

Area 53 Panel 65 Area Assembly - June 5, 2016

Opening of the Assembly- Peggy A.

Call to Order and Serenity Prayer (We Version)

Twelve Concepts (long form) -Joel K

Roll Call – 24 GSRs / 2 Alternate GSRs / 11 DCMs and Alternates / 5 Committee Chairs / 7 Officers / 5 Past Delegates / 2 Interested AAs

Review of the Agenda – Peggy A.

March Assembly Minutes Approval – Motion to accept Sharon F - Second by Dan S.

Treasurer's Report – Dan S.

- Donations are running slightly above expected, overall Area is about on track
- Expenses are representing how money and spirituality mix
 - Officers have been attending conventions and min-conferences in our state
 - We are promoting unity
 - We made a payment for the State Hospitality Convention.
 - Committees are in the field doing their work.
 - Comfortably above Prudent Reserve and bills are paid.
- Operating Expenses – Archive Storage is different than budgeted.
 - Budgeted for \$150 and cost \$190.
 - We are allowed a \$300 adjustment if needed. This will come up in new business.

Questions -

Brandy – Line 12 – Never seen before – Under Outgoing, Other Officers or Alternates to Assembly
Dan - That line is to accommodate officers that don't have their own specific line item to attend functions.

Rick B, Past Delegate – The decision to move the Assembly should be done at the Assembly and if it moves to a place where people can't attend then they vote against it. We shouldn't have to pay for that.
Dan – That is something that would be handled during the planning of the budget at the Assembly in December.

Note: Groups that have contributed are listed on the back of the Treasurer's Report.

Motion to Accept given by Kalen C., Second by Ryan C.

41 Approve , 3 Opposed.

Minority Opinion

Rick B., Past Delegate – Don't want to approve something that is incomplete. Document has changed from the original.

There was one change as a result of the minority opinion.

All in favor to revoke – 7, Not in favor – 36

Report Passes.

Peggy A, Area 53 Chair - Explanation of the Ask it Basket

Peggy A, Area 53 Chair - Explanation of Parliamentary Procedures – Copy are available on the table, copies are available.

Unfinished Business:

Stephen S. – Explanation of the Guideline Change.

Stephen advises that he is not a voting member of Area 53, allowing him to remain objective.

- Guideline change has been before the Assembly twice before.
 - Procedure for Guideline Change has been followed.
- The vote will deal with whether we will make a change to the Guideline.

Kristi H., Delegate – Gives Background on Proposed Change

- The proposal creates a new officer position and an alternate.
- Panel 53 is when website was launched and focus was to post Area activities.
 - There was only one web-master and no committee.
 - Panel 55 added a ad-hoc website committee for guidance on the website.
 - Registrar of Panel 55 was the voluntary web-master and resigned without notice.
 - Panel 59 – Has a Guideline Revision which moves the responsibilities of the website to from Registrar to the PI Committee.
 - Another person took on the website but resigned after a couple of months with no notice.
 - Panel 61 – The current volunteer took over.
 - Area has made attempts to have other people become involved in the website but never happened.
 - The current volunteer has created a website that is far beyond just posting Area Activities.
 - Area accepts contributions.
 - Reports are submitted
 - Reports are archived
 - The website allows for communication
 - We have documents including the Area Guidelines posted.
- The website should be considered a communications tool for the officers, committees and membership.
- The Area Committee considered the current requirements and the committee felt that an officer level commitment was needed.
 - We have good participation from the Area Officers and that is one of the reasons for considering the officer position.
- Technology has allowed for an average individual to modify the website.
- Concern is for the next Panel to be able to handle the website and communications.
- Workload is substantial.
 - The Officer would attend Area Activities, Assemblies and Area Planning Committees.
 - Must be able to work with other Officers and Chair-people.

- The Officer must be accountable to the Area Officers.
 - The Officer would give a report at the Assembly.
- The Officer would have a vote in Area matters.
 - Web policies would be developed.
- Assistance is needed in developing teleconferencing abilities.
- Other alternatives considered.
 - Committees are autonomous
 - Committee member commitment could be considered low with a high turnover.
 - The job doesn't fit and any Committee anymore including PI.
 - Hiring a professional was considered but an expensive proposition at around \$4000 annually
 - Area Budget will not support outsourcing.
- GSO and Other Areas Experiences
 - No Committee exists at the conference
 - GSO advised that the website doesn't fall under the PI Committee
 - Out of 39 Areas Responding
 - 6 have elected positions.
 - 3 outsource
 - 30 are appointed
 - Most are volunteers
 - Half of the Areas have committees
 - Only 1 or 2 have the position under the PI Committee, most have a separate technology committee
 - Average term is two years
 - Average budget is \$800/year
 - Kristi reads a statement regarding the creation of an Officer Position from Area 51.

Ed A, Registrar – Additional Background

- Ed advised that after attending other events outside of Area 53, other would say that they were jealous of our website.
- There should be concern about the Website after the current volunteer leaves.
- Additional functions of the website include accepting contributions, on-line registration and Paypal
 - Accountability should be considered.
- Another function is to keep the Domain Name current.
- We have people that perform this function.
- An officer would be able to style the website to fit requests of the Area officers.

Stephen S – Voting on the Motion.

- Stephen goes over Parliamentary Procedure.
- Guidelines were approved by Panel 63 at the Assembly.
- Voting member are GSRs, DCMs, the DCMC or Alternates, Standing Committee Chair, Any Area Officer and Alternate Area Officers and Past Delegates.

Stephen advises on the Motion in three parts.

1. The Area 53 Guidelines be amended to create a new officer
2. The Guidelines would be amended to add the position of Alternate

3. The Web-master position would be removed from the PI Committee

Cheryl S., CPC/PI – Makes a motion to stop discussion and vote on the topic. She moves to decline to entertain the motion.

- Rationale – The background information provided has not been made available to the Groups.
 - The Groups need the information, so that Area may have an informed Group Conscious.
 - Cheryl also believes there should be more structure to the position and appreciates all of the work that went into the Motion.
 - In 2014 an Ad-hoc Committee describes that purpose of the website and is published on-line.
- Stephen S – Advises that Cheryl has Moved to Stop Consideration of the Motion and was Seconded by Rick B.
 - The motion is not debatable.
 - The motion to Stop Consideration was handled properly.
 - In Favor 13 – Opposed 30.
 - Motion fails and discussion continues

Bill S, Panel 45, Past Delegate -

- Disagrees with the Motion to create two new Area 53 Officers by amending the Guidelines.
 - Would like to see the creation of a new “Area 53 Website and Digital Communications Standing Committee” that would focus on the IT/Digital Communications/Website needs of Area 53.
 - The web-master would report to the new standing committee.
 - Advised that he has researched IT Website Structure of other General Service Areas and still haven't found a solid reason for the positions.
 - Recognition should be given to past web-masters for excellent websites.
 - Appreciates the work by DCMs, Area Committee and the Area Assemblies to reach this point in Motion Deliberations.
 - Still not the best solution for future needs of Area 53s IT, Digital Communication/Website requirement.
 - After the defeat of the motion, the Area Chair should appoint an Ad-hoc Committee to investigate creating a new Area 53 website and Digital Communications Standing Committee.

Donna K, GSR, Three Legacies –

- At Group Conscious the Group talked about this at length. There is someone that works in the IT field. They read the duties of the officer position and the individual advised that this is full time job. Why would we want to make an Area Officer have a full time job. We talked about rotation and how complicated. What about keeping it simple. Why can't somebody mail a check. Is PayPal is really needed? Our ego may be in this a little bit?. Our Homegroup is very against this. It's about ego to me. We are not going to produce fliers we have to print things. I don't have a printer at home. Not everybody has a computer. I re member when we had to hand write minutes. I think we are trying to be more technologically savvy than worrying about the newcomer coming in. I have a sober house and none of the women have come off of the street with a computer.

Sharon F, Past Delegate -

- I support this motion. I get fliers off the computer and print them and take them to the Groups in my District. Groups in our area are considered remote communities. It's easy to get on the website and make copies, see my Group Number. I think that having Area Officers make that individual more accountable. I think the website connects us more that separates us.

Brandy V, DCM District 34 –

- I don't support this. Newcomers are being referred to a website for meeting information rather than being given verbal information. PI was originally responsible for the website and the web-master had to report to the committee chairperson. There is a spiritual principle behind the Guideline as we already have it. When I heard the work Teleconference --- We have to show up to meetings. You can't fake showing up. Website is too complicated. I don't always get the emails. Newcomers want to text their step-work . It isn't working.

Kalen C, DCM District 30 –

- In favor of the motion. We can create service boards or committee that serve. Newcomers are texting, emailing and using computers. We need to address this as a fellowship to reach people more effectively. The web-master or committee associated can decide what is working and what is too complicated. It's a good resource and I would like to see it improve.

Andrea J, Alt GSR –

- In private life I am a web developer. I have questions regarding the “Officer Shall” section in regards to the difference from Wordpress vs HTML. As technology changes it may not be Wordpress forever. Not sure what are the requirements if we have to make a major change. I heard the remark about this being a full time job. I disagree and say that it is a ¾ job which is still a lot for a committee member. There is a difference between the work that needs to be done and what should fall under a committee. As far as how the website looks, if you were to bring the site to my company, we would have a very different opinion on what would be on the front page as opposed to those of us in AA and know what we need. I think whoever is making those decisions need to be accountable to all of us. I would like to know if it possible to get this person to hire or get volunteers to do the technical work. I am concerned that IT is getting merged in with development in regards to teleconferencing.

Stephen S – Point of clarification. The motion before us is not amendable. The questions being raised can be addressed later.

Pam R, GSR/Special Needs Committee –

- For a website and I teach 8th grade. For remote areas we need better communication. When you look at officer expenses the have increased. Expenses continue to grow. We have enough to hire somebody or a committee to help somebody. As an officer it's too big of a job.

Mike M, DCM, District 26 -

- In favor of the website and having a web-master for it. We place content, reports and meeting minutes. So people that can't go to monthly District meetings they can get the content. When I look back and study the history of Alcoholics Anonymous, the first big book wasn't well received. People felt that having a meeting in print vs face to face contact would destroy the whole program. Same with the Grapevine. I view the Big Book, the Grapevine and the website as an additive to the program not a substitute for face to face contact. We struggle to protect what I think is a 1939 attitude. When it comes to new people, I look around the Assembly and I

don't see any. When we look at the 2014 survey we are missing new, young people. We as a society need to continue to change. One thing that concerns me, we have taken advantage of the current volunteers ability to have freedom and to adapt an place content on the website. I am concerned about having the website micro-managed by everybody here.

Sandy D, DCM, District 6 –

- The District is the farthest away and has the largest land mass. I am for this motion. If I am asked a question, I can go to the website and find it. Only one Group is listed on the back of the Treasurer's Report, I am trying to get them into donating money to the Area and the District. Most groups don't have their service number. The computer is a huge tool for me. Many Groups don't have checking accounts. The Groups can use PayPal– not checkbooks. I am also the Alternate Treasurer, PayPal was very useful for the mini-conference. The IT person was very useful for Registration. Regarding remote teleconferencing. I live two hours away and the teleconference would be very helpful. Because of the drive, I could probably get other people in my area involved. I am concerned about it being a Committee and not an Officer because committees don't always show up.

Stephen clarifies what the motion is not about if we are going to have a website, but how we are going to manage the digital communications system that already exists.

Ryan C, Alt DCM, District 17 –

- I am in favor of this motion. We had a workshop on Anonymity in the Digital Age and we dived into this head first. Experience shows that we are responsible. I live in a Rural Area and the website helped people find our meeting. The current volunteer has done an exceptional job and helped our District come out of the dark and this website has been a part of it. I think creating two positions means that this is going to be there, they have a vote and it's going to be maintained. The Group inventory and Personal inventory shows fear is an evil and corroding thread. I would like to step out of fear into faith and I have faith in all of these officers. It is a very vital asset for us as a District.

Rick B, Past Delegate –

- I pleaded with the Assembly for four years to allow me to publish a website. I would bring it in on a laptop and it was strictly a text website. I commend the current volunteer for what he has. It is a gorgeous website which I don't think we need. I was web-master for four or five years and kept trying to give it up and I finally just quit doing it. Somebody else started doing it and then the current volunteer got a hold of it. One of the things that got away after I gave up control was Keep it Simple, so if a newcomer comes off the street you could show him how to do it. Keep in mind that the web-master is a technical position. What we are asking is for an Officer and an Alternate to determine what goes into that technical work. I think a standing committee with a non-rotating web-master would be appropriate. Tom with archives doesn't rotate out. To make an Area Officer out of that makes no sense to me at all.

Dan H, Alternate Chairperson –

- I go back to when to the last time the web-master dropped his position and walked away. What you are seeing is 10 years of accumulative work, hard work by a lot of people and this is what you have today. I was the Registrar and Alternate, I know the FNV and how this all fits in. All I know that this is a beautiful thing, why would we try to change something.

Arron B, Alt DCM, District 21 –

- I am not sure where I stand on this. I do know that my District was for it. Our Fellowship as a whole is made up of Alcoholics and the open communications times have changed. How can we best communicate with the Fellowship as a whole. The website helps to do that. I understand what Brandy was saying about the meeting on-line. It is my responsibility to give a meeting list to a newcomer. I think that the Guideline changes would be beneficial to the whole Fellowship.

Matt P, DCM, District 15 –

- My wife has an organization that deals with alcoholism and drug counseling. I manage their website and manage other websites as well. I am versed in HTML and Wordpress. You have to have interest and want to do it. It isn't that difficult, it's creative and it's fun. There is ego involved because when I get done, I look back at it and I am proud of what I have done. I should be, it is a lot of effort. Technology has changed and I can type in information into something that is graphical. I have to agree with Rick – Keep it Simple. I coded a website and the organization. The organization has a communications officer. They couldn't take over the website because they couldn't understand it. The idea was to allow anyone to log in and make changes. I updated the site to Wordpress and now they can manage it. I feel that the Officer idea is a good one and should be included in the spirit of rotation, because if you did it forever you would get burnt out.

Bill Y, Area 53 Current Volunteer for the website –

- Proud to be your webguy for quite awhile. I am not sure anybody asked me to do this. I picked this up out of my commitment to the fellowship and commitment to Area Service. Three years ago, I raised the issue that the Area Committee needed to become accountable to the Assembly. I think that the reason you need an Area Officer so that you can hold someone accountable. An alternate is required. The Area Committee is responsible for both of those people. Standing Committees are not like that. No one be harmed if a standing committee disappears. If the website doesn't come up on Monday, then you would be harmed because the website is more for you than the newcomer. It's really about are we able to service ourselves. The web-master doesn't have access to Paypal. It is a business system managed by the Treasurer. The credentials are handed of during rotation. I spend about an hour or two on average a week on the website. Sometimes it's a lot of work. When we switch a panel and update all of the email addresses that could be eight to twenty hours.

Dave C, Past Delegate –

- I am going to vote for this. Adding Officers can be problematic. It's like a bureaucracy. Once you add an officer you can't change it. The Area Assembly and Committee can monitor this very closely. As far as reliance on the website. The website is a vehicle for general twelve step work. A DCM or Officer can interact with the website and do some things more effectively. I think it is worth a try.

Madeline H, Past Delegate –

- I am for a website – not for the proposal – too complicated. You don't vote on something to change it later. Voting no doesn't mean your against it. It just means, not right now. We need to change some things. Voting yes means that we want it just as it is. I cannot vote yes on this because of the way that it is written. I think it would scare anybody to death to look at that. I think it could be whittled down. It is made to be too intense.

Shirley C, GSR – Called the question (motion to stop further discussion) Rick B, Past Delegate – Seconds

Vote: In favor of ending discussion and moving on to a vote. 49 Approved 5 Opposed

Vote on the motion – To modify the Guidelines, to create a new officer who is a member of the Area Committee, with the duties that we have looked at previously. Also, create the Alternate, with the duties and modify the Guideline to take the web-master reference out of the PI Committee section. This will require a 2/3rd vote.

Vote: Those in Favor of Approving the Guideline Change - 35. Opposed -18

53 Total votes. 66.03% - Does not pass with substantial unanimity.

Minority Opinion – Reason to Reconsider –

Sharon F, Past Delegate

- I am trying to avoid the emotional appeal. When Kristi gave the history of having a website and having people manage the site. Twice during that history, people walked away from the situation. That has been an issue in the past and I hope that people will reconsider.

Dave C, Past Delegate

- Accountability – The Assembly is to keep the Area Committee Accountable and the Area Committee is to keep the Officers accountable. We are all responsible for keeping our Area service workers accountable.

Mike M, DCM, District 26 –

- I like the idea that Madeline had about making sure we have the right content. I think that we are too worried about getting everything exact. These things are going to change. We will never have it perfect. We need to make a decision. I don't I feel like I am missing information. Ambiguity can be resolved with Bill or somebody that would be able to help. Some of this can take care of itself easier than it may appear.

Kristi H, Area 53 Delegate –

- This is not about the website or whether its too complicated or too simple. It's about having somebody responsible for the next panel. We are not going to be voting for this now – our elections are in September. If you think the website is too complicated, then you can tell this new person that the website should be more simple. It's about the responsibility. We have had a hard time addressing that with an accountable person. The Area Committee and myself feel that this is best addressed with an Officer.

Steve D, DCMC –

- A lot of this is about information availability for the DCMs, GSRs. It about us being transparent about what we do at these Assemblies. It's about getting the information out to people so it can be relayed to Groups. I have a GSRs that don't show up here, but could get the information from the computer.

Stephen S – There is a Motion to Reconsider. It requires a second. Since there are five minority opinions and second is not required.

To reconsider the vote take a majority vote. If it passes with more than 50%, then we go right back to

open debate.

Brandy V – Don't we ask do we want to change opinion based on the Minority Opinion?

Stephen S – Does anybody want to change their mind based on the Minority Opinion?

Vote: No one changed their mind. **Motion to Reconsider Fails.**

--Lunch--

Peggy A – Starts the Afternoon Session with Serenity Prayer

Stephen S, Alt GSR – Follow-up from Morning Session with Bill S proposing a New Motion

Bill S, Past Delegate –

- I would like to make a motion to have our Area Chairperson appoint a formal ad-hoc committee to address the future of Area 53's website and digital communications needs per the Area 53 Guidelines.

Second by Madeline H, Past Delegate.

Stephen S advises to create a ad-hoc committee would be by a Majority Vote. The vote for this proposal is to have the Chairperson set up a committee which will do an investigation and report back to the Area Planning Committee and Assembly with any recommendations.

Open Discussion –

Pam R, GSR – Proposed that is a balanced committee composed of people that were for the officer change and those that were against it.

Stephen S – Not the motion, asks Bill S. if he would consider amending the motion.

Bill S – Advised no on amending the motion.

Sharon F, Past Delegate – Is there a time line. I don't want it to go on for another year.

Vote: To have our Area Chairperson appoint a formal ad-hoc committee to address the future of Area 53's website and digital communications needs per the Area 53 Guidelines
36 Approved, 11 Opposed – Motion Passes

Minority Opinion

Donna K, District 34 –

- I thought that Pam brought up a very good idea. The vote was half for half last time. I just think if you have half for and half against. That would be an idea of what the job should be.

Mike M, DCM, District 26 –

- I don't think the vote was 50/50. The vote was 66 percent for creating this position. The only reason it didn't pass is because we has substantial unanimity. So now we are kicking this down the road and putting the idea into an unknown ambiguous committee. Information was

adequate. Our current web-master has been part of putting together that information. I am not really sure what information would come out of a committee that we don't already have.

Stephen S – Is there anybody that voted in favor of this, want to change their vote.
A individual advises that she would like to change her vote.

Stephen S - A Motion to Reconsider and several seconds have been realized. Need a majority vote to go back to the question.

Vote: To go back to discussion. In favor 21, Opposed to reconsideration – 25
Motion to reconsider fails – The original motion as presented passes.

New Business:

Dan S, Treasurer –

- Referring to Treasurers report. A group, A Life begins at 40 Group wasn't mention on contribution list.
- The line for Archive Storage, Line 15 – originally 150 dollars. We paid \$190. Motion to increase the line item to pay the 190.
- Archivist has submitted additional expense of \$59.13 that hasn't been paid.
- Additional expense renting storage space for Archives from Central Office.
- Total increase in budget on Line 15 of \$99.13

Discussion

Rick B, Past Delegate -

- Suggests that we take money from line item 29 (Committee Expenses) to go to 15.

Kristi H, Area 53 Delegate –

- Advises that Line 29 is to have the Archivist attend the National Archives Workshop.

Brandy V, DCM District 34 –

- Are we paying for one or two storage fees? Dan – We are having a overlap of storage fees this year until June 31st this year. Then they will be stored at Central Office.

Tom V, Archivist –

- Advises that he is not going to National Archivist Workshop

Paul H, Correctional Facilities Chair –

- Asks for clarification if the Treasury is to move the entire amount from Line 29 to Line 15. Dan advises no, just the \$99.13 and any fee from COGF for the remainder of the year.
- Since original was 150 are we going to increase to 300?
 - Dan advises that the budget could be changed to reflect that idea. The original Line item was \$150.

Dan S. advises that he will move the money and it will be reported in the following Assembly.

Explanation of Election of Officers – Dave C.

- Dave advises election procedures for Panel 67

- He give an example based on the election of Panel 63
 - All his information is available on the Area 53 Website Archives under Panel 63
 - The Area Guidelines also have the procedures in the description of the Area Guidelines.
- Chapter 4 of the AA Service Manual advises on the AA Election Assembly
- We will be discussing who's eligible, who's available and who's willing.
- In the Area Guidelines on page two – each officer is listed with their duties.
- Take this information to your Districts.

Peggy A advises that the Service Manual on S38 is a description of a typical election process.

Informational Segment – Frank G - “Turning Meeting into a Group through the Spirit of Rotation”

Questions related from the presentation given

Dave C, Past Delegate –

- How should a group handle when an officer rotates out and no one can replacement.
 - Frank - The question is not black and white. Each group is autonomous. We need to encourage service work and maybe have an alternate.

Area 53 Inventory

Dan S – We are 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 were are the gaps and were 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.

The questions below was considered at the June 2016 Assembly.

- Reflecting on the Area 53 Guidelines (Article IX) is the Area 53 Mini-Conference Committee achieving its “primary purpose?”
 - From the Area 53 Guidelines:
 - 9) Mini-Conference Committee
 - a) Shall report regularly to the area assembly meeting.
 - b) Shall plan and organize the area mini conference.
 - c) Shall be chaired by the area 53 alternate delegate.
 - d) Area 53 alternate treasurer shall serve as mini conference treasurer.
- 1. What improvements could be considered to make sure agenda items and conference activities have a broader appeal (attract more members to attend)? Improvements must be practical.**
 - 2. How well does the mini-conference committee communicate to the Area membership about why we have this conference and how it works? How can they better communicate that the mini-conference is more than one weekend in March?**
 - 3. How can we improve the time allotted at the mini-conference weekend for committees, reports, presentations, and “free time” to ensure thorough deliberations that effectively inform our Delegate?**

Comments from the Area 53 floor.

Kalen C. –

- Not enough knowledge about structure of Area 53 and more information from the Area would be helpful.
- AA's get Area 53 confused with the Central Office.
- The best way to have an effect on the problem would be to have more active GSRs.

Dave C. - Past Delegate –

- Addresses the first question. It's a very difficult task to get the agenda items in the middle of February. Then in the second weekend in March, we have the Assembly.
- I am aware of other Areas having a lot of participation at the District level. Districts do what is called “Pre-Conference” events. This is where the agenda items for the upcoming General Service Conference are discussed.
- Getting more information to the Districts might be an approach to take.

Pam R – GSR –

- I was part of the Committee. We looked at the inventory questions and we applied the to the Mini-Conference.

- As soon as the word “Service” is mentioned people freak-out, run or say something like “I did that ten years ago.”
- As a teacher, I probably not going to get you to come to one of my after-school activities, if I tell you that you are going to be doing work. If I tell you that there is a dance, you will probably show up.
- Having fun is important, like the time we had funding for the cabins.
- Having babysitting, for single parents that have to come. I couldn't come to the Mini-Conference because I had a school commitment this year, but I also had my daughters. Think about the members that attend and their needs.
- Tricking people by getting them into the door and then show them how Service will help you grow.
- Putting Service out in the forefront scares people off.

Brandy V – District 34, DCM –

- The phrase “Mock Conference” tells people that are new in Service that they don't have to come because it's not for real. We should explain that the agenda items are real, we are just mocking the format.
- People don't understand that we are giving our Delegate our Group Conscious.

Terry – District 34, Alternate DCM –

- A lot time and energy to light up District 34 again. The DCM encouraged us to have active GSRs. Two years ago we brought a large number GSRs to the Mini-Conference. After that event, we lost over half of our GSRs. We focus so much on procedure, that we loose the point of providing Service.

Frank G. - Alternate Delegate –

- I didn't like the word “mock” either and mentioned that at Committee Meetings and I didn't hear it for awhile. Now it is starting to creep in again. I don't want to go to something called, “mock”
- My wife spends a lot of time not in the conference. There are many activities that are not AA at the facilities.
- As far as getting people involved, we always encourage people to make comments and come to our committee meetings.
- We can't make people participate.

Ryan C. District 17, Alternate DCM

- My wife is our DCM and had a profound spiritual experience at the last Mini-Conference. We also had four or five new GSRs and they had magical experiences as well.
- Why don't we have agenda items sooner so we can discuss them with our Groups.
- Communication is “Top Shelf” - we get everything.

Sharon F. Past Delegate –

- Second question has to do with the Conference. I think we should get the questions and the results of how we voted at the Mini-Conference out quickly.
- We should also get information on how the General Service Conference voted.
- When the Delegate Reports, take that back to the District and Groups to show that this is a year long process.

- Aside from Toledo, we have one of the best attended Mini-Conferences.

Cheryl S. CPC/PI Chair –

- I wanted to know more about the service structure and been attending since 1998. This has helped to grow as a person in recovery. I have to be brave and thick skinned and not take it personally when somebody doesn't like me or disagrees.
- I think the questions are fantastic.
- We have an awesome Area, Committees and Officers. We welcome people and have the information out there.
- The main thing is to talk with each other - in our Districts and Home Groups.
- I helped with lighting District 10. They were asking for suggestions on a service workshop. I suggested a Service Circus and have more fun.

Brandy V – District 34, DCM –

- Hospitality rooms have been amazing.
- As far as broader appeal. GSRs and DCMs have to be in the Conference. Have Homegroup members to assist with the Hospitality Room and waive the registration fee.
- The Hospitality Room would be attractive to someone new to Service, maybe next year they would be a GSR.
- This would attract a wide variety of people.

Wanda – Alternate GSR, Strong Women in Sobriety -

- Encourage people to talk about the purpose of Area 53.
- If your are an Officer, indicate what your position does.
- Officers and Committee Members should attend different meeting to talk about the purpose of Area 53.

Peggy A, Area 53 Chair –

- I think the comments are valid. We should bring the comments to the Mini-Conference Meeting held monthly at New Life Church in Gahanna.
- We need new people at the Mini-Conference Committee.

Sandy – Alt Treasurer

- I think that we failed at question two. Because Brandy advised that the Mini-Conference is for GSRs and DCMs. The Mini-Conference is open to any AA member.
- We need to work on our Communication.

Patrick – Solution Group, GSR –

- New people – A newcomer needs to concentrate on staying sober. I think I would have been overwhelming at the beginning.
- The first year is yours, after that, give it back.

Donna K, District 34 –

- Mini-Conference is a Standing Committee within our Area and each Group can have a Mini-Conference Rep.

Wanda – Alternate GSR, Strong Women in Sobriety -

- As Grapevine Chair, our Committee paid to have at least one person go to the Conference. Those of who can, should bring someone to the conference. Maybe we could pay for someone to attend. As a sponsor this tell sponsees on how important the Conference is.

Note: The Mini-Conference Committee meets first Monday of the month at 6:30 PM at New Life Church, 3690 N Stygler Road, Gahanna Ohio.

Officers Reports –Dan H, Alt Chairperson

Delegate-Kristi H. - Gives a Power Point Presentation on the General Service Conference.

This is available at <http://area53aa.org/main/report-from-the-66th-general-service-conference/>

Questions regarding the Delegate Report.

Dan S – What was the outcome of the Plain Language Big Book?

- Kristi H. - There was no action taken.

Mike M – Is the Grapevine can be purchased as a gift?

- Kristi H. - There is a app available for I-Phone, I-Pad at App Store

Chairperson-Peggy A. -

- Elections to be Sept 11 at 10:00 at Blue Moon Conference Center.
 - Area will conduct normal business between the votes.
- Contact Nita S. or Ed A. about having workshops and picnics published in the Area 53 Newsletter– must be received by 10th of the month.
- Check Area 53 Tri-fold. Check with Ed A. about corrections.
- Will be attending the Ohio State Convention in Cleveland

Registrar - Ed A. --

- Trifold Corrections
- To have your event added to the Conscious Contact newsletter contact them directly to have the event added to their calendar.
- Agree with Kristi - on Stepping Stones – you should attend.
- 56 in attendance today.
- FNV – 14 Incomplete Information, 145 Unknown, 71 Bad Addresses.
 - If you have a group no longer meeting please let us know.
 - 1302 records for Area 53 – includes groups that no longer meet.

Questions related to Registrar Report

- Dan asks for clarification regarding the 1302 records vs 800 active Groups.

GSR and DCM Reports - Steve D, DCMC

District 1 Mindy G, DCM –

- no report

District 4 Rich F, DCM –

- no report

District 6 Sandy D, DCM –

- Contributions are low and our District funds are low. Kristi H. has given us a lot of ammunition to cover this point.

District 7 Chris W, DCM --

- no report

District 8 & 9 Fred W, DCM –

- no report

District 10 Corby K, DCM –

- Patrick, GSR, Solution Group. Update and Printed District 10 Meeting Schedules. We mailed those out to each Group. We had our Workshop. The theme was Service and Carry the Message.
 - Patrick, GSR Solution Group. Meets Mondays at 7:00 pm at Church of Christ in Westerville.

District 12 Ann S, DCM –

- no report

Districts 13 & 14 Cheryl A. DCM –

- no report

District 15 Matt P, DCM –

- Wrapped up a panel. We are between events. District purchased a couple of Grapevine subscriptions for local jails. We continue to stock literature racks. We are planning another event for late summer.
 - Bruce W, GSR, GPS Group – Meets Sunday night at 7:00pm, 12&12. We have double homegroup membership in the last three months. If we have 5 Sundays in a month we have a lead. Matt spoke for us a couple of weeks ago.
 - Joel, GSR, Woodsfield Group – Meet Tuesday and Friday. Big Book, Discussion and Lead. We have a growing group. We are getting more active in District and Area Service.

District 16 Roberta D, DCM –

- no report

District 17 Allison C, DCM –

- no report

District 19 Steve D, DCM --

- They decided that they only want to meet quarterly. We are trying to get more Group interest. District 19 will be having a picnic on August 20th.
 - JoAnn GSR Report, Sunday Morning Sunshine Group – Monthly Group Conscious. Discussing, one Concept for each month this year and we purchased a copy of the Grapevine for the meeting.

- Andy W, GSR Report, Greenfield Freedom Group – 24th Anniversary on June 26th.

District 21 Greg H, DCM –

- Workshop in April which was well attended about 60 people. Meet as a District once a month and are planning an Annual Picnic Aug 6th.

District 22 James M, DCM –

- Report given by Greg. We sponsored a movie night on May 7th. DVD of Dr. Bob and Bill W., A Broadway play. 100 in attendance.
 - GSR for Hillard Sobriety Group. Picked up a bucket for the Special Needs. Since this was new is stirred up a lot of questions. The website was helpful for information. We were able to make a contribution from our Group. A person was stealing from the collection basket. An idea was to have someone walk the basket around instead of passing it.

District 26 Mike M, DCM –

- GSR turned in most reports. Most Groups are talking about meeting change times. We've had Babysitting discussion. We have had meeting format discussions. Workshop in March, "Service into Action." This was an overview of the various Service Entities. Next workshop is on June 25th. It is entitled "Safety in AA" as it relates to social diversity, sponsorship, disruptive behavior and 13th Stepping. Next Event is on September 18th, Rule 62 Day. It's a pretty big event for us. Group contributions have been very positive. Because of Rule 62 Day and the Alchothon in December, financial obligations are higher later in the year. We are trying to get a better idea of what our finances are so we know how much is above our prudent reserve. We are grateful to the Groups for supporting the District.

District 28 Julie J, DCM –

- We have been trying to get the exact number of Groups that are active. I submitted a report to Ed A. what I think is an exact number of an exact number of Groups in our District. I have been getting feedback that there are Groups that are not interested in participating in District Activities. On June 18, District 28 will be having their Second Event call a Meet and Eat. The Panel member will give information on what it means to be of Service. The event was published in the Conscious Contact.

District 30 Kalen C, DCM –

- We have discussing GSR Participation. The 7th Tradition has also came up in a couple of meetings. Upcoming event on September 23rd. The event is still in the planning stages.

District 33 Al, DCM

- We have our GSR meetings on a Monday afternoon and we are looking for a better locations, maybe on a Saturday morning. Another workshop is in the planning stages, probably in October.

District 34 Brandy V, DCM –

- We are visiting a Group each month for the whole month and offering our support. When you visit the same group for the whole month and there are concerns of Tradition Breaking or lack of interest in Service Work. We are into donating to GSO. A Group had a hundred dollars extra and they made a donation to a club. I advised on the importance of making donations to GSO. It has been difficult to engage interest in Service Work. We are planning a District Picnic

revolving around Service Work. We are going to have fun stuff and then have people give mini leads on how Service Work has changed their sobriety. The New Hope Group had to relocate to 2930 West Broad Street.

- Wanda M, Alt GSR, Strong Women in Sobriety – I wanted to make a comment in regards to Brandy's comment about a Group Donation to the club. The Group was going to donate. Group Conscious advised that this is not a Group donation, but an individual donation that each homegroup member made to the Desert Island club.

District 1 and 12. Frank G, Reporting

- We had an AA Traditional Picnic last month. The long-timers that you would think would never go to the event showed up.

District 37, Dark District

- Oz is representing the German Village Sunday Night Group. Our group has been visiting other meetings and we have been teaching the difference between an IGR and GSR. Making arrangements to go to Group Conscious meetings to make presentations. Hopefully we will have a few more GSRs.

District 18. Dark District

- DCMC welcomes Barb M, an interested AA. She is interested in learning about us.

Standing Committee Reports

Special Needs Committee – Pam R.

Participation for special needs has increased. Bruce W, District 15 attended the Special Needs Committee meeting and Greg got a jug. Next meeting is July 2nd. We are in the process of evaluating the effectiveness of our hearing impaired interpreter. A Bus line schedule will be ready by end of July. Babysitting Subsidy forms are available. If you have the need for visually impaired materials or a hearing impaired interpreter to come to your meeting or Anniversary or support for babysitting we encourage you to complete a form and we can help with your needs. Join us we are trying to some awesome work.

Corrections – Paul H.

We service thousand of inmates. We distribute between 25,000 to 30000 dollars of literature a year. We have between 30 to 50 people that come to our quarterly meeting. This quarter we approved 7300 purchased for literature for inmates. We have requested \$136.31 from the Area for meeting rent, stamps and Archival tapes. VRC Training. If you go into an institution they want you to go through volunteer training session. On the 24th of September there is a training by the Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections to a prison. The location hasn't been determined. Most likely Maple Grove or West Broad Street. If you go to the training you will be able to get into an institution in Area 53. We are setting up an ad-hoc literature committee.

CPC/PI Committee – Cheryl S.

Cheryl makes reference to a letter produced on the Area 53 website on May 15th.

<http://area53aa.org/main/?s=CPC+PI+June+5> “This communication contains some old news (minutes from April meeting) and new news. The committee has continued to focus on the members responsibilities and activities, updating the New Committee packet, as well as the many means of carrying the message (business cards, health fair exhibits, mail, phone calls, and presentations at schools,

colleges, and senior centers), assuring the hand of AA is available and visible. Most recently the Area website and communication has been a center of attention as this position was previously a part of the CPC-PI committee under the Area 53 Guidelines. There is a proposal coming before the assembly in June to change the guidelines and make the Web-master and Communication Officer an Area Officer position. Upcoming CPC/PI event is the Addiction Studies Institute July 20-22. This is the largest contact with professionals that this committee has participated in for several years. If you are interested in staffing the display, contact cpcpichair@area53aa.org. Area 53 elections will be coming up in September for the new panel. CPC/PI election for committee officers will take place in November; review of qualifications and description for these positions can be found under CPC/PI news dated Oct 18, 2014 on this website. I am grateful for the experience of serving as a Standing Committee Chair. Thank you for the opportunity to learn, grow, listen, and share. Progress not perfection-amends to all for the after the fact posting of the minutes of the April committee meeting. The May minutes and agenda to follow at another posting.” – Part of the public information is to make sure that we communicate as a committee. That has been difficult. I appreciate all of the District events that we have been invited to. The committee decided to create a poster that we could bring to the District events. This is for AA Members who are interested in who we are. We also have fliers. We are focused on the three websites for accurate information about Alcoholics Anonymous locally or worldwide. They are <http://www.aacentralohio.org>, <http://area53aa.org> and <http://www.aa.org>. Our purpose is to carry the message.

Group Services – Greg S.

Please don't stack chairs when we leave. Not much of a report. Great sober drunks in Chillicothe. We would like to see that District relit. Steve and I are going to have a workshop.

Liaison Committee-Teri G.

Peggy A, reports – Attended members meeting - no progress regarding Unity Day. They have decided to take it back to Groups . Members meeting is 1st week in June in compliance with Founders Day. Reviewing the data information from the COGF website.

Treatment-Toi I.- no report

Peggy A advises that Toi will be meeting June 18 at Church of the Redeemer. More information is posted on the website.

Mini-Conference Committee-Frank G. -

We meet tomorrow. We have a new meeting place at the New Life Church in Gehanna. We meet the first Monday of the month at 6:30pm. We have two new members Caleb and Dominique. Committee March min-conference stats are favorable. There were 109 registrations with 28 first timers. We are attracting new people. We have a healthy prudent reserve. Coffee consumption was at 28 gallons. We didn't waste any and was lower than before. Coffee at the hospitality room helped to defray our coffee cost. We got several comments appreciating the food and hospitality room. The donations for the hospitality room just about paid for the food and the drinks. Most were pleased with Saturday buffet but the Saturday boxed lunch, not so much. We will see what we can do to improve the lunch menu. 2016 format was well received. Always room for improvement. The committee aims for an enjoyable experience while continuing it's commitment of sending the Delegate to New York.

Grapevine Committee – Larry B. -no report

Peggy A - Ask It Basket –

- Why is non-conference approved literature being sold at the Group Services Committee table

- on the Assembly Floor? The 24 Hour book is in direct competition to the AA Daily Reflection.
- Greg S, Group Services Chair advises that the book was paid by him personally. Its a big print and easier for older people to read.
 - Frank G advises that the book was around before the Reflections book and has been used for a long time.
 - Bill S, Past Delegate, I read the 24 hour book in the morning and not the AA Conference Approved book Reflections. I am also going to state that non-conference approved literature should not be on the conference floor of an Assembly or any other AA approved function. I just find this annoying and you didn't know the difference. '
 - Wanda M, Alt GSR – Non conference approved literature should not be within Area 53 because we are directly responsible to GSO. Central Office sells it, but it is in a non-conference approved section.
 - Sharon F. Past Delegate - Its a great book but doesn't follow the AA traditions and there are a lot of things that shouldn't be on the floor of the Assembly.

Andrea J, Alternate GSR – Makes Motion to Close and had multiple seconds.

Peg A, Area Chair - Reminds everyone to look on website on election information.

Reminder: Area Planning Committee - July 10, 2016 at 10:30 am, 645 W. Broad St., Columbus, Ohio