

AREA 53 PANEL 63 ELECTION ASSEMBLY – SEPTEMBER 14, 2014

OPENING OF THE ASSEMBLY – Stephen S, Area Chair, presiding

- Stephen called the Assembly to order with the “We” version of the Serenity Prayer at 10AM
- Roll Call: 43 General Service Representatives (GSR) or Alternate General Service Representatives (Alt GSR), 13 District Committee Members (DCM) and Alternate District Committee Members (Alt DCM), 1 District Committee Member Chair (DCMC), 6 Standing Committee Chairs or their alternates, 10 Officers, 4 Past Delegates, 8 Interested AAs , 2 Area 56 guests
- The Agenda was presented and approved unanimously
- The June Assembly Minutes were presented and approved unanimously
- Kristi H. presented the Treasurer’s report and it was approved unanimously

EAST CENTRAL REGION TRUSTEE’S REPORT – Bill F. was scheduled to give a report, but his plane was delayed in Newark, N.J. so he was unable to attend.

PANEL 65 ELECTIONS – Facilitated by Jean S., Area 53 Panel 59 Past Delegate.

- Explanation of the election process: Election to follow suggestions in Chapters 1, 4, 5, & 6 of the *A.A. Service Manual*. Eligible and available candidates stand; written ballot following The Third Legacy Procedure. Motion to accept procedures as presented was approved unanimously
- Delegate: Frank G., Peggy A., and Kristi H. stood for the position. After four ballots no one had achieved substantial unanimity. The vote to have a 5th ballot failed 27 to 33. So we, “went to the hat” with Kristi and Peggy. Kristi was chosen.
- Alternate Delegate: Greg M. and Frank G. stood. Greg M. was chosen on the first ballot.

LUNCH

- Chair: Peggy A. and Frank G. stood. Peggy A. was chosen on the first ballot.
- Alternate Chair: Frank G. and Barbi S. stood. Frank G. was chosen on the first ballot.
- Treasurer: Dan S., Peg S. and Gina M. stood. Gina M. was selected on the second ballot.
- Alternate Treasurer: Dan S. And Peg S. stood. Dan S. was selected on the first ballot.
- Secretary: Barbi S. stood unopposed and was elected unanimously.
- Alternate Secretary: Matt P. stood unopposed and was elected unanimously.
- Registrar: Ed A. stood unopposed and was elected unanimously.
- Alternate Registrar: Nita S. stood unopposed and was elected unanimously.

DISTRICT AND GROUP REPORTS – Peg S, DCMC, presided

(The following reports were given during the “dead time” during the election of the Delegate and Alternate Delegate)

District 1: Jim from the Urbana As Bill Sees It Group reported that the Group carries in a meal the first Friday of every month.

District 6:

- Barbi S, DCM, reported there are fourteen active groups in the district. A gratitude dinner is scheduled for November 15th. District officers will be elected in November.
- Marcy, GSR of the HULP Group reported that there will be a Fall Fling at Harry G.'s in Wellsburg with a campfire meeting. Bring a covered dish.

District 11: Brenda, GSR of the Marysville Friday Discussion Group reported that the group started a new format.

District 12: Ann S., DCM, reported that a District Gathering is scheduled for November 11.

District 15: Mike V., DCM, reported their late summer picnic was a success. Fall Sponsorship & Service workshop is planned. District is making contact with “dark” groups.

- Mike also reported on the Friday Nite Colonial Group stating that holding a group conscience solves problems as they arise.
- Tammy Powell, GSR of the Two-for One Group reported that a Halloween themed anniversary dinner is planned for October 23rd.
- Matt P., GSR for the Hand-in-Hand Group reported that an anniversary will be held in February. The group also holds meetings at the Washington County Jail and at the behavioral health unit in Parkersburg, WV.

District 16:

- Stephanie S., DCM, reported on an upcoming workshop and the District's concern about COGF dropping the 800 number.
- Sam H., GSR, Athens Big Book, reported that the group's 25th anniversary will be held November 22nd.

District 17: Ryan C., DCM, reported on a successful workshop in August.

- Adam W., GSR, Pleasant Valley Group reported that their 68th annual hog roast was a success. Group is planning a Christmas dinner with lead.
- Allison T., GSR for the Tri County Gallipolis reported.
- Jim C., GSR of the Pomeroy Serenity reported on issues the group is discussing including contributions rationale and how to deal with cross-addicted attendees. A December 6 anniversary dinner is planned.

District 19: Steve D, DCM, reported that a GSR School is scheduled for 9/27 in Hillsboro. The District is working with Bob H., Treatment Facilities Chair, to take leads into the Chillicothe V.A. District is working on setting a consistent meeting time and location to improve attendance.

District 21: Aaron, GSR of Living Sober Group, reported on the upcoming District Workshop on November 18 on the Three Legacies & Corrections Service Opportunities.

- Stacie I., GSR, Twelve and Twelve, reported.
- Melissa B., GSR, Monday-Friday Nooners Group, reported.

District 22: James M., Alt DCM, reported that the district is newly active, officers were elected, and a GSR school was held.

- James also reported for the Hilliard Sobriety Group.
- James also reported that the Road to Happy Destiny Group is holding its second anniversary on Sunday.
- Ed S., GSR for We Agnostics Group, reported.

District 26: Ed A., DCM, reported that Rule 62 is Sunday, September 21 and that the District will again hold a New Year's Alkathon December 31st through January 1st.

- Gina M., GSR for Rise and Shine Group reported that the Group is discussing its recent format change, and possible events including a picnic and Christmas Dance. It will hold a panel meeting on September 27th on the first three steps.
- Chris P., GSR for The Choice is Ours Group, reported that Whitehall Park will tear down the building where the group is held. Due to low attendance and contributions, the Group will stop meeting at the end of the year.

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- Dominique M., GSR of Northeast Discussion Group, reported that the group celebrated its four-year anniversary in August.
- Marcia H., GSR for Westerville Women's Recovery Group, reported that babysitting is available.
- Don B., GSR for Southeast Sunday Breakfast Group, reported that the group will begin having group consciences on a quarterly basis unless an important issue arises.
- Allison C., GSR for the Free at Last Group, reported that the group will hold its second anniversary in February.
- Becky M., GSR for After Work Group, reported that the group's new literature format has been well received.
- Kim M., GSR for Crossties, reported that the group is planning a December Anniversary.
- Kristin, member of the Creek Side Group, reported that the group is new and is planning a first year anniversary celebration.
- Fred W., GSR for the Solution ("no s") Group, reported that the group held its anniversary last week. The group is also outgrowing its meeting space.

District 28: Taffy J., DCM, reported that the District will hold a Movie Fun Day October 4th with a short District meeting after showing the film Bill W.

- GSR Early Evening Faith and Hope – At Group Conscience they discuss one question from the Group pamphlet Inventory.
- Liz M., GSR for Early Evening Faith and Hope Group, reported that the Group needs experience, strength, and hope with "aggressive 13th Stepping." They are also going to take the issue to COGF as well.
- Rebecca R., GSR for Women's Early Bird Group, reported that a yearly anniversary is planned for mid-March.
- Deb R., Alt GSR for Clintonville Big Book Group reported that the group's anniversary will be November 18th which includes a full turkey dinner.
- Teri G., GSR, reported for the Monday Night Steps and Traditions Group.
- Chris T., GSR for the Maple Grove group reported that it will hold an anniversary meeting in November.
- Ed H., GSR for the Plug in the Jug Group, reported that the group will staff the hot dog stand at Founder's Day on Sunday
- Alberta A., GSR for the Riverside Closed Discussion Group, reported.

District 34: Brandi V. reported that the District is planning a workshop on service and sponsorship on October 11th at COGF which will include a chili cook-off.

- Brandi V., GSR for Three Legacies Group, reported it is holding an Anniversary November 2nd.
- Beverly A., GSR for the Noon 12 Step Group reported the group is holding its fourth Anniversary on September 17.
- Zach F., GSR for Columbus Sunday Breakfast Group reported the group just moved to central office and recently had its 60th Anniversary.
- Roger A., GSR for the Grove City Closed Discussion Group, reported that the group has babysitting and that al-anon holds a meeting at the same time.
- Pam R., GSR for Women's New Hope Group, reported that the group will participate in the upcoming District event.
- Stacy G., GSR for the Westside Men's Closed Discussion Group, reported that it will hold its 26th Anniversary on September 25th.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS – Greg M, Alternate Area Chair

Corrections – Paul H. reported:

- Paul H. was elected Corrections Committee Chair for the next panel.
- Books and meetings of Committee will be moved to COGF.
- Corrections Committee now has its own website at area53cfc.org

CPC/PI – Dominique M., Committee member, reported:

- The Committee staffed a booth at the Addiction Studies Institute, a statewide conference of professionals that work in the addiction/recovery sector.
- Bill Y. has switched the Area 53 website to a subscription service where individuals interested in receiving announcements can sign up on the Area 53 website.
- Resources are available on the Area 53 website for individuals who are asked to speak at non-AA events.
- The Committee now meets at Maple Grove United Methodist Church.

Group Services – Greg S., Committee Chair, reported that twenty-five people attended a GSR school in July in District 22 and that another school would be held in District 19 on September 27th.

Liaison – Paul H., Committee Chair, reported:

- The COGF move is complete. The business office address is 651 W. Broad Street, 43215. The meeting room address is 645 W. Broad as is available for rent for \$10 per hour. The new location has a five year lease.
- Book prices will increase Oct 1st.
- Robert A. has retired and been replaced and Nancy will retire in October.
- As of June, COGF is financially ahead of budget by \$4 million dollars.
- Elections for the Advisory Board will be held at the December Member's Meeting.

Mini-Conference – Peggy A., Committee Chair, reported that the 2015 Mini-Conference will be held at Deer Creek. The theme will be "Celebrating 80 Years of Recovery, Unity, and Service the Foundation for Our Future." Race J. from GSO and Bill F., East Central Regional Trustee, will speak. There will be a Q&A about the Mini-Conference at the next Assembly.

Special Needs – Mike M., Committee Member, reported:

- Relatively new committee so each month they are reviewing a bit of the workbook.
- Also reviewing websites of other areas via the contact links on the GSO website
- Have created a Committee pamphlet to let groups, districts, and the Area know about the committee and to help find people the committee can reach out to.

Treatment – Bob H., Committee Chair, reported:

- Committee meets the 4th Saturday of the month at 11AM at COGF
- Three attendees at the first meeting reviewed the kit and handout.
- He attended the Addiction Studies Institute August 7th and visited every booth.
- Sunday, August 17 he attended Unity Day with the Committee display
- Three other people attended the second committee meeting and reviewed kit and handout.
- He talked to GSO. They have three distinct committees: treatment, bridging the gap, and hospitals and institutions.

OFFICER REPORTS – Greg M, Alternate Chair, presiding:

Delegate – Dave C., Delegate, reported:

In July and August more than 600 randomly selected groups in the US and Canada participated in an AA membership survey. Seven Central and SE Ohio groups were included in the survey.

The information collected will be included in the 2014 AA membership pamphlet, P-48, which should be produced next year. This pamphlet informs the general public, media, and professionals about the composition of AA. Information collected includes average age of members, average sobriety time, member occupations, marital status, number of meetings AAs attend, and average size of AA meetings.

Participating groups were: New Life Direction, Zanesville; Sunday Variety, Marietta; SOA, Springfield; Rush Hour Recovery, Reynoldsburg; and, in Columbus, Open Door, Real Recovery Women's, and Roundtable Discussion.

Thanks for the support from COGF, AOIO, District 12, District 7, District 15 and the Area 53 trusted servants - especially the trusted servants in the AA groups.

Thanks to the groups for sending me and seven other Area 53 trusted servants to participate in the East Central Regional / 58th Ohio State Conference in Perrysburg Ohio July 25 – 27. The sharing session I participated on was on area registrars and recording/ mailing secretaries. The information shared there will help future registrars more effectively serve the groups, and keep the AA community better informed about carrying the message through group, district, and service committee events and activities. It was apparent that digital communication continues to become more wide-spread as a tool for communications. The East Central Region is one of six in the US and includes Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin. AA news and information is being profoundly influenced by digital communication and it seems we may be just scratching the surface as regards using the internet and Area web sites.

COGF and Area 53 co-sponsored Unity day on August 17 at Hannah Park in Gahanna Ohio. The COGF and Area 53 Archives were there. Presentations about COGF and Area 53 History and the history of the 1939 original Big Book were inspiring and informative. Area 53 Archivist Tom V. was the AA lead.

The Final Report of the 64th General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous is now available. I will be at Rule 62 Day on Sunday, September 21 at Hannah Park in Gahanna with copies of the 88-page booklet that sums up the actions, sharing, and reports of AA World Service and Grapevine and General Service Board of trustees of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The six-month information on group contributions to 'New York' (General Service Board/GSO) is now available. If your group has a GSR you have already received the record GSO has on your personal group's contribution. Group contributions through June of 2014 are down eight percent from the same time in 2013. If you want to know how your money is spent by GSO/General Service in the world service office in New York, read the Conference report. The yellow booklet is jammed with reports and descriptions of the breadth of services provided by the world service office (GSO).

If you want to know how your groups contributions to AA world Service office in New York carry the message just contact me at the email address listed on this web site.

Area 53 Chair – Stephen S., Chair, reported:

The Area Committee met on July 13 at 1:30 PM at the Central Ohio Group Fellowship office. The main topic was the Election Assembly procedures. The Committee voted to return to using the “I Am Responsible” statement to end the Assembly and Area Committee meetings. Two “Unfinished Business” items from the June Assembly were tabled until the December Assembly to allow us to focus on the elections in September.

I attended the Ohio State & East Central Region Convention held in Perrysburg, OH and chaired the regional sharing session on corrections service.

Dave and I assisted several GSRs from District 22 (Dublin & Hilliard) in their efforts to “light up” the district. The district is now meeting and has about a dozen groups participating. I facilitated a GSR school for the new district in July.

Area 53 Registrar – Dan H., Registrar, reported that seventy-seven people attended today’s Assembly.

BUSINESS, WHAT’S ON YOUR MIND, ASK-IT-BASKET, AND CLOSING OF THE ASSEMBLY – Stephen S., Chair, presiding:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – All unfinished business was tabled and moved to the December Assembly. This included:

- Area 53 Inventory Status Report – Greg M.
- Ad Hoc Data & Technology Policy Committee, Scope & Plan – Bill Y

NEW BUSINESS – No new business was scheduled

WHAT’S ON YOUR MIND?

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

- Jim F., Alternate Registrar, brought to our attention that the domain name area53aa.org will be coming up for renewal.
- Greg M., Alternate Chair, spoke as an interested A.A. concerning the fact that C.O.G.F. discontinued the 800 number. He’s concerned about inmates, people in “no tell motels,” people in psych wards, as well as people in rural areas who do not have cell phones or who have limited cell phone service.
- Ed A. asked about the Area Inventory. Greg M. said the Area is trying to clean up the Area 53 mailing list before doing the mailing. Inventory can still be completed on-line. They are still collecting them. The DCMs and GSRs have also not done a door-to-door campaign. It would have been an item of old business today, but it was pushed to December because of the elections.

ASK-IT-BASKET

1. How does a group decide what district to be in if they are on the border?

Bill S., Past Delegate, explained that this is covered in the Area 53 Guidelines for redistricting. What happens if you’re an active group in a dark district is not explained. He suggested, if your group is in a dark district, you can join an active district.

Bill Y., Webmaster, explained that, wherever possible, the new boundaries are rivers and highways.

2. Has any consideration been given to changing the Area 53 page in the COGF Conscious Contact to reflect functions going on in the Area?

COGF gives the Area one page in the Conscious Contact. The Committee has chosen to use that page for Area contact information. If the DCMs would like to make a change, it can be brought to the Area Committee. It's up to the GSRs to decide, but any group can put a separate announcement in the Conscious Contact of their events.

3. Does a District or its officers or GSR have the right to penalize or censor an A.A. member if they disagree with their point of view or a particular speaker they get to speak at an A.A. home group?

Stephen S. stated, "The simple answer is, 'No.'"

Bill S., Past Delegate, explained:

- Alcoholics Anonymous should never be punitive ever.
- If you have a speaker that says something you don't agree with, shame on you for selecting him or her, not shame on the speaker.

Frank G. stated the need is to give individuals more information rather than any kind of penalty.

CLOSING OF THE ASSEMBLY

- **October Area Committee Meeting:** October 12 at COGF 645 W. Broad Street, Columbus. DCM meeting will be at 10AM. There is an AA meeting there at 9AM so there may be some overlap. Area Committee meeting will be at 1:30PM. Incoming officers should attend to begin the rotation process. The 2015 budget will also be discussed. Standing Committees should give Kristi their budget requests for the upcoming year in the next few weeks.
- **December Assembly:** December 14 – Location to be determined.
- **2015 International Convention** – July 2-6, 2015, Atlanta Georgia. Registration is open at aa.org

The Assembly was closed with the Responsibility Statement.