

MINUTES OF THE AREA 53 PANEL 63 AREA ASSEMBLY SEPT. 8, 2013

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

- Stephen S. called the meeting to order with the “We” Version of the Serenity Prayer
- Michael read the Short Form of the Twelve Concepts
- Roll Call: Group Service Representatives (GSR): 10, Alt GSRs: 3, District Committee Members (DCM): 4, No alt DCMs, District Committee Member Chair (DCMC): 1, No Alt DCMC, Standing Committee Chairs: 3, Area Officers: 8, Past Delegates: 4, Interested AAs: 7. Total voting members: 33.
- Area Chair, Stephen S. reviewed the Agenda as prepared by the Area Committee. It was approved without objection.
- Nita S., Area Secretary, presented the minutes of the June Assembly. Ed A. made a motion to approve the minutes. Steve D. seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

DISTRICT AND GROUP REPORTS – Ginny L., DCMC chaired this portion of the Assembly.

District 1: No DCMs or GSRs present

District 4: No DCMs or GSRs present

District 6:

- Barby S. DCM: Fourteen active GSRs; meeting 6 location, Newsletter monthly, raising money for district literature, gratitude dinner in November. Alakathons Christmas and New Year’s. Prudent reserve \$300.
- Becky Grapevine Rep (GVR) (standing in for GSR) Towers Big Book meeting. Changed from 11AM to 9AM meeting time.

District 7: No DCMs or GSRs present

District 12:

- Frank, G., DCM: His DCM term is up in December. He’s approaching retired AA folks, but finding they have no interest in serving. Yearly gathering (no longer called a workshop) will be held on “Services beyond the meeting.” Last Saturday of September (28th) 1 to 5PM. Food. Opportunity to share your own experience at passing the message. AA will have a table at a recovery celebration at the Springfield City Building. Groups support the District.

District 15:

- Matt P., Alt GSR: Vincent hand in hand group meets at 7:30PM Saturday. Group Conscious first Saturday or the month. Fifteen attendees. At the District level he’s working on their website.
- Mary Anne, Interested AA, Two For One Group. Home group members 15. Group meets Thursdays at 7PM; Saturday at 10AM. Attendance 14. Group plans to hold Hospitality Suite at Mini-Conference in 2014.

District 16:

- Peggy F., DCM, submitted on-line report. Debbie R., former DCM moved out of the District and Peggy F., former Alternate DCM, became the DCM. The District is reviewing the concepts. A District picnic was held at the shelter house in the Ridges in Athens. The District is currently at its prudent reserve after paying for the picnic and making the contributions to the service entities. They are currently working on improving Public Information in the area. Many interested AAs have offered to help. A new chairperson will be elected at the next District meeting on October 6th.
- Todd T., GSR for T.G.I.F. Group in Athens. Group has a group conscience monthly.

District 17: No DCMS or GSRs present.

District 18: Bob H., Alt. GSR Chillicothe Candlelight. 9:30 Saturday night.

District 19:

- Steve D., DCM: Picnic a success. Improved attendance. Meeting rotates to different groups. Putting together a committee to visit groups that are not active in Area Service. Interest in District in talking to professionals about what AA is and what it is not.

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- Joanne L., GSR, Hillsborough Sunshine Group. 25 – 30 people. Doing a group inventory. Want to work with institutions more and get the word out to the professionals.

District 21:

- Greg H. DCM: 7 DCMs active. Working to get more participation from groups. Have a DCM treasurer and secretary. Recently had a workshop on sponsorship and Steps 1, 2 and 3. Finances are good.
- Angie, Interested AA, Portsmouth United Group. They just had a sponsor/sponsee workshop covering Steps 1, 2 and 3. They will have an Anniversary Dinner upcoming.
- Susan T., GSR, Saturday Noon 12 & 12 Group. Group conscience is held monthly. The group needs and Alternate GSR.

District 23:

- Randy M., GSR, Dirty Dozen Group. The group is helping bring Districts out of the dark.
- Chris S., GSR, Friday Men's Discussion Group. No upcoming events. Group conscience is held every two or three months.

District 26:

- Ed. A., DCM: Fifteen active GSRs. New meeting location is New Life Church, 3690 Stygler Road, Gahanna. Discussion of nonprofit status placed on hold. Rule 62 Day: Patty B. will speak. Old-timer's panel. Hosted ice cream social at State Convention. New Year's Alkathon: New location is Reynoldsburg Church of Nazarene 1340 Crest Road, Reynoldsburg. Assisting with dark districts to have their voice. Inviting them to the GSR meeting. New Alternate secretary for District.
- Chris P., GSR, Choice is Ours Group. Rotating format. 15 to 25 attendees. Meet quarterly. New Correction Committee Rep. Group contributions 25% per entity. Eating meeting the first meeting of the month.
- Julie, Alt. GSR, Northeast Discussion Group: Looking for a new place to meet.
- Zoe B., GSR, Gahanna Early Bird Group. Fourth Anniversary will be held in December.

District 28:

- Carole C. reported that there were not enough attendees at DCM meeting to elect new DCM.
- Carole C., Alt. GSR, Plug in the Jug Group. All offices filled except CPC/PI. Anniversary November 6th. Each week they have a different officer give a report.
- Liz M., GSR, Early Faith & Hope Group. Celebrated 24 years.
- Taffy J., GSR, Clintonville Big Book. Nov. 19th Anniversary. Jean S. speaker. Panels the other weeks of November.
- Mary S. Grapevine rep. reported for Cliffside 12 & 12.

District 30:

- Jennifer R., GSR, Monday Night Steps and Traditions Group. Elections coming up in October and November. Meeting shows "Bill Speaks on the Traditions" each time they begin discussing Traditions. Group goes to dinner 2nd Monday of the month.
- Barrett T., GSR, Tradition Three Happy Hour Group. Regular contributions.

District 34: Dana P., GSR, Three Legacies Group. November 2nd workshop: Living the Principles of AA. Group Anniversary November 3rd. Current home group members are visiting other groups to recruit GSRs.

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

- **Delegate's Report: Dave C., Delegate:** The last three months as your delegate has been very eventful and I valued everyone in General Service who contributed to the information and fun. What a profound experience the 57th Ohio State Convention August 2-4 at the Double tree in Columbus Worthington. All the trips all over Area 53 and beautiful Athens county District 16 I played a small part the real roll up your sleeves planning and execution was led by Kristi H., Bill

Y. and Debbie R., and Jean S. Anne and Rob S. and Ed S., Jayden C., Sandra F., Al-Anon, Lori R. District 26 and all the troopers who showed up early Aug 2 and worked tirelessly each morning to midnight. Our panels and workshops were outstanding, our speakers were tremendous and the fellowship was the best. NE, SW and NW Ohio Areas supported us and gave us nothing but praise. The hotel was 5 star. The banquet was superb and the hospitality was first class. Area 53 Central and Southeastern Ohio should be greatly proud. Past Trustee Jack W. said it truly was one of the greatest service conventions he can recall and he loved our theme "Service: Where the Miracle Grows!" The General Service Office received a great report from Tracey O., who serves on the Group Services desk and spoke on Saturday morning.

In July, I rode to the East Central Regional Convention in Appleton WI with ECR Trustee Bill F. and Sharon F and Peggy A, Alternate Delegate. I served on a panel about preparing for the GSC. I thank the Area for funding that service responsibility.

I also attended the Ohio Young People in AA convention the weekend of August 23 - 25.

And Peggy and I drove to Charleston WV for a self-funded visit to the SE Regional Forum Aug 17. I emailed a report to the trusted servants a copy is posted to the Area 53 website. I've got registration and hotel info for the Nov. 15 -17 East central regional forum in Fort Wayne IN.

Stephen S. and I travelled to 2 District meetings - District 10 in Delaware and District 6 in Steubenville/Wintersville. District 10 thanks to Jason L. is starting to get active again and Barbie S. and her servants in those Guernsey, Belmont Harrison and Jefferson, counties in far NE corner of Area 53 are carrying the message. Any district that wants to get a visit from Stephen and I please see me or Stephen today.

I've got a few pieces of info from AA GSO. And they are GSO Treatment / Special Needs information and personal experience request GSO Report Group contribution by district for first 6 months of 2013.

According to records 18.47 % of Area 53 registered groups contributed to the GSO this is down from 20.5% for 2012. Final reports booklet from (2013) 63rd General Service Conference all the advisory actions and additional considerations are enumerated in this compendium of service report. Please contact me if your district would like me to make a personal delivery to your groups.

- **Officer Reports**

- **Area Chair – Stephen S.:** The Area Committee met on July 14 at the Lancaster Moose Family Center. Attending were 8 Area Officers, the DCMC, 5 DCMs, 5 GSRs, 2 past delegates, and 3 interested AAs. The Area Committee voted to accept the Information Topic recommended by the District Committee Members Committee, "How do we maintain our singleness of purpose and still reach the newcomer, including the dually addicted? Our Alternate Delegate will report on this topic later today.

The main topic of the meeting was a discussion on what we can do to light up dark districts. A copy of an article written by a past DCM in Area 56 was used as reference. The Area Committee members were asked to assume responsibility for making an effort to light up districts and not just leave it up to the DCM Committee. Dave C, Peggy A, Ginny L and I agreed to be a coordinating committee.

In early August, we met with representatives from 4 Franklin County dark districts, 23, 28, 30, & 34 plus District 10 (Delaware County). We formed district teams made up of GSRs from the individual districts and members of the Area Committee. Each team was given a list of groups in the district that are registered with GSO and asked to compare the list with the meetings listed in the COGF meeting directory. The teams are going to attempt to visit all of the groups in the district to get updated contact information and invite the groups to participate in the effort to re-light their district.

Dave C and I attended district meetings in District 10 and District 6. Both meetings reinforced my impression that there are people willing to be active if we only reach out. Dave and I are going to continue to attend as many district meetings as we can this year.

I also attended meetings of the CPC/PI Standing Committee and the Special Needs Committee. The CPC/PI Committee requested that I created an ad-hoc committee to develop an Area policy or procedure on how to set up a non-profit checking account. I plan to do this with a goal of having a written position for the Assembly to review in December. There was only one member attending the Special Needs Committee. We are hopeful that the December Committee meeting will have better attendance and that the Committee can select a chair.

- **Area Treasurer – Kristi H.:** Sharon F. moved to approve the report. Greg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Area Registrar – Dan H.:** AA Group form easy to fill out. If you are starting a new Group: Send the form to New York. If is a change in an existing group, send the form to Dan.

SHORT BREAK

- **Standing Committee Reports**
 - **Corrections Committee:** Brandi V., Committee Member, reported that the Quarterly Meeting will be September 14th this month and not the first Saturday of the month as it usually is. It is important that people who take other members into the prison meet all the requirements to go in.
 - **CPC/PI Committee:** LuAnn G., Committee Member: The Committee continues to meet monthly at the Columbus Mennonite Church in Clintonville on the first Sunday of every month at 2PM.

We are still in need of a Chairperson.

We continue to take a weekly information session into Netcare. We are always open to additional volunteers for this ongoing project.

We continue to have a literature and information display at the Adult Parole Authority of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections.

We continue to place business cards with Central Ohio Group Fellowship (COGF) contact information in places where alcoholics might go before they find A.A.

We continue to have A.A. business cards in the lobbies of most Franklin County libraries and in Athens, Portsmouth and Marietta. Need volunteers to place cards in libraries across Area.

We have received authorization to place business cards at area YMCA facilities.

We continue to cooperate with the COGF PI Committee especially in staffing booths at health fairs and conferences. One such booth will be at Columbus State Community College in early October.

Also in cooperation with COGF PI Committee, we again participated in the Addiction Studies Institute held this year on July 31 through August 2nd. We gave away a lot of literature and spoke with many participants. Several attendees requested information on having Committee members speak either to their clients or their fellow staff members.

We will cooperate with members of the other three Ohio Area CPC/PI committees to staff a booth at the Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections Conference – October 10 & 11, 2013.

Please feel free to take literature from our display.

The Committee is reviewing power point presentations used by other Area CPC and/or PI Committees to develop one for our Committee members to use.

We have many other tabled projects we would like to pursue as additional volunteers become available. Contact us if you can help!

- **Grapevine Committee:** Jeff T., Chair. A Grapevine Day is scheduled for Oct. 26th Noon to 4PM. Eastview United Methodist Church on Ross Road in Whitehall.
- **Liaison Committee:** Paul H., Chair. COGF lease is up next year with 5-year renewal. Looking for something better and cheaper. Membership committee is investigating a meeting in Grove City that had Celebrate Recovery literature at its meeting. New website to be rolled out including outside sales aacentralohio.org in September including downloadable leads. Audit done internally every quarter. See Patty B., office manager to see that. Kitty R. is new secretary of Central Office. Possible changes to Conscious Contact. Next member's meeting.

The liaison Committee went through the Area list of groups outside Franklin County and compared it to COGF lists outside Franklin County. He will give them to the DCMC to give to the DCMs to look at groups that are not registered with New York and who are on one list, but not another. Paul has prepared a new group packet which will be discussed at the Area Committee member to give to new groups to tell them what the Area does and the benefits of being active in the Area.

- **Mini-Conference Committee:** Peggy S., Chair. The Mini-Conference Committee will resume meeting on September 9, 2013 at 6:30 pm. The committee is planning the conference for 2014 to be held at Salt Fork State Park on March 7 thru 9, 2014. We will be discussing approval of proposed guidelines, flyers, budget etc. please plan to become a part of this Committee. This is a great Conference to prepare the delegate to go to New York and vote for our Area. Check the website for updates.
- **Special Needs Committee:** No report
- **Other Committee Reports**
 - **State Convention Committee – Dave C., Convention Co-Chairs:** Fifty-Seventh Ohio State Convention. Expenses are still coming in. Two hundred eighty-five people attended. Looks like it will be in the black and in November we will pass on the seed money to Area 55.
 - **Unity Day – Greg M, Alt Area Chair –** Fifty-five attendees. Unity Day happened successfully!

- **Ad Hoc Committee on Lighting Dark Districts** – Stephen S.: Area Committee accepted responsibility for lighting dark districts. In reviewing the records, huge discrepancies were found between Fellowship New Vision and COGF directory. Held a meeting to address this.
 - **District 18 (Pickaway & Ross) and 20 (Pike)**, Bob. Appalachian Intergroup is being set up in these districts. Chillicothe Candlelight said that all the money originally sent to COGF now goes to Appalachian Intergroup because they don't feel they are being served by COGF. Bob will wait for this to develop and then check the records to see which groups are properly registered and who are not. He will attempt to get a new DCM.
 - **District 23**: Randy, M. No success yet, but will follow Dana's example.
 - **District 28**: Carole C., They have gone to 20 groups. Next GSR meeting is November 10 at 6PM at Oakland Park United Methodist Church. They are going to have the meeting even though the District is dark.
 - **District 30**: Jennifer. No success yet, but will continue working.
 - **District 30**: Peggy S., DCMC Secretary, and Ginny L., DCMC are working together on lighting this District.
 - **District 34**: Dana P. Three Legacies Group GSR. A group is going to each meeting and asking who the secretary is. She then introduces herself and says we are a dark District and we need help. Groups are shocked they are not registered. Getting them properly registered. Got commitments from four other groups for GSRs to attend the District meeting. It will be October 27th at 5:30PM at the Hogue Memorial Presbyterian Church and will try to elect a DCM.
 - **Discussion**: If a DCM has not attended two consecutive Assemblies, the District can caucus and elect a new DCM because the DCM is inactive.

INFORMATION SESSION: Peggy A., Alternate Delegate, spoke to the question: "Singleness of Purpose – How do we maintain our singleness of purpose and still reach the newcomer including the dually addicted?"

In the Language of the Heart: Bill W.'S Grapevine Writings in the chapter Problems Other Than Alcohol on page 222 written in 1958 Bill W. answers these questions.

While acknowledging that the withdrawal from drug addiction is horrible, and racks a person's body and that it stirs our deep interest and sympathy, these are some important facts stated in this article.

We have to take a good look at the AA traditions and experience. The first duty as a society is to insure our survival, having to avoid distractions and multi-purpose activity. Freedom from alcohol through teaching and practicing the twelve steps is the sole purpose of AA groups. We can invite addicts to attend open meetings; however there is no way of making non-alcoholic addicts into AA members.

Bill states we cannot give AA membership to non-alcoholics. They should be able to attend certain open meetings if the groups are willing. While the group has strict limits, the individual AA does not. Remembering to observe traditions of anonymity and non-endorsement the AA member can carry AA message into every troubled area.

1. Encourage the drug addict and dually addicted to attend open meetings and keep a open mind about their alcohol use.
2. Love and tolerance.
3. Take time to talk to them perhaps explaining our singleness of purpose.
4. Opportunity for service.

Question: What about addicts brought to closed meetings by treatment centers?

Education not condemnation. Read the blue card at the beginning of the meeting. Be kind to them when we read that card. Also we need to visit the treatment centers and inform the people bringing them to meetings.

This issue will be added as Old Business at the December Assembly. Ask GSRs to ask their groups how they are handling it.

BUSINESS MEETING – Stephen S, Area Chair, chaired this portion of the Assembly

Old Business - None

New Business

- **Budget Request – Peggy A., Alternate Delegate**- Motion by Peggy. Seconded by Bill to add \$371 to the Alternate Delegate. Motion passed unanimously
- **2014 General Service Conference Agenda Item – Bill S., past delegate** – The question is whether we should even talk about it. Not discussing the merits. Only question is whether it should be taken back to the groups. He’s going to do it as an individual, but he’ll drop it as an individual if the Area will accept it.

Proposed Agenda Item: “Due to declining annual paid print magazine subscriptions and the loss in revenue derived, and the inability to be self-supporting in previous years (2007-2011), I (Area 53 General Service, Central and Southeastern Ohio) respectfully propos the reduction in art and printing production specifications of the print version of the A.A. Grapevine in order for it to be self-supporting for years to come.”

- Page S55 of Service Manual: Sources of Agenda Items.
- Bill’s proposal is to make changes in the printed version to make it more profitable.
- These were the specifications in February of 2009.

Discussion was held on the finances of LaVina and The Grapevine. More information is available in the General Service Conference report under Additional Committee Considerations.

The process of bringing an agenda item to the General Service Conference was discussed.

With questions, contact Bill S. at Pastdel45@area53aa.org or Dave C. at delegate@area53aa.org. There is a Grapevine Committee meeting at 100 W. Third Avenue next Saturday at noon at COGF. Maybe they will make this a topic at the Grapevine Day workshop. If you know people who care about The Grapevine, ask them to go to the Grapevine Committee. We have three months to discuss it. December 8 we will have a full discussion of this proposal. It will be a little conference committee meeting.

Open Microphone – 3 minutes to express view or ask question. Questions added to Ask-It Basket.

At the Conference this is called, “What’s on your mind?”

1. Dave C. – Lots of information shared.
2. Sharon F. past delegate – I don’t like this abbreviated version of the Assembly. I understand why we did it today. A lot of things happen at lunch and on breaks.
3. Dana P. – CPC/PI member needs a nonprofit ID and wants information on how to use that.

Ask-It Basket

Q: How often is the Assembly moved to a new location?

A: It moves whenever it wants to move. It was in Zanesville for years. It was at Whitehall Park. Stephen S. is going to look at alternate locations for next year, but there is no specific time table. We move it when we think there's a better location or an appropriate time to move. Guidance comes from ideas from the Assembly as a whole. Area Committee will discuss it and decide the specific location.

Bob H. stated his opinion that meetings should be rotated around Area 53 to get better participation.

Q. Tax ID Number for Standing Committee issue?

A: CPC/PI asked the Area to look at the issue. Chair asked two or three people to look into this. The Mini-Conference Committee already uses the Area tax ID. No rule that a standing committee can't use it. Need to look at the pros and cons and ask "Is it necessary?" and "What are the pros and cons?" They hope to find a procedure that standing committees, groups and districts can use. Standing committees are part of the Area. AA Guideline on Finance says groups and districts cannot use GSO tax ID. Mini-Conference Committee started using the Area tax ID when it was still a committee of Area 53 and wasn't a standing committee then eventually it spun off as a standing committee and so it still uses the tax ID. Ultimately it's a policy issue and the Assembly will decide.

Q. Dana P.: We spend a lot of time with the GSR reports. Why do we do that?

Q. Peggy A. – One AA group has a Mini-Conference Committee representative that comes to the Mini-Conference Committee Meetings. All groups could have such a representative.

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED AT A FUTURE ASSEMBLY (Sharing Topics, not necessarily Motions)

1. Assembly Location
2. Format of the Assembly itself

CLOSING OF THE ASSEMBLY – Stephen S.

- Next Meeting Date and Location
- Area committee:
 - Lancaster Moose Lodge
 - October 13th. Committee meeting begins at 1:30PM
 - DCM meeting begins at 10AM October 13th
 - Officers Ad Hoc Guideline Change Discussion at 11AM – 12:30
 - 12:30 to 1:30 - Lunch
- Area Assembly:
 - December 8 – 10AM
 - Lancaster Moose Lodge
- Stephen S., Area Chair, closed the meeting with the "We" version of the Responsibility Statement.