

Panel 59 Area 53
Minutes of Area Assembly
Sunday, June 14, 2009
Whitehall Park, Columbus OH

Opening:

The Assembly was opened by Bill Y., DCM Chair, with the Serenity prayer, short form 12 Concepts, explanation of the Ask-It basket, introduction of entire assembly.

DCM Reports

District 7 (Zanesville), Nanette L., DCM Our wednesday Downtown Group recently celebrated their 34th anniversary. We are still carrying the message to correctional facilities and are reminding people what the CFC jug is for. Attendance is climbing at GSR meetings, which are held the third Monday of the month at ISRC. **District 10 (Delaware)** Terry A, DCM; having recently reactivated, we have a DCM, an alt. DCM and a secretary. We have approx. 23 groups in our district with 9 elected GSRs and other groups sending interested AAs to the meetings. Average attendance at the monthly meetings is about 20. We are hoping to have a workshop in the fall. **District 15 (Noble, Monroe, Washington and Morgan counties)**, Meetings have been suspended until August. The Addiction and Pain center at Marietta Mem. Hosp. has closed, with concern being expressed by some groups over the closing. GSRs are discussing service opportunities with their groups. Three new meetings have started: Back to Basics study group, Three Legacies studying the steps, traditions, concepts, AA comes of age and the big book and the AA service manual. Came to believe meeting at marietta mem. hosp. on Saturdays and ended. thanks to the CPC/PI committee for the informative workshop. we are helping with movies at the state convention.

District 16 (Athens) A.J. McL. DCM Meetings every first Sunday at 5:30 at the First Christian Church, corner State and Congress 8-10 regular attendees. In May we had a workshop/panel on the home group and the 7th tradition. GSRs and the DCM discussed the 7th tradition monies with about 30 people. Meetings continue to be taken in the jails **District 21 (Portsmouth)** Jim F., DCM D21 co-hosted the hospitality suite at the mini-conference. Thanks to all who donated food, items and time to the effort. D21 is sponsoring their 3rd annual picnic the Saturday after Mother's Day. **District 22/23 (Dublin)**, Tony K., DCM Currently meeting together with district 30, which has no DCM. We will be performing a 12 traditions skit at the Ohio State Convention. We will be hosting the Area DCM?Committee meeting on July 19, at the Ramada Inn Westerville. We will be holding a meet the delegate on August 23 at Leather Lips park in Dublin. We have approx. 12 active GSRs. We recently elected an alternate DCM, Fran F, as well as a treasurer for each district. **District 28/29/36 (Columbus)**, Kerry M., DCM district meets on the first Sunday of the month, 5 pm (except assembly months). 6-9 GSRs attend, including some from dark districts. We have agreed to coordinate floor management of the upcoming state convention. at our May meeting, we discussed the recent mini-conference We are hosting this assembly. **District 30 (Dublin)**, Jo Carol R. alt. DCM; Michael V. resigned at DCM No DCM has been elected at this time. We continue to meet with districts 22/23 We have volunteered to do a recovery play at the state convention. We will be hosting the Area DCM?Committee meeting on July 19, at the Ramada Inn Westerville. We will be holding a meet the delegate on August 23 at Leather Lips park in Dublin.

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GSR reports:

After Work Group: Deb P. GSR. dist 26; Tuesday 5PM Gahanna Congregational Church; avg. attendance 40-50 with 23 home grp members; grp conscience every two months; quarterly contributions to service entities; service positions filled sec'y, alt sec'y, gsr and alt gsr, igr, coffee, literature gvr, gir

Big Book Study: Phil D gsr; district 18; Monday 8PM at Brook Yates MRDD bldg, Circleville; avg attendance 24 with 18 home group members; as needed group conscience; 50-30-10-10 to NY, cogf, LAIO; service positions filled GSR; upcoming event: anniversary time and date to be determined.

Clintonville Big Book: Skid R. gsr, district 29; Tuesday 8 p.m. at Maple Grove UM church, Henderson and High, Open big book study; avg. attendance 40-50, home group members 14; monthly grp conscience; grp contributions 50-30-10-10 to cogf, gso, area, district; service [positions filled gsr, gir, gvr, cfc, alt cfc, literature person, sec'y, treasurer, alt treasurer, treatment facil. rep.; other info: anniversary every November **Circleville Grapevine Group:** district 18 GSR Chris S.; Wednesday 6:30

PM Logan street; avg attendance 18 with 8 home group members; group conscience as needed recently discussing contributions and anonymity statement addition to meetings; \$200 recently contributed to group, \$42 in change for change jug; service positions filled sec'y treasurer, gir **Delaware Friendship Fellowship:** Scott A. district 10; Meets at Grace United Meth. Church, Thursday 8PM, open lead; avg attendance 60; grp conscience monthly; group contributions under discussion to change to contribute to district; service positions filled: sec'y, treasurer, GSR; **Gahanna Early Birds:** Rory M, GSR districts 26/27; 6:30 pm McCutcheon and Stygler Roads @ New Life Church; literature format; average attendance 10-15 with 4 homegroup members; group conscience meetings once a month and as needed; group contributions: still working on them; Service positions filled IGR, GSR, sec'y, treasurer, gvr.; upcoming events august 14 cookout at samaritan church. **HOW group** ginny l gsr thursday 8PM behind RUMC; big book and 12&12 study; avg attendance 22 with 6 home group members, grp conscience once a month, recent changes made to end of meeting; contributions twice a year to all usual service entities; service positions filled gsr, sec'y, gsr; upcoming events 1/2 way anniv july 17, november anniv potluck. **Life begins at 40:** JoCarol R, GSR, district 30; meets tuesday 10 am, Meadow Park Church of God, Discussion meeting, with last tuesday lead; avg. attendance 25-40; group conscience when needed; contributions to 20%GSO, 20%COFG, 20%area 53, 40%district; service positions filled sec'y, alt, secy, treasurer. gsr. gvr **Listening Post:** Dan H gsr, district 28-29, 15 home grp members; monday through saturday 8PM, sunday 6PM, all at oakland park united methodist church 994 Oakland Park Avenue, average attendance 10- 20; grp conscience every second sunday; grp contributions as often as we can; service positions filled: gsr; other information: not much going on) **Lodestar Group:** Kim S gsr, district 29; 7PM wednesday open step meeting at Overbrook presbyterian Church with avg attendance 30 (25 home group members); group conscience last week of month; upcoming events: anniversary july 2009; **Monday Night Steps and Traditions:** Paul B, GSR, district 23; 7 p.m. monday, Meadow Park Church of God, Bethel Road, Columbus; avg. attendance 25, with 10 home group members; monthly grp conscience; contributions 50-30-10-10; service positions filled: gsr, sec'y, treatment facilities rep, CPC/PI rep, GVR, actively seeking IGR and alt. GSR; other info: monthly grp get-together after meeting on 2nd monday of month; 14th anniversary in February, grp inventory in January, two members attended group inventory workshop in February **Reynoldsburg women's 12 & 12:** Toi I gsr district 27; Saturday morning 10AM at Church of Redeemer; 6 home group members, with 18-25 avg attendance; quarterly grp conscience; contributions to area, district, cogf and New York ; service positions filled: sec'y, treasurer, gvr, gir, gsr; other info: recently participated in area inventory **Serenity group:** average attendance 15 with 10 home group members; monthly group conscience, now organizing service structure and establishing treasury guidelines; grp contributions: offer free big book and 12&12 to newcomers; service positions: gsr, sec'y/treasurer; other info: this is my first time representing serenity group at area. it is my great privilege to be here and to be of service. we are a very open group with sobriety form 25 minutes to 25 years **Solutions Group:** Bob M gsr, district 25, Monday 7PM closed discussion Westerville Community Church; 10 home group members with avg meeting attendance 40; grp conscience held bi-monthly on a second monday, next grp conscience march 9 with election of officers; group contributions made quarterly at 60-30-10; service positions filled gsr, alt gsr, igr, literature and supplies **Three Legacies Group:** Ed A GSR, district 36 ; Sunday 7PM at Park Methodist Church on Algonquin off Broad Street on near west side of Columbus; rotating format (step/ tradition/ concept/sponsorship) average attendance 12-25 with 10 home grp members; grp conscience quarterly at a home grp member's home; group contributions quarterly to GSO, COGF, Area at 50-25-25; service positions filled:GIR, IGR, GSR, CPC/PI, GVR, literature, nite owl, coffee, chair (rotating), sec'y, treasurer; other information nothing to note **Traditions III happy hour** Mark S gsr; 6:15 seven days a week, with varying format grp conscience first tuesday of every month contributions to gso, cogf, area and CFC;**Two for One Group:** district 15; two meeting a week 7 p.m. thursday 12 & 12, 10 am saturday Big Book; First Presby. Church, 4th and Wooster, Marietta; avg. attendance 20, 12-15 home group members; group conscience first thursday every month following tradition study, conducting group inventory; contributions to CFC, GSO, district 15 monthly, area quarterly, and CFC; service positions filled sec'y, treasurer, gsr, alt. gsr; upcoming events: none **Two is Enough:** Sylvester S. gsr district 41; literature meeting Tuesday 8PM at Talbott Hall (columbus); group conscience once a month or as needed, discussing group anniversary; group contributions to central office and GSO; service positions filled: chair, sec'y, treasurer, GVR, GSR, IGR; upcoming events: anniversary July 6 2009 (16th year

anniversary); other info; make grapevine available to newcomers; new member packet **Youth Do Recover:** Amanda F gsr, district 21; 6:30 PM tuesday All Saints Episcopal Church, Portsmouth 45662 open discussion with speaker last meeting of the month; average attendance 30-40; grp conscience third tuesday of every month and as needed, no recent major decisions; Group contributions: not yet determined (group is new); service positions filled: John A. sec'y/treasurer, Amanda F GSR, Tom H. alt. GSR; other info: most of our attendees have been from treatment centers

Committee Reports:

CFC Committee (Steve S, Chair) The Area 53 Correctional Facility Committee held its Quarterly meeting on June 9 at the RAC Building. 16 GIRs and 12 Outside Sponsors of institutional meetings gave a report on their group's activities. Jeanne Smythe attended and gave a short report on the Conference, focusing on the activities that related to corrections service work. We had a successful Workshop in April, with 112 interested or involved A.A.'s attending to hear panels of Outside Sponsors, GIRs, and men and women who found A.A. behind the walls and have remained sober and active after getting out. Terry Collins, Director of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections and a great Friend of AA kicked off the conference with a talk about the difference our work makes in the lives of incarcerated A.A.s as well as our society as a whole. The workshop is self-supporting with funds coming from passing the basket and contributions from several A.A. groups. Thanks to these contributions we were able to offer lunch as part of the workshop experience without requesting a fee to attend the workshop. We are talking with a local church about renting storage space for our literature program. We are currently storing our literature at central office, but the space is inadequate. I am hopeful that we can work out the arrangements with the church this month. If this works out, we will move the location of our steering committee and quarterly meetings to the church as well. The committee approved a budget of up to \$50 per month for literature storage to be paid out of the jug money in keeping with our commitment to keep the literature program self-supporting. So far this year, we have purchased \$7,784 of A.A. literature for distribution by outside sponsors to incarcerated A.A.s. The committee authorized another \$5,000 in purchases for the coming quarter. This is a point worth noting: all of the literature is distributed one A.A. to another. We do not donate this literature directly to the institutions. These purchases (and the cost of storing the literature) come directly from the jug money donations of A.A.s in Area 53. The area's budget for our committee is not used to cover any of the costs of the literature program. Our correspondence and temporary contact programs continued to provide an outside contact for incarcerated A.A.s and help for those making the transition to A.A. on the outside. We had nearly 30 requests from those inside last month. If anyone would like to find out more about these programs, see me and I will get you signed up. Our non-literature costs for the year stand at \$251 dollars. I have provided our financial report to the Area Treasurer and have requested \$129 from our area budget to pay our second quarter costs. Tom Bowman was elected to fill the vacant position of Alternate Liaison to the DRC. We will be setting up and staffing our display at the State Convention in July and we hope that we can offer more of our programs and support to the other area's in Ohio. We also want to develop a GIR school, modeled on the area's successful GSR school concept. If anyone would like a copy of the financial report or this report, see me and I will arrange to send you one. **CPC/PI Committee** **CPC/PI Committee** (Suzan T, Chair) In the 2nd quarter of 2009, the CPC/PI Committee held our first workshop for those new to this service with 15 in attendance. The new Area 53 Website was developed and is available at today's assembly in the back for viewing questions/comments/feedback are appreciated and can be emailed directly to the Webmaster or we encourage attendance at our regular monthly meeting, which is held the 2nd Sat of the month at 11 a.m. at Panera Bread on N. High St. The slide presentation from the workshop is available for viewing on the Website and the committee will post meeting minutes beginning this month so that districts outside of Columbus can stay informed if unable to attend. We are asking that all DCMs review their district page and submit updated information if necessary. Other current issues before the committee include continued outreach to Home Groups to encourage participation, educating speakers to give presentations at non-AA meetings, and developing an orientation for communicating what AA does and does not do for those who may be attending meetings as directed by the courts or other outside facilities. The committee continues to grow and is grateful for the opportunity to serve.

Treatment Facility Committee (Virginia P, chair) Several people have expressed interest in serving on this committee. No meeting has been held--E-mail difficulties have not helped. No TF Kit received from NY GSO, but I do have previous chair's information. A co-chair has been found to help with this big job.

Cindy O'Brien has agreed to work in this capacity. TF will be in attendance at the State convention with tri-fold display and information. Thank you.

or at virgprior@aol.com

COGF Liaison Report (Dennis B. COGF Advisory Board Chair) COGF is located at 1561 Old Leonard Ave and is the Intergroup for a large part of the Area 53 service area. COGF has quarterly members meetings the Saturday before the Area Assembly in March, June, September and December. All groups that are members of COGF are encouraged to elect an Intergroup Representative to participate in the Members Meetings. The COGF Intergroup Representatives also meet as a committee on the second Saturday of each month when there is not a Members Meeting. GSO announced a fairly significant price increase on AA literature effective June 1, 2009. COGF has taken money out of our prudent reserve to buy a large quantity of Big Books prior to June 1 and will make these Big Books available for sale at the current price through September 1, if supplies last, to help cushion the impact of these increase on the groups. We are continuing to explore alternatives to our current location and have entered into negotiations with an office in a building on 100 W. Third St. The building has two adjoining suites available. Each suite individually would be too small, but the two suites together are outside our price range so we are seeing if the building manager will split one of the suites. If we can reach an acceptable financial arrangement, the COGF Advisory Board will vote on the move at its August 1, 2009 meeting.

Panel 59 Area 53 Officer Reports:

Recording secretary (Steve R): Minutes from January 2009 presented. Minute amended to change Life begins at 40 meeting's district to district 30 (listed as district 40) assembly approved minutes as amended.

Registrar (Brett G) All group information submitted by 5/16 has been entered. See me for any group changes or change in role for your district, committee, or area. May 16 was the deadline I set so that I could meet GSOs May 23 deadline for inclusion in the directory. I have since learned that GSO is not planning to print this directory. There has been some discussion of providing the directory electronically. We are working on distribution Area communication via email. If you would like to receive Area communication by email and have not received the minutes from the March 2009 Assembly by email, please see me or Kelly C. (Alt. Registrar).

Treasurer (Scott D): Area financial report reviewed. Report approved by acclamation. Question from the floor re: is allowable interest on non-profit accounts. Answer was yes, interest allowed

Delegate (Jean S., Delegate Panel 59 Area 53): REPORT ON THE 59TH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE April 25- May 2, 2009 Our theme this year was "Our Commitment to Carry A.A.'s message - Enthusiasm and Gratitude in Action". As Delegates in this week-long event, we were given constant opportunities to carry our enthusiasm for Alcoholics Anonymous, through the dedication to the process of fulfilling our Founders's belief in the democracy of world service, and departed with the gratitude that all had come together to bring the collective consciences of 1000's of groups to guide our Conference decisions. Our labors were joyous, sometimes frustrating and physically exhausting, but always filled with the awe at the process we witnessed.

Arriving a few days early I was touring the General Service Office when I was honored to be asked to speak at the Friday Noon Meeting held there. It was a wonderful opportunity to look at my past and share the journey that had led to that moment of "giving- back" a small piece of my sobriety. As I looked out at the Trustees, General Office staff, and other A.A. members in the audience, I realized strongly why we were all there - to carry A.A.'s message and continue our own growth in sobriety.

Hours before the beginning of the Conference I had an accident and was dubbed "the most colorful" delegate because of all my bruises and cast. I was easy to spot in the crowd! Although my injuries made my duties a little more difficult, the kindness and concern shown me were amazing and led to many enlightening conversations with everyone attending.

Saturday evening began with a Delegates' Only Meeting to help prepare us for the week. On Sunday morning the Remote Communities Seminar gave us opportunities to learn how other Areas overcome problems of language, culture, or geographic distance and to share experiences and problems.

The official start of the 59th General Service Conference began at 1:15 Sunday with the roll call of all Conference members - delegates, directors, trustees, and voting staff. That afternoon each committee met with their corresponding Trustee Committee to discuss and ask questions about the upcoming agenda

items to be decided that week. Sunday evening was the opening dinner followed by 6 speakers, including Ken B., Trustee, Joanne N. And Robert H., Delegates, Rick W., G.S.O. Staff, and Robert L, AAWS Director.

Over the next days , meetings by our Committee assignments, Regional meetings, workshops, and presentations, sharing and voting sessions engaged us from 8 or 9 in the morning until 11 or 12 each evening. All 132 participants focused on the work at hand, turning to our Higher Power for strength and guidance when our own resources were depleted.

My assignment on the Public Information Committee was especially intense with a long agenda. Some of the results were approval of an up-dated version of “A Message to Teenagers”, a new wall poster for young people, a truly inspiring new video from submissions from four young people, and the draft of the 2010 Membership Survey.

We participated in the election of a new East Central Regional Trustee, Pamela R of Michigan, replacing Bob M., the new Southeast Regional Trustee will be Eleanor N., of South Carolina, replacing Howard L., and the new Trustee-At- Large/U.S. will be Don M of Louisiana, filling the spot previously held by Dorothy W. The new general service trustees are George M. of Michigan, who will be a director in the A.A.W.S. Board, and Don M. of Colorado on the Grapevine Board.

Once again the Conference set a new record for the longest-lasting, since we didn't finish voting on the floor actions until after 2 AM. on Saturday morning. After a few hours sleep, the farewells to the rotating Trustees and Chairman of the Board followed. It was a bittersweet goodbye for many. They each spoke of the joys, disappointments, and gratitude of their journeys through service to our Fellowship. I was struck again by how much we had gained from these trusted servants who give so much to continuing A.A.'s legacy around the world.

AAWS INFORMATION Leonard B. , chair, welcomed Phyllis H., the new general manager of the GSO. They co-chaired sessions throughout the Conference. The 2010 General Service Conference will be held in Rye, NY. to try to reduce costs. The theme will be: “Practicing A.A.'s Principles - the Pathway to Unity”. Enthusiasm rises for our upcoming 2010 International Convention to be held in San Antonio, Texas on July 1-4, 2010. Rick W. chairs this committee that is planning the event for thousands of A.A.'s who will gather to celebrate our 75th Anniversary. Registration and information will be at www.aa.org. in August 2009 and by mailings. FINANCIAL The 2009 General Service Office Budget was crafted with the goal that the Reserve Fund would be at a 9month range in three years. The Budget includes price increases for most books and pamphlets, while keeping shipping and handling charges at current levels. G.S.O. has initiated wide-ranging cost and saving measures. Group contributions for the year were 3.2% less than budgeted. Here in Area 53, only 26.7% of our registered groups contributed at all, compared to over 46% nationally. If all of our groups contributed but \$6.49 per member each year, A.A. would be self-supporting. LITERATURE In 2008 AAWS distributed 6.6 million pieces of literature in English, over ½ million pieces in Spanish, and about 130,000 pieces in French. Big Book sales in all formats was 1.1 million. New translations of literature have been accomplished in Kyrgyz, Vietnamese, Croatian, and Macedonian. The Big Book and The Twelve and Twelve will be available this year to Kindle Reader customers. They may also be read on the web site. AAGV Since 1996 the Grapevine has only raised its price twice. To catch up with inflation, the cost will go to \$27.00 per year (still only \$2.25 per monthly copy) on July 1, 2009. Updating the look of our “meeting in print” was a major step toward two goals of being color-ful and staple-free to be a more effective 12 Step tool. They are encouraging your comments and ideas before evaluating the changes. OTHER THOUGHTS AND REFLECTIONS A copy of the complete Conference Advisory Actions and Additional Considerations is attached so that you can see the results of the items discussed at our Mini-Conference and some that were not covered.

The complete version of the Conference, containing speakers, workshops, and presentations, should be available at our September Assembly. This is truly worth reading and sharing with your groups. As my experience at the 59th General Service Conference came to an end, I feel compelled to thank Area 53 for the opportunity to participate in this endeavor. Our East Central Region does such a superb job in educating and preparing us through our service structure, Delegates Past and Present Conference, Assemblies , and Mini-Conferences. I attended this event with a firm consensus of our Area's voice, and the freedom to listen and respond to new information that was presented. I have come to realize the

value of every member's comments and ideas, and the wisdom of adhering to our program's principles, Traditions, and Concepts as we move to the future in Alcoholics Anonymous.

Area Chairperson: (Glen P, Chair Panel 59 Area 53) During the past quarter I have attended the Area 53 Mini Conference wrap up and all State Convention planning meetings. I have also attended District 10's Networking meeting, the April CPC/PI Committee meeting, the CFC Workshop, Area 56's Mini Conference and Area 53 Inventory. I am currently working on Unity Breakfast and Unity Day planning. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

Old Business:

1. **State Convention Update** (Jean S) Excitement is building as we approach the July 10-12, 2009 Ohio State Convention. Our committee has been meeting monthly, with the sub-committees accomplishing their work also. We recently toured the Holiday Inn, Worthington, with the entire committee, decided on meals with the banquet manager, (how does prime rib or honey chicken sound?) and made other arrangements for the weekend event, .Our speakers are in place: Dean F locally, Marcia and Larry S, from Illinois, Pamela r. our newly elected East Central Regional Trustee from Michigan, Adrienne B. our GSO. Staff guest, and Barb W., the AI-Anon speaker. Our panels will include members from all four OH Areas and OYPAA. Movies concerning AA will be shown in a separate room and a not-to-be-missed hospitality room will be open for fellowship and snacks. A GSR School will be presented Saturday afternoon, followed by a skit, the banquet and speaker, and ending with a dance, featuring our DJ, Betsy T. Area Committees will man their display tables and Bob M our new Ohio State archivist, will bring a great display from all over OH to share experiences, discuss problems, and find common solutions. Although registrations must be made on site, don't forget that hotel reservations must be made by June 19 to get the convention rate, if the rooms last that long and meals and banquets must be reserved by June 16. We only have the honor of hosting this convention once every four years. We need your participation to make this event a success. Please do your part by announcing the convention at every meeting you attend and distributing flyers so that all in our Fellowship are informed.
2. **Mini-Conference Update** (Carl D and Sami C.): 2010 mini-conference will be held at Shawnedd state park and lodge. Hospitality suite will be located within the main lodge bldg, rather than in an outlying cabin. 131 attendees total, with 90 registered for banquet. Financial report: deposits \$3030.26, badges 30.02, delegate expenses 280.50, expenses Valerie O. (GSO) 215.20, expenses Bob M (ECRT) 245.00, district 21 hospitality 150.00, copies (GSO) 96.35, Shawnee resort 3348.58, Grapevine subscriptions (5) 100.00 Ending Balance 1564.06 (beginning balance 1065.42)
3. **Unity Day update:** Unity day will take place august 16 at Whitehall park, 400 North Hamilton Road, Columbus OH. intergroups throughout the area will be invited.
4. **Area Inventory:** Assembly attendees encouraged to share information with their home groups, districts, and other interested AAs

New Business:

5. **Guideline amendment proposed:** It was proposed that the mini-conference committee be formed as a standing committee of the area, rather than an ad-hoc committee as it is now. An amendment to the Area guidelines is needed in order for this to happen. Amendment proposed by Glen P is as follows: **PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO AREA 53 GUIDELINES**

(to be considered at September 13, 2009 Area 53 assembly)

Establishment of Mini-Conference Standing Committee

This proposal is to establish a new area standing committee to insure the perpetuation of the Area 53 Mini-Conference. The required guideline revisions are as follows:

Under VI. Duties of the Officers

Under 2. Alternate Delegate add:

c. Shall serve as Chairperson of the Area 53 Mini-Conference

Note: Alternate treasurer duties already cover conventions and conferences.

Under VIII 1. add:

j. Mini Conference Committee

Under VIII 2.a

Revise 2 a.

from: The committee members of a Standing committee shall elect the Chairperson.

to: The committee members of a Standing committee (except mini conference) shall elect the Chairperson.

Under IX – Committee areas of Activity add:

10. Mini Conference Committee

- a. Shall report regularly to the area assembly meeting.
- b. Shall plan and organize the area mini conference.
- c. Shall be chaired by the area 53 alternate delegate.
- d. Area 53 alternate treasurer shall serve as mini conference treasurer.

6. **East Central Regional Forum** : date November 13-15 2009, to be held in Kalamazoo MI

7. **Special Needs Standing Committee**: It was brought to the floor that there may be a need to have a standing committee addressing the needs of Alcoholics with special needs, as opposed to a subcommittee of an existing standing committee (e.g. special needs subcommittee of the GSO trustees Treatment Facilities Committee). There is no current specific structure within area 53 to address special needs. Much discussion ensued, pro and con. No consensus reached. Topic tabled for later consideration

8. **Meal arrangements for upcoming assembly**: Discussion re: how the assembly attendees in June would be fed. Decision by acclamation to have a potluck style meal.

9. **Area 53 June Assembly Location**: In Columbus at Whitehall Park, 400 North Hamilton Road, June 14, 2009

Ask-It Basket questions and answers:

1. What Support is available to AA members deployed in the military, not at a base actually fighting?
Answer: someone will find out and get back to assembly at the September meeting
2. Why no new Regional Directory for AA? **Answer:** New manager of GSO, Phyllis H., made decision to hold off on this directory due to cost
3. Question about COGF vs. RAC **Answer:** Explanation given that RAC, not COGF, establishes rental rates for the rooms in the RAC bldg. RAC, not COGF, receives the rent money.

Meeting adjourned with Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Steve R.

Panel 59 Area 53 Recording Secretary