

AREA 53, PANEL 63 AREA ASSEMBLY MINUTES – DECEMBER 8, 2013, 10 AM

OPENING OF THE ASSEMBLY – Stephen S., Area Chair, chaired this portion of the Assembly.

- Call to Order & Serenity Prayer (We Version) – Stephen S., Area Chair
- Reading of the Twelve Concepts (Short Form) – Alberta.
- Roll Call: 28 GSRs, Alternate GSRs, 2, DCMS 7, No Alternate DCMS, Alternate DCMCS 1, Standing Committee Chairs 5, Officers 7. Interested AAs 1. Grapevine Rep 1, Standing Committee members 1.
- Introduction of new “trusted servants”
- Review of the Agenda – Stephen S. reviewed the agenda and it was accepted.
- September Assembly Minutes – Nita S., Area Secretary, presented the minutes of the September Assembly. Paul H. moved to approve the minutes. Roger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

DISTRICT AND GROUP REPORTS – Peg S., Alternate District Committee Member Chair

- Reports by District - DCM & GSRs for each District approach microphone together.
 - District 1: Keith Q., DCM. Elections were recently held. They instituted a change in the method and responsibility for funding. They are attempting to increase involvement at the District level and hope to increase contributions.
 - Mark H., GSR for Saturday Night Mad River Number One Open Lead Group. Looking for people to take service positions. Anniversary dinner in February.
 - Paula P., GSR for Urbana Friday Noon As Bill Sees It Group. Discussing contributions.
 - Thurman F., Number Two Group in Urbana Ohio. Discussing contributions. No report
 - Andy A., By Now We Know But Little Group, Changed recently to rotating format.
 - District 7: Lisa P., DCM. Trying to get members more active.
 - District 11:
 - Brenda B., GSR. Friday Night Closed Discussion Meeting. Babysitting. 50/50 drawing is given to the babysitter. Have been contributing to New York and COGF. Will now begin donating to the District as well.
 - Lisa H., GSR. Rise and Shine Meeting. Anniversary in August. One of two closed meetings in Marysville.
 - Tim W., GSR. Ridgewood Closed Discussion Group. Brand new group. Members with long-term sobriety
 - District 12: Frank G., DCM. Hot line has doubled in price. Looking for volunteers to answer phones. Also hoping surrounding Districts will assist with additional costs. Yearly gathering in September was well-attended.
 - District 15:
 - Tammy GSR Two for One Group in Marietta. Will hold an anniversary breakfast in the spring.
 - Matt P. Alternate GSR Hand in Hand Group in Barlow. District 15 has a website

- District 16: Stephanie S. DCM. Discussing proposed Grapevine Conference Item. Holiday party.
 - Mary S., GSR. Athens Wednesday Night Women’s Group. Recent discussions on Grapevine changes and whether to hold a meeting on Christmas. Also discussed non-AA members attending closed meetings. Discussed group contributions.
 - Jay R., GSR. Athens Monday Night Big Book Group. Discussed contributions. Attempting to get group reenergized. Format changed at Big Book meeting.
- District 18:
 - Bob H., alternate GSR. Chillicothe Candlelight. Trying to bring District to light, but not successful yet.
- District 26: Ed. A., DCM. Meeting location changed to New Life Church on North Stygler Road. Planning New Year’s Alkathon at new location which is handicapped accessible. Putting together a sponsorship panel March 1st. Christmas Alkathon 6PM Christmas Eve to 6PM Christmas Day. Ed attended Gratitude Sunday at Dr. Bob’s House. Ed attended Night Owl meeting at COGF.
 - Chris P., GSR. The Choice is Ours Group. Eating meeting the first Thursday of every month. Six home group members visited Akron recently.
 - Becky M., GSR. After Work Group. Group goes out for dinner after meeting. No meeting on the 24th. Meeting is currently not making contributions to District 26
- District 28: Taffy J., DCM. Flyers advertising newly active District.
 - Kathy P., GSR. Clintonville Big Book Group. Taking inventory as to whether we are self-supporting. Updating Home Group List. Christmas Eve meeting will be at Clintonville Resource Center
 - Liz. M., GSR. Early Evening Faith and Hope Group. Discussed singleness of purpose at their group consciences after Peg A. discussed this issue at the September Area Assembly.
 - Ben O., GSR. Boiled Owls Literature Group. Recently decided to have babysitting at their meeting.
 - Alberta A., GSR. Early Bird Women’s Group.
 - Elena S., GSR. Stop And Grow. December 14th holiday gathering. Prudent reserve discussed recently at group consciences and how much to send to Area.
 - Ed H., GSR. Plug In The Jug Group. Known at the “hot dog group.” Home baked treats after the meeting and cakes at anniversaries.
 - Peg. S., GSR. Wednesday Promises Meeting. One of the few meetings in an upstairs room of a church instead of the basement. Nice stained glass windows.
- District 30:
 - Jennifer R., GSR. Monday Night Steps and Traditions. First Monday in February is group anniversary.
 - Barrett T., GSR. Tradition Three Happy Hour Group.
 - Tommy O., GSR. Early Bird Big Book Group. Did away with the group raffle. Anniversary to be held June 28, 2014.

- District 34: Dana P., DCM. Newly active District. Discussing how to get other groups active. Attempting to get meeting information current and make sure all groups are registered with New York.
 - Bobby M., GSR. New Life Group. Their group is taking a slot at the Desert Island Club Christmas Eve, Day and New Year's Eve. Bobby reported the anniversary of another group on January 10th.
 - Roger A., GSR. Grove City Closed Discussion Group. The group will be active at the Desert Island Alkathon.
 - Terri H., GSR. The World Famous Good Morning Breakfast Group. Breakfast the first Sunday of the month. Group donates fee for events such as Spring Roundup, Women's retreats, Winter Gathering. Anniversary is second Sunday in February.
 - Larry R., GSR. Harbor Lights Group.
 - Brandi V., GSR. Three Legacies Group.

OFFICER & COMMITTEE REPORTS – Greg M, Alternate Area Chair chaired this portion of the meeting.

- Delegate's Report: Dave C.:
 - Dave explained his role as Delegate for the new trusted servants.
 - Grapevine: Recently someone sent Dave an email asking about the cover of the Grapevine that reads "Don't Drink and Go to Meetings." History of the Grapevine is covered on the inside center pages of the Grapevine. There is no bad question to ask.
 - Handouts available:
 - Final Conference Reports for 2012 and 2013 still available.
 - Conference Advisory Actions
 - Additional Considerations
 - Envelopes: Area 53 contributions, GSO envelope for normal business activity, Birthday Club envelope.
 - Traveling:
 - State Convention and participating in the Ohio State Planning Committee.
 - Regional Forum in Ft. Wayne. There was much discussion of the Grapevine including Editors of both Grapevine and LaVina.
 - Two new Delegates were elected in Ohio: Nancy in 55 Nancy M. and Garwood F. in Area 56.
 - Dave Chairs the Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee at the General Service Conference. New person staffing the desk in New York.
 - Box 459 is available.
 - Commemorative Edition of Big Book is available for pre-order.
 - International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous 2015 in Atlanta, GA.
 - Conference Literature Committee has reworked the spirituality pamphlet after it was sent back to Conference.
 - Dave can provide a digital version of the minutes of the Trustees Committees that were presented at the General Service Board weekend.

- **Officer Reports**
- Area Chair: Stephen S.: Area Committee met October 8, 2013. Stephen explained the roles of and membership of the Area Assembly and the Area Committee. Dave and he attended three district election meetings. Thirteen of the twenty-nine districts are now active meaning there is a DCM and the District is having meetings. There are other Districts who have GSRs, but no DCM and no District meetings. Of the ten standing committees, three committees got new chairs. Nine of the ten standing committees are now active meaning they have a chair and are holding meetings. Attended East Central Regional Forum.
- Area Treasurer: Kristi H. – Contribution reports are available. On the website you can look up your group service number. Groups that have contributed are listed on the back of the Treasurer's report. Ed A. moved, and Peggy S. seconded the motion to approve the report. With no objections the report was approved unanimously.
- Alternate Area Registrar: Jim F. – Jim asked GSRs to update group information with Bill S. today so that group can get a new GSR packet.
 - Tri-folds are out of date. Please give Dan H. or Jim F. updated information if you have any additional changes.

LUNCH BREAK

- **Standing Committee Reports**
- Corrections Committee: Not present
- CPC/PI Committee: Debbie R., Committee Member presented the following report:
 - The committee meets monthly at the Columbus Mennonite Church in Clintonville on the first Sunday of every month at 2pm. All are welcome.
 - There is a weekly information sessions into NetCare. We are always open to additional volunteers for this project.
 - We have an ongoing literature and information display at the Adult Parole Authority of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections.
 - AA Business Cards with COGF contact information continue to be placed in locations that alcoholics may go before they find AA. This includes several libraries. We are working with YMCA's to place business cards in their facilities. If you would like to take responsibility for placing these cards in a location near you place contact me and I will mail business cards.
 - We had a booth at the Ohio Justice Alliance Community Corrections and the Columbus State Health Fair
 - Two Power Point presentations have been completed. One is focused on AA members to explain what the CPC/PI committee does and the second is for talks to outside parties. Both presentations can be emailed.
 - We have completed a Help Wanted flyer to distribute at AA meetings to generate interest in volunteering with the CPC/PI committee.
 - We have developed a welcome/orientation packet for new committee members.
 - We are exploring the possibility of holding a joint workshop with the CFC targeted to Adult Parole Officers

- We are exploring the possibility of holding a CPC/PI workshop for interested AA members in the spring of 2014. This could be combined with a celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the Big Book.
- Grapevine Committee: Not present
- Liaison Committee: Paul H., Committee Chair. Attended Nov. 3rd COGF Advisory Board meeting. COGF membership committee investigates tradition violations. They have a new social chair: Heather. Changes have been made to Conscious Contact. Paid subscriptions are up 25%. No longer have individual flyers in the Conscious Contact. Groups pay \$30 for a one-page black and white ad instead. Sending out 680 secretary packets for the month. Next Advisory Board is Saturday, December 14, 2013. Seven out of eleven positions are available. Job Descriptions are posted on C.O.G.F. website.
- Mini-Conference Committee: Peggy A., Committee Chair. Peggy explained why we have a Mini-Conference and described the event which will be held March 7 to 9, 2014 at Salt Fork. District 15 will hold hospitality room. Speaker from General Service Conference is Steve S. and Bill Farnsworth, Trustee, will also speak. Clintonville Big Book Group is leading the early bird meetings. There are plenty of opportunities for service. There is a box on the flyer you can check if you wish to volunteer. The Committee needs volunteers to chair each of the conference committees. The flyer is on the website and you can register on the website as well. They are searching for locations for 2015 and 2016.
- Special Needs Committee: Sue M., Committee Chair. Sue was recently elected. She explained purpose of Committee. Next Committee meeting is January 25th at 10AM at Central Office. Please contact her if you have a person who needs the services of the Special Needs Committee.
- Treatment Committee: Bob H., Committee Chair. Recently elected to position. Received packet of information from General Service. Asking individuals to join the Committee. Received DVDs from General Service with information for adults and teens in treatment centers. Bob hopes DCMs will send him names of people to do 12-step work at treatment facilities in the Districts.
- **Other Committee Reports**
 - Ohio State Convention: Dave C., Committee Co-Chair. 277 registrations. 260 paid. Treasurer's final report submitted with a \$81.10 surplus. Next Ohio State Convention in Perrysburg July 25-27. A motion was made to send the surplus to the Mini-Conference Committee. In the past it has been sent to G.S.O. The motion failed.
 - Area 53 Ad Hoc Inventory Committee: Greg M., Committee Chair. Next action is going back to Area Committee. Before they can do any kind of formal inventory they need to do a pre-inventory survey of the groups to see if they are going to be at the inventory day.

INFORMATION SESSION – Peggy A: “How does my participation in Area General Service help the still suffering alcoholic?”

Peggy looked up “service” and “still suffering alcoholic” from *Language of the Heart*. Peggy explained how much service has enhanced her sobriety. Service is anything that helps us to reach fellow sufferers including phone calls, coffee, or A.A. General Service, or in New York. We need participants in all of these areas. Peggy explained service opportunities available through Area 53 standing committees. If you can't do Area service, any kind of service will help.

BUSINESS MEETING – Stephen S, Area Chair

Old Business

- Proposed 2014 Proposed Grapevine Committee Agenda Item.
 - Discussion: Bill explained his proposal. In 1997, the Grapevine went from a black and white version to a full color version. Done because they thought it would increase subscriptions. It did not work. Every year since subscriptions dropped a couple of percentage points. He proposes we cut back the page count from 64 to 48. Drop the four-color inside and go back to black and white. Go back to a less expensive paper stock. Ten pages of the current magazine is color clip art that he would eliminate. He estimates savings per year of \$180,000. He also did not consider the fact that it will weigh less if this change is made and therefore could cost less to ship.
 - Concern was raised that font would not be reduced.
 - Concern was raised that the magazine would lose content.
 - On-line sales revenue of Grapevine nearly tripled in the past year. If that continues to increase, would that not take care of the Grapevine deficits?
 - Motion: Should Area 53 approve the proposed agenda item and forward it to GSO as an Area 53 proposal?
 - Discussion:
 - Pro:
 - The Grapevine worked back when it was black and white.
 - We are not deciding the details. We are only deciding whether Area 53 will send this forward to G.S.O.
 - My experience is that you cannot keep spending more than you are making.
 - Subject was brought up by delegates at East Central Regional Forums, but not to the extent that Bill took responsibility. Her home group wants this to happen because they want to still have the Grapevine available.
 - Cheaper stock is easier to flip pages.
 - Binding staying the same is important so we can take them into jails.
 - It is appropriate for us to suggest specific details. She went to the Regional Forum. Grapevine Editors feel that it is the members' responsibility to ask for specific changes.
 - Last year the Grapevine came out with a lot of books and series that they will not be continuing to make the money on because it's not going to be new anymore. Last year was an anomaly. On-line subscriptions will help, but that won't be the same as last year.
 - Never wants the print version to go away.
 - That \$180,000 could be spent somewhere else. It's money out of the still-suffering alcoholic's pocket.
 - Con:
 - Newcomers need the pictures.

- Idea of saving money is great, but we should leave the details of the number of pages and whether or not we have clipart should be left up to the Grapevine.
 - On-line revenue will pay for The Grapevine.
 - Color catches the eye.
 - Wants a committee formed to discuss this.
 - In favor: 36
 - Opposed: 7
 - Motion passes.
 - Minority Opinion:
 - This is our chance to make an effective change. Would like it reworded in the best possible way so that it has the best possible.
 - No motion to reconsider.
- Sharing Session: Lighting up dark district efforts and results
 - Dana P.: District 34 has had a lot of success. They went to the groups and asked for help and told them how they could help.
- Sharing Session: What can or should we do about addicts that are brought to closed meetings by treatment centers?
 - Jennifer R.: Her group looked at how they have been handling this. The Group stays aware of who's participating in the meeting. If someone says, "I'm an ___ and a" or "I'm an addict," they approach the person after the meeting and discuss the fact that this is a closed meeting. Very kind and very patient. Ask how they can be helpful.
 - Bobby M.: He introduces himself by saying, "I have alcoholism." If we just slam the door, they are never going get it. Best done one-on-one. It's education. It's not that they are in the wrong place. It's that they are thinking about it the wrong way.
 - Lisa: I don't think God would throw me out if I identified myself the wrong way.
 - Stephanie: I choose to align myself with Alcoholics Anonymous because I get quality sobriety here. We used to ask people who said they were addicts to identify themselves as alcoholics first. She believes this should be discussed at the CPC and Treatment Center Committees to discuss this with the professionals.
 - Frank G.: The Big Book addresses drugs in a lot of chapters. It's not so much a debate about who belongs here. I'm here to pass on the message of Alcoholics Anonymous. If you dig deeper into the person who's an addict, there's alcoholism in his story. If he refuses to look at it, he might not be ready to surrender.
 - Thurman: There are only two closed meetings in Urbana. No one is brought there from treatment centers. But we have a lot of court-ordered people. Everything I did, I did alcoholically. It's not important how they introduce themselves. This is a meeting of A.A. and we are going to carry the message that's in the Big Book. It's about respect for the program of recovery that got me sober.

New Business

- Proposed 2014 Area 53 Budget: Kristi H.

- Bank balanced changed from \$6500 to \$5500 because \$1000 of expenses came in since it was prepared
- Postage, copies and supplies: Many more copies than last year. Also contribution envelopes.
- Line 6: GSO Expense - Delegate to NY. We do not have enough to pay the same amount as last year and so the Finance Committee and the Area Committee voted to reduce it to the minimum of \$1600.
- Bank Balance: Does that include prudent reserve? Yes.

Peg moved to approve the budget as modified. Ed seconded the motion.

- Discussion: GSO Expense - Delegate to NY: Bill S. expressed his concern that this amount was not enough.
 - In favor: 30
 - Opposed: 6

The motion carried.

Minority Opinion:

- Mary S. – I think it's important for us to make our Commitment to GSO on paper. If we don't do that, we won't remember to send it later.

Motion to Reconsider was made and seconded.

- In favor: 8
- Opposed: Majority.

Motion to Reconsider failed.

- 75th Anniversary Commemorative Big Book opportunities: Dave C. discussed ways other Areas are finding to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Big Book. Workshops. Seventy-five seconds of silence. Many options.
- New Group Services Committee Chair: Greg S. was nominated. Bill S. moved and Peg S. seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Sharing Session: Area 53 Assembly format, location in general, and this venue.
 - GSR reports are too time-consuming. They are written and could be handed in.
 - Was attendance better when we were in Columbus? Same attendance different composition. Best attendance was at Zanesville.
 - Suggestion was made that we go back to meeting in a hotel because it's more formal. Believes we can find a hotel for the same amount as we are paying at Moose Lodge.
 - Another reason for the hotel is to get lunch there easily. Felt like you were going to an event.
 - What is the purpose of the sharing session? Fear was raised that individuals who are new to Area Service will think some of the personal opinions made during the Sharing Session are the positions of A.A.
 - A member said he loves the GSR reports, but does not need all the information. Question is whether a particular part of the GSR reports is more important. He likes to hear big events from the groups or are there any problems or solutions that the groups are experiencing.
 - This issue will be discussed at the Area Committee.

What's on your mind?

3 minutes to express your views or ask questions. Ask-it basket questions will also be addressed.

- Liz spoke as a Temporary Contact for Corrections Committee. Needs more volunteers. Asks Assembly members to mention it to their home group members. Act as temporary sponsor to get the newcomer acquainted. Email Liz in care of cfcchair@area53aa.org
- Jim F. please put name badges and voting cards on table where Bill and Jim are. Also please let them have group changes.
- Brandi suggesting to inmates to fill out cards and send them in and not getting responses.

CLOSING OF THE ASSEMBLY – Stephen S.

- Area Committee meeting January 12 at Moose Lodge at 1:30PM. Please come in through the back. DCM meeting at same location at 10AM. Officers and anyone else interested are going over the Guidelines.
- Next Assembly will be held March 9, 2014 at Salt Fork State Lodge
- A motion was made and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. It passed unanimously.
- The Assembly was closed with the “We Version” of the Responsibility Statement