

Area 51 • North Carolina • General Service Assembly



“There Is A Solution”

Saturday, May 16, 2026 • 1:00PM – 6:00PM

Agenda

• Call to Order & Serenity Prayer	Lindsey H., Chairperson	1:00 PM
• <i>Welcome / Opening Remarks</i>	Chairperson	
• <i>Reading: “Why Do We Need a Conference?”</i>	Past Delegate	1:05 PM
• <i>Introduction of General Service Guest</i>	Denise M., Delegate	1:10 PM
• <i>Susan V.</i>	Southeast Regional Trustee	1:15 PM
• <i>Introduction of Area Committee</i>	Chairperson	1:30 PM
• <i>Administrative Announcements</i>	Chairperson	1:35 PM
• <i>Agenda Overview</i>	Chairperson	1:40 PM
• <i>Adopt Rules of Order and Debate</i>	Chairperson	1:45 PM
• Approve Minutes of 2025 Fall Assembly	Chairperson	1:50 PM
• <i>Treasurer’s Report</i>	Nancy B., Treasurer	1:55 PM
• Approve 1st Quarter 2026 Financial Statement	Chairperson	2:00 PM
• <i>Registrar’s Report</i>	Sue H., Registrar	2:05 PM
• <i>Delegate’s Report</i>	Denise M., Delegate	2:10 PM
Break		3:10 – 3:20 PM
• <i>Alternate Delegate’s Report</i>	Greg K., Alt. Delegate	3:20 PM
• <i>Growth & Maintenance Report</i>	Sharon G., G&M Chair	3:35 PM
• <i>Spanish Translator Report</i>	Julia C., Spanish Translator	3:40 PM
• <i>Budget & Finance Report</i>	Denie C., B&F Chair	3:45 PM
• Agenda Item #1	Chairperson	3:50 PM

That Area 51 provide audio and text translation for all Spanish-Linguistic Districts at Area 51 Business Meetings.

Budget Impact: \$3487

Prudent Reserve Impact: \$1744

Background: Area 51 has identified translation technology that works more efficiently than live person interpretation. Wordly is an AI-powered, real-time translation platform that supports in-person, virtual, and hybrid events. Participants access translation on their own devices (phone, tablet, or computer), select their preferred language (English or Spanish), and can follow along through live audio and/or captions. Captions may also be displayed on screens to support members who are hard of hearing.

This platform has already been used by the General Service Office at Regional Forums and was demonstrated locally with District 30, where it received strong support as an effective and accessible interpretation option.

Wordly operates without on-site human interpreters and provides on-demand access, live transcription, and post-event translated transcripts. It is important to note that session data is only saved if the host chooses to do so, and the platform is compliant with recognized data privacy standards (SOC 2 Type II). Wordly does not use anything said inside personal transcripts to add to any llms (large language models).

The proposed plan allows for up to 50 users per session, which would primarily support Spanish-speaking members. Additional flexibility includes the ability to display English transcription on screens.

Area 51 would have a limited number of shared devices for members who do not have access to personal technology. Devices only need to scan a QR code and be connected to the venue’s wifi to function. There is no app or website to navigate.

Adopting Wordly would replace the need for a live interpreter at Area 51 Business meetings and increase accessibility, consistency, and cost efficiency in providing language access.

The Area 51 account could also be used for other Area-related events, such as the North Carolina State Convention, Freedom From Bondage, or District events. Any entity using the account would be responsible for the cost of its individual session.

Wordly sessions are billed at \$75 per hour. An initial contract for 50 hours is \$3487. The current Interpreter budget is \$1270. The estimated hotel and food expenses for the Interpreter is \$1200 for the budgeted year. The annual difference between the current Interpreter budget and proposed motion is an estimated increase of \$1017.00.

• Agenda Item #2	Chairperson	4:10 PM
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That beginning with Panel 77, the Area 51 Spanish Interpreter position be discontinued, contingent on the approval of the audio and text translation.

Background: The current Spanish Interpreter role provides oral translation between English- and Spanish-speaking members at Area 51 Assemblies, Committee Meetings, and Spanish Pre-Conferences, and may interpret at other functions when invited and available.

With the adoption of the translation platform for Area 51 events, real-time interpretation will be provided through AI-based translation accessible to attendees on their personal devices. As a result, the need for a live Spanish Interpreter to provide oral translation at Area 51 Assemblies and Committee Meetings is eliminated.

The removal of the Interpreter role does not eliminate Spanish language access but changes the method by which it is provided. There is still a Spanish Translator position who oversees the written document translations.

• Agenda Item #3	Chairperson	4:30 PM
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That the current Spanish Translator position be expanded and renamed to the Spanish Language Coordinator, effective with Panel 77 beginning January 2027.

Background: Currently, the Spanish Translator role serves Area 51 by reviewing translated written Area documents, including agendas, minutes, flyers (Convention, Committee, and Assembly), background material for Pre-Conferences, and website content.

The position as stated in the P3 Manual:

- Is appointed by the Area Chair and approved by the Area Assembly
- Serves a two-year term, with the possibility of serving up to three additional consecutive terms with successive appointments and Assembly approval
- Requires the member to be bilingual in English and Spanish
- Is not eligible to stand for Area office unless a past D.C.M.
- Assists the Alternate Delegate in communicating with Spanish Linguistic Districts
- Maintains a glossary of commonly used A.A. terms
- Assists the Area Chair in recruiting and evaluating candidates for the position
- Attends Area Committee Meetings, Area Assemblies, and Spanish District Pre-Conferences

With the current responsibilities listed, the Translator has no on-site event duties. Their responsibilities occur between events. Documents are translated through DeepL, a translation software, and sent to the Translator for review.

The proposed Spanish Coordinator position would retain all current responsibilities of the Spanish Translator and add direct on-site support for Spanish-speaking trusted servants.

Additional responsibilities would include:

- Hosting Spanish-speaking D.C.M.s and G.S.R.s at Area Committee Meetings, Area Assemblies, and Spanish District Pre-Conferences by sitting with Spanish-speaking districts to assist with access to live audio and text translation sessions
- Managing and making available additional devices and headsets as needed
- Being available to attend subcommittee meetings to assist with interpretation setup when requested

This proposal does not take away the Alternate Delegate’s role as liaison with the Spanish-speaking community. Instead, it adds support: someone who speaks the language and can work alongside the Alternate Delegate to help bridge the communication gap.

During the Wordly trial, it became clear how significant that gap is and how long it has likely existed. The Alternate Delegate’s role remains important, and this would help support and enhance that work.

This evolution reflects the growing needs of Spanish-speaking members and strengthens participation, communication, and inclusion within the Area 51 service structure.

• Agenda Item #4	Chairperson	4:50 PM
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That Spanish Linguistic District 30 be redistricted into two districts, District 30 and District 36. District 30 will include Chatham, Wake, Harnett and Lee counties. District 36 will include Durham, Orange, Alamance, Guilford, Randolph and Montgomery counties.

Background: An Area 51 Advisory Action from Spring 2004 states that additional linguistic/geographic districts be added to Area 51 as the need arises. At least five groups registered with G.S.O. and located in a contiguous area not overlapping other Spanish districts are required to make an application to form a new district. There will be fifteen registered groups in District 30 and seven registered groups in District 36. This motion has been discussed and approved by District 30. The motion carried without opposition at our 2026 Winter Committee Meeting.

<i>Break</i>	5:00-5:10 PM
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• <i>Convention Report</i>	Lizzy T., Convention Chair	5:10 PM
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• Agenda Item #5	Chairperson	5:15 PM
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To approve the Chair’s appointment of Kimberly M. of Greensboro as Area 51 Convention Chair for the period 2027 – 2028.

Background: The Area 51 Convention Chair for the period 2027-2028 serves by the appointment of the Area Chairperson and approval of the Area Assembly. The appointment is made during the spring of the preceding year to allow the incoming Convention Chair to observe the planning, conducting, and reporting of the N.C. State Convention by the current Convention Chair and the Convention Committee. The job description of the Area 51 Convention Chair includes the following:

- Previous experience as a DCM is not required, although some general service experience is desirable.
- Has a voice and a vote in Area Committee and Assembly proceedings but is not eligible to stand for area office unless a past DCM.
- Under the general guidance and as a member of the Area 51 General Service Committee, plans, organizes and conducts the annual N.C. State Convention.
- Conducts all convention plans in accordance with GSO-documented guidelines for conferences and conventions, and A.A.’s Twelve Traditions.
- Selects a Convention Committee to work with the Convention Chair and Convention Alternate Chair in planning and conducting the Convention.
- Responsible to the Area 51 Committee and Assembly for keeping operating expenses in line with the fiscal objective that the Convention be paid for out of registration fees of attendees and, if needed, from the approved prudent reserve in the Area 51 treasury.
- Responsible for the Convention checking account and for overseeing the collection of registration fees and payment of convention expenses.
- Prepares written financial reports, accounting fully and precisely to the Area 51 Committee and Assembly on the use of Convention funds.
- Participates in and reports at all Area 51 Committee Meetings and Assemblies.
- Serves as Chair of the Area Site Investigation subcommittee.
- Works closely with the host hotel in making detailed plans for the Convention according to the Area 51 contract with the hotel; and
- Attends the Area Committee Meetings and Assemblies and the State Convention each year.

Kimberly currently serves as the Area 51 Convention Alternate Chair. She previously served in several roles on the Convention Committee including Registrar, Hospitality Chair, Secretary and Volunteer Coordinator. Kimberly has also served as DCM and Alternate DCM for District 23, Treasurer for District 31, and Workshop Chair for District 35. She has several years experience with NCCYPAA, including serving as Chair of the NCCYPAA Advisory Council.

• Agenda Item #6	Chairperson	5:20 PM
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To approve the Chair’s appointment of Kenneth C. of Wilmington as Area 51 Convention Alternate Chair for the period 2027 – 2028

Background: The Area 51 Convention Alternate Chair for the period 2027-2028 serves by the appointment of the Area Chairperson and approval of the Area Assembly. The appointment is made during the spring of the preceding year to allow the incoming Convention Alternate Chair to observe the role of the Convention Alternate Chair in the planning, conducting, and reporting of the N.C. State Convention. The job description of the Area 51 Convention Alternate Chair includes the following:

- Previous experience as a DCM is not required, although some general service experience is desirable.
- Has a voice but no vote in Area Committee and Assembly proceedings (if the Convention Chair is absent, the Convention Alternate Chair may vote).
- Is not eligible to stand for area office.
- Maintains readiness to fill in for the Convention Chair should the Convention Chair be unable to serve at required functions.

- Assists the Convention Chair with duties as requested.
- Serves on the Area Site Investigation subcommittee.
- Serves on the Convention Committee to work with the Convention Chair in planning and conducting the Convention; and
- Attends the Area Committee Meetings and Assemblies and the State Convention each year.

Kenneth is a former GSR, CPC/PI Chair and DCM from District 4. He served Area 51 as Literature Coordinator, CPC/PI Coordinator, Treasurer, Alternate Delegate and Panel 67 Delegate. He chaired the SSAASA 5 host committee and served for 6 years on the SSAASA steering Committee. Kenneth has previously served as Chair of the Wilmington Intergroup Board and is currently in his 6th year serving on the Area 51 Convention Committee.

• Agenda Item #7	Chairperson	5:25 PM
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That Area 51 provide coffee, a hospitality suite and a social event for the 2026 Southeast Regional Forum on September 18-20 at the Hilton Raleigh North Hills not to exceed \$4500.

Background: Regional Forums provide unique opportunities for A.A. members across the U.S. and Canada to connect with people throughout the A.A. service structure. At forums, members can exchange information with representatives of the General Service Board, A.A.W.S., AA Grapevine and GSO. While the GSB bears the expense of the venue, audio/ visual, travel and room expenses for the Trustees, Staff, and Directors, it is traditionally the responsibility of the hosting Area to provide and pay for coffee, a hospitality suite and possibly a social event. The coffee cost with taxes and fees is \$54.03 per gallon. Typical consumption ranges from 65-90 gallons at similar-sized Area events. Assuming an average consumption of 75 gallons, the cost of coffee would be close to \$4000; however, voluntary self-support coffee contributions from attendees will reduce the final amount. Area 51 will provide QR codes for Paypal and Venmo at the coffee stations to assist with contributions along with a 7th tradition self-support basket. The hospitality suite rental for two nights is \$382.78 plus additional funding for provisions that are not provided by district support. Should snacks be included at the social event, the cost would be covered through ticket sales. Registration opens July 17, 2026. There is no registration fee for A.A. members for Regional Forums.

For more information about regional forums: <https://www.aa.org/regional-local-and-special-forums>

Additional Background Information:
 Southeast Regional Forum Attendance
 2024 Biloxi MS - 377
 2022 Orlando FL - 406
 2018 Sterling VA - 432

The last time Area 51 hosted a Southeast Regional Forum was in 1996 in Asheville. The next opportunity for Area 51 to host the Southeast Regional Forum will be 2052.

Budgetary impact: This would be a one-time expense with no impact on the prudent reserve.

• Agenda Item #8	Chairperson	5:45 PM
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Proposal to officially establish and recognize two (2) Local Committee Member (LCM) positions in District 70, Area 51. These LCMs will be able to participate in all Area 51 functions with a voice but no vote.

Background: District 70 has five counties and 64 Active groups (as of November 2025). Based on geography, District 70 could have up to 4 LCMs. Based on groups, District 70 could have up to 3 LCMs. For as long as anyone at District 70 can remember, District 70 has had LCMs, and these LCMs have participated in Area functions. However, after speaking with the Area Registrar and Area Alternate Delegate, reading all advisory actions of the Area related to LCMs, we were unable to locate any official advisory action of approval of LCMs in District 70. As such, District 70 is submitting this proposal to have an official advisory action documented regarding District 70 LCMs.

• <i>Workshop Kick-Off</i>	Chairperson	5:50 PM
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• <i>Dinner Raffle and Closing Announcements</i>	Chairperson	5:55 PM
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<i>Dinner Recess</i>		6:00 – 7:30 PM
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“There Is A Solution”

Sunday, May 17, 2026 • 8:30AM – 11:30 AM

Agenda

• Call to Order -Serenity Prayer – Announcements	Chairperson	8:30 AM
• <i>Readings: Steps, Traditions, Concepts</i>	Assembly Members	8:35 AM
• <i>Introduction of Guest Speaker</i>	Denise M., Delegate	8:45 AM
• <i>Susan V.</i>	GSO Staff	8:50 AM
Break		9:30 – 9:45 AM
• <i>Accessibilities Report</i>	Scott S., Accessibilities Coordinator	9:45 AM
• Agenda Item #9	Chairperson	9:50 AM

That Area 51 provide American Sign Language (ASL) interpreting for the 2026 Southeast Regional Forum on September 18-20 for an amount not to exceed \$3000.

Background: It has previously been the policy of the General Service Office (GSO) to provide ASL interpreting at Regional Forums when needed. Earlier this year, GSO suspended that policy for the current year’s Regional Forums, placing responsibility on the hosting Area’s Volunteer Committee to fund ASL services.

At the recent Special Forum for Deaf A.A., it was stated that ASL is an essential service for Deaf A.A. members, without which participation is not possible. It was also stated that certified ASL interpreters are necessary to communicate effectively, due to standards of quality and confidentiality (anonymity).

While there is frequent discussion regarding service to this community, the practical reality is that A.A. benefits from the participation, experience, and perspective of Deaf alcoholics.

In addition to this request, options are being explored to reduce the financial impact, including but not limited to:

- The Area Delegate contacting delegates from other areas in the region to determine whether cost-sharing assistance is available for this unexpected expense.
- Members in contact with the Deaf A.A. community reaching out to certified ASL interpreters who may be willing to serve at a reduced rate, potentially in exchange for room and board.
- Including a question during registration to determine whether ASL services are needed; if no need is expressed, the service will not be provided.

Budgetary impact: This would be a one time expense with no impact on the prudent reserve.

Agenda Item #10	Chairperson	10:05 AM
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That Area 51 request the General Service Conference consider creating an additional Plain Language Big Book (PLBB) Side-By-Side Study Guide reproducing the Big Book (BB) on the left page and the PLBB on the right page.

Background: The PLBB is a useful translation, but it requires a lot of work to compare to the BB paragraph by paragraph. There are groups and members currently doing this in their studies. This study guide would not replace either version, but would be an additional tool for access to the message of recovery.

A.A. Special Forum for Online Groups: To create an online Special Forum designed primarily for A.A. members of online groups which are not a part of one of the eight Regions of the U.S./Canada service structure.

• Agenda Item #11	Chairperson	10:20 AM
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A.A. Special Forum for Online Groups: To create an online Special Forum designed primarily for A.A. members of online groups which are not a part of one of the eight Regions of the U.S./Canada service structure.

Background: Special Forums are designed to serve A.A. Members who would not normally be able to attend a Regional Forum or a Local Forum." The A.A. Service Manual 2024-2026 Edition, p. 61. A.A. members of online groups which are not a part of one region have a common need based on methods of communication rather than geography. The current practice of geographically based Regional or Local Forums does not provide such A.A. members with "weekend-long sharing and informational sessions that provide unique opportunities to share and exchange valuable experience, ask questions and spark new ideas" among members, trusted servants and newcomers throughout the A.A. service structure. A Special Forum might provide such an opportunity for the sharing of ideas and experience on how best to enfranchise these members within the A.A. service structure.

Current Practice:

Currently there is not an A.A. Forum designed specifically for online group members to attend remotely. This motion is to express the need for such a Special Forum based on geography.

• Site Investigation	Kimberly M., Convention Alt Chairperson	10:30 AM
• Archives Report	Patrick D., Archivist	10:35 AM
• Grapevine Report	Scott H., Grapevine Coordinator	10:40 AM
• Literature Report	Paul M., Literature Coordinator	10:45 AM
• PI Report	George S., PI Coordinator	10:50 AM
• CPC Report	Alana E., CPC Coordinator	10:55 AM
• Corrections Report	Jerry W., Corrections Coordinator	11:00 AM
• Treatment Facilities Report	Alison M., Treatment Coordinator	11:05 AM
• Website Report	Tammy Z., Website Chairperson	11:10 AM
• Webmaster Report	Alan G., Webmaster	11:15 AM
• New Business	Chairperson	11:20 AM
• Sharing Session - "What's On Your Mind" "Ask-It Basket"	Floor/Panel	11:25 AM
• Drawing for Assembly Banner	Chairperson	11:30 AM
• Closing Remarks	Chairperson	11:35 AM

Adjournment

11:40 AM

Responsibility Declaration

I am responsible.
When anyone, anywhere,
Reaches out for help,
I want the hand of AA
Always to be there.
And for that: I am responsible.
International Convention, Toronto, Canada, July, 1965

A Declaration of Unity

This we owe to AA's future:
To place our common welfare first;
To keep our Fellowship united.
For on AA unity depend our lives,
And the lives of those to come.
International Convention, Miami Beach, July, 1970

HOW THE AREA 51 COMMITTEE/ASSEMBLY OPERATES

(Adapted from HOW THE CONFERENCE OPERATES)

Generally speaking we adhere to Robert's Rules of Order and, with any luck, the whole Committee/Assembly proceeds on as informal a basis as possible, consistent with the rights of all concerned.

A Committee/Assembly Quorum – that is, two-thirds of all registered members – is required to conduct Assembly business.

General Rules of Debate: (These are agreed to at the beginning of each Committee/Assembly)

- ◆ People who wish to speak line up at the microphones and are called on in order.
- ◆ Each person may speak for two minutes.
- ◆ No speaker may speak for a second time on a topic until all who wish to speak have spoken for the first time.
- ◆ Voting is by a show of hands for or against a motion.

Substantial Unanimity:

- ◆ All matters of policy (Assembly Advisory Actions) require substantial unanimity – or a two-thirds vote. Additionally, any actions, including amendments, that affect an Advisory Action, or a motion that might result in such an action, also require a two-thirds majority.
- ◆ Because the number of members present in the hall during the weekend of the Committee/Assembly varies from time to time, the phrase “two-thirds vote” is taken to mean two-thirds of the members voting as long as the total vote constitutes a Committee/Assembly quorum.

Minority Opinion:

- ◆ After the establishment or rejection of any matter of policy by a two-thirds vote, the non-prevailing side will always be given the opportunity to speak to its opposition. There is no rebuttal.

Calling the Question:

- ◆ The question may be called at any time; however, keeping in mind the spiritual nature and importance of discussion in arriving at an informed group conscience the Chairperson has the discretion to rule the motion out of order if made too hastily.
- ◆ Motion to ‘Call the Question’ must be made in turn without comment at the microphone.
- ◆ Requires a second.
- ◆ Is not debatable.
- ◆ Requires a two-thirds vote.
- ◆ If passed, debate on the issue before the Committee/Assembly ceases, and the Committee/Assembly proceeds immediately to vote on it. If not passed, full debate continues on the action.

To Table a Discussion: (Postpone to a later time during the same Committee/Assembly session)

- ◆ Requires a motion without comment and a second. Requires only a simple majority vote (51%) to pass.

Request to Reconsider:

- ◆ Must be made in the form of a motion by someone who had voted with the prevailing side and now, after further consideration, wishes to change his/her vote.
- ◆ Requires a second from any voting member.
- ◆ Requires only a simple majority to cause reconsideration. If passed, full debate, pro and con, is resumed on the action. No action may be reconsidered twice.

Depart from the Agenda:

- ◆ Requires a two-thirds vote of the Committee/Assembly to depart in a significant way from the agenda during the meeting.

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING AREA 51 EVENTS

2026		
Spring Committee Meeting	<i>Lake Junaluska Conference Center, Lake Junaluska, NC</i>	May 15, 2026
Spring Assembly		May 16-17, 2026
79 th State Convention	<i>Lake Junaluska Conference Center, Lake Junaluska, NC</i>	July 16-19, 2026
Summer Committee Meeting	<i>Blowing Rock Conf. Center, Blowing Rock, NC</i>	August 29-30, 2026
Southeast Regional Forum	<i>Hilton Raleigh North Hills, Raleigh, NC</i>	September 18-20, 2026
Fall Committee Meeting	<i>Hilton Raleigh North Hills, Raleigh, NC</i>	November 6, 2026
Fall Election Assembly		November 7-8, 2026
Winter Committee Meeting	<i>Millenium Durham Hotel Durham, NC</i>	March 6-7, 2027
2027		
Spring Committee Meeting	<i>Lake Junaluska Conference Center, Lake Junaluska, NC</i>	May 21, 2027
Spring Assembly		May 22-23, 2027
80 th State Convention	<i>Lake Junaluska Conference Center, Lake Junaluska, NC</i>	July 15-18, 2027