

**Panel 61 Area 53  
Minutes of Area Assembly  
September 11, 2011  
The Moose Lodge, Lancaster Ohio**

**Opening:** The morning session of the assembly was chaired by Panel 61 Alternate Chairperson, Scott D. The assembly opened at 10:07 am with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer and a reading of short form of the 12 Concepts. An explanation of the Ask-It Basket was given. The entire assembly introduced themselves. The assembly was attended by 26 GSRs, 9 DCMs, and 1 past delegate. Area 53 Panel 61 Delegate and Alt. Delegate; Chairperson and Alt. Chairperson; Recording Secretary; Registrar and Alt. Registrar; Treasurer and Alt. Treasurer were also in attendance. Standing Committees represented at the assembly included CFC; Group Services; Special Needs and CPC/PI.

**Panel 61 GSR and DCM Reports**

**Groups** that were represented at the assembly by either a general service representative (GSR) or an alternate: Pleasant Valley Group, Rise and Shine Group, After Work Group, Pomeroy Serenity Group, Tri County Group, Nelsonville Monday Buckeye Big Book Group, Westerville Women's Recovery Group, Women's Sunset Quarterly, The Upper Room Group, Hilliard Big Book Group, Sunday Morning Big Book Discussion Group, Shawnee Group, How It Works Group, Ropeholders Men's Meeting, West Side Beginners Group, Gifts in Recovery Lasting Sobriety, Choice is Ours Literature Group, Lodestar Group, The Hillsboro Closed Discussion Group, Promises Group, Clintonville Big Book Group, Grove City Closed Discussion Group, Three Legacies Group, Monday Night Steps and Traditions, The Listening Post.

**Districts** that were represented at the assembly by either a district committee member (DCM) or an alternate: District 17, 28, 16, 26, 7, 19, 32, 12, and District 15.

**Panel 61 Standing Committee Reports**

**Group Services Committee:**

Chairperson Bill Y. (614-270-0593) or [groupservices@area53aa.org](mailto:groupservices@area53aa.org)  
Committee Meeting: 90 S Vernon Street, Sunbury OH 43074 at: to be determined

The primary activities of the committee are GSR School and website updates. If you are interested in getting involved in either of these service projects, please contact Bill Y., chair./ The Group Services Committee will start holding regular meetings in October somewhere in the Sunbury OH area. Committee meeting participation will be possible via conference call./There is an online form for requesting GSR School. Please use it to propose a time and place for a GSR School in your area. An online GSR School is still in the works, which will allow a person to use their own computer and phone to participate. The premier will be sometime

in November 2011./There are copies of the 2008-2009 Service Manual for sale for \$1. The current edition is 2010-11. These are a great deal to share with those who might be interested in finding out more about general service.

### **Correctional Facilities Committee**

Chairperson: Peggy A. (614-678-2512) or [cfcchair@area53aa.org](mailto:cfcchair@area53aa.org)

Committee Meeting: Oakland Park United Methodist Church 994 Oakland Park Col. Ohio at 10:00 am. Meets quarterly March, June, Sept, and Dec.

The Corrections Committee met on Saturday Sept 3, 2011. I would like to inform all those interested in obtaining literature, Todd S. the Lit Rep made arrangements with COGF. Call, email or mail your lit request and he will fill it, put your name on it and you can pick it up at central office. It will be in the Officer Managers Office. We hope this is more convenient for everyone./With state budget cuts and facility closures, reorganization of the state penal system will be needed. Several inmates will have the opportunity for early release. The committee is looking outside of the box and has reached out via liaison Tom B. who met with Ed Voohries Director, so we can be pro active in getting involved in resource fairs for reentry. We have been invited to attend the Southeastern Correction Inst reentry fair held Oct 20, 2011, I will be attending, anyone interested please see me./This quarter we collected \$4864.62 from the jug, it was voted to spend \$4700.00 on literature. The Committee would like to thank everyone who puts spare change into the jugs; all of the jug money goes to purchase literature only. Thank you again, the spare change changes lives./ If you would like to know more about the corrections committee and how we work, the committee is available to come and set up our display and explain all of our programs, correspondence, temporary contact etc please call or email me at [area53cfc@gmail.com](mailto:area53cfc@gmail.com) or call 614-678-2512

### **Mini-Conference Committee**

Chairperson, Dave C. (614-882-0036) or [miniconference@area53aa.org](mailto:miniconference@area53aa.org)

Committee Meeting: meets once a month, most months, at 6:30 p.m. at the Oakland Park United Methodist Church, 994 Oakland Park Ave in Columbus.

The committee met in August and September. Updates on Mini-Conference activities are posted on your Area 53 website. Anyone is welcome to attend the meetings. Please contact me or any Area officer any time you want more information about service opportunities in this committee. Since June, the committee has garnered the commitment of Jim M. from GSO to be our Saturday night A.A. lead and to give a GSO report on Friday night. We have a signed contract from Salt Fork and a budget of approximately \$4,900. If you read the website, you know that registration and banquet prices will not go up. They will be \$20 and \$25, respectively. We have an early registration flyer on the website that can be printed and filled out and mailed to the Area P.O. Box. We also have a secure and easy to use online registration form that website visitors can fill out and process in just minutes.

We will once again give away three A.A. Grapevine subscriptions to selected early registrants. We will be working on a tabletop display to take to A.A. events and service activities so we can inform A.A. groups about the Mini Conference history and purpose. Peggy A. is the new secretary and Ken A. will be working on the tabletop display project.

Panel 59 Delegate Jean S. has agreed to be the Earlybird A.A. Meeting chairperson for 2012. Letters to past attendees of the Mini-Conference will be mailed soon after Thanksgiving. You will get further updates about activities in the Mini-Conference committee page of the Area 53 website. Read the website and more will be revealed.

### **Grapevine Committee**

Chairperson, Sylvester S. (614-501-1571)

No report given.

### **PI/CPC Committee**

Chairperson, Nita S.; (614-395-8703) or [cpcpichair@area53.org](mailto:cpcpichair@area53.org)

The following topics were presented to the assembly, see Committee Chairperson for more information: NETCARE; UNITY DAY and STATE CONVENTION; ADULT PAROLE AUTHORITY; RETIREMENT CENTERS; FUTURE EXHIBITS with COGF; OCEA CONFERENCE.

**BUSINESS CARDS:** One of the CPC/PI committee's most popular ongoing projects is the use of business cards that read, "If you want to drink, that's your business. If you want to stop, that's ours" and give the Central Ohio Group Fellowship (COGF) phone number and website. The template for these cards comes from GSO. We have posted them in plasma centers, the police station, laundromats, pawnshops, and other places where alcoholics might end up before they find A.A. If anyone would like some of these cards to distribute, please contact me. They make great projects for sponsees.

**ADDICTION STUDIES INSTITUTE:** In 2012, we would also like to participate, jointly with the COGF PI Committee, in the Addiction Studies Institute in August. It is a professional education conference sponsored by The Ohio State University and Talbot Hall, which caters to recovery professionals throughout the state of Ohio. This year's conference exhibitors included Al-Anon, Hazelden, many treatment centers, several universities, several government agencies, and a pharmaceutical company.

**PROJECTS ON HOLD:** We have several other projects that are on hold because we don't have enough members with the time to pursue them. We would like to make sure that there is a copy of the big book in each high school within Area 53. We would like to make available copies of the pamphlets "Three Talks to Medical Societies," and "A.A. for the Health Professional," to all area hospitals. We would also like to continue contacting all the court systems within Area 53 and to offer literature and public information sessions to help them better understand what A.A. does and does not do.

**BRINGING OUR COMMITTEE TO YOU:** The CPC/PI Committee would like to expand A.A. members' understanding of CPC/PI and to enlist member participation in our committee activities. To that end, CPC/PI Committee members are available to the Districts or to individual groups for information sessions. At these sessions, CPC/PI Committee members can explain the projects our Committee does, review CPC/PI related literature, or provide an information session about a specific topic related to public information or cooperation

with professionals in the community. G.S.R.s, district representatives or individual A.A. members can contact any CPC/PI committee member to arrange an information session.

### **Special Needs / Accessibility**

Chairperson: Cathy H.

Committee Meeting: Central Office, 100 W. 3rd Ave, on 4th Saturday of the month, 10am.

Committee membership remains about 10, at least 2 of whom are group representatives. Attendance has been variable in the summer months. We hope to become more active in the coming months./Central Office has referred two requests for AA contact from individuals in hospitals/nursing homes. Committee members relayed these requests to meetings they attended in order to get volunteers to visit these people. We would like to set up a larger communication network through more group representatives and/or district representatives to relay such requests to meetings near the facilities involved./By the December Assembly, we hope to have a small packet for DCMs/GSRs/other attendees to take back to their meetings to help encourage participation in the committee. We have made, and continue to improve, a more permanent display board to take to AA events. In this quarter, the board was displayed at the Ohio State Convention in Cincinnati, Unity Day in Lancaster, and the 29th Ohio Gay Roundup in Dublin. Each event generated contacts with AAs interested in the committee and with additional resources for assisting AAs with special needs.

**Standing Committees not reporting at the assembly: Grapevine. Archives, Intergroup Liaison and the Treatment Facilities Committee are currently unpopulated.**

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BREAK FOR LUNCH - Resumed at 1:04 pm

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### **Afternoon session chaired by, Kay H. Area 53 Panel 61 Chairperson**

**Informational Segment,--*"Anonymity in the Digital Age"*** presented by Dave C., Panel 61 Alternate Delegate.

(This presentation can be found in its entirety at [area53aa.org](http://area53aa.org).)

### **Panel 61 Area Officer Reports**

#### **Secretary Report:**

Debbie R. (740-274-1185) or [secretary@area53aa.org](mailto:secretary@area53aa.org)

Distributed June 2011 Assembly Minutes. A motion was made to approve the minutes as presented; motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Jim F. (740-357-8996) or treasurer@area53aa.org

Distributed September 2011 Treasurer's Report (attached and available on the website). A motion was made to approve the treasurer's report as presented by Scott D., the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

### **Registrar's report**

Kelly C. (740-568-9140) or registrar@area53aa.org

Since we last met, we had 2 new DCMs entered into FNV. Also, we had an address change for a home group along with 3 new GSRs, a new Alternate GSR and 2 Primary Contacts and one secondary contact added to FNV. To date, we have 19 DCMs and 399 GSRs listed in Area 53.

You probably have noticed that the face of the Conscious Contact Page of the monthly Central Ohio Fellowship Newsletter has changed. We are trying some different formats to better communicate Area 53 information. All of the previous contact information of Officers, DCMs, and Committee Chairs with meeting time and locations can still be easily obtained at our website at [www.area53aa.org](http://www.area53aa.org). If anyone has any ideas or suggestions for specific information that you would like to see on this part of the newsletter, just see either Kay or me today. / If anyone would like to receive today's Minutes of the Assembly via the USPS, just see me later today and provide me with your name and mailing address information. Otherwise, the Minutes can be retrieved from the Area 53 website.

As each of you know, we had you sign in today and give us your service position. We also gave each of you a blue card. We will be voting by holding up these blue cards. Individuals who have a right to vote in this Assembly (and anyone can correct me if I am not complete) are the Area Officers and alternates, Past Delegates, DCMs/alt, GSRs/alt, Standing Committee Chairs and any designated Group representative that is not a GSR or alternate.

### **Chairperson's Report:**

Kay H. (740-797-3126) or chairperson@area53aa.org

Since the last assembly, I attended and chaired the Area Committee Mtg, attended the Ohio State Conference, the Mini-Conference Committee Mtg, and the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Point Pleasant Mtg, I coordinated, in conjunction with the COGF board, and attended this year's Unity Day. I continued to work with the registrar with regard to the area mailings as well as the area page in the Conscious Contact, the area's secretary with regard to the format and the bulk mailing of the area assembly minutes, and the webmaster with regard to the address database for the area mailings and various facets of the webpage, particularly the new online subscription function. I completed the exempt organization application and have submitted it to pro-bono legal review and expect to get it in the mail to the Internal Revenue Service within the next few weeks.

**Delegate's Report:**

Glen P. (740-983-6693) or [delegate@area53aa.org](mailto:delegate@area53aa.org)

During the quarter, I have attended the following: Area Committee Meeting, Special Needs-Accessibilities Committee Meeting, Listening Post for a Delegates report, Indiana State Convention/East Central Regional Forum, Ohio State Convention, Ohio State Convention Planning Meeting, Corrections Committee Meeting, 2 Mini Conference Committee Meetings, 65th Anniversary of the Point Pleasant Group, BYOB Veterans Group Organization Meeting.

A major project during the quarter was the membership survey the 61st Conference asked that we conduct. To that end, GSO randomly selected nine groups from Area 53 to participate in the survey. Eight of the nine groups were alive and well and survey materials were sent to five of the groups. I attended three meetings for which there was no contact and hand delivered the survey materials. I returned completed survey results for 6 of the 8 groups to GSO. I want to thank those who participated in the survey.

The final report of the 61st General Service Conference is now available./Please pick up a copy for yourself and a few extra for groups you attend that are not represented here today. Please understand that full names and addresses are listed and therefore the report needs to be treated as confidential. There are also Spanish language versions available if you could use those. /The new GSO literature catalog has been published and for the first time it contains both AAWS and Grapevine literature. /Also available is the request from the Conference Secretary for input from the community for the Theme, Presentation and Workshop topics for the 63rd General Service in 2013.

In other news from the Board: The Staff rotated to their new assignments on July 11 and thing seem to be going smoothly. A new staff member was hired and started work on the 15th of August. Her name is Tracey O. and her first assignment is the Corrections desk. She is from Brooklyn, NY. /For the first six months of 2011, contributions from A.A. groups and members of \$2,985,250 were \$21,470 under budget. Gross profit on literature sales of \$4,098,742 was \$127,079 over budget. Total expenses of \$6,659,635 were \$312,321 under budget. Net income totaled \$424,712. /The e-book versions of the Fourth Edition Big Book and Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions will be available for purchase on GSO's online store in English, French and Spanish in November of this year. The e-books will be readable in a free app for the iPhone and iPad. EReader Apps that will allow readers to view these books on other devices are planned to be available shortly after the initial release.

A.A.W.S. recently requested an unauthorized source to stop posting Daily Reflections online without permission and to refrain from emailing daily excerpts to subscribers because this infringed on the copyright of this book, and they have complied. G.S.O. subsequently received over 800 emails and calls from users of this service protesting the A.A.W.S. action. A number of these emails indicated that GSO might post this book and provide the service they received from the web site. A.A.W.S. is considering this. /General Manager, Phyllis H., offered special congratulations to Joe Moglia (nonalcoholic) in the Mail/Shipping Department who recently celebrated 45 years of service with G.S.O. He not only hits the

high mark for longevity in the office but he is the only current employee who was on staff with Bill W.!

I will be in District 17 on October 2 for a Delegates report and in District 12 on October 29 for a Workshop on Group Inventory. I am also available to other groups or districts upon request. / Also coming up is the East Central Regional Forum in Miamisburg, Ohio November 11-13. There is no registration fee but please preregister to facilitate arrangements. You can register on line at [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)

### **Old Business:**

**1) Re-districting Ad Hoc Committee** - Dave C. facilitated discussion on redistricting 8 Districts in Franklin County. The new proposal is to combine District 35 with District 22, making them District 22. Dave C. made motion to pass; Jason L. District 30 DCM seconds the motion. None were opposed, motion passed unanimously.

**2) Unity Day Re-cap** - Scott D. - great attendance and great speakers.

**3) Finance Committee: Exempt Organization Application**- Kay H. reported that the IRS Exempt Organization Application has been completed and is currently being reviewed by an attorney, pro-bono. The Articles of Organization contained the appropriate wording; everything looks good and it is hoped that we will have the application in the mail within the next several weeks.

### **New Business:**

**1) Mini Conference Committee** - Peggy A. is the new recording secretary for the committee. There will be no fee increase for attending the Mini Conference in 2012. Peg S. will chair the mini-conference early bird meetings.

**2) Area 53 Website Report** September 2011 – Bill Y., Area Web Admin

#### Features For Everyone

\* Latest news and articles on the front page \* Assembly agendas, maps/directions, handouts, reports and minutes \* Area Guidelines \* Mini-Conference online registration with secure payment \* Online group and individual contributions – secure credit card payments \* Calendar of area and district events – assemblies, workshops, conferences and more \* Meeting locator with directions – compliments of COGF.

#### Features For GSRs & Groups

\* Group change form \* Online reporting – complete it online, click submit and it will be emailed \* Print out a paper version of the GSR report \* Online GSR School Workbook material – review at your own pace \* Dates/times and maps/directions for district and committee meetings.

### Features For DCMs & Districts

- \* DCM change form and new DCM checklist
- \* Online reporting – complete it online, click submit and it will be emailed
- \* Custom district page for your district activities and history
- \* List of DCM contacts for other districts

### Features For Committees

- \* Custom committee page for your activities and history
- \* Online reporting – complete it online, click submit and it will be emailed
- \* List of contacts for other committee chairs.

### Area 53 Website 2011 Monthly History

Through August, the website has an average of 750 unique visitors per month making an average of 2,760 visits. Most of the visits to the website are indexing “bots” from Yahoo, Google, MSN, etc. The second largest volume of visits relate to website maintenance and adding new content.

	<u>Unique visitors</u>	<u># of visits</u>	<u>Pages</u>
Jan 2011	739	2,858	18,907
Feb 2011	705	2,344	13,210
Mar 2011	824	2,938	13,795
Apr 2011	668	2,495	6,336
May 2011	643	2,805	7,555
Jun 2011	631	2,710	10,179
Jul 2011	831	2,742	13,248
Aug 2011	982	3,229	17,204
Sep 2011	282	848	3,386
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,305</b>	<b>22,969</b>	<b>103,820</b>

**3) Intergroup liaison wanted** for COGF and Lancaster intergroup.

**4) CPC/PI Committee Chair**, Nita S. requested a one-time payment of \$75.00. \$25.00 will go to a membership fee, and the other \$50 to upgrading the display they use.

**5) Guideline Revision Request** - Dan H. submitted in writing a guideline revision request to move the Area 53 June Assembly to either the first or third weekend in June.

### Ask-it-Basket Q & A's

- Q. Why doesn't Area 53 donate money that extends beyond the prudent reserve?
- A. The Finance Committee tries to budget all money received from groups to Area 53 activities. Many times through the year, the bank balance is higher than the prudent reserve. It is best to look at the Area 53 Budget, all group donations are encumbered to Area activities.
- Q. What does the money collected in the jugs get used for?
- A. The jug money is collected by the groups for the Area 53 Correctional Facilities. The money is sent to the CFC's P.O. Box (listed is on the front of the jug). The CFC then uses all the jug money to purchase literature that is then distributed in correctional facilities in Area 53.