

December 10, 2017 Area 53 assembly

Opening of Meeting – 10:10 am - (Ed A)

za. Call to Order and (We Version) Serenity Prayer (Ed A)

zb. Twelve Concepts (Short Form) (Brenda B)

zc.. Roll Call (GSR 27, DCM 11, Interested AA 9, Committee Chairs 3, Area Officers 10, Past Del 5, Other Areas 1)

zd. Agenda -Review (Motion to approve, 1st Diann N, 2nd Marcia, Vote unan.)

note - withdrawal of redistricting proposal by submitter within agenda

ze. September Assembly Minutes (Matt P.) - Review & Approval (Motion: 1st Chris J , 2ND Kasie A , Vote unan)

Officers Reports

zf. Delegate (Frank G)

-went to district 17, shared New York experience there, spoke in Pomeroy Ohio to increase interest in area 53 participation. Hopes it develops interest. Went to Marietta, Athens, & Obetz as well.

-wanted to encourage use of pamphlet “Love and Service.”

-reported regarding GSO & manuscript injunction, during regional forum in November, there was some controversy from delegates over that GSO decision. Req'd timely response. Since then, AAWS has decided not to pursue litigation on this matter - 2/21/18, motion to dismiss is planned.

-at regional forum, Frank submitted subject paper that was accepted, Topic - Tradition 5 singleness of purpose and tolerance of other maladies. Presented it there. Read this presentation at area assembly meeting. Well received by attendees.

Presentation attached to minutes as pdf.

zg. Chairperson (Ed A.)

Dan is out (last minute), Ed chairing today, noted budget committee met in October, upcoming during assembly. Ed went to northern Ohio during quarter to get different area perspective. Met with some service reps there.

zh. Registrar (Nita S.)

-53 people attending assembly (some with multiple positions) delegate -1, alt delegate - 1, area 53 officers - 8, dcmc -1, dcm's - 10, alt dcm - 1, gsr's - 24, alt gsr - 1, interested aa's - over 1, past delegates - 4, standing committee chairs - 3

Fellowship new vision database use. Similar to last time. Within area, -

new groups 0, pending active 1, pending inactive 0, have 12 incomplete groups, down from 13, 149 unknown groups (several reasons why this occurs such as no meeting address or time), and 48 invalid addresses

-Nita attended regional forum, lots of good information, particularly enjoyed workshop on Fellowship new vision database with Karen Hale, found quirk for relighting districts within said database

-Notes info on website is only as good as that provided to the registrar, so send info to registrar, lag time exists. Works with Bill on website for updating four times a year.

Trifold is updated. New one is emailed to Bill, website has lag time. (Remarks that information already has changed.)

Marcie, assistant registrar, continues to update area 53 page on Conscious Contact

zi. Treasurer (Donna K.) REPORT - (Motion to accept treasurer's report, 1st Mike, 2ND Marcie, Vote unan) MOTION PASSES

two items - proposed budget and treasurer's report (from December 7), this is for treasurer's report

Yearly contributions are good, over same time last year. Donna reported more "thank you's" for donations are forthcoming. Work is being done and expenses are being used. Some expenses have risen. Committee expenses, some haven't used. Thought is to carry those over into next year. \$9690 over prudent reserve of \$2500. International delegate fund is a separate account.

? from floor about liaison expenses, Donna answered expenses were for travel

zj. Web Administrator (Bill Y. – Acting)

start with general idea is what do you want to know about website and communication

-made changes to website - style update to make experience on various devices more consistent and similar

-sent out number of newsletters (subscriber list 329 people) feed sent out on irregular basis. Looks at website, to see if news has been created, then it assembles that and sends it.

-grapevine and cpc/pi minutes were added by website admin

-mini-conference updated their page as well, has program info, and registration is now active on miniconference homepage

-every district gets updates quarterly on groups in area as Nita reported, contributions are listed as well

-website updates assembly page for materials in assembly as well

-also, ongoing monitoring of website, including defenses on website

Questions

Chris J - Taken down the link from area 53 website to the COGF meeting finder, why?

Bill answered, in past had window, pointing out, then came back within our website. This technique is not secure any longer. Replaced that with transfer link to COGF website.

Chris J - Regarding miniconference registration online, wasn't up couple of days ago for online, is that just turned on?

Bill, yes, just turned on this morning

Mike (?) - COGF member groups does not always match with area53 member groups. COGF is independent, gives incomplete list.

Bill answered we have list of groups. Those may vary from COGF list.

? from floor asked how many visitors to website?

Bill answers it varies. Basically, legitimate traffic is in 100's not 1000's. Our website is heavily indexed, so comes up in search times. Example - safety topic, past workshop within area.

Standing Committee Reports

zk. Archives/Archivist (Tom V an K.) no report

zl. CPC/PI (Dave C. reported, invited to monthly meeting and noted display at assembly, has business cards for outreach available)

Participated in hopeworks 2017 job fair, Sept 30

Participated in Oct 14 franklin county justice expo health & wellness fair

Provided literature in district 18, OU sponsored Community Resources for students fair held in Chillicothe

Cooperated with COGF PI cmtte with a Franklin County Treatment Center about AA

Had contact Bill H of COGF advisory board for CRC activity in mutual area

Requests - district 26 upcoming this month on Saturday in Gahanna

CPC/PI area 53 Committee plans to host workshop in April, check website newsletter for more details

Committee meets 1st Sunday at 2 PM, Maple Grove church in Columbus

zm. Correctional Facilities (Chris J. reported)

A Vision for you - service opportunities exist (read list)

Donation, literature and Operating expenses report provided. 4th qtr jug donations were \$8750.68, members voted to spend \$8200 for literature. With operating expenses of \$540.86, annual contributions were \$29,463.44 with literature purchases of \$29,752.19.

Uses of jug money - a restriction motion from halfway houses failed at quarterly meeting. Steering committee is working on drafting policy statement with varied considerations.

Have good list for sponsors going into state prisons, but currently working to update list of outside sponsors for County jails

1st National Corrections Conference held in November 10 - 12. 14 members from area 53 attended, 3 others from other Ohio areas. Four of these shared experience on workshop panels during that conference. All attending found it amazing experience with great speakers. (Next year's event tentatively scheduled in November in Portland, Maine.) Enthusiastically encouraged attending nat'l conference.

Conference recordings are available.

March is next quarterly correctional cmtte meeting. Workshop is planned for April.

(Written report handed in)

zn. Grapevine (Ann B. by text to Dave C)

late in day, Dave C reported for Ann via by her text

Did have table at Gratitude Sunday, participated

East Central Regional forum attended, enthused about adding incites from there to committee's work

Committee is meeting on ongoing regular basis

zo. Group Services (Dan S. reported)

As result of area committee meeting in October, discussion about increasing GSR participation. Informing GSR's about service structure. Lively discussion ensued. Can we take advantage of existing AA resources.

In literature catalog, saw DV087, purchased a dvd on service structure at gso, literature etc.

Well-attended GSO school in October in district 15/16 in Athens, several officers attended, some district material included into GSR school (thanks to Bill and Marcia) included for first time. Had great participation.

Held GSR school in district 11 in Marysville in November

GSR school upcoming in March at area 53 miniconference, Sunday morning.

Questions

Sharon asked what year was the video DV087 produced?

Dan answered 1992, a bit dated, but gives general service structure accurately

Comment from floor - gave appreciative feedback for GSR school in Athens

zp. Inter group Liaison (Ed S. reported)

COGF Columbus, Norma retired as night owl coordinator, COGF board decided to switch to answering service, some controversy from IGR participants, so board is reconsidering

had COGF logo design contest, but are looking for more

zq. Mini Conference (Stephen S. reported)

110/111 people participating earlier this year, \$100 loss overall,

Diann N is new treasurer of miniconference, has a budget

2018 registration is open. (Other areas registration available as well.)

A GSO staff member and our regional trustee (Mark) both participating in 2018

Workshops Friday afternoon - still taking ideas, Districts, orientation, video GSO structure

will have four meals and reviewed costs (on registration) + hospitality

slightly different schedule for committee meetings

invited people to register and to attend committee meetings (Next Dec 27)

also considering locations for 2019 and 2020

Question

Diann asked about hospitality volunteering from districts?

Stephen answered looking for districts (plural) to volunteer to take care of hospitality rooms

Frank brought up 6 committee members needed for chairing agenda sharing sessions

yr. Special Needs Committee (Pam/Terri) no report

zs. Treatment Facilities (Don C reported for Bob, chair)

Thanks CPC/PI committee for rack provided

Discussion with Lancaster group, “Bridging the Gap” program works with one treatment center and the county jail

Portsmouth has some people working with a treatment center and corrections facility and adding another treatment center

Forms ordered from GSO due to demand - active

meeting with Sean D of Ironton, a treatment center contact

next committee meeting in Chillicothe January

zt. District & Group Reports (Mike M, DCMC, started out district reporting)

DCMC meeting had discussion on what is preventing people from getting active in service. Items that people were cognizant of: general service is unknown, people rotate out forever after a position, some says people wish to avoid politics and conflict, afraid of failure, concern area would tell them what to do, don't understand how it helps alcoholics, not enough gsr's for active districts, not reaching young people, business only meeting view,

Some ways to help - make assemblies more attractive (small format groups), sponsor for service, fellowship opportunity, help newcomers in general service succeed, attraction - personal program becomes stronger for participants , dvd use, let individual gsr's and dcm's know you can still have active area vote if lack activity in geographical location (eg. dark districts)

topic next - role of leadership in stimulating interest in service, reading out of service manual. Topic for alt delegate to talk on- the role of leadership in stimulating interest in service.

In past quarter, some went to district 15/16 gsr workshop. Marcia adding info on DCM part. Note, had 4 hour program without full break.

District 11 gsr workshop, went attendance there as well - 2008 was last time active

Next DCMC meeting - taco potluck as part in January

District reports

District 1

Garwood- incoming DCM reported. Commends prior person keeping it active. District has alternate chair, secretary, treasurer, will be at miniconference

District 4

Kasie A reported as DCM, meets quarterly, considered increasing meeting frequency but that was voted down. District hosted a Thanksgiving dinner. DCM has taken meetings to district 5. Thanks to Mike M from there for exploring participation prior to health issues.

Alkathon planning committee at last meeting, District has concerns with lack of financial helping. District does have new secretary, and finances in treasury fo around \$600. Making progress.

District 6

Marcie D, DCM, reported. Meets monthly. Upcoming event christmas eve and new years eve alkathons in Stubenville. doing well financially.

District 10

GSR Patrick M - Solutions group - elected new positions for January, current ones are rotating out, Group is discussing format changes on literature discussion, concern with drifting off topic. Also, discussing how to welcome newcomers

GSR Brian U - Westerville AA group, nothing else to report

Corby K as DCM reported, Delaware county, meets regularly, \$50 in treasury, last workshop 60-70 people, Elections are upcoming Dec 28, Current DCM rotating out (offered thanks to all people that helped light up district around 3 years ago. Stayed sober.)

District 11

Brenda B- reported as DCM, suggested keep coming back, after doing so - relighting. Plan to have district meeting in January

GSR Julie R - Way out group, Marysville - recently rotated positions, discussed contributions and paying rent discussion in group conscience (small group of about 6 members)

GSR Judy Y - Friday night discussion group in Marysville, summer attendance ebbs, more younger people coming in, monthly celebration of anniversaries, often group members eat before or after meeting together

District 12

Tom D - treasurer for district, Recently, had yearly gathering in November. No cost night for members for food - good for fellowship, had presentations, including from Frank preview of regional talk, and topic of safety in AA from Tom D (discussed this a little), Presentations generated a lot of questions.

District 15

Joel K - Alt Dcm reporting. They have 6 - 8 GSR's active, meets monthly, 10-12 attending, District is giving grapevines in local jails, assisting groups in workshops, have an alkathon over Christmas, plan to rent cabin for area miniconference and offer scholarships, financially sound, tradition workshop and talk on archives in February, secretary taking on CPC/PI committee work

Jonathan C - Woodsville group Tues and Friday night, 10 - 15 people attending

Kelly C - 2 for 1 group, couple of meetings each week, continue to do group inventory and conscience held monthly, anniversary dinner in aOctober with 25 tickets/attending

Joe S - Barlow hampton inn Grp discussion on shortening meetings while still letting everyone to share, lengthy sobriety offers meeting of solutions, members are active in service in area - jails and hospital meetings

Tyler D - Byob group in Byesville, Recent disc on dealing with children in mtg. Keep open meeting while disruptions, Workshop upcoming this spring. Going to 2 dwi schools and attending behavioral hospital in service

District 17

Shirley K - DCM reported Ohio WV border, 5 active GSRs, meets every month, All positions filled other than alt DCM. Dec 22 - Galipolis holiday dinner with lead meeting after, Treasury around \$220.

Stan B - GSR from grp in WV - officers filled, rent paid, having a workshop in February on 12 steps

Dan W GSR - Palmer serenity group, several meeting, had elections, rotating out,

District 18

Barbara M DCM - Chillicothe area, monthly meeting with rotating locations, 9 different locations with active GSRs, discussed singleness of purpose, what is informed group conscious, and upcoming topic is suggested district inventory. Have new treasurer?

Homam GSR - Circleville grapevine group, has prison outreach, grapevine meeting, location changed but not in schedules, Wed 8 PM at 436 e Ohio st, Circleville

Rob C GSR - kiss group, chillicothe, 50 attending a week. 90% recovery houses' attendance, solvency ongoing concern, changed format from open discussion to 3 weeks literature, 4th lead. Monthly business meeting. Quarterly donating to central office.

Mike B GSR, Serenity on Sunday grp voted to continue crosstalk reading, 12&12 literature

District 19

Steve D - outgoing DCM, held elections in October, all positions filled, trying to get people involved, discussion getting meetings in county jails, excess in treasury, planning to contribute

GSR Terry - Keep it together group - several meetings, incoming DCM, promote new people to get involved, worked with young people but they started NA groups instead. After that, attendance shifted down in AA, changed times to morning and then attendance back up.

GSR Joanne L - outgoing GSR Saturday morning Sunshine grp, incoming GSR for another group, Having Christmas alkathon in Hillsboro, Dec 24 - Dec 25th.

GSR Charles S - incoming GSR Saturday morning Sunshine grp - glad to participate, event on 17th as well.

District 21

GSR Don C - 14th nooners group, m-f noon mtg, 12 -20 attendees. Recently held holiday lunch with 31 people.

District 21 is having an upcoming dance on December 22, Portsmouth Ohio

District 22

Greg G DCM reported, Dublin Ohio. Introducing in monthly meetings a discussion of concepts of month, no events upcoming

Ted C - GSR, Dublin Hope for hurting group, 12&12 and big book alternating, Wedn. 7:30, is treasurer so put in service number, 20 -25 people weekly with newcomers. Making contributions.

GSR Jillena R - Hilliard sobriety group, Tues & Thurs, up to 50 people in attendance, 3 tuesdays open discussion w breakout discussions, business discussion has newcomer pamphlet and on how to pass out newcomer big book, upcoming events - adding group inventory into upcoming monthly group conscience topic by topic, have upcoming elections

District 26

Marcia H - DCM reported, meet monthly, 12 - 15 GSR's attending, Recently, Chris J w cfc discussed during gsr meeting in nov, Dave C upcoming this month in Dec , Stephen S in January and Ann B speaking in upcoming months. Also group services and treatment services talk planned in future.

Concern - Had one group with home grp members wanting to stop reading the chapter to wives within big book reading.

Upcoming Alkathon - 4 PM Dec 31 - January 1, OYPAA will be working with, includes dance 10 PM to midnight. Active in Miniconference - encourage those present to pay today for that

GSR Jayme C - Women's sobriety and serenity, rotating out, thanks to everyone

Steven B GSR - Fellowship Hall

District 28

Taffy J - incoming DCM after elections this month. Kay will be treasurer

3rd annual event was a luncheon - Invited contributing groups for luncheon, asking them to come into service

GSR Jennifer - Clintonville big book, Tues 8 PM, has split off beginners group and discussed website with beginners key word tag, Had gratitude panel and anniversary in November, Terry G was speaker, Had elections recently - all positions filled other than alternates, steady rotation, donations are good

Donna H GSR - Monday night steps and traditions mtg, anniversary upcoming in February

Jacki B GSR - lead meeting, thursday meeting in middle of the day, range of sobriety, invited attendance

Tim M GSR - Early faith and hope grp, first assembly

District 30

Kalen C - Outgoing DCM, new positions filled. The sponsorship panel event held in October was successful. Friday evening attendance for it was around 70.

Rotating out with new positions filled. Upcoming spring event is likely on the topic of "the family afterward." Recently made contributions to area and gso with excess funds.

District 34

GSR Paul H - 3 legacies group, Recently 30 year anniversary with Dennis speaking and a pot luck event, 15 home group members with 20 people attending, group inventory upcoming in April, donated recently to GSO and central office

Paul is also treasurer for district - District is sponsoring a slot in alkathon - desert Island club (week long from Christmas to New Years, sponsoring 1 or 2 cabins at miniconference

Overall, afterward, Mike thanked all participants and highlighted couple discussion items. Ed welcomed newcomers and general assembly attendance encouragement.

Unfinished Business

zu. Information / Sharing Session – “Leadership & Attraction ” - (Stephen S.)

(after 3 PM, order was changed from agenda sequence given out beforehand)

Started with gsr’s, asked those still here to stand up.

“Why are we here?” question asked, Answer - GSRs have a voice and a vote of the conscience in area 53.

Discussed those present on the committee as well. The voting mix at assemblies is a concern regarding dominant voice and vote.

In theory, groups have substantial unanimity. To match representation with New York conference, would like to have more than 2/3 GSR’s in voting at our area assemblies.

Throughout the day, people discussed how to get more people involved. Also, heard that being here has made a difference in people’s lives and program.

A tradition starts “Our leaders are,” so we have leaders, but they lead as servants is our philosophy.

We delegate howto carry out our tasks to area officers

Pointed out sections in service manual exist for the topic. Ex. S23 and S24, service manual pages are about stimulating interest in service. This is not area 53 2017 issue, always has been an issue since 1950's.

Information about participation in general service has been recognized issue for decades. How does one convey this helps 12 step recovery work, makes it stronger.

Attraction message - program is for people who want it (not need it) General service works same way. Attract by sharing our experience - how much this has meant, how grateful they are for the experience, that personal message is what creates the desire to enter service.

From regional forum talk, idea presented is we don't know what we don't know. All we can do is to share my story with them. in way that makes them desire to know more.

Along those lines, Stephen shared his personal experience getting involved in different things other than assembly meetings. Always active in service in group and other types such as corrections committee. Twice in 1990's attended assembly and didn't enjoy it. Then had conversation with double commitment as corrections chair, two way flow through to general area service & back and forth through to area committee. Eventually, opened mind further into working fuller to assembly (admittedly due to available to area positions during elections). That opened door to treasurer in miniconference role (which was attractive).

Admitted that this is hard work at times, attracted to it because it has changed the quality of "my life." This worked that that was personally.

Found regional forum one of most attractive events in general service AA. Finds what we do is important.

Concern how many return to assemblies.

Appreciated the attractive tone of this assembly today. Admits that is not always the case. But, today's approach was attractive - love and service at work. Found it moving,

Ed thanked Stephen, and briefly recounted similar expense with first assembly.

zv. Area Inventory – (Dan S. reported) Ed thanked him for his service in this capacity for past two+ years. He is passing torch on in that capacity.

Briefly introduced and remarked on appreciation for groups going through their inventory processes. Reading on GS conference inventory from 2015. Gave a bit of history on our area inventory development process. Embedded in our assemblies recent years.

Reviewed some of the things that have come out of earlier inventory processes and the changes made, so the process has been actionable. Ex. Bill F suggested edit guidelines so more in line with what we do. Followed through on those concerns. Others came out as well.

December questions' response. Recited them. - "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?"

Bill F - clarified which article it was in.

Dave C - Communication and information is the better tools that we have. Need to find better ways to communicate with each other. Example - our website is good, communicating in districts and home groups. suggest keeping on with that kind of thing.

Jolena R - Was inclusiveness asked? (Affirmed.) Asked this at home groups, made people uncomfortable at first, But sometimes discomfort is good, because brings out challenging conversations. Turned out to be a positive conversation because they have participants where there are diversity issue.

Kalen - think there have been some successes, but mix we bring in considering cross section of population in our area, could use more effort. Heartened that gender bias seems to have improved a lot in recent years. Issue is challenging. I personally have differences that can be difficult bringing up. But, perhaps the key for that is sharing personal experiences. Think we can work on it.

Chris J - Brought up own differentially abled sight - borderline of legally blind, so occurred to him that he could bring in scope, regarding special needs, He finds AA members incredibly accommodating in helping such needs. Finds area service inclusive, have concerns about minority & diversity representation. (Sometime has difficulty seeing on screen, but has scope, but can do for himself what he can.) Believes there is more we can do. For special needs, suggest not brow beating, but share enjoyable experience with people who I believe are underrepresented. Also, has concerns about demographic people in the room. Has heard some people say they don't feel welcome. Perhaps should share his own personal experiences to members of underrepresented groups.

Ed A - When attracting different backgrounds, some people ask which story should give, we need reminded of that. Gave story about event that gentleman could not attend because in wheelchair. Then, district decided only choosing handicap accessible venues for district events. We don't think about without being reminded, so grateful for the reminder of the inventory questions,

Frank - Regarding people not coming back - initially, I left assemblies upset at first because vote didn't go his way. After bringing a number from district to assemblies over the years, found few willing to do work to get through it. Suggests giving it a few assemblies so people can learn what is going on within them.

Sharon F - Recalls diversity topic in 2007 general conference. Thinks some areas have done decent job of addressing diversity. Suggested we can reach out to districts within our area with more diverse population. At one conference, person in wheelchair, couldn't get into hospitality room. Felt bad about that

Dan - said hope we can continue to inventory without cessation. Has made all the difference in his life. Appreciates what people are sharing, hope area continues inventory.

Joe - Really liked what Steve presented. Attraction not promotion is important. Having people do this by example works. Brought up some concerns of welcoming. Example, sponsee with mental health issues that has struggles, emphasized it is important to welcome everybody.

Stephen - One are we can improve, throughout country, efforts to bring Spanish speaking into service , some areas are doing well. We could work on that here

locally. Some experience on west side Columbus. They are active, just not with us. Cleveland area has liaison for this. Encourages us to put this on agenda.

Bill F - in talking with area 55, all of their districts have been activated, some areas have liaison with YPAA, some areas have a welcome desk at assemblies. Encouraged by area 53 & willingness to address change. Open invitation to call him if people are considering quitting because it is the best thing.

Dan thanked participants.

zw. State Convention Committee (Frank G) (after 3 PM)

Committee is statewide planning meeting in January - area 55 will host 2018. Our area committee is no longer as it has moved on

We met all responsibilities, Donna mentioned new position as state secretary, also small money disbursed back to each area.

zx Location of Assembly Meetings (Ed - Donna.)

Where to hold : June, September & December 2018 meetings?

Ed asked about more centralized location. Dan was spearheading, but absent today.

Donna presented some information - Ramada Inn at Polaris, Shrock Hill Rd, costs is \$300.00 (cost about the same. Includes coffee and water service.) 90 without table, 65 - 70 people with tables.has meeting rooms, screens, will get microphone

Bill asked about room rates if staying. Donna suggesting looking up with hotel for such concerns since haven't looked into it.

Stephen voiced concern about meeting room size. We've had some larger assemblies

Donna answered not that large. Most assemblies this year have been 50 - 65 people. Need contracts, but understand about March assembly elsewhere (with miniconference).

Mike M asked about contract need? Donna said yes.

Marcia's district male (?) asked if price same overall, Donna answered yes.

Steve asked where in Columbus - north, near 270.

Bill (?) asked another question about numbers with coffee included, is that here, Agreed about pricing about the same

Sharon asked what other people think given those living in the outlier areas.

Others voiced some responses (Hillsboro adds 30 minutes, another location adds 1 hour. Otherwise, same or closer.)

Mike M discussed population density and Franklin County. With change, hope to get more attending.

Jackie GSR from Columbus voiced concerns about room size, wanting to attract new gsr's, going to run into trouble with size.

Bill F voiced if idea is to attract more and room capacity is so limited, if we are to attract more people, then we may be shooting ourselves in the foot by having limited space.

Ed A room size, today have 53 - 55 people, current assembly isn't largest, elections assembly is the largest, In past, assembly without tables didn't go so well. Thinking forward, current room wouldn't work well for election assembly

Greg - what are the other options? Coming from a newcomer, would want space for fuller area committee displays on their tables. Thinks needs bigger room.

Donna said other hotels she looked at were more expensive. There may be some other hotels, or other options

Ed suggested back row of chairs behind tables and also looked at Canal Winchester - community center, \$200 a day at same size.

Greg suggested we can make coffee ourselves for \$20.

Donna echoes that we haven't had standing committee tables at assembly for a long time.

Garwood - noted can't always add people due to regulations/fire department

Bill S - Coming from assemblies for a long time. Site doesn't sound big enough, there is money in the budget for making it work. Also, tables are important, similar to general service conference set up.

Chris J - brought up Whitehall community park option. Was that investigated

Ed A - says that Whitehall facility no longer available due to their upcoming project in the facility

Joel - discussed that budget has enough, so suggested spending it.

Patrick - concern about some having to stay at location when coming from outlying areas, so consider that as well.

Bill F - As past trustee went to assemblies all over. Some areas rent a union hall - 500 - 600 people. Some areas will rent a school auditorium. Added that committee displays would be helpful.

Donna summarized from consensus, sounds like we are not ready to vote, offered to do more work to find something else. Will have to be quick, so need to decide before next assembly.

Rick B mentioned that assembly room was booked for two years when outgoing.

Donna asked Rick - Does chairperson pick location?

Rick B clarified in past what was done. Still comes down to chairperson to choose location.

Stephen S - says we have given guidance to area committee, recognize chair has right of decision. Suggest we table this, & ask them to make decision for June.

Sharon - chair picked place, suggest we table this, area committee can make this decision

Frank - suggested to table it, but maybe approve high amount

Donna as treasurer clarified tabling the discussion. General agreement.

Ed talked on phone with Dan (chair) - notes Dan is fine with taking this to planning committee.

Ongoing discussion, Sharon said we don't have to vote on place. No need for monetary amount right now.

Discussion tabled.

New Business

zy. (VOTE) 2018 Budget - (Motion to accept, Paul 1st , 2ND Stephen , Vote 46 yes, 2 opposed)

Ed asked for Minority opinion? none provided, MOTION PASSES

Donna presented the budget. There were some changes. Raised the officer and chairperson expense, discussed reasons for travel. Talked with other areas and what they did, they take care of their officers itself. Other expenses such as printing went up. Website services increased. Other things such as assemblies remained the same.

Budget meeting held, discussed

Questions for budget discussion:

Brenda - What are the other officers that you are proposing for expenses

Donna - Line items in past year for for delegate, alt delegate, chair and alt chair. Other officers are treasurer, web, registrar, secretary and alternates of all those positions

Chris - Regarding GSO expense for delegate to New York, what does GSO estimate actual cost is?

Discussion of amount. Concern that there is more 7th tradition would suggest. Some number of \$7000 per delegate as expense allocated, though ask for less.

Donna - Answers New York suggests sending \$1600 for delegate. We oversend them already what they suggest (at \$3000)

Dan - Was there any discussion to use surplus for subsidize cabins for miniconference?

Donna - No, figured this assembly would discuss what excess would be used for.

Rick B - Never seen so low on amount over prudent reserve. Voiced concern.

Donna clarified amount in hand compared to prudent reserve.

zz. (VOTE) Guideline Change Proposal – Article VII Sec 2 SubSec d (originally submitted by Dan S.)

Add to above section -

“The Area Committee will assist and support the work of our Area Standing Committees”

Submitted to Area Chairperson By Dan S. June 4 2017

Presented to Area Planning Committee By Dan S. July 9, 2017

Presented to Area Assembly– September 10, 2017

Dan presented background including - inventory in September, how might the guidelines be revised, S44 read paragraph, restated proposal.

Rick B spoke. Asked why? Thinks obvious so why change guidelines to point that out.

Goes to vote: 31 favor, 12 opposed.

Minority opinion? none given, MOTION PASSES.

Note: Redistricting proposal - rescinded by presenter, Ed reminded that districts can bring forth if they want

Chris J asked about retraction. Is it being edited and brought back?

Ed answered the understanding is it would have to go through entire process again

ya. Any Other New Business? (Ed asked)

How did today's Assembly format work for you? (Ed A.)

Ed asked about how reordering things worked out for everyone? Without substantive feedback, noted we will keep question on again for next time and ask again.

yb. (old business) Ed mentioned person in mind for web administer officer person, hasn't been appointed yet, to be addressed at next area planning meeting, should have announcement in March

yc. Upcoming Events

Ed announced about flyers for all 4 miniconferences coming up in March

DCMC and area planning meeting in January

Several alkathons in districts were in notes

yd. Ask - It - Basket

nothing in it

ye. Close Meeting – Responsibility Statement

Motion to adjourn, 1st Paul, 2nd Brenda vote unan