

2023 Year End Report

Where Your 7th Tradition Went

A.A. Chicago Area Service Office
CASO@ChicagoAA.org

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ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS CHICAGO AREA SERVICE OFFICE 2023 YEAR-END REPORT

The Chicago Area Service Office (CASO) is a nucleus of information. This is possible since CASO assists the Area 19 Assembly (CASA), local A.A. groups, meetings, and members. Also, CASO is YOUR Central Office. We are fully funded by contributions from alcoholics and exist to help you with all things Alcoholics Anonymous. Even when a sober alcoholic passes and the family (non-alcoholic) wants to contribute in the memory of their loved one, we have to decline those contributions. Every dollar that funds Area 19 (CASO and CASA) only comes from alcoholics.

The Chicago Area Service Assembly (CASA) is where the business of Area 19 is conducted. This includes hearing from every Committee Chair to see how they have been carrying the message of AA. Did you know that every committee is a path for the Alcoholic to reach AA? Public Information (PI) – this committee can reach the alcoholic who is riding the bus (see CPC/PI section of report). Hospital & Treatment Facilities (HTF) – this committee helps reach alcoholics in hospitals. After-hours phone committee – this committee reaches alcoholics who call our phone number (312-346-1475). Your 7th tradition contributions fund the activities of these committees.

The other function of CASA is to learn about the “yearly AA business meeting” in New York. This is called the General Service Conference (GSC) and Area 19 has a delegate that goes on our behalf. Throughout the year the Area 19 GSC delegate tells Area 19 what type of things will be discussed at the yearly AA business meeting number and asks Area 19 how they should vote in New York. Your 7th tradition contributions fund the GSC delegates trip to New York so Chicago’s voice is heard at the GSC.

Exactly how all those funds were spent in 2023 is the purpose of this report. Sometimes it can feel like 7th traditions go into an abyss, but this report provides clarification on how that money was spent. Enjoy!

INCOME

Area 19 (CASA/CASO) receives income a few different ways:

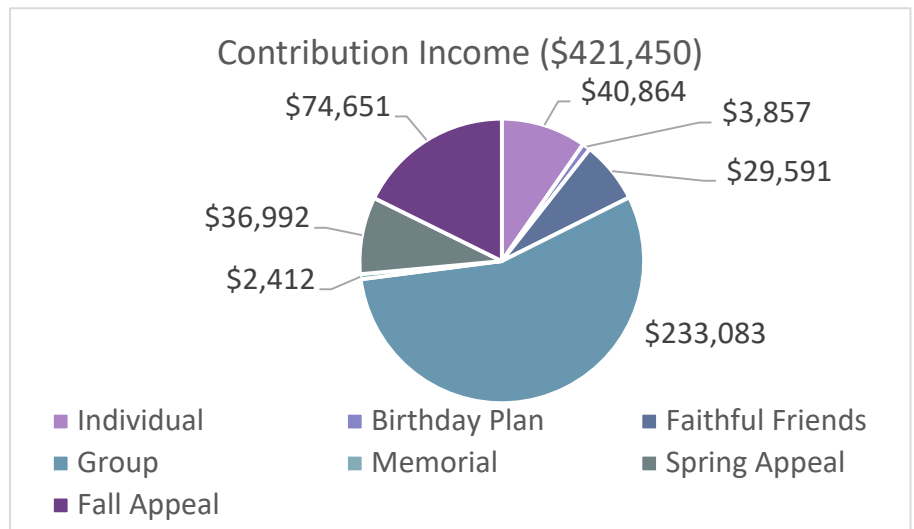
- Through contributions
- Through Here’s How and events in Area 19
- Through Bookstore Sales

Contributions:

In 2023, the total income received from contributions was \$421,450. Contributions include: Individual (\$40,864), Memorial (\$2,412), Birthday Plan (\$3,857), Spring Appeal (\$36,992), Fall Appeal (\$74,651), Faithful Friends (\$29,591) and Group (\$233,083). The graph below shows that the largest contributions are from groups. In 2023 Area 19 received over 1700 group contributions. Keep in mind those are instances of donations – many groups contribute regularly and Area 19 appreciates it!

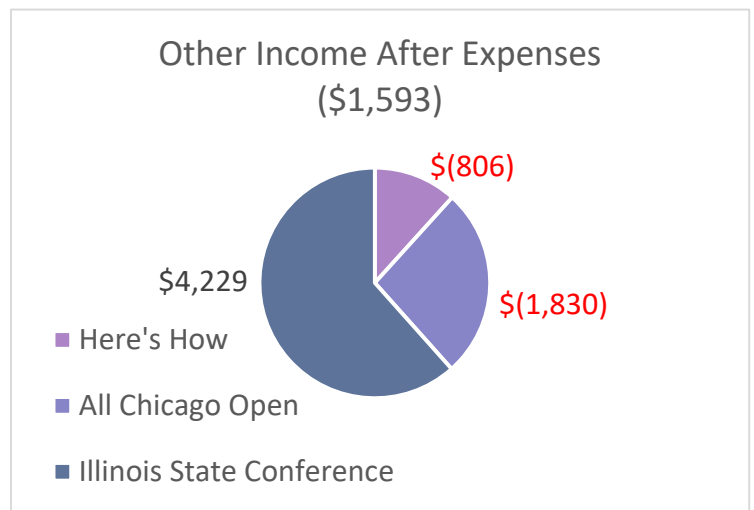
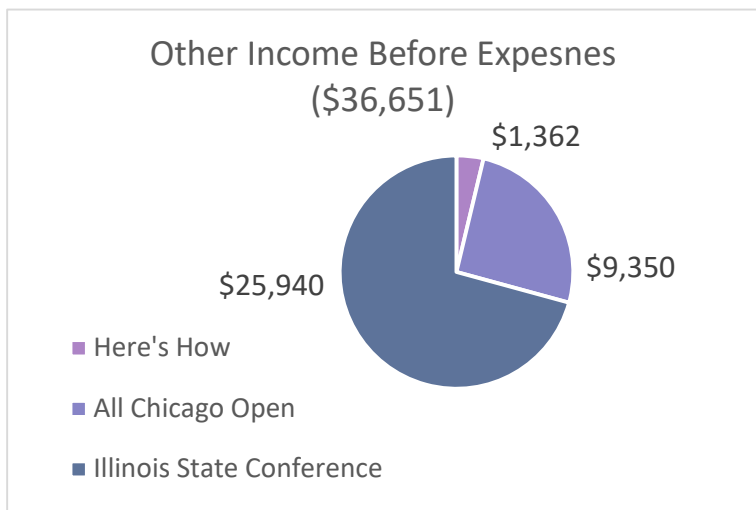
In case you are not familiar with those other contribution methods:

- Memorial contributions is when you say that upon your death you want to contribute to Area 19. There is a \$10,000 maximum contribution on this one time event.
- The Birthday Plan is when people contribute \$1 for every year of sobriety on their anniversary date.
- Faithful Friends is a program where alcoholics contribute a specific amount of money every month. Some friends donate \$5, \$10 and some people even generously give \$50 or \$100 a month. We have approximately 120 Faithful Friends that contribute each month



Here's How and Events in Area 19:

Other income for Area 19 comes from Here's How newsletter subscription (\$6/year – see the Here's How section), the All Chicago Open (ACO) and in 2023 the Illinois State Conference (ISC). For the ISC, Area 19 hosts it every three years. So the next time we host it will be 2026. The next graph shows the income from Here's How, ACO and ISC. It looks like a good amount of income, \$36,651. However, after all the expenses were paid, Area 19 made \$1,593. If Subscriptions to Here's How went up, it could be self-sufficient. We are just 143 subscribers away! Also for ACO, although the event was not fully-self supporting, the loss has been much higher in the past.



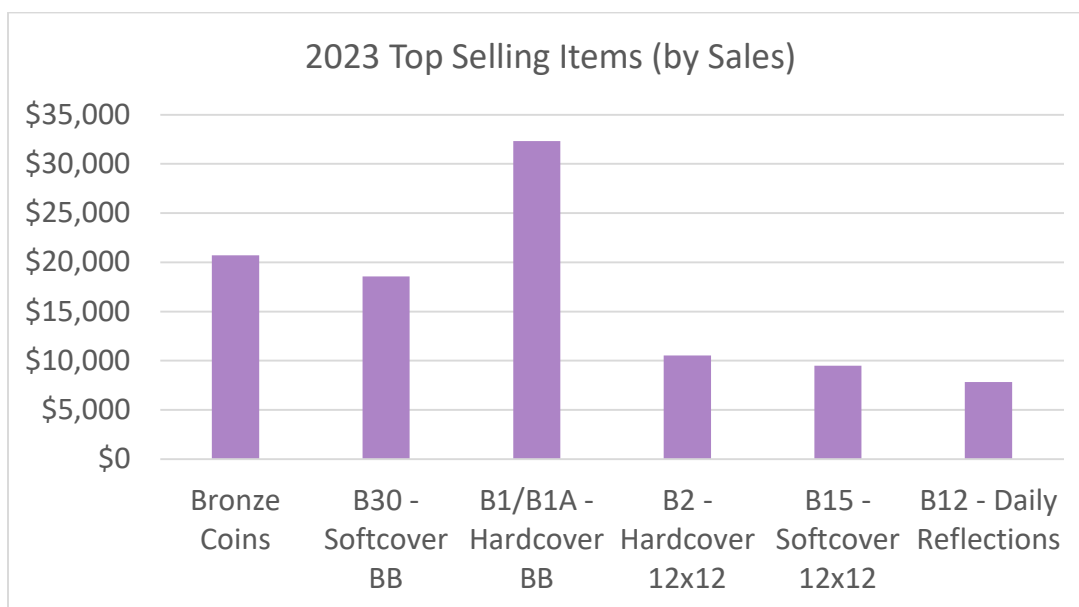
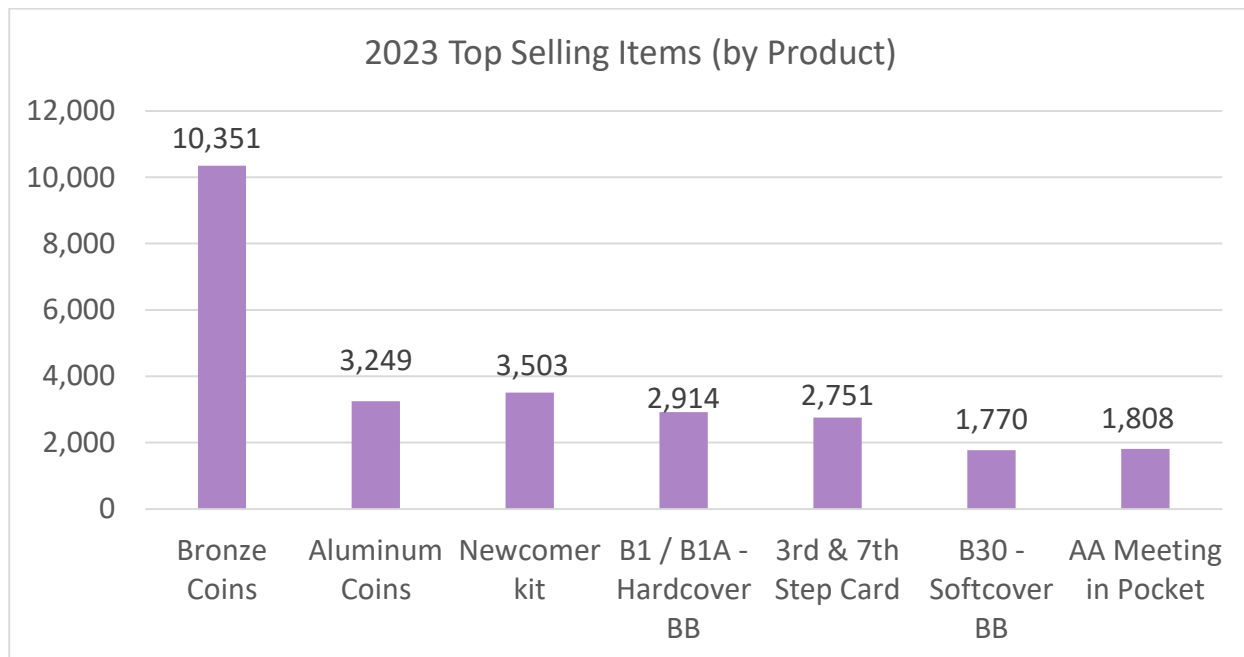
Bookstore Sales:

The last way that Area 19 receives income is through sales of items in the bookstore. This is possible a few ways. One, when items are purchased from A.A. World Service (AAWS), we can get small discounts for buying in bulk. So if a pamphlet is \$0.50 and we purchase 100 pamphlets, we only pay \$0.47 per pamphlet. One thought is "Great, buy in bulk all the time to maximize how much Area 19 can get from sales of AAWS products". However, we are limited by the space we have available to store items.

For items such as coins and non-AAWS literature (such as Twenty-Four Hours a Day), the vendors give us special pricing. This means they will charge us anywhere between 20-30% less than the retail price. For example, a t-shirt's retail price is \$20. The vendor will sell that T-shirt to the Bookstore for \$16. Then when a customer buys that shirt for \$20 (retail price), \$4 is counted towards income for Area 19.

For 2023, a lot of vendors increasing the cost of their items. This means the “profit” Area 19 made was less than in previous years. This resulted in the Bookstore increasing their prices respectively for most items. In 2023 the cost of coins went up, but CASO didn’t increase the cost of coins. In Late 2023 the prices increased again, so the cost of coins will be increased in 2024.

Similar to the “other” income, bookstore sales is only half of the picture. The other half is how much it cost to buy the books and other selling expenses (like the apps we use in the bookstore). The total income from bookstore sales was \$268,076. The total cost of goods sold (like the cost to buy book) was \$171,846. The other cost of selling (like the cost to ship items out) was \$35,572. This brings the total selling expense to \$207,148. The actual total income (net income) from bookstore sales was \$77,380. Note that Area 19 was expecting the bookstore to bring in \$94,800 net income from the bookstore.



EXPENSES - CASO

Area 19 has the service office – CASO which is ran by both employees and volunteers. The benefit of having the office is there is one place where you can call and get help with just about anything in Area 19. Want to get in contact with a committee member? Need to update your meeting information that is online? Want to make a contribution over the phone? All these things you can call the office and get help with. The office is also where some of the bookstore items are made – such as the newcomer packet, meeting in a pocket and the 3rd & 7th step prayer card.

Although having a service office is great, it is a large part of the expenses for Area 19. The table below outlines any CASO budget items over \$10,000. The table also includes where we ended in 2023 and comments for clarification.

Expense	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	Comments
Payroll (wages, taxes, etc) & benefits	\$288,000	\$266,581	This was under budget because there was not a bookkeeper January-August.
Rent	\$141,000	\$149,432	This is over budget because in 2023 there was not any abatement (free rent) like there was in previous years
Professional Services	\$15,400	\$15,613	This is the cost to have auditors review the business and file taxes.
Equipment Depreciation	\$15,000	\$12,045	We were under budget because there was a law change that said we could not depreciate our leased printers. In the past we were able to depreciate that cost.
DSL Line & Website Hosting	\$13,800	\$11,481	This is the cost for internet in the office, the cost of the database our meetings are stored in, the cost for our Area 19 Buzz and miscellaneous website costs. The total expenses were less than expected for 2023.
IT Services	\$10,000	\$13,743	A company is used to managing our IT needs (computers, website backups, etc). There were some unexpected issues that needed to be addressed for our website in 2023. IT services were used to address these services so we could keep the website up and running, which is why were over budget. Plus there was the special project to install new wireless access points in the office which CASA approved.

The table above makes the office expenses look good – especially since things were underbudget! However, to be transparent, a second table is being provided. This table shows items that had a budget less than \$10k, but was over budget.

Expense	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	Comments
Telephone & Directory Listing	\$7,900	\$10,682	This includes the phone service, the office cell phone (so Venmo payments can be accepted) and the cost to have our information listed in the yellow pages. This also includes a service to make sure our information is current on several websites, instead of manually managing the information. There is no obvious reason why we were over except that we underbudgeted this item.
Office Equipment Rental	\$9,500	\$11,784	This is over because there was an unexpected expense to send the old printers back (before new ones were leased).

EXPENSE - CASO STAFF

Since employee wages and benefits are such a large part of the budget, you may be asking yourself “What exactly do they do all day?”. This section of the report is intended to give some insight on what the office does.

For starters, the office employs three full time employees and three part time employees. The three full time employees are: Bookkeeper, Group Services and the Office Manager. Two of the part time employees work in the bookstore and the other part time employee supports the nuanced day to day activities.

Bookkeeper (Full Time):

The role of the book keeper is to help manage the accounting side of the business. Specifically, they enter the information (income and expense) into the accounting software. Having this information in the accounting software is important because this is what our yearly auditors look at. The Bookkeeper essentially “balances the check book”, without touching the money itself. Here are some statistics on what the Bookkeeper role accomplished in 2023:

- Number of sales receipts issued in 2023: 4,927
- Number of deposits prepared: 560
- Number of checks issued: 543
- Number of reconciliations (since there are multiple accounts): 36

Group Services (Full Time):

Group Services is one of the full time positions at CASO. One of the key responsibilities of this position is to keep our website current with meetings. To keep our website current, we maintain a large database that tracks existing, new, and discontinued meetings in addition to all meeting changes. The numbers are constantly changing. As of February 2024, there are 2,578 meetings listed in the Chicagoland area. That is up 274 from last year. As a courtesy we do list meetings that are outside of Area 19 but are still considered in the Chicagoland area. We currently have 384 meetings listed outside of Area 19. We continue to have 600 plus meetings that are either online only or hybrid. That number is 668. Currently there are 140 meetings listed as hybrid which is up 8 from last year and 528 online only meetings. This is a decrease of 25 meetings from last year. We do continue to see an increase in meetings shifting back to in person even 4 years after the start of the COVID 19 pandemic. There have also been new in-person meetings added. The number of in-person meetings currently stands at 1,190 which is an increase from last year of 272. It is also important to note that we have 393 open meetings and 2,185 closed meetings listed. Area 19 also has many options for those folks who speak a language other than English and we also have begun printed a separate foreign language meeting directory. We have 367 Spanish meetings, 31 Polish speaking meetings, 5 Lithuanian speaking meetings, and 1 Russian speaking meetings. Some of the Spanish speaking meetings do exist outside of Area 19.

Currently we are working on group verification and making our best efforts to contact all meeting contacts to get an accurate count of existing meetings as well as up to date meeting information. **Please remember, the accuracy of our database relies on you and the timely information that comes into the office. The only requirement for a meeting to be listed in Area 19 is to have a meeting contact person**, so check to see if your group needs to be listed. All it takes is a little willingness and action. Also, please **let us know when there is a meeting cancellation** (whether due to location activities, weather events, holidays etc) so we can post this information on our website. **We do not want to send a newcomer to a meeting that is not there.** If you need help with a meeting listing, email groupservices@chicagoaa.org or feel free to call the office. We are here to assist!

Let's discuss group participation in Area 19. These are the number of registered General Service Representatives and Alternative General Service Representatives. So, what is a General Service Representative? Each AA group may become involved in the AA services structure as a whole by selecting one of its members to be its General Services Representative (GSR). The GSR is the link between the individual AA group and AA as a whole. The GSR is the voice of the group's conscience, reporting the group's views to the district service committee. The GSR also reports the group's wishes to the local Area assembly (Chicago Area Service Assembly or CASA) and through the local Area delegate to the General Service Conference. Sometimes the words groups and meetings are used interchangeably but there is a difference. A group has chosen to participate in the service structure and has elected a GSR. A meeting has chosen not to participate in the service structure and therefore does not have a GSR. **There is nothing right or wrong with any decision a meeting/group makes as each meeting/group is autonomous as it states in Tradition 4. It is also important to note that a meeting does NOT need to have a GSR or participate in the Area 19 service structure to be listed in both our online and printed meeting directories. Again, we just need a meeting contact person.** So all of that said, here are the numbers. Currently Area 19 has 479 registered GSRs and Alternate GSRs. Of those folks that are registered, there is approximately a 15% participating rate at CASA. Currently there are 1,717 meetings in Area 19 without a GSR. Participation in our Area is always encouraged but not required. You can find more information on what it takes to become a GSR on our website, chicagoaa.org. Just go to the AA in Chicago tab, then service opportunities and click on General Service Representative. If you are elected as a GSR for your group, you can either register online, email groupservices@chicagoaa.org, or contact the office.

Office Manager (Full Time):

The role of the Office Manager is to oversee the operation of the office and report to the Finance Committee (and CASA). Some of the other responsibilities are managing staff, placing orders for the bookstore, approving any expenditures, providing an office report at every CASA and help ensure the office runs as smooth as possible.

Bookstore Clerk (Part Time):

The role of the Bookstore Clerk is to run the bookstore. Specifically, fulfilling the orders that come in online, taking care of customers that physically walk in, restocking shelves, performing inventory checks, helping to prepare purchase orders for ordering more inventory and coordinating the labeling (price tag) of every piece of literature. There are currently two part time employees doing this and here are some bookstore statistics for 2023:

- Online orders fulfilled: 1,472
- In person orders fulfilled: 2,516
- Inventory checks performed: over 200

Operations Manager (Part Time):

The role of the Operations Manager is a "catch-all" role for the office. They check the mail, physically makes the deposits, supports Group Services with printing of materials, helps cut and assemble various Bookstore items (AA meeting in a pocket and Chicago pamphlets), helps volunteers as needed, answers phones when volunteers are not able to come in and many more things!

EXPENSES - CASA

Since committees report into CASA, their expenses are considered "CASA" expenses. Each year the committees are given a budget (approved by everyone at the assembly) and the committee chairs use that money to carry the message.

For example, the Correctional Facility Committee (CFC) has a budget that they use for buying literature and sending it to people in custody. Or the Committee on Conferences (CoC) has a budget to host the All Chicago Open. The money that goes into Area 19 helps support these activities.

The table below outlines the CASA expenses with a budget over \$10,000. The table also includes where we ended in 2023 along with comments for clarification.

Expense	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	Comments
Special Events (GSR Wkshop, 2nd City, IL State Conf, etc)	\$19,500	\$12,656	This was under budget because the cost for Area 19 to host Illinois State Conference (ISC) was less than expected.
Other Committee Expenses & Zoom Accounts	\$13,710	\$8,940	The expected amount of money spent by committees was lower than what was actually is lower than expected because not all the committees used their budgets.
All Chicago Open	\$12,000	\$11,659	Although the event wasn't fully self supporting, the cost to host it was under what the cost was expected to be.

CHICAGO AREA SERVICE AREA (CASA) COMMITTEES

This is the interesting section of the year end report – where you get to read about the actual 12th step work done. Some committees do this in a literal way (like the Answering Service) and other committees do it in an indirect way (like the Finance committee). Either way, these committees are hard at work trying to make A.A. more accessible to the still sick and suffering Alcoholic!

ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE

The Accessibilities Committee has welcomed new members with innovative ideas which have brought about a change in the committee's focus.

Formerly our focus was attempting to gather resources and respond to requests from people with disabilities. These efforts continue. This summer we provided two meetings for attendees at the convention of the American Council of the Blind at the Council's request.

Our focus has now shifted to making Area 19 as accessible as possible. We are beginning an effort, with the Chicago Area Service Office, to update the meeting directory with current information and accessibility status.

We are also improving the information we have on the website with the objective of providing groups with the information needed to welcome and include a member with disabilities.

We are encouraging all meetings that use Zoom to activate closed captioning and make an announcement of the availability part of the meeting opening. Zoom Closed Captioning makes linguistic translation captions available which are only visible to the user, making it useful to non-English speakers as well as persons with low hearing. We have produced a flier which explains how to activate Zoom Closed Captioning. The captioning is available to all Zoom license holders at no cost.

A major accomplishment for 2023 was the production of a PowerPoint presentation which has been presented in the Sharing Session at CASA and to the All-Accessibilities Committee meeting, a nationwide online forum for discussion of accessibilities in AA. That presentation is being offered to the districts, Alano Club boards and other interested parties. We are currently beginning to schedule these presentations.

We had information tables at the We Are Not Saints Convention, the Illinois State Convention and the All Chicago Open. We also attended a picnic in Hyde Park, but rain prevented any displays or presentations.

We also participated in the planning of the Illinois State Conference and the All Chicago Open to advise on accessibility matters.

Finally, our Alternate Chair, Marybeth G., was elected to chair the All-Accessibilities Committee. Congratulations, Marybeth!

Yours in service,
Lynn B
Accessibilities Committee Chair

AFTERHOURS PHONE COMMITTEE

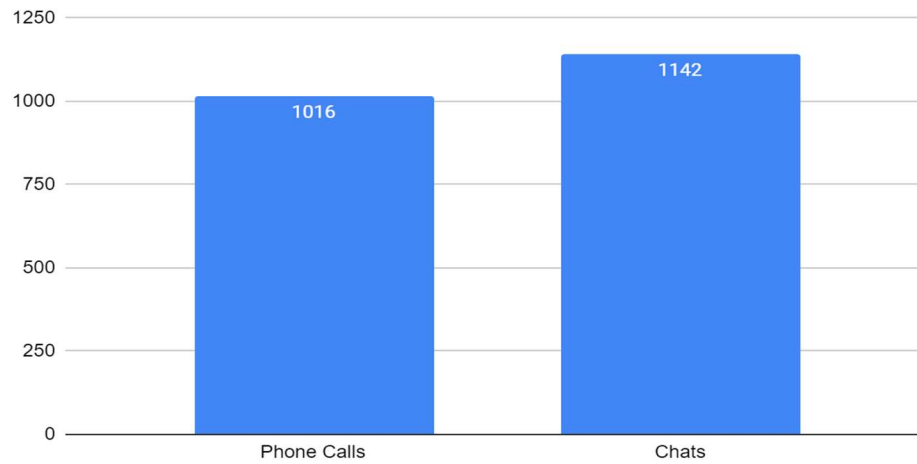
The purpose of this special committee is to recruit, train, schedule, and program AA volunteers to answer calls & chat messages received by the Chicago Area Service Office (CASO) when it is closed. The calls are routed to the volunteers' personal phones. Membership on this committee is open to any interested AA member. We also send a monthly newsletter to all trained volunteers with tips, reminders, and open shifts and to facilitate a better singleness of purpose as well as building the fellowship of volunteers.

We meet the 1st Tuesday of every month via Zoom from 5-6pm. If you'd like to attend, please email Phones24@ChicagoAA.org. There are NO sobriety requirements to join us in this important work ensuring the hand off AA is always there when anyone reaches out for help when the office is closed.

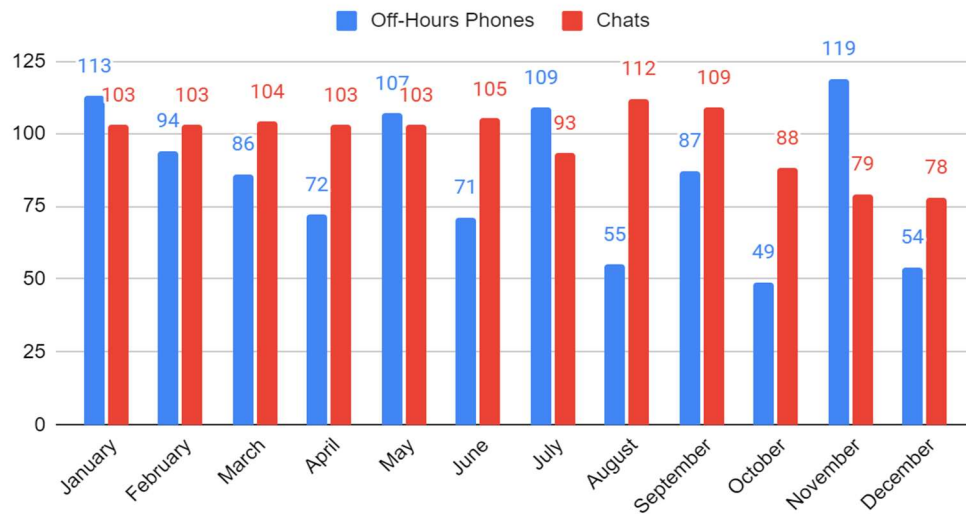
Volunteers: We've held monthly Zoom trainings as well as in-person trainings for Alano Clubs and homegroups. We have 407 active volunteers with an average of 152 people answering the phones each week. On an annual basis, this totals over 2,808 shifts or 4,680 volunteer-hours! We have four homegroups which each coordinates their own volunteers for a specific time slot: The Wednesday Andersonville Big Book Study, Common Solution, Men's Fireside, and Big Book Babes. This program not only helps build fellowship among homegroup members, but also helps build our committee.

12th Step Workers: We maintain a list of volunteers who agree to be contacted by our phone or chat volunteers to help newcomers or struggling alcoholics. Since we're just a first point of contact, we don't always have enough time to spend with each newcomer and we can't know everything going on in the entire Chicagoland area. We rely on these workers to contact those who agree to give their zip code and phone numbers to help them get to meetings and better know what to expect. The list includes info for texting workers if we can't get them by phone, if they identify as non-binary, and if they speak a language other than English which includes 9 different languages spoken by 22 volunteers. Each year the list shrinks by attrition and the list now totals 331 workers. In 2023 there were 122 suffering alcoholics who asked for a 12 Step Worker to call them when the office was closed! We are always looking for more foreign language speaking and non-binary members for 12th Step Work!

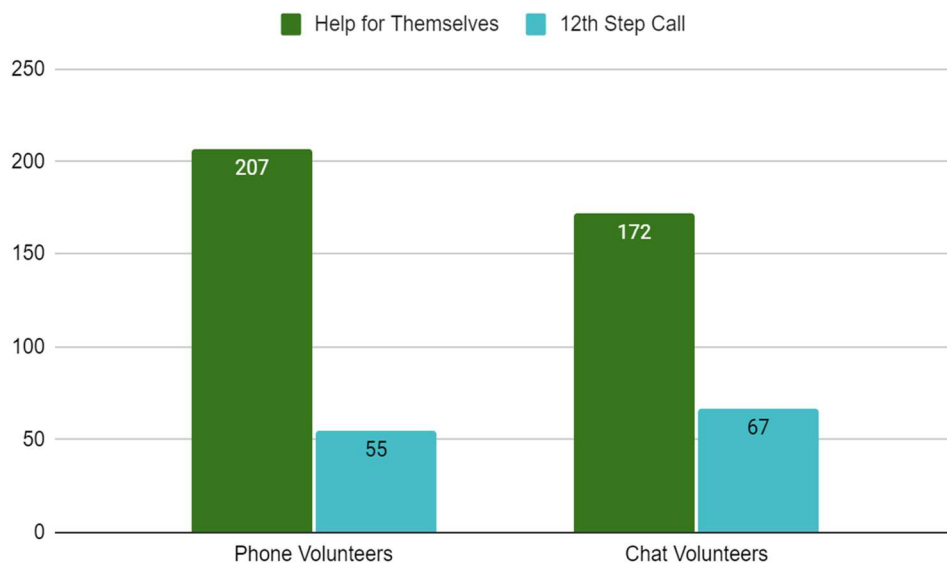
Total Interactions 2023



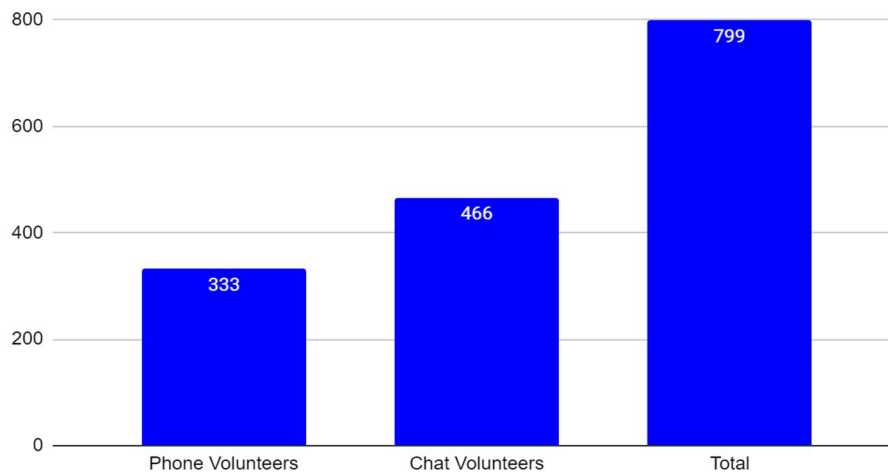
Volunteer Interactions 2023



Hand of AA Calls 2023



Connecting Members with a Meeting 2023



In 2023, the cost of maintaining the Phones was \$10,682*. This is the cost of having the phone system that allows us to program and forward calls to all our volunteers. This equates to over 30+ phone lines! This cost includes the phone listing which does two things. First, when a phone book is printed our information is printed in it. Second, the phone listing ensures that when anyone finds our phone number online (through search engines) the correct information shows up. Together, the phones and listings is what makes it possible for alcoholics who are still suffering to make contact with Area 19.

**Note that costs do not include the administrative cost of coordinating, printing, and sending schedules as well as the effort or material required to recruit and train volunteers.*

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

For details about what the Archives Committee did in 2023, email archives@chicagoaa.org.

COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES (COC)

The Committee on Conferences (C.O.C) planned and organized various fellowship events in 2023. There were two very large primary events for 2023:

- The 2023 Illinois State Conference (ISC)- hosted by Area 19, located at the Hyatt Regency in Schaumburg.
- The 2023 All Chicago Open (ACO)- with a brand-new location, The Harris Theatre.

Both events were led by strong planning committees. Tommy B and Dawn A and the whole committee did amazing work, working together to make it a success! It required a large committee and many volunteers, all of which worked out beautifully. The ISC met and exceeded all costs and had surplus of around \$12,000*.

Similarly, Jacqueline P and Joe D and the ACO planning committee handled entirely new aspects (new venue, different location, online seat reservations) for the 2023 ACO. The ACO came in under budget and was short of meeting its cost by approximately \$1,000- which has been better than last year. Both events (the ISC and ACO) received a lot of positive and strong feedback.

In addition to these two large events, the area was able to put on multiple (over 4) GSR Experience events/ workshops and the COC was able to share material for these Sponsorship workshops. One of the new GSR

type of events was District 14 hosting a “GSR Table” at various events (ISC, ACO, etc.) where volunteers would share information with interested parties.

We have a new chair for the C.O.C., Calvin F- very exciting! Please come and support us as we are always looking for fresh voices and new ideas.

Lastly, the committee continues to maintain the Workshop Resource Library online, and it currently has nine different workshops materials available to all of Area 19 DCMs and Committee Chairs to use in order to facilitate workshops. The library is a place where materials from various workshops across the Area are stored and shared to help the districts plan their events.

In Service,
Committee on Conferences Committee

**Note that per Illinois State Conference guidelines, any profit is divided among the three areas (Chicago Area 19, Northern Illinois Area 20 and Southern Illinois Area 21). This \$12,000 surplus was divided among the three areas which is why the profit shown in “Income” section is around \$4,000.*

CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES COMMITTEE (CFC)

2023 has been a very successful year for the corrections committee. All of the facilities we serve have resumed in person meetings after COVID. Some of our IDOC facilities and Cook County Jail have requested more in person meetings after the COVID lockdown stating the need for carrying the message of sobriety to persons in custody.

Budget Started: 1/23 = \$5,500.00

Budget Ended: 12/31/23 = \$5,535.79

Description	Qty.	Cost
Literature	411	\$4,190.33
AA Grapevine	44	\$208.56
Postage & Shipping		\$94.09
Supplies		\$28.99
Parking		\$17.00
Misc. & TB Test		\$360.24
Conf./Workshop		\$636.58
Total		\$5,535.79

Facilities & Meetings:

- Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC)
 - JTC = 1 meeting weekly = 52
 - Crossroads = 1 meeting weekly = 15 ** Meeting discontinued in April
 - North Lawndale = 1 meeting weekly = 52
 - Stateville MSU = 1 meeting weekly = 35 ** New meeting started in May request of IDOC
 - Stateville Maximum = 1 meeting weekly = 35 ** In person meetings resumed in May

- Sheridan = 1 meeting weekly = 31 ** In person meetings resumed in June
- Cook County Department of Corrections (CDOC)
 - Women Division = 2 meetings weekly = 104
 - Men Division = 2 meetings weekly = 104
 - Men Spanish Meeting = 1 meeting weekly = 52
 - Drug Court = 1 meeting weekly = 52

Total In Person Meetings IDOC & CCDOC = 532

Correspondence

- Pen Pals/Literature Request /Letters for 2023
 - Pen Pal Request = 95
 - Literature Request = 12
 - Letters = 36

Total Correspondence = 143

Thank you for allowing me to be of service.

Matt G.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee is responsible for all matters relating to office management, records, personnel, finances and expenditures of Chicago Area Alcoholics Anonymous (CASO/CASA). The Finance Committee meets the 2nd Thursday of odd months (the same months as CASA). To join the Finance committee, you need to be a delegate from one of the Districts. If you are interested in getting more information, contact finance@chicagoaa.org

Did you know the Finance Committee is the only committee that requires a quorum to conduct business? This means if not enough Finance Delegates from the districts show up, they cannot conduct business. The Finance Committee is where discussion of all money matters happen. This includes the yearly budget or requests to increase areas of the budget.

The Finance Committee also includes several sub-committees: Audit, Budget, Personnel, Policy and Procedure (Finance procedures). In 2023 the standing office manager, Katie M. resigned. The committee (and all of Area 19) appreciates all the work that Katie M. had done the last ten years. This required the personnel sub-committee to interview and hire a new office manager for Area 19. This was not an easy task and took up a good amount of time from the committee members.

Another activity the Finance Committee did in 2023 was begin to look for alternatives to the existing office. The current office's lease is up in late 2024, so in 2023 an ad-hoc sub-committee (termed the Location Sub-Committee) started looking at options. The purpose of this is to ensure that Area 19 can take advantage of the current real-estate market and lower the rent expense. Results of the Location Sub-Committee will be shared in 2024, when a decision has been made.

GRAPEVINE COMMITTEE

For details about the Grapevines' 2023 activities, please email grapevine@chicagoaa.org

HERES HOW

Here's how is the quarterly newsletter put together by several volunteers on the Here's How editorial board. This newsletter is made up of articles or art submitted by people in or out of Area 19. Each issue is edited by the Here's How editorial board. After each issue is assembled, the editorial board sends the final version to CASO. CASO arranges for the newsletter to be printed out and mailed to everyone.

The subscription cost of Here's How is \$6/year and in 2023 there were a total of 65 subscribers. The newsletter brought in \$1,362 with subscription funds. At \$6 a subscription that does not equal 65 subscribers – instead its 277 subscribers. Don't worry, this isn't new math. The income was higher than the number of subscribers because sometimes people pay for multiple years in advanced. There is one subscriber who will receive Here's How until 2030!

The cost to produce and mail the newsletter in 2023 was \$2,168. This means that Here's How was not self supporting in 2023. However, Area 19 still pays to have it produced. This is because in the 1950's Area 19 voted that it would cover any short falls, while also making it available to any member in need. Also, with each printing a few extra are made which are sent to GSRs, Area Committee members or goes out with bookstore orders. The purpose of this is create awareness of the newsletter and hopefully get new subscribers.

If you have something interesting to say, you can submit articles to hereshow@chicagoaa.org. If you want to subscribe (or gift a subscription to a sponsee or friend) you can contact CASO to make a payment.

HOSPITAL AND TREATMENT FACILITITES COMMITTEE (HTF)

The Hospital, Treatment and Facilities Committee, (HTF) assists volunteers who bring meetings to alcoholics in hospitals, recovery homes and other institutions. Area 19 HTF Committee provides resources to the individuals who are doing 12th Step work within the institutions. "There is probably no better place for an A.A. member to find a suffering alcoholic than in a treatment facility or outpatient treatment setting". (Treatment Committee Workbook, www.aa.org, page 3)



This past year as the treatment centers were returning to a "normal" post-covid world, members worked to reestablish relationships with facilities and to create new partnerships, The Committee assisted with literature/ pamphlets or connections with volunteers for several new facilities.

The Committee is asking each District to send a representative to HTF Committee meetings. Therefore, when a request from a new facility comes to HTF, the Committee could contact that HTF District rep. and DCM, as they would be able to best handle all the logistics of setting up and maintaining the AA meetings held at that facility located in or near their District. They would be able to gather volunteers from their home District. The HTF Committee would always be able to assist with resources such as literature. pamphlets, and additional volunteers.

The Committee delivered oral and written reports at the Chicago Service Assembly calling for AA members to be of service for Bridging the Gap or for meetings at hospital and treatment facilities. Our appeal was heard and continues to grow to over 115 AA members who signed up for this Service Work. The database of volunteers is growing!!

This year the Committee hosted 2 volunteer orientations at the Office and on Zoom. The sessions were informative and fun!! We plan on hosting more in 2024.

The Committee also had informational tables at the All Chicago Open, We Are Not Saints Conference, and District 5& 20 Picnic. Members of the Committee also spoke on a Service panel at the 2023 Illinois State Conference.

Please contact us at HTF@chicagoaa.org. if interested in any of the above.

In 2023, the Committee spent a total of \$930 for the following: literature (\$728), postage (\$5), and supplies /expenses for volunteer orientation and events (\$197).

Grateful for the Opportunity to Service,
The Hospital, Treatment and Facilities Committee

LITERATURE COMMITTEE

The Literature Committee was very busy in 2023. We participated in "Book Night." What is Book Night? It's when an author of a book is invited to present his/her/they/them material and then it's voted upon. If the book passes the first review, it is forwarded for a second review consideration, in which it will be read, and if passed - sent to the following Chicago Area Service Assembly for approval or disapproval. The books that did not pass the first review were, Black AAtlanta and Foundation for Forgiveness. The writings that were forwarded to a second review are, On What Slender Threads and The Picture Recovery Book.

The Committee aspires to review information monthly during the year as we continue to meet every Thursday with our Sub-Committee, "Lit Minds," where we read A.A. approved Literature. We can always do better.

Please join us. We would love to work with you. The Literature Committee can be contacted using the contact form at chicagoaa.org, 312.346.1475, and literature@chicagoaa.org.

Sincerely,
Your Area 19 Literature Committee

PUBLIC INFORMATION / COPPORATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

It is our purpose is to carry the message of recovery to the still-suffering alcoholic by informing the general public about the A.A. program. Through the PI Committee we carry the message through various media, including print, radio, TV and the internet, as well as organizing workshops and creating presentations. The CPC Committee works with nonalcoholic professionals (including those in the healthcare, psychiatric, corrections, pastoral and legal fields) to carry the message to the sick alcoholic.

The PI-CPC Committee had a successful 2023. We have laid the groundwork for more engagement in Area 19. Our goal is to recruit more volunteers to ensure we can increase our presence and reach more sick and suffering alcoholics. The Overdoes Awareness Event at Wilbur College participation is one of the highlights of the year. We had the opportunity to share our experience, strength and hope in front of educators. and hope followed by one-on-one conversation at our literature table. It was well received. We will continue to look for opportunities to leverage our participation at conferences and health fairs.

We were delighted to get an AA approved PSA air on **WBEZ**. It is a continuation of our relationship from previous years.

Below are some PI/CPC 2023 highlights:

We hosted an information table at the following health fairs and conferences:

- International Women's Health & Resource Fair/ Aetna Insurance
- National Association of Black Social Workers (NABSW)
- Edgewater Library Wellness Fair (Lutheran Social Services)

- Chicago Fire Department Family Day
- National Hispanic Medical Association
- *Overdose Awareness Event, Wlibur Wright College*

Pace Suburban Bus Campaign – July 10 – October 1

- Interior cards – 12 cards for 3 months split into following zones: West, Northwest, NorthShore and South. Below are what the interior cards looked like



STRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Area 19 Structure Committee is a special committee made up of members interested in our Area 19 Structure Manual called; Chicago A.A. How It Works For You: also known as CAAHIWYF.

Structure is defined per CAAHIWFY as: a special committee to review and suggest modifications of the Area 19 service structure as required by continuing growth and changes in the fellowship. Any suggested modifications shall be presented to CASA for approval and require substantial unanimity or ¾'s vote to pass. Membership is comprised of the chairperson and past chairperson of CASA, the delegate, and past delegates to GSC, the chairperson of Finance, the office manager, and any other interested A.A. member.

For 2023 The Area 19 Structure Committee spent most of our time updating passed Chicago Area Service Assembly motions in CAAHIWFY. These include: Hybrid assembly language, Calendar and flyer posting language, Committee Chair Responsibilities, Anti-Harassment Policy, Technology Committee and considering adding July 2006 Finance Committee motions on earmarked funds, and memorial contributions.

Area 19 Structure Committee also discussions ideas and options for a policy for Social Media / Multi Media for Area 19 including: a standard uniformed message following our Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts local to Area 19 Chicagoland with Anonymity and Security front and center and providing information on responsibility, language, platforms, budget, and analytics.

The Structure Committee worked with the Area 19 Accessibilities Committee and brought forward a motion to our assembly to update their current description. This motion was passed with substantial unanimity by the fellowship of Area 19 and is reflective to the way the Accessibilities Committee serves our membership today.

We are excited for our March 2024 workshop and will continue to serve the members of Area 19.

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE – CHICAGOAA.ORG

Our website (www.chicagoaa.org) is often an alcoholic's first point of contact with A.A. in Area 19. The Technology committee's purpose is to create website policy and set technological goals for Area 19. One of the main roles is to oversee the management of the website and the committee strives to protect members' anonymity at a digital level. **Membership on this committee is open to any interested A.A. member.** The Technology Committee meets the first Thursday of the month. If you are interested in joining this committee, contact Technology@chicagoaa.org

Chicagoaa.org receives thousands of visitors each month. In late 2023 there was a Distributed denial-of-service (DDos) attack which is a malicious attempt to disrupt the normal traffic of the website. This results in a very slow website for humans trying to access the website. This issue was resolved by increasing some security controls that would prevent any suspicious (aka non-human) activity from getting to the website. Although the Technology Committee was not involved in this event, in 2024 the committee will be reviewing the backend of the website to make recommendations to help clean up old files. Between the Office and the Technology Committee, we are dedicated to make chicagoaa.org a helpful resource for the still sick and suffering alcoholic!

THANK YOU!

We hope that you found this report informational and enlightening. Below is a table with all of the committees, when they meet and an email address for you to contact them. They can answer questions and help get you plugged into doing 12th step work at the Area level!

Committee	Email	Meeting Dates
Accessibility	accessabilities@chicagoaa.org	1 st Monday of month at 7pm online
Archives	archives@chicagoaa.org	3 rd Wednesday of month online
Afterhours Phone (and Chat)	phones24@chicagoaa.org chat24@chicagoaa.org	1 st Tuesday of month 5pm online
Committee on Conferences (CoC)	CoC@chicagoaa.org	2 nd Wednesday of month at 630pm online
Correctional Facilities (CFC)	CFC@chicagoaa.org	Last Wednesday of month at 7pm (hybrid)
Finance	finance@chicagoaa.org	2 nd Thursday of ODD months at 6pm (hybrid)
Grapevine	grapevine@chicagoaa.org	2 nd Tuesday of month at 630pm (hybrid)
Here's How Editorial Board	HeresHow@chicagoaa.org	3 rd Monday of the month at 6pm online
Hospital and Treatment Facilities (HTF)	htf@chicagoaa.org	1 st Monday of month at 7pm online
Literature	literature@chicagoaa.org	1 st Wednesday of the month at 7pm online
Public Information / Cooperation with Professional Community (PI/CPC)	PIC@chicagoaa.org CPC@chicagoaa.org	2 nd Monday of the month at 6pm online
Structure	strucutre@chicagoaa.org	1 st Thursday of month at 6pm online
Technology	technology@chicagoaa.org	1 st Thursday of month at 7pm online