

Minutes

Area 53 Assembly

June 2, 2019

Location: Holiday Inn - Hilliard

5495 Maxwell Place Hilliard, OH 43228

Opening

- Nita S., Alternate Area Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:20 AM and led us in the We Version of the Serenity Prayer
- Jean S. read the Twelve Concepts (Short Form)
- Martha C Area Secretary, took the Roll Call:

GSR: 28 DCM: 14 Interested AA: 6 Committee Chairs: 6

Area Officers: 10 Past Del: 6 Other Areas: 0

- Review & Approve Agenda - Review & Approval (Motion, 2ND , Vote)
 - **Kacie moved to accept, Chris seconded, unanimous vote**
- March Assembly Minutes (Martha C., Area Secretary) - Review & Approval (Motion, 2ND , Vote)
 - Correction: Location was Deer Creek State Park, not Salt Fork
 - **Ted moved to accept as revised; Paul seconded; unanimous vote**

1. Officers' Reports

- a. Delegate (Stephen S.)
 - Stephen gave a PowerPoint presentation of takeaways from the General Service Conference
 - Theme: Our Big Book 81 Years 71 Languages
 - He discussed the following: the purpose of the General Service Conference, the “upside down triangle” structure of the conference
 - This year’s conference had 135 members (93 delegates, members of GS Board, staff members of General Service Office; directors of the AAWS and Grapevine Boards). 68.8% of members of conference are delegates, and this number will never drop below 67% (2/3 of membership of Conference)
 - He discussed the conference schedule, including meetings of committees, meetings of the entire conference (9 AM to 8:30 PM most days!). “Full, but not exhausting, except Thursday afternoon”.
 - He presented the “Evolution of Conference Advisory Action” Bulk of work goes through the committee system. Original 75 items to consider were increased to 103! Some actions are to make suggestions to the Trustees. Some are

recommended to full Conference. There were 36 items that were recommended to Conference. 32 were Advisory Actions to the Board (meaning that they passed the conference). The board accepted these

- He presented all the advisory actions taken, by committee. It was an excellent presentation which gave all present a very good summary of the actions at the General Service Conference. He provided us with a detailed written report of all these actions.
- Some highlights:
 - Consideration of beginning process of Fifth edition of the Big Book ***did not achieve Conference substantial unanimity***
 - Conference approved changes in process for polling delegates to conference between annual meetings. This is for urgent items with short time frame for Conference to consider. The process allows more time for discussion only before the polling starts.
 - Most controversial issues were those from the Public Information Committee regarding social media. One particular controversy was whether and how to optimize AA's presence in Google searches.
 - The Conference approved adding "Ashley's Story" about an AA member deaf from birth to the pamphlet "Access to AA: Members Share on Overcoming Barriers".
 - There is a consideration that "will be back" regarding procedures for a partial or complete reorganization of the AA Boards, including the General Service Board.
- Questions for Stephen:
 - Frank: Q: needs clarification about the items for 5th Edition of Big Book. **A: Reason this failed on conference floor is pragmatic: Trustees and Conference has a LOT of other time-consuming projects. Timing is not right, it probably will be considered for 2020 Conference.**
 - Chris J: Two questions: Q1. Large workloads for Public Info and Literature committees...has it been considered to split these committees? **A: Yes. The conference is considering changing the committee system to make workload more equivalent.** Q2: "God Word Pamphlet" in corrections settings: what is cost differential between stapled and non-stapled pamphlets? **A: I don't know, good question. The suggestion from Corrections committee was to give priority to those pamphlets that are already in the Corrections packet.**
 - Sharon: Q: when you come and present at district or groups, can you talk about what you "saw, heard, and felt" as listed in service manual? **A: Yes! Stephen shared several stories with us about having a spiritual experience of being changed by what he heard at Conference, and especially interactions with other members.**

- b. Chairperson (Ed A.) 1:36
 - New GSRs introduced themselves; this will be a part of assemblies from now on per a suggestion from the DCM Committee.
 - Since the last assembly, Ed has attended several Area groups' group consciences, and the Corrections Committee Workshop,
 - Ed was made aware of a concern that Area 53 was not representing all intergroups, and only represented COGF. Will be working more with Intergroup Liaison and website team to be more inclusive of other Intergroups.
 - We will take a break after officer reports....hang in there!
- c. Treasurer (Diann N.)
 - Diann presented the June 2019 Budget Report
 - Thank you for sending group contributions by mail or PayPal; shout-out to Ironton Group who sends payment with Self Addressed Stamped Envelope for receipt
 - If you put email address on check you can get email receipt which saves even more \$
 - Please note budget shows running totals of expenses and income, instead of quarterly only.
 - Receipts can be submitted by an email scan or email picture of the expense.
 - Diann is getting returned mail from receipts.
 - Question: (Ted) What is the address of Area's PayPal account?
paypal@area53aa.org
 - Question: (Donna)
 - Numbers don't add up because line #2b is not added into Line 3
 - Need to change Line 2B (\$1206) gets added to Line 3 (to make \$20,112).
 - Change Line 40 (\$6,237).
 - Diann will revise the report and upload to website
 - **Paul F moved to approve Budget Report as amended; Don C seconded; vote was unanimous**
- d. Web Administrator (Ann B.)
 - Thanked Web Advisory Team, which meets monthly
 - Purchased security certificate for website, now HTTPS so website is now secure
 - Updated all district URLs: area53aa.org/districtnumber. Example: area53aa.org/district08
 - Updated email addresses so all are consistent format for DCMs and area officers. Old email addresses will still continue to work
 - Working on June edition of Area 53 newsletter. This edition will focus on supporting groups.
 - Especially interested in written group histories to put on website

- Questions: (Joe) Can names be used on website? **A: First names only.** Q: Can names of current Area Officers and DCMs be on website? **A: They already are. Click on "Contact" on home page.**
- e. Registrar (James C.)
 - 83 people representing 12 service positions are registered for today's conf. 1 Del, 1 Alt Del, 10 Area Officers, 1 DCMC, 17 DCMs, 1 Alternate DCM, 29 GSRs, 3 Alternate GSRs, 9 Interested AAs, 6 Past Delegates, 4 Standing Committee Chairs, 1 Past Trustee
 - No new groups, no pending active or inactive; 166 unknown groups
 - DCMs: please try to get these updated
 - To get mailings, group has to be active (not unknown or inactive)
 - James will continue to work with DCMs regarding this
 - DCMs or GSRs can contact James when new group is formed, or group information needs to be updated
 - Patience always needed with updates to Fellowship New Vision...takes months
 - Area 53 Website group info is updated once a quarter
 - Question: What to do about groups no longer in existence? Use Group Change Form and/or let James know.

Nita (Alternate Area Chair) announced a lunch break at 12:30, until 1:15.

After the lunch break, Ed A. (Area Chair) presented an article about Big Book history on AA Grapevine Online issue, with audio reading. Very cool!

Business portion of assembly began again at 1:45 PM.

2. Standing Committee Reports

a. Archives/Archivist

Archives committee is still open. Ed is seeking those who would be interested in membership.

Archivist Report (Tom):

- Gave archives presentations at Mini-Conference and Big Book 80th Birthday Bash
- Recommended an article on Big Book history from Grapevine that is really good
- Tom is continuing to sort out archives from the move.
- National Archives convention is in Detroit in September. Tom encouraged anyone interested to attend.

- b. Cooperation with Professional Community/Public Information (CPC/PI) [meets Monthly - 1st Sunday 2:00pm @ Maple Grove UMC - Room 3] (Kim, Alternate Chair)
- The committee received a request to staff AA Literature table at 2019 Addiction Study Institute Conference July 31-Aug 2 8:30 AM to 4 PM at Columbus Convention Center. Interested AA members with at least two years of sobriety can sign up to participate. Contact cpcpichair@area53aa.org with dates and times available.
 - Encouraged interested AAs to attend monthly CPC/PI meetings.
- c. Correctional Facilities [Monthly - 1st Sat. 10:00 am @ COGF Meeting Room] (Brandi V., Chair) 2:22
- Annual CFC workshop was a great success... 85 people in attendance! Including several new GIRs!! Workshop is self-supporting, with seed money for next year!
 - The Committee approved adding 2 new pamphlets to corrections facilities literature request form. *AA for Alcoholics with Mental Issues/ and Their Sponsors* and *The AA Member: Medications and Other Drugs*.
 - Approved \$9400 to purchase literature for institutions
 - New outside sponsors going through process to take meetings to institutions.
 - Next steering committee meeting August 3; next quarterly committee meeting is September 7. Both at COGF
- d. Grapevine [meets monthly – 2nd Saturday 12:00pm @ COGF Meeting Room] (Erin K.)
- New Grapevine Books: *Take Me to Your Sponsor* (humor); French translation of *Emotional Sobriety: The Last Frontier*. Can order at aagrapevine.org
 - Committee attendance has fallen off, so be sure Grapevine Reps from your group attend.
 - Planning 2 Grapevine workshops:
 - District 17 September 21 Pomeroy OH with cookout
 - Columbus October workshop date TBD
 - Flyers will be available on website soon.
- e. Group Services (Dan H.)
- Facilitated GSR school at Mini-Conference; well-attended
 - Facilitated GSR school in Marysville for Districts 11, 30, and 22.
 - GSR school in Ironton for District 21
 - Upcoming: GSR school in Columbus June 22 for District 26
- f. Inter-group Liaison (Barbara M.)
- Held an Area 53 All-Intergroup Meeting, representatives from 4 of 5 IGs attended.
 - There will be an upcoming one soon with all 5 attending.
 - Intergroup concerns were shared: etiquette in AA; safety in AA; anonymity on Internet
 - Question: What are the five? A: **COGF, Licking County (Newark) Intergroup; Marion County; Lancaster Area; Appalachian Ohio (Chillicothe)**

- Question: How can area best serve them? **A: So far, trifold is really helpful. Barbra will ask for more feedback on this.**
- g. Mini Conference [meets monthly – 4th Wednesday 6:30pm @ Affordable Health Care] (Donna K.)
- There is a printed report from our March Mini-Conference available today to take back to group
 - Mini-Conference attendance: 142 registrations, 124 paid and 18 scholarships
 - Evaluations were mostly positive. Biggest complaint was coffee was too far away
 - Treasurer: Balance \$2699.94. Prudent reserve for next mini-conference.
 - Q: where is next Mini-Conference being held? **A: Deer Creek**
 - Next Mini-Conference Committee meeting is August 28 6:30 PM.
 - Planning to start writing up suggestions about Mini-Conference so don't have to reinvent the wheel every time.
 - Q: How can a Group donate specifically to Mini-Conference? **A: Scholarships. Can be sent to Area 53 P.O. box and marked for Mini-Conference.**
- h. Accessibilities (Special Needs) (Ed A.)
- Held meeting Saturday May 18 at COGF. 3 people attended. Talked about past role of committee, explained GSO “new charge” for accessibilities. Ed read this to us.
 - Also heard that old committee had exhausted funds for deaf interpreters.
 - Two people voted in Robert H. (Bob) as chair. Next meeting is Saturday June 15.
 - But Bob goes on to write that he had to withdraw as chair but will continue to serve on committee.
 - Stephen has provided several copies of Accessibilities Workbook to committee.
 - Cindy Z spoke. She doesn't want to be the chair but is happy to keep Area up to date about the committee.
- i. Treatment Facilities [meets quarterly – 3rd Saturday Noon @ COGF Meeting Room] (Erica C.)
- Committee has met twice since last Assembly. New members are welcome. Can meet remotely by conference call.
 - Agreed to handle their finances through the Area rather than separately
 - Selected male and female coordinators for Bridging the Gap: Elisabeth H and Jason L
 - Next meeting is August 17 noon; lunch is served
- j. Ohio State Convention Planning Committee Report (Stephen S.)
- August 16-18 Holiday Inn Eastgate, Cincinnati. Close enough for a Saturday day trip!
 - Registration forms (to mail in) are available online: aaarea56.org
 - Highly recommended if you are in service. People in service throughout state will attend.
 - Panels on standing committees, etc. Donna has more info about panels.

- Also: Regional Forum will be held July 12-14 in Detroit MI. Can ask questions of members of Board of Trustees, Grapevine and World Services directors, staff members. They will be giving presentations etc. Applications on aa.org website. Forum is free but you need to register online.

District & Group Reports (Marcia H, DCMC)

Andy U read the GSR Preamble.

- Marcia attended District 33 meeting in March; District 7 Coming out of Dark; District 28 Big Book Birthday Bash; ??? ; Corrections Facility Committee meeting
- Corresponding with DCMs and standing committee chairs
- Last DCM Committee Meeting topics:
 - Working on DCM District Notebook, with meeting info, contact info for Area, helpful info for new DCM.
 - Encouraging districts to co-host events (multi-district events). Example: "Welcome Back Stephen Party"
 - Looking at possible improvements to DCM pamphlet
 - Talking about how to have more efficient GSRs report at assemblies. What can be shared at assembly that Assembly really wants and needs to hear.
- District Reports (chaired by Don C, alternate DCMC):

District 4: Kasie, DCM

- Workshop June 15 4 PM: Movie: "My Name Is Bill W." Serving Coney Island hot dogs and popcorn. District business meeting to follow.
- Has new Grapevine rep for Group
- Has new Big Book Study group on Wednesday night. Group continues to grow.
- One group report: Crystal, GSR Gambier Friday Noon Drunkards Club.

District 6: Jeff, DCM

- Growing participation in District since January; more GSRs
- District voted to split district (because it is four counties!) and move Jefferson and Harrison counties to Area 54. This will better serve those Groups. This issue will be up for a vote for the Assembly in New Business.
- District picnic coming up. Have an events committee planning upcoming events.
- One Group report: Paul F., GSR Barnesville Group. Having an anniversary picnic.

District 7: No DCM report

- One Group report: Steve. V, GSR Learning About Sobriety Group. Anniversary coming up, but he doesn't know when.

District 10: Bill Y, DCM

- Marcia gave brief report on Bill's behalf. District is progressing

District 11: Brenda B, DCM

- Education is focus of recent District meetings because of new GSRs
- Ad Hoc committee doing meeting flyer for Union & Madison county meetings
- New secretary
- GSR school with District 22 and 30
- One Group report: Sherrie, GSR Marysville Rise & Shine Meeting. 16th anniversary coming up August 17

District 12: Tom D., DCM

- District has begun process of reaching out to a local treatment center to offer support and hopefully get buy-in from the center. "Bridging the Gap"
- Last weekend annual SoberFest, picnic in park, about 70 people. Three speakers speaking about their experiences in service.
- Funding is good.
- Traditions Workshop coming up 6/22
- One group report: Kenny, GSR Springfield Serenity Group

District 15: Joe S., Alternate DCM

- Talking about getting phone number in phone book
- Discussion idea of a District website
- Asking groups to do one inventory question
- Have a plan to plan events
- Three group reports:
 - Kerry K., Woodsfield Group. Having 37th anniversary August 10th
 - Evan D., Two for One group Marietta. Group has decided to keep using Joe and Charlie tapes.
 - Andrea H., Barlow Hand In Hand Group. Group has discussed 5th Edition of Big Book, supports it except no changes to first 164 pages.
- **District 16: Tom C., DCM** (*written report only*):

- District has discussed Big Book 5th Edition and safety
- July 4 Picnic coming up
- As always, Athens is both beautiful AND historic 😊

District 17 Dave, GSR (giving report on behalf of DCM Shirley K)

- Shirley K DCM and Ron C Alternate DCM are staying on because no one stepped up to take over positions
- One Group report: Dave M, GSR Pomeroy Serenity Group; Picnic event coming up

District 18 Barbra M. DCM

- 29 meetings in district
- 7 groups represented
- Alternate meeting in Circleville and Chillicothe
- Problem: lack of sober support and sponsors for new AA members especially folks from treatment programs.
- Looking to seek consensus on having an activity
- No Group reports

District 19 Terry, DCM

- Lots of discussion about revision of Big Book.
- Finally finished debate on District By-Laws
- Workshop: Movie "My Name is Bill W." 60 people in attendance
- Planning District Picnic August 3
- One Group report: Patrick GSR, Get it Together Keep it Together Group

District 21 Don, Alternate DCM

- GSR School
- Three Group reports:
- Jason S GSR, United Group. Meets several times a week. Recently combined two groups into one (Primary Purpose Group and United Group). Problems are over-attendance due to treatment center attendance.
- Andrew W GSR, Portsmouth Men's Group. Planning a cookout for tomorrow!
- Chris B GSR, 12 & 12 Group, Meets several times a week. Averages 150-200 attendance. Problem: overcrowding, over capacity of meeting place. Celebrated 46th Anniversary in March

District 22: Jillena DCM

- Just finished outreach to encourage Groups to fill GSR positions.
- Discussed 5th Edition
- Topic: how groups handle disruptions during meetings
- Planning Bowling Event at Ten Pin Alley
- Group reports:
 - Greg G. GSR, Into the Solution is having anniversary June 15 at Hilliard UMC 4 PM

- Steve C., Hilliard Sobriety Group; several times a week. Home Group Trip to Founder's Day, sponsoring member with least amount of sobriety. Anniversary will be taco bar.
- Mary Kate P., Dublin Big Book. *Written report only*

District 26: Diann reporting for Steven B. DCM

- GSR school June 22 Whitehall UMC, will have babysitting
- Working with how to be liaison with treatment practitioners and facilities
- Group reports:
 - Juli M. GSR After Work Group.
 - Amy P. GSR Westerville Women's Recovery. Anniversary 145 people (open to men for one night only!)
 - Terri M GSR, Fellowship Hall *Written report only*
 - Alison B. GSR, Free at Last *Written report only*

District 28 Taffy J, DCM

- Andy made bookmark
- Group Reports:
 - Chris J. GSR Clintonville Big Book Group at Maple Grove. Beginners Meeting. Will be discussing format and what literature to use in Beginner's meeting. Also addressing safety in AA. Anniversary November
 - Andy U GSR, Lodestar Group. Completed Group Inventory last month. Anniversary July 17 6 PM. Lasagna. Group email address and digital archive of discussion notes and group records. Babysitting available.
 - Kayla K, GSR Grant Us the Laughter. Young People's meeting. 9th anniversary. Elections coming up. Events: Play volleyball after meeting all summer long at Fred Beekman Park 9 PM.
 - Tom B, GSR Maple Grove Group. Anniversary in the fall.

District 30 Martha DCM

- District is discussing concerns about wording on page 66 of 12 & 12. Issue was brought up by members at Nitty Gritty Group.
- Group reports:
 - Don GSR, Simply Sober. Group Conscience about Big Book.
 - Joann GSR, Sunset Women's Group. Closed women's speaker meeting.
 - David F, GSR Nitty Gritty 12 & 12. Group conscience about Big Book and page 66. *Written report only*

District 33 Nicholas DCM

- Working on getting District off the ground.
- Get Lit Up 11 to 1:30 PM Sept 21. Planning for 3 speakers, fellowship and food.

- Actively recruiting GSRs and contributions
- Group Reports:
 - Margie J GSR Lincoln Literature Study
 - Joe GSR 501 Step Meeting; meets daily Monday through Saturday
 - Julie P. GSR Drummers Group; meets daily
 - Bill M. GSR, 501 Step Group *Written report only*

District 34 Kevin DCM

- Increasing GSR participation
- Had visit from Stephen S.
- Able to help some low-income groups purchase Big Books for meeting
- Set prudent reserve; doing well with contributions; “solvent”
- Group reports:
 - Paul S, GSR. Three Legacies Group. September 28, Workshop on Holding Group Consciences in meeting.
 - Paul T, GSR. Bed Group *Written report only*
 - John G., GSR Hope Dealers *Written report only*

Marcia announced Information / Sharing Session will be postponed Until next assembly in interests of time

New Business

- a. Guideline Change – Assembly Meeting Calendar Update (Stephen S.)
 - Area Planing Committee voted April 14, 2019 to advance this item to the assembly. Therefore the proposal does NOT need to be moved & seconded here.
 - There is a scheduling conflict once every 7 years or so when the “second Sunday” when our March assembly is held happens on the “first weekend” when Area 55 has their Mini-Conference.
 - Thus, the proposal would change the wording of the Area Guidelines as follows:
 - **The Full Area Assembly will meet as follows:**
 - **In March on the ~~second~~ Sunday of *the Mini-Conference Weekend***
 - Stephen will post the rationale for this to the website.
 - Question: “Full weekend” definition. A: Friday, Saturday, Sunday.
 - ***Vote: Unanimous (did not need motion & second; see above)***
- b. Ed announced that the July Area Planning Committee meeting conflicts with Regional Forum. The APC voted to change the Area Planning Committee Meeting (and DCM meeting) from July 14 2019 to August 11 2019.

c. Redistricting District 6 (Stephen S.)

- At May District 6 meeting the GSRs voted with substantial unanimity to divide into two districts. Harrison and Jefferson Counties will become a new District, as part of Area 54. This will allow Harrison and Jefferson County groups which are active with GSRs to attend Area meetings much closer to their locations.
- It will make the northern boundary of Area 53. Delegate from Area 54 is fine with this; their Area will discuss it at their next Assembly.
- The only requirement for making this change happen is for both Area delegates to agree. But Stephen wants to have general approval of Area for this, so he asked if there are any questions or any opposition to this idea.
- Madalyn asked a question about whether corrections facilities were served by Area 53 in these two counties. Answer: No
- There was no opposition voiced.

Upcoming Events

- State Convention
- Regional Forum

Ask-It-Basket Questions:

- “Safety Keeps Getting mentioned. What does this mean?”
 - Stephen: GS Conference developed a definition of safety in AA and he can’t find it. He will put it on the website.
- “Why is there no literature committee in Area?”
 - Stephen: Many Areas have literature committees that coordinate with GSO to provide literature to groups. In Area 53, COGF fulfills that purpose so Area 53 doesn’t have one.
- “Can Districts use donations to send their DCM to Regional Forums?”
 - Donna: yes, great use of District funds
- “Can we get a bigger meeting room for Area Assemblies?”
 - Ed: we have a contract with this facility through this December. Input is welcome for other locations. We have to consider costs for room, coffee, etc. We will have to make decisions for 2020 and 2021.
 - Follow-up: Chairs versus tables....what do people think?
 - Dan suggested sending your thoughts on this to Ed before next Assembly
 - Chris asked about the fire marshal capacity. Really. This happened.
- “Why aren’t GSR District reports done before Standing Committee Reports?”
 - Ed: This can be discussed at planning meeting. We’ve tried a number of different ways of arranging the agenda.

Brandi moved to close the meeting; Sharon seconded; unanimous

Meeting closed at 4:07 with the Responsibility Statement

Respectfully submitted,

Martha C, Area 53 secretary