

Area 53 Panel 65 Area Assembly – December 11, 2016 10:02 am

Opening of the Assembly – Peggy A

- Peggy quickly goes over the Agenda and mentions the Glossary on the back
- Call to Order and Serenity Prayer (we version) – Peggy A.
- Short Form of Concepts – Jennifer R.

Roll Call – Peggy A

Please note that this count is based on a visual count of hands raised. The Registrar Report will show a different count based on individuals signing in.

- 23 GSRs , 7 DCMs, 1 DCMC, 3 Interested AA, 6 Past Delegates, 4 Officer, 5 Committee Chairs.

Review of the Agenda – Peggy A.

- Unfinished Business – Ad-hoc Committee in regards to Digital Communications
 - Proposed Guideline Change
- New Business
 - East Central Regional Trustee Report
 - Proposed 2017 Budget
 - Officer / GSR / DCM / Standing Committee Reports

September Assembly Minutes (review and approval) – Matt P.

Motion to accept by Kalen S. Second by Don B. Unanimous Approval.

Treasurer's Report – Dan S.

Proposed Budget is available at -

<http://area53aa.org/main/about/area-53-assembly> (Click Treasurer's Report)

Dan Highlights information regarding the December 2016 Budget

- Group Contributions at this time last year - \$16,746 Contributions are up around 10%
- Groups making contributions are up from 184 to 200
- \$26,020 available and expenses include:
 - Officer Expenses
 - Delegate has gone to the General Service Conference
 - Alternate Delegate has gone to Mini-Conferences
 - Some officers have gone to neighboring Areas, Mini-Conferences and State Convention
 - Operating Expenses
 - Still uncertainty regarding status of Area 53 Archives
 - Line 16 shows deficit spending. New business will be a proposal to increase line item.
 - Reason for additional expense – Purchase of Contribution Envelopes for \$300.
 - Other expenses include, IRS Reporting, Post Office Box, Projector Purchase, Website Services, Meeting and Convention Expenses, Support of the State Hospitality Room and State Convention and Committee Expenses.
 - Projected Balance – \$9,491
 - Above Prudent Reserve of \$2,500

- Many expenses are front loaded in the First Quarter to include Mini-Conferences and General Service Conference.

Treasurer's Report Continued – Questions and Comments

Madeline H asks in regards to the Mini-Conference Committee if Area 53 is paying rent for the meeting place.

Dan advised that Frank G, Chairperson, hasn't requested the money for rent.

Frank G said that he wasn't aware that he could request money from Area for rent of the meeting place.

Dan mentions that on the back of the report are all the contributing groups with a thank-you message. We are trying to thank the groups for contributing. The message is also in the Area 53 Page of the Conscious Contact, COGF Newsletter. The number of Groups and money being contributing up.

Motion to accept by Steve D. Second by Corby K. 34 Approve, None Opposed.

Unfinished Business

Area Inventory – Dan S.

Area 53 is embedding Inventory Action into all of our gatherings.

- The General Service Office has started to incorporate Inventory at the General Service Conference which is documented in the conference report.
- Taking inventory in the best sense of the word is a fundamental aspect of AA's program of recovery. As program co-founder, Bill W. reflected in AA Comes of Age on page 231. "Just as each A.A. must continue to take his moral inventory and act upon it, so must our whole society if we are to survive and if we are to serve usefully and well." A.A. General Service Conference Inventory, 2015 (page 3).
- The 10th Step talks about a continuous inventory which means without cessation.
- It gives us the opportunity to find out where are the gaps and where we need to fill the gaps. All towards the end of serving the alcoholic usefully and well.

At the 2015 Mini-Conference there was a Committee for Inventory. They referenced the Guidelines and came up with three areas to examine, we added one to allow for one topic for each Assembly.

- 1) The Mini-Conference Committee**
- 2) The Area 53 Committee**
- 3) The Area 53 Assembly**
- 4) Membership and Financial Support (was added)**

The intent is to look at these questions and offer input. Then the Area Committee which will meet the month after the Assembly can act upon what we find today. At the Next Assembly, we will report what actions we took. We are continually taking a look at ourselves to see how we can better serve the suffering alcoholic and how to better do what is pointed out to us in our Guidelines. The topics are arranged chronologically.

How Area 53 Discusses the Inventory

At the Area Committee Meeting

The Inventory Question will be distributed hard-copy and will be published on-line.

At the Area 53 Assembly

- We invite people that have reviewed the questions to come to the Mic
- The Recording Secretary make available all the information prior to the next Area Committee Meeting.
- The Area Committee will review the results.

Considerations and Recommendations from the Area 53 Planning Committee (October 2016)

- We talk a lot in acronyms. One of our members, Kathy, brought that to the attention of the Area Planning Committee. As a result, a legend was created on our Agenda to show what those acronyms mean.
- Area 53 has a continuous challenge in how we communicate the process on things like election procedures and the development of an Agenda. Area has a commitment to continue to work towards fostering communication between all involved parties.
- Dan said that he is encouraged by the Inventory Process because of changes that are taking place.

The questions below were considered at the December 2016 Assembly.

Reflecting on the Area 53 Guidelines (Articles II & XII), is our Area attracting alcoholics from different backgrounds to available service opportunities? Are we seeing a good cross-section of our community, including those with special needs? Do our practices honor our heritage of inclusion and achieve diversity within our A.A. Community?

From the Area 53 Guidelines: Article II – above

From the Area 53 Guidelines: Article XII

1. At the September Area 53 Assembly Meeting of each even-numbered year, the Area Assembly will hold elections of the Area Delegate, Alternate Delegate, Chairperson, Alternate Chairperson, Registrar, Alternate Registrar, Secretary, Alternate Secretary, Treasurer, and Alternate Treasurer.
2. The term of service for these individuals will be for two years and will begin January 1 of the following year.
3. At the beginning of this even-numbered election year, the Chairperson will ask the immediate Past Delegate to chair an ad hoc nomination committee to identify, secure, and submit names of qualified nominees.

Do our trusted servants stick with us, or does the turnover seem excessive? If so, why? What can we as an Area do to retain our trusted servants?

How is our Area fulfilling its responsibility to the Seventh Tradition?

Comments from the Area 53 floor.

Dan S, Area 53 Treasurer –

- Dan reads the questions regarding diversity and asks how do we measure that. Alcoholics Anonymous General Service does a survey of our membership every 3 years. Dan recommends that we use GSOs findings as a way of how we are represented in our Area relative to the Alcoholics Anonymous community. Dan then reads the remaining questions on turnover and Seventh Tradition. He then opens the floor for comments.

Mike M, DCMC, Area 53, Panel 67 –

- One of the things that I have seen in the Area, in the Committee work and in the Districts, is that we have this kind of two year mentality. We go through our position and there is almost a kind of relief and a rush to get done with it. We just pass it on to the next people. Often times it feels like we are reinventing the wheel each time. I know in the Special Needs Committee, I already served my two years and probably stayed on for close to another year, maybe. I felt some obligation to insure that they were successful. Plus they were enthusiastic and a great bunch. Next year when our new DCM came in, I told her and the District that I would keep coming to the District meetings because I want to help that transition. I feel that we don't do as good of a job as we could on transition. I feel we could do better just by maybe staying a little beyond our position to help insure that the next people that are coming in benefit from the wisdom and experience that we already have achieved. Let's not get to the two year point and drop off and let it go.

Kalen C, DCM, District 30 –

- In terms of the turnover – seems like it was okay. People were staying around, at least in some sort of service position. As far as responsibility of the Seventh Tradition, there are still quite a few Groups that are very insular – all the people that came into that Group, stay there and do what they do. It would be better to have a broader sense of what AA does.

Cheryl S, CPC/PI –

- I want to say that this inventory has been invaluable to me to look at how we are doing the job that we are assigned to do or step up to do and how we can better work together. I am really appreciative of the way that's being done. The first section of it – Is our Area attracting alcoholics from different backgrounds across sections, including those with special needs. I am not exactly sure how we can do that. I think that the brainstorming and the bringing it up would be helpful. I know that we look at things like handicap accessible... We're looking at where we are going to meet as an Assembly and diversity – inclusion and diversity – I've had challenges with the Committee with this past Panel in that the Committee meetings are here in Columbus and people have to travel a long way. How do I communicate with the Committee. The website has been absolutely fantastic as far as getting the minutes to there. Yet, there are some people that don't have access to that. A new perspective is what I'm thinking of. Perhaps, mailing out Minutes and things like that. So, the last question, as far as the Area fulfilling its responsibility. From the Treasurer's Report, it shows that we are improving and that is what Service is about. It's about improving. We need to continually look at ourselves. I thank the Committee and all of the people that worked on getting this inventory together and then reporting back. Thank you.

Frank G, Alternate Delegate –

- With minimal success, I encouraged District Committee Members to approach individuals, if they had a little time, to encourage people that they can be a GSR. A lot of them are surprised that they are eligible. You're sober right, you work your steps right, you're eligible. Unfortunately, quite often, they come to one Assembly or one DCM Meeting and it just doesn't seem to be their cup of tea. All I can do with my views is to keep bringing this up to the individuals and every once in a while they stick. Thank you.

Teri G, Inter-group Liaison –

- I have to agree with Mike. I see a lot of people that involved in service work – It started when I was Group Secretary. At the end of two years is a long time to have a commitment. Especially when you have a large Group. It's like, "Whew – It's over." Being of Service doesn't mean at the end of those two years that it's over. I think one of the things that we do in our District, those of us that have served, do stay active. Whether it just be attending the meetings still. We have a brand new DCM that is new to being a GSR and DCM. We have three new GSRs that are here today that I am excited to see. So those of us that do stick around, they can just keep setting the example and trying to get new fresh faces in here and they will share that with their peers as well – and getting some more Groups involved. It's nice to see that the inventory we did, back with our homegroups is being evaluated so that we can see that being a GSR is important. Because we are discussing what our Groups are talking about. As far as the special needs, I think that being on the Special Needs Committee and that is an area that I am staying on – this is my third or fourth year. I think we think of the physically handicapped is the only thing that requires a special need. Being on that Committee we like to think that there is more than just that. Thanks.

Peggy A, Area 53 Chairperson –

- I would like to make a comment of the part where it says, "What improvement could be considered to make sure Agenda items and Conference Activities have a broader appeal and attract more members to attend." My suggestion would be that during my time as a Chairperson, I have heard many things about how long the Assembly is and how big the Agenda is. I would suggest that maybe we could get a Committee together for people that are concerned about that and to come up with suggestions to make it different. I mean, you know there certain Guidelines and things that have to be on the Agenda. The time when we are doing the open mic, the Chairperson has nothing to do with how long long those open mic sessions take. So if anyone has any suggestions or any feedback they might want to get with the new Chairperson, Dan H and assist him with that. Thank you.

Dan S reminds the Area that we are talking about the December Inventory questions.

Greg, DCM, District 22 –

- In terms of transition of leadership, I have been involved in some organizations that have a President Elect, the President and the Past President. That gets a lot of bureaucracy there, but it does kind of provide a transition. Would that look like six years then, two years pre, then two ... maybe cut it down to one year. One year pre, one year active, one year later – I don't know. That may be a possibility. On the Election, it was my first election, at the last Assembly, it seemed like there was a lot of concern, over the process and confusion over it. And the repetition of the voting and I have kind of reflected on it and talked to some people and kind of

see the purpose. Maybe if that was explained at the beginning of the voting process, that may be helpful. Thanks.

Sharon F, Past Delegate –

- The first part about diversity, we're not a diverse group here. Look around, we're not a diverse group. I think that's a common problem in Alcoholics Anonymous. Especially in Service. We're just not. It's not just here. It's not just Area 53. There are a lot of Areas that are not diverse. I think that Area 54 in Ohio does a good job of that. I am not sure exactly sure how they do it. But, they have a pretty diverse group. I don't know how you address that part about people staying in office. I remember when I was Chairperson it was such a big deal to be elected and then the work started. The ego is really strong when you got elected and then the work started. I am not sure how that we can encourage people to stick around. That would be a great thing. The other thing about the contributions and I am glad that you brought up that more Groups have contributed this time. That's great. What's our percentage for the General Service Office? 23 percent of the Groups give to GSO. We have always tried to address this. It's something that we try to address on a continuing basis. You can talk to your Groups and your District about contributions, I think that helps. Our District, District 15 we have a pretty good percentage of groups that contribute, compared to other Districts – not everybody in District 15 contributes. Those are things that we have to continually talk about to Groups and Districts, members. It's just a continuing thing. I really to believe that some Groups don't know that they are supposed to contribute and I also believe that some groups don't have the money to give. But even if they gave two dollars – I always say this. If you gave two dollars to GSO you would be considered in that percentage. Think about that, you don't have to give a lot of money. Thanks.

Dave C, Past Delegate –

- On this one question, what can we do as an Area to retain our trusted servants. The first thing I think of is, the most important servant is the GSR. I know of a lot of organizations, when they have turnover or at the end of the season – baseball teams, pro teams, they conduct interviews at the end of the season and talk about what they learned and how the person is doing. Can we apply that in anyway to outgoing GSRs. Because it seems that it might be the key point of continuing to attract GSRs to further their service experience. Whether it would be Committee work or any other type of General Service opportunity. Maybe we can learn something from what those GSRs felt they kept getting confused about or getting mixed signals in not getting thing explained well enough to them. If there is some way of gathering GSRs that are going out, transitioning out or moving on, If the Area could get a few of them together to figure out what they learned and what they didn't learn. You would have to figure out what a good list of questions would be. This is just a suggestion.

Donna K, Treasurer. Area 53, Panel 67 –

- If we had more DCMs that are covering our whole Area, they would be going out and talking to these groups and getting more GSRs. We would have a more diverse room here. We would have people that are more active and stay active. Because if a DCM has enthusiasm, that I have seen in some DCMs, they get out to those Groups and they talk to them. There are a lot of Groups out there that don't even know what a GSR is. In our meeting we study Concepts. You know how many people come to our meeting and say, what in the world is that? They have

never ever heard of that. They have been sober for a long time sometimes. I think it is our job to get more DCMs active, to get out to the Groups and if you look at our Treasurer's report, we only have a couple of Groups or Committees that are active. The more GSRs you got the more people that you are going to learn about these Committees. The Committees are there to help the still suffering alcoholic. If you don't have activity on those Committees, that are getting out to the community in general. You've got CPC/PI.... No one is doing Treatment Facilities. There are all of these treatment facilities that are popping up, that I have never even heard of because of this epidemic that is going on with heroin and they think that is the only problem. They don't even look at alcoholism anymore. It seems like it anyway. I really believe that if we get more DCMs out there, our Area would take more time to get out to these Groups and let them know, we need to get your District active and start electing a DCM and tell them what that is about. A lot of these Districts in our Area don't know what that is about. I have been around for years, it always seem like it the same Districts that are here. If you might come out of the dark, every couple of years, then when that person rotates out and sometimes those people don't stick around and it goes dark again. I think that is the gist of what we need to do, as an Area we need to get out to the Groups. We got to get out to the Groups and tell them what a DCM and what is a GSR. Don't expect them to come to us.

Stephen S. Alternate GSR, After Work Group –

- On the aspect of diversity... My experience in other parts of the country is that the Areas that do a good job with Hispanic participation are ones that create all Area or all county Districts, rather than geographically limited. So right now if you want to get an Hispanic group involved... District 34 has made a great effort to get the Hispanic meetings there involve with District, but they're just one in a very small minority position in term of bringing their cultural issue to the table. But when you get a Hispanic District for all of Columbus, or all of Franklin County, with a DCM, then you get representation of their viewpoint on an equal basis with them. So I know Cleveland doesn't have a District like that, but they have an Area Liaison. Chicago has got about three or four. Los Angeles has about five that I know of. I have been to a couple of the LA Assemblies, because I am from out there, and they are really leaders in the Area in terms of bringing principles to the table. I think we ought to be concerned about how we structure Districts and think about how we can get one that actually creates some additional equal participative opportunities for the minorities.

Dan S encourages people to look at the 2014 Membership Survey to compare Area 53 with AA as a whole in regards to diversity.

Steve D, DCMC –

- I think it comes down to what my enthusiasm when it comes to retaining trusted servants. If I leave an Assembly and go back to my Group and complain about what happened at this Assembly, like it's a drudgery to come here, I am not going to make anybody enthusiastic about coming here. When I stepped up to take a position, in Alcoholics Anonymous, I stepped up to take a position of responsibility. I don't care how long it takes, while I am here, I am sure that there is a lot of privileged stuff that goes on, but still it is about my enthusiasm. Am I committed to my District and am I committed to my job as trusted servant. And do I pass that on to the people that I sponsor? And do I sound enthused when I am talking about Alcoholics Anonymous and the service structure? I have heard of old timers that have been around for

years, longer than I have, and “don't wanna get caught in politics” but they don't understand the Concepts and the Traditions. They think that there is politics in this stuff. I have to remember, am I doing my personal opinion or am I doing what's best for Alcoholics Anonymous when I come in here. I have to express what we did to improve or to help out Alcoholics Anonymous and what's best and keep my personal things out of it. That is what I have to remember, whether I am in an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting or Service meeting or Committee meeting. What is best for Alcoholics Anonymous. Thank you.

Madeline H, Past Delegate –

- I really like what Steve said. I know we all complain, we all do, we just gotta be careful who we complain to. If it is a brand new person, that knows nothing about about what we are talking about, maybe that wouldn't be the ideal person to complain to. Our sponsors might be, or someone else that is involved in the Area. Because we are going to do it. I'm telling you, we are alcoholics – so we're gonna do it. But we have to be careful as to where we are going to do that kind of thing at. I want to talk on diversity, because I sat there and kept thinking and looking around the room and I thought when I was coming up in service in 1991, there was hardly any women in the room and there was hardly any young people in the room. I was considered like the odd-ball in the room. So I do think we have some diversity in Alcoholics Anonymous. It may not be by the color of our skin, but that question in the inventory goes deeper than just that. It's economic, It's social, It's a lot of things, not just the color of our skin. So I think we have a lot of diversity. I know when I went to conference, out of 93 Delegates there were 11 women. I bet there are a whole lot more than that. I bet Kristi can attest to. At least half. Do you know how hard that was? – for the women to break into that arena. It was not easy. AA has been known for the old white guy. People will say that. I think we need to quit saying that. It's not true anymore. We can keep saying it, but it's not true. I see a diverse age group in here today. So I am sort of encourage by the fact that Alcoholics Anonymous in their general service has become much more open minded to the ideas of our whole fellowship and not just a few old white guys.

Dan thanks Madeline and makes reference to the 2014 Membership Survey. He says that another aspect of diversity is length of sobriety. They look at occupations, how you were introduced to AA, age, marital status, do you have a homegroup, how many meetings a week you attend, and ethnic and racial background.

Dan says that we will get the minutes disseminated at the next Area Planning Committee and will discuss it and see how we can improve. Area will talk about it, act on it and come back to you during the March Assembly.

Ad-Hoc Committee Report Digital Communications – Stephen S.

The report for the Ad-Hoc Committee on Digital Communication is available at

<http://area53aa.org/main/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Ad-hoc-Web-Committee-Report.pdf>

Stephen explains that he was asked to give the report in place of Dan H. and also to chair the discussion and action on the Guideline change.

Background

- June was a Guideline change proposal to create an website administrator position.
 - Failed to get substantial unanimity and didn't pass.
 - Recommendations was made and passed by the Assembly to have the Area Chairperson appoint an ad-hoc committee to look at the issue.
 - Dan H was asked to chair the committee of six people.
- Ad-hoc Committee met between June and September.
- They defined how Area 53 is to approach the subject of Digital Communications and advised on possible solution.
 - The first website was developed in 2005.
 - In 2007 the website became part of the registrar's job to administer.
 - In 2009. There was a Guideline change to place the website under Public Information in conformity with GSO Standards. Then the websites purpose was to communicate with the general public. The webmaster was to be accountable to the Assembly as a whole.
- The website has become an important part in the way Area 53 functions. It was a mechanism by which a lot of information is exchanged.
- There has been a tremendous change in the way websites are used and the way digital communication takes place and the website is no longer a public information function.
- The conclusion is that we cannot leave the Guidelines as they are because it isn't consistent with what we are doing and with what GSO is doing.
 - Advised by Bill F. that GSO has placed the website under the Communications Desk and is considered independent.
- The website has become a part of what Area 53 does and the Fourth Concept, The Right of Participation, argues that the Digital Communications ought to have a voting role.
- The Committee thought that the Principle of Rotation should be brought into decision making process.
- The committee considered the pros and cons of the following options:
 - A. No Change
 - B. Elected Officer – presented in June 2016
 - C. Appointed Person(s) by Chairperson
 - D. Standing Committee
 - E. Paid Individual
 - F. Ad-hoc or Special Committee
- At the September Assembly the Ad-hoc Committee presented a progress report. The Assembly requests that the Ad-hoc Committee present to the Area Planning Committee so that they could decide what actions to take.
- In October the Ad-hoc Committee presentation was made to the Area Planning Committee
 - The Ad-hoc Committee didn't make a specific recommendation but eliminated four options and left two. --- Elected Officer and Special Committee.
 - The problem with an *Appointed Person*
 - They felt that this would cause hardship in creating a Guideline change.
 - There would be no specific detail on how to specify Spirit of Rotation
 - The individual would report to Chair only.

- The Assembly wouldn't have any say as to who would be assigned to the position except to say that they oppose the appointment.
- The problem with creating a *Standing Committees*
 - According to the Guidelines, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee is elected by the Standing Committee. The only time that the Area will elect a chairperson is if the Committee isn't active or if the Committee can't find someone to chair.
 - The Ad-hoc Committee felt that the Standing Committee approach is inconsistent with the idea of answering the the Assembly as a whole.
- The problem with *Paid Individual*.
 - Money
 - Legal Situations
 - Possible impact on IRS Standing
 - Too Complicated, too expensive.
- The Special Committee approach would allow the Assembly to elect a chair.
- The final vote of the Ad-hoc Committee:
 - 3 for option B, Elected Officer
 - 2 votes for option F, Special Committee
 - 1 vote for option A, No Change
- With this information, the Area Planning Committee gives a presentation Assembly for consideration.
 - The Area Planning Committee doesn't make decisions
 - The Area Planning Committee makes a decision on what the Assembly should consider

The Area Planning Committee recommends an Elected Officer

Details at <http://area53aa.org/main/new-area-position-guideline-change-proposed/>

- The Area Assembly, as a whole to be able to make a choice as to the officers
- The Spirit of Rotation will be built into the process which is an added advantage over the Special Committee.
- The Area Planning Committee cleaned up the previous presentation regarding the Elected Officer and created a new simplified Guideline Change.
 - This is not the same Guideline change that was rejected in June.
- Stephen describes the three step process in establishing a Guideline Change
 - The person wanting the change brings the recommendation to the Area 53 Chair to present it to the Area Committee. The Area Planning Committee reviews the recommendation and makes it presentable to the next Assembly.
 - The recommendation then went to the Assembly for Consideration. The Assembly decides whether there is enough merit to consider the recommendation.
 - The actual vote on the first recommendation took place in June. The vote didn't make substantial unanimity so the recommendation failed.
 - After the failure of the proposal it went back to the Area Planning Committee.
 - The Area Planning Committee is requesting that Assembly consider that the modified version of this recommendation has already been through the process of consideration and to have the final vote at the March Assembly is unnecessary. The Area Planning

Committee is advising that the spirit of the Guideline is accomplished and that we go to the vote on the actual merits of the recommendation which would require substantial unanimity.

- Stephen requests a vote from the Assembly to decide whether the Assembly should have a “Vote to Consider” then in March actually vote on the recommendation.
- Madeline makes a point of clarification. She advises that an Ad-hoc Committee doesn’t create Agenda Items they just give information only. To request that that Assembly vote on a determination on how to proceed is very odd. A motion is now needed from the Assembly.
- Kristi makes a motion to vote on the Guideline change today. Cat R. seconds
- “That the Area 53 Guidelines be amended:
Remove Item 2e from Article IX-Standing Committee Areas of Activity,
Add Web Administrator to Article V-Area Assembly Officers
with the addendum that we vote on the item today.”
- Stephen opens the floor for discussion and attempts to clarify that the vote is only to consider having the final vote on the recommendation at this Assembly.
- Jean S. Past Delegate advises that any Guideline change recommendation has to be mailed out to every voting member of the Area to be taken to the Groups to get feedback within 15 days of its presentation, which is today. If we vote on implementing today are we not violating our own Guidelines.
- Stephen advises that the Area Committee has said that the consideration stage has already been accomplished.
- Jean S. disagrees. A final recommendation hasn’t been mailed out to the Groups to get feedback.
- Stephen said that in order to stay consistent with the understanding of the Guidelines a Motion to Table until March is needed.
- A Motion to Table was presented by Molly, Second by Jen
 - No discussion, Majority to pass,
 - Vote 30 For and 12 Opposed – Motion to Table passes.
 - Item will be under New Business at the March Assembly

New Business

Proposed Budget for 2017 – Dan S, Area 53 Treasurer

<http://area53aa.org/main/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/A53-ProposedBudget-2017-Edited.pdf>

Dan distributes the Proposed budget for 2017 and said that the Area Planning Committee has reviewed the proposal. Dan then advises that he has made a proposal that is different in three ways.

- Line item 10 (Past Delegates to CDPP/Area53 Mini-Conference was originally \$1000 was increased by \$200.
- Line item 1 and 2. Increased beginning bank balance to \$9,600.
 - Dan believes that due to increased participation from the Groups.

Discussion

Paul H. - Has a question on Delegate expenses/Chairperson expenses. We are budgeting \$3000 and \$1000 respectively. This year we already exceeded those numbers. Why aren't they higher?

- Dan S – The Chairperson expense was originally adjusted at \$1,200 and was increased to \$1,700 at the Mini-Conference in March because the Chairperson had additional travel. The Assembly approved the increase. The number reflects that this may not be the case with the new Chairperson. The Delegate increase was due to Kristi living further away, went to Conference of Delegate's Past and Present and the Regional Conference. The new Delegate may not have the same expenses in 2017.
- Dan has some discussion with the Delegate and advises that line item 6 should remain at \$3000 and if needed it can be adjusted at the Assembly.

Fred , Newly Elected Social Chair for COGF – I don't see a Unity Day. It doesn't look like it has been held for the last two years. In our By Laws, it's part of the duties of the Social Chair. Has that been taken out of the budget?

- Dan S. – It's been taken out of the budget. Not because the Area doesn't want to do it. Because there hasn't been any participation.
- Fred advises that \$600 has been allocated to a couple of events in the COGF budget.
- Peggy A said that it was decided two years ago between Area 53 and COGF that there was no activity for Unity Day so they tabled the event.
- Fred advises that COGF would like to do Unity Day.
- Dan S. said that a line item can be added.
- Kristi advises that we used to allocate \$400.

Dave C – On line item 24. estimates \$1,300 for Assemblies. I understand this is not the location for the next four Assemblies.

- Dan S. – That is the same rumor I hear. I would have to defer to Dan H.
- Dave C – It would be important to find out as soon as possible. Is \$1,300 a safe estimate?
- Dan S.– Blue moon was significantly more than we paid in Lancaster. Blue Moon was in market rate for the area. We anticipate that will be the same. We are at \$1,081 of the \$1,300 budget. Donna and Dan will get together and if changes need to be made it will be brought to the Assembly.

Frank G – Mini-conference 150 allocated – it's not too late to request it?

- Dan S.– That's true and same is true with the Special Needs Committee.

Motion to Accept as amended by adding \$400 for Unity Day - Corby K, Second by Cat R.

47 Approved – No opposed.

Current Budget for December – Dan S, Area 53 Treasurer

- Dan S. advises that we have deficit spending on line item 16 for Postage, Copies and Supplies.
 - Purchased contribution envelopes at \$300
 - Also \$30 receipt for additional copies

- Dan proposes an increase on Line 16 from \$750 to \$900.
 - Paul H asks if this item could be taken to Area Planning Committee.
 - Dan advises that no APC before the end of year.
- Motion to increase line item by Ed A, second by Cat R.
 - 49 Approved, No opposed

East Central Regional Trustee Report – Bill F.

- Bill congratulates newly elected officers and congratulates Delegate on great service to Area 53.
- Last General Service Board meeting was at the end of October and in November at Rye Brook, New York.
 - Rye Brook is the location of the next two General Service Conferences.
 - Next General Service Conference will not have a trip to Bill Wilson's home but will have a trip to the General Service Office.
- Next General Service Conference topics include.
 - The next General Service Conference report will not only be hard-copy but also anonymity protected digital copy.
- Bill F. serves as the Secretary of the General Service Board and as chairperson for Treatment/CPC and the Accessibilities Committee.
 - Accessibilities was changed from Special Needs and the Trustee Committee, Clement C. is going through the publications that use the words Special Needs.
 - The term Special Needs was dropped because people with disabilities founds that to be a rather onerous term.
 - The Accessibilities Committee is working on a voluntary check list to see if their meeting place is accessible.
- Mary Clair L. retired at GSO, November 28th.
- Racy J is East Central Regional Contact Person and serves as the Trustee's Committee Secretary for CPC.
- Bill F. will be rotating off of the General Service Board at the end of the next General Service Conference. He looks forward to helping Area 53.
- Next General Service Board meeting will be at end of January and beginning of February in New York City.
- Financially Contribution up 13% - normal for holiday time.
- 2% increase in literature sales
 - 53% of income comes from literature sales.
- Grapevine is doing better. Circulation is at 77,900 and they budgeted for 77,000.
 - Lavinia is experiencing expenses exceeding revenue by about \$108,000.
 - The General Service Conference adopted Lavinia to be of service to Alcoholics Anonymous.
- Reserve fund has 14.9 million dollars
 - 9.8 months of 2016 Budgeted expenditures
- At the last General Service Board meeting all of the World Service Delegates were present because they had met the week before at the same hotel and many of them stayed over.
 - There were committee meetings were there were sometimes 50 people were there are usually 14 to 16.

- Michelle G, past Class A Trustee, from Charleston, WV is the Proposed Board Chair.
 - Michell is not too far away to travel to our Area.
 - Jim, her husband is a Past Area 73 Delegate
 - The position is pending approval of the General Service Conference
- At the next General Service Conference election of new trustees.
 - Bill is excited about that because our Area has an exciting group of candidates.
 - 6 to 8 people who are standing for East Central Regional Trustee
 - Several candidates to serve as Trustee at Large.
- This is Bill F's last report to the Assembly.
 - It has been really exciting to serve and to travel.
 - Bill said he had an opportunity to see how Alcoholic's Anonymous really works
 - He said that you can really trust your Board.
- Bill talked about Albin Z. he went off of the board at the end of October and is now working at the General Service Office.
 - There are 20 Trustees.
- Bill thanks everyone for the opportunity and after a personal anecdote said that "Anything is possible in Alcoholic's Anonymous."

BREAK FOR LUNCH – 11:52am

BACK FROM LUNCH – 1:02pm

Delegate Report – Kristi H

- Contributions are up 10 percent.
 - Area 53 Contributions up 1 percent. Now at 23 percent
 - Individual District and Group reports are available to DCMs
 - Kristi indicated that some Districts are doing well, she mentions District 15 at 43%
- Kristi has copies of the Final Report for the General Service Conference of 2016
- February 10-12, 2016 Conference of Delegates in Past and Present in Toledo.
 - Will be voting on new East Central Regional Trustee.
- Kristi wants to thank everyone for opportunity to serve as Delegate.
 - Kristi has been involved in Service since she was eight months sober and believes that being in a position of Service has contributed to her sobriety.
- Kristi presents the PSA "Doors" http://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/doors-psa
- 2017 State Convention is hosted by Area 53.
 - Located in Worthington, Ohio at the Double Tree Hotel, July 21-23.
 - Theme: Supporting our Future.
 - Committee meets the 3rd Monday of the month at 6:30pm at New Life Church in Gahanna
 - Not meeting in December but will meet starting in January
 - Teleconferencing via web possible
 - Frank G and Kristi H are co-chairs of the committee
 - Frank G will be the Chair of the State Convention

Area 53 Chairperson – Peggy A.

- Advises that it is an exciting time of year with all the elections
 - Appreciates all the new Committee Chairs, GSRs, DCMs
 - Peggy said that it is great to see all of the new people stepping up
 - Advises that as an Area we need new people and new ideas
- Attended the State Committee Meeting
- Attended the State Convention Meeting
- Peggy take time to thank everyone for the opportunity to serve as Area Chair
 - She has been doing Service Work for about 14 years
 - Held nearly every position except for Treasurer.
 - She said that she is eternally grateful for what she has learned as being part of this Area
 - Peggy said that Service has helped her with her personal life and has enriched her sobriety

Area Registrar – Ed A

- Ed advises on the attendance at the Assembly.\ul> - Delegate 1, Alternate Delegate 1, Panel Officers 5, DCMC 1, DCMs 8, Alternate DCMs 4, GSRs 30, Alternate GSRs 6, Interested AA 2, Past Delegates 4, Committee Chairs 4, East Central Regional Trustee 1 = Total 62
- Information regarding Fellowship New Vision
 - Active Groups 744 (down 2), Incomplete Information 13, Unknown 155 (up 9), Invalid Addresses 57 (down 12)
 - Invalid Addresses and Incomplete Information will not receive Box 459 and other mailing form GSO.
- Ed said that he attended the State and Local Planning Meetings
 - Ed said that he participated in a teleconference for the State Planning Meeting.
 - The teleconference works well and will allow participation
- New tri-folds with current GSRs, DCMs and Officers are available
 - Information regarding District 34 has already been updated
- Ed thanks everyone for their support and looks forward to serving as Alternate Chairperson

Alternate Registrar – Nita S.

- Nita updates the Area 53 page on COFGs Conscious Contact Newsletter
 - Nita advised that she prepares a Word Document and is emailed to the Office Manager.
 - In September or October the page became a little bit blurry. It was believed to be a one time glitch but continued.
 - Last attempt a Word document was converted to PDF format, This created an illegible document.
 - Individual named Gaye apologized for the poor quality.
 - There is a plan to have correct the process in producing the page. When previewed, the documents looked fine, so and investigation is ongoing to find the problem. It is believed that a third party processing software is to blame.
 - The new Alternate Registrar is Marcie D.. Nita will work with Marcie to correct the problem.
 - Nita looks forward as serving as the new Registrar.

(Peggy A passes a get well card for an ill AA member, Greg M.)

Frank G – Informational Segment. (Where Spirituality and Money Mix)

To see details regarding this topic please visit - <http://area53aa.org/main/information-segment-where-money-and-spirituality-mix/>

Steve D – Area 53 District Committee Member Chairperson

- Steve said that it was a pleasure to serve as DCM Chair. He thanked all DCMs that came to the Committee Meetings to come up with the Agenda and sharing sessions to help with problems that we have in different Districts and how to solve those problems.
- Next month will be a new DCMC, Mike M.
- Next Area Planning Committee Meeting is January 8th at COGF.

DCM/GSR Reports

- **District 4** – Casey A. said that she would be the next DCM beginning in January and Rich has resigned.
- **District 10 – Corby K, DCM**
 - 10 to 15 Active GSRs, Meets 4th Sunday of the Month at 1:00pm at 1680 East Orange Road. Meeting for December will be on the 18th because of Christmas.
 - Requesting help with Delaware County Jail both Women's and Men's meetings.
 - Elections were held. New Secretary, Chrissy W.
 - District 10 would like to do a better job in getting their meetings publicized.
 - Workshops being held once every quarter. Latest on October 22nd. 84 in attendance.
 - New Year's Eve Bash at Sunbury First Baptist Church
- Brian U, GSR, Westerville Group of AA for AA
 - Advises that he has nothing to report.
 - Positions filled, Secretary, Treasurer, GSR,
- Jennifer R, GSR, The Solution Group
 - Meets Monday's at 7:00pm – Closed Discussion, Meets Monthly for Group Conscious
 - Positions filled, Secretary, Treasurer, GSR, Literature Rep, IGR, Grapevine
- **District 15 – Matt P, DCM**
 - Election of officer at last meeting.
 - Bruce W -- DCM, Joel K – Alt DCM, Marilyn W– Secretary, CPC/PI – CJ
 - Alcothon on Christmas Eve from 7pm through Christmas Day 7pm
- Bruce W, GSR, GPS Group
 - Meets in Belpre. Clement Ave, Sunday, 7:30pm 12&12 Last Sunday of the Month, Grapevine Meeting.
 - 5th Anniversary, 2nd week of February, My Name is Bill W to be shown
 - Positions filled, Treasurer, GSR, Literature Rep, Grapevine

- Cat R, GSR, 2 for 1 Group
 - Meets at 1st Presbyterian Church, Fourth and Wooster, Marietta. Thurs 7pm 12&12, Sat 10am Big Book
 - Positions filled, Secretary, Treasurer, GSR, Alt-GSR
- Joel K, GSR, Woodsfield Group
 - Meets Tues, 8:00pm Big Book, and Fri, 8:00pm Lead, MACO Bldg, Woodsfield
 - Refocused the Group on Tradition 5. Carrying the Message
 - Joel explains that he is the first GSR since 1985 and that Service work is a very important part of his recovery.
 - Group Conscious focused on Tradition 1, Daily Unity
 - Positions filled Treasurer, GSR
- **District 17 – Allison C, DCM**
 - Meets at Pomeroy Sacred Heart Church at 5:00pm first Sunday of the Month
 - Elections in February. DCM, Alt DCM Positions Open
 - Workshop on February 14, Step 1 through 3, Sponsorship, Traditions 1 and 12
 - Meeting lists are provided to meetings
 - Financially above Prudent Reserve
 - District pays for the first night of the cabin at the Mini-Conference
- Shirley K, GSR, Pleasant Valley Group
 - Meets Presbyterian Church, Point Pleasant. Mon, 7:30pm Big Book, Thur 7:30pm 12&12, Sat 8:00pm, Closed Discussion
 - Hog Roast in August
 - Positions filled, Secretary, Treasurer, GSR, Alt-GSR, Literature Rep, IGR, Mini-Conference
- Dan W, GSR, Pomeroy Serenity Group
 - Meets Sacred Heart Church, Mulberry St, 7:00pm Thur Discussion, 8:00pm Sat Big Book, Sun 7:00pm 12&12
 - Individual interested in being a Grapevine Representative
 - Anniversary Spaghetti Dinner, January 7th 7:00pm
 - Group Inventory in planning stages
 - Positions filled, Secretary, Treasurer, Co-Treasurer, GSR, Alt-GSR, Literature Rep
- **District 18 –**
- Barbara M, GSR, Chillicothe Serenity on Sunday
 - Meets 12 Noon, Open Discussion, 291 S. Paint St
 - Distribution of finances were discussed at Group Conscious. It was decided to distribute to various entities and purchase pocket sized big books.
 - Positions filled, Secretary, GSR, IGR
- **District 19 – Steve D, DCM**
 - Includes Clinton, Fayette and Highland Counties
 - 6 Active GSRs
 - Meeting held quarterly
 - Discussion on Increasing participation in the service structure

- Steve said that he will be going to different meetings. There is a considerable travel distance to get to different meetings.
 - Coordinating jail meetings. They would like to get meeting on a continual basis
 - Sponsorship Workshop on January 21st
 - Alcathon, Christmas Eve, 6:00pm to 12:00am Christmas Night
- JoAnn L, GSR, Hillsboro Sunshine Group
 - Meets 9:00am Sunday Morning at Souther State Community College
 - Discussion on the frequency of Group Conscious Meetings
 - Discussing on Concept per Month
 - Positions filled, Secretary, Treasurer, GSR
- **District 21 –**
- Johnny W, Interested AA and Secretary, 12&12 Group of AA
 - Meets Mon 8:00pm Open Discussion 12&12, Fri 8:00pm Lead Meeting, Evangelical United Church of Christ, 701 5th St, Portsmouth
 - 44th Anniversary Meeting on March 17th.
 - Recently moved due to paperwork confusion with another Group. Since move, some meeting will have up to 100 members attending.
 - Positions filled, Secretary
- Donald C, GSR, Portsmouth Nooner's Group
 - Meets Second Presbyterian Church, 801 Waller St, Portsmouth 12:00pm M-F, Rotating Format
 - Problem: Inclusion on people that identify themselves at Addicts at the meeting. The group hasn't thrown anyone out, they are an welcoming group.
 - Positions filled, Secretary, Treasurer, GSR
- **District 22 – Greg G, DCM**
 - Meets 4th Sunday of the month at 10:00am at Dublin Springs.
 - They are in the process of looking for a new location due to changes at Dublin Springs
 - Visited almost every Group trying to increase the number of GSRs
 - Found that Groups may only have a Secretary and Treasurer and may not have regular meetings.
 - The District is considering giving information on the difference between a Group and a Meeting. They would appreciate suggestions.
 - The District would like to recognize Joleena who may be elected as GSR to her homegroup.
- Ed S, GSR, Secular Sobriety (formerly We Agnostics)
 - Meets at Dublin Springs Outpatient, Tue 7:00pm,
- Don S, GSR, Serenity on Sunday
 - Meets Sun 9:00am, Dublin Recreation Center
 - Positions filled, Secretary, Treasurer, GSR
- Sarah N, GSR, Women's Hope is in the Book
 - Meets at Dublin Community Church, 81 West Bridge at 7:00pm. Closed Big Book/Discussion
 - Positions filled, Secretary, Treasurer, GSR, IGR

- **District 23 –**
- Melanie P, GSR, Worthing Group
 - Melanie advises that the District is dark. She has asked Nita to print her a list of the meeting in the District. She said that she is willing to attend those meetings and see if they have GSRs or other interested people.
 - Meets at Worthington Presbyterian, Wed 8:00pm, Open Speaker Meeting
 - She said that she is a new GSR
 - The Group just had elections and have a new Secretary and Treasurer as well.
 - She said that they should create an Agenda for the Group Conscious
 - Positions filled, Secretary, Treasurer, GSR, Literature Rep, Grapevine
- **District 26 – Mike M, DCM**
 - Welcomes Marcia H as the incoming DCM
 - September's Rule 62 Day was a success. Around 150 to 200 attended.
 - December 31, Alcathon at ReyNaz Church
 - Because the Alcathon falls on a Sunday, District 26 wasn't sure if they would be able to have the event at the church. The Church advised that they would like District 26 to have the event at the Church and the Church wanted to make breakfast for the District. The Chairperson for the event thought that was a great idea. At the District meeting there was a question regarding anonymity if the Church were to serve breakfast. Also a question of self-support. District 26 also explored the questions of why the Church would want to make the breakfast. The Discussion as a result of the offer was a great way of looking at the Traditions.
 - Homegroup membership is a continuing issue
 - Successful in fulfilling all Service Positions for 2017 including Alternates
- Steve F, GSR, The Happy Hour
 - Meets 8630 Refugee Road, Pickerington, 6:30pm Fri, Open Discussion. Across the street from Grapevine Pizza
 - Averages around 25 people with long term sobriety.
 - Steady growth over the last seven years
 - Significant Group Conscious problem: The Case of the Disappearing Treasurer
 - Time healed the problem and replaced the individual. Rebuilt the Treasury pretty quickly
 - Nice Anniversary Meeting with Pizza
 - Positions filled, Secretary, Co-Secretary, Treasurer, GSR
- Stephen S, Alt-GSR, After Work Group,
 - Meets at Peace Lutheran Church, Gahanna, Tue 6:00pm, Literature Meeting. 455 Clark State Rd, Gahanna
 - The Chairperson can select any Conference Approved Literature or Grapevine or GSO Service Literature.
 - Positions filled, Secretary, Co-Secretary, Treasurer, GSR, Literature Rep, GIR, IGR
- Gary L, Alt-GSR, As Bill Sees It (East)
 - Meets in Pickerington, Sat 12:00pm, : "Eating Meeting"
 - Old-Timers and Newcomers work together well

- Diverse Group based on love
- Positions filled, Secretary, Treasurer, GSR, Alt-GSR, GIR, Grapevine
- Joan K, GSR, New Albany Sobriety Society
 - Meets at New Albany UMC, Thur 8:00pm, Big Book
 - Seven Homegroup members and trying to get people involved in Service
 - This has been difficult. Joan tries to be a good role model for Service
 - 30th Anniversary is January 5th.
 - Meaningful Discussions which is attractive to newcomers
 - Positions filled, Secretary, Treasurer, GSR
- Marcia H, GSR, Westerville Women's Recovery Group
 - Meets at Spring Road Church of Christ, Westerville, Thur 7:00pm, Rotating Format
 - On third Thursday of the Month, member get together for a dinner before the meeting
 - Positions filled, Secretary, Treasurer, GSR, Literature Rep, GIR, IGR, Mini-Conference
- Dominique M, GSR, Creekside Recovery
 - Meets at Ghanna Community Congregational Church, Rotating Format
 - Just had 3rd Anniversary
 - Positions filled, Co-Treasurer, GSR, GIR, Mini-Conference
- Don B, GSR, Southeast Breakfast Group
 - Meets at Mount Caramel East Hospital, Sun 9:00am, Lead Meeting
 - Positions filled, Secretary, Treasurer, GSR, Alt-GSR, GIR, Grapevine
- Laura R, GSR, Sunday North American
 - Meets at East Side Grace Brethren Church, 7510 E Broad St, Blacklick, 2:30pm Sun, Open Speaker Meeting.
 - Problem: Need more Homegroup Members. They have great attendance but few members.
 - Positions filled, Secretary, GSR
- Joy D, GSR, Northeast Discussion Group
 - Meets at Life Church of Easton, 5000 Sunbury Rd, Columbus, 7:00pm Open Discussion
 - Positions filled, GSR
- **District 28 – Julie J, DCM**
 - Julie said that overall it was a pretty good year. They lost some participation in the meetings and had to change their meeting location but everything went pretty smoothly.
 - Financially over Prudent Reserve
 - Focusing on level of participation from the Groups on both Service and at District events
 - Planning on showing Bill W movie for first event of 2017
- Jen H, GSR, Lodestar Group
 - Meets at Overbrook Presbyterian Church, 4131 N High St, Columbus, 7:00pm Open Step Discussion
 - Jen said that she is excited to be active in Service
 - Positions filled, Secretary, Treasurer, GSR, GIR, Grapevine
- Ed H, GSR, Plug in the Jug "Hot Dog Meeting"
 - Meets at Holy Name Catholic Church, 154 E Patterson Ave, Columbus. 7:30pm Wed, Speaker Meeting

- Everyone works together for the good of the Group as a whole.
- Group Conscious is a seasoned group, but we try to stay green
- Need to get more Homegroup Members
- Suggestion: Since Area 54 does a good job maintaining diversity in their Service Structure, why don't we contact them for help with our on-going problem?
- Positions filled, Secretary, Treasurer, GSR, Alt-GSR, Literature Rep, GIR, CPCPI, Grapevine, Treatment Center
- **District 30 – Kalen C, DCM**
 - Advised that there are 8 to 10 active GSRs
 - Meets first Wednesday of the month except March, June, September and December
 - Event in September. Three leads and deserts and was well attended.
 - Next Event is in April 1st with location still being decided.
 - Kalen would like to see Groups have more active GSRs. He believes it is connected with Group Conscious.
 - Mollie is the new GSR for Life Begins at 40 Group.
- Heather S, Alt-GSR, Women's Sunset Group
 - Meets at Northwest UMC Riverside, 5200 Riverside Dr, Columbus, 7:00pm Monday, Closed Women's Lead
 - Just completed a Group Inventory
 - Need to focus on Staying on Topic
 - Plenty of Homegroup members but they don't always show for the meetings
 - April 24th Anniversary – Speaker meeting
 - Babysitting is available
- Mollie M, GSR, Life Begins at 40
 - Meets at Meadow Park Church of God. 2425 Bethel Rd, Columbus, Discussion, Lead last meeting of the month
 - Positions filled, Secretary, Treasurer, GSR
- **District 34 – Brandi V, DCM**
 - Meets at Hoge Memorial Church, 4th Sunday at 5:30pm with average attendance of 8.
 - Recently had Elections of new District 34 Officers
 - Dispensed money to requesting Groups for purposes of literature
 - The District decided not to provide a New Year's Eve Dance since Desert Island Club is back open and having one.
 - \$300 rolled over to new DCM and 2017 GSRs; \$250 in literature funds
- Tony B, Secretary, Westside Men's Closed Discussion Group
 - Meets at Concordia Lutheran Church, 225 Schoolhouse Ln, Thurs 8:00pm
 - Positions filled, Secretary, Treasurer, New GSR
- Donna K, GSR, Three Legacies
 - Paul and James are elected as GSR and Alt-GSR
 - Meets at Hoge Memorial Presbyterian Church, 2930 W Broad St, Columbus, Sun 7:00pm, Rotating Format, 1st week Step, 2nd Tradition, 3rd Concept, 4th Open Speaker. Meetings are closed except Open Speaker. If there is a fifth Sunday they study Living Sober.

- Susan M, GSR, Strong Women in Sobriety
 - Meets at Hoge Memorial Presbyterian Church, 2930 W Broad St, Columbus, Tues 6:00pm, Open Discussion and Potluck
 - Attendance fluctuates. Committed Homegroup membership steady.
 - Would like to see increased participation of Service Positions
 - Susan is excited about new DCM for District 34
 - Susan is the new Treasurer for District 34
 - Susan appreciates the humility in respect to the spirit of rotation but is frustrated when it comes to Robert's Rules of Order and the structure of the Assembly.
 - Positions filled, Secretary, Treasurer, GSR, Grapevine
- John G, GSR, Good Morning Breakfast Group
 - Meets at York Steak House, 4220 W Broad St, Columbus, 9:00 am Open Speaker
 - February 8th is the 40th Anniversary
 - Large Attendance
 - Positions filled, Secretary, Co-Secretary, Treasurer, GSR, Alt-GSR, Literature Rep, GIR, IGR, Special Needs, Grapevine
- Gary P, GSR, Westside Hope Dealers
 - Meets at The Desert Island Club, 508 Josephine Ave, Columbus, Sun 7:00pm
 - Upcoming event is an Alcahthon
 - Positions filled, Secretary, Co-Secretary, Treasurer, GSR, Alt-GSR, GIR
- **District 37 – Ossian M, DCM**
 - Three active GSRs
 - Goal has been getting the Districts active
 - Working to reach out to all meetings in the District and advocate about GSO and the Service Structure. Also to encourage participation
 - Provide CPC/PI Cards to Libraries in the District
- Kenny S, GSR, German Village Sunday Night
 - Meets at 200 East Livingston Ave United Methodist Church, 7:00pm Sunday. Open Discussion.
 - Positions filled, Secretary, Treasurer, GSR, IGR

Standing Committee Reports

The reports can be viewed online at <http://area53aa.org/main/area-committee-highlights/>

Correctional Facilities Committee – Paul H.

- On line requests for literature now work with any browser or email (www.area53cfc.org)
 - Advises that literature for jail/prison meetings may be ordered from the site
- The Committee still needs a Recording Secretary for Panel 67
- Liz M. will stay on as alternate chairperson until a replacement is found
- If you attended the DRC volunteer workshop in September, call the volunteer coordinator at the institution that you applied for to see if your application was approved
- The first ever national corrections conference will be held in St. Louis November 10-12, 2017
- The annual CFC workshop will be held on April 22nd or 29th at Maple Grove Church

- \$8500 was approved for literature purchases for the next quarter. All time high.

CPC-PI – Cheryl S.

- Monthly meetings held in October, November and December.
 - Minutes are available online at <http://area53aa.org/main/committees/cpcpi/>
- Presentations
 - September 29th Fairfield County Mental Health and Recovery Conference Display
 - October 5th Franklin County Justice Expo Display
 - November 12, District 15 Keynote Speaker for workshop
- Meetings in November and December didn't produce a eligible Chairperson the position is open
- Business card may be obtained by emailing cpcpichair@area53aa.org
- Upcoming events include...
 - Addictions Studies Institute on August 2-4, 2017
 - Franklin County Justice Expo, October 18, 2017
- Cheryl takes an opportunity to reflect on the Experience, Strength and Hope of the Area and appreciates all that she has learned through Service Work. She also takes an opportunity to thank the Panel 65 Officers.

Group Services – Greg S.

- GSR Workshop in Athens canceled but hopefully rescheduled in the spring.
- Greg talks about his past and how he became involved with Service.
 - He said that he is grateful and has grown through his work.
- Peggy describes his position and asks for a round of applause.

Liaison Committee – Ed S

- Had a long conversation with Patty at Central Office and attended IGR Meeting.
- Ed demonstrates the Meeting Search capabilities of new website – <http://cogf.meetingfor.me>
 - The meeting schedule includes the bus schedule for the Columbus area.
- Question from Dan S. – Was the bus schedule inclusion part of the Special Needs Committee?
 - Ed responds – No. They were working on getting a bus schedule in the printed directory.
 - They made a motion to put in the directory to visit the COGF for bus schedule information.

Accessibilities Report – Presented by Peggy A for Pam R

- Working with the Mini-Conference Committee to provide babysitting and an interpreter for the hearing impaired.
- Thanks to Ed S, Stephen S, Marcia H, and Bill Y for their support and assistance.
- The bus-line / meeting schedule book has ended with the understanding that we have research available if COGF decides to move forward. As of now, bus-line accessibility is found on the COGF Meeting Finder.
- There are three hearing impaired interpreters. If you have this need for an Anniversary or a member please contact Pam R.

Treatment – Toi I resigned due to illness. Greg S. will be the new Treatment Chairperson.

Grapevine – Larry B

- Beginning in July of 2016 we began holding our meetings on a quarterly basis. Meetings are still on the second Saturday in Jan., Apr., July, and Oct.
- The attendance averages between 3 to 6.
- The treasury stands at \$284.95
- As I have held the chairman position for two years, it is my sincere hope that someone with greater leadership skills will be willing to take the reins of the Grapevine committee come January 2017. I suggest this in the interest of the Spirit of Rotation.
 - Larry said that he is willing to continue the position, even though he sometimes feels inadequate.

Mini-Conference Committee – Frank G to Stephen S

- Frank said that he is very fortunate to have very capable people on the committee and knows that Stephen S. is highly capable as the new Mini-Conference chairperson.
- Registration is now open for the Mini-Conference at Salt Fork State Lodge on March 10-12, 2017. On-line registration is also available at area53aa.org
- Registration is \$23. Scholarships will be available. A meal plan is available that includes dinner on Friday and Saturday and lunch on Saturday and Sunday. Prices are on the registration form. Alternatively, our Hospitality Room will be open for all meals at no cost.
- If there are people that are not coming to the Mini-Conference but are coming to the Assembly only they can register for the Sunday Lunch Only online.
- There is a phone number on the Registration Form to call for room reservations before February 9. Lodge rooms are \$95. On the registration form, there is a check box if you want to consider sharing your room as a way of saving money. Another cost saving alternative is to rent a cabin that sleeps up to six for \$141. The cabins have a full kitchen.
- There will be workshops on Friday afternoon from 4 to 5.
- Early Bird meetings will be held at 7:00am chaired by Greg S.
- The Area 53 Special Needs/Accessibility Committee has offered to provide child care while the meetings are in session. The Mini-Conference Committee is working with them to see if it is feasible.
- The Committee meets on the first Monday of the month in Gahanna. We also will need volunteers to help us at the Mini-Conference itself. If you are interested in this service opportunity, see one of the Committee members. Please raise your hand committee members.
- GSO Member Steve S. will give a report and do a lead.

Peggy A, Area 53 Chairperson offers a special thanks to Bill Y, Kristi H, Sharon F and Frank G. Thanks to my wonderful Panel. Sharon F, Past Delegate thanks Panel 65, the Officers and Chairs, GSRs and DCMs – and we great Past Delegates.

Motion to Adjourn by Marcia H and Greg S seconds. 3:15pm

Closed with We Version of “I Am Responsible”