

**Area 53 Assembly  
December 9, 2018  
Holiday Inn - Hilliard**

**Opening of Meeting – 10:00 am - (Dan H)**

**Call to Order and (We Version) Serenity Prayer (Dan H)**

**Twelve Concepts (Short Form) (Dave C)**

**Roll Call (GSR, DCM, Interested AA, Committee Chairs, Area Officers, Past Del, Other Areas)**

GSR – 25, DCM – 14, Interested AA – 7, Committee Chairs – 5, Area Officers – 9, Past Delegates – 4

**Agenda (Review & Approval) (Ed A)**

*Motion to Accept – Paul F, Second – Kaise A*

*Unanimous Approval*

**September Assembly Minutes (Matt P.)**

*Motion to Accept – Dan S Second – Kalen C*

*Unanimous Approval*

### **Officers Reports**

**Delegate (Frank G)**

- Final General Service Conference Reports are available.
  - Copies in French and Spanish are also available.
- Current Delegate placed a note in Conscious Contact in regards to Stephen S. as new Delegate.
- Delegate mailed correspondence (to GSO) regarding inclusivity on Bridging the Gap.
- Frank said that it has been a wonderful journey and never even dreamed that he would be Delegate. “During my journey it all started by the passion of being in a dark district and trying to bring it to light.”
- Frank goes on to thank individuals for their assistance. Special thanks went to Bill and Sharon F. with lighting District 12, Kristy H, Dave C and Bill Y with the position of Delegate.
- Frank said “All of this has helped me to be a better 12 stepper. Everything we do here is to help the man that comes in and doesn’t know what the problem is or the solution – and it has really helped me do that one on one 12 step work.”
- Frank advised that he is willing to assist any District with his experience.

**Chairperson (Dan H.)**

- Thank you for electing me. It was an honor to be your Chair for the last two years. As I rotate out, I just want to say Thank you.

### **Treasurer (Donna K.)**

- As of 12/5/2018 - \$20,449 in contributions.
- Some areas are approved to be over-budget.
  - Over budget on Postage, Copies and Supplies.
    - Printed envelopes for contributions were more expensive than expected. Area now has enough for about two years.
- Projected bank balance is \$11,026.

*Motion to Accept – Diann N-H, Second – Kalen C  
Unanimous Approval*

### **Web Administrator (Bill Y. – Acting)**

- All Area 53 Group Information is updated as of December 6.
- Since last Assembly 5 newsletters have been sent.
  - Current subscriber list is about 400 with 30 percent readership.
  - Newsletter features, AAs new YouTube Channel, mini-conference and a large number of holiday oriented activities for Groups and Districts.
  - Anything that is reported to the web team appears on the website.
- There has been communication work in relation to the new officers being able to receive communications (emails, i.e. [delegate@area53aa.org](mailto:delegate@area53aa.org))
- Work session completed with the Web Administrators, Ann B. and Dan S.
- Bill Y thanks everyone that appeared at September's Assembly and granted him his "parole".
- Bill says that after 8 years he is happy to see the enthusiasm Ann and Dan have for picking up the work and being of service.

### **Registrar (Nita S.)**

- 74 people in 12 service positions attended the December Area Assembly.
  - Delegate – 1, Alt Delegate – 1, Area 53 Officers – 7, DCMC – 1, DCMs – 14, Alt DCMs – 1, GSRs – 25, Alt GSRs – 2, Interested AAs – 3, Past-Delegates – 3, Committee Chairs – 6, Past Trustee – 1
- Fellowship New Vision Statistics (GSO Group Database)
  - New Groups – 0, Pending Active – 3, Pending Inactive – 0, Incomplete- 1, Unknown – 165
  - Pending Active Groups are groups that are reported to GSO, but lack data to be an Active Group.
  - Unknown groups will not receive mailings from GSO, until they are marked Active. An Active Group must have a Primary Contact for mailing and at least one Meeting Day and Time.
  - Group Information on the Area 53 website is updated periodically.
  - When a new group is formed, if the Group doesn't know which District it belongs to, the Area Registrar will assign the District.
  - If Area 53 or GSO gets new group information, it will not appear on the Area 53 page until GSO has assigns a Service Number. GSO can take several months to assign numbers and the Area 53 page is updated once a quarter. Incorrect group information may take time.
  - Tri-Fold is updated. Changes or corrections can be accomplished by emailing [registrar@area53aa.org](mailto:registrar@area53aa.org).
    - The Tri-Fold (aka the Contact Card) is available on the Area 53 website.

- Marcie D, Alternate Registrar, updates the Area 53 page on the Conscious Contact. Changes or corrections are accomplished by emailing [altregistrar@area53aa.org](mailto:altregistrar@area53aa.org).
- We welcome our new Registrar James C. and new Alternate Registrar Joe M.

## **Standing Committee Reports**

### **Archives/Archivist (Ed A. Reporting)**

- Tom V not available because of illness.
- Continuing to organize the archives.
- A full report will be available at the Area Planning Committee Meeting.

### *Questions/Comments*

Frank G – Asks if there was a formal committee meeting that has been held.

Ed A – Advises that the committee hasn't met yet but has names of people that may be interested. Ed said that if anyone is interested in serving on the Archives Committee, contact Ed A or Tom V.. This will be under further development with the next Panel.

### **CPC/PI (Dave C.)**

- Dave C. advised that during Panel 67, the CPC/PI Committee was active and looking forward to Panel 69 with enthusiasm and a new Chairperson.
- Dave gives a rundown of the activities that were accomplished during the last two years.
  - Activities in 2017 and 2018 included
  - Mini Conference display and participation
  - Assisted District 6 literature support for a PI presentation
  - St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church Health Fair display
  - District 26 Workshop presentation by CPC-PI chairperson
  - City of Columbus Employees Health Fair display
  - Display at Ohio State Convention in Worthington Ohio
  - Addiction Studies Institute (ASI) 3-day event, Columbus
  - Hope Works Job Fair, Columbus
  - Franklin County Justice Exposition, Columbus
  - Support to District-18 Ohio University community resources event in Chillicothe
  - Support to Dist. 19 for community addiction event in Highland County
  - Columbus Dispatch anonymity break – wrote a letter to the Columbus Dispatch reporter
  - Committee declined to provide an A.A. to appear on a local television program. Reporter wanted an A.A.'s full name and full face for the interview.
  - Two Chairperson Presentations at District 30 and District 28 regular meetings
  - CPC-PI dealt with a complaints that surfaced about information on a local treatment center's website. The web mail resource was used in this process for the first time so as to avoid using personal email.
- CPC/PI committee gives many thanks,
  - CPC/PI thanks Central Ohio Group Fellowship who generously forwards all requests that apply to the CPC-PI mission. COGF regularly has contributed \$250 to pay half of the A.S.I. vendors' fee.
  - Thanks General Service Office CPC and PI desks for their wisdom and literature support.
  - Thanks Area 53 Assembly and the groups for all their financial backing.

- Thanks to the A.A.s who have volunteered their time and wisdom doing committee work these past two years.

#### *Questions / Comments*

Bill F – You mentioned about the anonymity break with the local news paper. How did you discover that?

Dave C – Someone was murdered and it was on the newspaper’s website. The story discussed Mary from Athens County. The paper wrote a story about how members knew something was wrong because Mary never missed a meeting. The paper said that she was a member of AA. Mentioned the AA Group with a full name and everything. The committee wrote a letter advising that they appreciated the story and explained who we were. We didn’t criticize. The General Service Office reminded me, that those traditions are for us to follow. Nobody else has to follow those traditions. We always have to be understanding and learn how to communicate our willingness to be of service.

Kim C – What is CPC/PI

Dave C – Cooperation with the Professional Community – Public Information.

#### **Correctional Facilities (Chris J.)**

- Chris said that he was pleased to see that the website was updated with bolder fonts making it much easier to read for people that are vision impaired. He thanks the Bill Y.
- Area 53 members continue to carry on 12 Step work by attending meetings at many prisons, jails and transitional facilities.
- Others are corresponding with persons who are incarcerated and serving as per-release contact.
- The committee says thanks to all of the members providing donations to the spare change jug.
  - Donations in the last quarter amounted to \$9,143
  - All money will be used to purchase literature so outside sponsors can provide literate to groups inside.
  - The committee voted to approve \$9,500 to purchase literature during the coming quarter.
- Literature orders were filled for 15 institutions in the past quarter with around 25 prisons and county jails served annually.
- Thank you to the Assembly for this years line item of \$900.
  - This pays for expenses like rent copies, postage for correspondence, PO Box, website and more. The money allows all money from the spare change jug to be used for literature purchases and storage.
- Thank you to the Assembly for the \$400 for the CFC Workshop
  - CFC wishes to return the \$400 because the committee has sufficient operating reserves.
  - Past Delegate made the motion and it was fully supported at last quarterly meeting.
- Received a request from a staff person at ORW, Ohio Reformatory for Women, to provide outside sponsorship for an AA meeting, called “Continuing Care”. A problem exists where women are not able to attend meetings because of space limitations in the room. Priority was given to those that have not been in IOP, Intensive Outpatient Program, which operated in the prison. Outside sponsors at ORW are advising that a meeting is scheduled with ORW staff to get support for the second meeting which would result in two meetings a week. This encourages additional support for ORW by contacting Brenda B.
- Committee members attended National Corrections Conference in Portland, Maine. Chris J. was requested to do a talk on meeting formats within prisons. Chris said he was grateful to have the opportunity to represent the Area 53.
  - The next National Corrections Conference will be the first weekend in November 2019 in Houston, Texas

- Quarterly meeting in December had 40 people in attendance which included 12 outside sponsors for inside groups and 16 Group Institutional Representatives.
  - Elections were held to fill 5 open positions with 2 being filled.
  - Discussion on creating an audio archive on the CFC page of the Area 53 website.
    - Audio will be from workshops, past conferences and some AA talks and from the National Corrections Conference and Area 51 Conference in North Carolina.
    - Anonymity will be observed – full names are not disclosed.
    - The audio only would be on the website and will not be available for download.
- Accomplishments over the last two years.
  - Outside support for prisons and jails are displayed on a map and indications show more support than in the past.
    - Additional support is needed in Marion, Belmont and Lucasville.
  - Huge improvement in correspondence and per-release efforts. Jonathan B has been a great correspondence secretary.
  - Stronger website presence with text reminders for CFC meetings.
  - Well defined policy on which facilities for literature support. Halfway houses with transitional control are supported.
  - Hosted workshops including one with Spanish translation. Didn't get as much participation as would have liked, but CFC looks at it as a step forward.
  - Maintain strong support in Area 53 for the Groups.
    - Providing institutional money and Group Institutional Representatives.
  - Literature fulfillment above 90 percent. Thanks Lisa V as the literature person
    - Also received support from Todd with the addition of on-line ordering from the website.
  - Chis J advises that it is important to remove literature from COGF in a timely manner and also to if possible to drive to Columbus to pick up literature as it cost money to send by book rate.
- CFC Workshop Planning Committee Meeting to be held Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - Brandy is looking for participation with the committee.
- Conclusion: There is always more we can be doing. CFC continues to receive requests from AA members reaching out from behind the walls. There are always opportunities for willing AA members to correspond, serve a per-release contacts or attend meetings of inside groups. All of these services require cooperation, communication and commitments. CFC invites all groups within the Area to elect a Group Institutional Representative (GIR) who will then be a voting member of CFC and can carry information about these kinds of opportunities of 12 step work. If a group doesn't have a GIR then the GSR can represent the group.

### **Correctional Facilities Committee Election (Brandy V)**

- CFC is requesting assistance with elected positions.
  - Positions requested include the Alternate Liaison, Alternate Pre-Release, Alternate Recording Secretary, Literature Person,
  - Brandy has already contacted individuals for assistance and the response was that "I can't do that computer stuff, it's too complicated – no I can't help"
  - She advised that the position doesn't have to be complicated most positions would have to produce an accountable record for Area 53.
- Contact information for Brandy is in the Tri-Fold.

### *Questions/Comments*

Tom V – Do you have a general idea where the meetings going to be held?

Brandy V – Yes, COGF. Steering Committee meeting is the first weekend in February and the next quarterly meeting is the first weekend in March. They are at COGF at 10:00am

Rick – What is the liaison function?

Brandy – It would be the alternate to the Liaison. They are the person that is the bridge between CFC Committee and the Department of Corrections. They talk with the parole board, the librarians, and the professionals.

### **Grapevine (Ann B.)**

- Writing Workshop was held in October with 35 in attendance.
  - Ann was surprised with how many people were actually writing stories at the workshop.
  - Three people shared their story that was written that day.
  - One individual that completed a story emailed Ann and said that she was really excited about the workshop and had submitted her story to the Grapevine that evening.
  - The committee is planning on doing the Writing Workshop again in the coming year.
- Election was held in November which was the same time as an Ohio State Football Game.
  - Attendance was down due to an Ohio State Game being held on the same day.
  - There is no Chairperson for the Grapevine Committee as of January.
    - Ann said that being the Chairperson was a great experience and learned a lot about being a committee chair and loved being back in Area service again.
  - A Secretary was elected.
- No committee meeting was held in December. Next meeting will be the second Saturday in January from 12:00pm to 1:00pm at COGF.

### *Questions/Comments*

Kenny – Are there going to be more workshops coming up?

Ann B – Hopefully, there is nothing planned at this time – hopefully the incoming chairperson in the committee will continue with that.

Dave M – We are interested in doing a workshop in the southern part of the state.

Ann B – I will bring the suggestion to the meeting in January and I can talk to you more about that.

### **Group Services (Dan S.)**

- I took this position a couple of years ago at the election assembly because I wanted to get back into the “Bread and Butter” of service.
- We were able to do a lot of General Service Representative schools.
  - Mentions many of the Districts that had GSR schools.
  - A GSR school was held at the State Convention and both Mini-conferences.
  - Dan thanks Marcia who incorporated ideas from the DCM college into the GSR school.
  - Stephen S assisted in planning the GSR schools.
  - Mike M, Frank G, Bill Y assisted with the schools as well.
- A DVD was purchased from GSO and has been on loan to several Districts and has been well received.
- The Group Services committee has tried to strengthen the connection between the Group and the General Service Structure through the GSR schools and the other events. This provides for strong groups in our Area for the still suffering alcoholic.
- There is a need for a new Chairperson at the Group Services Committee.
- Group Services will assist with an event in Newark on January 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **Intergroup Liaison (Ed S.)**

- Committee visited all the different inter-groups this year.
  - Lancaster, COGF, Appalachian Ohio Intergroup Office, Newark and Marion.
- Inter-groups are doing well except some struggle with getting board members.
- Ed said that he took a diagram to demonstrate the difference between the Area and the Intergroup chain of command and structure. He advised that these diagrams are available.
- Congratulates Barbara as the new Committee Chairperson.

### **Mini Conference (Donna K.)**

- Donna advises that she is the incoming Alternate Delegate.
- The meetings are held the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month. Because of the holiday, next meeting will be December 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at 1530 South High Street aka Donna's store.
- Mini-conference fliers are available.
- Advises that this is the biggest event that the Area puts on for the whole year.
  - A past delegate advised that it is very important to go to the mini-conference so that they have the voice of Area 53.
- Donna invites others to become part of the committee. She said that the committee needs help.
- The mini-conference will be held at Deer Creek this year.
- The mini-conference is covered by room nights. The minimum is 50 room nights for two nights. 100 room nights total.
- Deposit has been paid for the mini-conference but funding is low for fliers and other activities.
- Room rates are \$105/night. Cabins are \$189/night. Five or six people make it affordable. Extra nights (Thursday or Sunday) rooms are \$79 and cabins are \$115.
- Meals – Friday night \$25, Saturday Lunch is \$16 and the banquet is \$32, Sunday lunch is \$16.
- Scholarships can be made available and are encouraged because it brings people into service.

### *Questions/Comments*

Tom V – When will it be necessary to designate meals that you want – cutoff date.

Donna K – Cutoff date is February 20<sup>th</sup>.

Kala – Are you concerned about filling the rooms?

Donna K – Not necessarily, but you get concerned about being able to pay bill.

Kala – I have never been to this conference, if I want to promote this event for you -- what can I expect out of the weekend?

Donna K – You will learn about what happens at the General Service Conference and what is going on with Alcoholics Anonymous. At the mini-conference we will get the agenda items from New York, through our Delegate on what is going to be voted on.

Bill Y – The mini-conference web page has some detail with testimonials of people that have attended. The final report with topics and how we voted.

*AA Member* – Is on-line registration up and ready to go?

Donna K – On-line registration is available in two weeks.

Frank G – Our main function is to send a Delegate to New York, well prepared, with the voice of Area 53. In addition to that, the early bird meeting are fantastic and the conversations between the meetings are amazing. As a member, it really strengthened my understanding of why we are here.

Sharon F – Mini conference final reports are available and those are some of the things we talked about and how we voted at the mini-conference.

Donna K - On another note, you meet a lot of neat people, make new relationships, laugh and have a good time

## **Special Needs Committee**

no report

### **Treatment Facilities (Robert H. / Erica C.)**

- The Treatment Facilities Committee is to assist with having an AA meeting located in a treatment facility
- Also assists with the Bridging the Gap (BTG) program.
  - The purpose of BTG is when someone leaves a treatment facility, within 24 hours, a volunteer will take that person to an AA Meeting.
  - Franklin county has more that 20 volunteers for 9 treatment centers.
- Treatment Facilities had a request from Harding Hospital at OSU Medical Center to put in an AA meeting and according to District 28, a meeting is up and running.
- Robert thanks the Area for allowing him to serve the last 1½ years and for financial support.
- A meeting was held on Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Chillicothe Lighthouse.
  - Representatives from 3 counties attended
  - Discussion was on a treatment center in Scioto County and BTG in that location.
- Last meeting was held on Saturday, November 17 at COGF.
  - Discussion was on Franklin County Treatment Centers and election of a new chairperson.
  - Erica C will be the new Treatment Facilities Chairperson.
- Eric C made some comments regarding being the coordinator for Bridging The Gap in Franklin County with the intention of having information available in all 39 counties in Area 53. Erica said that what goes on is “Higher Powered” when it comes to getting positions filled. As far as being the Treatment Facilities Chair, she prays and keeps in contact with her service sponsor, who said “Read the manual and don’t make things up.” She intends to reach out to DCMs in all Districts. Erica encourages volunteering or becoming a committee member.

### *Questions / Comments*

Chris J – Regarding Bridging the Gap, we often hear about picking up someone and taking them to a meeting within 24 hours. How many people are involved with making a phone contact, but not necessarily the transportation. Is the committee suggesting that someone is going to give them a ride to a meeting?

Erica – I would imagine that anyone that would like to make contact would not be excluded. I am pretty sure its already in the program manual from AAWS. It would depend on what services could be provided. Some meetings are available by bus.

### **Assembly Notes (Ed A)**

- Ed clarifies that there is not Archives committee yet and Tom V is the Archivist
- Area received a letter from GSO advising the AAWS has licensed the “Meeting Guide App” launched in November 2015. This should be considered an official app from New York. Available on Google Play and Apple Store.
- A Chairperson is needed for Special Needs Committee

### **Ohio State Convention Planning Committee Report (Frank G.)**

- We are fortunate to have 4 mini-conferences in Ohio and Delegates attend each one. At the General Service Conference, we are more prepared than many other groups. Thank you to the Assembly for sending us. Please consider going to the mini-conference because your Delegate needs your outlook.

- The format for the Ohio State Convention has changed. Area 53 will not host the Conference until 2022. Area 56 is hosting the State Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio, August 16, 17 and 18.
- Main speakers will be Mark E and Mary C of GSO. Mary did a lot of work in Area 53 before becoming a staff employee.
- <http://www.aaarea56.org> has the State Convention flier.

*Lunch 11:48am to 1:10pm*

### **District & Group Reports (Mike M, DCMC)**

- The DCMC gave a generalization advising that over the past two years there have been Districts that have been lit, other inactive Districts are fostered by active ones and one District that has gone dark.
- DCMs and GSRs are to be commended for the work that they continue to do to connect Alcoholics Anonymous in New York to the local Groups.
- Last DCM Meeting
  - GSR that was interested in finding out about lighting District 33
  - District 20 is fostering another dark District
  - Discussion included why multiple Districts are putting together single events.
    - More people participating in the events.
    - Networking with people that we normally do not interact with.
    - Food was better.
  - Standing Committees are requesting that Districts send representation to the Standing Committee meetings.
  - Marcia H. was voted in as the new DCM Chairperson
  - Information topic for the Assembly - "How Does Service Contribute to My Spiritual Growth?"
    - Various individuals will give a presentation on the topic.
    - A great quote from the conversation was, "After we get sober, we ask the question of ourselves, "Is This All There Is?" – without service we are going to get board in AA.
- The Archives Committee is requesting that Groups put together content of the history of the Groups and Districts and forward the information to the Archives.
- Mike M thanks the Area for the opportunity to serve as Chairperson of the DCM Committee. Mike said that he has found that people in Service are more interested, enthusiastic and excited about AA than other members. He says thanks to all of the DCMs, Standing Committee Chairs, GSRs, Officers and Alternates, Past Delegates and new members as well.
- Mike reads the GSR Preamble.

### **District 1 –**

Brenda P, Mad River Group, GSR –

- Thursday discussion meeting at 8:30pm with fellowship at 8:00pm
- Brenda is a new GSR
- Meeting is small and the Group would like more support.

Kim C, Wednesday Rosewood Noon Group, GSR –

- Open discussion
- Food every week
- Good mix of old timers and newcomers.

- In March 2020 the Group will celebrate 15 years.

#### **District 4, Kasie A, DCM –**

- 21 meetings per week
- New meeting formed, “Nothing Else Worked” Big Book Study.
  - Has met 12 times with good attendance.
- 7 meetings actively contribute to the Correctional Facilities Committee
- District makes quarterly contributions to CFC.
- Alkathon on Christmas and New Years at the Parish House (75 year old meeting place)
- DCM Meeting is every quarter the Saturday following the Area Assembly at 6:30pm at the Parish House.

#### **Crystal G, Friday Afternoon Drunkard’s Club, GSR –**

- The Group was founded by a group of drunk professors.
- Meets every Friday at noon at Gambier Epworth United Methodist Church at Kenyon College.
- Transient attendance with usually 8 to 12
- Open Discussion
- New Grapevine Representative for the Group.

#### **District 5 –**

##### **Lori R, Sunday Morning Big Book, GSR –**

- Located in Coshocton. The only GSR and no DCM in District.
- Recently moved.
- About 32 people in attendance with old timers and newcomers.
- Donation have been good and have been ordering more literature.
- Contributes to Area 53 and COGF

#### **District 6, Paul F, DCM –**

- DCM Meeting is the first Thursday of the Month at 6:30pm at Starkdale, 4600 Sunset Blvd, Winterset with an average of 10 attending, sometimes 14.
- Discussion last meeting included having an Alkathon on Christmas Day and New Year’s Eve with fliers available.
  - District contributed \$200 for each event.
  - There will be a meeting each hour with a different chairperson.

##### **Kasey M, Towers Big Book Study Group, GSR –**

- Meets Wednesday at 9:00am at Grace Pointe Ministries Church in Steubenville.
- Elected a new Secretary – All service positions are filled.
- Attendance is improving with 6 to 10.
- Participating in the Alkathon on Christmas Eve and New Years Day.
- Kasey said that she is grateful to give back and anxious to learn more.

##### **Carmine, Saturday Night Live Group Steubenville, Acting GSR –**

- Donated \$50.00 to the Gratitude Dinner in Steubenville
- Meeting is Saturday night at 7:00pm
- Upcoming events include participating in Christmas Day and New Year’s Eve Alkathons

##### **Brad T, Honesty-Unselfishness-Love-Purity (HULP), GSR –**

- Meeting is Monday through Friday at 11:00am and Sunday at 7:30pm in Steubenville.
- Upcoming events include participating in Christmas Day and New Year’s Eve Alkathons.

- Christmas Dinner planned for on December 21.

#### **District 7, Raymond C, DCM –**

- Raymond gives history of how he became GSR and eventually DCM of his dark District. Raymond was able to start interest in his District and managed to get GSRs elected.
- With assistance, the District held their first election in a couple of years.
  - DCM was elected and previous DCM became the Alternate.
  - Secretary was elected.
  - Past Treasurer stayed at current position. This officer maintained the prudent reserve while District 7 was dark.
- A workshop is in the planning stages.

#### **Andy B, Garage Group, GSR –**

- Andy was just elected as GSR and is still learning about the position
- Men's closed discussion group. Meets every Tuesday at the west Muskingum Booster hall.
- Thanks everyone for the opportunity to serve.

#### **Steve V, Zanesville Learning About Sobriety Group, GSR –**

- Group meets every Wednesday at 5:00pm, Big Book Study.
- Recently started having monthly Group Conscious Meetings on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday
- Updated contact form for GSO and Area 53.
- Elected new officers
- Established Budget Guidelines including making contributions to District, Area, GSO and to ISRC. ISRC is a building that hosts many meetings in Zanesville.
- Prudent Reserve also established.
- Working with District 7 on the upcoming workshop.

#### **District 11, Brenda B, DCM –**

- The District was lit about a year ago and the District is now planning events like the Alkathon.
- On Christmas Day there is a Tuesday Night Lead Meeting as and participants will be bringing in a covered dish and have fellowship from 4:00pm until the meeting starts at 8:00pm.
- Meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm at First Presbyterian Church
- 8 active GSRs
- Last reported that the Treasurer took off. He is now in jail as a result of alcoholism, but is ok.
- A new Treasurer has been elected with funds at around \$100
- A GSR school is in the planning stages in April for the new GSRs that were elected.
- Sponsorship event took place, December 8<sup>th</sup> with a great turnout.
  - The Delegate and Alternate Delegate participated.
- Considering producing a tri-fold meeting schedule. This would be helpful for newcomers, especially with room on for getting numbers.

### **District 12, Tom D, DCM –**

- Average attendance is 6 GSRs who are very supportive.
- The District has sales of Schedules with around 500 available.
- The Corrections Facilities Chairperson is active in getting individuals the credentials needed to have meetings at the local jails.
- Recently held “Yearly Gathering” with theme “Participating in Our Own Recovery”
  - This is a completely free event with free food.
  - 15 minute presentations on each of the Three Legacies.
  - Delegate also gave a presentation on the subjects of tolerance and inclusion.
- Money coming into District is used for schedules and District activities. A Prudent reserve is also established.

### **Kenny L, 12&12 Serenity Meeting, GSR –**

- Kenny said that he is a new GSR and is receiving assistance from Tom and Frank
- Meets Friday night at 6:30pm at the Alano Club in Springfield.
- Consistent attendance of around 8 people.
- Kenny is grateful to be able to represent his Group at the Assemblies.

### **District 15, Bruce W, DCM –**

- Meets 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm that the Presbyterian Church in Marietta
- Local District website has been canceled due to lack of web admin and keeping it on-line
- Hard copies of meeting scheduled are printed. Considering changing format to include the 12 Steps and preamble.
- December 1<sup>st</sup> Dinner, Speaker from Pomeroy and dance.
  - An event like this hasn’t been done since the 90’s
  - Good attendance and speaker did well.
  - Hoping to make this an annual event.
- Alkathon, Christmas Eve in Marietta.
- New meeting in Caldwell – meets Thursday at 5:30pm
- District Election is on January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Kerry K, Woodsfield Group, Alternate GSR –**

- Meets Tuesday and Friday at 8:00pm at the MACO Building
- Kerry talks about how the Group decided to have a Group Conscious. 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday
  - Elected Positions are Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary, Literature/Archives
  - Group Conscious changes meeting format to a Book Study and Lead.
- Attendance has gone up to around 12 to 14 every meeting.
- A member was interested in the history of the Woodsfield Group and contacted GSO.
  - Received information that was in the Archives
  - Group was formed in 1982
  - Group is adding to the Archives at Area level.
- Group is taking steps to get meetings into the Monroe County Jail.

### **James D, Bring Your Own Book (BYOB), GSR –**

- Meets at 7:00pm, Tuesday in Byesville
- Group has been selling books, but decided to give away books to newcomers.
- Takes meetings into Cambridge Behavioral Health and two DUI Schools.

### **Joe S, Hand in Hand Group, GSR –**

- Joe talks about the topic of discussion at the Saturday meeting - “One Alcoholic Working with Another” and how carrying the message benefits the giver as much or more than the receiver.
- 33<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary is coming up in March.
- Joe says he is stepping down from GSR position and enjoyed doing it.
  - Joe introduces Andrea as a possible replacement.

Heather R, GPS Group, GSR –

- 12&12 meeting.
- Elected a new GSR and Treasurer.
- 7<sup>th</sup> Group Anniversary on February 10<sup>th</sup>.

Tami T, 2 for 1 Group, GSR –

- Elected a new GSR, Secretary and Treasurer.
- No Group Conscious in December.

**District 16, Tom C, DCM –**

- 21 Meetings mostly in Athens and Nelsonville
- 5 to 10 Active GSRs
- Meets 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday at the Methodist Church
- Reviewed the Safety in AA, Common Welfare pamphlet with additional information from GSO
- Discussing participation at the mini-conference.
  - District is considering paying for part of a cabin for six people if Groups are willing to pay part of the registration.
- Developed a “Nudge” strategy to get GSRs to attend the DCM meetings.
- Workshop Committee in place for an upcoming event. Titled “Stinking Thinking” the workshop should be held in early spring.
- Christmas party to be held tonight with Santa at the event.
- Alkathon on New Years eve and day.
- Checked Group contributions and 10 of 20 groups have contributed to District.
- Prudent Reserve and sufficient resources to support upcoming workshop and mini-conference
- Member take meetings to Southeastern Ohio Regional Jail.

Tom C, Friday Night 12&12 GSR –

- Meets at 7:00pm at Christ the King Church
- Group Picture to Appear in the January Issue of the Grapevine.

**District 17, Dave M, Acting DCM –**

- District meeting is the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month at 5:00pm at Sacred Heart Church
  - 4 to 6 people attend the District meetings that cover 4 counties
- 14 meetings in the 4 counties.
- Discussed the possibility of the Grapevine Representative assist with a workshop in March.
- November 10<sup>th</sup> was a workshop “Family Afterward” with 60 to 70 in attendance.
- Prudent Reserve is met with enough financing to operate.
- News Years Eve party to be held in Gallipolis at 8:00pm at the Presbyterian Church.

Dave M, Pomeroy Serenity Group, GSR –

- February 16<sup>th</sup>, Group will have a Valentines Day dinner at 161 Mulberry Ave in Pomeroy.
  - Open at 6:00pm, Dinner at 7:00pm, Speaker is at 8:00pm
- CPI Committee is in contact with the courthouse in regards to three new judges.
  - Group is giving the judges meeting contact and meeting information.

- 4 to 6 new members are at the meetings.
- Contributes to Area 53, District 17, COGF and GSO

#### **District 18, Barbara M, DCM –**

- Barbara calls herself a self-appointed DCM to bring the District out of the dark.
- No officer positions are filled.
- \$20 dollars available from a 50/50 raffle.
- At the October meeting James from COYPAA was invited and he gave a lead at Chillicothe.
- 3 members attended the November meeting.
- Grapevine meeting is doing well. Increase in subscriptions from 15 to 20 a month.
- Discussion at the District meeting included having an Alkathon Christmas eve and day
- Barbara created a tri-fold meeting list which is used by the local Public Information committee that has placed the tri-fold with the inter-group office and other public places.
- Barbara has requested Frank G to come to the District meeting to about the mini-conference.

#### **District 19, Terry U, DCM –**

- District meetings are the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Month at 6:00pm in Sabina at the Municipal Bldg.
  - 15 GSRs with variable attendance.
  - Reviewing District Guidelines.
  - Elected a Corrections Committee Chairperson.
- Campfire meeting on October 13
  - Was cold, but had free hot-dogs. Terry said, “If you feed them they will come.”
  - A couple people even brought tents and camped out that night.
- November 17<sup>th</sup> Workshop on Service called “Into Action”.
- Well within budget so far this year.

#### **Joanne L, Sisters in Sobriety, GSR –**

- Meets Thursday at 6:00pm in Hillsboro
- Small Group with 5 or 6 regulars.
- Good sobriety from 8 years to 32.

#### **Linda T, Sometimes Quickly - Sometimes Slowly, GSR –**

- Linda said that she has assisted with revising Guidelines for the District.
- She is now the Corrections Committee Chairperson for the District.
- Meets at 6:15pm on Monday but usually doesn't start until 6:20pm
- Group is about 3 years old with attendance at about 10 to 14.
- A Chairman's Choice meeting, with meeting becoming known at the Big Book Thumpers meeting. Usually the topic is something from the Big Book.
- The Group Conscious decided to have a reading from the Big Book after normal readings in case someone doesn't have a topic.

#### **District 21, Don C, Acting DCM –**

- 15 Groups are in the District and District meets monthly and rotates the meeting location to include each of the Groups.
  - Rotating the meeting boosts the attendance for the Group, generates interest for the District.
- Election of officers was held at the last District meeting with all positions being filled.
- Some meeting in Ohio that associate themselves with a Kentucky district have returned to District 21. The next District meeting will be held at one of those Group locations.

- There is some interest in Correctional Facilities and Bridging the Gap. There are about 5 people interested and the District is going to combine those topics into one committee. The reasoning is that many are incarcerated though “Drug Court”.

Don C, Portsmouth Nooners Group, GSR –

- Group Conscious meeting is the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month
- Discussions at Group Conscious
  - How to keep meeting open on Thanksgiving and Christmas Day
  - Group provided funding for money for pies and other deserts.
- Attendance goes up according to how much free food they have.

#### **District 22, Greg G, DCM –**

- Meets 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 10:00am at Dublin Springs
- Topics of Discussion at last District Meeting.
  - Election of Officers - Jillena R is the new DCM, Treasurer also elected.
  - Paying for Cabins at the mini-conference.
- No events planned but open to the idea pairing up with other Districts. This includes Districts 10, 11, 30 and 34.
- Also District 22 recognizes that Delaware County is dark and is willing them.

Jillena R, Hilliard Sobriety Group, GSR –

- Group Conscious is connected to the meeting on Tuesday.
- Group meets on Tuesday at 8:00pm, Thursday at 7:30pm and Sunday at 5:00pm.
- Next Group Conscious is next Tuesday with elections.
- Holding meeting on Christmas night – Normally a lead on the last Tuesday. Most likely a discussion meeting because of the holiday. That will be confirmed at Group Conscious.
- Group inventory continues at the Group Conscious.
- Plans to participate in the Alkathon at the Desert Island Club
- For the Mini-Conference, Hilliard Sobriety Group is sponsoring the incoming GSR and possibly more from the Home Group.

Ed S, Secular Sobriety, GSR –

- Meet Tuesdays at 7:00pm in Dublin
- Group will meet on Christmas Day.

#### **District 26, Marcia H, DCM –**

- District 26 held their October Elections.
  - Steven B – DCM, Joy D – Treasurer, Blair C – Alternate Treasurer, Alison B – Mini-Conference Committee Liaison, Kalen C – YPAA Liaison
  - Open Positions – Alternate DCM, Secretary, Alternate Secretary, Alternate Liaison
- Participating in the Alkathon on New Years Eve and Day (24 Hours) with District 28.
  - Events include a Dance from 10:00pm to Midnight and Babysitting from 6:00pm until Midnight. Fliers are available in paper and on line.
- Slight increase in contributions from Groups.
- Marcia said “I have had so much support from the GSRs within District 26. It has been so much fun. Like Bruce said, if you ever get the opportunity and the privilege to serve as a DCM for your District, I highly suggest that you do it. You will just have the best time of your life.”

Blair C, Rise and Shine Group (Home of Baconfest), GSR –

- Baconfest is coming in February and details are coming in a newsletter.
- Recently had a Christmas / Holiday party
  - Large 50/50 drawing which half went to the Children's Holiday Party.
  - Donations were appreciated or a toy donation for a child between ages of 1 to 10.
- On the Buckeye's non-game night, Rise and Shine had a holiday movie night.
  - Movie, "As Bill Sees It" with Subs and Pizza and free of charge.
- Upcoming event is the upcoming 12 Annual Children's Holiday Party at St. Dominic's Recreational Center on December 15<sup>th</sup> from 12:00pm to 2:00pm, 453 North 20<sup>th</sup> Street, Columbus.

Andrea J, Women's Sobriety and Serenity Group, GSR –

- Meets Wednesday's at the Church of the Redeemer on McNaughten Road at 7:00pm
- Closed Women's meeting.
- Holiday party coming up on December 12<sup>th</sup>. Fellowship at 5:30pm, Dinner at 6:00pm, Speaker at 7:00pm. Babysitting available. Fliers are available.

Steven B, Fellowship Hall Group, GSR –

- Meet on Friday at 7:00pm with average attendance of 60 to 70 people.
- All Service Positions are filled.
- Group Conscious is coming this Friday to nominate an individual to speak at the Alkathon.
- Steven took a moment to thank Marcia H for her work as DCM.

Cheryl S, Solution Group, Acting GSR –

- Meets Monday at 7:00pm at the Westerville Church of Christ
- Group sends members on a rotating bases to the District meeting.
- Group decided to move to District 26 from District 10.
- Group Conscious meets twice a quarter with a business meeting held once quarterly.
  - Topics of discussion include, welcoming the newcomer, attendance at the Alkathon, filling vacant service positions and modifying the group readings to reflect membership desires.
- Contributes to GSO, COGF, District 26 and Area 53.
- Service Positions filled – Secretary, Treasurer, COGF, Social Chair and IGR. There is no permanent GSR.
- Upcoming events include the opening of the Alkathon on Christmas Day.

Kalen C, Central Ohio Young People in AA (COYPAA) Liaison for District 26 –

- Local COYPAA won the bid and will be hosting the OYPAA conventions for the state in September.
- Elections held past quarter and they filled 22 positions.
- James is the chairperson for the host committee. Zak will provide more information to Area 53.

**District 28, Taffy J, DCM –**

- 5 groups will be participants in the Alkathon in conjunction with District 26.
- District meeting takes place at Panera Bread, High Street, Clintonville.
  - Kayla K was elected as the new Secretary.
  - Discussion included have a District 28 picnic in 2019.
- District is location at OSU / Clintonville area and is now hosting a meeting on the campus of The Ohio State University at 11:00am Monday.
  - To participate one needs to become a OSU volunteer. Not hard.

Kayla K, Grant Us The Laughter (Young People), GSR –

- Meets on OSU Campus on Friday night at 7:30pm
- Newly elected GIR and IGR
- Last GIR (Group Institutional Representative) ran off with the “Thug Jug”. The Group Conscious voted to lower suggested sobriety requirement because of all of the treatment centers. Money stolen would have amounted to 5 or 10 dollars. It was a valuable learning experience. “Why would you take a sobriety requirement seriously? If you never seen anyone actually run off with the money.” The Group has a new GIR and Jug.
- Group started offering more hard-back Big Books, As Bill Sees It and some from COGF.
  - Only been offering books for two weeks and sold four.
- Discussion includes Safety at the last meeting. An emotionally disturbed person came to the meeting and made a scene. The Group had a conversation on how to handle the situation. Suggested the Safety Card from GSO.

Sam K, Round Table Discussion Group, Acting GSR –

- Meets at Indianola Presbyterian Church in Columbus.
- Meeting splits between Discussion and Big Book study.
- Last meeting added a Treatment Facilities Committee Representative, Sam K.
  - Used to be part of the H&I committee and is interested in serving on Treatment.
- Group Conscious is the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month.

Andy U, Lodestar Group, GSR –

- Meets Wednesday at 7:00pm, with a Group Conscious on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, some members will eat after the meeting.
- Attendance is 15 to 25 with 10 to 12 home-group members..
- Format is Step and Tradition. Members will give a mini-lead on the topic.
- Would like to fill a Bridging the Gap Representative.
- Participating in Alkathon from 12:00am to 2:00am.

**District 30, David F, Alternate DCM –**

- Bake-Off two weeks ago along with Safety in AA presentation.
- History of the Big Book by Gail. David is attempting to locate Gail to do a presentation.

David F, Nitty Gritty Group, GSR –

- 12&12 meeting held at Meadowpark Church of God on Bethel Road at 7:30pm

Liz L, Women’s Serenity Group, GSR –

- Meets Wednesday at 11:00am at Meadowpark Church of God
- Women’s closed meeting with a Holiday Party on Wednesday.

Don L, Simply Sober Group, GSR –

- Meets Friday at 10:00am at St. Lukes Church on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue – Open Discussion except last Friday of the month is a lead.
- Close proximity to the University, this attracts students. Mix of old-timers and newcomers.
- Group Conscious changed the introduction to the meeting to ask for volunteers who want to be sponsors or temporary sponsors.

### **District 33 –**

Nicholas B, Lincoln Literature Study Group, GSR –

- Meets Sunday at 7:00pm at the Lincoln Theater on Long Street.
- Meeting was formed in April. Format alternates between Big Book and 12&12.
- 7 home-group members.
- Group Conscious. Elected Officers, Secretary
- Big Books will be given to the newcomer
- Upcoming events include a party where other groups would participate and work toward relighting the District.

Steve D, Restoration Group, Acting GSR –

- Meets Friday at 6:00pm at 43 West 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Steve makes a comment that service is important as it gets you out of self.
- Grateful that there is no soapbox. Keep it simple.
- Advises that he will talk with the group to see if they are willing to participate in service.

### **District 34, Paul H, District Treasurer –**

- December 16 will be the District Elections at 2930 West Broad at 5:30pm.
- Positions sought include all service positions including DCM.

Paul H, Three Legacies Group, GSR –

- Meets on Sundays at 7:00pm at 2930 West Broad Street.
- Alternates between Steps, Traditions and Concepts on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday.
- Group Conscious was December 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - Elected new officers with all positions filled except for Treatment and Grapevine.
- November was the 31<sup>st</sup> Anniversary. Dinner, Cake and a lead.
- Contribute to all AA service entities based on their needs.

Mike M wraps up the reports by saying that the best meeting name he heard was, “Nothing Else Worked.”

### **Unfinished Business**

Note: 11 first timers at meeting.

### **Information / Sharing Session**

#### **(Panel - How Does My Service Contribute To My Spiritual Growth) – (Stephen S.)**

- Five individuals that are involved with service make five minute presentations on the subject.
- The individuals include, GSR (Don C), DCM (Kasie A), Standing Committee Chair (Dave C), Area Officer (Diann N) and an incoming Service Person (Nicholas B).

## **Guideline Change Proposal – Article VIII & Article IX (Ed A.)**

*“Young People in AA – Liaison Position”*

*Submitted to Area Chairperson By Ed A. March 8, 2018*

*Presented to Area Planning Committee By Ed A. March 8 2018*

*Presented to Area Assembly By Ed A. June 3, 2018*

*Brought back to the Assembly as an open topic By Ed A. December 9, 2018*

*SECRETARY'S NOTE: YPAA IS YOUNG PEOPLE IN ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS. OYPAA IS OHIO YOUNG PEOPLE IN ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS. COYPAA IS CENTRAL OHIO YOUNG PEOPLE IN ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS. THESE ACRONYMS ARE USED FREQUENTLY HERE.*

### *Questions / Comments*

Barbara B – What is a definition of a young person? Is that going to be a person in chronological age? What is going to be the age of the liaison?

Kalen C – As others here can attest, young people is for everyone – who wants to have a young at heart type of thing.

Kayla K – Young people is defines at Young to grow spiritually or young at heart. No age limit – ever in any of the YPAA Committees. It's about establishing and maintaining communication with Young People groups. The only requirement for the liaison itself is in seeking to keep Area members informed of all Young People activities. I am also on the OYPAA Committee, served on OYPAA Advisory for a couple of years and I believe that there is one other person on the committee that is here.

Frank G – I would like clarification. Is this liaison for communication with the OYPAA group? Can your Group send a GSR to the OYPAA Convention. Is this what the liaison is for – to know what is going on in your convention?

Ed A – The other Areas in the state of Ohio, Groups have seen an increase in participation by young people. When the proposal was first drafted, there was COYPAA, Central Ohio Young People in AA. OYPAA, Ohio Young People in AA was still forming. Insuring that your people felt a part of – and as elder statesmen of AA, it would be easier to give back and to steward them. What I have seen since this has been introduced, is a lot more participation at the Assembly. Whether it be their Group GSRs or just coming in as an interested AA.

Kalen C – Also, it's kind of a meeting of the young at heart with that experience. Those two things joining together. This is going to go on past the September event. There will still be Young People groups and meetings, after October – when they won't have the host committee. This is a special year for them, but at the same time this will be an ongoing type of function.

Matt W – When I was involved with young people many years ago, when we wanted people in the Area to be aware of what was going on, we would come come to the Area Assembly and there is a section called Upcoming Events. When I look at the standing committees would that then include young people, a voting voice for Area 53 as one of the Area Officers. The reason why that is a concern for me is that there are a lot of under-served folks in the AA community, that don't have standing committees.

Andrea J – Andrea requests a formal statement of what a young person is and how the liaison would be interacting with the Assembly. She requests to know if the liaison will be for the Young People conferences or if the liaison is for the Young People Groups? She said that this is isn't necessary because they are AA Members and as AA Groups they have GSRs. She goes on to say that if issue is age based and that there is a certain population of our Fellowship that is being under-served, it's great to have COYPAA and OYPAA. She said that we need to decide who we are targeting. Is it a conference or a certain demographic of our population. Andrea says that she got sober in YPAA and age isn't an issue. Some members may have long term sobriety and are in their 20s because they got sober as teens.

Ed A – Communication with YPAA members are done in ways that older AAs may done be familiar with like instant messaging and other apps. Using these tools will allow us to more efficiently communicate with them.

Greg G – Said that he shared the topic with his home group. The discussion centered around the definition and what their role would be. The Group advised that they wanted the person to be coming from OYPAA. The liaison should be from the YPAA, not someone from Area 53 going to them. The Group would like to add a line “C” defining who that person is.

Ty – Every group that is a group has the ability to send a GSR. My concern about having a Young Person’s liaison...what if there is the Old People’s Group or the White People Group, the Black People Group or the Straight People...where do we stop with this? If we start having liaisons for every special little group, where does this stop?

Donna K – Donna said that she is looking at it from the money aspect. If they become a committee do they get a line item? All our committees have line items. She doesn’t feel it needs to be a committee. She said that she got sober as a young person and didn’t need a liaison to tell her to come. She said that we need to let them know that they are part of Alcoholics Anonymous and Part of Area 53.

Bill Y – Bill reminds the Assembly that Young People in AA is part of the General Service Structure. It’s not in the Service Manual. They are Groups that serve a purpose for all young people in AA. There is an Ohio organization that has AA participation by groups of any kind that assist young people. Bill said that a big difference is that YPAA holds an annual conference. Bill goes on to say that the YPAA Conference is just as important to them as the mini-conference is to Area 53. Bill said that he has attended their organizational meetings. There is a diversity of age and experience. It is not all young people by some definition. Bill also mentions that the last panel made more progress with the Intergroup Liaison than a decade before that in regards to the inter-group office and the Area. Area identified the liaison to go out and have a relationship with the service structure. A successful liaison doesn’t depend on the definition of a young person, it may depend on if Area funds it and it may depend on if Area asks OYPAA to identify that person. We shouldn’t resist liaisoning with another part of the Service Structure. That is what this intended to do, not tell Groups to go get GSRs. Bill said that the Assembly doesn’t fundamentally understand OYPAA. They have planning meetings and events, to fund their annual work. They don’t have the financial support Area has. The organization looks to the Area as a learning opportunity for business meetings, having better Assemblies and event planning. The Assembly could learn from YPAA, they have a lot of fun at their events.

Joe S – At last year’s mini-conference there was a young person on the committee . She was the Secretary. It was good to see the Young People getting so involved. Joe goes on to talk about the organization having a table set up at the min-conference to answer questions. He also said that he is against having a liaison when they could have GSRs. Joe was going to ask what would be gained by having a liaison rather than a GSR, then acknowledged the answer given by Bill Y.

Diann N – Advised that she is back and forth on the issue. She defined the liaison as “to communicate between two disparate entities”. She clarifies “different entities.” She goes on to say that inter-group is a separate entity and is not AA. “Why do we need a liaison to liaise with our own?” She goes on to say, “we need to embrace our own. “

Sharon F – Why doesn’t the proposal just say OYPAA – It says Young Peoples Liaison Committee. That could be a lot of different groups. “communications among OYPAA and other “Young Peoples” groups operating in Area 53. I don’t know how many groups there are. I think it is just too vague.

Ed A – When I wrote this, I don’t know exactly what other groups. At the time we had COYPAA. In an effort to be inclusive.

Sharon F says that the wording continues to be very vague.

Matt W – I got sober when I was 18 through YPAA. That was my first service work. He goes on to say that they contacted the Area Delegate and other Area members to learn how to do service work. He said that was COYPAA – Columbus Young People in AA. There can be a lot of different PAAs. There are a lot of activities for young people. I was able to be effective with Young People by being active with the Area service level. Matt says that his service experience in YPAA directly contributed

to continued service in regular AA positions. He said that the position isn't necessary because there are other ways to carry the message to other young people.

Mike M – I don't see a lot of young people, I don't see several minority groups. "We say structure is here you need to come to us." When I look around, that is not working. When I see something like a liaison being proposed, I think that it isn't really that big of a deal. It's just one individual trying to communicate information. It's a communication process from one group of people to another group of people. If we alcoholics need to drive to another place to take our message, so be it. Our job is to try and be inclusive, embrace and find ways to get as many people interested in Alcoholics Anonymous and to recover from alcoholism as we can.

*James D calls the question.*

**Voting to Vote - 38 For, 8 Opposed. (Simple Majority)**

**Motion: Guideline Change of Article VIII changing line "g" to Inter-Group Liaison. Line "g" currently reads "Liaison Committee" Adding a line "k" which should read "Young People – Liaison Committee." Adding Article IX – Standing Committee Areas of Activity**

**11) Young People - Liaison Committee**

**a) Shall work to establish and maintain communications among OYPAA and other "Young People" groups operating in Area 53.**

**b) Shall seek to keep Area members informed of all "Young People" activity within the Area.**

**Results: In Favor 19, Against 31**

**Motion Failed.**

Minority Opinion

Dave M. - I took this question to my Group Conscious. There are young people there and they requested that I cast a yes vote. The Home Group was becoming complacent. We weren't hearing anything from the young people. They were going to other Districts and Meetings throughout the state and other states and bring some of the information back and give that information to us... Why couldn't we share that information with the rest of the District or Area? My Home Group asked me to vote yes, even against my own opinion.

Kahla K – The way I look at OYPAA is an AA Group of their own, just like a meeting. Various YPAA groups will hold events throughout the year, host a conference - etc. They will have meetings at those events. To me that is separate from my home group. I don't want to be here to represent OYPAA or whatever committee. I am here to represent my home group. So I think it would be helpful to have a separate person here. There should be a separate person to represent that group that hosts events, meetings and the conference and doesn't have a place anywhere else in the service structure. Kahla goes on to say there isn't as much structure in YPAA, however, they have a conference events wherever they can.

Kalen C – What is practical and what works. It's about communication and it's not just a one way street. It doesn't just help YPAA. It is also helping our existing groups here. We get to hear about different ways of looking at things. It doesn't matter whether your 17 or 82. You may not be getting everything you can out of the AA experience.

Erica – I was moved by different things and just took pause. In some of the dissenting comments, some things were addressed as "young people – lower cased". We are just looking at Young People as part of the AA Group. "Young People – with Capital Letters" Young People vs white guy which is lower case. Capital letter means it's a noun and it's part of the AA Structure. I think if there continues to be a disagreement. I think we should look at, why isn't the largest Area, 39 counties, why isn't OYPAA going to have a voice? And why they won't meet with Areas 54, 55 and 56. Our reach is far beyond our Area, even though that is what we need to decide on. Let's return to the AA Structure of OYPAA. God got me sober at 17 and I didn't come up through OYPAA.

Nita S – I Voted in favor of this amendment because I saw a parallel to the inter-group liaison. We have the AA General Service Structure. We have the meetings at the top, the GSRs, the DCMs, all the way down to New York, and sort of over here, we have the inter-group. For us it's mostly COGF and various inter-groups in Area 53. While we all have the same purpose, carrying the message, there are different activities going on in both of these structures. So without a liaison, so that they talk to each other, we don't always know what is going on. So the way I seen this, it's a question of communication. Does Area 53 Assembly want to know what's going on at OYPAA and do we want to make sure OYPAA knows what is going on with the Area 53 Assembly. That was the question for me – and the answer for me was Yes. So the most effective way in my mind to do that, is have a position of liaison who is essentially a communicator between two entities that are separate. They are all within the service structure but they are not the group to New York service structure. That's the way I saw it and that's the reason I voted Yes.

*Ed A invites anyone else to the microphone and then asks if anyone, after hearing the minority opinion, wish to change their vote?*

*An AA member indicates that he wishes to change his vote.*

### **Vote to Recall the Question**

**Results 25 For, 26 Against**

### **Motion Fails**

*SECRETARIES NOTE: BECAUSE OF THE CLOSENESS, I REQUESTED ASSISTANCE FROM BRANDY V WITH COUNTING TO CONFIRM THE RESULTS.*

Ed A thanks the Assembly for it's consideration of the proposal and the spirited discussion.

## **New Business**

### **2019 Budget (Donna K.)**

- There are three lines on the Budget.
  - The 2018 Budget is what was proposed for this year
  - The 2019 Budget is in the middle.
  - The 2018 Actual on the right is what has been done this year so far.
- Asterisks indicate line items are are proposed for change.
  - Line 2 - Group Contributions are over what was budgeted.
  - Line 6 – Delegate expenses were raised to \$3400 to cover expenses with the Forum.
  - Line 8, 9 – Chairperson raised to 1400, Alternate Chairperson to \$1000
  - Line 12 – Other Officers, Alternates to the Assembly was lowered
  - Line 15 – Rent to Archives Storage \$480, up from \$150 (COGF charges \$40/month)
  - Line 16 – Postage and Copies raised to \$1000
  - Line 17 – Post Office Box raised to \$60
  - Line 20 – Web Site raised to \$300
  - Line 21 – Certificate of Ohio Registration, non-profit \$25, Annually
  - Line 23 – DCM / Area Committee Meeting Lowered to \$300
  - Line 24 – Assemblies was raised to \$1800
  - Line 41 – Prudent Reserve changed to \$3500

### **Questions/Comments**

Dan S – On line 12, there is a qualification of other officers or their alternates to Assemblies. Is it possible to have item 11 to have that same qualification?

Donna K – To add alternates to line 11, to go to the mini-conference? We can do whatever the Assembly wants to do.

Bill Y – Would that double the budget?

Donna K – That would depend on what we decide to pay. Last year we decided to pay for our officer to be able to go to the Mini-Conference, State Convention and Forum. When an officer doesn't go, an Alternate can go and be paid to be there. If both go the alternates are on their own.

Chris J – Officer expenses to State Convention, applies to the officers and not the Standing Committee chairs. Is it in the Guidelines that only officers may be reimbursed? Donna K – It is.

Chris J – Then it is the responsibility of the Standing Committee to fund the chairperson to attend the event. Donna K – yes.

Dan S – Looking at Line 37, this is a provision for the Committee Chair.

Donna – For line 37, there is enough there to pay for registration for all of the Committee Chairs for the Mini-Conference and probably the State Convention.

Diann N- As far as lines 11 and 12. Part of the reason for specifying officers. According to the Guidelines, Officers are strongly encouraged to attend these events, there is no guideline for Committee Chairs to attend the event.

Sharon S – That's true but Donna just asked the Standing Committee Chairs to set up at the Mini-Conference. It's kind of a long distance to set up and leave. I have never heard of the Assembly turning down a request in the future for money.

Frank G – Line 12 was high especially when gas was outrageous.

Diann N – Is concerned about a motion on the floor. Dan S made a suggestion but no motion.

**Diann N makes a motion to add alternates for line item 11. Where we say "Other Officers" we say "Other Officers and their Alternates". – add Alternates to Line Item 11.**

**Stephen S seconds the Motion.**

**There was a request for clarification. Donna K say - "The motion is that on Line 11, Other Officers to Area 53 Mini-Conference, Convention and Forum would add other officers and alternates. To Area 53 Mini-Conference, State Convention and Forum."**

**Open for Discussion:**

Stephen S – Gives a history. He said that we didn't have any of these line items. It used to be the Chairperson, Delegate and Alternate Delegate. Later the Assembly wanted to get Past Delegates to the Mini-Conference. Adding Alternates would recognize them as Officers in our Guidelines and I am supportive of that. The way this would work is we would place the money we could afford into the line item and then the Treasurer would use their Right of Decision to advise on what is available. This would give some support, but not total support.

Paul H – If you look in the Budget Column under Total Officer Expenses, that \$9350 is not a real number. All the lines with asterisks are not in that number. Just looking at the totals, they are wrong.

Donna K – You're right. Paul H – That cuts the projected balance to the bank to about \$2000.

Chris J – With regard to budget and Paul's helpful point. We are making a very conservative estimate of Group contribution projections. An estimate that is far less, by about \$1500 than this years experience to date. What I have always believed about AA Service, if I am about my makers business he is going to provide the resources I need. If the groups see us doing good work, groups will support us with their contributions. Part of the solution of what Paul pointed out, is that we are being conservative with the projection on group contributions. I would suggest that \$1500 be added to Group Contributions to be added to what we have this year.

Donna K – I am so sorry. I didn't realize that the asterisks move things over, and this is completely wrong.

**Chris J – Makes a Motion to Table**

**Paul F – Seconds the Motion.**

**Vote to Table: 39 For, 1 Opposed**

**Stephen S – Point of Order. We can't table this to March because we have to start spending money in January. My proposal is that we accept this budget provisionally with the changes that have been discussed and give the authority to the Area Committee that meets in one month to finalize it and**

***bring it back to the March Assembly. We know the numbers are wrong. If it turns out that the numbers are wrong enough that it doesn't work then the Area Committee can make some changes.***

***Diann N withdraws her earlier motion***

Bill Y advises that the Assembly is back to the discussion of approving the budget. He indicates that Stephen's condition should be attached to the Assemblies voting to approve the budget and trust that the Area Committee will be a good servant in January to correct the data errors and maybe make the proposal regarding adding the Alternates on Line 11. The revised budget is going to come up at the March Assembly.

Ed A indicates that there is further information on the pre-printed budget.

Donna K – Says she remembers what happened when she created the budget. Bottom numbers are correct because she had already completed the budget, then added asterisks to different items. The computer then changed the numbers in the columns. The bottom number, line 40, \$7,700 is correct. **So the numbers would really be, Total Funds Available \$32,000. Total Expenses to Officers, \$15,400, Total Operating Expenses, \$2,025, Meeting and Convention Expenses, \$2,300, the balance is really \$7,775.**

Dave M – Makes a point of order. We have already had a motion, a second and a vote. I ask to rescind my vote (There is a question on Minority Opinion but this seems out of order)

Bill Y – Technically speaking the vote tables Diann's Motion to make an editorial change to the budget. That is what was open at the time of the motion. Wanting to possibly tabling the whole budget. The point of order, Robert's Rules wise was to keep things in order so we don't do something we regret later. That vote may have not been a proper vote so it may not have occurred.

Dan S – I just wanted to confirm that my calculations confirm what Donna just said.

Chris J – This has gotten to be a difficult discussion, it is still appropriate that we discuss the various line items and whether the numbers represented there are what this body believes should be our choice regarding our financial priorities. I believe that a motion to approve the budget is premature until there is adequate time for motion of amendment. Such as what Diann made earlier and I have one also.

***Stephen S – The motion is that the Assembly provisionally approves this budget and let the Area Committee, finalize it.***

***Donna K – Motion on the floor is a provisional approval until next month at the Area Planning Committee Meeting.***

***Results: 33 Approve, 1 Opposed.***

Minority Opinion

Chris J – We should understand that this panel end our term of service as of December 31<sup>st</sup>. Many of us will not be voting members of the Assembly and won't be members of the Area Committee, so if there are places where we believe that this budget ought be edited this is our opportunity to make the suggestions to the Area Committee to the people that will be there at the discussion in January. If we vote for provisional approval without the opportunity to make those amendments, then it is very possible that those things will be overlooked. As I said in my prior comment, I do have one suggestion for an amendment.

***Donna K asks if anyone's vote changed due to the minority opinion?***

***One person changes their vote.***

***Vote to Revote***

***Results: 4 To Revote, 30 Against Revoting***

***Donna K – We will not vote and will bring it up again in March and at the Area Planning Committee. Donna also apologizes for not having the information correct.***

**Guideline Change – Assembly Meeting Calendar Update (Stephen S.)**

*Submitted to Area Chairperson By Donna K. October 14, 2018*

*Presented to Area Planning Committee By Donna K. October 14, 2018*

*Submitted to Area Chairperson By Stephen S. October 13, 2018*

*Presented to Area Planning Committee By Stephen S. October 14, 2018*

Stephen S – This motion today would be to consider it for a vote in March, we don't have to decide this until next December at the latest. I move that we table this until March.

Ed A – Says that no vote is needed since the proposal was initiated by Stephen S.

**Any Other New Business?**

**Conflict for July 2019 Area Planning Meeting (Regional Forum)**

*Will be addressed at Area Planning Committee in January*

**Ask-It-Basket**

Withdrawn

**Close Meeting – Responsibility Statement**

***Stephen S makes motion to Adorn, Diann N Seconds.***

***Unanimous Approval***