

AREA 53 PANEL 63 AREA ASSEMBLY MINUTES - MARCH 9, 2014, 1:00 P.M.

OPENING OF THE ASSEMBLY

- Stephen S., Area Chair, called the meeting to order with the “We” version of the Serenity Prayer
- Roll Call: Group Service Representatives and Alternates: 23; District Committee Members and Alternates: 9; Standing Committee Chairs and Alternates: 5; District Committee Member Chair; Area Officers: 9; Interested A.A.s from Area 53: 4; Visitors from other Areas: 6; Past-Delegates: 3.
- Review of the Agenda: As a result of a sharing session during December Assembly, the order of the agenda has been changed. A three-minute time limit will be enforced for reports. Officers and standing committee chairs can hand out a detailed report to the full Assembly. Agenda was accepted as presented.
- Nita S., Area Secretary, presented the minutes of the December Assembly. The December Assembly Minutes were accepted unanimously.

BUSINESS MEETING – Stephen S, Area Chair

Old Business

- Update: 2014 Conference Grapevine Committee Agenda Proposal – Dave C., Area Delegate. The proposal was sent to the A.A. Grapevine, Inc. board and they did not accept it for this year.

New Business

- Area 53 Inventory: Greg M., Alternate Chair and Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Committee on Inventory, presented a pre-inventory to be sent in advance of the formal inventory. Greg discussed various methods of distribution: (1) through the Conscious Contact, (2) first class mail, (3) on the Area 53 website either on-line or to mail in, (4) by attending the meetings not attending Assemblies. Ryan moved to approve \$470 to do the pre-inventory. Steve D. seconded. A question was raised as to what was in the Treasury before we made a financial decision. A first class mailing will also let Area 53 update its mailing list. Area 56 did a first class mailing eight years ago and there was a cost for the returns. Motion passed unanimously.
- Financial Policy Guideline Changes: Tom B. moved and Steve D. seconded a Motion to Consider these financial policy guideline changes in June. Motion approved unanimously.
- Regional Convention Participation & Budget Request: Dave C., Delegate, presented a request for participation and support of officers and standing committee members. Dave is proposing a motion for the Area to approve \$600 to provide financial support for up to 4 members of Area 53's officers or standing committee chairs to participate on an inter-area panel at the 2014 Ohio State/East Central Regional Convention. The deadline for a commitment is April 1st which is why it is brought up to it today. Ryan called the question. Paul H. seconded it. Approve \$600 to provide contingent financial support for four members of area 53 to attend the Ohio State/East Central Regional Convention: In favor: 33. Opposed: 4. Motion passes.
- Corrections Committee Budget Request: Tom B., Alternate Chair of the Corrections Committee. Would like to increase the budget line item from \$400 to \$800. Fred called the question. Unanimous. Motion carried unanimously.

OFFICER & COMMITTEE REPORTS – Greg M, Alternate Area Chair

- Delegate's Report: Dave C. Dave brought copies of a Box 459 article on the history of the Big Book. He also has a digital copy of the Trustees Reports which he can email to whoever wants it.

It has been a privilege to serve as your Panel 63, Area53 Delegate and share with you my activities (in the past three months) as I tried to carry the message per Chapter Six in the A.A. Service Manual.

As Program Chair of the 2014 Mini Conference I have met monthly with the Area 53 Mini-Conference planning committee, met with Deer Creek State Park and Salt Fork State Park hotel officials to see that Mini Conference is well hosted this year and locked in through 2015 and 2016.

I have tried to keep the Area's trusted servants and interested AAs informed about the efforts that the General Service Office, AA Grapevine, and General Service Board are making to reach out to the still suffering alcoholic. If you want to be included in e-mail updates, please e-mail me at delegate@area53aa.org. Send your name, telephone number and e-mail address.

One month ago I was a guest of your General Service Board and General Service Office at the Delegate Chair's orientation weekend event. Our Area 53 web site carries a report about the honor and the learning I received. I highly anticipate attending my 2nd General Service Conference in Rye Brook NY April 27 – May 3.

I will give my first conference report at the Area 53 CPC/PI committee workshop on May 17. Please come out and I will try to explain how AAs group conscience gets conducted and what recommendations become Advisory Actions.

In March and April I will attend the mini-conferences of the other 3 general service areas of Ohio and the General Service Conference.

- **Officer Reports**

- Area Chair – Steve S. – The Area Committee met on January 12 at 1 PM at the Lancaster Moose Family Center. Thirteen voting members attended: 7 Area Officers, 2 Standing Committee Chairs, and 4 DCMs. Four GSRs and 2 interested AAs were also present.

The Area's DCM Committee Chair resigned in December, and the DCMs elected Peg S. as the new DCMC at their meeting earlier in the day.

Our Delegate announced that the 2014 State/Regional Convention Planning Committee had requested our Area's support for inter-area panels at the Convention. Dave said that he will be contacting each Area Officer and Standing Committee Chair to see who would be available to participate on a panel. A budget request to provide financial support for any Area 53 participants was added to the March General Assembly agenda

The Area Committee reviewed a draft of a group survey form that was recommended by the Ad-hoc Area Inventory Committee. Greg S, the Ad-hoc Committee Chair, will give a status report at the Assembly and a budget request will be added to the Assembly agenda.

The Committee discussed the Sharing Session held at the December 2013 General Assembly regarding the location and the format of the Assembly. In response, the Agenda for today's Assembly was reorganized to allow the Business Segment to be held earlier in the day. We also decided to enforce the three-minute time limit for the officer, standing committee, DCM, and GSR reports. Officers and Standing Committee Chairs will be asked to provide copies of a written report of their activity since the last Assembly, reporting only the highlights and then responding to questions from the

Assembly. DCMs and GSRs will report on past and upcoming events and any group concerns or issues.

I agreed to search for alternative locations to hold the Assembly and report back to the Area Committee in April. We hope to bring options to the Assembly in June.

The DCM Committee requested an Information Segment on the topic: “What is the best practice for setting up a group or standing committee checking account?” I agreed to prepare a report for the Area Committee’s review in April, which will then be reported to the Assembly in June.

The Ad-hoc Area Guidelines Committee proposed Amendments to the Financial Policy section. The proposed changes were added to today’s Assembly Agenda. The Ad-hoc committee is currently reviewing the sections on the duties and the election of the Area officers; proposed changes in these sections will be presented to the Assembly in June. Proposed changes to the District and Standing Committee sections will be presented to the Assembly in September.

An up-to-date version of the Area Guidelines is being posted to the Area Website and copies will be available at the next Assembly.

The April Area Committee Meeting will be held at the Central Ohio Group Fellowship location in Columbus, and the June 1st Assembly will be held at the Lancaster Moose Family Center.

- Alternate Treasurer – Kelly K. – Steve S. moved, Ed seconded to approve the treasurer’s report. Report is approved unanimously.
- Area Registrar – Dan H. – He will get all the manuals that he receives from GSO printed.
- **Standing Committee Reports**
 - Corrections Committee – Tom B., Alternate Corrections Committee Chair. There is an upcoming workshop at Maple Grove on April 26, 2014. The Quarterly Meetings are held at Oakland Park United Methodist Church. In 2013, eighty-four hundred pieces of literature went into facilities at a cost of \$26,684.00 from the jugs.
 - CPC/PI Committee – LuAnn G., CPC/PI Committee Chair. The CPC/PI Committee meets the first Sunday of every month from 2-4 PM at a new location: Maple Grove Church at 7 Henderson Road Columbus, Ohio. We moved locations because the meeting space at the Mennonite Church was not handicap accessible.

We will be holding a workshop on Getting Involved in CPC/PI Work on May 17 at Meadow Park Church in Columbus. Our delegate, Dave C, will give a report on what is happening in the CPC/PI Committee at GSO, we will give the Power Point presentation and we will have a CPC/PI panel. More details to follow.

We have completed 2 Power Point presentations; one directed to educating AA membership on CPC/PI committee work and the second is targeted to external audiences. Both presentations are available to anyone in AA who has an internal or external need. They will be posted to the Area 53 website or you can contact me and I will email you a copy.

We have finalized the contents of the orientation packet for new members to the CPC/PI committee. The packet is designed to make a new committee member feel welcome to the group and provide history and education on what CPC/PI work is.

We completed a new flyer “Help Wanted” designed to recruit new members to the committee. Please take some back to your group.

Yesterday we took a meeting to the International Women in Psychiatry annual meeting held at the Renaissance Hotel in Columbus. They contacted COGF about holding a meeting during their conference for conference attendees that were also AA members.

The WSO contacted us to provide speakers for Life Care Alliance Drug Free Workplace Supervisor’s meeting. They are focusing on alcohol in the workplace and wanted to know about AA. I have a speaker for 3/19 at 3:30 but am still looking for a speaker for 3/20 at 9 am. It is in downtown Columbus so let me know if you are interested.

We have provided informational literature to a church in Whitehall for a display about alcoholism. April is Alcohol Awareness month and they are interested in educating their membership on AA.

Laura has taken over responsibility for placing business cards in libraries. We will be approaching groups to ask them to take responsibility for replenishing cards at a local library. We are hoping to expand this program to include hospital emergency rooms and other buildings where we might reach the still suffering alcoholic.

CPC/PI Committee will be participating in the District 28 workshop being held on 3/29 in Columbus.

We have reached out to several judges in Franklin county to drum up interest in an informational session on AA.

We have had preliminary discussions with the CFC committee to hold a joint workshop with parole officers.

We continue to provide an educational session at NetCare each Saturday morning and replenish a literature rack at the Ohio Parole Board.

We have several tabled projects that will have to wait until we have more volunteers.

- Group Services – Greg S., Committee Chair – no report
- Liaison Committee – Paul H. Committee Chair. (1) If you’re buying literature from COGF, they now charge sales tax. (2) COGF’s lease is up and they must tell the landlord whether they are moving or not in May. There will be a member’s meeting May 10 to vote on that issue. There is a committee looking at options.

Cathy H. Alternate IGR Chair attended the IGR meeting to discuss locations and reported. The committee and individuals have found seven possible locations. There is a power point presentation Patty can give to you. Your IGR should also have a copy of it. There is an underlying issue of whether central office should be having meetings at COGF.

- Mini-Conference Committee – Peggy A. Mini-Conference Committee Chair. Attendance of 114 is 7 more than last year. Full financial report will be made at June Assembly. The next Mini-Conference Committee meeting is in April. The Mini-Conference is self-supporting.

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

District 1: No DCM. Kimala C., GSR, Rosewood Women's Group: Meets every three months for group conscience

District 6: Barby S., DCM. Funds dwindling because money is out for ordering commemorative big books. Anniversary picnic and weekend of camping July 19th. Spring fling dance. Serenity walks will start again in May.

- Dave C. from HULP – Picnic upcoming at Austin Lake.

District 11: No DCM. Brenda B., Friday Nite Marysville. GSR Birthday celebration last Friday of the month. Established prudent reserve. Now making contributions.

District 12: Anne S. DCM, District 12: Attempting to get more GSRs into the district. Printing schedule books for meetings in their county.

- Frank G. GSR, Came to Believe Group meets at the alano club in Springfield.

District 15: Mike F. DCM. Alternate DCM/Alternate GSR – Cat reporting.

- 2 for 1 Group, GSR Tammy P. Upcoming lead anniversary meeting on April 12 with breakfast. Eat at 9AM; Lead at 10AM. Lead is Donna K.
- GSR Ron – Matt P. reporting. Sunday Hand in Hand Group. Discussing next year's anniversary. One hundred fifty attended recent anniversary.

District 16: Jay R. reported on District. Have CPC/PI committee and CFC Committee. Looking at doing workshop in late spring.

- GSR report Athens Big Book.

District 17: Ryan C. outgoing DCM. Alternate DCM – Alison. Holiday party in December. Tradition One Unity Day. Workshop end of April: Don't Drink. Go To Meetings. Twelve Steps.

- Alternate GSR, Shirley, Pleasant Valley Group. West Virginia. Restarting CPC/PI Committee. Upcoming hog roast August 23.
- Marilyn Dunn, GSR Mason County Out to Lunch Bunch. Considering having an anniversary celebration.
- GSR, Jim C., Pomeroy Serenity Group– Trying to set up an anniversary, but much controversy over when group began.

District 19: DCM, Steve D., All officer position filled. They have a committee visiting groups taking literature on participation, service manuals, and asking for 15-20 minute to talk to them after the meeting. Asking meeting to host the GSR meetings. Have three new GSRs.

- GSR, Joanne L., Sunday Morning Sunshine Group. Taking group inventory. Participated in Christmas alkathon.

District 21: DCM, Greg H. Recently held a workshop on Sponsorship and steps 1, 2 & 3.

District 23: No DCM. Heather reporting for Dirty Dozen Group, March 3rd 12th Anniversary.

District 26: Ed A., DCM. Concern about how much money they have in the District and will discuss events. Planning a district inventory. New Year's Alkathon at a handicap accessible facility with babysitting. Sponsorship panel. Planning Rule 62 day.

- GSR report (still Ed A.) The Choice is Ours Group. First meeting of the month is a dinner meeting provided by the home group. Anniversary next Thursday with cake and ice cream.
- GSR, Dominique Northeast Discussion Group - Celebrating fourth anniversary in August.
- GSR, Frankie, Westerville Women's Recovery Group – May 15th Anniversary. Babysitting at meeting.
- GSR, Laura R., North American Sunday - Recently added a jail jug.

- GSR, Becky M., After Work Group. Changing format from a speaker meeting to a literature meeting.
- GSR, Fred W., Solution Group – Frequency for group conscience being debated. No set schedule.

District 28: No DCM. Cathy P. reporting. The District will hold a Service Fair March 29th on service through home group service positions with a Chili Cook-off.

- Clintonville Big Book - GSR Cathy P.– Group conscience once a month. They have been discussing pros and cons of COGF moving. There will be an April 15th potluck celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Big Book.
- GSR Listening Post – Billy K. 7 meetings week, rotating formats. They donate to GSO. This past fall they had their 38th anniversary. Had a New Year's Eve party
- GSR Maple Grove group - Chris T., Recently discontinued ASL translator because of lack of attendance by deaf members.
- GSR Heather S. - 12 Suggestions Group – Theme is sponsorship with rotating format. They have discussed doing a group inventory twice a year.
- Ben O. GSR, Boiled Owls Literature Meeting – Now offer babysitting. Group grew substantially following move to new location.

District 30: (No DCM) GSR Sunset Group, Betsy T. April 28 group anniversary. Group has babysitting and a sharing library.

District 34: Dana P. DCM, New District. Received a contribution from one group. Needs information to set up a bank account.

- Brandi, GSR, Three Legacies. Holds group consciences every month.

FEEDBACK SESSION – Area Assembly format changes

Ed A. – Would like to see the officer's reports back to the beginning so that we have the financial information before the business items.

Stephen S. – Area Committee will review what reports should be given before the business is conducted.

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND? Three minutes to express your views or ask questions. Ask-it basket questions will also be addressed.

Dave C. – We should revisit the issue of whether we should have our Assembly after the Mini-Conference.

Peggy A. – Thanks for trying the change in the format. Perhaps we should hold the Mini-Conference all on one day.

CLOSING OF THE ASSEMBLY – Stephen S., Area Chair

- Next Meeting Date and Location: The Area Committee meeting will be held April 13, 2014 at Central Ohio Group Fellowship. The new Area Assembly will be held June 1, 2014 at the Moose Lodge in Lancaster.
- Stephen S. closed the meeting with the “We” version of the Responsibility Statement.