

Minutes of the Area 53 Panel 63 Area Assembly – 10AM, June 2, 2013, Moose Lodge, Lancaster, OH

Opening of the assembly – Steve S., Area Chairperson

- Steve called the meeting to order at 10:08am. Opened meeting with the Serenity Prayer.
- Barb read the short form of the 12 Concepts.
- Roll call was taken by Steve S., Area Chair: 15 G.S.R.s, 1 Alt. G.S.R., 4 Past Delegates, 7 DCMs, 1 Alt. DCM, 4 Standing Committee chairs, 9 Area officers, 1 Alt. DCM Chair, 2 interested A.A.s, 1 Trustee. Number of voting members: 39.
- Steve S. reviewed the Area Agenda as prepared by the Area Committee. Minor changes noted. Agenda approved without objection.
- March Assembly minutes reviewed. Prepared by Nita S. Presented by Steve S., Area Chair. Peg S moved to accept the minutes, Debbie R seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

District and Group reports – chaired by Peg S., Alt. DCMC

District 6: Barb S., DCM. Barb gave two G.S.R. reports in absentia for Towers Big Book Meeting and Daily Reflections Meeting.

District 12: Frank G., DCM. They are now approved in Clark County Jail to go in with the same privileges as a chaplain. They can go in at any time and carry the message and not take away visiting times from the incarcerated. September 28 is the yearly District workshop. Details to be announced. Focus will be on service.

District 15: Tammy P., G.S.R. of the Two for One Group. Their April anniversary was a huge success. Patrice P., G.S.R. of the Hand in Hand group.

District 16: Debbie R., DCM. They have been discussing a fall workshop. A BBQ is scheduled for August 10 at the Dairy Lane Shelter House. The email service has been getting better so people can email the district with any concerns. Elaine L., G.S.R. of the Athens Sunday Lead Group. The Group had an intensive group inventory with an outside facilitator in May. Things went very well with that.

District 17: Ryan C., DCM. They are getting ready to do a District Inventory using a format from the Grapevine. The Arch to Freedom workshop is coming up and also a workshop sometime in October. Jerry C., G.S.R., Pomeroy Serenity Group. Spring Fling came off very well and was a huge success.

District 19 : Steve D., DCM. August 17 Picnic is coming up. Currently updating meeting directories to get rid of meetings that do not exist anymore. On June 20th the Washington Courthouse Group will celebrate their 65th anniversary with a dinner.

District 21: Greg H., DCM. They are currently trying to get the District workshop set back up for an August date. Alt. G.S.R. Steve 12-n-12 Workshop for Month of June was postponed. Mark H., G.S.R.. Shawnee Group.

District 23: Randy M., G.S.R. of the Dirty Dozen Group.

District 26: Ed A., DCM. They have been discussing applying for a non-profit tax status. They are discussing making a line item in their budget to put the money aside to save for the filing fee. They have been inviting G.S.R.s from dark districts to their meetings to see how to possibly light the dark districts. Annual Rule 62 day coming up on September 22nd from 10am to 4pm. Bill F. will speak. They are talking about putting on an old-timers panel this year as well. They will also hold their New Years Alcahthon but the location is TBD. They are looking for a handicapped accessible location. The Amazing Grace Group has folded due to poor attendance. Tom F., G.S.R. of the After Work group. Anniversary Picnic in July. No specific date announced. Dominique, G.S.R. of Northeast Discussion Group. Third Anniversary coming up. Chris P., G.S.R. of the Choice is Ours Group. Thirteenth Anniversary was celebrated on March 14th. Hannah M., G.S.R. of How It Works Group. The Group participated in the District G.S.R. School. They have a Grapevine Representative now. Halfway to Anniversary Cookout will be July 25.

District 28: The District currently does not have a DCM, but they are continuing to meet quarterly. Taffy J., G.S.R. of Clintonville Big Book group. The Group anniversary is in November. Peg S., G.S.R. of Maynard Wednesday Promises.

District 30: The District currently does not have a DCM. Heather S. Outgoing G.S.R./Incoming Alt. G.S.R. for Sunset Group Women's meeting. Jennifer R., G.S.R. of Monday Night Steps and Traditions. Anniversary is in February. Group inventory is in January. They try to go out to dinner once a week.

District 34: The District currently does not have a DCM. Dana P., G.S.R. of Three Legacies Group. In July they are planning a group trip to Akron. They are having an upcoming workshop November 2nd followed the next day by their 26th Anniversary.

Officer and Committee Reports – Chaired by Greg M.

Delegate Report: Dave C. reported on his participation in the 63rd General Service Conference (GSC) in New York. He reported that Bill F. was elected East Central Regional (ECR) Trustee. This is the first time in over 40 years a past delegate from Ohio was elected as the ECR Trustee. Dave served on the Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee at the GSC and then was elected to chair that Committee for the 64th GSC. He talked about "GSC Takes It inventory." Please see his full report on the Area 53 website. The Conference decided not to change the wording of the Eleventh Tradition. A Commemorative Edition of the First Printing of the Big Book will be published in 2014.

Trustee Report : Bill F., East Central Regional Trustee. He reflected on his election as the New East Central Regional Trustee. He will give his first Trustee report at the Ohio State Convention in August.

Officer and Committee Reports

Area Chairperson: Steve S. reported on the April Area Committee Meeting and defined the purpose of the Area Committee. He reported on the lack of DCM's as well as the lack of available and willing candidates for these positions. Let Steve know if you are interested in getting involved. The next Area committee meeting is the second Sunday of July. He reported that the Area Committee decided no further redistricting was necessary at this time and that the DCM committee has assumed responsibility for the G.S.R. schools. Please see Steve's detailed report below on page 4.

Area Treasurer: Kristi H. distributed and reviewed Treasurer's Report. Sharon made a motion to approve. Ed A. seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The Treasurer's Report is posted on the Area 53 website.

Registrars report: Dan H. reported that the trifold brochure is available which lists all the Area Committee members. He asked people to turn in their badges at the end of the Assembly to be reused at next Assembly. Group names cannot be changed in Fellowship New Vision. If a Group wants to change its name, a New Group Form must be submitted to GSO so a new group number can be assigned. Contact information changes should be submitted to the Area Registrar and not GSO.

Standing Committee Reports

Corrections Committee: Tom B., Alternate Corrections Committee Chair reported on the quarterly meeting held June 1, 2013. The committee is becoming more involved in Job Fairs. They will have a display and presence at the Ohio State Convention.

Cooperation with the Professional Committee/Public Information Committee: Jen D. reporting. This committee is still without a chairperson; they are currently actively looking for someone willing to chair. Please see Jen's full report on page 5.

Mini-Conference committee: Peggy A. reporting. 104 attended the mini-conference. 80 banquet attendees. 36 lunch buffets. 2014 Mini-Conference will be at Salt Fork on March 7-9. Steve S. from New York will be our speaker. The next meeting for the Mini-Conference committee will be in September. Kelly C. presented the Treasurer's report for the Mini-Conference.

State Convention Committee Report: Dave C and Kristi H reporting. Walk thru of the hotel coming up. Next meeting of the committee will be the third Monday of the month, 17th of June. First weekend of August is the convention. There are flyers available and registration online is available right now.

Unity Day Committee: Greg M reporting. Unity Day will be August 18 at the Moose Lodge in Lancaster Ohio. Flyers will be sent out with the date and schedule.

Information Session: Peggy A. reporting.

Topic: “What is the difference between a Group Conscious and an Informed Group Conscience?” and “What is the importance of A.A. Literature?” Peggy reviewed Tradition Two and the definitions of a group conscious and an informed group conscious found on Page 26 in the A.A. Group pamphlet. She shared her experience with group conscious meetings and emphasized the need for people to come to the group conscious informed so that the meetings are not drawn out unnecessarily. The Area Assembly is the group conscious of all the groups in the Area. Peggy shared that A.A. literature is meant to be a guide to help us in understanding and practicing the principles of our three legacies: Unity, Recovery and Service.

Business Meeting: Steve S., Area Chairperson.

Old Business: None

New Business: Paul H. was nominated as Chairperson of the Intergroup Liaison Standing Committee. Motion made by Randy to affirm Paul. Dave C seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/Sharing topics

Revised Area 53 Guidelines – No action at this assembly. A “Summary of Area 53 Assembly Actions 2009-2013” was distributed.

Communication Improvement: Bill Y. reported that the current format of the website is now five years old. An online subscription for the area minutes in newsletter format is now available. Go to the website and sign up. You will get an email to confirm your email address and you can always unsubscribe later.

Open Microphone Topics: Jim F. - Use of website email for officers. Dave C./Bill Y. – Saving passwords on Area email accounts. Kelly C./Bill Y./Kristi H./Jim F. – Snail mail versus electronic communications. Sharon F. – Process for email distribution of minutes.

Ask-it-Basket Topic: “When is the next DCM committee meeting?” The DCM’s meet next on July 14th as a committee at 10am at the Moose Family Center in Lancaster.

Closing of the Assembly

Next assembly meeting on September 8, 2013 at 10am at the Moose Family Center in Lancaster. Closed with the “We” version of The Responsibility Statement.

AREA CHAIRPERSON'S FULL REPORT (Steve S.):

The Area Committee met on April 14 at the Lancaster Moose Family Center. Attending were 8 Area Officers, the DCMC, the Alternate DCMC, 5 DCMs, the Area Web Master, and 1 interested G.S.R..

According to our Guidelines, the purpose of the Area Committee is to “serve as the steering committee of the Area 53 Assembly” and “assist the area officers in conducting the day-to-day business of the Area 53 Assembly.” This Assembly is the Area’s group conscience; the Area Committee’s purpose is to put into action the decisions made by the Assembly. For the Area Committee to be effective, The A.A. Service Manual suggests, “there should be enough districts and committee members to ensure good communication between the (area) committee and the groups.”

There are 47 members of the Area Committee: 10 area officers, 29 DCMs, the DCMC, and 7 standing committee chairs. By design, substantial unanimity resides with the DCMs and the standing committee chairs. In practice, it resides with the officers of the area assembly. We had 13 voting members of the Area Committee present in April. Eight were area officers. In theory, this assembly says it wants the groups to guide the actions of the area committee, but in practice, the officers guide the committee’s actions for only one reason – a lack of participation on the part of A.A. districts and standing committees.

We have 4 standing committees that do not have a chairperson and more than half of the districts without a DCM. If you’ve been a G.S.R., you are eligible to be a DCM. If you are a sober member of A.A., you are eligible to be a standing committee chair. Lack of eligible candidates is not the reason these service roles go unfilled. A lack of available and willing candidates is problem.

So I ask everyone here today – the collective conscience of the groups in Area 53 - to take responsibility for resolving this dilemma. Ask yourself: am I eligible? Am I available? Am I willing? And if not you, how about the men and women you sponsor? How about the other members of your home group? How about the men and women who have relocated here and were active in other areas? If you or someone you know has any interest at all, contact me and let’s talk. Let’s make the area committee again representative of the groups.

At any rate, in April, the underrepresented Area Committee took the following actions:

- The DCM Committee assumed responsibility for planning and conducting the G.S.R. Schools.
- In response to an Ask-It Basket question at the March Assembly, the DCM Committee recommended that the existing district boundaries outside of Franklin County remain as they are. The Area Committee ratified their recommendation, and the Ad-Hoc Re-districting Committee was officially dissolved.
- Dan H, Area 53 Registrar, announced a revised registration process for the Area Assembly, which is designed to simplify the process and improve the accuracy of the records.
- Dan also agreed to work on a revised Group Change form, which will be introduced to the Area Committee in July.
- The committee agreed with the recommendation of the Area Webmaster that we review and discuss the role of the Group Services Committee. This topic will be the subject of a sharing session at the July Area Committee meeting.
- Bill Y presented a report on the difficulties the Area faces in keeping its mailing lists up to date. Based upon the report, the Area Committee added “Improving Communications” as a Sharing Session for the June Assembly.

- The DCM Committee requested a later start for the Area Committee meeting because they felt pressed for time to get their work done at their morning session. As a result, the Area Committee voted to start the July meeting at 1:30PM.
- We reviewed a rotating format for the Area page of the COGF “Conscious Contact.” Every month, the page will include upcoming area and service events and contact information for the area officers and the standing committees. Then, on a three- month rotation, the page will include district contact and meeting information, a delegate’s report, and a report by the area chair discussing area activity and the upcoming assembly.

In accordance with our Guidelines, I am recommending Paul Holmes to be Chair of the Area 53 Liaison Standing Committee. A motion to approve the recommendation will be made during New Business.

The revised Guidelines are not yet ready. The task proved more demanding than I had expected. As part of the process, however, we researched the Assembly Minutes that are posted on the website, and we have prepared a “Summary of Assembly Actions” that captures all of the changes that have been made in the last 4 years. A presentation and discussion of the document is on today’s agenda.

So, it’s been a busy quarter. I again want to thank all of you for your commitment and service and for the opportunity to serve as your Panel 63 Area Chair.

COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY/PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE FULL REPORT (Jen D.):

- Currently we meet the first Sunday of every month at 2:00 pm, at Columbus Mennonite Church, 35 E. Oakland Park Avenue, Columbus OH 43214. This quarter, we had to cancel our April meeting so we met in March, May, and there will be a meeting today
- Our Chair has currently stepped down so in accordance with the Area Chair we are looking for a replacement. In the interim, members will be filling the role of attending Assemblies, Committee Planning meetings, etc. I have added my contact info at GSO and Kim B. and I am the contacts now through the CPC/PI chair email. We do have an A.A. member who is considering the position but a decision has not been made yet.
- At our last meeting the secretary (me), treasurer, 2 CPC reps, Area Chair, Area Delegate, an interested A.A. member, and the outgoing Chair were there at meeting
- Added three more members to the committee since the quarter began
- Projects and Committee Actions:
 - o We have printed new business cards and picked up cardholders-we continue to distribute these at libraries and other places
 - o Three members spoke to professionals from the legal community at the Ohio Justice Alliance in April
 - o In May, speaker went into a private HS in Westerville to talk with teens who are graduating this year
 - o We are hoping to collaborate with COGF on the Addiction Studies Institute coming up at the end of July
 - o We will need \$225 to split the cost to get our booth
 - o I have been in contact with Area 55 about splitting the cost between the 4 areas to attend the Ohio Catholic Educator’s Association in October. They will be discussing that at the meeting today
 - o Recently we have been talking to Ohio Health doctor to discuss possibly having CPC talk to residents who do a rotation in treatment centers (ie. Info segment on what A.A. is/is not)

- o All the ongoing projects such as getting info into the schools (in particular, Dublin, Columbus, Olentangy, Westerville), presentations at school, all put on hold due to summer, poor communication, or general disconnections
- o There was recently info taken into Correction Facility for the Reentry program but have not been able to follow up with Chris J yet about how that went
- o Public info session still being held at Netcare and info displayed at Adult Parole