

## Panel 59 Area 53

### Minutes of Area Assembly Sunday, September 13, 2009

#### Whitehall Park, Columbus OH

#### MORNING SESSION: chaired by Bill Y., DCM Chair

Opening: The Assembly was opened with the Serenity prayer, short form of the 12 Concepts, explanation of the Ask-It basket, and introduction of entire assembly.

#### GSR reports:

**After Work Group:** Debra P. GSR. Rick H. alt. GSR; District 26; Tuesday 5PM Gahanna Congregational Church: avg. attendance 40-50 with 23 home grp members; grp conscience every two months, with a special group conscience on 9/15 to review group inventory; quarterly contributions to service entities; service positions filled: all are filled; upcoming events: Primary Purpose workshop sponsored by district 26/27; other information: we participated in Rule 62 day picnic which was a good time. District meeting that we attend was moved to the New Albany library<sup>7</sup>.

**Choice is Ours:** Constance C., GSR; meets thursday 6:30PM at Whitehall Park, Columbus: rotating literature format; average attendance 15-25 with 8 home grp members; quarterly group conscience (eating meeting) first meeting of the month; we recently bought literature before the prices went up; group contributions: to all service entities; service positions filled; IGR. GVR. GSR. GIR.

**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

**Solutions Group:** Bob M GSR, District 25, Monday 7PM closed discussion Westerville Community Church: 10 home group members with avg meeting attendance 35- 40: grp conscience held every other month on first monday; group contributions made quarterly at 60-30-10 to COGF. GSO. Area 53; service positions filled gsr. alt gsr. igr. gvr. sec'y, treasurer: upcoming events: anniversary 9/14/09

**Sunbury Breakfast Group:** Scott L. GSR; District 10; meets Sunday at the Sunbury Legion Hall; average attendance 85 with 25 home group members; group conscience third Sunday of month; group contributions at 50-30-10-10; service positions filled: CPC/PI. GSR. GVR; other information: breakfast every Sunday.

**Three Legacies Group:** Barry W. alt. GSR; District 36 ; Sunday 7PM at Parkview Methodist Church on Algonquin off Broad Street on near west side of Columbus; rotating format (step, tradition, concept, sponsorship) average attendance 10-12 with 10 home grp members; grp conscience quarterly at a home grp member's home, with recent topics of moving, traffic, court slips/traditions, changing fifth sunday topic; group contributions quarterly to GSO, COGF; service positions filled:GIR, IGR. alt. GSR, CPC/PI, GVR, literature, treatment, sec'y, treasurer; upcoming events: anniversary November 22 7PM

**Two for One Group:** Cathleen R., GSR; district 15; two meeting a week 7 p.m. Thursday 12 & 12, 10 am Saturday Big Book; First Presbyterian Church, 4th and Wooster, Marietta; avg. attendance 20. 12-15 home group members; group conscience first thursday even<sup>1</sup> 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 OSU east (Columbus); group conscience once a month or as needed, discussing signing slips and children at meetings; group contributions to central office and GSO when possible: service positions filled: chair,

sec'y. treasurer. GVR, GSR, IGR . alternates of all; other info: GSR rotating out soon.

**Women's Early Bird:** Sue K. GSR; District 29; meets Saturday 9:30am at Overbrook Presbyterian Church, 4131 N. High, Columbus; average attendance 20. with 21 home group members; grp conscience first Saturday of the month, recently elected treasurer, discussed need for special needs committee and GSO self support issue; grp contributions quarterly 50-30- 10-10% to COGF, GSO, area 53, district 29; service positions filled: sec'y, treasurer, grs. alt grs. gvr. alt. sec'y

**Women's HOW:** Megan Z. GSR, District 28/29; meets Saturday 9:30 AM at North Broadway UM Church, 98 E. North Broadway, Columbus; closed step meeting; average attendance 50-6- with 40 home grp members; grp conscience second Saturday of month; grp contributions to COGF, CFC, GSO; \$25 per week to babysitter and ASL interpreter; service positions filled: chair, treasurer sec'y, gvr, grs; other info: Babysitting and ASL interpreter available

**Women's Wisdom by Candlelight:** Peg S, GSR; District 32; Tuesday 7Pm, St. Marks Church, 5th avenue, Columbus; average attendance 15-20, 37 home group members; group conscience every quarter, recently electing new sec'y and treasurer and discussing GSO self support issue; grp contributions whenever we have \$100 over our prudent reserve (50-30-10-10 to COGF, GSO, area 53, district); service positions filled sec'y, treasurer, GSR, GVR, IGR

**Youth Do Recover:** Amanda F GSR, District 21; 6:30 PM Tuesday All Saints Episcopal Church, Portsmouth 45662, closed discussion, with lead on third Tuesday;; average attendance 30-40; grp conscience third tuesday of every month and as needed, Group may need to close due to lack of self-supports; 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: we have good attendance but lack of participation

### DCM Reports

**District 4 (Mt. Vernon),** Kasie A., DCM: Our District meets every other month on the second Saturday at 6PM in the St Paul's Parish House. We continue to support two county jail meeting, one for women and one for men. We appreciate the support of the area CFC committee. We have an upcoming sponsorship panel and workshop at 1PM in the Parish House on October 5. Lunch will be served before the workshop. Our "turn on the lights" effort focuses on District 3.

**District 10 (Delaware)** Terry A, DCM, Scott L. Alt DCM: We meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 PM in the First Presbyterian Church, Winter Street, Delaware OH. The district is newly reactivated. We are working on newcomers' meetings, a mailing list for contributions, and a workshop.

**District 16 (Athens)** A.J. McL. We meet on the first Sunday of the month at the First Christian Church, Congress and State streets, we have 7-8 GSR's in attendance. Elections are being held today. We also are planning a workshop, to take place in October. The district contributed to GSO, Area 53 and COGF.

**District 21 (Portsmouth)** Jim F., DCM.

**District 26/27 (Columbus),** Susan H., DCM; We meet on the 3rd Saturday of the month, 10AM. at the New Albany Library, with an avg. of five GSRs in attendance. Rule 62 day picnic was held 9/5. 90 participants worked on not taking themselves seriously with corn hole, food, fishing, great food and a great lead. We will be holding a "Singleness of Purpose" panel workshop on 11/5/09. It will take place at the Reynoldsburg Library on Brice Road, from 10am-12noon. The district will provide chili and cornbread. Contributions from groups to the district are down. A new DCM and alt DCM will be needed as the current ones will rotate out in December. The district had \$276.74 in the treasury prior to Rule 62 Day.

**District 30 (Dublin),** Jo Carol R. DCM; Meetings held on the first Wednesday of the month, 6:30PM, at Bethel Presbyterian Church, 1735 Bethel Road, Columbus. JoCarol R. was recently elected to the DCM position. Our "Picnic with the Delegate" on August 23 was a success. We are discussing how to become a more active district. Current meetings combined with District 22/23 have average attendance of 8 GSRs. At the next meeting we will vote on certain proposals for activities which include studying the 12

concepts, sponsoring a GSR school and some forum for sharing with the Delegate, and showing the "Bill's Story" movie (which we did last year).

### **Committee Reports:**

**CPC/PI Committee** Jim F., CPC/PI rep Workshop December 12 Maple Grove 10-12AM, format to be determined. Committee is seeking input from other committees, groups, and interested AA's as to what they would like to see in a workshop. The committee is reviewing the library of AA literature

**CFC Committee** (Steve S., Chair) The Area 53 Correctional Facility Committee held its Quarterly meeting on September 5 at our new home, Oakland Park United Methodist Church. 11 GIRs and 9 outside Sponsors of institutional meetings gave a report on their group's activities. During the past quarter, we began renting storage space for our literature program from the Oakland Park United Methodist Church. The rent is \$40 per month, which will be paid for by the money collected for the literature program. We will also hold our quarterly Steering Committee and full Committee meetings at Oakland Park. Rent for these meetings will be \$25 and \$75, respectively. This rent will be paid by passing the basket and from our Area budget. During the last quarter, we distributed 623 "Big Books", 343 "Twelve and Twelves" and 532 other conference approved books to incarcerated AAs. We also distributed 1223 GSO pamphlets. We collected \$3,830 from the groups that display our Spare Change jugs and approved \$3,800 to purchase literature during the upcoming quarter. 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 over 20 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 expenses for the quarter were \$135. Passing the basket and the costs of these services donated by committee members yielded \$59. I have provided our financial report to the Area Treasurer and have requested \$76 from our area budget to pay the balance of our third quarter costs. This will bring the total given us by the Area for the first three quarters to \$318 versus the \$500 annual budget. If anyone would like a copy of the financial report or this report, see me and I will arrange to send you one. We had our display at both the State Convention and at Unity Day. We will continue to participate in all upcoming Area events. We have an opening for an Alternate Correspondence Secretary and an election will be held at our December quarterly. If you have an interest or want any additional information, please see me after the meeting.

### **Informational Segment** - presented by Carl D., alternate Delegate Panel 59, Area 53:

"What are the benefits of having a sendee sponsor?"

A Service Sponsor can:

1. can share experience with service material
2. Can help you navigate through the responsibilities of your service position, the sponsor having been active in general service
3. In a sounding board for ideas as well as frustrations
4. sometimes a service sponsor needs to tell a sponsee that too much is being taken on or too little is being done.

- Carl referred people to pages 28-29 of the AA pamphlet *Q & A on Sponsorship*.

### **AFTERNOON SESSION:** Chaired by Glen P., Panel 59 Area 53 chairperson

#### **Panel 59 Area 53 Officer Reports:**

**Recording secretary** (Steve R): Minutes from June 2009 presented. No questions or comments. Minutes approved by acclamation.

**Registrar** (Kelly C., alternate Registrar): Brett G is unable to attend today. If anyone has any changes in group or individual information, please see me. Nothing else to report at this time.

**Treasurer** (Scott D): Area financial report reviewed. Report approved by acclamation.

**Area Chairperson** (Glen P): During the past quarter I have attended the Ohio State Convention. Unity Breakfast and Unity Day. I have also attended District 19 picnic. District 10 picnic. Picnic with the Delegate and Rule 62 Day. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

**Delegate** (Jean S., Delegate Panel 59 Area 53): Since our June Area Assembly, I have:

- chaired three Ohio State Planning Meetings and the Ohio State Convention
- spoke on the Concepts at a group meeting
- spoke at a service planning meeting in Pomeroy, Ohio
- attended the Area Committee Meeting
- attended the Unity Day Breakfast Planning Meeting and Unity Day
- attended and spoke on a panel at the East Central Regional Conference in Peoria, IL.
- attended and spoke at the Delaware Picnic on Service
- attended and presented at the Picnic With The Delegate at Scioto Park.

Up-dates from the July Meeting of A.A. World Services:

\*By putting electronic distribution of "Markings", the Archives Interchange Quarterly. \$20,000 per year will be saved. \* Work continues on developing an on-line contributions project, with a full presentation planned for the 2010 Conference.

\* Representatives from GSO attended the "Asia-Oceania Zone Meeting and the 9<sup>th</sup> National Convention of AA in Columbia.

\* The Corrections Correspondence Sendee in the first six months linked up 414 male inmates and 200 female inmates with AA volunteers, resulting in no males being put on a waiting list.

\* The Kindle project with Amazon was cancelled on July 30 because the contract did not allow us to have control over consistent pricing. Their advertising gave the impression we were affiliated with other titles and authors. Likely in the future, we will use our own aa.org website for the production and sale of an electronic format. \* AAWS Finance Committee reported that net sales were 6% over budget and literature was 9% over budget, due to Areas, groups, and intergroup's purchasing large amounts before the price increases took effect. Contributions were 7% less than budgeted. I have the exact figures for the first six months of 2009 if you would like to peruse them. Up-dates from the August Quarterly Report from G.S.O \* Changes in Personnel: Chris C. in Publications resigned and Valerie O'Neil has been appointed the new Director of Publications. \* (Many of the following actions are the result of the Advisory Actions of the 2009 General Service Conference I attended in April/May. You may remember many of these as agenda items that were discussed at our March Mini-Conference.)

\* The CPC/Treatment Facilities Committee has expanded its scope to include service to Special Needs-Accessibilities Committees and included it in its title. Development of a recovery pamphlet for newcomers with special needs will include stories from A. A. members with a wide variety of challenges. I have forms with the information on writing and submission of these stories. DCM's and G.S.R.'s please take one and distribute copies to your groups. Stories should be submitted by December of 2009.

\* The revised and up-dated DVD of "Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous" will be released in late September.

\* The Corrections Committee is working on the revision of the pamphlet, "It Sure Beats Sitting In A Cell".

\*The Literature Committee is working on a review of the "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship". The

Publications Department is also beginning its revision of the pamphlet "The AA Member - Medication and Other Drugs". The Public Information Committee has accepted two new submissions for the ongoing Young People in AA Video Project. More submissions are requested from the Fellowship.

\*A.A. Grapevine, Inc. reports great interest in the two new titles, "Beginners Book" and "Voices of Long Term Sobriety". After listening to feedback from AA membership, the placement of the Preamble, Steps, and Traditions has been moved to the side-covers with the August issue. Subscriptions were raised to \$27. per year to catch up with inflation, still only \$2.25/month. New publications for the quarter are the beautiful new 2010 Calendar and 2010 Daily Planner, available for order for holiday-giving. *September News*: To fill staff positions at GSO, Jim M. of NY has begun serving on the Corrections desk. Our own Buckeye Delegate, Panel 56, Area 56 Mary C. will begin on the CPC desk in October.

\* On Sept 1 , registration opened for the 2101 International Convention in San Antonio, Texas, July 1-4. Ten thousand members registered through aa.org. In the first four days. Even though the event is months away, it would be wise to register early to insure that you can pick out a hotel in your price range. I have been requested to send information on Area 53 members who will be attending and would like to be considered to speak for the first time at an International Convention. Please see me so I can submit your necessary data by November 1 .

\* The Final 2009 General Service Conference Reports have been delivered and are available today. DCM's and GSR's please pick up copies for your groups, take time to read the presentations and items, and share this information with your group so that they will better understand what the Report is about. I would be happy to assist any groups as needed.

### **Old Business:**

- 1. Final Update for 2009 State Convention Update** (Jean S., Delegate, Panel 59, Area 53 and Scott D, Treasurer, panel 59 area 53) July 10-12 , 2009 brought together an amazing group of recovering people at the Holiday Inn in Worthington, Ohio. Alcoholics, young and old, and Al-Anons gathered to share their experience, strength, and hope with each other and created a weekend to remember. If you attended, I know you felt the excitement of the weekend and gained a better perspective of the power of the group in A.A. I want to take this opportunity, in case I missed you, to thank everyone who attended the Ohio State Convention and made it such a success. I especially want to thank those, and there were many, who sacrificed time and effort at planning meetings over the last year, spent countless hours preparing for the event, and gave of themselves during the weekend to make it an unqualified success.
- 2. Unity Day Update** (Glen P.): Unity' Day was held August 16 in cooperation with COGF at Whitehall Park with 110 people in attendance. Jay M. from Akron led off the activities with a presentation on the history of the conference and the relationship between AAWS and the Intergroups. A potluck lunch was followed by a panel with representatives from Marion Area Group Fellowship, Lancaster Area Intergroup and COGF. Danny F, Area 54 Delegate, wrapped up the activities by sharing his experience strength and hope with the group. SI 24.03 of a SI 50.00 budget was spent and \$45 was received by-splitting the basket receipts with COGF. Thanks to everyone who participated.
- 3. Proposed Area 53 Guidelines change** (Glen P.) An amendment to amend the Area 53 guidelines establishing Mini-Conference Committee Standing Committee was presented to the assembly (text of amendment follows). Discussion from the floor showed widespread support. Amendment to Guidelines was passed by acclamation without dissent.

### **AMENDMENT TO AREA 53 GUIDELINES**

#### **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.

**New Business:**

**4. COGF space rental update:** (Glen P., area chair) updated the assembly about the possible rental of COGF space on a meeting by meeting basis. At the time of the assembly, nothing has changed and the Area is not currently renting any meeting or storage space for RAC COGF

**5. 2010 Mini-Conference Update** (Carl D.. alt. delegate): 2010 Mini- Conference to be held on March 12-14 at Shawnee State Park and Conference Center. A deposit of \$500 has been made to the hotel. Mini Conference committee meetings are ongoing with next meeting on the third Thursday of September at 6:30 PM , Oakland Park United Methodist Church 994 Oakland Park. Columbus Ohio, followed by subsequent meetings on the second Thursday on the month. Rent is being paid to the church for the meeting space. New people are encouraged to become active in the process, as a number of people involved in planning have been involved for a long time. Items being considered are online registration, more breakout groups, keeping the price down on the banquet and registration. The hotel will allow the hospitality room to be within the hotel this time, rather than off campus at a nearby cabin

**6. Standing Committee Budget Requests:** (Scott D.. treasurer) Notice given to Assembly that budget request for upcoming year arc needed soon in order to finalize Area budget for 2010.

**7. Meal arrangements for upcoming assembly:** Discussion re: how the assembly attendees in December would be fed. Decision by acclamation was to have a potluck style meal. Discussion ensued, after the vote re: time allocated for lunch in order to expedite the assembly. No consensus was reached as to whether to or how to alter lunch schedule.

**8. Area 53 December Assembly Location and October Committee meeting location/time: Next**

Assembly December 13 2009 10 AM at Whitehall Park, 400 North Hamilton Road Columbus OH.  
Next Area Committee meeting October 11, 10 AM Lowes Motor Inn. 401 Main St, Point Pleasant, WV  
25550

**Ask-It Basket questions and answers:**

1. *What is the "Turning on the Lights" program?* **Answer:** Bill Y. (DCM Chair) explained the program to encourage "dark" (non- active within the service structure) districts to be involved (to "light up"). It is an ongoing program.
2. *What are the 12 Concepts? What are they for? How do they work?* **Answer:** (Jean S.. delegate) noted that the 12 Concepts are listed and discussed in the AA Service Manual. The 12 Concept pamphlet was recommended as a less formidable presentation of the 12 Concepts. Sharon F. (past delegate) read the introductory Paragraphs from the Service Manual re: the 12 Concepts.
3. *What support is available to AA members deployed in the military not stationed at a base, but actually in the field fighting?* **Answer:** Carl D. discussed this with GSO staff (Valerie O'N.) Valerie responded "We list only English-speaking meetings in our International Directory and as of now we do not have any information about local Iraq or Afghanistan meetings. I have reviewed our International Director}' and the English-speaking meetings that choose to be listed here at G.S.O, are on military bases. I can only speculate that we will learn about A.A.'s reach into Iraq and Afghanistan from A.A. members as they return from serving in the military or working in these countries".

**Meeting adjourned with the Responsibility Statement**

Steve R... Panel 59 Area 53 Recording Secretary