ARCHIVES COMMITTEE AGENDA

MAR 28 2026 AREA 39 ASSEMBLY

Open meeting with moment of silence and Serenity Prayer

Read Statement of Purpose from the Archives Committee Guidelines

1. The purpose of the Western Area Archives Standing Committee is to develop policies for the collection, restoration, preservation, storage, display and transportation of the Area 39 Archives.

2. The committee's responsibility is also to help carry the message of hope and recovery to all alcoholics via the gathering and storing of the area's history, following the AA Guidelines for Archives, published by the General Service Office.

Secretary Reads January Minutes

Committee Chair Report

Archivist Report

New Business

- **Discussion of GSC Archives Conference Committee ITEM B: Consider a request to define eligibility for area-level service for members residing outside of the geographic area they want to serve. (PAI-46)**
    - **Background material attached**

District Reports

Group Reports

Area Archives Meeting 1/18/26

Marsha called the meeting to order at 2:04. 24 present, 1 on Zoom.

Meeting opened with Serenity Prayer and Archives Committee Guidelines.

Franklin C read minutes from the September 2025 Assembly. Minutes were unanimously approved.

Committee Chair Report
Spoke with Leslie to familiarize her with the role of the chair. We need to pass a budget and Cheri is here as the Budget Committee liaison to help us with that.

Alt Chair Report
Leslie has been looking at the website.

Archivist Report
Went to Colors of Fall and had a blast. Has copies of the letter she will read tomorrow at the area, and read it to us. Asking for a cost not to exceed $2300 based on the price point for the 1987 purchase.
Received a 12x12 from 1975 today that is signed by all the Delegates from that year.
Will be going up to archives more than what she has been— will be going once a week.

New Business

June 26-May 27 budget

Cheri points out that last year's budget has a lot of materials and supplies for archiving but most of what Paige has done thus far has been public-facing displays. So now there is more need to train Paige on how to preserve items.

Archives Committee Budget June 2026-May 2027

Office Supplies: 180
Equipment: 400 (to replace printer)
Museum Supplies: 100
Mileage: 100
Archives Committee Budget Total: $780

Side note: A39 is on an online Archives trading post, so the Area Archivist will be responsible for going to the microphone to request any acquisitions made via that; the Committee does not preliminarily budget for those expenses

Archives Committee Budget passed by acclimation.

Archivist Travel Budget June 2026-May 2027

Discussion over whether or not our Area Archivist should attend The National AA Archives workshop. 4-day event. Paige could share a hotel room with one of Cheri's friends.

Airfare: KC to Tacoma Round-trip: 350
Transportation: 140
Banquet: 50
Registration: 70
Dessert Get-Together: 20
Total for National AA Archives Workshop: $630

2027 Institutions Forum travel ~145
State Convention: ~327
Colors of Fall 360
National AA Archives Workshop ~630
Many Faces of Grapevine ~60
Archivist Travel: $1522

Archivist Travel Budget passed by acclimation.

District and Group Reports

- Warrensburg has lost 3 long timers in one week: Glen H, Skip S., Louis B. Paige will start asking for information and photographs for long timers who passed away in order to have an in memoriam slide show
- Bernie D from NKC Group passed just a few days after his 49th anniversary
- D15 lost a person who just got 38 years
- Food for thought: what do you wish you knew about the process of archivist?
    - Some people pass away and they never get their stories preserved.
- Cheri and Chuck are going to collaborate on an Oral History workshop for March.

Meeting closed at 2:57 with the Serenity Prayer

Chair Report to Archives Committee

March 28, 2026

I have recently begun to explore the Archives files in greater detail and am currently working to eliminate duplications and organize the file materials in chronological order by individual group or by district, as appropriate. I've spent about 15 hours in Archives this quarter and plan to continue spending about 3 hours per week as my circumstances permit.

I've learned a lot about what's in the files—although each District looks a bit different. So here's a piece of advice that will help us going forward. If you write a report, by hand or otherwise, for any function of A.A., whether committee reporting, Area reporting, or simple group materials, put a date on it, and include the year. If you're creating a flyer or other material for an event, include the year with the date.

In particular, I recently spent at least two or three hours reviewing and organizing the materials for Liberty group, which are extensive. Liberty sent us all their business meeting minutes for at least a couple of decades, and that led me to another conclusion. If you want Archives to have a good record of the life of your group, please send us a copy of the minutes to your business meetings. These minutes detail exactly the kind of information and content we need to be useful to people who search archives for ideas. Questions like:

- What did you do about smoking in the club?
- What did you do about smoking in the parking lot after smoking in the club was banned?
- What did you say to your members about 13th stepping, in general and in specific?
- How did you solve specific 13th Stepping problems?
- How do you handle issues about inappropriate religious content in meetings? How did you define "inappropriate"?
- What did you do about meeting chairs who went out drinking?
- How did you decide when it was time to move the club somewhere else?
- What procedures did you follow to research a new location?
- How did you deal with a cranky landlord?

This kind of material regularly surfaces in business meetings, should be documented in the business meeting minutes, and is exactly the kind of historical information we're going to want to preserve.

This quarter, I had coffee with Greg, Our Fearless Delegate, and we discussed an issue we'll be discussing today so he can take back our feedback to New York when he goes. He also brainstormed with me about the needs of a vital and useful Archives and Archives Committee and gave me some brilliant ideas, which I will be sharing with the group later this year. Meanwhile, I am researching the tasks Archives does and trying to determine how the work could be divied among volunteers so that no one person—in

particular, the Archivist—is required to shoulder an onerous burden. Watch this space for more details to come!

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Marsha Smitherman

Archives Committee Chairman

(816) 291-5655

archiveschair@wamo-aa.org

Summary

Discussion of GSC Archives Conference Committee ITEM B

March 28, 2026

Greg G., our Fearless Delegate, asked me to put this issue before our committee for consideration and reporting to the Area, so he can go to New York with our feedback.

The essence of this issue is whether an area can choose to elect an officer that does not reside in their area.

An example he gave was of one area officer who was working outside the United States but visiting home often in his Area. The question, in this context, is whether that area should be allowed to elect him to office, since he doesn't live in that Area.

There are essentially two viewpoints: one is to limit the areas to using officers who live within the given area.

The other viewpoint, which turns on letting groups in AA, such as Areas, use the principle of autonomy—using their best judgment as it applies to meeting their specific needs rather than dictating their practice for them. In such a case, the area would make their own decision and proceed accordingly.

In committee, we'll be talking about how you feel about this issue. We will simply discuss. If we want to vote on a specific alternative to report to Area, we can, but we don't have to. I'll be appearing at a meeting tonight where you feedback, in whatever form, will be shared with the area officers and the Delegate.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Marsha Smitherman

Archives Committee Chairman

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2026 Conference Committee on Archives

ITEM B: Consider a request to define eligibility for area-level service for members residing outside of the geographic area they want to serve. (PAI-46)

Background notes:

From the November 2, 2025, trustees' General Service Conference Committee report:

The committee considered a proposal to "discuss who can serve as an area trusted servant if they live outside the area they are serving" and agreed to forward to the 2026 Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions.

Background:

1. PAI-46
2. *The A.A. Service Manual* (See sharing on the area delegate role.): https://www.aa.org/aa-service-manualtwelve-concepts-world-services

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(1) **Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.**
"That the Policy and Administration Committee of the GSC discuss issues of who can serve as an area trusted servant if they live outside the area they are serving. Does geography limit the ability to carry a group conscience? On the other side, please clarify where past delegates can stand for trustee if they have relocated."
(2) **What problem does this proposed item address?**
"The pandemic has shed light on this question, which has always bubbled below the surface - both when a past delegate has relocated and when someone in a Zoom group in one area is from another, sometimes very far away, and has then become an area or district trusted servant. A related problem is wider representation of Hispanic groups with a linguistic area in each region, possibly with a national Hispanic trustee. The perception would then arise whether this closes the pathway for Hispanic trusted servants to “earn a spot” as delegates or area officers."
(3) **What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item? Make it clear who is submitting the item (an individual, group, district, area, etc.).**
Note: While all items are received equally, experience has shown that ideas greatly benefit from the value of a broader group conscience. Consider if and with whom you would like to have a group conscience discussion on the proposed agenda item prior to submitting.
"This item was discussed by Area 13 policy and procedures committee including the Area Chair. It was withdrawn at the Area assembly to specify that the discussions occur in the Policy and Procedures Committee of the GSC."
(4) **Provide background information that describes and supports the reasoning for the proposal. List background material(s) included with the proposal:**
In Area 13, a debate over linguistic areas invited comments from a Hispanic trusted servant about earning a spot rather than having one set aside (although in a Hispanic area, there will be as much of a need to do so to become delegate. In Area 13, we had a DCM representing northern Montgomery County who lived in Rhode Island - and whose internet skills were not up to par. That district is now part of a combined county district - where the county has over one million people. Concept XI implies that the fellowship seeks the best possible staff. Is this true for delegate selection, and does this stop the fellowship from considering important issues or having views represented from linguistic minorities that need to be heard. This debate also arises within an area, where some hold the belief that someone who lives within the suburbs or the city, but who is a member of a home group in another area or district, can represent their home group in area

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service. In Area 13, we have had a chair who was also chair of Area 71 and had been active in both. This engendered resentment among some other trusted servants.
(5) **What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed item is approved?**
"The purpose of this PAI is to engender a fellowship wide discussion of representation in AA, including its relationship to the concepts. At this time, no advisory action would be required."
(6) **Provide a primary contact for the submission.**
Michael B.
(7) **Final comments:**
"This agenda item is necessary to clarify future agenda items relating to possible regional linguistic and online areas and an online or linguistic trustee(s) to make sure that members of each community can contribute as needed to the conscience of the fellowship while not excluding participation of trusted servants from these communities in local area affairs and leadership."

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