bi-monthly newsletters: the GSRs say they prefer bi-monthly newsletters. They get their information from the website between issues. I really enjoyed participating in the convention. I thought everything was well organized. The district is healthy, with good attendance at district meetings.

District 27, Francis V., DCM: Our district is doing very well. Attendance is stable. All our groups are represented, except for one group that does not have a GSR. Elections are scheduled for our next meeting, for the positions of treasurer and secretary. There is a phenomenon where GSRs call me after the meeting rather than speaking up during the meeting. I try to make them aware that it would be better for them to speak at the meeting so that everyone can benefit from their experience and comments. The 12/12 committee is doing very well and is highly active in preparing for the 12 Hours of Christmas and the 12 Hours of New Year's Day. I continue to visit the groups in the district, which we visit by invitation. The visits are organized around three questions. They have been very well received. Our district convention went well, despite the fact that there was another convention on the same day and the Île-aux-Tourtes Bridge was closed.

18. GSR Welcome Assembly

André, the delegate, asked to add this item to the agenda. Philippe will come and talk to us about it.

Philippe J. DCM 87-06: I am acting as a messenger to submit a proposal to the Area committee for the January GSR meeting. (A written document has been submitted and added as an appendix).

Comment from the Chairperson: Thank you, Philippe and the ad hoc committee, for the recommendation. We will certainly take it into consideration when planning the January Assembly. I don't think it will be a problem and I believe we will easily reach a consensus.

19. Hybrid or in-person meetings and assemblies?

Last spring, we agreed to revisit this discussion in anticipation of 2026.

- Since the beginning of my term as DCM, the availability of virtual meetings has allowed me to participate in two meetings that I would have missed had it not been for Zoom.
- As a trusted servant living in Mexico, if we decide to abandon the hybrid format, I will obviously have to resign. So, I would like the virtual meeting option to remain.
- I believe we should keep the hybrid format while promoting how much more enjoyable it is to be there in person.
- The problem of finding competent people to manage Zoom remains. Last time, I took a lot of notes for when Maude couldn't be with us. If we decide to keep the hybrid format, we're really going to have to find people who can handle the technical aspects of Zoom. It's not complicated, but we need at least two or three people to back up Maude and Eric.

20. Visitors' comments:

Marco L., visitor: (treasurer of District 81-26) Sylvie and I have been serving Alcoholics Anonymous for 35 years. I am no longer on the Area committee, but I am still aware of what is happening in the Area. What has pained me the most this year is hearing that districts are closing, and groups are having to merge with other districts. I heard this morning that there are no candidates for positions in the districts and committees. As treasurer of District 26, I was on standby because it was not certain that anyone would run for district DCM. Fortunately, someone called me and I was able to convince her to run. You can also sponsor service simply by sitting around the table and being a reassuring presence. Thank you for placing your trust in Sylvie. Along with Lucien, I was one of the people responsible for the ASO staff, and working conditions were what mattered most to me. Thank you, Lynda, for reporting the backlash. Nancy, thank you for raising your hand for the position of alternate delegate. I think it will make a difference in unity with the English-speaking community.

Louise, visitor: Regarding the convention, I heard from the coordinator that there was a surplus of \$6K. Then I hear that someone in the Area wants some of that money. Please explain. All committees have a budget. Why not give \$4K to the convention so that their starting fund is \$10K? Over the years, there have always been ups and downs. No one has raised this point, but the messiness of the venue after the convention was appalling. Also, the Spanish community did us proud at the convention.

Jean-Pierre B.: (Convention Committee Secretary) I would like to share my experience with you: I arrived at the convention in 1996 at the Palais des Congrès in Montreal. I didn't know AA, and I saw people talking at the front of the rooms in French, English, and Spanish. Then the countdown impressed me greatly. This year's convention team worked very hard and thank you to Raymond. We don't want to lose our convention. All the team members agree to hold the convention

in a hotel. My first welcome meeting was at the De Lajemmerais school, in a beautiful auditorium. All the committees were there. It was very impressive for a new GSR. It reflected the greatness of the movement. But today, we find ourselves in the gym of a school that is falling apart. No wonder we don't have any new members.

Jean-Philippe G.: (Logistics/Group Services Committee) I've been overseeing logistics for meetings and assemblies for two years now. And I'll probably stay on for another year. I enjoy doing it. But next month, I won't be there. Daniel, the new guy, will be handling the meeting. I just wanted to let you know.

Guylaine L.: (Public Information Committee Secretary) My term ends at the end of the year. I would like to add that the CEGEPs on the Island of Montreal were contacted about the convention, in the hope that some students would be able to attend. I was there on Saturday evening and found the atmosphere electric. MONQYPAA was dynamic. And it's true that it was very messy and dirty at the end of the evening. We need to think big for the Area convention. We need to reorganize the district conventions, because the comment I often hear is, "We have a convention here, and it's right next door. Why would I go to Montreal?" That's a shame. I would like the Area convention to be a convention that people travel to attend because "it's so good!" I would like to thank Renald, who supported and encouraged me throughout my involvement on the committee. And my sponsor, who is not here today. And all the DCMs who answered the call, to whom I send a lot of communication.

21. Adjournment of the meeting

Lucien, Chair, conclusion and final remarks:

Thank you to the ASO team for preparing the documents for the meeting. Thank you to Jean-Philippe for the logistics. Thank you to Maude for Zoom, as well as Kayla. Thank you to Daniel and Jean-Pierre, our interpreters. Thank you to Benoît for the brunch. Thank you to Maurice for the coffee.

Don't forget the Service Brunch in District 05 on November 29.

Don't forget to complete the survey, either on paper or online.

I'd like to come back to the technology for hybrid meetings. Please spread the word to expand the team of technicians for the meetings. We need new blood.

Closing of the meeting: Gilles V., 87-17 sec: Carole M. 87-24

We conclude with the **Declaration of Unity**.

Appendix 1

A Word from the Delegate Area Meeting November 8, 2025

Hello, my friends,

My name is André D., and I am an alcoholic. I have the honor and privilege of serving as delegate for Area 87—Southwest Quebec, Panel 74.

Before beginning my report, I would like to thank all the members of the Area Committee for your work and your unwavering support in carrying the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to those who need it so much, wherever they may be.

Since the second pre-Conference meeting held on April 12, 2025, a summary of which was provided today at this next to last area meeting of the year, a need has been expressed in our area to raise the bar a little higher in future regarding the place of our groups and the role of our GSRs in order to align more closely with the spirit of our spiritual principles.

Many of us agree that we are now at a turning point in our evolution as an Area and as a Fellowship.

In September, at the area meeting, I suggested that it might be time for each of us to make a real sacrifice for the future of our Movement. A sacrifice of time, above all, and a little money. We cannot doubt the generosity of our members when it comes to the Seventh Tradition. Time, however, is crucial at this point. Those who serve Alcoholics Anonymous today would love to have an extra pair of hands or the ability to be in two places at once. We know that this is not possible. So how can we get our members to invest more in serving other alcoholics?

We have no possessions in AA other than a message of hope that it is possible to recover from alcoholism with the help of the Twelve Step program. The Alcoholics Anonymous recovery program guarantees long-term sobriety at little or no cost, with an incalculable impact on the community and family of a recovered alcoholic. This is very good news in itself. Our main problem is communicating it. To communicate it effectively, part of our solution is to work together toward a common goal and ideal.

Sometimes I get the impression (and please tell me I'm wrong) that we have a great ability to adopt what is done elsewhere (therapies, medicine, organizations) to the detriment of our own product. Although valid, these approaches have nothing to do with the real work of AA.

Sometimes it seems as if we are acting like bureaucrats. Over time, we have gone from great enthusiasm for our Movement to a cozy community that reassures itself that it is on the right track by seeking validation from the outside world. While the leadership of the early days has sometimes given way to hesitation,

there is currently (to my knowledge) little personal initiative being taken to carry our message.

While our groups hold the ultimate responsibility and final authority for our World Services according to the First Concept, this responsibility and authority are purely theoretical and tend to be overshadowed by the urgency of the moment. Comfortable in our certainties and convinced that our long experience will protect us from possible mistakes, we don't dare take the risk of letting the voice of our groups be heard. The result is that the effective conscience and voice of our groups is almost never heard in our area assemblies. Are we afraid of losing the control of our assemblies or of exhausting our GSRs?

Right now, our shared experience is more than ever the conviction that we must act together and uphold the democratic ideal of AA in today's world.

Thank you for your efforts, your personal sacrifices, your encouragement, and thank you for serving.

Long live Alcoholics Anonymous.

Love & Service.

André D. Delegate R87/P74

Alcoholics Anonymous

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Proposal from the Ad Hoc Committee
GSR Assembly 2026
January 17, 2026

The following individuals were present at the special meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on October 30, 2025, at the ASO:

André Daigle, Delegate A87P74; François Delagrave, DCM 87-01; Sophie St-Pierre, DCM 87-02; Suzanne Bolduc, ADCM 87-02; Philippe Jacques, ADCM 87-06; Richard Domingue, DCM 87-10; François Dupont, DCM 87-13; Sophie Dufresne, DCM 87-14; Laurence Cormier, ADCM 87-14; Nancy Crowe, DCM 87-18; Alain Bernier, DCM 87-21; Kayla Williamson, Alternate Coordinator, Group Services Committee.

Observation:

Our GSRs have virtually no right to speak at our area assemblies, with the exception of the pre-conference assemblies where they comment on topics related to the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous. But nowhere do they express their views on matters directly affecting their groups or vote on recommendations affecting all groups in the area.

The 2026 GSR Assembly

The Ad Hoc Committee does not intend to bring changes to the entire area calendar, but we can at least suggest a different format for the GSR Welcome Assembly to allow them to express their views on issues that directly affect them and their groups.

On January 17, 2026, the Ad Hoc Committee proposes holding a general sharing session for new GSRs, second-year GSRs, and outgoing GSRs.

This discussion session would focus on four topics of interest to GSRs. These topics are:

1. How to encourage your group to provide you with the right to speak?
2. Is your group's conscience communicated to your district? If so, what are your expectations regarding the role of your DCM?
3. How do you perceive your role in the area's service structure (group, district, assembly)?
4. Do you consider that your group's voice (that of the GSR) is heard within the Area Assembly (the area)?

The Ad Hoc Committee believes that these four topics will be of interest to our GSRs and that fruitful discussions will ensue. The results of this exchange of views will then feed into the work of the Area Committee. It would then be possible to expect (we certainly hope) greater participation by our GSRs in the work of our area's service structure. This would be a start.

Thank you for your attention.