

South Carolina Area 62 General Service Assembly Minutes
Saturday, March 14, 2026

Assembly Opening, Area Chairperson, Brandon G.: Opened with Moment of Silence followed by Serenity Prayer.

Convention Committee Meeting, Debbie M.: Discussions included the upcoming convention in Florence, May 15-17, 2026; already have 100 signed up. We will have a skit Saturday night with a banquet. Your early registration is appreciated. Next convention in Myrtle Beach, Feb. 26-28, 2027; its theme is "Thoroughly Followed Our Path." It is in a NEW hotel and all positions are filled. Charleston convention in Charleston, 2028; chairperson was elected; committee is just beginning. The 2028 convention in Greenville has a new chair. Let us know if you have a city interested in hosting a convention. Venues are increasingly more expensive and booked very early. Email Debbie for more information.

DCM Meeting, Ebbie R.: Ebbie was elected chairperson for the DCM meeting. Beth H. introduced the trusted servants and presented a DCM workshop. Discussions included DCM responsibilities, communicating between the district and area, treating others with kindness, and never hesitating to ask questions. DCMs voted to hold a monthly Zoom meeting on the first Monday for communication and support.

GSR Meeting: Joan D. from Murrells Inlet Group, District 81 chaired; 150 present. Liz M. presented a GSR workshop. She started with the GSR preamble, had 5 minute leads from Liz M. and Christi O; and explained how GSRs are the two-way link between their groups and their district and the Area. Her slide show will be emailed to DCMs for them to distribute it to the GSRs in their district.

Standing Committee Reports

<u>Accessibilities, Bud Y.:</u> 14 people in attendance. Discussion included: the accessibilities checklist, what accessibilities includes, personal experiences, meeting in a box which is literature used to take meetings to those who are isolated, how to spend the budget amount, and access to workbook and kits. He is available to facilitate workshops. Monthly Zoom meetings will begin April 14 and meet monthly after that.	<u>Archives, Lisa Y.:</u> 7 in attendance, including Kathy the Archivist. Discussion included: new archives location 5 minutes from Kathy's house, still learning the position, difference between the Archivist and Archives Committee Chair, and the Archives S&P from 2019 which includes what and how to collect materials. There is a history questionnaire on the website. Use it to take oral and written histories about your group and to document how Covid affected your group.
<u>Bridging the Gap (BTG), George L.:</u> 32 in attendance. Discussion included: revitalizing the program, district chairs vetting the long list of volunteers to bring it current, and passing it on. Reminded to stay focused on being present in creating bridges by going to facilities for introductions about what AA does and working with district chairs and intergroups to coordinate efforts; finished with Q&A.	<u>Cooperation w/ Professional Community (CPC), Paul B.:</u> Combined with PI. Discussion: the best way to find us is to get out there, go to conferences, and host tables. First one was in Myrtle Beach with 13 volunteers; next is in Greenville Apr 15-17 and needs volunteers; then Charleston July 29-31. Info under Committees tab in Member section of Area62.org. Please contact Paul if you are available to attend a conference.
<u>Corrections, Skip W.:</u> Discussion included: challenges with red tape getting in to the jails and prisons; the personnel are understaffed and overworked which makes it a daunting task; each facility is autonomous; the AAs carrying the message are faithful to the task; many facilities do not allow books/lit to come in and many are going digital, navigating ways to carry the message with changing procedures, sponsoring new people to service, need for corrections correspondence volunteers for sober inmates, and coordinating with Lit and GV chairs.	<u>Grapevine (GV), Brigitte G.:</u> 9 in attendance. Discussion included: many reps have GV subscriptions, GV's purpose and how to use it to carry the message, how to submit a story, the Carry the Message Project, gifting subscriptions to those in need, and the audio project. GV is available at aagrapevine.org, through print, digital, audio subscriptions, QR codes, workbooks, Instagram, podcasts, and the Meeting Guide app.
<u>Public Information (PI), Nikki D.:</u> 32 in attendance. Discussion included: the anonymity statement, what each committee does, making a small goal and getting there, coordinating efforts, and using QR codes. We are here to be a resource for everyone. The Meeting Guide app has been well received because it is easy to use and helps people find us.	<u>Structures & Procedures (S&P), Jason M.:</u> Discussion included: the ins and outs of the Area's Structures and Procedures, and the valuable resources available on the Area 62 website. He is available to help groups and districts draft a new S&P, amend what they already have, and facilitate a group inventory. He has a zoom account, a car with gas, helpful documents, and AA literature.

Literature, Joan M.: Discussion included ways to get info back to groups about conference approved literature and where to buy it...Intergroup offices & aa.org. Literature saves lives!	Treatment, Kent C.: 26 in attendance. Discussion included: what can I do to help your district, wide range of positions, shared experience, making a comprehensive treatment list for the entire state, and combining the lists of facilities from the lists in local areas, perhaps making a list of what treatment centers offer, i.e., insurance/no ins, sober living, dual treatment, detox, etc. Would like to hear from the Area about how we would like him to spend the budget and what we would like to see from the treatment committee this term.
Website, Bonnie J.: Discussion included guidelines and web rep handout and how Intergruops work with meeting changes because they are not synced up on the same system. Nan is working with Rick the web tech on different solutions. We are all new and finding out about the job.	

Intergroup Meeting, Peri L.: 11 in attendance. Discussion included: overviews of each office, holding monthly hybrid meetings which is helping increase attendance...it's difficult to make service look attractive when you don't make it attractive..., the struggle to find new volunteers, perhaps more workshops than parties, especially clarifying the role of AA service, and returning to the basic functions of an Intergroup office. Will begin holding monthly Zoom meetings between Assemblies.

Organizing Workshops Meeting, Liz M.: 14 in attendance, including several GSRs, DCMs, and workshop chairs. Discussion included the Organizing Workshops handout and Area resources for hosting workshops. She is building a bench of workshop presenters across the state to help groups and districts get presenters. Reach out for presenters, questions, or help. 4 in attendance are presenting between now and the next assembly and will report back their "like, learn, change" findings from their workshops so we can learn from their experience.

Young People in AA (YPAA), Matt G.: There are new groups in Florence, Greenville, and Beaufort. We are encouraging more to start. "We are not a glum lot. If newcomers could see no joy or fun in our existence, they wouldn't want it. We absolutely insist on enjoying life" (Big Book 132). We are staying connected by using social apps so we can show up for alcoholics who need help. We held a regional conference in Charleston last year and next one will be in Florence, dates coming...we throw things together at the last minute so...we'll see what happens.

Area 62 BUSINESS MEETING

Sunday, March 15, 2026

Welcome, Area Chairperson, Brandon G.: Opened with Serenity Prayer and The Twelve Concepts short form.

GSR Sharing Time

Deborah, GSR District 21, Q: Why were only GSRs counted for quorum when there are other voters? A: Quorum is considered the biggest portion of our voting members, which is the GSRs. S&P: "two thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of the average attendance of all GSRs ...at the four (4) immediately preceding meetings." **Michelle, GSR District 81,** Q: The transfer of GSRs is in Jan so I wasn't able to inform my GSRs about the issues; how is 20-30 representative of the entire group? Delegate A: The DCMs and Committee Chairs were informed in early Jan followed by many emails explaining the process. There are 2 more follow up meetings so everyone can be informed. This is the first time for this format so we will be able to make changes for the next year. We want everyone involved. Past Delegate A: Preconference participation has increased dramatically; the background and agenda is not released until February; the turnaround is fast; conference is not until April so our Delegate is still looking for feedback until then. The more he knows the more he can contribute. **Nikki D. As Bill Sees It** Q: Will there be more workshops available at the next Assembly? A: Yes, there will definitely be more. We made room in the agenda for pre-conference agenda items because they are so important. **Esther, GSR District 7 Keep It Simple** Q: Last March our Treasurer reported an excess over the prudent reserve of \$900; conversation was tabled due to more pressing matters; what happens to that money? A: It rolled over into the general fund balance. **Liza, GSR District 11 Kiwi Group** Q: Concerned that the GSO budget is not reflective of a \$5 million shortage from the reserve fund; we would like to see the reserve fund built back to where it was in 2021 by 2030. A: It is a concern for everyone. Covid had a big effect on that, but they are very aware and hard at work to rebuild it. They have reduced 600K in committee expenses, \$1.5 million in total expense reductions. Contributions were up 8% last year. We can't live on 1970s salaries, but we want AA to run on 1970s contributions.

DCM Reports

District 7, Jolynn R.: *Travelers Rest, Greenville, Greer, Taylors.* Thanks to the District members who came. We have 23 groups and 18 committee chairs; have had 2 meetings so far that were very well attended; January meeting was on boarding; March was dedicated to the agenda items; and we have great participation in Zoom Preconference meetings.

District 10, Mark P: Greenville County south of the I85 corridor to Fountain Inn. Great district where folks are on fire!

District 11, Tara E: Pickens and Oconee Counties. 11 groups and a new Young People's group; did soft launch with great participation; 8 active GSRs, 7 and the Alt DCM are present; started a women's meeting 1 year ago and they are going strong and making contributions; committee chairs filled, workshop upcoming; strong attendance at the Preconference Zooms; and we are determining how to effectively get the information to the GSRs and inform GSRs and groups.

District 12, Harold H: Greenwood, McCormick and Abbeville Counties; Anderson County east of I-85. First meeting was in December with 7 groups participating. We are working to get all involved.

District 20, Dave B: Spartanburg, Laurens, Cherokee, Union County. Meets the last Sunday of every even month with alternating host responsibilities and lunch provided which increases attendance; February is new GSR orientation; we are having a job fair to highlight service positions. The Corrections Committee will host a workshop at our next meeting; a Latino group has joined the service structure; their GSR is here at Assembly and hosting the next district meeting, and we have 4 new GSRs here today.

District 21, Randy T: Clover, Fort Mill, Hickory Grove, Lake Wylie, Rock Hill, Tega Cay & York. Thriving; have new GSRs at Assembly this weekend; last meeting highly attended and most positions are filled; we are updating our S&Ps and have asked for help to facilitate; Founders Day Celebration on June 13 with an Oldtimers Panel.

District 22, Karen M: Camden, Chester, Elgin, Lugoff, Newberry, Ridgeway, Saluda & Winnsboro. First meeting on March 8; 11 active groups; visiting each group to update their information with the registrar; planning to alternate district meetings due to travel constraints, and also considering Zoom meetings.

District 30, Steve C: Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, and Edgefield counties. 12 groups and all GSRs attended the first meeting; next meeting is Sunday; all committee chairs are filled; attended a few group conscience meetings by invitation.

District 31, Ebbie R: Batesburg, Cayce, Gilbert, Lexington, Swansea & West Columbia We have 2 Hispanic groups; plan to visit and invite them to participate; 9 active GSRs, almost all committee positions filled; 2 groups are doing inventories focused on 7th tradition contributions and how to attract newcomers; had a group with 2 group numbers; our registrar helped figure out the problem and solve it.

District 40, Derrick R: Elloree, Holly Hill, North, Orangeburg, Santee & St. Matthews. 8 GSRs and we usually meet quorum at district meetings; had 2 different meetings so far; will have additional workshops at upcoming meetings.

District 42, Drew S: Richland County. Great turnout at district meetings; 8 positions filled with good ideas for how to fill them; cookout on June 13 with a great speaker.

District 43, Dennis C: parts of Columbia, Irmo, and Chapin. 14 groups; 10 participate; all positions filled; Chapin Group is holding their 50th Anniversary meeting soon.

District 50, Bryan H: Bennettsville, Bishopville, Darlington, Hartsville, Manning, Summerton & Sumter Big on mac?, small on groups; 7 participate; 3 GSRs present today; planning a workshop tbd; we have fun in our district!

District 51, Sam W: Cheraw, Chesterfield, Fort Lawn, Indian Land, Kershaw, Lancaster & Pageland. All positions are filled and we have a great group of GSRs; 4 here today; still figuring it out.

District 60, Bill N: Beaufort, Jasper, Hampton, Colleton and part of Dorchester counties in the Low Country. Jan had a good transition; we work closely with District 61; 11 committees filled and all officer positions; our primary focus is on carrying the message; we support 3 treatment centers and a jail; passed a budget and planned a joint Founders Day celebration and Delegate Report with District 61.

District 61, Tom V: Bluffton, Hilton Head and Okatie. Founders Day celebration June 20 with a guest speaker Beth H; contributions are down 20% so we cut our budget; treatment centers are going to pay for literature that we used to donate; most of our GSRs are here today.

District 70, Kevin O: Downtown Charleston, North Charleston and Hanahan. 20 people at first district meeting; half of the positions are filled; focused on getting out to the community; working on a treatment workshop and a karaoke event Apr 26, followed by another workshop in July, hosted a GSR rotation orientation.

District 71, Jeremy E: Goose Creek, Harleyville, Ladson, Moncks Corner & Summerville. 17 groups, 11 present today; held a GSR orientation; 8 out of 12 positions and all officers are filled; feedback from preconference Zooms was positive and well attended; service event scheduled soon.

District 72, Jen H: Mount Pleasant, Sullivan's Island, Isle of Palms, Daniel Island. Great crew from Charleston; 17 active groups, all positions are filled; emotional sobriety workshop on Apr 12; working with the Tri-county DCMs from 70, 71, & 73.

District 73, Lisa S: Charleston, Edisto Island, Folly Beach, James Island, John's Island, Wadmalaw Island & West Ashley. 20-23 groups, Alt DCM is here today; first district meeting had 40% of the GSRs present; trying to rebuild connections; we meet the 2nd Saturday of odd months; most positions are filled with many doing double duty; we have 1 workshop per quarter; great group text with the Tri-county DCMs.

District 80, Jennie M: Dillon, Florence, Hemingway, Johnsonville, Marion, Quinby & Williamsburg. 9 active groups; all officer positions filled; first district meeting was in Jan; all committee positions filled except 1; we are excited about holding the next state convention in our district; we are taking meetings to a new treatment center and working with Bridging the Gap.

District 81, Rob S: Conway, Little River, Myrtle Beach, North Myrtle Beach. 24 groups plus 1 we share with 82; one of our groups has 28 meetings per week; workshop and Soberfest upcoming; taking early registrations for the next State Convention in Myrtle Beach.

District 82, Victor L.: Garden City, Georgetown, Litchfield, Murrells Inlet, Pawleys Island, Socastee, South Conway, Surfside Beach & West Myrtle Beach. 29 groups with 14 GSRs in average attendance at district meetings; we meet the 3rd Wed of each month; many of our groups need to be updated with the registrar; all positions are filled, in fact a GSR went to a Grapevine presentation and now holds the position; Soberfest is April 18; we are one of the host districts and hope you enjoyed the coffee.

Special Reports:

Arrangements, Joe K.: Assembly planning for Oct. 2026 will be discussed in New Business; easy handover from Ebbie into this rotation. Will put signs up about the sandwiches next time. This Assembly has had so many volunteers from the host districts with excellent participation. Districts 7, 10, and 11 are hosting the next Assembly on June 6-7. Districts 12 and 20 are hosting the October Assembly on October 17-18. Plan on the same caterers and same hotels for 2026. In 2027, the ACM is January 23 and assemblies are March 13-14 and June 5-6. We reserved a few weekends in October 2027 and will decide the date after the USC football schedule is released. Let me know if changes to the contracts are needed.

Archives Update, Lisa Y.: The Archives office has moved from a storage facility in Charleston to an office in Abbeville close to the new Archivist; photos of the space and a flyer with the traveling roadshow dates are posted under the Archives tab in the members section on area62.org. The Archives roadshow will be at Soberfest in April and the Convention in May; we need volunteers to work in the Archives room at the State Convention in Florence, not in the convention sign-up so contact Lisa directly. Open House April 11-12 and July 18-19 at 300 Brook Street, Abbeville, SC; come see our SC history and your group folder!

Finance Committee, Rick P.: The committee considered moving the website hosting company from Bluehost to HostGator. Bluehost has issues. HostGator has been around since 2002, is reputable and reliable, and offers a better service with a significant saving. The cost is \$525/year for Bluehost versus \$162/3 years for better service with HostGator. We can renew at \$16.49/month or \$197.88/year. The Assembly voted unanimously to switch the website hosting company from Bluehost to HostGator.

Announcement of Quorum, Registrar, Diane C.: Needed 79 GSRs, have 128 GSRs present. Quorum for business met. 23 DCMs, 14 Area Committee Chairs, 8 Officers = 173 total voting members.

Approval of Prior Minutes, Secretary, Christi O.: On Jan. 12, 2026, draft October 2025 Assembly Minutes were emailed to the Area members. Motion and approved.

Approval of Treasurer's Report, Treasurer, Wendell L.: As of March 11, 2026, the balance on hand was \$63,766.79 and the calculated balance was \$62,047.59. The Alt. Treasurer verified the balance. Motion and unanimous approval.

7th Tradition, Alt. Treasurer, Kim P.: VENMO: @area62assembly or Mail-in Contributions to: SC Area 62 Treasurer, PO Box 1186, Hartsville, SC 29551; passed the basket, read the 7th tradition, collected \$1000.

Old Business: None

New Business:

1. No motions to create a new district, for a group to change districts, or for new business for the June Assembly.
2. **2026 Proposed Budget, Chairperson Brandon G.:** Presented and explained the format for those who had not seen it before. Budget passed unanimously after some questions and answers over the line items for committee work outside the assemblies.
3. **October 2026 Assembly-** The Midlands Tech auditorium is unavailable on Sundays this October. Everything is available on Saturday, but only the classrooms are available on Sunday. Discussion about alternative options included:
 - *Using room 143 instead* - it costs less and the space may be tight but is big enough to work. We would have to move hospitality and committee tables, but not pack up, load up, unload, and set up again at a different place. We would share restrooms with another group which creates possible anonymity concerns that were addressed.
 - *Having a one day assembly* - it was questioned whether the S&P would require a change which would delay the decision and planning until June and may result in no assembly being held; a S&P change is not required.
 - *Using the auditorium on Saturday and changing locations on Sunday* - increase in cost and effort to find and secure a location and have the host districts pack up, load up, transport, unload, and set up again. This has been done before but it was not recommended.
 - *Future planning* - 2027 availability is secure through a strong relationship with Midlands Tech; we will reserve multiple weekends in October, then release the unused dates when the football schedule is released.
 - ***Sense of the Assembly: Use room 143 at Midlands Tech on Sunday, October 18, 2026.***

Area Officer Reports

Secretary Report, Christi O.: Within 30 days the Minutes for this and future Assemblies will be posted on the website and emailed to Past Delegates, Officers, Committee Chairs, DCMs, and GSRs. Past Area Agendas and Minutes are posted under the Secretary tab in the members section on area62.org.

Registrar Report, Diane C.: The Registrar keeps groups and GSR information updated in Fellowship Connection with the new rotation and works with DCMs to update contact information for all groups. There are 350 active groups currently, 12 are virtual; 116 groups are unknown, meaning their previous GSR rotated out and there is not a current contact. Group Change Forms are available under the Registrar tab in the member section of area62.org.

Alternate Treasurer Report, Kim P.: Verified account balance for the funds managed by the treasurer; attending the History Round-up in Myrtle Beach; doing a skit at the Florence Convention; and presenting a workshop called Boundaries in Service.

Treasurer Report, Wendell L.: The new PO Box for Area contributions is PO Box 1186, Hartsville, SC 29551. I worked with the previous Treasurer to transfer over the checkbook and account and am working on spreadsheets and organizing contributions. Please put your group number on the check or at least the district number because there are groups with the same name. We are very close to being able to accept online contributions.

Alternate Chairperson Report, Liz M.: Closed out the old PO Box and found a slight complication where the mail may not have been forwarded to the new PO Box from mid Feb to March 12; if your check was sent back please send it to the new PO Box. Presented a new GSR orientation on Saturday and will make the slide presentation available on the workshop tab in the Members section of the website tab. Hosted Organizing Workshops committee; will host a workshop "Inventory: Down the Triangle" at the next Assembly; and am updating the Workshops tab on area62.org.

Chairperson Report, Brandon G.: Had a smooth transition that started in Oct 2025; consulted with other area chairs and past delegates to formulate a plan; attended SAASA in December; worked on the 2026 budget and posted it to the website; participated in a GSR workshop and group inventory; told my story at 2 groups; prepared the agenda for this assembly, and submitted a budget for 2026.

Alternate Delegate Report, Beth H.: Attended key AA service events, including SSAASA in Virginia and a Southeast Delegates gathering in Atlanta; led workshops, participated in discussions, and built a network of Alternate Delegates; contributed to Box 459 on the topic of self-support (7th Tradition) and regularly attend monthly meetings with Alternate Delegates across North America and the Southeast region; conducted a DCM orientation, work closely with their Delegate in preparation for the General Service Conference, and remain available to lead workshops or presentations for groups and districts.

Delegate Panel 70 Area 62, Pat M.: area62.org login: keepitsimple/turnover. Everything you need is here.

- Attended SASSAA in Virginia, the SE Regional Delegates Conference in Atlanta, and am participating in monthly regional and national Zoom meetings. This builds connections with delegates across the US and Canada to strengthen communication and collaboration.
- Worked with the Alt Delegate to organize and launch pre-conference Zoom meetings. The preconference Zoom meeting schedule and background information is posted under the Pre-conference tab, with all of the agenda items and all the background materials posted under the Delegate tab. This new pre-conference process has been lengthy; at the end of it we will review and tweak it based on your feedback. I need to be informed of your conscience when I go to NY. Please share your thoughts and questions before April so I can be as informed as possible.
- Practiced delivering "Area Highlights" in under 2 minutes at the Delegate Conference which will be done in New York. Was assigned 2 conference buddies who have experience to help me in New York.
- Serve on the Grapevine/La Vina Committee at Conference. Have reached out to several Past Trustees, Delegates, and Grapevine representatives to help me prepare.
- The NY conference agenda includes voting on a draft of the 5th edition Big Book IF it is sent to the conference floor by committee. The Board's major focus this year is on communication.
- Meeting regularly with the Alt Delegate. We do not always agree and that is the point.
- Available to report on the Conference to the districts beginning June 20. Email to get on the schedule. Travel costs are on the hosting districts.

Closed with the Responsibility Declaration

Upcoming Events:

- 1) 76th General Service Conference: April 26-May 2, 2026, New York, NY
- 2) SC State Convention: May 15-17, 2026, Florence, SC Register at: <http://www.area62.org/convention/>
- 3) Area 62 Assembly: – June 6-7, 2026 Midlands Tech Airport Campus, West Columbia, SC
- 4) SE Regional Forum: Sept. 18-20, 2026, Raleigh, NC www.aa.org/event/2026-southeast-regional-forum