Area 79 BC/Yukon
October 20, 23-25 2026
Voting & Election Assembly
AGENDA COVER LETTER

Area Service Committee
PO Box 42114
Vancouver, BC, V5S 4R5
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September 22, 2026

Hello, trusted servants, I'm an alcoholic, my name is Paul, and I'm honored to serve as your Panel 75 Area 79 Chair.

Contents of this Agenda Package

The Agenda Package combines a few important documents:

- this cover letter
- a detailed agenda for the event
- seven motions for discussion and vote
- our draft 2027 Area 79 budget and the supplemental Budget Demystified document

I've greatly reduced the size of the agenda package by adding a **Links & Resources** section at the end of this letter. Please review those links carefully. **If you prefer the nearly 40 page version of this package, you'll find it as the first item in that section.**

This package has been sent to all registered District Committee Members (DCMs) and General Service Representatives (GSRs). **DCMs**, please forward it to your district's trusted servants—they may receive it twice, but better twice than not at all!

Registration

You must complete the registration if you plan on attending the Committee Breakouts on Tuesday, and/or if you are attending the weekend online. After registering, you'll receive a unique meeting link—please do not share it.

👉 **Click here to register** 👈

GSRs will be randomly assigned to a committee, DCMs will be assigned to their usual Area committee, District Committee Chairs (DCCs) can select their preference when they register, and all other guests are free to choose their own committee.

Location

The in-person portion will be at: **Alberni Athletic Hall**, 3727 Roger St., Port Alberni, BC. The Area Service Committee (ASC) will be staying at the Best Western - Barclay Hotel. Be sure

to review the recently updated **Accommodations and Restaurants** document which also includes billeting and transportation information.

What to expect at this Assembly

Panel 77 Elections

At the heart of this Assembly are our **elections**; choosing who will carry Area 79's work forward for the next two years. Conducted by our outgoing Delegate, Drew W., we'll be electing a new Delegate to the General Service Conference, along with six other members of the Panel 77 ASC. In the following order we'll be electing *Delegate, Alternate Delegate, Chair, Alternate Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, and Registrar*. We'll follow our **Third Legacy Procedure**, described in Appendix G of the Service Manual. This process trusts the group conscience, guided by a Higher Power, to bring forward the servants Area 79 needs.

If you're a DCM rotating out of your position, we especially encourage you to consider letting your name stand for one of these elected roles, and/or submit your service resume for one of our seven *appointed* positions. A blank Service Resume form is included with this Agenda Package. Resumes should be emailed to resumes@bcyukonaa.org no later than October 31st to be considered. If you have questions about either path, any member of the outgoing Panel 75 ASC would be glad to help. There's an **Elections and Appointments – More Information** document on our website, too.

Motions and Budget

Seven motions were submitted ahead of the August 11th deadline and are included with this Agenda Package, having already been shared with you in the August Preliminary Agenda. There's still time to bring something forward: additional motions received by Saturday October 24th at 11:00 AM will be heard as **Floor Actions**. These must be submitted on a motions form by email to the Chair at chair@bcyukonaa.org before that cut-off.

We'll also review and vote on the proposed **2027 Area 79 budget**, included with the **Budget Demystified** document in this Agenda Package.

And a reminder: this Assembly will run under the **new voting procedures** adopted at July's Assembly. An updated *Business and Voting Procedures* document will be sent to your DCMs, can be found in our BC/Yukon website's Service Library, and in the *Links and Resources* section below.

Our Guests This Weekend

We're grateful to welcome **Gail P., our Western Canada Regional Trustee** and Area 79 Panel 69 Delegate, as our guest this weekend. She'll give a brief presentation Friday evening and share with us again Saturday night.

In the spirit of Western Canada Region unity, we're blessed to have **all three of the other Western Canada Area Delegates** as guests with us for the full weekend.

Trustee-at-Large/Canada

We'll also elect Area 79's candidate for Trustee-at-Large/Canada, who will join candidates from other Canadian Areas for consideration at the 2027 General Service Conference.

Ad Hoc Updates

Three ad hoc committees will be giving their final reports at this event, wrapping up many, many months of work: **Care & Conduct**, **Voting Procedures**, **Land Acknowledgements**, and the **Website Chair Role ad hoc**. We're grateful for their service and look forward to hearing what they'll bring forward for the Assembly's consideration.

Sharing, Learning, and Reporting Together

Much of this Assembly's spirit lives in the time we spend listening to one another.

New to the Assembly, or just want a refresher? Join us Tuesday evening for **Voting & Election Assembly 101** — a friendly walkthrough of what to expect. This isn't only for newcomers; everyone is welcome.

On Tuesday evening we break into **committees**. These sessions are a key opportunity for GSRs to engage with the heartbeat of our service structure – learning, sharing, and shaping the work that supports our Fellowship. GSRs will be randomly assigned to a committee, DCMs will be assigned to their usual Area committee, District Committee Chairs (DCCs) can select their preference when they register, and all other guests are free to choose their own committee.

Friday night, GSRs will gather for a **sharing session** on *All Things Group Inventory*, while DCMs and the ASC meet at the **Area Committee meeting**.

Throughout the weekend, we'll hear **Committee Report-Backs**, along with reports from our ASC members on the work their committees have carried out. Due to time constraints, verbal District reports won't be given, and we'll instead have a **District Roll Call**. Email written DCM reports to secretary@bcyukonaa.org by October 31.

A Few Practical Notes

Unlike some of our other venues, you're welcome to **bring your own snacks** this time! Nom Nom! 🍖 🍪

I've also been told that the host committee will be making $10 bagged lunches available for Saturday!

If you have a poster for an upcoming event, please leave a single copy at the **Event Table** rather than printing and distributing copies to every table. And don't forget to also submit your event to the BC/Yukon website, following the posted instructions.

Online Naming Convention

To save time, when you arrive on Tuesday or for the online portion of our weekend, please rename yourself in Zoom with the following naming convention: *Role, Name, District*

Some examples:

- GSR, John D., D99
- AltGSR, Jane D., D99
- DCC-PI, John D., D99
- Guest, Jane D., D99

If you don't know how to rename yourself, no trouble, we have techs in the meeting that can help you and there's a slide we display to show you examples. Plus we have this new **Online meeting basics guide**, too.

Links & Resources on next page →

Links & Resources

- This agenda package plus resources in one big file
- Seven motions
- Area 79 Business and Voting Procedures
- Motions Guide & Motions Form
- 2027 Draft Budget & Budget Demystified documents
- ASC Service Resume Form and Sample
- Elections and Appointments – More Information
- DCM Committee Assignments
- Area event attendance records
- 2025/2026 and 2027 Calendars of Events
- Glossary of acronyms
- Grassroots July 2026 Edition – minutes from our last event
- Accommodations & Restaurants near the venue, and transportation
- WRAASA Registration

In love and service,
Paul Tansey (name not for publication)
Chair, Panel 75, BC/Yukon Area 79
chair@bcyukonaa.org

Area 79 BC/Yukon
October 20, 23-25 2026
Voting & Election Assembly
DETAILED AGENDA

Area Service Committee
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Hybrid Event - Registration/Location

Please register for the event using this link. After registering, you'll receive your own personal link to the meeting. Please do not share the link you receive. If you wish to attend Friday/Saturday/Sunday online, use the same link.

The in-person portion of our hybrid event will be held in **District 6** at the **Alberni Athletic Hall** in Port Alberni, BC.

Tuesday, October 20, 2026 – Online Only

5:30pm	Virtual room opens • Not the start of the event, just "doors open" • Optional virtual training/assistance
6:00	**Voting & Elections Assembly 101** • What can you expect at this V&E Assembly? All are welcome – let's support each other on this service journey! • Facilitated by Sheryl D. and Dick V. (past ASC members)
7:00	**Assembly Begins** • Welcome and housekeeping (Chair – Paul T.)
7:15	**Committee Breakouts** GSRs will be randomly assigned to a committee, DCMs will be assigned to their usual Area committee, District Committee Chairs (DCCs) can select their preference when they register, and all other guests are free to choose their own committee.
8:45	There will be no closing remarks in the main room — committees are free to wrap up and sign off when their work is complete.

Friday, October 23 – Hybrid

5:00pm	**In-person doors open** • Not the start of the event, just "doors open" • In-person registration
5:30	**Virtual doors open**
6:30	**Assembly Continues** • Welcome and housekeeping (Chair – Paul T.) • Opening remarks Delegate – Drew W. Western Canada Regional Trustee – Gail P.

7:00	**Service Orientation** – Election Procedures • Facilitated by Delegate – Drew W.
	Break
8:15	**Area Committee Meeting** (Alt Chair – Joanne C.) • DCMs & ASC move to Upstairs meeting room / virtual breakout room **Main Room Sharing Session** (Delegate – Drew W.) • GSRs, Alt GSRs, Alt DCMs, Guests: in-person/virtual stay in large room • Topic: *All Things Group Inventory* • Guests: Gail P., Western Canada Regional Trustee and Alison G., Area 91 Delegate
9:45	(No closing remarks)

Saturday, October 24 – Hybrid

7:30am	**Doors open** (virtual and in-person) • Not the start of the event, just "doors open"
8:00	**Assembly Continues** • Housekeeping • Reading of the 12 Traditions (Short Form) (District 6 GSR – Ryan R.) • Concept 5 Presentation (District 6 DCM – Jane S.) • Introduction of Guests and Past Delegates • Introduction of new GSRs, DCMs and Alternates • Reading of Business Procedures (Host Committee Chair – Sean A.) • Approval of the minutes from the July 2026 Assembly • Ratification of Tech Team Lead – Chris T. **Reports** • Chairperson's Report • Delegate's Report • Financial Statements • 2027 Area 79 Budget (presented and voted on)
10:00	Break
10:15	**Nominating Area 79 Candidate for Trustee-at-Large/Canada** Conducted by Gail P., Western Canada Regional Trustee
	Election of Area 79 Panel 77 – Conducted by Delegate – Drew W. We will be electing the following roles: • Delegate • Alternate Delegate • Chair • Alternate Chair • Treasurer • Secretary • Registrar While counting ballots we will also hear:

	• District roll call – due to time constraints, verbal reports will not be given. Email written reports to secretary@bcyukonaa.org by October 31 • ASC & Committee Reports • Askit Baskit Questions
12:00	Lunch
1:30	**Election of Panel 77** (continued)
3:00	Break
3:15	**Election of Panel 77** (continued)
5:00	Dinner
7:00	**Guest Speaker:** Western Canada Regional Trustee – Gail P.
7:45	**Motions and Floor Actions** • **Seven motions** have been submitted and included in this agenda package • Floor actions must be submitted to Area Chair before Saturday @ 11am
	Askit Baskit Questions
	Declaration of Unity followed by the *Serenity Prayer*

Sunday, October 25 – Hybrid

7:30am	Doors open (virtual and in-person) • Not the start of the event, just "doors open"
8:00	**Assembly Continues**
	Motions and Floor Actions (continued)
	Breaks
12:00	**Ad hoc committee updates** • Care and Conduct • Voting Procedures • Land Acknowledgements • Website Chair
	First-Timer Sharing
	Askit Baskit Questions
	Closing Remarks by Guests
	Motion to Adjourn Close with the *Responsibility Statement* followed by the *Serenity Prayer*

Declaration of Unity

"This we owe to A.A.'s Future; to place our common welfare first; to keep our Fellowship united. For on A.A. unity depend our lives, and the lives of those to come."

Responsibility Statement

"I am responsible, when anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible."

BC Yukon Area 79
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General Service Committee
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MOTION 1

Motion:

Modify the Area 79 BC/Yukon Bidding and Hosting Guideline – Quarterlies and Assemblies to add Paragraph D.1.a. as follows: "For Districts that host an Area Quarterly or Assembly with a venue cost of less than $8,000, Area 79 will pay the difference between the venue cost up to a maximum of $8,000 toward the cost of providing brewed coffee at the venue where the Area Quarterly or Assembly will be held."

History or Current Practices:

Currently, the Area 79 budget does not provide money toward the purchase of coffee.

If passed:

The hosting District will be able to purchase coffee for the event and thereby keep the cost of coffee for the attendees down to a reasonable selling price. It will also provide the Area 79 Treasurer with a more accurate cost when preparing the annual budget.

If not passed:

Nothing will change.

For further consideration:

This will encourage Districts to locate a venue with a cost lower than $8,000. The price of coffee continues to increase – without help from Area 79, some Districts cannot afford to provide coffee at the event which will hamper their ability to be chosen to host an ASC event.

Motion Submitted by: District 62

MOTION 2

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Motion:

That Area 79 forward a proposed agenda item for consideration by the 78th General Service Conference to discontinue the Flag Ceremony at the International Conventions.

History or Current Practices:

As reported by the 76th General Service Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums (IC/RF), the history of the flag ceremony is not clearly documented. The first flag ceremony took place in 1975 at A.A.'s 40th anniversary celebration in Denver, Colorado. There was no Advisory Action from the Conference to add the flag ceremony, and no subsequent Advisory Action has occurred. Documentation of how the ceremony has changed over time is limited. However, since 1990, local Native or Indigenous people have typically opened the ceremony as lead flag bearers.

There was an agenda item submitted for the 75th General Service Conference to explore the inclusion of sovereign state flags in the flag ceremony. Subsequently, the Trustees IC/RF Committee found that the scope needed to widen to look at the entire format and to discuss changes, noting the following points:

- The ceremony requires comprehensive re-evaluation, not incremental adjustments.
- Clearer vision of unity
- Repeated concerns across past International Conventions that the flag ceremony is more about nationalism instead of A.A. unity throughout the world
- Focusing on showcasing the A.A. presence throughout the world and getting away from nationalism
- Production cut-off time has led to flags being left out, which has led to hurt feelings
- Criteria to carry a flag is based on physical address, even if person does not consider it to be their home country
- Any future proposal should include tight, consistent guidelines to ensure clarity and unity in presentation.

Current practice is to represent the flags of nations where A.A. is present at the International Convention. It includes approx. 85-95 flags and is estimated to take 20 minutes of the 2-hour programming at the Friday night Big Meeting. All flag bearers are chosen at random from the list of registrants. The flag bearer only needs to provide an address indicating they reside in the country being represented. They do not have to be a national of the that country, nor do they have to consider it to be their home country. Conversely, if a registrant resides in a country but uses a different address for registration purposes, their county is not included in the flag ceremony.

At the 2025 International Convention in Vancouver, BC, booing and derisive comments were heard from some attendees when certain countries were presented, while other countries' flags were greeted with loud cheers. There is concern that the flag ceremony fosters nationalism and causes division in A.A., rather than unity.

If passed:

The International Convention would no longer include a flag ceremony. As suggested by the IC/RF Committee, other ways of highlighting A.A.'s presence throughout the world, with an emphasis on unity, could be designed with a focus on the reach of A.A.'s lifesaving message, instead facing continued issues of nationalism and controversy.

If not passed:

We would continue the tradition of the flag ceremony and continue to confront issues of who is and is not included, as well as the disunifying concept of nationalism at the International Convention.

For further consideration:

After the 76th General Service Conference, the IC/RF Conference Committee report welcomed the possibility of areas, through their delegates, being invited to provide feedback from the Fellowship on the flag ceremony for consideration. This feedback is the outcome of the Area 79 pre-conference assembly committee breakout discussion. Submitting a proposed agenda item from Area 79 will ensure that our feedback and proposal are included in future discussions on the flag ceremony.

Motion submitted by:

Area 79 Grapevine Committee

MOTION 3

BC/Yukon Area 79

Motion

That the phrase “cunning, baffling and powerful” (from the Big Book page 58) be reinstated in the Plain Language Big Book (PLBB) on page 64 and the phrase “complicated, tricky, and difficult" be removed.

History or Current Practices

The "cunning, baffling and powerful" description of alcohol from the Big Book has been a familiar cornerstone of many or most AA meetings, heard during the reading of How It Works.

"Cunning" implies a deceptive intelligence in alcohol. This has been foundationally important for many newcomers to understand the true nature of alcoholism.

"Baffling" conveys that alcoholism defies logic. This is inconsistent with both "complicated" and "tricky," which call out for more logic. Before embracing the 12 Steps, many alcoholics tried using logic to combat alcoholism over and over again, to no avail.

If Passed

The iconic phrase “cunning, baffling and powerful” will be restored, and the nuanced wisdom about the nature of alcoholism contained in these 3 adjectives will be conveyed to newcomers.

If Not Passed

The translation in the Plain Language Big Book (PLBB) replaces “cunning, baffling and powerful” with "complicated, tricky, and difficult" which loses key insights about alcoholism described above and risks imparting a misleading characterization of alcoholism to the newcomer described below.

For Further Consideration

A cryptic crossword is "complicated, tricky and difficult," but it can be figured out! It will yield to the force of will, logic and brainpower; it can be solved. And this is entirely inconsistent with Step One. Alcoholism can't be figured out or solved. Relying on willpower and intellect is fatal for alcoholics like us.

Our collective experience and our common solution is primarily spiritual, not logical. We have found that surrender to and a relationship with a Higher Power is what unlocks recovery.

We don’t believe the words “cunning” or “baffling” are inaccessible to newcomers. However, if the professional translators disagree, we would be keen to hear what other wording might be used to address our concerns.

Motion submitted by District 18 on August 11th, 2026

MOTION 4

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Motion:
That the BC/Yukon Area 79 YouTube channel be made publicly accessible and available for subscription, with all content curated by the Area 79 Public Information Committee and with oversight by the Area Service Committee.

History or Current Practices:
The BC/Yukon Area 79 YouTube channel is currently set to private and is primarily used as a storage platform for large video content for internal use for the BC/Yukon Area. It currently has no public access or use.

If passed:
The channel could be used for purposes such as amplifying our local twelfth step message of recovery, providing accurate information about what A.A. does and does not do, providing accurate points of local contact for Alcoholics Anonymous and directing those seeking help or more information to the BC/Yukon Area 79 Website and local district websites, including local meeting information.

If not passed:
The channel will continue to be limited to a storage platform for large video files, and an opportunity to have an Area 79 presence and reach alcoholics who are still suffering would be missed on one of the largest digital platforms where they increasingly seek information, connection, and hope.

For further consideration:
The Area 79 PI Committee and the Area 79 ASC would be responsible to ensure that all material published on the channel align with the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous and the General Service Office Internet Guidelines. A BC/Yukon Area 79 publicly accessible YouTube channel populated with local content would not only serve as a helpful Public Information Tool but would also benefit CPC applications, provide a platform for accessibility use; for example, ASL translation of local content and serve as a platform to access Area 79 literature in audio format. According to YouTube, in Canada 81% of viewers report using YouTube to gather information and/or expand their knowledge on a particular interest.

Motion submitted by: Panel 75 Area 79 Public Information Committee

MOTION 5

Motion:

"That any changes to BC/Yukon Area 79 guidelines or procedure documents be presented as a motion by the Area Service Committee (ASC) for approval by the Area 79 voting body."

History or Current Practices:

In 2016, a motion (#6) carried, stating: "That Area 79 give our General Service Committee (GSC) [now the ASC] permission to change all BC/Yukon Area guideline and/or procedure documents by vote at a General Service Committee meeting and report the results to the fellowship."

Since 2016, this motion has been referenced as the moment broad delegated authority was provided to the ASC to make changes to these documents which impact how we conduct area business and without requiring any consultation or presentation of the proposed changes to the Area 79 assembly for approval.

While there is a reporting requirement for any changes decided at the ASC meetings, the recourse for the fellowship would be to bring motions forward to make other changes, which may poorly utilize assembly time, and disunify the area body.

This change has resulted in a separation of the ASC from the broader Area 79 voting body, as well as separation of the GSRs and DCMs from our guidelines and procedures.

There is a lack of clarity surrounding defined scope and limitations of this 'permission', such as which documents (new or existing) it may apply to, as well as the extent of changes permitted. While we trust our trusted servants, Concept X cautions authority should always be well defined, which is lacking in this practice, while displacing responsibility of the documents which ought to sit with the entire area utilizing them. The current practice may place the ASC in a position of unqualified authority, perceived or actual, which is not good for the area as a whole. It also presupposes that the best ideas come from the ASC, when it can come from anywhere.

Greater involvement in the process of changes being made to these documents has the potential to increase familiarity of trusted servants with these documents and procedures, thus fostering leadership in the Area and informed discussions and decision making as a whole.

This motion strives to put the responsibility and authority back in the hands of the groups of Area 79, as well as permitting the fullest participation possible by our GSRs and DCMs, as defined in our Concepts, thus unifying and better informing our area in future panels.

If passed:

Any suggested changes to the Area 79 guidelines or procedure documents may be presented by the ASC as a motion at the next Area assembly, returning the responsibility and authority to the voting body of Area 79. This may foster a stronger mutual understanding of processes and

requirements, and it is likely that better understanding and engagement will result in greater participation.

If not passed:

The changes made in 2016 will stand, leaving the ASC with permission to make any/all changes to Area 79 guidelines and procedure documents and report changes but not requiring any involvement or approval of the changes by the Area voting body. This may continue to result in confusion, lack of procedural familiarity, engagement and participation.

For further consideration:

At the July 2026 Assembly, new voting procedures were presented, followed by lengthy discussion and adoption. This example demonstrates the interest of the fellowship being involved in the process, aware of changes, and having full ownership of them. The new voting procedures did not require a motion, however, based on the 2016 change; the ASC could have simply made the changes and reported them to the groups.

The current practice may place the ASC in a position of unqualified authority, perceived or actual, which is not good for the area as a whole. It also presupposes that the best ideas come from the ASC, when they can come from anywhere.

The Concepts still provide enough delegated authority to the ASC without this 'permission' granted, whereby they can bring suggestions to us for discussion and approval if appropriate. We still trust our trusted servants.

Motion submitted by:

District 43

MOTION 6

Motion:

"That the pamphlet *The "God" Word: Agnostic and Atheist Members in A.A.* (P-86) be updated to include sharing from alcoholics with harmful religious experience as a barrier to accessing and participating in AA and who have found sobriety through the 12 Steps."

History or Current Practices:

The "God" Word pamphlet is described as, "ten agnostic/atheist members share their experience of finding meaningful recovery in A.A., showing there is room in the Fellowship for believers and non-believers alike". There appears to have been no changes to the pamphlet since its adoption in 2018.

This motion is not about whether AA endorses or opposes religion. It is simply about making identification possible for more alcoholics, thereby making AA more accessible. That by seeing their experience reflected in our literature, they may say "Yes, that happened to me; or more important, 'Yes, I've felt like that'; or, most important, "Yes, I believe this program can work for me too." (*Alcoholics Anonymous,* p.xii).

The pamphlet's first sentence states that "AA is not a religious organization", taken directly from the Forward of our book *Alcoholics Anonymous*. Unfortunately, preconceptions remain that AA is religious or even a cult. While many have arrived in AA, happy to find this is false, real implications remain for individuals who have a drinking problem and have experienced harm in the name of religion, as they struggle to reconcile this with the spiritual aspects of our recovery program.

From AA's earliest days, barriers to accepting a spiritual solution and higher power were recognized as real and unique challenges for members. *We Agnostics* addresses the atheist and the agnostic member directly at length regarding their potential barriers to accepting a spiritual solution. The 12&12 goes further, stating, "sometimes A.A. comes harder to those who have lost or rejected faith than to those who never had any faith at all [...]" (*12 Steps & 12 Traditions*, p.28). *The "God" Word* has been a valuable resource in addressing this barrier offering personal identification and showing membership is possible for the atheist and agnostic.

However, a review of AA literature suggests there may be limited material specifically addressing harmful religious experiences as a barrier to recovery. Therefore, there exists an opportunity to reach this alcoholic in a meaningful way by sharing stories of members who have already found a way to recover in AA, despite this barrier. And, since these barriers are often similar to those addressed by atheists and agnostics, regarding spiritual language and concepts, this pamphlet may be an appropriate vehicle for sharing such experience.

If passed:

Actual and potential AA members with harmful religious experiences may find their experience reflected in *The "God" Word*, which may reduce barriers to them accessing, participating, and recovering in AA.

If not passed:

The "God" Word Pamphlet would remain unrevised and the actual or potential AA member with harmful religious experience may not find their experience reflected in our literature, and thus continue to experience barriers to accessing, participating, and recovering in AA.

For further consideration:

Over the years, AA literature has been published and updated to address emergent and unique needs of various groups within our membership for the purposes of identification. For example, stories by and for veterans in AA, young people, women, the LGBTQ+ alcoholic, those with mental health or medication needs, and most recently, the *Indigenous People in AA (P-21)*. In a similar way, this change could, "represent the current membership of AA more accurately, and thereby to reach more alcoholics" (*Alcoholics Anonymous,* p.xii*).*

With broader membership today, we also have the value of broader members' experience to draw from, to show first-hand how harmful religious experiences do not need to be a barrier to recovery in AA.

Should this proceed, it is worth noting that the General Service Board has the benefit of Class A non-alcoholic Trustees who come from an array of professional backgrounds whose experience has become invaluable for pamphlets like this one, and including others such as *The A.A. Member – Medication and Other Drugs* (P-11), *A.A. for Alcoholics with Mental Health Issues – and their sponsors* (P-11), and others. These professionals, and friends of AA, have proved to be valuable resources to ensure that any revisions are both appropriate to our goal in reaching those we wish to help while remaining true to our AA message and principles.

Motion submitted by: District 43

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MOTION 7

Motion:

That Area 79 reverts back to the previous version of the Minority Opinion in the Voting Procedures, namely:

The Chairperson invites those voters who are against the outcome of the vote to speak. Once the minority voice has been heard, the question will be asked: "Does anyone from the majority wish to change their vote?" If this question is responded to in the affirmative, by a show of hands, by one or more members. The vote is taken again.

History and Current Practices:

History:

Prior to July 2026 Area 79 Assembly, Area 79 had operated under the previous procedure for many years with much unanimity and effectiveness. Often, a unique 'Spiritual Experience' was sensed in the room when this format was followed, authenticating the statement: "Very often a Higher Power is found in the still, small voice of the minority".

Current Practice:

After sufficient minority voice has been heard, the Chairperson can suggest that a voting member from the prevailing side of the motion may at this time wish to make a motion to reconsider. The chair has delegated authority and autonomy to decline the request in a loving way.

For Further Consideration:

Under the current practice, the Chairperson doesn't automatically ask the voting members if they'd like to change their vote, after hearing the minority opinion but rather the Chairperson **can** suggest that a voting member from the prevailing side **may** wish to make a motion to reconsider. The Chair also has ***delegated authority and autonomy to decline*** the request in a loving way.

This gives the Chair (not necessarily the Fellowship) the option to enter into a whole new procedural, and confusing, layered, aspect with regard to **Motion to Reconsider**. The original motion is debated again, which seems redundant, unnecessary, time consuming and confusing.

If passed:

The Chair continues to ask if someone from the minority would like to speak and after sufficient minority voice is heard, the voting members on the prevailing side are asked if anyone wishes to change their vote. If one or more members answer in the affirmative, a new vote is taken and the matter is closed.

It also allows, as stated in the ad hoc committee preface, Area 79 to remain a Spiritual Entity whose purpose is to support better and *more effective* Twelve Step work.

If not passed:

A whole new procedure is invoked, at the discretion of the chair, and the entire matter is debated again, with another 'Call for the Vote', after much more unnecessary additional time, supposedly, hearing the same points of view.

Motion submitted by: Lucky People Group, District 43

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2027 BUDGET	2025 Actuals (full year)	2026 Projected to Dec31 (using June)	2026 Budget	2027 DRAFT Budget	2027 vs 2026 budget +/-	%
Incoming funds						
Contributions	$ 200,248	$ 192,967	$ 220,730	$ 221,023	$ 293	0%
Grassroots Revenue	$ 823	$ 202	$ 1,000	$ 500	$ (500)	-50%
Bank Interest	$ 265	$ 681	$ 700	$ 700	$ -	0%
Literature Contributions/Sales	$ 24,025	$ 21,343	$ 20,000	$ 22,000	$ 2,000	10%
TOTAL RECEIPTS	**$ 225,739**	**$ 215,193**	**$ 242,430**	**$ 244,223**	**$ 1,793**	**1%**
Outgoing funds / Expenses						
Debit / Credit Card Processing	$ 462	$ 446	$ 550	$ 550	$ -	0%
Assemblies & Quarterlies	$ 74,932	$ 73,277	$ 71,500	$ 73,500	$ 2,000	3%
Office Expenses & Equipment	$ 7,207	$ 6,003	$ 8,100	$ 10,800	$ 2,700	33%
Website & email	$ 4,536	$ 5,449	$ 6,192	$ 8,994	$ 2,801	45%
Insurance	$ 2,968	$ 3,065	$ 3,018	$ 3,163	$ 145	5%
Bank Charges	$ 322	$ (17)	$ 206	$ -	$ (206)	-100%
Postage & Bulk Email	$ 1,314	$ 1,230	$ 1,608	$ 1,269	$ (339)	-21%
Area Office/Archives Rent/ASC Meetings	$ 20,866	$ 20,381	$ 21,246	$ 21,033	$ (214)	-1%
Archives Supplies	$ 1,175	$ 661	$ 1,000	$ 800	$ (200)	-20%
Literature Expense	$ 15,290	$ 15,591	$ 20,000	$ 22,000	$ 2,000	10%
Travel	$ 74,490	$ 83,090	$ 104,008	$ 99,715	$ (4,294)	-4%
Grassroots Expense	$ 1,372	$ 1,315	$ 3,000	$ 1,400	$ (1,600)	-53%
WRAASA (Area 79's share of costs)	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	-
DCM Travel Subsidies	$ 438	$ -	$ 2,000	$ 1,000	$ (1,000)	-50%
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	**$ 208,754**	**$ 210,492**	**$ 242,430**	**$ 244,223**	**$ 1,793**	**1%**

DRAFT

1.032 Inflation factor

$ 52,623 Estimated 2027 Prudent Reserve

$ 52,200 **Final 2026 Prudent Reserve**

This budget, when approved by the members of Area 79, is a guide for the Area Service Committee to use for planning Assemblies, Quarterlies, ASC travel and other Area 79 business.

The expectation is that the groups will maintain contributions at a level to fund the items that have been budgeted. BC/Yukon traditionally operates on a break even budget and this budget holds with this tradition. This budget does not provide for any unforeseen expenditures.

BC/Yukon Area 79 Book of Motions, 2009

That the BC Yukon Area 79 maintain a prudent reserve not to exceed three (3) months average expenses, based on the previous years' actual expenses.

Budget 2027 – Demystified

The purpose of this document is to help you, the members of the Area 79 Fellowship, understand the process and content of our Area 79 BC Yukon annual budget, in this case, the budget for the upcoming 2027 calendar year.

It's YOUR budget so we want you to be fully informed about how it's put together and why the budgeted amounts are what they are. If you have ***any* questions or concerns**, please reach out to Area 79 Treasurer, Spencer, at treasurer@bcyukonaa.org or (604) 307-7976. There will also be several virtual drop-in sessions to give you a chance to ask questions or make comments in advance of the October Voting and Election Assembly, when the draft budget will be presented again and motioned for adoption by the Fellowship. The dates and times of those drop-in sessions will be communicated through your District Committee Member.

Budgeting Background

In Area 79 we create a "balanced budget" – incoming funds equal outgoing funds. Our goal is not to make money but we also need to avoid deficits. Ideally, we break even.

The first stage in our budgeting process is to anticipate expenditures, the costs of the service initiatives we are taking as directed by you, the Area Fellowship. Once we have an estimate of how much money will be going out, we calculate incoming funds. Our contributions estimate is the amount required for the Area to break even based on estimated expenditures and other incoming funds. That will allow us to do all the things you are asking our Area to do.

When the calculation is much more involved than an educated guess or a simple formula based on the previous year's budget or projected actual amounts, we use supporting sheets in the Budget workbook to figure out the numbers.

Living Documents

The Budget 2027 Draft workbook and this Demystified document are living documents: they will continue to change and improve up to the presentation of the budget at the October Voting and Election Assembly. For example, when the budget was presented at the July Assembly in Smithers, it had actuals to the end of June, half the year. The draft budget will be refreshed with the latest financials available prior to the October Assembly, likely from the end of September numbers (3/4 of the year).

The most recent copy of the draft budget and this document can be downloaded from the **login side of the Area website**. After logging in:

- Click the **SERVICE** menu in the top menu bar
- Then under that, select the **COMMITTEE LIBRARY** menu item
- On the page that opens, scroll down to the Finance section to access these documents in .pdf format.

The columns

Here is an explanation of the columns in the *2027 Budget - draft* worksheet:

Column	Description
2025 Actuals (full year)	final totals for the most recent full year currently available
2026 Projected to Dec31 (using June)	using the latest numbers we have for this year, we've estimated where we'll end up at the end of the year. For example, with June's numbers, we multiply by 2 to get the projected year end numbers.
2026 Budget	last year's budget
2027 DRAFT Budget	the budget we're creating
2027 vs 2026 budget +/-	how much the 2027 budget is greater or less than the 2026 budget
%	the percentage change from last year's budget. Cells get highlighted in green when the change is considered favourable, red when unfavourable; grey is neutral. Some numbers may be counterintuitive. Examples: • For most revenue numbers, an increase is considered favourable but for the Contributions number, it's considered unfavourable since we need more money from the Area Fellowship. • As a result of the above point, the TOTAL RECEIPTS number is up 1% and we are considering that to be unfavourable since by far the largest element of TOTAL RECEIPTS is Contributions. • Since changes in Literature Contributions / Sales and Literature Expense balance each other off (we budget to sell our literature at cost), we don't mark increases or decreases in those numbers as favourable or unfavourable.

Outgoing Funds / Expenses

General Notes

- After being calculated, some estimates include the following:
  - An inflation factor based on Canada's Consumer Price Index. We add this to many of our expense estimates but not our incoming funds estimates.
  - Rounding to the nearest $50 or $100 etc.

Account	Description	2027 Budget Calculation
Debit / Credit Card processing fees	The amount we pay to the company that processes our debit and credit card transactions (about 2.5% for credit and for debit, 0.75% + 7 cents per transaction)	2026 Projected amount plus 20% due to projected book sales increases (new edition of Big Book, Service Manual)
Assemblies & Quarterlies	Cost of our four Area events	We do detailed event-specific estimates by expense sub-category, for example, venue rental, travel, accommodations, etc. Will incorporate information from winning bids from the July 2026 Assembly
Office Expenses & Equipment	Expenses like printing, copying, stationery, packaging, laptops, cables, etc.	Includes new amounts for • converting our accounting software from Quickbooks desktop to the cloud version • replacing up to three Area laptops (we currently have 13; the oldest is from 2021) • a bit of shelving in the Area office
Website & email	Running the website, our email accounts and our paid web developer	Updated amount for "special worker" who maintains / enhances our website
Insurance	Required for Area events and our Area assets (literature and equipment)	Last year's cost + inflation
Bank Charges	Any transaction fees or other charges	0 - as long as we maintain a minimum balance, we are not incurring charges
Postage & Bulk Email	Cost of mailing letters (for example, contribution receipts) plus our bulk email distribution tool	2026 Projected amount + inflation
Area Office/Archives Rent/ASC Meetings	Rent for our Area office, archives display and storage, and monthly ASC meetings	2026 Projected amount + inflation
Archives Supplies	Digitization equipment, plastic sleeves, shelving, etc	2026 Projected amount + inflation plus a small amount for shelving
Literature Expense	What we'll pay for AAWS & AA Grapevine literature	2026 Budgeted amount + an amount for purchase of new editions of the Big Book and Service Manual. Important to note that expenditures may occur in 2026 with sales in 2027.

Travel	Monthly ASC meetings, seating the Delegate at the General Service Conference, travel assignments as requested by Districts etc, plus some miscellaneous items -- see next column	2026 Projected amount + inflation + buffering because we don't know where our Panel 75 ASC members will live. • plus travel to WRAASA 2027 in Abbotsford (Panel 77) • minus 2026 amount (Delegate, Alt Delegate, Chair) to Western Canada Regional Forum in Saskatoon • Reduced amount for sending Delegate to PRAASA because it's closer to BC / Yukon in 2027 • Virtual / in-person attendance for 1-2 ASC members to out-of-area events
Grassroots Expense	Postage, supplies and printing, bulk email distribution	2026 Projected amount + inflation
WRAASA	Area 79's share of costs for the Western Regional A.A. Service Assembly, to be held in Abbotsford in Feb 2027	0 - we don't expect there to be costs to us in 2027 Note that there is an independent committee that organizes this event. Any deficit or surplus is divided among the four Western Canada areas.
DCM Travel Subsidies	When requested, financial assistance for DCMs to travel to Area events	Half the 2026 budgeted amount. As of end July 2026, no requests this year but we're keeping an amount for this important service

Incoming Funds

General Notes

Once our Outgoing Funds / Expenses estimates have been compiled, we:

1) estimate our sources of incoming funds *not including* Contributions
2) subtract those amounts from the TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS (total Outgoing Funds / Expenses)
3) set the resulting number as the Contributions estimate, giving us a balanced budget

Account	Description	2027 Budget Calculation
Contributions	Group, individual and ASC 7th Tradition contributions	TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS minus the three amounts below. NOTE: 2027 Contributions budgeted amount is 2% lower than the 2026 budgeted amount.
Grassroots Revenue	Subscriptions and advertising sales	Half the 2026 budgeted amount. More than the year-end projected amount for 2026; in a new panel we often see new subscriptions

Bank Interest	The amount we make from interest on our Savings account	2026 Projected amount rounded off to nearest $100
Literature Contributions/Sales	Contributions received for AAWS and AA Grapevine literature we distribute, most commonly at Area events or other service events we attend	2026 Budget + an amount for sales of new editions of the Big Book and Service Manual

Prudence

Our ASC makes every effort to be prudent with the 7th Tradition funds that we receive. Here are some ways that we try to extend your contributions:

- Sharing hotel rooms, billeting
- Carpooling
- Using the least expensive mode of transportation - evaluating current costs of flights vs car rentals vs mileage rate
- Using flight seat sale tracking software
- Ensuring flights can be changed or canceled
- Negotiating discounted room rates at hotels we frequent
- Evaluating and selecting more cost-effective printing solutions
- Scouting for volunteer AV/computer techs rather than hiring professionals
- Careful selection of our financial institution and management of our money
- Holding ASC meetings at Quarterly/Assembly venues instead of in Vancouver (saves travel costs in those four months)
- Using virtual meetings as often as they are effective
- Determining when it's cheaper to acquire our own equipment for Area events as opposed to renting
- Considering travel expenses when assigning an ASC member to a travel assignment. (For example, for half day events in the Lower Mainland, the Chair will assign someone nearby.)
- Careful negotiations on contracts for Area event venues
- Deferring expenditures during months of deficit