



Area 53 Assembly of  
the General Service  
Conference of  
Alcoholics Anonymous

**VOLUME 1  
ISSUE 1**

**Area 53 News**

The Area 53 newsletter is published quarterly by Area 53. It is for AA members only. Any opinions expressed are those of the contributors and not necessarily that of Area 53 or Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole.

**Distribution**

A PDF copy of the newsletter is available at [www.area53aa.org](http://www.area53aa.org). It can also be sent digitally to members by subscribing to the newsletter on the website: [area53aa.org](http://area53aa.org).

Submit Area news to [contact@area53aa.org](mailto:contact@area53aa.org).

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# Area 53 News

## From the Delegate

**Stephen S. | Area 53 Delegate, Panel 69**

Welcome to Panel 69 of the General Service Conference. And welcome to the first issue of the new “Area 53 News.” My name is Stephen S., and I will be serving as Area 53’s Delegate to the Conference for the next two years. I look forward to providing you with news from the General Service Conference in each of the quarterly issues.

The term “General Service Conference Structure” refers to a framework that allows A.A.’s collective group conscience to “speak forcefully and put its desires for Conference-wide services into effect.” (The A.A. Service Manual, p. S15) These are the services needed to carry the message that individuals, groups, or even Areas cannot effectively provide. The most obvious of these is the publication of uniform literature. Can you imagine where we would be today if every group of A.A.s published its own books and pamphlets? My guess is that I would be drunk! You don’t really have to imagine because we have the experience of the 1940s, when groups all over the United States and Canada were creating their own literature and understanding of the program. The resulting confusion led Bill W. to propose the Twelve Traditions, which were adopted in 1950. In 1951, the Conference began approving our literature. This history is beautifully described by Bill W. in his essay, “A.A.’s Legacy of Service,” published as an introduction to The A.A. Service Manual. Even better, read A.A. Comes of Age to appreciate our pre-Tradition years.

Other “general services” include collecting and sharing the experiences of A.A.s worldwide who carry the message into new areas, into institutions, to the many professionals who we come in contact with, and to the general public. The “Big Book” has been professionally translated into seventy-one languages during its eighty- year history. Our archives are full of stories about our message being weakened by translations made by well- meaning individuals desperate to carry our message beyond the English-speaking world. Again, imagine the difficulty of translating the “Big Book” into a language that does not share the theistic vocabulary of English, without losing the spiritual message. But this is what the general service translation process has successfully done, over and over.

Concluding that these services were needed was the easy part for our founders. Devising a way to assure that that “final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship” (Concept One) was not as obvious. The General Service Conference Structure and the “Twelve Concepts for World Service” were the solution.

Chapter One of The A.A. Service Manual describes this structure as an “upside down organization.” It starts with your A.A. group electing a General Service Representative (G.S.R.) to actively participate in the District and Area group consciences. The Area

*continued on page 2*

**Ask the Delegate by email, voice mail, or text:**

[delegate@area53aa.org](mailto:delegate@area53aa.org)

(614) 323-1150

# Area 53 Mini-Conference

## Delegate News

*continued from page 1*

Assembly elects a Delegate to represent the Area for two years at the General Service Conference Meeting held each spring in New York. The key to the full voice of A.A. being heard is your group participating through your G.S.R. No G.S.R., no voice!

This brings us back to how I started: this May, I will be representing Area 53 at the 69th Meeting of the General Service Conference. Seventy-two items make up this year's Agenda. In the next few days, I will post the list on the Area's website so you can see what we will be deliberating. We'll be looking at items like whether we change the language of some of our literature to be "more modern and inclusive," if and/or how we participate in social media such as YouTube and LinkedIn, and whether to suggest that non-alcoholics be limited to observing, but not participating, at "open" meetings.

You, too, can have a say. How? By attending the Area 53 Mini-Conference on March 8-10 at Deer Creek State Park. The Mini-Conference will consider twenty-five of the Agenda Items – including those that I referred to above. Come on out and help shape the Area's group conscience. Please help me become fully informed of the views of Area 53 A.A.s. You can register by going to the Mini-Conference link on our website, "area53aa.org."

I hope to see you at the Mini-Conference. I look forward to helping Area 53 have informed group consciences by communicating events and actions happening through the big inclusive world of Alcoholics Anonymous.

## MINI-CONFERENCE FAQs

The 2019 Area 53 Mini-Conference will be held March 8-10, 2019 at Deer Creek State Park. The Mini-Conference serves as Area 53's group conscience on some of the agenda items that will be considered by the General Service Conference, to be held in New York on May 18-25. Following are some of the more frequently asked questions about the Mini-Conference.

### What is the General Service Conference Meeting?

Each spring, Delegates selected by the A.A. groups in each of ninety-three Areas convene for one week in New York to consider and act on a range of issues facing the General Service Board, the General Service Office, and the A.A. Grapevine. The Conference uses a committee system to handle the workload. This spring, seventy-two Agenda Items are being considered. The list of these items is posted on the Area website, "area53aa.org." Throughout the year, the Board, the Office, the Grapevine, and the Areas carry out their functions, accumulating possible agenda items for the next year's meeting.

### What is the Mini-Conference?

The Mini-Conference considers a subset of the Conference Agenda Items, serving as a group conscience of Area 53 to help our Delegate become better informed on the issues. The Mini-Conference also uses the committee system to organize the Agenda Items. This year, the Mini-Conference will consider twenty-five of the Agenda Items. This year's Mini-Conference Committees and Agenda Items are listed in bold italic font on the full Conference list that is posted on the Area website.

### What else happens at the Mini-Conference?

A staff member of the General Service Office and a member of the Board of Trustees bring life to the activities of their respective entities with reports at the evening sessions. Fellowshiping with them adds a human dimension to what we read in The A.A. Service Manual.

"Early bird" A.A. meetings on Saturday and Sunday morning keep us grounded. Open speaker meetings on Friday and Saturday night remind us that we are part of something greater than ourselves.

Lunch buffets and evening meals, available for purchase, create the opportunity to share our experiences with one another. The Hospitality room offers coffee, snacks, and meals on a donation basis. Here, we get to carry on our A.A. custom of sharing experience over coffee.

There will be a G.S.R. School on Friday afternoon. An "open mike" session concludes the Mini-Conference on Sunday morning where A.A. members ask questions or express opinions directly to the Trustees, staff member, or delegates.

## What is the Mini-Conference schedule?

The G.S.R. School kicks things off at 4 PM Friday afternoon. We formally open the Mini-Conference at 7 PM on Friday night, with introductions, Trustee and staff reports, and an open A.A. meeting.

Saturday starts with an “early bird” meeting at 7 AM. The Committees meet before lunch on Saturday morning, and the full Mini-Conference meets after lunch. A Saturday night banquet precedes an OYPAA- led sobriety count down. We end the night with an open speaker meeting.

Another “early bird” meeting kicks off Sunday morning. We will share our experiences at the Mini- Conference on Sunday morning, and close the Mini-Conference with the “open mike” session.

The Area 53 General Assembly meets on Sunday afternoon. A lunch buffet can be purchased between the two events.

## Who are the speakers this year?

Normally, Mark E., the East Central Regional Trustee attends to report on the General Service Board activities and his story of recovery. This year, Mark has a conflict. Peter Luongo, a Class A (non-alcoholic) Trustee - hence the full name - is filling in.

Diana L. will represent the General Service Office. Cooperation with the Professionals and Treatment are her current assignments. Her report Friday night will update us on the activities of the Office. She will share her story of recovery on Saturday night.

Brandi V., the Panel 69 Chair of the Area 53 Correctional Facility Committee, will tell her story at the Friday night open meeting.

## Where can I learn more?

The primary source of information is The A.A. Service Manual.

- See Chapters Seven for a full description of the General Service Conference Meeting
- See Chapter Eight to learn more about the Trustee Committees. (Also, see the “Area 53 Guidelines,” posted on our website, to learn more about Area 53’s Standing Committees)
- See Chapter Nine to learn more about The Board of Trustees and the difference between Class A and Class B Trustees.
- See Chapter Eleven to learn more about the General Service Office and the staff assignments. .

The Area 53 website is another good source of information. This year’s program and schedule is posted there, and you can also register online - or print off a registration form and mail it in. Personal contact is often the best way to get questions resolved.

- Go to the “Contacts” link at “area53aa.org” to find emails and phone numbers for the Area Officers, Standing Committee Chairs, and District Committee Members (DCMs)
- Email the Mini-Conference Committee Chair, Donna K., at [altdelegate@area53aa.org](mailto:altdelegate@area53aa.org) with questions about the Mini-Conference.
- Email the Area 53 Delegate, Stephen S., at [delegate@area53aa.org](mailto:delegate@area53aa.org) with questions about the General Service Conference or the Agenda items.

## Special Conference Terms

These terms are used in agenda topics for conference committees. It is useful to understand what is implied when you see them.

### Consider and Reconsider

Where these words appear, a recommendation requiring a vote is probably indicated. When possible, a recommendation from the Committee as to whether they voted to approve or disapprove the action being considered should be forwarded to the full assembly as a motion, along with the actual vote count, both “for” and “against”

**Discuss** Where this word is used a recommendation requiring a vote is probably not indicated, although exceptions may occur. Use common sense. If a vote is not indicated, then a brief overview of the Committee discussion should be given when reporting out.

**Review** The Committee can decide whether this item requires a vote. If no vote is required, a brief overview of the Committee discussion may be given when reporting out.

**SCAN THE QR CODE FOR THE MINI-CONFERENCE PROGRAM**



# Area 53 Assembly

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Area 56 Mini-Conference

March 16-18

Marriott at the University of Dayton  
1414 Patterson Blvd.  
Dayton, OH 45409  
Phone: (937) 223-1000

### Area 54 Mini-Conference

March 23-25

Holiday Inn Strongsville  
15471 Royalton Road  
Strongsville, OH 44136  
Phone: (440) 238-8800

### District 7 Unity, Recovery & Service Workshop

March 30 - 8:00 am - 1:00 pm  
Putnam Presbyterian Church  
467 Woodlawn Avenue  
Zanesville, OH 43701

### General Service Conference

April 22-28  
New York, New York

### Area 53 Corrections Workshop

April 27 - 9:00 am-2:00 pm  
Maple Grove UMC  
7 West Henderson Rd.  
Columbus, OH 43214

### District 16 "Stinkin Thinkin" Funshop

March 30 - 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
First United Methodist Church,  
2 South College Street  
Athens, OH 45701

## AREA 53 ASSEMBLY AGENDA: March 10, 2019

12:30 pm - Registration Open

### Opening of Meeting – 1:00 pm - (Ed A.)

- Call to Order and (We Version) Serenity Prayer
- Twelve Concepts (Short Form)
- Roll Call (GSR, DCM, Interested AA, Committee Chairs, Area Officers, Past Del, Other Areas)
- Agenda - Review & Approval (Motion, 2ND, Vote)
- ‡ December Assembly Minutes (Martha C.) - Review & Approval (Motion, 2ND, Vote)

### Officers Reports

- Delegate (Stephen S.)
- Chairperson (Ed A.)
- Registrar (James C.)
- ‡ Treasurer (Diann N.) REPORT - (Motion, 2ND, Vote)
- Web Administrator (Ann B.)

### Standing Committee Reports

- Archives (Tom Van K., Archivist)
- CPC/PI (Matt W.)
- Correctional Facilities (Brandi V.)
- Grapevine (Erin K.)
- Group Services (Dan H.)
- Intergroup Liaison (Barbra M.)
- Mini Conference (Donna K.)
- Special Needs Committee (OPEN)
- Treatment Facilities (Erica C.)

### District & Group Reports (Marcia H., DCMC)

### Unfinished Business

- State Convention Committee (Stephen S.)
- ‡ Report Final 2019 Budget (Diann N.)

### New Business

- Any Other New Business?

### Ask-It-Basket

### Close Meeting – Responsibility Statement

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‡ Handouts (3 Total)

Revised: February 17, 2019

## STANDING COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

### ARCHIVES

The Archives Committee collects, organizes, preserves, stores, and displays records of A.A. History.

If you wish to donate some of your old AA materials, or you would like to be a member of the Archives Committee, Contact the Area Archivist, Tom V.: [archives@area53aa.org](mailto:archives@area53aa.org)

### CPC/PI

We are too few, at present to handle the overwhelming number of opportunities to carry the A.A. message of 12-step recovery to professionals within the community. We encourage all AA's, and member groups within Area 53 to elect a CPC-PI representative to attend the next monthly meeting, or CPC-PI school to learn more about the Committee and get involved in this valuable service work.

#### **CPC-PI Committee Meetings:**

1st Sunday of every month, 2:00pm - 3:30pm

Maple Grove United Methodist Church  
7 W. Henderson Road  
Columbus, OH 43214

#### **CPC-PI School:**

Feb & Oct; same time and location as monthly Committee meetings.

Chairperson: Matt W.:

[cpcpichair@area53aa.org](mailto:cpcpichair@area53aa.org)

### MINI-CONFERENCE

The Mini-Conference Committee provides oversight for the activities of the Area 53 annual Mini-Conference held in March; conducts the site selection and plans the smooth running of the conference. The **Committee Meetings** are held the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday each month from 6:30-7:30pm. Contact Donns K.: [miniconference@area53aa.org](mailto:miniconference@area53aa.org)

### GRAPEVINE

The Grapevine Committee assists groups in Area 53 with the distribution and introduction of the AA Grapevine magazine. All Grapevine Reps are encouraged to attend the monthly committee meeting.

#### **Grapevine Committee Meetings:**

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month from 12:00-1:00pm at COGF, 651 West Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43215. If you are interested in finding out more about the committee, contact the Committee Chairperson, Erin K.:

[grapevinechair@area53aa.org](mailto:grapevinechair@area53aa.org)

### GROUP SERVICES

Group Services assists new and existing groups and districts to become actively involved with, properly registered in, and effectively aware of the General Service structure of Alcoholics Anonymous and all the resources available therein. Part of those resources is the **GSR school**. For more information, contact:

Dan H.: [groupservices@area53aa.org](mailto:groupservices@area53aa.org)

### SPECIAL NEEDS

The Special Needs Committee explores, develops and offers resources to make the AA message and participation in our program available to alcoholics with special needs that limit their access to the full AA experience. The committee strives to establish and implement service priorities for AAs with special needs at the individual, group, district, and area level. The committee does not currently have a chairperson. If you are interested in serving this committee, contact Ed A.: [chair@area53aa.org](mailto:chair@area53aa.org)

### CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

The Correctional Facility Committee assists individuals, groups and districts in carrying the AA message to the alcoholics who are confined in, or recently released from jails, prisons, and other correctional facilities.

#### **CFC Committee Meetings:**

Quarterly in March, June, September and December at 10:00 AM. COGF Meeting Room, 645 West Broad St., Columbus, OH 43215.

Contact: Brandi V.:

[corrections@area53aa.org](mailto:corrections@area53aa.org)

### LIAISON

The Liaison Committee is responsible for communication and cooperation between Area 53 and active Intergroups in Central and Southeast Ohio. They establish and maintain communication to prevent unnecessary duplication of efforts and conflicts that could arise as a result, and seek to keep Area members informed of all Central Office and Intergroup Office activity within the Area. Contact: Barbara M.: [laison@area53aa.org](mailto:laison@area53aa.org)

### TREATMENT FACILITIES

The Area 53 Treatment Facilities Committee cooperates with and presents Alcoholics Anonymous to the clients, staff, and volunteers of treatment centers within Area 53. The next **Committee Meeting** is Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. To attend remotely dial 415-200-1362 then enter Attendee Code 489 1332# when prompted. See the Area Calendar online for more details.

Contact: Erica C.:

[treatment@area53aa.org](mailto:treatment@area53aa.org)



# Districts

## DISTRICT NEWS

From Marcia H. | Area 53 DCMC, Panel 69

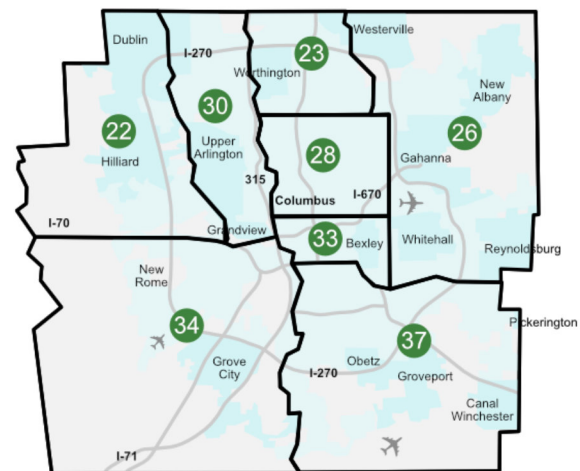
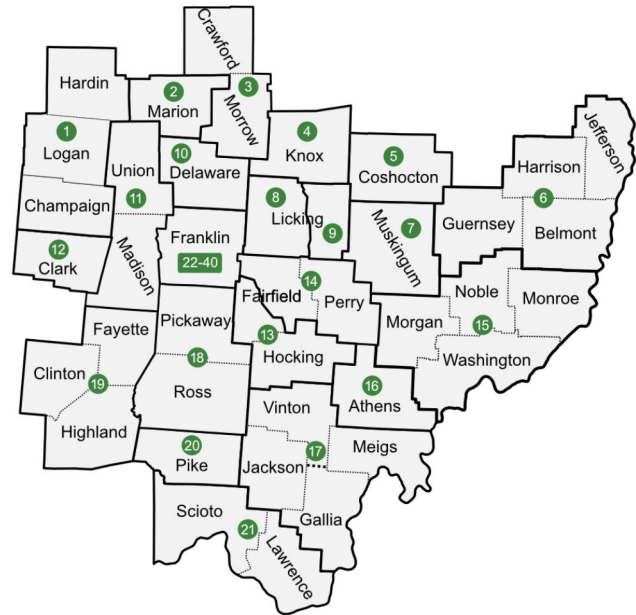
At the January 13th DCM Planning Committee Meeting, the DCM's discussed ideas & plans for the next two years, basically, "What Would We Like To Accomplish" while we are a part of Panel 69. We came away with several awesome ideas, visions and goals to be further discussed in April to determine merit and plans.

- Read the "Your D.C.M." pamphlet and be prepared to discuss uses and improvements.
- Assign a mentor/buddy/service sponsor for new Area 53 DCM's.
- DCM Kit for Area 53 new DCM's; include handy notes on procedures and making motions (Robert's Rules).
- Outreach to under-represented Districts and communities.
- Increase collaboration between Districts to host workshops and events.

In our "meeting after the meeting" the general conversation was on how to light up "dark districts" and the desire to assist in any way possible. This included identifying an A.A. member who would be willing to represent the District until such a time that it can organize itself and move forward, brainstorm and encourage that A.A. member and help to facilitate and participate in their events. Currently, District 7, District 10 and District 33 are working on efforts to become active.

In the spirit of "We Rise By Lifting Others", our overall goal as DCM's is to selflessly work to support the goals of our Districts and Area 53. By doing so, we manifest qualities such as encouragement, humility, and understanding. It is now time for us, as a DCM team, to step up equally, hold each other accountable and care relentlessly. We will take our ideas, visions and goals, build on them and implement results to make great things happen for Area 53 and the A.A.'s we serve!

## AREA 53 DISTRICTS



Franklin County

More detailed information about  
Area 53 Districts is available at:  
[area53aa.org](http://area53aa.org)

# Website Updates

## CHANGES TO THE AREA WEBSITE

**From Ann B. | Area 53 Website Administrator, Panel 69**

If you've been to the Area website recently, you may have noticed some changes. The site is divided into two sections: one for the Professional Community (still in the works) and the other for A.A. Members. When you enter the Members section you are able to access information about Standing Committees, Districts, Groups, and Resources. The District section contains district pages with maps, meeting information, news, DCM contacts, etc. If you have news about what's happening in your district, please submit it! The Committee pages have similar information. We've also included a Resources page with helpful and interesting links.

## FUTURE PLANS

We have talked about adding some digital archive material, committee presentations, the GSR school and DCM school. If you have any ideas about what you would like included in the Area 53 website, share them with us at: [contact@area53aa.org](mailto:contact@area53aa.org).

## THE WEBSITE ADVISORY TEAM

At the start of the new year, Dan S. (Alternate Web Admin) and I spent a lot of time reviewing websites from other areas in the US and Canada. We also reviewed the information sheets *A.A. Guidelines: Internet* and *Frequently Asked Questions About A.A. Websites* from the General Service Office. Based on the suggested guidelines and shared experience from other Areas, we put together an Advisory Team and a wish list for the Area Website and Newsletter. We felt it was important to have the shared experience of a team to review and guide the content of our website. The team consists of the Website Administrator, the Alternate Website Administrator, a past Delegate, the Cooperation with the Professional Community/Public Information Committee Chair, a past District Committee Member Chair, a current General Service Representative and an A.A. member. Care was taken in the selection of the advisory team to include a broad range of A.A. experience.

## SUBMITTING CONTENT FOR THE WEBSITE & THE REVIEW PROCESS

If you are submitting something for the website, be sure to allow up to three weeks for your content to be reviewed and posted. In most cases it won't take that long. All files submitted should be a pdf file. If you're having trouble with that, let us know and we can walk you through converting your file to pdf. Email submissions to [contact@area53aa.org](mailto:contact@area53aa.org).

## ABOUT TRADEMARKS & COPYRIGHTS

Planning an event and need to make a Flyer? Here are some examples of ok and not ok images to use.

### Pamphlet cover graphics

A.A. entities have permission to reprint thumbnail or larger-sized graphics of A.A. pamphlet covers for A.A. purposes only. Place the copyright symbol © next to the graphic and include the following credit line: The above graphic is (or graphics are) used with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

### AA Grapevine

Grapevine Cartoons may never be reproduced, as the Grapevine does not retain the copyright to cartoons.

### The "blue people" graphic from the homepage of [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)

The Blue People graphic is a copyrighted design and registered trademark of A.A.W.S., Inc., with all rights reserved for use exclusively by the A.A.W.S. Board, AA Grapevine Board, the General Service Board of U.S./Canada, and General Service Office of U.S./Canada. Therefore, A.A.W.S., Inc. does not grant permission to use the Blue People to any other A.A. entity and/or to create a derivative of The Blue People for any use.

### Any artwork displayed on any website

This includes any images or graphics from [aa.org](http://aa.org), [aagrapevine.org](http://aagrapevine.org) and even just google. Assume that all images are copyright protected unless it is specifically labeled for reuse.

See the Area Website for more tips for flyers and submissions.

# Area 53 Contacts

## AREA OFFICERS PANEL 69

Chairperson: Ed A. | 740-602-6800  
Delegate: Stephen S. | 614-323-1150  
Recording Secretary: Martha C. | 614-581-8381  
Registrar: James C. | 614-419-2219  
Treasurer: Diann N. | 614-595-3546  
Web Administrator: Ann B. | 614-589-7625  
Alternate Chairperson: Nita S. | 614-395-8703  
Alternate Delegate: Donna K. | 614-446-4433  
Alternate Recording Secretary: Bruce W. | 614-301-8025  
Alternate Registrar: Joe M. | 614-680-1153  
Alternate Treasurer: Tom D. | 937-244-1761  
Alternate Web Administrator: Dan S. | 614-370-1653

## STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Archives Committee Archivist: Tom V. | 614-855-2305  
Cooperation with the Professional Community/Public Information: Matt W. | 614-579-6584  
Correctional Facilities: Brandi V. | 614-632-8773  
Grapevine: Erin K. | 740-466-5300  
Group Services: Dan H. | 614-301-0424  
Liaison: Barbara M. | 740-370-2525  
Mini-Conference: Donna K. | 614-446-4433  
Special Needs: *OPEN*  
Treatment Facilities: Erica C. | 614-537-6620

## DISTRICT COMMITTEE

DCM Chairperson (DCMC): Marcia H. | 614-589-1788  
Alternate DCMC: Don C. | 740-464-7793

## DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBERS (DCMs)

District 1: Garwood F. | 937-216-9442  
District 2: Contact Marcia H. | 614-589-1788  
District 3: Dan C. | 419-985-3112  
District 4: Kasie A. | 614-832-2088  
District 5: Contact Marcia H. | 614-589-1788  
District 6: Jeff N. | 740-632-4832  
District 7: Ray C. | 614-373-8195  
Districts 8/9: Greg M. | 614-406-8619  
District 10: Bill Y. | 614-270-0593  
District 11: Brenda B. | 614-795-2108  
District 12: Tom D. | 937-244-1761  
Districts 13/14: Cheryl A. | 740-215-9691  
District 15: Ty D. | 740-995-0120  
District 16: Tom C. | 740-742-2017  
District 17: Shirley K. | 304-593-3581  
District 18: Barbara M. | 740-370-2525  
District 19: Terry U. | 937-382-6180  
District 21: Mellisa B. | 740-876-3659  
District 21 (Alternate): Don C. | 740-464-7793  
District 22: Jillena R. | 614-678-4765  
District 26: Steve B. | 614-584-4029  
District 28: Taffy J. | 614-505-6229  
District 30: David F. | 614-867-1587  
District 33: Nicholas B. | 614-843-0517  
District 34: Kevin D. | 614-206-3368  
District 37: Ossian McC. | 614-900-6906