

September Area 53 Assembly
September 10, 2017
Riverview Conference Center
Christopher Inn
Chillicothe, Ohio

Opening of Meeting (Dan H) 10:00am

Call to Order and (We Version) Serenity Prayer

Twelve Concepts (Short Form) (Lara S)

Ed A, Alternate Chair runs the morning session.

Roll Call (GSR, DCM, Interested AA, Committee Chairs, Area Officers, Past Del, Other Areas)
GSRs – 11, DCMs – 8, Committee Chairs– 7, Area Officers– 7, Past Delegates – 3, Interested AAs – 8

Agenda - Review & Approval

Sharon F. Motion to Approve, Julie J. Second. Unanimous Approval.

JUNE Assembly Minutes - Review & Approval

Ed S. Motion to Approve, Jeannie S. Second. Unanimous Approval.

Unfinished Business

Area 53 Inventory/Sharing Session – (Dan S. / Stephen S.)

How Well Does Area 53 Accomplish Its Primary Purpose”

Please refer to the Area 53 Inventory/Sharing Session document.

State Convention Committee (Frank G)

Frank G introduces Donna K to advise on the status of the State Convention.

- 270 paid registrations
- Able to return 3,000 dollars to State Convention.
- There was a surplus of 2,008 dollars.
- There is a creation of the state archivist position, she going to convention. 1000 dollars was set aside to send the new archivist to Canada.
- There is \$1008.73 left in State Convention budget which will be sent back to Area 53.
- Frank gives an explanation of the work involved in executing the State Convention.
- Ed A talks about being the floor manager for the State Convention. He said that he was expecting little things to pop up like keeping coffee costs to a minimum.
- Reports from the State Convention is available from the Alternate Recording Secretary.
- Ed advises that there were no major problems but a lot of work. Talks about going a month before the convention meet the hotel staff and walk around the facility.
- A lot of fun and challenges. Great experience.
- Ed said that he used his experience as the floor manager at the Mini-Conference as training for the State Convention.
- Ed advises that they did not make a survey. He believes that they should have done that.
- They are creating an information sheet to pass to the next committee.

- Frank G wrapped the report up. He states that the State Convention committee answers to a state committee and they offer comments as well.
- Frank thanks Kristi H, Past Delegate, for her work
- Frank said that entertainment is an important attraction to the State Convention. Bill Y did a great job with minimal cost.
- Oz was the liaison for young people and did a wonderful job.
- Thanks to the hospitality committee. Asks committee members to stand and be recognized.
- Frank said it was an honor to chair the event.

Location of Assembly Meetings (Dan H.)

- Continue at current location through end of year
- Where to hold June, September & December 2018 meetings
 - Dan H advised that Ed S provided the Assembly with central location for consideration for future Area Assemblies.

New Business

Introduction of New Standing Committee Chairs

- Grapevine Chair: Ann B. replacing Larry B. recognized
 - Ann said that she is glad to be back.
- Treatment Facilities Chair: Robert H. (was Open)
 - Robert H said that we're having a great time.
- Special Needs Chair: OPEN (?) (Pam R. has rotated out)
 - Dan H advised that the position is open.
 - Donna K said that Teri H, Alternate Chairperson advised that they are still meeting. They said that they will make it to the December Assembly.

Ratification of new Alternate Treasurer: Diann Nelson-House

Marcia H. Motion to Approve, Marcie D. Second. Unanimous Approval.

Guideline Change Proposal – Article VII Sec 2 SubSec d (Ed A submitted by Dan S.)

Add the following

- **“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
- Dan S. said that the proposal was collected during March Assembly in an effort to get Guidelines in better line with Service Manual.
- Stephen S calls this a housekeeping effort and said that we are sharing the Guideline change to take to groups and discuss.

Stephen S. Motions to add the Guideline Change for Approval in December, Dan S. Second. Unanimous Approval. Motion passes to add to the Agenda for December for vote.

**Guideline Change Proposal – Redistricting – Appendix A – District Boundaries
Submitted to Area Chairperson By Ed S. July 9, 2017
Presented to Area Planning Committee By Ed S. July 9, 2017**

The following was submitted by Ed S.

Proposed Guideline Change per Article XIV of Area 53 Guidelines

Change Appendix A - District Boundaries map as follows. (This referred to in Article X, 6), d), i):

Change Marion County to District 3, which will combine it with Crawford and Morrow Counties

Change Coshocton County to District 4, which will combine it with Knox County.

Change Pike County to District 18, which will combine it with Pickaway and Ross Counties.

Change the numbering of Licking County from 8-9 to just District 8.

(Okay per Greg M. DCM District 8-9)

Change the numbering of Fairfield County from 13-14 and Perry County 14 to District 13.

(Okay per Cheryl A., DCM 13 and 14)

- Ed advises that looking at population of Area 53 a map is presented to locate the center of population.
- He suggests to combine counties with no DCMs and changing some district numbers.

Comments

Stephen S – Point of information, Take this to groups. We are just considering this today.

Julie J, DCM, District 28 – Jackson and Madison not represented. There are several Districts with inactive DCMs.

Ed S – Getting Districts active is the idea.

Bill F – Asks if population is the number of groups.

Ed A – Advises that the numbers are just general population. Not the number of AAs in the Area

Ed S – Advises that we can get the information regarding AA in the Area.

Chris J – Said that it would be appropriate for the Registrar to bring back group information for the next Area Planning Committee meeting. With respect to Districts 8 and 9.....

Ed S – Just changing number 8 and 9 to just 8.

Chris J – Are we re-sequencing the numbers? Ed S – no.

Ed S – Combining counties makes things more efficient. Pike county is a small meeting county.

Ed A – I was involved in redistricting in Franklin county when 26 was combined with 27. A precedent exists not to renumber districts.

Frank G – Service manual suggested to have the “right number of groups”. Is the area getting too big for the DCM to meet with everyone? Is the district becoming too large?

Stephen S. Motions to votes on the proposal in December, Donna K. Seconds.

Vote was 25 For and 3 Opposed.

Minority Opinion

Julie J – Appreciates the work, but I think there should be more thought. I think that there should be more areas represented. I think Franklin county is getting too large for one DCM to handle. We need to consider all areas.

Chris J – I would say that there is not enough information for the GSR because there is no group count. We are not ready to take this information back to the Groups.

Ed S – advised that there are group counts on the Area 53 website. We will ask registrar to double check.

When asked if anyone would like to change their mind, 7 wished to change their vote.

Vote to Revote

Stephen S makes a motion to reconsider.

Votes was 28 For and 9 Opposed. Vote reopens discussion.

Gary D, Interested AA – My concern is there is not enough information to take to Groups. I would like to see all information available.

Barbara M, District 18 – Regarding the Districts that are being merged, there are only 3 meetings in my District. They can handle it.

Joe S – I would like to know how many groups that we are going to combine. I am in Noble county. I think there are a lot of meetings that will be combined.

Ed S – I have that information. There are 3 meetings in Pike. Coshocton county has 18. Marion, Crawford and Marrow have about 12.

Kellie – We need an exact list of meetings to make an informed decision.

Ed S – The information has been provided.

Stephen S – Requests that at the Assembly the Registrar to have the Group meetings available at the Area Planning Committee meeting.

Ed A – We could also do an email to all DCMs.

Don C – I think the idea is to leverage involvement in underrepresented areas. Small number of meetings under 20. The accuracy of meetings is not very good.

Bill Y – There is a page on the Area website with a District meeting table. I will populate the meeting data to be ready after lunch. It will be as accurate as the registrar would have.

Ed A --- We will have printouts as well

Chris J – Concerned with moving too quickly. I agree with the idea of trying to leverage of service. If we expand we might reduce prospects for people to stand for DCM. Chris also make reference distances to be driven .

Donna K – calls the question.

Final Vote to place on Agenda.

25 For and 15 Opposed.

Simple majority – vote passes. (To pass requires a 2/3 simple majority vote)

Any Other New Business?

None

Lunch at 11:43pm

Return at 1:05pm

Officers Reports

Delegate (Frank G)

- Frank said that he brought copies for the General Service Conference Final Report including copies in French and Spanish.
- The Delegate gave a lead and informational segment to District 1. They have a DCM but don't usually participate with Area 53. Frank gave as much information as possible.
- Frank is going to request money from his line item to purchase pamphlets on the 12 points of what New York does and to visit areas that are not participating with Area 53.
- Frank said that he will be a speaker at the East Central Regional Forum on Tradition 5 – Singleness of Purpose and Tolerance of Other Maladies.

Comments Question

Dave C – I noticed that at the General Service Conference they decided not to do the Membership Survey. The CPC/PI Committee has an AA membership survey which are done every number of years. Do they have a plan to do another survey?

Frank G – The biggest controversy was the gender question. Male, Female, LGBT etc. This brought up a huge conversation in New York. We need surveys and everyone agreed on that. Frank talked about a gentleman that said, “There are only a few of us in this room that have a unique experience in understanding what we are talking about.” They survey didn’t go forward because there wasn’t enough study to be able to answer the question in a politically correct fashion.

Dave C – Is there a trustee committee looking at that? Frank advised that there is a committee.

Bill F – The Trustee’s Committee on PI will bring back a newly formulated membership survey. As Frank said there is a difference between gender and sex. That is a lot of new information to us as members. People were troubled because people could say “Gender” and the response would be “none of the above.” I learned that many people are assigned a sex and we are not asked what sex we would like to be when we are born. The physician may assign us a sex, but the gender may not be in-line with that. If the conference approves it, there will be a membership survey next year.

Chairperson (Dan H.)

- Went to state convention had a great time.
- On the planning committee at the state convention.
- On the planning committee of the mini-conference.
 - The meeting is now on the Fourth Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm at Maize Manner United Methodist Church (3901 Maize Rd, Columbus)
- Working on places we can meet.

Registrar (Nita S.)

- Nita said that she attended the Ohio State Convention.
- Attendance: 52 people attended the September 10th, 2017 Area Assembly held in Chillicothe, Ohio. Individuals in the following positions attended:
Delegate - 1; Alternate Delegate - 1; Area53 Officers - 6; DCMs - 9; Alternate DCM - 1; GSRs -17; Alternate GSRs -2; Interested AAs-7; Past-Delegates-3; Committee Chairs - 5
- Current Fellowship New Vision Statistics
New Groups- 0; Pending Active -2; Pending Inactive - 0; Incomplete - 13; Unknown - 149
- Since the last Assembly, I have continued to work with the DCMs to get current information for the groups in each district. When the DCMs give me information, I update it in Fellowship New Vision, the Yew York database. Bill Y. and I have updated the Area 53 website with this Fellowship New Vision information twice since the last assembly.
- Please Note: If you have given me or GSO new group information, it will not appear on the Area 53 page until GSO has assigned a Service Number and Bill and me have updated the Area 53 page. GSO can take several months to assign numbers and me and Bill update the Area 53 page on average once a quarter. If your group information is incorrect and you have already submitted it either to me or New York, please be patient.
- If you gave me a form for any new or changed information today, I have updated that in Fellowship New Vision and it should appear on the Area 53 website after Bill and I update it in a week or so.
- I have updated the Tri-Fold. If you have any changes or corrections, please email me at registrar@area53aa.org

- Marcie, our Alternate Registrar continues to update the Area 53 page on the Conscious Contact. If you have any changes or corrections for that, please contact her at altregistrar@area53aa.org

Treasurer (Donna K.)

A printed Treasurer's Report was made available.

- Group Contributions are \$12,634
- There are some line items that have not been used.
- Balance is \$9,097 (including prudent reserve)
- Correction on the report. \$250 should be removed from the Chairperson's expenses, which was moved to the Alternate Chairperson. This was voted on the last Assembly. Line 8 should be \$750.

Questions/Comments

Dave C – When should we submit our written request for next year budget?

Donna K – Bring the request to the Area Planning Committee next month. We have to get together to put together a proposed budget between now and December for next year.

Lara S – Do you itemize group contributions? As a GSR, I get that information from my District and from New York to take back to my Group. I can't find it for our Area contributions.

Donna K – I send thank you notes and emails. Sometimes the notes and email are returned because I can't read handwriting. I have an itemized listing of all contributions on a database. Anyone can contact me at anytime to confirm the receipt of their contribution.

Donna --- Line 36. There is no line item for liaison. I believe that as Treasurer we need to have this line item. I paid the liaison for his expenses. I didn't know where to place the expense, so I placed under Committee Chair to Area/State Convention. This was \$205.87. We don't have a Unity Day and some committees and we could move money and use it at least until the end of the year.

Stephen S – I was just reading the minutes of the Advisory Board of the COGF. Their Guidelines dropped reference or acknowledgement of Unity Day. I would like to make a recommendation to move the \$400 from Unity Day to the liaison line. Ed S - Second.

Vote for the Motion was Unanimous.

Ed A. Motion to Approve Treasurer's Report, Kasie A. Second. Unanimous Approval

Web Administrator (Bill Y. – Acting)

- Activity Report for September Assembly for previous Three Months (June - August, 2017)
- SPECIAL NOTE: The District Meeting page now includes the number of groups for each district as of August 9, 2017.
- Sent newsletter: Area News (9), CPC-PI (2), and State Convention (7)
- Updated web pages:
 - a) Grapevine Committee
 - b) CPC-PI Committee
 - c) Mini-Conference Committee
 - d) State Convention Homepage
 - e) Area Contacts as of August 9
- Updated Group Listing from Fellowship New Vision as of August 9
- Prepared assembly web page with today's agenda, June's minutes, and handouts and reports
- Performed routine website maintenance and updates

District & Group Reports (Mike M, DCMC)

- Some DCMs are in districts that are not very active. The DCMs are still showing up and having District meetings even when no one shows. If we keep having meeting people will eventually show.
- Several Districts have had picnics, workshops and events this summer.
- Districts are asking Groups and GSR's if they want to have workshop template information on Area 53's website.
- Reviewed the Service Manual in regards to the DCM responsibilities. It comes down to communication.
- Discussed ideas about frequency and format of District Meetings.
- Discussed prudent reserve amounts
- How to continue consistency in our communications (Save the Date Cards, Placards and Posters at meetings)
- Including other interested AAs other than GSRs at the DCM meetings.
- Had a good discussion on what our message in AA is. The discussion evolved from comments made at the last Area Assembly.
- Discussion on what is a qualified AA event.
- Brandy V. stepped down as Alternate DCMC due to other responsibilities.

District Reports

District 4, Kasie A, DCM –

- There are 22 meetings – Mt Vernon
- After the Area Committee Meeting, DCM called a meeting. DCM advised that she promoted the meeting and had 12 attendees.
- No GSRs yet but we're working on it.
- Attended District 10's workshop on Group Conscious and was very pleased.
- Local Jail meetings have been discontinued. Qualifications are very stringent. A committee was formed to look into the problem.
- District will host a Thanksgiving and a Christmas dinner.
- A recent vote on how often to have a business meeting resulted in a meeting every quarter.

District 6, Marcie D, DCM –

- 8 active GSRs. Average attendance is 8
- Working on a new meeting list including all 4 counties.
- Gratitude dinner on November 18th starting at 4:00pm
- We have a prudent reserve and are using District funds to assist with the gratitude dinner.

E.J.C, Sunday Morning Awareness, GSR –

- Open Discussion Meeting

Patrick A, Tell Like It Is – Wednesday Night, GSR –

- no comments

James B, Seekers of Sobriety (SOS), GSR –

- Recent discussion of purchasing of books and literature

Patti W, Just for Today, GSR –

- Discussions on "Courage to Change"
- Looking into getting a checking account, there is no account now.

Sandy D, Thursday Night West End Group, GSR –

- Good Attendance
- Anniversary Dinner 35 years. In October.

District 12, Ann Summers, DCM –

- Need for more GSRs
- Event on November 10th, Clark County's largest Group will give up their meeting to allow the District to have their "Yearly Gathering"
 - Large Attendance, free meal and Prizes (not funded by 7th tradition money)
 - Topic is "Safety in AA."
- Contributions to GSO and Area 53

District 15, Bruce W, DCM –

- Planning on two workshops, one winter and one spring.
- Alcahlon from Christmas Eve to Christmas Day.
- Byesville – Bring Your Own Book joined District 15
- In August there was a picnic and workshop on Tradition 5
- GSR School with District 16 in Athens.
- Attended District 16 meeting in Athens, Ohio. Enjoyed the meeting and got a few ideas for District 15.

Heather R, GPS (God's Path to Serenity) Group, GSR –

- 12 x 12 Discussion, on 4th Sunday read from Grapevine and then open for discussion.
- Speaker meeting to be held when there are 5 Sundays in a month.
- Heather advised GPS is a closed group. The Group voted that they would allow addicts into their closed meetings.

Joe S, Hand in Hand Group, GSR –

- Recent discussions involved Safety and 12 Step work
- Active in service work – Jail meetings, Behavioral Health Unit etc.
- Meeting of Solutions
- Contribute to District, Area and GSO.

Johnathan C, Woodsfield Group, GSR –

- Tuesday night is Discussion/Big Book. Friday is a lead meeting.
- Recent picnic had 35 in attendance. Great fellowship and a good time.

Ty Dettra, Byesville BYOB (Bring Your Own BigBook), GSR –

- Large group attendance (30-40)
- Work with a couple of DUI schools in a local hospital.
- All committee positions are filled.
- Contribute to Area and District.
- Recent picnic brought in a large attendance.

Kelly C, 2 for 1 Group, Alternate GSR –

- Thursday is 12x12 and Saturday is Joe and Charlie tapes.
- Group Conscious monthly
- Group Inventory by answering questions for the "The AA Group" pamphlet.
- First Saturday read a story from the second half of the Big Book.
- Usually there is a planned breakfast in the Fall.

District 16, Roberta D, DCM –

- Sub-committee to suggest locations and literature and what kind of literature to distribute.
 - Ideas include to distribute in all towns at Sheriff's Office, Police Department, Emergency Rooms, Doctor's Offices, etc.
 - Theme for the subcommittee is "Keeping it Simple and Keeping it in our Budget"
- Continual discussion on putting 800 number in phone book.

- Telephone company advised that the cost would be \$400 - District felt it was too much.
- District found a group in Mt Vernon that has phone number that transfers to GSO. District will contact the group to get further information.
- Upcoming event includes the GSR School with District 15 in Athens county.
- With assistance from District 15 an Alcatraz is being discussed.
- Finances are down. Treasurer completed a report and discussion tabled.
- New secretary because previous secretary passed away. Secretary originated as an interested AA who attended a District meeting.

District 17, Shirley K, DCM –

- Need Alternate DCM, Alternate Recording Secretary and Alternate Treasurer.
- Last meeting discussed if Delegate would be able to attend and advise on his position. This event was planned last year but Kristi's father was sick and she couldn't attend.
- Has prudent reserve and rent is paid.

Stan B, Pleasant Valley Group, Alternate GSR –

- Three meetings a week with about a dozen home group members.
- Had 71st Anniversary Picnic.
- Workshop in planning stages. Topic is "Amending the Past"
- Group works with a recovery home and also another in Gallipolis.

Dan W, Pomeroy Serenity Group, GSR –

- Handicap Accessible
- Rent is paid and contributions complete.
- September 16th, Picnic at Syracuse Community Center. Connie from Charleston WV speaking. Hotdogs and Hamburgers. Will move inside in case of inclement weather. 2 until 6. Local halfway house involved.

District 18, Barbara M, DCM –

- First District meeting held August 20th. Four GSRs attended. Meeting will be monthly.
- Discussions include the responsibilities of the DCM and GSR, Safety in AA, Area 53 Budget.
- Distributed handouts on from GSO, Area 53 and "Bridging the Gap"
- Gave a Traditions checklist.
- Next meeting will be discussion on filling officer positions.
- Possible merger with District 20.

Mike B, Serenity on Sunday, GSR

- About 15 regularly attend the meeting.
- \$150 will be distributed in November. \$40 prudent reserve.

District 20, Geri (Pike County)

- Moved to Ohio a little more than two years ago. Waverly is very small but started a meeting.
- Most people that attend the meeting are from the treatment facility. 3 or 4 core people.
- Struggle with finances. People will give money for a drawing but not to the basket.

District 19, Steve D, DCM –

- Discussions include, getting more people involved in service work.
- Rotating different District meeting to different homegroups.
- October is elections for District officers.
- Successful District picnic.
- Prudent reserve at \$200 with contributions to Area and GSO.

Joann L, Sunday Morning Sunshine Group, GSR –

- 19 to 20 attending with Group Conscious monthly.

- October will be election of new officers.
- No upcoming events.

District 21, Don C, Portsmouth Nooner's Group, GSR –

- Successful picnic in August.
- Group Conscious first Wednesday of the month.
- Discussions include redistricting which the group is in favor. Also, Bridging the Gap.

District 22, Greg G, DCM –

- Discussed CFC issue about half-way houses, the Area 53 Inventory and Concept 1
- Discussed placing on the District Agenda the Concepts.
- Discussed the 7th Tradition for District 22 meeting. The meeting is held in a treatment facility. There hasn't been a charge in rent. There should be an obligation to that.

Greg G, Hilliard Sobriety Group, Reporting –

- September 26th having their Anniversary.
- Planning process of doing a Group Inventory.

Womens Hope is in the Book Group –

- Greg G advises that Kellie S, attended her first Assembly. Had to leave due other commitments. She advised that she would participate in future meetings.
- Greg said that the Group has an upcoming inventory.

Diane A, New Freedom Group, GSR

- Diane said that she attended an AA meeting in Morgantown, WV and introduced herself as an “Addict with a Desire not to Drink” and received a negative response. Advised that due to singleness of purpose she should not introduce herself as an addict.
- Extended the meeting schedule to Saturday at 7:15am. Group now meets Monday through Saturday with a variety of formats

District 26, Marcia H, DCM –

- 12 to 15 active GSRs avg with District attendance the same. We also invite the different standing committee chairs and officers. There is also attendance from other Districts.
- Continuing District inventory.
- We encourage our membership to attend other District activities like the hog roast in Point Pleasant.
- Upcoming events include the Rule 62 Day – Hannah Park.
 - Features a skit called “We Are Not a Glum Lot Fashion Show.” Different models will represent the different steps including a 13th step model.
- Finances are sound with a prudent reserve with funds to cover the New Years Alcahthon.

Jamie C, Women's Sobriety and Serenity, GSR –

- Closed women's meeting and they offer babysitting.
- Recent discussions include the importance of service work.

Lara S, After Work Group, GSR –

- Format of the meeting continues to work well. “Chairmans Choice” based on any AA conference approved literature.

District 28, Julie J, DCM –

- Encourages GSRs from to attend District meetings. They need more participation.
- Discussion includes how to become more effective in carrying the message to the Groups.
- Last two events have been really great. Last discussion on August 26th went well and included an Old Timer's and Newcomer's panel.
- One more event should be scheduled for the year.

- District has a prudent reserve and has funds available. The District is attempting to distribute the funds to eliminate a surplus. The District is looking into assisting struggling groups in their Area.

Donna H, Monday Night Steps and Traditions, GSR –

- No special events planned.

District 30, Kalen C, DCM –

- Workshop is planned for October 20th on sponsorship, also a bake off competition. 7:00 to 9:00pm at 2425 Bethel Road, Youth Lounge, Columbus.
- Finances good.
- First rotation of officers coming soon.

Martha C, Women's Serenity, GSR –

- Closed Women's Speaker Meeting w/ Babysitting.
- Anniversary in April 30th with a Canadian speaker.
- Service positions are filled and contributions made to Service Entities.
- Martha promotes the bake-off competition for the District event. Says that there will be a Bill and Bob café apron to be given away.

District 34, James, Three Legacies Group, Alternate GSR –

- Very active in service work with all positions filled.
- Rotating format. 12X12, Traditions, Concepts and 4th week is a lead. If a 5th Sunday Open.
- Upcoming events include an Anniversary in November.
- Finances are good.

District 37, Ossian M, in surgery, requests for prayers.

Standing Committee Reports

Archives/Archivist (Tom Van K.)

no report

CPC/PI (Dave C.)

- Committee informs professionals and the public at large about Alcoholics Anonymous at work in the community. We tell them who we are, what we do and don't do, where we can be found and, in appropriate circumstances, a little bit of our story. In this way the hand of AA becomes available outside of the AA groups CPC/PI attends.
- Support the general service structure by working with other area 53 standing committees.
- Support local Central and SE Ohio CPC/PI efforts with literature packets.
- Participate in district workshops.
- Keep A.A.'s G.S.O. service desks informed about efforts.
- Since the June assembly, our committee maintained a great display at the Ohio State Convention July 28 – 30 in Worthington.
- Manned an information display at the Addiction Studies Institute, August 2-4 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center.
- CPC-PI representatives will participate in two schedule events.
 - September 30th Hope Works 2017 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center
 - October 18th Franklin County Justice Expo at the Franklin County Court House.
- The CPC-PI committee meets at 2:00pm the first Sunday of the month at 7 West Henderson Rd, Columbus.

Correctional Facilities (Chris J.)

- Continuing opportunities to participate with Correctional Facilities and 12 step work.
- Pickaway County Jail has male inmates requesting to start a meeting please contact Chris if interested.
- Madison Correction Institution to start literature study meetings. Suggested Wednesday at 6:30pm.
- The following prisons have little or no outside support.
 - Belmont both the main compound and reintegration unit.
 - Hocking in the Nelsonville area.
 - Madison, Zone B which is minimal security.
 - Marion both the main compound and reintegration unit.
- Ohio State Convention
 - Grateful to be able to provide display information.
 - Round table discussions allowed for standing committee members from various service areas to meet.
 - Compliments to the planning committee, excellent agenda with a lot of relevant topics.
- Third quarter donations came to \$5,318.74. Committee voted to allocate \$5,000 for literature. Thanks to groups and member for their support.
- Requested second half of Area appropriations. The line item allow CFC to use the jug money exclusively for the purpose of purchasing and storage of literature.
- CFC would like to get feedback from the groups in regards to the appropriate use of jug money.
 - Should CFC provide literature for groups meeting in halfway houses for inmates who finish their sentences. DRC has a list of 8 or 9 facilities that are approved to receive inmates that are in transitional control.
 - CFC is fully conscious of the responsibility to keep faith with members placing money in the jugs. Fulfillment rate for literature requests are above 97%.
- Received an updated list of jail meetings that are registered with Fellowship New Vision. This has been forwarded to the Secretary of the CFC Committee for use at quarterly meetings.
- When Chris sent information to GSO, he received corrections kit in the mail and questions if the Corrections Kit is a necessary or appropriate expense for an autonomous and ongoing corrections committee.
- For more information visit <http://www.area53cfc.org>

Questions/Comments

Julie – How does an inmate acquire temporary sponsorship?

Chris J – We don't try to coordinate sponsorship. There are two ways to reach out to CFC and AA. One is Corrections Correspondence. We are one of the few areas that administer our own corrections correspondence. Also, there are outside AA members that sign-up in their groups that have a willingness to write. John B will match those with an inmate. Contact information for the AA member is confidential. There is also pre-release contact contact in which individuals are matched up based on geographical location. This is an opportunity for someone to provide information to an inmate that may lead to sponsorship. We don't provide sponsorship as an expectation.

Person not identified – What is a legitimate halfway house?

Chris J – There is a list that was provided to CFC of institutions that were approved for transitional control. Individuals that are in a halfway house may not be able to go to outside meetings. If an individual is on parole or probation, they can't go to a meeting for their first 30 days – they can't leave the facility. Even when they can leave the facility and get a job, they are only allowed 50 dollars a week. If they smoke they will not likely buy a Big Book. Groups that have a van show with people

from a half-way house may double in size. Can the group afford to give all of the visitors literature? I don't feel that is a reasonable expectation.

Joe S – Are halfway houses funded and are books only going to inmates? CFC doesn't control the distribution of literature. There are three types of residents in a halfway house. Those on probation, those on parole and those in transitional control. People getting out of prison don't have money and they can't leave the facility for 30 days. They can't make money right away. We would like to get them a book in their hand. Budget funds are very limited. If the facility has funds, then the AA meeting doesn't control the books. If CFC and Groups buy books, then it is advised that the books are used for an AA meeting in that facility. They are not intended to be the property of the facility.

Grapevine (Ann B.)

- Ann B became Grapevine Committee Chairperson as of the Ohio State Convention.
- Meetings are the second Saturday of each month starting at noon at the COGF meeting room.
- At present no Treasurer or Secretary and are looking to fill those positions.
- Set some preliminary goals for the committee, a few of which are:
 - To become more visible in the Area by attending events and District Meetings
 - To help support other Area committees in their efforts to carry AA's message
 - To encourage Grapevine Reps to become more active in their service position by participating in Grapevine Committee meetings and activities.
 - To help Grapevine Reps be better informed about news from New York and how the Grapevine has evolved into so much more than just "Our Meeting in Print".
- Attended and set up a display at the District 28 Panel for Oldcomers vs. Newtimers in August.
- Had conversations with Chris J. (Correctional Facilities Chair) and Dave C. (CPC/PI Chair) asking how the Grapevine Committee might help support what their committees do.
- Attended the CPC/PI Committee Meeting this month at Dave's invitation to discuss the possibility of a joint workshop in February next year.
- Minutes from our last 2 committee meetings have been posted to the Area website.
- If your District or group is planning an event or workshop, we would love to help support you. You can get in touch with us through the Area website.
- Please make sure that your Grapevine Representative is registered with GSO.
- Grapevine has published two new books. One on making amends and another released September 1st on Women in Sobriety starting with the very first women AA members.

Group Services (Dan S.)

- Set up a table at the Ohio State Convention.
- There was also a GSR School at the State Convention.
- As a committee met for the first time on September 9th to plan the District 16 and 15 General Service Representative school. We plan to improve the school by giving information on how to report to the Assembly and to the homegroup and to incorporate literature as a tool.
- Received information from Area 54 from their DCM College. Plans to incorporate that into the GSR school.
- We also provide coffee and donuts for the Assembly.
- Met on September 23rd to finalize plans for the October 15th GSR school.

Intergroup Liaison (Ed S.)

- Visited all 5 Intergroup Offices.
- The Chillicothe Intergroup has moved. Now at 249 South Paint Street. Better facility.
- Handed out a list of list with the number of groups in each district.

Mini Conference (Stephen S.)

- The Mini-Conference Committee is currently planning for the 2018 Mini-Conference, to be held at the Salt Fork Resort and Conference Center on March 9-11. Mark E., our East Central Region Trustee, and Sandra W, GSO Staff Member participating.
- A final report on the results of the 2017 Mini-Conference was presented at the June Assembly. Can be seen at area53aa.org.
- The Mini-Conference met all of key objectives and we are good shape to hold another successful Conference next year.
- Sandy D resigned her position as Area Alternate Treasurer and Mini-Conference Treasurer. She found herself unable to manage the travel requirements from Steubenville. She was a strong contributor to the committee, and her participation will be missed. Dan H, Area Chair, has appointed a replacement. Once Diane N is ratified by the Assembly, we will get her up to speed.
- The Committee now meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at Maize Manor United Methodist Church, 3901 Maize Road, Columbus. The meetings begin at 6:30pm. Please consider having your group send a representative.
- Fliers and on-line registration will be available by the December Assembly.
- The mini-conference committee is continuing to look for committee members.
- The committee had an effective inventory in June which gave a lot of feedback.

Special Needs Committee (OPEN)

Treatment Facilities (Robert H.)

- The 1st meeting was held at Appalachian Ohio Intergroup Office at it's new location, 249 South Paint Street, Chillicothe, Ohio with 3 people in attendance.
 - Discussed the scope of the Treatment Committee.
 - Don C. from Portsmouth accepted a position as a sub-chair of "Hospitals & Institutions"
 - Discussed having the next meeting in Portsmouth, Ohio.
- The next meeting of the Treatment Committee was held Saturday September 9, 2017 at 1:00pm at 1908 Wayne Ave, Portsmouth, Ohio with 8 people in attendance.
 - Discussed how Bridging the Gap is suppose to be done.
 - Two people in attendance from Lancaster, who displayed a vertical banner on Bridging the Gap. They are going to ask the Lancaster Intergroup if they can provide the temporary contact and institution client request forms.
- Bridging the Gap sub-chair is needed.
- Have an invoice from COGF for Bridging the Gap fliers for \$5.00
- Treatment chairperson attended the August 5, meeting of CPC/PI regarding Recovery Day.

Frank G – Regional forum

- Frank brings up his topic on the Regional Forum with is AA's Singleness of Purpose and Tolerance of other Maladies. Frank advises on how important that we do not throw away our singleness of purpose. Frank says that he is willing to talk with any group and research any topic on the principles at any time.

Upcoming Events

DCM Meeting on October 8th at 10:30 am at COGF with Officer's Planning Meeting at 1:30pm
State Convention planning meeting on November 4th.

Assembly will be December 10th in Chillicothe. A special room rate is available for December \$105.
Mention "Area 53" when making the reservation.

Ask-It-Basket

Instead of designating counties into different districts, why can't we have a neighboring district adopt or foster the dark district and groups?

Ed A – Some districts welcome groups from dark districts to see how a lit district operates. This will be brought up at the Area Planning Committee meeting.

Motion to Close the Meeting.

Marcia H. Motions to Close, Joel K. Seconds. Unanimous Approval.

Close Meeting – Responsibility Statement