

NORTH CAROLINA

General Service Committee

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DEADLINE FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS

October 5, 2017

DATE: SEPTEMBER 6, 2017

TO: GSRs, Alternate GSRs, DCMs, Alternate DCMs, LCMs (Local Committee Members), Convention Chair and Alternate, Coordinators, Officers, Past Delegates and any other interested members!

SUBJECT: Area 51 Fall Committee & Assembly Meeting November 3-5, 2017

Theme: "...And the Lives of Those to Come"

Special Guest: Racy J., GSO Group Services Desk

Assembly Business Sessions, Workshops, Early Bird and Speaker Meetings
Literature, Grapevine, Corrections, Treatment, CPC/PI and Accessibilities Displays

**Our Area Committee Meeting and Assembly meeting will be held at
The Hilton North Raleigh/Midtown, 3415 Wake Forest Road, Raleigh, NC**

NOTE: GSRs and Alt. GSRs:

Hotel Reservations

Deadline: Thursday, October 5, 2017
Group Code: GSA
Group Name: Area 51 General Service Fall Assembly
Group Rate: \$112.00 Single/Double, \$117.00 Triple, \$122.00 Quad + tax
Phone: 919-872-2323 or 800-445-8667 [1-800-HILTONS]
Direct reservation link: <http://tinyurl.com/ma4y5gl>

For best results:

- Call or reserve online as soon as possible but definitely before the deadline. It's easier to cancel a reservation than to get one at the last minute!
- Please note: once the rooms in our block sell out, it's unlikely there will be other rooms left in the hotel.
- **PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY!**
- Specify the group code "GSA" and the group name "Area 51 General Service Fall Assembly."
- If possible, call the Hilton North Raleigh/Midtown directly at 919-872-2323 during business hours Monday through Friday. This gives you the best chance to speak with a reservations clerk at the hotel. At other times - when the hotel clerks are busy -- calls to this number may be transferred to a regional reservations center.
- Always be sure to get a confirmation number.
- If you have ANY trouble with Room Rate or Availability please contact Rainer L., the Area Chair, at: Chair@aanorthcarolina.org.

- ◆ Early Assembly registration will be on Friday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- ◆ "Early Bird" AA Meeting on Friday at 8:00 p.m.
- ◆ This notice and other event information is also available on the Area 51 website: aanorthcarolina.org

Our tentative schedule is as follows:

<i>DAY</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>	<i>ATTENDEES</i>
Friday November 3, 2017	3:30 PM	Officers' Meeting	Officers Only
	4:30 PM	Available Meeting Space	
	6:30 – 8:00 PM	Early Assembly Registration	GSRs, Alternate GSRs
	8:00 PM	Early Bird AA Meeting	Open
	8:00 – 10:00 PM	Area Committee Meeting	Area Committee
Saturday November 4, 2017 Morning	6:30 AM – 7:30 AM	Early Bird Morning Meditation Meeting	Open
	8:30 AM – 1:00 PM	ASSEMBLY REGISTRATION	GSRs, Alternate GSRs
	SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS		
	9:00 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Budget & Finance ◆ Website ◆ Site Investigation ◆ Ad Hoc Structures ◆ Ad Hoc Redistricting 	Subcommittee Members
	WORKSHOPS		
	9:00 – 10:00 AM	◆ "How the Assembly Operates"	Assembly
	10:15 – 11:15 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ "How the Assembly Operates" ◆ CPC/PI ◆ Treatment Facilities ◆ Corrections ◆ Grapevine ◆ Accessibilities 	NOTE: Except for meetings marked "Open" and access to displays, Assembly events are for members only
Afternoon	12:30 – 6:00 PM	ASSEMBLY BUSINESS SESSION	Assembly
	5:30 – 7:00 PM	NC State Convention Committee	Convention Committee Members
Evening	7:30 & 8:45 p.m. 7:30 & 8:45 p.m. 7:30 & 8:45 p.m.	ENGLISH WORKSHOPS Being an Effective GSR ...A Solution for All Generations Tradition 5, Primary Purpose: Carrying the Message	Assembly
	7:30 p.m. 8:45 p.m.	SPANISH WORKSHOPS La importancia del RSG ...Solución para todas las generaciones	Assembly
	10 PM	ICE CREAM SOCIAL	
Sunday November 5, 2017	6:30 – 7:30 AM	Early Bird Morning Meditation Meeting	Open
	8:30 – 9:30 AM	OPEN SPEAKER MEETING Racy J., GSO Group Services Desk	Open
	9:40 – 11:30 AM	ASSEMBLY BUSINESS SESSION	Assembly

BELOW ARE THE MAIN MOTIONS FROM THE AREA COMMITTEE FOR THE 2017 FALL ASSEMBLY PRESENTED WITH BACKGROUND INFORMATION. THERE ARE SEVEN (7) KNOWN AGENDA ITEMS. *Note: These items may appear in a different order on the Assembly agenda.*

AGENDA ITEM #1: That Area 51 forward a request to the Publications Department for the development of a Spanish language audio version of AA Comes of Age.

Background Information: This request originated with District 05, who in March voted unanimously to request that Spanish versions of the audio books for both AA Comes of Age and Living Sober be made available to the Fellowship. This motion was presented to our Delegate Kenneth C. on April 2 at the Spanish Pre-Conference to communicate to GSO. Upon consulting GSO it was found that a Spanish audio version of Living Sober is already in development, but that there are no current plans for a Spanish audio version of AA Comes of Age. Our Delegate is now sending this motion to the Area in order to provide the opportunity for the Area to express its support to make this literature available to the Spanish speaking members of our fellowship in the format they have requested.

AGENDA ITEM #2: To approve the proposed Area 51 2018 Budget.

Background Information: The proposed 2018 budget comes moved and seconded from the Area 51 Budget and Finance Subcommittee. Copies of the proposed 2018 budget have been made available.

AGENDA ITEM #3: To approve funds necessary to upgrade the accounting software package.

Background Information: The current database used by the Registrar and Treasurer for all group, district, and area business was implemented in 1999. The last three treasurers have reported randomly occurring discrepancies and malfunctions within the reporting system. The Budget and Finance Subcommittee feels it is at this time necessary to implement new software which should be put into place as soon as possible. Cost is projected to be approximately \$2000 for the software. Funding for new software would come from funds currently held within the Property and Acquisition Fund.

AGENDA ITEM #4: That all Area 51 Winter and Summer Committee meetings from August 15, 2019 to August 14, 2021 be held at the Village Hotel & Event Center in Clemmons, NC, and that all Area 51 Spring and Fall Committee/Assemblies and both North Carolina State Conventions from August 15, 2019 to August 14 2021 be held at the North Raleigh Hilton Midtown.

Background Information: The Area 51 Site Investigation Subcommittee is charged with finding, evaluating and recommending venues to hold all Area 51 events for the two-year period of August 15, 2019 to August 14, 2021. These events are: four Area Committee Meetings; four Area Assembly/Committee Meetings; and the 2020 and 2021 North Carolina State Conventions. To select a hotel, the committee evaluates the most competitive bids submitted from hotels around the state factoring in reasonable room rates, the cost and size of meeting rooms, coffee costs, possible parking fees and other expenses such as minimum food requirements and audio-visual equipment rental fees. Also considered are hotel amenities, such as nearby restaurants. The Site Investigation Subcommittee started the selection process in January 2017 by identifying and sending Requests for Proposals to many hotels and non-hotel venues across North Carolina from Asheville to Wilmington. Phone calls and emails followed to ensure replies. Site Investigation Subcommittee members also visited hotels and met with hotel staff members.

At last year's assembly, it was voted that the committee would request bids from non-hotel venues. A change was also made to the bid process so that the events were not grouped together, but bids could be submitted on an individual basis. The ala carte method prompted a significant increase in the number of bids received. Historically 4-8 venues respond with bids. This year's committee received responses from 21 different venues with a total of 262 bids to review. Many facilities bid on multiple events with multiple date ranges. Each of those bids had to be carefully considered.

The subcommittee examined the most competitive bids with a detailed cost and needs analysis (Summary is attached). Hotels were eliminated primarily based on costs that would have been prohibitive to Area 51 or to A.A. members attending Area events. These cost factors included expensive meeting room space, exorbitant coffee costs, high room rates, parking fees or food & beverage minimums. Room rates ranged from \$85 to \$184. Meeting rooms ranged as

high as \$10,900. Typically, Area 51 does not pay meeting room fees. Coffee prices were as high as \$65 per gallon. Other venues were excluded because the property did not have the number of necessary rooms, rooms of an adequate size, or the needed dates available.

AGENDA ITEM #5: That Area 51 bid to host the Southern States of Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (“SSAASA”) V, with Area 62 (SC) as co-host, at a facility in North Carolina on November 8-10, 2019. If the bid is successful, the Area 51 Chair is authorized to contract with a suitable facility recommended by the Ad Hoc SSAASA Bid Subcommittee and to appoint a SSAASA V Host Committee comprised of Area 51 and Area 62 members to plan and administer the event.

Background Information: SSAASA is a regional service assembly that provides all AA members, experienced in and new to service, the opportunity to learn and grow in their service knowledge and share experience, strength and hope on our Third Legacy – Service. The event consists primarily of workshops on specific service positions and panels on service topics pertinent to A.A. today and tomorrow. The workshops are facilitated by registrants at all levels of service from Areas in the Southeast Region. SSAASA is an independent AA activity modeled on Service Assemblies as found in other Regions. The SSAASA Steering Committee consists of a current of past SE Regional Trustee, serving as Chair, and two representatives from each of the immediate past, current and next scheduled SSAASAs.

The first SSAASA was hosted by Area 71 (VA) and Area 62 (SC) in Tyson’s Corner, VA in November 2011 with over 300 attendees. SSAASA II was hosted by Area 27 (LA) and Area 37 (MS) in Baton Rouge, LA in November 2013 with 231 attendees. SSAASA III was hosted by Area 71 (WV) and Area 26 (KY) in Huntington, WV in November 2015 with 223 in attendance. SSAASA IV will be hosted by Area 16 (GA) and Area 01 (AL/NW FL) in Atlanta, GA on November 10-12, of 2017.

Each SSAASA is designed to be self-supporting and the recommended registration fee is \$20. However, each event has the autonomy to decide its own fee based on the principles of Tradition 7. Similar to SSAASA III, the fees for SSAASA IV are \$25 for pre-registration and \$30 at the door. Each of the previous SSAASA events has been financially self-supporting, including a surplus of approximately \$4,100 at SSAASA III. SSAASA currently has seed money of \$2000 and a prudent reserve of \$2000.

According to the Event Guidelines, the preferred date for SSAASA is the first weekend in November of odd-number years that does not conflict with the regular meeting of the General Service Board. With regard to SSAASA V, the pertinent General Service Board meeting will be on November 2nd-4th, so the preferred dates will be November 8-10, 2019. It is to be hosted by one or more Areas in the Southeast Region and organized by a SSAASA Host Committee from the Area(s). Each SSAASA Host Committee has the flexibility to establish the program agenda under the flavor of the guidelines and the Third Legacy of Service.

With the approval of the 2016 Area 51 Winter Committee, the Area Chair appointed an ad hoc subcommittee (“Bid Subcommittee”) to research and recommend whether Area 51 should submit a bid to host SSAASA V in November of 2019. After Assembly approval, any such timely bid would have to be presented at the SSAASA IV business meeting in Atlanta in November of 2017 by the Area 51 Delegate. The Area 62 (SC) Assembly has already approved co-hosting with Area 51 at a site in North Carolina if the bid is approved.

The SSAASA site guidelines are as follows:

- 1) The hotel should have sufficient rooms to allow all attendees to obtain a room on-site at the event rate, if they desire (approximately 95 sleeping room/nights were used at SSAASA III);
- 2) Large conference room with seating to accommodate the anticipated number of attendees (theater-style seating for approximately 300);
- 3) Ample break out rooms to meet the needs of the various workshops. A minimum of 5 rooms is suggested (including the large conference room);
- 4) A hospitality room is essential; and
- 5) The hotel contract should provide necessary terms and conditions to prevent a change of date once the details are final and the dates have been announced.

The Bid Subcommittee researched potential locations throughout the state and found three suitable facilities with availability:

- 1) Lake Junaluska Conference & Retreat Center, 91 N. Lakeshore Dr., Lake Junaluska, NC 28745 (\$300 meeting space with room block and single/double sleeping rooms \$89-139 + tax);
- 2) Sheraton Charlotte Airport Hotel, 3315 Scott Futrell Dr., Charlotte, NC 28208 (free meeting space with \$3000 food and beverage minimum and single/double sleeping rooms \$119 + tax); and
- 3) Hilton North Raleigh/Midtown, 3415 Wake Forest Rd., Raleigh, NC 27609 (free meeting space with room block and single/double sleeping rooms \$125 + tax).

Due to the need for approval of the bid for SSAASA V by the SSAASA IV business meeting before contracting for a facility, coupled with the need for timely action after approval, this motion provides that the selection of an available facility be delegated to the Bid Subcommittee which has investigated potential sites. Once this selection is made and the contract signed by the Area 51 Chair, the Bid Subcommittee would be replaced by a SSAASA V Host Committee (“Host Committee”) appointed by the Area 51 Chair, comprised of members from Area 51 and Area 62. The Host Committee would be responsible for complying with SSAASA guidelines and making regular reports to Area 51 and Area 62, as well as planning and administering the event. While Area 51 will be the responsible contracting party with the facility, the Host Committee will be provided the seed money from SSAASA IV and may have access to the prudent reserve to cover unexpected contingencies under the SSAASA Guidelines. Any surplus will be handled by the SSAASA Steering Committee.

BUDGET IMPACT: Since the SSAASA is designed to be self-supporting, there is no estimated impact on the Area 51 budget and prudent reserve

AGENDA ITEM #6: That Area 51 reimburse travel expense at the standard Area 51 rate for the former Chair and Chair of the Ad Hoc Redistricting Subcommittee, and reimburse expenses accrued in creating the maps/paperwork needed for the Subcommittee’s work.

Background Information: The Chair and former Chair have created specific maps and provided copies to each DCM that wanted copies. The Chair and former Chair have travelled throughout the state to meet with districts without reimbursement

AGENDA ITEM #7: That the 2018 Area 51 Corrections Conference, “Freedom from Bondage XXX,” be held at the Hampton Inn & Suites in Aberdeen, N.C. on March 9-11, 2018.

Background Information: The Area Committee and Area Assembly must approve the proposed location and dates of the annual Area 51 Corrections Conference.

Please note: The order of consideration of these seven (7) main motions on the Fall Assembly Agenda may be different. On behalf of your 2017-2018 Area Officers and Coordinators, we welcome new and returning Assembly Members. We look forward to serving with all of you. If you have any questions regarding the upcoming Fall Committee and Assembly Meeting, please feel free to contact us.

In Love and Service,

Rainer L., Area 51 Chair

Denise M., Acting Area 51 Secretary