

Panel 59 Area 53
Minutes of Area Assembly
Sunday, June 13, 2010
Whitehall Park, Columbus OH

MORNING SESSION: Chaired by Bill Y., DCM Committee 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

Three Legacies Group: Barry W., GSR, District 36; meets Sunday at Hage Memorial Presbyterian Church; 12 home group members and average meeting attendance 14-18; group conscience once a quarter; recent discussions on anniversary, scheduling group inventory, special needs, rep for mini-conference, ideas for attracting new people to meeting, area elections in September and area agenda; contributions made once a quarter, 50% to COGF and 50% to GSO; service positions filled include GSR, IGR, GIR, CPC/PI, GVR, NiteOwl, secretary/treasurer, cakes and literature.

Clintonville Big Book: Skid R., GSR, District 29 (now District 28); meets Tuesday at 8pm at Maple Grove UM Church; 21 home group members and average meeting attendance 45; group conscience the first Tuesday of the month; recent discussions on how the group selects meeting chairpersons; contributions 50-30-10-10% to COGF, GSO, Area and District; service positions filled include CPC/PI, GSR, IGR, GVR, GIR, secretary, treasurer, treatment rep and literature rep.

Women's Wisdom by Candellight Group: Peg S., GSR, District 32; meets Tuesday at 7pm at St. Lukes Methodist Church, 24 home group members and average meeting attendance 15; group conscience every other month; contributions 10% Area, 30% COGF and 60% GSO; group anniversary Tuesday July 20 with food at 6pm and lead at 7pm; CBCF 3-5 women/meeting.

Women's HOW Group: Megan Z., GSR, District 28-29 (now District 28); Closed Step meeting on Saturday at 9:30am at N Broadway UM Church; 40+ home group members and average meeting attendance 50-60; group conscience second Saturday of the month; contributions to COGF, CFC, GSO; \$25/week to ASL interpreter and babysitting and \$5 for rent.

Women's Early Bird Group: Sue K., GSR, District 29 (new District 28); meets Saturday at 9:30 am at Overbrook Presbyterian Church; 26 home group members and average meeting attendance 28; group conscience the first Saturday of each month; contributions to Women's Pre-release Center; service positions filled GSR, secretary, alt. secretary, GIR, GVR; group sponsors a meeting at the Women's Pre-Release Center two times per month.

The Upper Room Group: Clark S., GSR; meets 8pm Sunday at King Avenu UM Church; 20 home group members and average meeting attendance 90-100; group conscience first Sunday of the month; recent discussions group inventory, group anniversary, where to make contributions, 50/50 money and how to spend it, where home group members will be leading, monthly soup nite/cookout, reports from group service positions; group follows the suggested contributions after prudent reserve amount is doubled; cookout is the last Sunday of the month; 32nd anniversary is in 2011; group is 31 years old and attracts many newcomers with a base of long term sobriety; very upbeat group with good authenticity and a good deal of diversity.

After Work Group: Debra P., GSR, District 26; open speaker meeting on Tuesday at 5pm at Haven Corner Congregational Church; 25 home group members and average meeting

attendance of 40-50; group conscience every month, next one on June 15 to elect alt. secretary and GIR; contributions made quarterly with suggested split; all service positions filled except GIR, added treasurer; 26th group anniversary will be a picnic at a home group member's house on July 25, 2010.

Lodestar Group: Kim S., GSR, District 28-29 (now District 28); open step discussion on Wednesday at 7p at Overbrook Presbyterian Church; 25 home group members and average meeting attendance 30-40; group conscience monthly; recent discussions planning for 10th anniversary, babysitter has to quit; contributions quarterly to GSO, COGF, District and Area; all service positions are filled and group has a babysitting coordinator; 10th Anniversary is July 14, 5pm fellowship, 6p dinner, 7p lead with babysitting provided during the lead.

Cliffside 12&12 Group: Spencer G., GSR, District 28-29 (now District 28); meets Thursday at 7:30p at Cliffside and Calumet; 12 home group members and average meeting attendance 25; group conscience is first Thursday each month; recent discussions upcoming anniversary on July 25, special needs accommodations, purchasing Braille books, Grapevine need for support, additions to format for GVR, tabled discussion on Internet anonymity; quarterly contributions 10% area, 30% COGF, 60% GSO; service positions filled GSR, IGR, GIR, GVR, supplies, secretary, treasurer, CPC/PI; group anniversary is July 25, 2010.

Westerville Women's Recovery Group: Cathy H., GSR, District 25; literature discussion meeting on Thursday at 7:45pm at Spring Road Church of Christ; 25 home group members and average meeting attendance 20-30; group conscience monthly or as needed; recent discussions anniversary preparations, decided to include more talk about/reports on service activities from service reps at the meeting openings; contributions made when funds are accumulated beyond prudent reserve and made according to the pie chart in the pamphlet; service positions filled GSR, IGR, CFC, secretary, treasurer; group is willing to appoint a rep to the special needs committee if formed.

Westerville Workshop Group: Anne W., GSR, District 25; closed discussion meeting on Thursday at 8:30p at Central College Presbyterian Church; 10 home group members and average meeting attendance 40; group conscience as needed; recent discussions filling service positions, becoming an active group; contributions made quarterly as 50-25-25%; 33rd group anniversary coming up in July.

Minerva Park Group: Rob S., GSR, District 25; open discussion meeting on Friday at 7:30p at Minerva Park Community Center; 8 home group members and average meeting attendance 12; group conscience as needed; contributions two times per year to GSO 50%, area 25% and COGF 25%; service positions filled chair, secretary-treasurer, GSR and setup; group anniversary (20 something) will be a potluck the third Friday in August.

Mid-Morning Recovery Group: Ann S., GSR, District 12; open discussion meeting Mon-Fri at 10:30a at Springfield Alano Club; 20 home group members and average meeting attendance 30-40; quarterly group conscience; quarterly contributions as \$125 to Alano Club, \$90 to District 12, \$25 to Area 53; \$10 to GSO; service positions filled GSR, secretary and treasurer.

Post Office Group: Jason L., GSR; speaker meeting on Tuesday at 7:30p at 2nd Avenue and NW Blvd; group conscience monthly or as needed; recent discussions prisons, funding and functions, recently voted in a new co-secretary and GVR; quarterly contributions by percentages as recommended by service manual; service positions filled GSR, alt. GSR, two secretaries, treasurer, IGR, CFC.

2 for 1 Group: Cathleen R., GSR, District 15; 12&12 discussion on Thursday at 7p and Big Book discussion on Saturday at 10am at First Presbyterian Church in Marietta; 15 home group members and average meeting attendance 25; group conscience the first Thursday of the month and discuss a tradition at each group conscience; contributions to GSO, CFC, District 15, Area 53 and GSO; service positions filled secretary, treasurer, GSR.

Came to Believe Group: Frank G., GSR, District 12; meets Saturday at 8p at Alano Club in Springfield; 3 home group members and average meeting attendance 12.

Pleasant Valley Group: Mark G., GSR, District 17; meets Monday at 7:30p and Saturday at 8pm at corner of 8th and Main in Point Pleasant, WV; 13 home group members and average meeting attendance of 14; group conscience once a month; contributions are 50% District 17; 30% Area 53, 20% GSO; service positions filled GSR, alt. GSR, treasurer and CPC/PI; group 64th anniversary is August 7th at Moose Lodge shelter in Point Pleasant WV; group distributes literature and meeting lists to wind-up places in Point Pleasant.

Choice is Ours Literature Group: Constance C., GSR, District 26; meets Thursday at 6:30p at Whitehall Park; 6 home group members and average meeting attendance 15-20; quarterly group conscience; recent discussions more help with coffee pots, having an eating meeting the first Thursday of the month until October, purchasing Big Books for the group; service positions filled treasurer, secretary, GSR, IGR; Rule 62 Day is July 18 at Hannah Park in Gahanna.

DCM Reports

District 12: Frank G., DCM. Approximately six GSR attend meetings every third Sunday at 4:00p at Springfield Alano Club. The main function of the District is paying for an 800 AA hotline and a yearly workshop and encouraging more involvement at the district level.

District 15: Marlene D., DCM, Jeff W, Alt. DCM. District meets the 4th Tuesday of every month at 6pm at First Presbyterian Church in Marietta. There are 4-10 people in attendance. District takes a meeting to the Noble County Prison every Wednesday. District is starting a CPC/PI committee in the district. District continues to distribute literature throughout the local area. They have had cards made to put in public places with COGF toll-free number. District is having a workshop on June 19. There will be a panel on sponsorship in the morning and a presentation from Stephen T., Area 53 CPC/PI Chair in the afternoon.

District 17: Tammy B., DCM, Rich T, Alt. DCM. Rick B was elected at the district secretary. District voted to make donation to Area 73 website and hotline. District would like some feedback on workshops. They would like to hold a workshop of some kind every quarter. Attendance at all groups in the district is up. The Primary Purpose Group is generating activity in AA. CPC/PI core group is developing agenda. Groups are using more literature than ever before. Establishing a 6 month group inventory checkup report. District would like to acknowledge the effort of Jean S., Delegate, in attending Founders Day and Area Assembly.

District 26-27: Rory M., DCM. District has 10 active District meets the third Saturday of the month at 10am at Gahanna Mifflin Presbyterian Church. GSRs with more coming. Putting district meeting time and location in the Conscience Contact has helped increase attendance. District has enthusiastic GSRs that are willing to participate. District has been working on Rule 62 Day with will be July 18 at Hannah Park in Gahanna. District worked on group change information for Brett G., Registrar, and turned in most. Quite a lot done but more to be done. District continues to have area standing committee chairs speak at District meeting to understand service positions and to share information with groups.

District 28-29 (now District 28): Kerry M., DCM. District encompasses north Columbus areas of Clintonville and Linden. There are 7-10 active GSRs. District meets quarterly one month before the area assembly on the first Sunday of the month at 5pm at Oakland Park UM Church. Present district activities include setup/lunch for the June assembly, determining contents for newcomer GSR packet for non-active groups in the district. Planned activities include increasing the number of active GSRs in the district.

Committee Reports

Mini-Conference Committee: Carl D., Chair. The wrap-up meeting to the 2010 mini-conference was held May 13th. The committee voted to move the 2011 mini-conference back to Salt Fork Lodge. Those dates are March 11-13, 2011, with room rates at \$89. Pam R., the East Central Regional Trustee, will be part of the conference next year. The committee will reconvene Thursday, September 9th at 6pm at Oakland Park UM Church.

Samantha C., Treasurer. Attendance – 120. Shawnee Deposit - \$500. Supplies - \$580.34. Travel Expenses for Bob M. and Mary C. - \$579.24. Rent to Oakland Park UMC - \$50. Expense for hospitality - \$150. Final payment to Shawnee - \$2,960.59. 2010 Ending balance - \$1,918.25. 2009 Ending balance - \$1564.06. Increase 2010 over 2009 - \$\$354.19.

Grapevine Committee: Sylvester S., Chair. Committee meets first Friday of the month at St. Stephen's Community Center, 1500 17th Avenue. Meetings are attended by 10-15 people. At the recent meeting, an update was given on Grapevine activities at the upcoming International Convention in San Antonio TX. Still encouraging new GVRs to attend and inform home groups of the value of GVRs in a home group. Meeting to recruit new GVRs and ways of doing this are the topics of our discussion. GVRs that bring other GVRs to our meetings are presented with Grapevine material, CDs, books and old issues of Grapevines.

Cooperation with Professional Community/Public Information Committee (CPC/PI): Steve T, Chair. Committee meets third Saturday of the month at 11am Panera in Clintonville. Committee does a pamphlet study and at the last meeting read the Members of Clergy Ask; next meeting will study AA as a Resource to Health Care Professionals. In the future, the committee may walk through the CPC/PI kit. Workshops and group visits happen as requested. Business cards are available and more have been ordered (If you want to drink that is your business, if you want to stop that is our business). Doing a small pilot with putting Big Books into school libraries (3 so far). Literature racks are available for workshops, information sessions at IOP or similar functions, healthfairs and other professional conferences. Contacted Net Care to setup informational meetings to educate and get to know staff. Committee has about \$12 remaining from original budget amount of \$300.

Correctional Facilities Committee (CFC): Steve S., Chair. The Area 53 CFC held its quarterly meeting on June 5 at Oakland Park UMC. In the second quarter of this year, CFC purchased \$5,199 worth of AA literature for incarcerated men and women. This brings the total for the year to \$8,598. In the last three months, CFC distributed 317 Big Books, 215 12&12s, 574 other conference approved titles and 1,069 AA pamphlets. That's about 12 books and 12 pamphlets per day getting to folks who might otherwise not have an opportunity to receive them. All of this literature was distributed through outside sponsors who carried it into correctional institutions in the Area. Second quarter group contributions from the "spare change" jugs totaled \$4,252. Contributions for the year are \$9,434. CFC approved \$4,200 for purchases in the third quarter. Thanks, again, to all the groups who are supporting this program. Out only other expense last quarter was for meeting room rent for our Steering Committee and quarterly meetings. CFC received \$52.85 from the Area to help cover those costs. So for this year, CFC has requested only \$161 of the \$600 budgeted by the Area. CFC will have larger expenses during the next quarter because they have to reprint many of their forms. The correspondence and temporary contact programs continue to provide outside contacts for incarcerated AAs and help for those making the transition from the institution to AA. The Annual Spring Workshop on April 10 was a big success. There were over 100 attending and lunch was provided. There were three panels and two leads from AAs who are currently incarcerated.

Information Segment – "How do the principles and traditions specifically guide our fellowship?"
Carl D., Alt. Delegate.

The traditions are the backbone of our fellowship. The group conscience is the perfect example. That is where the group decides how it will deliver its' message of recovery, by speaker – with or without comments – literature, discussion or other formats. The group decides if the meeting will be open or closed, what readings to use, what prayers to say if any, who will hold group positions, where you meet, how funds are distributed, what snacks to serve and so forth.

Concept three is based on tradition 2, giving you, the members of this assembly and our delegate a the General Service Conference "the right of decision." The people who voted in and

the issues voted on at assemblies are done with the principle of “what is best for AA as a whole” and what is best for the area, not what is best for me. So we put aside personal agendas and popularity contests when voting on issues and positions to be filled. We can disagree without being disagreeable, though we are at times.

I’ve been the minority opinion at the home group and at the assemblies a couple of times, but if I’m practicing these principles in my affairs, I’ve ultimately got to support the conscience of the group or area. I can’t take my ball and go home every time I disagree.

The traditions are about humility with the spirit of rotation and anonymity. Learning the ins and outs of a position to where you are comfortable is great. The humility is stepping aside after two years and letting the next person step in without micro-managing them. In the meantime you get to rotate to a new position and start learning anew once again.

Our fellowship is made up of people with diverse or no religious views: single, married, divorced and gay; democrat, republican, independents, libertarians, and indifferent. Yet we keep our fellowship together. By focusing on our primary purpose these outside issues don’t tear us apart.

Not affiliating with a cause or a church, not offering a public opinion on anything, practicing anonymity at the level of press, radio, TV or film are examples of practicing the principles of AA.

AFTERNOON SESSION: Chaired by Glen P., Area Chair

Panel 59 Area Officer Reports

Recording Secretary, Steve R.

Partial minutes from March assembly were presented. The GSR and DCM reports from March have been misplaced and were not included. The assembly voted to table approving the March minutes to give the recording secretary additional time to locate the GSR and DCM reports. The minutes will be considered for approval at the September assembly.

Treasurer, Scott D.

Area treasurer’s report reviewed (see below). It was suggested that after a budget adjustment has been requested and approved that the treasurer’s report reflect the revised budget amount. Report approved by acclamation.

Treasurer’s report in a separate document.

Registrar, Brett G.

All group information submitted to the registrar by April 23 was entered in time for inclusion in the Regional Directory. Registrar continues to make group updates as received. Just because the deadline for inclusion in the directory has passed does not mean we do not need to update group information. Registrar provided group data to the ad hoc Committee on Redistricting for purpose of redistricting and DCM data to the DCM committee chair. Registrar still has group information for districts 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 18, 20, 31, 33, 34, 35, 37, 38, 39, 41 and 42. If you are the DCM for one of these districts or would like to be the DCM for a district that does not have a DCM, please see the registrar.

Area Chairperson, Glen P.

During the past quarter I have participated in the quarterly Area Committee meeting, Mini Conference Committee's 2010 wrap up meeting, attended the annual Unity breakfast with COGF, attended three ad hoc committee meetings on redistricting, and attended District 21's annual picnic.

COGF and Area53 have requested the use of the main meeting room at Whitehall Park at the same rate we are now paying for 5 dates in 2011. The Whitehall Park Commissioners have agreed based on us doing the setting up the room and cleaning up afterwards..

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

Delegate, Jean S.

Report in a separate document

Old Business

1. Ad Hoc Committee on Special Needs

After lengthy discussion, a motion was made for the Ad Hoc Committee on Special Needs to develop an area guideline proposed changed to establish the standing committee on Special Needs. The vote was 22 for, 2 against. The proposed guideline changes will be presented at the September assembly.

2. Ad Hoc Committee on Redistricting Report, Rick B., Chair

The committee members are Bill S., Bill Y., Bob B., Tom V., Glen P., and Rick B. (chair).

Background: The last time there was any redistricting, other than maybe address changes, was in 1986. We have not been able to find what the criteria was used to establish each district, but clearly it was a huge job that has served us well. Obviously, a lot has changed since 1986 in the demographics of Area 53. Population shifts, meeting relocations and the like has made our currently districting plan obsolete. There have been several attempts by loving AA members who took an extraordinary amount of time to present a comprehensive redistricting plan. Most plans were either tabled and/or lost over time. That brings us to now.

Current: The committee has now met on three occasions taking a look at our current district allocations and drew several conclusions from the outset.

1. Area 53 is in dire need of redistricting
2. The redistricting effort cannot be done all at once
3. There are far too many districts within Area 53 as evidenced by the variance in numbers of active groups versus districts (numbering from 0 to 39 groups/district)

We discussed the history of redistricting and concluded that the issue with not moving ahead was due to the massive nature of the proposals and that a more effective method would be to look at the more obvious changes, one at a time and to continue looking for inequities until a sound districting design that can be easily maintained by the area assembly.

Criteria: We did establish a few basic operating strategies to help simplify our decision making and how we can best make sound decisions.

1. Discontinue the practice of using buildings as districts since a club house or offices may move and change capacities.
2. When combining districts, we will use the lowest district number involved to be the newly named district.
3. We will be making every effort to establish the active/inactive groups prior to redistricting.

All redistricting changes are subject to assembly approval.

Redistricting Proposals and Motions

1. District 42 (The Pyramid Club) be dissolved and the district designation for the currently active groups be changed to District 36. Motion passed unanimously.
2. District 42 (RAC Building) be dissolved. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Districts 28 and 29 be combined into a single district designated as District 28. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Mini-Conference Committee request for funding

The Area 53 Mini-Conference Committee requests the \$20 per person registration fee for an estimated 150 attendees for the 2011 Area 53 Mini-Conference.

After discussion of this motion, the motion failed. The vote was 8 for, 15 against.

4. Mini-Conference Committee change in guidelines

The Mini-Conference Standing Committee requests alterations to the Area 53 guidelines regarding the election of the committee chairperson.

After discussion of this motion, the motion failed. The vote was 3 for, 16 against.

New Business

1. Area Elections will be conducted at the September assembly. Persons interested in standing for an office should contact Sharon F. at 740-374-4511.
2. Ad Hoc Committee on Redistricting requested \$50 for postage and this request was approved.
3. Anyone who is planning to attend the Ohio State Convention on August 13-15 and willing to participate on a panel should contact Jean S.
4. Unity Day is planned for August 22 from 10a-2p.

ASK IT BASKET Questions and Answers

1. "dark districts"
2. "making a pamphlet changes"

Meeting adjourned with the Responsibility Statement