

Panel 61 Area 53
Minutes of Area Assembly
Sunday March 13, 2011
Salt Fork State Park and Conference Center

Opening: The assembly was Co-chaired by Scott D. and Kay H.

The assembly opened with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer and the short form of the 12 Concepts.

GSR and DCM reports from the March assembly can be found at area53aa.org.

Panel 61 Standing Committee Reports

Correctional Facilities Committee:

Went to workshop in Springfield, Clark County (District 15). Quarterly meeting was held March 5, 2011 at Oakland Park United Methodist Church. Street address: 994 Oakland Park. Col. OH. The next quarterly meeting is on June 4, 2011. Committee discussed CFC workshop April 30, 2011, which will be held at Maple Grove United Methodist Church. There will be a panel, speakers, and a potluck. Bring a dish and a friend. We have received a request to begin a meeting at the work release facility. This matter will be discussed further at the steering committee. In his report Bob B. the Corresponding Secretary expressed a need for more people to correspond with inmates. (Bob talked about soliciting people for that in the Conscious Contact)

Meeting was held March 20, 2011 to discuss putting a display at the Spring Roundup, which will be held April 8, 9, and 10 2011. The committee collected \$4743.06 from the jugs (cans). The committee voted to use \$4500.00 to purchase new literature. Copies of the finance report are available upon request.

Grapevine Committee Report:

The Grapevine Committee continues to meet every first Friday of the month at St. Stephens Community Center. We meet from 6pm to 7pm. Committee meeting attendance varies between 10-15 members per meeting. We just elected officers: Chairperson, co-chairperson, treasurer, alt treasurer, secretary, alt secretary. Sales of wall and pocket calendars went very well, having to order a second set. We strive to encourage the participation of all GSR's in their home groups and to make new GSR's aware of our meeting time and place. The committee also promotes the practice of making known the availability of other books, CD's, and grapevine items. We also attempt to work with other committees involved in the recovery process.

Special Needs Committee Report:

Committee Contact Information: Area53spneeds@hotmail.com or Cathy H. at 614-205-8491.

Since being approved at the last Assembly, the Special Needs Committee has met twice. So far, we have six members and several more who have indicated interest in attending future meetings. Committee meetings will be monthly on the 4th Saturday at 10 AM. Location is not permanently set. The March 26th meeting will be 10 AM at the Whetstone Branch of Columbus Public Library, 3909 North High Street, Columbus OH. There will be no meeting in April, because it is a holiday weekend. Committee activities to date have been primarily organizational: electing officers, getting

appropriate AA materials for members, learning how to get the committee and committee activities listed on Area 53 and COGF websites, in the Conscious Contact, etc.

For the Area 53 Mini-Conference, we prepared a Special Needs Committee display, distributed the AA guidelines for Special Needs and for Serving the Deaf to the attendees, and also distributed a survey to help us assess what special needs individual members are encountering in their meetings and 12th step work. We intend to contact the three area intergroups about their resources and experience, and other Area committees that may have relevant experience they can share with us (e.g., Public Information and Corrections). Based on our assessment of needs and available resources, the Committee hopes to develop a specific project, but at this point we are still at the brainstorming stage. Some of the ideas under consideration (in no particular order) are (a) some way of getting meetings or AA visitors or at least literature to people confined to assisted living facilities, nursing homes, or group homes; (b) developing resource lists of AA members with skills in working with people who have special needs (e.g. ability to sign ASL or English, willingness/ability to provide transportation or visits), (c) how to get or finance ASL/English signers for more meetings. This is a great time to get involved with the committee – we are wide open to ideas and need your energy! We ask all DCM's and GSR's to spread the word to all interested AA's and encourage meetings to elect/choose Special Needs representatives to participate in the committee or at least to be a contact for us when we learn about needs in your geographic area.

Group Services Committee Report:

I have received the committee supplies, materials and petty cash from the outgoing chair, Mike. S. Acquired additional service manuals from COGF for sale at assemblies, mini-conference and GSR schools. The committee conducted a GSR School in April hosted by District 16 in Athens. Thanks to Debbie R. and Greg M., DCM, for their efforts. The next GSR School is scheduled for March 26 in Springfield. There is now an online GSR Request form on the Area website. The entire GSR School workbook materials are now online at the Area website. The committee held both a DCM Roundtable and GSR Roundtable during the Area mini-conference. Discussions included online reporting for DCM's and GSR's as well as other benefits of using the website.

The committee is recruiting additional members to participate in service and GSR Schools. Contact the chair at groupservices@area53aa.org.

CPC/PI COMMITTEE

The committee's main project for the past six months has been to take a public information session into the Crisis Stabilization Unit at Netcare, a lockdown mental health facility in central Ohio. The weekly, one-hour session follows a structured format created by several committee members based upon the Preamble of Alcoholics Anonymous and the A.A Information Sheet. At the Friday CPC-PI Workshop, three (3) members expressed interest in participating and will be added to the mailing list so that they might sign-up and attend. Last year the committee received a notice from General Service Office in New York of a statewide conference of the Ohio Catholic Education Association in October 2011, which invited us to staff a booth. The committee chair has been in contact with Area 55 and 56 and both of those Areas intend to assist us if we decide to pursue this opportunity. In an attempt to be fiscally responsible, the committee has written to the OCEA to determine if there is a non-profit fee since the fees quoted in the flyer are aimed at for-profit exhibitors. The price of a single exhibit table was \$475-\$525.

For conferences such as the OCEA event, health fairs, and other public sessions, our committee has a display, which is, shall we say, well loved. In anticipation of upcoming events, the committee is looking into updating the display and has asked members of A.A. who have art or graphic design backgrounds to help us make something professional, informative and appealing. We are also looking into displays that may be purchased from G.S.O. Another project we are working on is to provide Big Books to high school libraries. We were successful in placing one Big Book in one school in Monroe County as a pilot project. We are looking for teachers who might serve as contacts to help us place Big Books in other high schools throughout the Area.

A member of the COGF PI committee had begun contacting court personnel within Franklin County and offering information to them about what A.A. is and is not and what it does and does not do in an effort to dispel some of the myths about A.A. Another member of the committee works in a hospital setting and has been providing "A.A. as a Resource for the Health Care Professional," pamphlets and the "If you want to drink . . ." business cards at those facilities. We will continue to provide him with literature for that project on a month-by-month basis.

For the past fourteen months, the committee has been meeting at a public restaurant. This worked well when the committee consisted of two or three members, but we have grown and at our last meeting, the seven members in attendance had to squeeze into a room also being used by a Spanish language club of about twenty-five members. We are investigating other possible spaces which will require us to pay rent, but which will be much more conducive to our meetings.

Panel 61 Area Officer Reports

Secretary Report: Debbie R.

Minutes from Sunday, September 12, 2010 passed unanimously with the agreement to amend to the date, which read 2011. Minutes from Sunday December 12, 2010 passed unanimously.

Treasurer: Jim F.

Jim's phone number is misprinted on the 2011 tri-fold Area Calendar. The correct number is 740-357-8996. Feel free to email questions to treasurer@area53aa.org. The treasurer's report was distributed to the assembly and is attached. Jim explained that the December assembly approved to accept contributions online. At that time, the assembly asked that the treasurer breakout online contributions in the treasurer's report. The Area Committee, at its January meeting, approved \$100 to fund the online contribution fees so that group contributions remain intact. A question was asked if the report is reconciled to the bank statement. Jim replied in the affirmative. Another question asked about the online fee. The treasurer explained that is a 30 cents per transaction fee plus a %, which roughly averages 2.9%. A final question was asked if rent for archive storage was paid annually. Jim explained that has in fact been past practice. A motion was made to approve the treasurer's report as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Registrar: Kelly C.

Since we last met, I was able to receive the certificates and the credentials to be able to begin work in the FNV program to start updating individuals and groups in the Area. In mid-February, I went to NYC for vacation and was able to stop by GSO and meet with Karen Hale the head of registration. She was very welcoming and introduced me to her staff. At the time there was a delay in getting the certificates and I was able to give her some of the completed change forms that were given to me in December so they could enter them into the FNV database.

Once online, I was able to enter the redistricting changes in the FNV program. Also, there were 2 DCM changes, 3 GSR changes, and 2 new group additions (plus the changes from December I gave to GSO). This year, GSO has decided to once again update the Eastern Regional Directory. This means that all DCM's, GSR's, and interested AAs will need to review their groups in the districts and update the information so the directory can be accurate. With a lot of help, I have created a folder for each district with the group information printed out so one can review and revise. Once the revisions are made, I have provided many different ways to get the information back to me, or you can get it directly to GSO. Sometime in May is the deadline, however, I would like to propose that we try and get the revisions back to GSO by the last week in April.

Always know that if you have any questions or concerns, you can contact me or your alternate registrar: Dan H. through our Area emails or call at our provided phone numbers.

Chairperson: Kay H.

I have secured a location for the 2011 Assemblies, attended the District 16 Beginners workshop as well as the District 16 GSR School presented by the Area Group Services Committee. I was extensively involved in the Area Mini-Conference Committee, have consulted with the COGF board president to schedule a breakfast so that the two groups can coordinate Unity Day, and I gave a lead at the Listening Post. I plan to attend the Area 56 mini-conference.

Delegate: Glen P.

Since January the first my e-mail volume and snail mail volume have to at least quadrupled in preparation for the 61st General Service Conference. I have been assigned to the TFSNA committee that is Treatment Facility Special Needs Accessibilities the longest committee name of all. I attended the Delegates Past and Present, meeting in Appleton WI in February where I was duly overwhelmed. I have been active in the mini-conference committee and I thank all of you for your participation in this weekend. I attended the first special- needs committee meeting and the Beginners workshop in District 16. The next report I give will be after I return from the 61st General Service Conference and I will have a lot to report. If your group or district would like delegate's report please let me know and reserve a spot on the calendar. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

Old Business:

Assembly Location:

The 2011 Area 53 Assemblies will be held at Moose Lodge in Lancaster Ohio. Lunch will be on your own. The street address is 1201 Sugargrove Rd. Lancaster, Ohio 43130. This will also be the location for the April 10th 2011 Committee Meeting (lunch will be on your own). See the area website for directions.

Redistricting:

The Redistricting committee has been reconvened. If you would like more information see Kay.

Website Contributions:

Contributions to Area 53 can now be made online. We'll continue to take contributions by check or money order, but this offers another option. Any AA group, district or individual member (including sobriety birthday contributions) of AA in Area 53 can make an online contribution to Area 53 using a major credit card through secure payment processing by PayPal. You

do not have to have a PayPal account to make an online contribution. Go to our Area 53 website at <http://area53aa.org>, click on About Area 53, and then click on Contributions. Email the Area 53 Treasurer at treasurer@area53aa.org if you have any questions about making a contribution.

New Business:

State Conference Money:

Hospitality Room money that was surplus from the State convention was split equally between the four Ohio Areas. Motion was made to contribute the \$545 that Area 53 received to the General Service Office. The motion was seconded and passed.

Guideline Revision Proposal:

There are several proposed guideline revisions that are necessary in order to accurately reflect activity within the area. (See attached). Underlined information is items that are being added and scored-through information is information that is being removed from the guidelines. A motion to consider the guideline revisions was made, seconded and unanimously passed. Groups are to take the proposal back to their groups, solicit questions or comments and bring them to the June Assembly.

Unity Day Breakfast:

There are several proposed guideline revisions that are necessary in order to accurately reflect activity within the area. (See attached). Underlined information is items that are being added and scored-through information is information that is being removed from the guidelines. A motion to consider the guideline revisions was made, seconded and unanimously passed. Groups are to take the proposal back to their groups, solicit questions or comments and bring them to the June Assembly.

Finance Committee Report/Recommendations:

Finance Committee recommended that a new line item be added to the area budget to allow the DCM Chair to be reimbursed up to \$150.00 for travel to inactive districts to generate interest and participation. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Kay informed the Assembly that according to the Internal Revenue Service, we are in violation of the Internal Revenue Code because the area has never submitted the official Application for Recognition of Exemption. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State's office in March 1981. At that time, the IRS assigned Area 53 a Federal Tax ID number. Not for profit organizations are required to file the official application for exemption once their gross receipts exceed \$5000 a year. At this time it is not known exactly when Area 53 exceeded this amount in annual contributions, but it certainly has been the case for the last 10 years. There is a one-time application fee of \$850.00. The IRS has set it up to enable us to file the annual report required for not-for profits (this needs to be completed by the end of April) but stressed the importance of submitting the application ASAP. The Finance Committee moved that the assembly approve the \$850 application fee. The motion was seconded. Discussion ensued, mainly encompassing clarification. One person in particular asked if there would be legal or other professional fees incurred with the application and Kay stated that the Finance Committee would try to rely on pro-bono resources available within the fellowship. Other questions

centered on potential penalties. Kay stated that the IRS personnel that she worked with made no mention of penalties but stressed emphatically the importance of filing the application immediately. The motion passed unanimously.

Ask-It Basket Q&A'S

Q. Has the date and location of the 2012 Mini-Conference been set?

A. The date is March 9,10, and 11 of 2012. The location has not been confirmed.

Q. Does having a booth at the Catholic Church Social Event imply a religious affiliation with AA as a whole?

A. In short, no! AA provides literature to all: Priests, Teachers, Social Workers, and Psychologists to provide information about AA that is accurate. It is our duty to educate people about what AA is and what AA is not.

Closed Assembly with hand held Responsibility Statement.