

AREA 53 PANEL 63 AREA ASSEMBLY – DECEMBER 14, 2014 AT 10:00AM

OPENING OF THE ASSEMBLY – Stephen S, Area Chair presided:

- Stephen S. called the meeting to order with the “We Version” of the Serenity Prayer
- Cindi read the short form of the Twelve Concepts
- Roll Call: Thirty-four Group Service Representatives (GSRs), Three Alternate-GSRs, One District Committee Member Chair (DCMC), One Panel 65 DCMC, Nine District Committee Members (DCMs), Two Alternate-DCMs, Six Standing Committee Chairs, Three Standing Committee members, Ten Standing Committee Officers, Six Panel 65 Officers, Four Past Delegates, One Regional Trustee, Five Interested AAs.
- Stephen S. reviewed the Agenda and it was approved as presented.
- Nita S., Area Secretary, presented the September Assembly Minutes. Mike M. moved and Brandi V. seconded a motion to approve the minutes and they were approved unanimously.
- Kristi K., Area Treasurer presented the Treasurer’s Report. Steve D. moved and Sharon F. seconded a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report. The Treasurer’s Report was approved unanimously.

EAST CENTRAL REGION TRUSTEE’S REPORT – Bill F., East Central Trustee, reported:

As your East Central Trustee, I was privileged to participate in the October Board Weekend in Rye Brook, New York. During this year, I serve as Chairman of the Trustees’ Committee on Corrections and a member of the Trustees’ Literature and Archives Committees. The weekend began with my departure from the Akron-Canton Airport the early afternoon on Thursday October 30, 2014. I arrived in the late afternoon after a shuttle ride from La Guardia. My weekend started with the Nominating Committee meeting of the GVB at 7:30 AM on Friday followed by the scheduled GVB meeting at 8:30.

Bill reported the following news:

1. Phyllis Halliday, General Manager, will retire in October, 2015.
2. Doug Richardson, longtime GSO staff member, will retire in December, 2014.
3. Registration for the 2015 International Convention thus far is 26,000 registrants. We have exhausted two blocks of rooms and are well into the third block.
4. Your General Service Board adopted a mission statement: Our mission is to serve the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous.
5. Through September 2014, AAWS has a net profit of \$2.2 million; Grapevine has a net profit of \$232,000. The Reserve Fund is \$14 million or 9.4 months of expenses.
6. The floor plan for the remodeling of the 11th floor of our offices has been agreed upon.
7. There is a change in Conference procedure: At the January Board Weekend meetings of Trustees’ Committees, the Conference Committee Chairs will be active participants in their corresponding Trustees’ Committee meeting and will review proposed background for their Committee.

8. At the 2015 International Convention, there will be a large space focusing on A.A. service named "Carry the Message". Shortly, Delegates will be requested to provide names of servants from their Area to staff this space.

9. Ed Martin, past Delegate from the S.W. Region (Area 38, E. Mo.), is recommended to be a General Service Trustee at the next Conference. Similarly, Ivan Lemelle, Class A Trustee, is recommended to serve on the Grapevine corporate Board. Joel Castellaw, Pacific Regional Trustee is recommended for service on the Grapevine Board and Richard Boisvert is recommended for AAWS Board service.

10. Trustees' Nominating Committee chose seven prospective Class A Trustees to interview in January for the two Class A Trustee vacancies to occur at the next Conference.

11. The General Service Board will undertake a comprehensive feasibility study of our current business model, corporate structure and long term sustainability of the Board and its affiliate corporations.

12. A new policy for narrative reporting of the financial results of La Vina was adopted.

13. The January Grapevine has a picture of the COGF Meeting room in it.

BUSINESS MEETING – Stephen S., Area Chair presided:

PANEL 65 ELECTIONS FOR OPEN POSITIONS – Jean S., Past Delegate Panel 59, presided:

- Review of Procedures: Jean S. reviewed the Third Legacy Process & Eligibility Requirements. Steve D. moved and Peg S. seconded that the Assembly use the Third Legacy Procedure. The motion was approved unanimously.
- Alternate Delegate: Frank G. stood unopposed. Steve D. moved to accept Frank by acclimation. The motion passed unanimously. Frank G. will serve as the Panel 65 Alternate Delegate
- Alternate Chair: Frank's election opened the position of Alternate Chair. Dan H. and Laura R. stood for the position.

Roger A. moved that the Assembly open nominations to anyone with past experience regardless of whether they have been on the Area Committee which is different from the requirements used at the September Election Assembly. Brandi V. seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Minority Opinion Discussion: One member expressed the opinion that the Assembly should keep the same procedures used in the September election. Another expressed concern that the candidate might not have the necessary experience. A member of the majority made a Motion to Reconsider which was seconded.

Vote on the Motion to Reconsider: Twenty-seven in favor. Thirty-two opposed. The Motion to Reconsider failed.

Vote on Position of Alternate Chair: Dan H. received 54 votes – 83%; Laura R. received 11 votes – 17%. Dan H. will serve as Panel 65 Alternate Chair by substantial unanimity.

- Treasurer: Dan S. stood unopposed. Mike M. moved and Ed A. seconded a motion to approve Dan by acclimation. The motion passed unanimously. Dan S. will serve as Panel 65 Area Treasurer.
- Alternate Treasurer: Dan's election opened the position of Alternate Treasurer. Peg S. stood unopposed. Loretta moved and Steve D. seconded a motion to approve Peg by acclimation. The motion passed unanimously. Peg S. will serve as Panel 65 Alternate Treasurer.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Area 53 Inventory Report – Greg M. presented:
At the October Area Committee meeting we finally got the Area mailing list. Eight people agreed to serve on a mailing list committee, but the revisions to the mailing list have not been completed. The Committee has received pre-inventory surveys from approximately 55 groups of the 700 groups that are in the Area.

NEW BUSINESS

- 2014 budget increase “G.S.O. Expense – Delegate to N.Y.” (Area Committee Proposal):

A motion from the Area Committee was presented to “Increase the 2014 budget for “G.S.O. Expense – Delegate to NY” from \$1,600 to \$3,000. If approved, the additional \$1,400 will be disbursed before the end of December, 2014.”

Background: The amount of money that Area 53 has sent to GSO to help defray the cost of our delegate's participation in the General Service Conference has ranged from \$1,600 to \$4,000 - depending upon the Area's projected surplus at the end of the budget year. The 2014 budget for this item was set at \$1,600 based on a projected surplus at the end of 2014 of \$2,815 (versus our targeted “prudent reserve” of \$2,500).

Rationale:

- The A.A. Service Manual states: “Each area sends at least \$1,600 to G.S.O. to help defray the cost of the annual meeting of the Conference, and a number of areas send additional funds.” (Chapter Five “The Area Committee/Financial Support”)
- The “Area 53 Guidelines,” under Article XIII – Financial Guidelines, item (8), states: “The Area will fund the Delegate's cost for the General Service Conference and other expenses related to the execution of his or her duties as approved by the Area Assembly.”
- The “delegate's cost” for Panel 63 was \$3,000 per year: Lodging = \$1200, Meals = \$900, Travel = \$750 & Miscellaneous expenses = \$150. (Sources: G.S.O. & Area 53 Panel 63 Delegate)
- The projected bank balance on 12/31/14 is \$8,000.

Discussion in Favor of the Motion:

- Historically, the Area has been able to give additional money to New York to support the Delegate. We could not do that last year.

- Every expense needed to support a Delegate in New York is covered by GSO. The \$1600 suggested would not come close to covering the entire cost of those expenses.
- If you read the Service Manual, our whole purpose as an Area is to support the Delegate. Our Traditions say we need to be self-supporting. We're not self-supporting to our Delegate when we're only giving GSO \$1600 for that.
- The question was raised as to whether there were two separate funds for the Delegate.
- Less than 30% of groups support the General Service Office. We are sustaining ourselves by the sale of literature.
- The room costs exceed \$400 a night. The costs include mailing of background information, air travel, and shuttles. It's not fancy, but it's expensive.
- We should consider the First Tradition. Our common welfare comes first. GSO has as much to do with carrying the message as we do locally.
- We should challenge other groups to participate by making contributions and electing GSRs.
- We agreed at the beginning of the year to send the \$1600 first and see how the year went. Are we able to give more? The Treasurer agreed that there were funds available to do that.

Discussion in Opposition to the Motion: Each group chooses to send funds to a particular entity. Here the funds have been sent to the Area and should be used by the Area for Area purposes. We should not be overriding the conscience of the individual groups by redistributing the funds. Also, GSO recently increased literature prices. That should make up for the shortfall.

Vote: The motion passed with substantial unanimity.

Minority Opinion: We don't know how deep our pockets are and there is an upcoming motion on the agenda that would spend up to \$3,000.

The Treasurer responded: The current bank balance is approximately to \$4,000 and we still have approximately \$2200 additional funds from the Ohio State Convention to add to the budget.

Vote on the Motion to Reconsider: Ten in favor. Forty-seven opposed. The Motion to Reconsider failed.

LUNCH BREAK FROM 12:30 P.M. UNTIL 2:00 P.M.

NEW BUSINESS - CONTINUED

- 2015 Mini-Conference Housing Subsidy (Mini-Conference Committee Proposal): The Mini-Conference Committee offered a motion that "The Area subsidize the housing expense of active Area 53 Districts by paying \$300 per active district towards the cost of two nights in a cabin at Deer Creek Lodge as long as there are five paid registrations per cabin from that district.

Rationale:

- This proposal will encourage new participation in the Area 53 Mini Conference and unify the Area.

- The proposal to be funded – at least in part - by the \$2,200 surplus that Area 53 received from the Ohio State Convention Planning Committee.
- The potential maximum cost of this proposal is \$3000 (ten active districts @ \$300).

Discussion:

- A question was posed as to how a district would deal with people of different genders registering. The districts would have to work that out. There are doors on the bedrooms.
- What if there are ten people? Will that be \$600? This proposal does not cover that, but the Mini-Conference would have the right of decision to consider that.
- It was asked how this affects the number of room nights the Area has to secure to get the meeting rooms free. The fear was expressed that this would reduce the number of hotel rooms people would reserve since they could get a cabin for free.
- The concern was raised that since we just allocated sending more to GSO for the delegate that there wouldn't be enough in the budget. The Treasurer reassured the Assembly that we would still be above our prudent reserve.
- The fear was expressed that we would create a precedent that we wouldn't be able to do in future years since the additional \$2200 from the Ohio State Convention was a one-time receipt.
- The purpose for the motion is to get more people to attend.
- A question was raised as to whether, if this money was allocated and not used, the money would be returned to the Area for other Area purposes. The Treasurer asked whether the Committee was asking the money to be earmarked or whether the requests for money would be made on a per cabin basis. The Committee stated that it would be on a cabin by cabin basis.

Vote on the Motion: Forty-two in favor. Five opposed. The motion carried. No minority opinion.

- 2015 Area 53 Budget: Kristi H. presided:

Discussion and Motion: Barbi S. made a motion and Mike M. seconded that the budget include a line item of \$350 for other officers (Secretary, Treasurer, and Registrar) and their alternates to travel to Area Assemblies.

Vote: Forty-two in favor. Four opposed. The motion carried. No minority opinion. The motion passed.

Further Budget Discussion:

A question was raised about the fact that the \$2200 from the Ohio State Convention did not appear in the budget. The Treasurer stated that typically the decision as to how to spend this

money was made at this Assembly and typically it was sent to GSO so it wasn't included in the budget.

Is it a problem that we are proposing to send the entire amount of money to GSO at the beginning of the year? Does that create a cash flow problem?

Motion: Greg M. moved and Brandi V. seconded a motion to reduce line item #6 "GSO Expense" from \$3000 to \$1600 and revisit the question of any remaining amount later in the year.

Discussion:

- It's better to have the full amount in the budget now.
- If we only send \$1600 and it costs \$3000 would the delegate not get to go? No. GSO would pay the difference.
- Could we put two line items in the budget contingent on the prudent reserve?
- Greg M. agreed to an amendment to the motion that the line item be reduced to \$1600 and another line item "Contingent GSO" be added for \$1400.

Vote: Six in favor. Thirty-eight opposed. The amendment failed.

Vote on the Original Motion: Two in favor. Forty-three opposed. The motion failed. No minority opinion.

Further Budget Discussion: Why was the Corrections Committee amount reduced from \$800 to \$600. It was explained that the Committee was now meeting at COGF and its expenses are \$200 less than last year.

Vote on the Budget: Forty-seven in favor. One opposed. The budget passed as modified with the Area Other Officers Travel Expense and Mini-Conference housing policy line items.

- Area 53 Website Policy: Bill Y. presented:

The draft policy presented to the Area Committee mimics GSO's policy for their website. It was posted on the website as follows:

"Area 53 General Service Policy on Area Web site

The purpose of the Web site is:

- To serve the membership of Area 53 in central and southeast Ohio, and the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole.
- To serve as a resource for Area 53 AA member groups, those seeking help from AA, professionals working with alcoholics, the media, and the public at large.
- To provide accurate and consistent information about Area 53 General Service.
- To provide information about services coordinated by Area 53 General Service.
- To encourage participation of AA member groups and committees in Area 53 services and activities.

Additionally:

- Oversight of the Web site will be the responsibility of the Area 53 Committee and in accordance with the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous.

- The Area 53 Committee will provide regular reports regarding web site activity to the Area 53 Assembly.
- The Web site will make use of existing AA materials whenever practical.
- The Web site will provide contact information to other AA activities by listing and linking to existing Web sites whenever practical.
- The Web site will provide contact information by including a list of Intergroups and Central Offices in central and southeastern Ohio and including Web site and email links where applicable.
- The Web site will include selected archives information and material.
- The Web site will welcome users to make suggestions about the Web site design and content.
- This Policy will be reviewed annually by the Area 53 Committee.”

Discussion: Would Districts be able to post their minutes under this policy? Bill Y. said that anything that is included in this policy would be allowed. The more participation the better.

Fred G. moved and it was seconded that the motion on the policy be tabled until the next Assembly.

INFORMATION AND SHARING SESSIONS

- A.A.W.S. Literature Price Increase: Dave C. presented:

Who decided to raise literature prices and why?

The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous (GSB) approved the decision to raise prices at the Feb 3 2014 GSB meeting. The decision was made by A.A. World Services, Inc. (AAWS) and was in their report submitted at the February meeting.

AAWS is one of the two corporate boards that handle all aspects of the day-to-day operation of A.A.'s business. AAWS oversees the General Service Office (GSO) and publishes and distributes A.A.'s books, pamphlets and other items. See Chapter Ten in the A.A. Service Manual.

The decision to raise prices was made in November 2013. At that November AAWS meeting, the board decided: 1) a price increase was prudent, and 2) directed its Finance Committee to study and recommend how much to raise prices and on which literature items.

The last literature price increases came in effect in July 2009. AAWS policy has been to evaluate literature prices at least once every 3 years.

Factors affecting the decision include overall financial health of AA world services, the GSB Reserve fund and costs involved in publishing literature.

For background purposes, the GSB appoints all the directors on the AAWS board, which is composed of four GSB trustees, three non-trustee directors, the GSO office manager and a GSO staff person. AAWS holds 8 board meetings a year. The GSB meets quarterly.

As I researched this report I looked at the 2014 Final Report and I read the following data found on pages 68 through 79: 2013 group contributions were \$5.72M; gross profit from literature sales was \$8.11M; & 2013 operating expenses were \$16.43M.

In my judgment, AAWS made a good faith decision following reasonable business processes. Practically speaking 66K groups in 93 Areas of U. S. and Canada cannot be consulted about the decisions that go into day-to-day operations. This includes how much you raise literature prices and which books are affected.

The official announcement with specific dollar amounts and timing and shipping charge decreases were announced in July. AAWS Chair William N., Class B Trustee, GSB, made the announcement. I sent out the complete information in an August 16 e-mail.

I've learned more about the process in recent months and I don't doubt the decision was made with the 7th Tradition and the 3rd, 8th, & 9th Concepts in mind.

This is a self-support issue that affects group expenses and it calls to my mind a couple inventory questions. To what degree is AA world services important to my sobriety or to my group or my Area's interests? What does my group or area consider an expendable AA service?

In conclusion let me make a couple observations. Self-support is a vital spiritual tradition. AA is healthier if every individual, group or service committee keeps our primary purpose in mind. Regular self-inventory helps both the individual and group grow in understanding and effectiveness.

How can my home group reach out and more effectively, support all of AAs vital services so that when anyone, anywhere reaches out for help the hand of AA will always be there?

- The Principles of Affiliation and Autonomy: K.C. moved and Sharon F. seconded a motion to table this item until the March Assembly. The motion passed with substantial unanimity.
- 2015 Area Assembly Location: Peggy A., Panel 65 incoming Chair, presented:

In the past we've met at the Moose Lodge in Lancaster, but we can no longer meet there in December although we can meet there in September and June. She would like us to meet at the same place every time.

The Moose Lodge costs \$175. It's costing \$400 for this room at the Ohio History Center today. Whitehall Park wanted \$600. VFW wanted \$800. The range is \$400 to \$600. Hotels require a room stay and most won't hold our capacity. COGF charges \$30, but only holds sixty-five people. There are seventy-five in attendance today.

Discussion: Bill F. gave a checklist of qualities for a location:

- Food access
- Make our own coffee
- Centrally located
- Adequate restroom facilities
- A consistent location
- Churches aren't generally a good choice because they are busy on Sundays, but state parks and union halls are often available.

OFFICER REPORTS – Greg M, Alternate Area Chair presided.

In the interest of time, Officer Reports were not given orally, but will be posted on-line and are included below:

- Panel 63 Delegate – Dave C. written report:

- The latest Box 4-5-9 is out for the Holiday Season. Box 4-5-9 is the G.S.O. newsletter. A one-year subscription for 1 is \$3.50. A bulk discount is available: 10 hard copies for only \$6.00.
- The winter issue for 2014 contains the following stories:
 - 2015 Regional Forums schedule;
 - 7th Tradition pays for Big Books translated editions in foreign languages (more than 70 languages); World Service Meeting in Warsaw;
 - Atlanta International Report; & Convention Housing report; Biking to Atlanta Story;
 - AA copyrights and literature licensing report; Retirement of Doug R and Mary D;
 - Experience Strength & Hope in paperback for only \$5.50; Corrections Story;
 - 12 Tips on Keeping Sober; Calendar of Events
- Since the September Area 53 Assembly I've tried to keep pretty busy. See below:
 - Sep 21 District 26 rule 62 day delegate brief report distribute conference reports
 - Sep-27 District 19 GSR school in Hillsboro; Sep 28 Dist 10 in Orange Township Hall
 - Oct 4 District 28 Movie fun workshop Bill. W documentary screening Bethel rd Columbus
 - Oct 11 District 34 celebrate the Big Book w/shop Columbus
 - Oct 18 District 21 Workshop on Three Legacies and Corrections Work Portsmouth Ohio
 - Nov 8 Ohio State Convention Planning Committee, Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Columbus
 - Nov 23 The COGF Gratitude Sunday celebration.
 - Dec 10 DRC/Area 53 CFC North Central Correctional Institution, Marion OH,
 - Oct Nov Dec MC meetings.
- If you are available in the daytime you might think about doing PI / Corrections general service work. Contact Chris J. or me about being a volunteer on the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections Re-entry Fairs that are being held in State corrections facilities in Central & SE Ohio. I've done 4 fairs at four facilities in the past year and it is a great experience.
- I'm also on the CFC correspondence list and have found it gives me so much gratitude.
- General Service is a way A.A. groups and committees create more 12-step work opportunities and reach out to the sick and suffering together. Gratitude in action.
- Area 53 Chair – Stephen S. written report:

The Area Committee met at the COGF Meeting Space on October 12. The DCM Committee met earlier in the day and elected their officers for Panel 65: Steve D from District 19 was chosen as DCMC, Peg S from District 28 was chosen as the Alternate DCMC, and Sandy D from District 6 was chosen as the DCM Committee's Secretary. The Committee also proposed the topic of "The Principles of Affiliation and Autonomy" for the Information Segment at the December Assembly. The full Area Committee voted to approve the suggested topic.

The Area Committee restated its desire to conduct an area-wide mailing of the Inventory Questionnaire. The mailing addresses contained in Fellowship New Vision are suspect, and the Committee re-stated its desire to have the list cleaned up and a mailing sent out. To this end, we voted to remove contact information from the list that has updated in the past six years. A full report was requested for the December Assembly.

The Area Committee voted to send a proposal to the December Assembly to increase the amount Area 53 sends to GSO to support our Delegate's expense be increased from \$1600 to \$3000. We also approved the proposed 2015 Budget for consideration by the December Assembly.

Peggy A and I devoted much of our attention in the last three months to finding a suitable space to hold the Assembly. I also attended meetings of the Treatment Committee, the Correctional Facility Committee, District 22, and District 10.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the Area during Panel 63.

- Area 53 Registrar – Dan H. written report: The following attendees signed-in prior to the beginning of the Assembly: Thirty-four GSRs, Three Alternate GSRs, Nine DCMs, Two Alternate-DCMs, Six Standing Committee Chairs, Three Alternate Standing Committee Chairs, Ten Panel 63 Officers, Four Past Delegates, and One Regional Trustee.

DISTRICT AND GROUP REPORTS – Peg S., DCMC presided:

- DCMs & GSRs gave the following oral reports:

District 6:

- DCM, Barbi S.: Gratitude Dinner, Christmas and New Years Alkathons. Sponsorship Workshop planned for April 15, 2015.
- Marci D., GSR, H.U.I.P. Group: Christmas Dinner will be held December 22nd at noon. A Christmas Eve Alkathon will be held at School of Bright Promise. Alkathons start at 1p.m., 3p.m., 5p.m., and 7p.m.
- Sandy D., Alternate GSR, Tuesday Nite Cadiz: This is a new meeting in need of support.

District 10:

- DCM, Corby K.: The District recently elected him as DCM and is focused on increasing contacts and outreach to GSRs and creating financial accounts. It is also creating GSR outreach packets. They hope to schedule a sponsorship workshop.
- Fred W., GSR, Solution Group: The group was in District 26, but since they are in Delaware County and there is more need for support in District 10 the group decided to join that District.
- Pug H., Group Secretary, reported for Sunbury Living Sober Group. Also reported that there are six meetings weekly in Sunbury.

District 12:

- Alternate DCM, Frank G.: Yearly gathering was successful. The group reviewed the two pamphlets "Problems Other Than Alcohol."
- Ann S. GSR, Springfield Alano Club reported.

District 15:

- Alternate DC, Cat R.: Alcolthon December 24 at 7:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Christmas Day. January 31st they will hold "3S Workshop: Service, Sponsorship, and Spirituality."
- Cat R., Alternate GSR, reported for the Two for One Group.
- Patrice P., GSR, Hand in Hand Group: Anniversary Celebration to be held February 2015. Group also holds meetings in the Washington County Jail in Ohio and the Behavioral Health Unit at Camden Clark Hospital in Parkersburg, WV.

District 16: Sam H., GSR for Athens Monday BB Group: The group needs an Intergroup Representative in light of the 800 number being discontinued by C.O.G.F. and the lack of

cell phone coverage in the area. The group is working their way through a group inventory. Their home group photo was featured in the “If Walls Could Talk” section of the Grapevine two months ago.

District 19:

- DCM, Steve D.: Discussing District Guidelines. Alcolthon 6:00 p.m. December 24th through midnight.
- Joann L., GSR, Sunday Morning Sunshine Group reported.

District 21: DCM, Greg H.: Held a Three Legacies Workshop in September.

District 22: Ed S., GSR, We Agnostics: Group’s Fourth Anniversary will be held January 6, 2015. The Group’s GSR was a panel member at the We Agnostics and Freethinkers International Alcoholics Anonymous Convention in Santa Monica in November.

District 26:

- DCM, Ed A.: New Year’s Eve AlkaThon December 31 through January 1st. Westerville Group will have its AlkaThon Christmas Eve to Christmas night. Ut of Towners Group is moving January 2015 and Choice is Ours Group has closed.
- Ed A., GSR, On The Way Home Group reported.
- Laura R., GSR, North American Sunday Group: Other groups at that location have closed. Administrative Office has offered to help them find a new location if needed.
- Mike M., GSR, Cross Ties reported.
- Dominique M., GSR, Northeast Discussion Group reported.
- Dominique, Group Member, Creekside Recovery Group: First Anniversary celebrated December 11th.
- Rob S., GSR, Minerva Park: The group is assisting with the Christmas Alcolthon.
- Becky M., GSR, After Work Group: The group has withheld contributions to entities other than New York while it builds a literature library.
- Marcia H., GSR, Westerville Women’s Recovery Group reported.

District 28:

- DCM, Taffy J.: The next movie event is tentatively scheduled for February 21st from 2 to 4 p.m. at Meadow Park Church of God showing “When Love is Not Enough.”
- Kathy P., GSR, Clintonville Big Book: Group Anniversary was November 18th.
- Becky R., GSR, Women’s Early Bird Group: Persons rotating out are writing “how to” descriptions for the incoming secretary and treasurer. Group Anniversary will be mid-March. The group participated in the Conscious Contact feature, “An Attitude of Gratitude.”
- Liz M., GSR, Early Evening Faith and Hope: The group’s problem with aggressive thirteenth stepping has been resolved with input from members of the fellowship.
- Ben O., GSR, Boiled Owls Literature Meeting: All service positions are now filled.

District 33: Richard H., GSR, First Things First Meeting: Christmas Day 7:00 a.m. breakfast.

District 34:

- DCM, Dana P.: District held its first event, a Service Workshop on October 11 which was attended by 67 people. Many groups will participate in the Desert Island Alkathon. A new meeting, Women’s Westside Literature Group began at C.O.G.F. and elected a GSR.
- Sara J., GSR, Grove City Friday Night: Group Anniversary January 16, 2015.
- Pam R., GSR, Women’s New Hope: Closed Anniversary in January.
- Susan M., GSR, Strong Women in Sobriety: Fifth Anniversary March 3, 2015.
- Brandi V., GSR, Three Legacies reported.

- Roger A., GSR, Wednesday Grove City Closed Discussion: The group regularly discusses how to uphold their tradition of being a closed meeting. Fee babysitting. Al-anon at the same time. Staffing a slot at the Christmas alkathon at Desert Island.

Representatives of the following Districts and Groups attended, but did not give an oral report:

District 1, Marysville Friday Night Discussion, Plug In The Jug, Open Door Group, Early Bird Big Book, Dirty Dozen, Jaywalkers Group, Women's Sobriety & Serenity Group, Rebos II, Riverside Closed Discussion, Maple Grove, Sunset Women's Group, Monday Night Steps & Traditions, The Noon 12 Step Group, Harbor Lights, and New Life.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS – Greg M., Alternate Area Chair presided:

- Corrections Facilities Committee – Paul H. reported:
 - The Corrections Facilities Committee (CFC) is holding its steering committee and quarterly meetings at 645 W. Broad Street Columbus, OH 43215 (COGF). The next quarterly meeting is March 14th 2015 at 10 A.M.
 - The Pre-Release Sub-Committee needs five men from Franklin County and one from both Knox and Licking counties to fill requests already submitted.
 - New positions descriptions have been approved for the Liaison and Alternate Liaison positions. Re-entry fairs will be shared by the Liaison and Alternate. The annual workshop will be the responsibility of the workshop committee chaired by the CFC Chair.
 - Chris J. has been appointed Alternate Liaison subject to ratification in March which leaves the Pre-Release Chair as an open position. Please see me if you have any interest in this position.
 - There will be a Group Institution Representative (GIR) school at the 2015 Area 53 Mini-Conference at Deer Creek State Park.
 - Paying shipping costs to outside areas ordering literature was tabled.
 - The Committee agreed to fund the website www.area53cfc.org at a cost of \$111/year.
 - \$5500 was approved for literature expenditures.
- Liaison Committee – Paul H. reported:
 - 1) Schedule books are now being sold for 50 cents each, which is less than the former price of 75 cents.
 - 2) There are currently 19 meetings a week in the meeting room including a midnight meeting every day of the week. The cost is \$10 per meeting per hour.
 - 3) Kim K. has been elected Co-Chair to fill a vacancy due to a resignation.
 - 4) Kitty C. has been elected Social Chair.
 - 5) Open positions on the Advisory Board include: Membership, Service, Co-Secretary, Co-Treasurer, Archives, Nominating, Liaison with Area 53.
 - 6) Position descriptions may be found on the COGF website www.aacentralohio.org under the Orders of Procedures link which is located in the COGF Charter section on the home page. Two years of sobriety is required to hold any of these positions. Contact chairperson@aacentralohio.org to inquire about any of these positions.

- CPC/PI Committee – Cheryl S., Incoming Chair, reported: The Committee held elections and still needs a Treasurer. They staffed a booth at Columbus State Community College Health Fair. The Committee ordered new business cards in lemon yellow that have a QR code. Business cards are now at the Knox County library and in the OSU Emergency Room. Committee Members cooperated with the Corrections Committee to staff Re-Entry fairs. The Committee will be making a presentation in January to the Franklin County Probation Department and Judges of the Municipal Court.
- Grapevine Committee – Larry B., Chair, reported. The Committee elected a new chair. The Committee will hold a Grapevine Day February 21, 2015 at COGF. They are looking for input on the Committee.
- Group Services – Greg S., Chair, reported: A.A. Service Manuals are available. Copies of the new pamphlet, “Many Paths to Spirituality,” are available. All of the “A.A. Guidelines” are available. There was a GSR School in Hillsborough in September in District 19. Another GSR School will be held at the Mini-Conference in March.
- Mini-Conference Committee – Peggy A. reported: The Mini-Conference Committee continues to meet the first Monday of the month at 6:30 Oakland Park United Methodist Church. Address is 984 Oakland Park. The 2015 Conference is being held at Deercreek State Park in Mount Sterling Ohio on March 6-8, 2015. Racy J. will be speaking from GSO. The conference now has volunteers for the Hospitality Room. Registration is online at Area53aa.org or by snail mail.
- Special Needs Committee – Pam R., Committee Member reported:

In an effort to better understand what the Special Needs Committee does and how we help, the Committee came up with this statement:

In the Big Book, we learn that the only requirement for membership is a “desire to stop drinking.” And while this is infinitely true, there are those among us with the desire and the willingness – but without the accessibility to a meeting. Members who are hearing impaired struggle to find a meeting with a sign language interpreter or who are wheelchair bound and only have access to basement meetings in their area, or single parents who can’t find a babysitting meeting on a bus line. For all these members and many more – we want the Special Needs Committee to be there to always extend a hand. We are the living embodiment of The Responsibility Statement. None among us would ever deny a meeting to those in need of one. Today, we help because tomorrow it could be any of us in need. “There, but for the Grace of God, go I.”

Mike M., Committee Member, handed out a survey “so we know where the need is in our Area.”

Would your home group be willing to elect a Special Needs Committee Member? Would your home group be willing to “pass the jug” to support special needs in our area?

- Treatment Committee – Mike M., Committee Member reported: The Committee is trying to let people know there is a Treatment Committee and that it meets at COGF. The

Committee would like to build a Bridging the Gap program. The Committee's flyer is on the Area 53 website.

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND? - Stephen S. presided:

Three minutes to express views or ask questions. Ask-it basket questions were also addressed.

Pam R.: Made suggestions for how to make the Assembly move more smoothly.

- Motions were confusing. Is there a way to visually project the motion?
- Make bullet points when you come up to speak.

Stephen S. – We should probably require people to make the motions in writing. Stephen gave two examples: the Mini-Conference Housing subsidy and the travel expense for the other officers.

Greg S. – Moose Lodge is much more accessible for the coffee maker. Also we would save a lot of money if we used Moose Lodge.

Ask-It-Basket Question: How can we make being involved in service work more affordable so that more people can be involved? Stephen S. explained: Look around in your own situation as to what would make it more affordable, and if you come up with an idea, bring it to the Assembly.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Area Committee Meeting – January 11, 2015 – COGF Meeting Room
- Area 53 Mini-Conference – March 6-8, 2015, Deer Creek State Park
- Area Assembly – March 8, 2015, Deer Creek State Park

CLOSING OF THE ASSEMBLY

Marcia moved and Peggy seconded a motion to close the Assembly. The motion passed unanimously and the Assembly was closed with the Responsibility Statement.