

AREA 53 PANEL 65 ASSEMBLY – September 13, 2015

BLUE MOON EVENT CENTER

OPENING OF THE ASSEMBLY

- Peggy A., Chair called the Assembly to order with the “We” version of the Serenity Prayer
- The long version of the Twelve Concepts was read by Marcie D.
- Roll Call was called to order by Steve D. DCMC: There were 8 Officers present, 11 DCMs, 2 Alt DCMs, 22 GSRs, 2 Alt GSRs, 5 Past Delegates, 5 Standing Committee Chairs, 1 Delegate, 1 Alt Delegate, and 4 interested AA’s
- A Review of the Agenda was presented with corrections. Peggy apologized about the address that was posted on the Agenda for the COGF Area Committee Meetings was wrong and should read 645 West Broad Street. Peggy also stated that there were copies of the Agenda, Minutes, and Area Guidelines on the Registration table for everyone.
- The June Assembly Minutes were presented by Secretary Barbi S. Sharon F., Past Delegate, stated that the line in the informational segment should read that “Each group should be autonomous”. Mike M. motioned to accept the minutes with corrections. Paul H. second the motion. Motion carried.

BUSINESS MEETING – Peggy A. Chairperson

TREASURER’S REPORT – Dan S. passed out copies of the Treasurers Report. Dan stated that we have \$23,019 total Incoming with the Group Contributions posted on back of report. We are about 76% in the month of September in contributions, so we’re doing pretty well. The Outgoing budget for Officers Expenses has been pretty much filled. As stated at the June Assembly we’ve had to make some adjustments. Because we didn’t have Unity Day this year (line item 30), the \$300 was moved around to other needed line items. We adjusted the Chairperson’s expenses (line item 11) from \$1000 to \$1200. The PO Box Rental (line 21) was adjusted, and also the Treatment facilities Committee (line 39) had to be adjusted. The Area has been doing what it needs to do. The Officers and Delegates have attended the International Convention and the General Service Conference. The Alternate Chair has traveled as well to the State Convention. We are, as a panel, bridging the gap of communication between our AA members, officers, and the General Service World. We have made some changes on Line item 19 for the rental of Archival Storage since we’ve moved them to be stored at the COGF, in turn, reducing costs. Line item 24, the Web Site/Services has been paid. We may need to address in our next budget, the protection of the Domain Name of our website. We needed to bump up Line Item 28 for Meeting Expenses at the Assemblies. At the cost of \$300 per assembly, we were falling short, so we adjusted it to \$1200. Next year we’ll have to address the Treatment Committee expenses. They have been very active and working out in the field. We are operating comfortably above the Prudent Reserve. Our current balance is \$5,528. We sent our Delegate to the International Convention this year. \$1299 was budgeted for that. Questions were as follows:

- Paul H. asked if the \$1299 that was allotted for the International Convention be carried over for the next year. Dan stated that yes, it would be carried over to the next International Convention. We will try to plan on budgeting \$500 per year for that expense.
- Fred W. asked about the Mini Conference Housing Subsidy (Line Item 29) that was allotted us this year, will it affect us in 2016. Dan pointed out that Line Item 3, proceeds from the State Convention was allotted us (\$2,194). We worked it out at the December 2014 Assembly, that each District was allowed 5 members to attend the Mini-Conference where we budgeted \$806 with the \$2,194 to come up with \$3,000. 10 Districts were allotted \$300 each to encourage other members to attend. It was the largest attended Conference we’ve had. It will disappear on next year’s budget.
- Patrice P. motioned to accept the Treasurer’s Report. Cat R. second the motion. Motion carried.

Peggy A., Chairperson, respectfully asks that if you’re going to be speaking, please come to one of the mics and speak for 2 minutes. Please just come up to the mic one time until everyone has a chance to talk, then if you’d like to speak again, you may.

Who Votes? Peggy A. Chairperson reads from the Area 53 Assembly Procedures. All GSRs Representatives or their Alternates, all District Committee Members (DCMs) or their Alternates, all Officers, including their alternates, all Standing Committee Chairpersons, all Past Delegates. If your group has no Group Service Representative present at the assembly then you may represent your group and have a vote, however, each group only has one vote. Any voting member at the Assembly can make a motion. To make a motion at the Assembly, step up to the mic. After being recognized by the Chairperson, state your motion as clearly as possible. If there is any documentation or further explanation of your motion necessary, please be prepared to present it. Is there anyone interested in looking at this paper? I apologize because I only have one copy. It is printed in the Guidelines.

- Dana P., District 34 asks – Where does it state that only a voting member can make a motion? Kristi H., Delegate, replies that this has been a topic of discussion for the last couple of months since our last Area Meeting. It is a common understanding that only voting members can make a motion. Kristi states that if it’s not in our guidelines, we can discuss that in our Committee Meetings and we will have to make some adjustments. Bill Y. states that it is in our Parliamentary Procedures.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS:

District 34 Proposal -- Peggy A., Chairperson, states that we will now bring up the Proposal from District 34 regarding the vote taken at the June 7, 2015 Assembly.

- Dana P., DCM D34, states that it was brought to their District Meeting that some of the GSRs didn't understand the procedure to table a motion, and did not feel they had the opportunity to bring up a proposal the last time. They wanted to be able to take it back to their groups for discussion. Dana *moves to reconsider the vote*. "We recommend that the AA Convention publish the collection of previously published stories written by AA members who are Atheist and Agnostics who have shared their experience of getting and staying sober in AA. The 40 short stories published in the Grapevine Magazine." Motions start.
- Bill S., Panel 45 Past Delegate, calls Point of Order – States that a motion to reconsider is out of order and not appropriate at this assembly. It can only be made by a member who voted in the affirmative. Someone stated that they were the affirmative member. Bill also states that if the motion to reconsider was appropriate, it can only be made by allowing discussion at the assembly where the motion was addressed, not this assembly. If you want to make the correct motion, it should be a motion to rescind but a motion to reconsider is inappropriate.
- A *motion was made to rescind* by Dana P. and Second. Bill Y. calls Point of Order, that the Chair should make a ruling. Peggy A. states that she would like to take a vote on whether or not the Assembly will vote to go on with this procedure (to rescind). Kristi H. states that we need to make clarification. She states that Dana P. has two motions on the floor, to reconsider or to rescind. Dana P. states that she thinks the confusion started at the Planning Committee when they asked to appeal the process and it was done. Then through phone calls and emails, they were told they couldn't do it that way. She asked that if she could be told how to do the proper procedure and how it should be worded, she would do it. Kristi H. asks if she would withdraw the motion to reconsider. Dana P. states *that she would like to withdraw the motion to reconsider and make the motion to rescind*. Peggy A. will sustain Bill Y.'s motion and accept Dana P.'s motion to rescind. The floor was opened for discussion.
 1. Dana P. yields the floor to the Alternate DCM Brandy V. who reads from the GSRs Preamble (duties of the GSR). She states that District 34 would like to rescind the vote from the June 2nd Assembly so that they may be able to take the information presented to them to their group conscience. They question the Agenda Item.
 2. Ed S., GSR of We Agnostics Group calls Point of Order. He stated it took 2/3 of votes to pass their proposal, that it should take 2/3 to rescind it. Peggy stated it does. Ed S. stated that he spoke with several Past Delegates and others about the proper procedure of how to bring this (recommended) book to the Assembly for a vote, and that he followed the procedures they recommended. He stated he took this idea to his group (We Agnostics) for discussion, then to the GSR, the district, and then to the Committee meeting on April 12, 2015 to be put on the Agenda in June. He stated the GSRs had almost two months to take it to their groups. The Assembly voted on it in June and it was approved by an 87% vote. Stating that it takes 2/3 majority to pass this and to move forward to the GSO. It should have been brought by the Delegate to the Annual GSO meeting but that didn't get done. When it goes to the GSO/Grapevine Board, it is put on their Agenda to be voted at their Annual Meeting, it has to be passed by the Grapevine Committee. It would then be brought back to the Mini-Conference in 2016 to be looked at again. It takes 2/3 of the Delegates to pass an Item on the Agenda at the GSO before it can be brought back to our Mini-Conference. It was just a suggestion that the Grapevine Committee at the GSO consider making this book. Ed states that he strongly urges the Assembly to vote against the reconsideration.
 3. Peggy A. reminds everyone that we are not voting on the subject matter, but whether or not to rescind the vote.
 4. Madeline H., Past Delegate, Area 53, District 34, states that she supports the Districts if they want to be heard. They're not questioning this Agenda Item. Their concern is that their Home Group Members never heard about this Item. She states that coming from a District and being in service since 1992 until last year, without a District to rely on to convey things like this to them, she was the only one that would get the information. If she had to rely on the Committee Meetings for information, she would have never gotten it. She attended the Assembly Meetings as a GSR. She states that if there are only one or two people that don't have this information, we need to guarantee them to get this information back to their GSRs and groups. We're assuming that every District gets this information and that everyone has a DCM at the Assemblies, but that's just not true. She understands that her District is asking that not all decisions be made on the day of these meetings so they can take this information back to their groups.
 5. Sandy D., DCM District 6 states that as a DCM, part of her job is to come to the DCM Committee meetings and Assemblies. She gets the information, takes it back to her district so that they can be informed. They took it to their groups so that they could be informed and make the decisions, brought them back to the District meetings, and she in turn goes to the Committee Meetings. She also states that if there are no DCMs for Districts, there needs to be other arrangements for a better way of communicating. That's the order that we follow.

6. Bill S., Past Delegate, Panel 45, states that this motion was handled in the proper manner, brought up by the DCMs, put on the Agenda at the previous Area Committee Meeting to be voted on, discussed and debated at the following Area Assembly and given the full two months, which is a normal amount of time. There was no irregularity. There just weren't some DCMs present that didn't vote. He's disappointed that we even have to debate this proposal once again after it was approved by a substantial unanimity vote. There were over 36 in favor and 7 against at the June 7, 2015 Area 53 Assembly. He feels an oversight was made by not submitting this proposal in a reasonable amount of time after the Assembly's approval. He stated that a reasonable amount of time is 30 to 60 days when we legally have to make our appointments. It did not get done. This is the reason we are debating this issue again. We left it standing there, hanging all by itself. Few motions go through this approval process in a thorough, less controversial manner as this one. This proposal was clean and debated. If any of the oppositions of this proposal have views that there was not adequate time and opportunities to discuss this proposal, why didn't they make a motion to table or postpone this issue to give them more time at a number of different things that were already mentioned. It could have been made at the group level, the originator's home group, at the district meeting, the Area Committee meeting, and then at the Area Assembly. But nobody made a motion to postpone or table this motion whatsoever. It is now time to send this proposal from our Area Delegate or another Area Officer to the GSO in New York as soon as possible.
7. Brandy V., D34 Alternate DCM, stated that they have relatively new GSRs and didn't know how to table a motion. They held a GSR meeting where they went through the Service Manual about their responsibilities as GSRs and responsibility at the Assemblies, groups, and AA as a whole. Just trying to figure out how things are done. They believed they were using an example given to them the previous year (believed to be by Bill S.) of how to bring an Agenda Item to the Assembly. We realized that this one was different. He brought his background information to the Assembly, presented it to the Assembly, gave out the information and we were told to take this back to our groups. So we took it back to our groups and then we were told that this was different than that. So we were trying to use that example as a Guideline of how an Agenda Item is brought to an Assembly.
8. Seeing no one at the mic, Peggy A. asks Dana P. to restate her motion. Dana states that she moves *to rescind the vote taken at the prior Assembly, that Area 53 recommends the AA Grapevine Inc., publish a collection of previously published stories written by members who are Atheist and Agnostics that share their experience of getting sober and staying sober in AA.* Pam R. 2nd the motion. 15 voted in favor to rescind. 31 voted to oppose. Motion failed.

Budget Request by Delegate: Kristi H. Delegate, Area 53 Panel 65, states that the Line Item 9 for Delegates expenses of \$2500 has been maxed out. She still has some additional things she would like to do. She asks that her written proposal be pulled up on the screen (by Bill Y.). She also states she has two motions she would like to make:

1. Kristi motions *that the \$800 left over from the International Convention Delegates fund be used for her to go to the Regional Forum in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, November 13-15, 2015, since there is no Line Item for that fund.* There is actually almost \$1300 left over but \$500 is to be passed on to the next Delegate. 2nd by Madeline H. Motion carried unanimously.
2. Kristi's 2nd motion is *that she requests that the Delegate's Line Item be increased by \$800.* She stated that she incurred some expenses that she has not yet been reimbursed for. She would like to attend the National Archives Workshop next month. Cat R. 2nd the motion. Are there any questions for the treasurer? Dan R., Treasurer states that if we increase this Line Item, we would still be at a balance of approximately \$4778, comfortably above the Prudent Reserve. He adds that our Area 53 Guidelines do state that we are responsible to pay our bills, and Kristi's expenses have not been made whole for the expenses that she's incurred as a Delegate. Seeing there were no more questions, the motion was carried unanimously.

Steve S. GSR, 3 Legacies Group, apologizes that he didn't come up during the Treasurer's Report. He stated that a question came up in his group conscience that "we," as an Area, contributed \$500 to a Regional Fund for the hospitality suite at the International Convention. Is there going to be a financial accounting of the \$7000 used for the Convention and what our \$500 was used for? Kristi H. states that she will report on the Hospitality Suit in her Delegate Report, but that she doesn't have the Financial Report from the Convention as of yet. She believes they will be getting a Financial Report at the next Regional Conference.

INFORMATIONAL SEGMENT – Frank G., Alternate Delegate

Frank G. states that he is having some trouble with some of the comments that he received when trying to Light up a District that he was instrumental in doing. He stated that it takes a lot of courage to Light up a District.

Frank G. also states that he gets very disappointed when he talks to our Area or New York and wouldn't get answers to his questions in black and white, but would get references to literature and be pointed in some things that might apply to his area. He did his best to follow the suggestions and come up with some solutions that would work best for his district at that time.

Frank proceeds with his Informational Segment: Activating a District or Bringing a District to Light.

- What is a District and what is its purpose: Frank reads from the Service Manual page S31.
- Two or three persistent, enthusiastic, dedicated members being willing to commit their time.
- Pick a time and place to meet.
- Encourage and vote on a DCM but can move forward without a DCM.
- Explain the humbling experience of a GSR, if you are a member of AA, you are eligible
- Some obstacles: accused of trying to change AA or having control issues.
- Stick to the purpose, point to the literature and turn energy to members who wish to consider the importance of a unified district.
- Personal inventory and prayer helps to focus on the positives, how to respond more peacefully, informative and more effective.
- Learning through mistakes with the willingness to improve and the progress will be recognized.
- Positive actions: go to all the meetings in your district and announce your attempts to activate the district; make known the location, time and day; invite individual interested members; ask groups for donations to be able to put on an informative district meeting.
- Go to quarterly DCM meetings and ask questions.
- Invite elected trusted servants from the Area to speak at your events.
- Learn and never stop referring to the literature.
- Hold District workshops on traditions and a GSR school.
- Don't be afraid of mistakes, learn from them.
- An elected trusted servant has no authority, but has great responsibility.
- Always remember love and tolerance is our code.

Peggy A., Chair, asks if there are any questions for Frank. Seeing none, she announces that we have a new DCM for District 33, Al Y.

Steve D., DCMC states he would like to welcome Al Y. Steve also recognizes Kalen C. who has been working hard in District 30. They plan on having a CPC workshop on October 4th. Steve and Greg S. are lining up something in October to light up Ross and Pickaway counties. Jean S., Delegate from Area 56, gave Steve some great information on lighting up Districts too, which helped him in lighting up District 19, which was very successful. Steve feels it's very important to get the information out and help other areas to Light up Districts.

Ed A., Registrar, reminds us to please make sure you've registered for this Assembly, and if you weren't at the June Assembly, you wouldn't get a printed badge. Please sign in. New GSRs and DCMs need to sign up with him so that he can get the information to New York and they can get their packets.

OFFICERS REPORTS – Dan R., Alternate Chairperson

Delegate, Area 53 P 65- Kristi H. states she also serves on the Special Needs, Treatment, and Accessibilities Committees at the Conference. Her report on the International Convention is as follows:

- There were approximately 58,000 people in attendance
- She was at the Olympic Park Convention Center which was about 9 acres
- The Georgia Dome was filled up Friday, Saturday, and Sunday
- 90 Countries were represented at the International Convention
- Kristi served on a panel "Gratitude in your Attitude". People had to be turned away because the rooms were filled.
- She also did a Volunteers Stint on the Old-timers booth where people with over 50 years of sobriety placed their names in a hat and 13 were asked to speak on the Old-timers Panel on Saturday night. When she volunteered on Friday night there were already over 100 people signed up.
- Kristi attended the Delegates Luncheon with Peggy A. in which the Outgoing General Service Manager was one of the speakers.
- She did go to the Eastern Regional Hospitality Room but was unable to volunteer there because the schedule was already filled up and the room was always filled up with people stopping by. They served coffee and water.
- Kristi states that she doesn't expect to get a final financial report on the Convention until she meets with them in February at the Central Regional Forum.
- She also states that the Convention was very well managed and very nice rooms.
- There are two Box 459's that have come out, one on the General Service Conference and the other on the International Convention. If interested, they're on the aa.org website, and you can order them. There is also a Canadian and United States Calendar of Events posted.
- The General Service Conference Report is coming out. Patti at the COGF has received her copy but Kristi has not as of yet.

- There are requests for sharing (your stories) from the GSO to update the pamphlet *AA for Women*. Also to update the pamphlet *AA for the Gay and Lesbian Alcoholic*, and to develop literature for *the Alcoholic with mental health issues and those who sponsor such members*. Deadline is October 15th. There are guidelines for your stories such as 350 words per story and Kristi has some forms if anyone is interested in submitting them.
- There are two new Staff Members at the GSO. Jim M. has left to pursue a new career. He served 6 years at the GSO. Jim also attended one or two of our Mini-Conferences. Jeffery W. has been added to the Corrections Desk at the GSO. Also Sandra W., who served as the Executive Secretary to the General Manager, will serve on the Special Needs and Accessibilities Desk.
- We have 11 Staff Rotations at the GSO who are members of Alcoholics Anonymous. They serve two years and rotate at the Corrections Desk, then they get moved to Special Needs, then to Literature and change assignments. They will start on the 15th of this month.
- East Central Regional Forum is November the 13-15, 2015 in Milwaukee, WI at the Crowne Plaza, Milwaukee Airport Hotel. Every two years the GSO decides where they will have the Regional Forum. At these Forums, the GSO gives presentations, workshops, and the Delegates put on panels. GSO talks about what happens at the GSO. They will give a Grapevine Report, a Financial Report and Memberships Report. There is a lot of "open mic" where you can get up and ask questions. Regional Trustees will also be there. Registration is free. More information is on aa.org.
- Kristi states that she attended the Ohio State Convention where 140 people were registered. Attendance was low because there is usually around 250. Each Area has a different amount in attendance. Toledo usually has around 500. We won't see any extra money for this year's State Convention. A lot of great panels and speakers were there.
- Kristi also attended the Ohio Women's Conference two weekends ago and did a presentation on Service.
- She went to the District 19 Picnic and gave a lead.
- Kristi will be speaking at the upcoming Rule 62 Day on September 20th at Hanna Park from 10-2.
- She has information on the National Archives Workshop September 24-27 in Cleveland, Ohio. The registration is \$25 and opened to everyone. They plan to go to the Cleveland/Akron Intergroup on Thursday. Bob Mc.'s (who is putting this workshop on) level of knowledge is astounding. It will be very interesting to Newcomers. Kristi plans on going. This workshop is not usually held so close to home so it is a great opportunity to go, especially since it is being held in the birthplace of AA.
- Kristi states that as a Delegate, she gets to receive a subscription to the Grapevine and the Quote of the Day on September the 10th was "Are you finally ready to let go and live your destiny?" by Thomas P. March 1997. "A Remarkable Sensation" was the title of the article. She really appreciates it because it has a lot of Bill W's writings. Go to the AA Grapevine website or aa.org and you can sign up to receive the free Quote of the Day every day.
- Kristi opens the floor for any questions:
 1. Dave C., Past Delegate A53 P63, states that he thanks Kristi for her dedication. He also states that he will be going to the Regional Forum in Milwaukee. Dave states that the information that everyone receives at the Forums is what the Delegates get at the General Service Conference in New York. You get to ask the Trustees and Delegates questions, and it is a great (eye-opening) experience. Kristi states that when she went to her first Regional Forum, it was there that inspired her to do General Service Work by the General Service Staff.
 2. Sharon F. asks Kristi to talk about the new General Office Manager, Greg T. Kristi states that he served as the Grapevine Director and is now our new General Office Manager. Phyllis H. who has served for 7 years is retiring on October 15th. Kristi states she looks forward to working with Greg and that he might be at the Regional Forum.

CHAIRPERSON – Peggy A.

- Peggy states that she also got to attend the Ohio State Convention in July
- She attended a workshop in June for District 26 which was well attended. She states they hold their workshops Quarterly.
- Peggy attends the mini-conference meetings monthly
- She states that she received a phone call from Al Y. asking for help to get District 33 Lit Up. Peggy got with Deb P. and Frank G. and they had a meeting. Frank shared his experience with Lighting up a District. Al Y. was then elected DCM of District 33 and it is an active district again. They will be having a GSR school in the future. They will be holding their District meetings where Poindexter meets. Peggy also got Al and Steve D. together.
- Peggy talks about the Committee Meeting held in July. She states one of the main reasons for having a Committee Meeting is to discuss the Agenda for the Assembly. She welcomes all DCMs, alternates, Chairs, GSRs, and expresses how important it is for all to attend. They are the ones who make things move in this Area.

- Peggy states that Tom V., our Archivist, has moved the archives to the COGF and is available for viewing. She doesn't know the finances of that as of yet, but that we will save money.
- The next committee meeting will be October 11, 645 W. Broad St. (COGF) and will start at 10:30, asking all to attend.
- Peggy states that she is available to come to any of the meetings in the Area. You may contact her by email at chair@aa53.org or call her. She hasn't received any emails from that as of yet.

REGISTRAR – Ed A.

- Ed states that there were 57 in attendance today. Delegate, Alt Delegate, 4 Officers, 5 Committee Chairs, 8 DCMs, 3 Alt DCMs, 13 GSRs, 2 Alt GSRs, 6 Past Delegates, and 2 interested AAs.
- Has made headway in updating the FNV New York Database. There are 14 incomplete groups, 144 unknown, 72 with wrong addresses. He states that if you're not getting the Box459, you're information may not be in the data base or it may be incorrect. Please contact Ed to update the information for your groups.
- Ed states that if there are any groups who have changed their formats, times, dates, please inform the Registrar at registrar@area53.org and the COGF. There are two different computer systems and both need to be notified of any changes. He's also working with the Intergroups.
- He also stated he attended the Ohio State Convention in Cincinnati and recommends that people attend the next one coming up 2016 in the Westlake/Cleveland area.
- There are new tri-folds available on the registration table with the listings of upcoming events and officers.
- Ed stated that we are still using the old DCM/GSR report forms before switching over to the new ones.
- Ed also stated he is available if anyone would like him to attend their meetings.

BREAK for lunch

DCMC – Steve D. - District Reports, calling up the DCMs and GSRs for their reports.

Steve stated that they have relighted District 30 and will be having a planning meeting at the Maple Grove United Methodist Church. District 19 has been sending groups to committee meetings and assemblies. District 19 will be holding a Workshop on October 17. Greg M. will be presenting the Steps.

- **District 4** – Rich F. new DCM, no report
- **District 6** – Sandy D. DCM - Stated they held their District picnic in July. Will be planning a Gratitude Dinner in November. Working on Master Meeting lists for all four counties.
GSR- Marcie D. - HULP Group, stated they have nothing coming up until November.
GSR- Lorna W-Pathway to Serenity Group no report
- **District 10** – Corby K. not present, Fred W., GSR, gave report. Their next event will be October 25, a 4th Step Workshop. They will have speakers in one room and another room set up for personal one-on-one groups. 1680 E. Orange Rd., Lewis Center, 11am – 2pm. Their Solutions Group will hold their Anniversary Meeting tomorrow. Beck M. will be speaker. Appetizers and deserts.
- **District 12** – DCM – Anne S. not present. Frank G. reported that they have allocated monies to libraries and pamphlets.
- **District 13/14** – Cheryl A. stated that Michael A. passed away.
- **District 15** – DCM – Matthew P. stated they had a District Picnic and Peggy A. spoke. They are planning an Alkathon for Christmas Eve and something for the fall event.
GSR – Patrice P. – Hand in Hand Group, stated they send contributions to all Entities. They are planning their anniversary for February, 2016. They have been discussing Service Positions at the group level.
GSR – Cat R., 2 for 1 Group, stated they hold their group conscience meetings once a month on the 1st Thursday of the month after meetings. They are planning their group anniversary with a breakfast on October 17, 2015.
- **District 16** – DCM – Stephanie S. stated they will be having a workshop on October 10, 2015 on "Our Purpose" from 9:30-2pm with panel guests from Marietta and Columbus. They have nominations coming up for rotation of officers. Voting in November.
Alternate GSR- Sam H.- Athens Monday Big Book
- **District 19** – DCM – Steve D. see above
GSR – Joanne L. – Sunshine Group, they just finished their Traditions Inventory. They will be having election of new officers on September 27, 2015. They are purchasing packets for the newcomers.
GSR – Andy W. – Greenfield Freedom Group, stated they only have Group Conscience Meetings when needed. They plan on joining with the Al-anon group for their anniversary on September 27, 2015. They have purchased Beginners Packets for newcomers.
- **District 21** – Aaron B. – Alt DCM, they are having some issues with treatment running meetings. They had 80 in attendance at their picnic. They may be using their funds to send DCM to mini-conference.

- **District 22** –Ed S. – GSR, We Agnostics Group, will be holding Comedy Night, October 3, 2015, Dublin Rec Center. Tickets are \$5.00.
GSR – Greg G., Hillard Sobriety Group, will be holding Anniversary Dinner September 29, 2015. They have opened a checking account for their group.
GSR – Sarah N., Women’s Hope is in the Book, recently held elections for officers. Hold their meetings monthly.
GSR – Joan R., Women’s Sunset Group, stated they offer babysitting at their meetings. Discussions of Singleness of Purpose. Will be having anniversary in early spring.
- **District 26** – Mike M., DCM, Gahanna/Reynolds District, stated they have several meetings discussing time changes for better attendance. Inventory of being self-supporting. Will be holding Rule 62 Day (flyers passed out) and Kristi H. will be speaking. Working on putting a workshop for Treasurers. They will be holding an Alkathon, December 31, 2015 with 24 hr meetings and a dance. They’ve recently increased their prudent reserve.
GSR – Joan K. – New Albany Sobriety Society, discussing changing their meeting times from 8pm to 7:30 pm. Hold their Group Conscience Meetings every other month. Their group consistently contributes to all the entities. Their group is also participating in the Rule 62 Day on September 20, 2015.
- **District 28** – Taffy J., DCM, Clintonville/Oakland Park area, will be holding a workshop on “Navigating AA Websites”, October 17, 2015 at Meadow Park Church, 10am to 12 noon.
GSR – Ed H. – Plug in the Jug Group, states their service positions are filled and they serve Hot Dogs after their meetings. Their anniversary will be November 15, 2015.
GSR – Liz M. – Early Evening Faith & Hope, says their group has been discussing better ways to keep their group money safe.
GSR – Abbra F. – Clintonville Big Book Meeting, states they have a popcorn style meeting with 60-70 people attending. Every first Tuesday of the month, they work out of the AA group pamphlet. They will be having an Anniversary Dinner November 17, 6pm dinner, speaker at 8pm.
GSR – Julie J., Stop and Stay Stop Group, will be holding their Anniversary 3rd Saturday of October.
GSR – Elena S. – Stop n Grow Meeting
- **District 30** –
GSR – Wendy S., 164 Page Winners Group, upper Arlington, has recently become a new GSR and is learning. She stated that their treasurer Gary N. passed away in May with 25 years of sobriety. His grandfather Reinhold Niebuhr, was credited with writing the Serenity Prayer.
- **District 34** – Dana P., DCM, stated that in August, they held a Sharing Session at Alt GSR John C.’s house. Past Delegate Madeline H. chaired and they went over the Service Manual. They felt they did not know how to participate in the Assemblies since most of them are new. They discussed the Right of Participation and how it is up to them to ask for more information and not just to vote. They want to make informed decisions. They talked about the GSO and how a lot of their groups feel disconnected. They felt money was a big issue for them as some struggling groups cannot afford to buy Big Books and it was hard to explain why they should have to send money to New York. They stated they would like to see these things discussed at Assemblies.
GSR – Brandy V., Alternate, stated at the next DCM meeting in January, they will have a sharing session with Madeline H. present. They will be going through the Service Manual.
GSR – Pam R., Women’s New Hope Group, provides babysitting. Their Group Conscious has been discussing their contributions and service positions.
GSR – Susan M. Strong Women in Sobriety Group, states they have to move their meeting and in the rebuilding process of their group. Attendance has been down and they think it was because of the fire they recently had. Searching for a new place and it’s important that it be on the bus line. They provide babysitters at their meetings.
GSR – Steve S., 3 Legacies Group, stated they will be celebrating their anniversary on November 21, 2015 at Hoge Memorial on West Broad Street. He also plans on going to the Regional Forum in WI in November. Their next group conscience meeting will be December 5.
GSR – Terri H. – Good Morning Breakfast Group, has been discussing their Singleness of Purpose and Respecting AA Behind the Podium. She also stated they were having their Group picnic today.
GSR – Larry R. – Harbor Lights Group, meets Monday nights 8pm and have been struggling with attendance.
Steve D., DCMC reminds DCMs/GSRs of the upcoming Committee Meeting on October 11, 2015.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES – Paul H. Chair, reported they held their 3rd Quarterly meeting on September 12, with the following actions taken place:

- Angela was appointed and ratified as the alternate pre-release person under Kim F. who rotated into the position after a resignation.
- Vivian K. was appointed and ratified as the alternate correspondence person under Stephanie B. who rotated into the position after a resignation.

- The Spirituality Pamphlet was approved to be added to the CFC literature list.
- They had a discussion about the date and place of their 3rd Quarter meeting next year (2016). The consensus was to have the meeting at the COGF and moving the time if there is a conflict with the COGF's Members Meeting.
- 100% of the literature requests made in the 3rd Quarter were fulfilled.
- \$7800 was approved for literature purchases in the 4th quarter of 2015.

CPC/PI – Cheryl S. Chair, reported they held their monthly meeting on September 6, 2015 with 6 attendees, and the following actions taken place:

- Cheryl attended the Area Committee Meeting in July, and the Ohio State Convention in Cincinnati.
- Net Care project is back up and actively meeting monthly with Dave C. coordinating.
- A new stamp for the literature is available. It has current email address on it.
- Cheryl stated their minutes for their meetings are always posted on the area53aa.org website with notices of subject matter posted.
- A new Orientation Packet is available.
- She attended the Addiction Studies Institute August 12-14 with over 900 attendees. One of the largest events of its kind. She sent her report to the GSO.
- Stated that the business card project is coordinated by Debra R.
- Justice Expo and Health and Wellness Fair to be held at the Municipal Court Building Wednesday, October 7 from 11am – 2pm. Tom B. stated he was interested in participating.
- They plan on attending the District 16 workshop, "Our Purpose," in Athens on October 10
- They received information packet from the GSO to be mailed out to TV stations, for the new PSA called "Doors"
- Madeline H. will be their new treasurer
- Membership surveys for 2014 are out and available at the aa.org website.
- Pamphlets are also available through the aa.org website

GROUP SERVICES – Greg S. no report

LIAISON COMMITTEE – Bill S. Past Delegate, gives report for Teri G., states that they voted to re-establish the 800 hot line number. It will be posted on the new, updated and more accessible COGF website. Tentative startup date for February, 2016. He also stated Gratitude Sunday will be November 15 at the COGF on West Broad St. Watch for in the Conscious Contact newsletter.

MINI-CONFERENCE COMMITTEE – Frank G. Chair

- Stated he is willing to be part of any panel for lighting up a district.
- He also stated he attends all meetings which are held the 1st Monday of each month.
- Frank states that Sandy D. is the new treasurer for the mini-conference and is responsible for the registration table. It will be held on March 2016 at Deer Creek Lodge, Mount Sterling, Ohio. They are working on some changes to make for a better experience at the conference.
- Registration for the Mini-Conference is on area53aa.org website. Registration fees and meal prices will remain the same price.
- They have designed a new, more current conference folder display.
- Flyers for the Mini-conference are available to take to your groups.
- Frank also states that the 2017-2018 Mini-Conference will be held at Salt Fork.

SPECIAL NEEDS COMMITTEE – Election was done and Pam R. is new Chairperson. Terri is new co-chair.

- Pam gives explanation of the jugs and "where does my donation go", that were passed out, while Terri passes out pamphlets and subsidy forms.
- Based on the type of need a group needs, funding would be provided on a sliding scale. Any group can apply. It will be posted on the area53aa.org website.
- Pamphlets will be available at the December Assembly.
- Only 4 groups have turned in their jugs.
- Treasurer report will be available at the December Assembly.
- An interpreter is needed for hearing impaired meetings.
- Anyone interested in service opportunities, contact them. They meet the 1st Saturday of the month at 10am at the COGF.
- Questions for the Special Needs Committee:

1. Rick B. Past Delegate, Panel 49 had a concern with Area 53 getting involved with the babysitting services, asks "What is the insurance liability on this activity?" Joan R. states the churches have mandates and guidelines. Fees are processed by the church. Terri H. states quality babysitting subsidies form is used to help with the expenses of the \$40 a week babysitter. The form is used to provide quality babysitting. Pam R. states that the Special Needs Committee doesn't support babysitters, they support the cost if needed.

TREATMENT – Marcie D. Chair

- States the Bridging the Gap has 40 volunteers and are actively working with the Parkside Facility. They've been working with Districts 6 and 26 and looking for more volunteers.
- They meet Quarterly at the COGF with their last meeting held on August 27th 2015
- Wants to work with the CPC/PI committee
- They have tri-fold volunteer forms for Bridging the Gap, and explains how the forms are filled out, and what the committee does. Bridging the Gap allows an inmate or patient to get to a meeting upon discharge. They take people to meetings, get Big Books, and meeting lists for them.

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND? – Peggy A.

- Ed H. talks about the meeting that was broken into with considerable damage and lost \$350 in group funds. The After Hours group needed a meeting place with two being held on Saturdays. He stated "how safe do you feel" would be a good topic to take to the groups.
- Rhonda P., interested AA member discusses procedures. She states that the point is that we learn through the process, not by rushing through things. She feels it is a violation of our principals. Some people are too frightened to speak up. We have a responsibility to speak up. She didn't like the way things were run this morning, being rushed through the process. She asks, "What procedures will be put in place to keep this from happening again."
- Brandy V. stated that she had emails and phone calls saying that she was being accusatory in the process to the officers, stating principles over personalities. Feels very detached. She also stated that some of the phone calls had a lot of untruth. States that is unacceptable in AA.
- Dana P. DCM D34, talks about lighting up districts. Asks "how are we taught, or being led?" Quotes Love and Tolerance.
- Jim F., interested AA member, suggests to talk about how to get committee member chairs and reps to participate more.
- Pam R. states that groups take their inventories and suggests that maybe the Area needs to do an inventory. Holding ourselves accountable.
- Frank G. states that he was instrumental and passionate about bringing a District to Light. He understands the frustrations and sleepless nights and people not wanting to get involved. He quotes that the book tells him to "be careful of the deliberate manufacturing of misery".
- Terri H. states that Special Needs is on track with spreading their committee. She states she has 7 years of sobriety. They were in a dark area, and now they are lit. She stated that they don't have a lot of DCMs/GSRs that come to these meetings on a regular basis. Now that they are energized, she'd like to make suggestions that maybe hasn't been done before, maybe it is time for some changes. Maybe it's time to take your knowledge and experience, and add a lit bit to it so that we can keep this going forward for the newcomers.
- Rick B. Past Delegate, Panel 49 states one of the things to remind ourselves from this point forward, is to take a look at the pool of people we have in AA. We have people who know more about crawling out of the gutters, than to go about passing a new book. We need to lead with what's going on, because in anger, as I fully understand what was being said, if we don't understand something, we need to get an answer. It may not change anything, but we need to get an answer. There may be a perfect, logical explanation. Rick also asks about the Mini-Conference Housing Subsidy. What are we doing with it? Where did the money come from? Dan H., Treasurer, explains that the 2014 State Convention held in Toledo and because of the large attendance they had, there was a surplus of funds and they distributed to all the contributing Areas in Ohio. We got \$2194. We brought the balance to an even \$3000. There was a proposal made by Paul H. at the December 2014 Assembly, to allow a housing subsidy of \$300 per district for 10 districts that qualified. The qualifications were for the districts to have 5 new members from that district attend the mini-conference. It was a once in a lifetime event. That's what that item was on the Treasurer's report but it will disappear in 2016.
- Sara N. stated that she went to a District meeting in District 22 that was on the website list, but there was no one there. She asks if it's wrong on the website. Ed S. advised her that the Dublin Springs meeting meets the last Sunday of the month. It had been requested to correct it on the website but had not been changed yet.
- Aaron from District 21 concerning the procedure process; states that if you wait for everyone to get involved, we'd probably never get anything done. He stated that they've tried to inform everyone in District 21 of things but he doesn't think it's possible to inform everyone.

ASK IT BASKET QUESTIONS: Dan H. states we will proceed with the questions.

- Peggy A. reads the Question: Any suggestions on literature to pass along to home group members, especially uninformed old timers, the importance of supporting AA as a whole. Answer: The AA Group Pamphlet. JoAnn from the Sunday Morning Sunshine Group in Hillsboro states that she's having problems with that. They have a lot of old timers that are above or below or wherever they are, what we want to talk about. No matter how much information she offers, they read/hear what they want to read/hear, so she just tries to love them through it. Steve D., DCMC states that they had a few oldtimers that didn't want to get involved. You have to educate them through the Group Pamphlet and AA Service Manual. Educate all newcomers as well. They're our future. You're not going to teach newcomers new tricks. You can't argue with literature. It's in writing, and this is what the group conscience says. He states that he saw this morning, how a group conscience works. Education, not condemnation. Share with each other.
- Peggy A. passes the next question to Kristi H., Delegate: Can our Delegate please tell the Assembly how long will it take for us to send the approved conference proposal to the coordinator at the GSO? She states the deadline for that is December 15.

Peggy A. would like to thank everyone for coming today, she's learned a lot, and states that if there is something that is going on in the Area, you can call her and she can get you in the right direction. Dan H. asks that everyone turn in their badges at the end of the Assembly and if we could please have a motion to close the meeting. Fred makes the motion to adjourn the meeting. Cat R. 2nd. Peggy reminds everyone that the next Area Planning Committee Meeting will be October 11, 2015, 10:30am, 645 West Broad Street. Meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm with the Responsibility Statement.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbi S. Area 53 Panel 65
Recording Secretary