

**Draft Minutes**  
**Area 53 Virtual Assembly**  
**March 14, 2021, 1:00 pm**

**Opening of Meeting – 1:00 pm - (Ann B.)**

- Call to Order and (We Version) Serenity Prayer 1:00
- Zoom Housekeeping , Kayla K, Alt Web Admin.
- Chair Announced “Ask it Basket” for questions to be answered at end of Assembly.
- Twelve Concepts (Short Form), Read by Kathy B.
- Attendance – 63 Attending. See Registrar Report for Roll Call
- Agenda – Reviewed with no objections.
- December Assembly Minutes Review and Approval  
**Motion** - To Approve Minutes, (Diann N / Brenda B) Vote: Acclamation  
Thank you Martha C. for your service during Panel 69

**Officers Reports**

- Delegate (Donna K.) Submitted Attached Written Report  
Also: Now have Secretaries Reports from Mini-Conference and invite GSRs and other members to contact her if they wish to use these to share information with their groups.

Question: Chair asked: If member wants to give input re: conf agenda ,  
Answer – Send e-mail to [Delegate@area53aa.org](mailto:Delegate@area53aa.org)

- Chairperson (Ann B.) Submitted Attached Written Report
- Secretary (Chris J.) Submitted Attached Written Report
- Treasurer (Tom D.) Submitted, Attached 3 Written Reports  
These are: 2020 Final, 2021-Q1, and Finance Committee Reports

Tom Emphasized that 2021 contributions are down significantly when compared to 2020 Year to Date. We are functioning in very uncertain situation. Uncertainty points to caution related to considerations of dispensing excess funds.

Question - Jeremy, CFC Chair, asked about his previously submitted request for 1<sup>st</sup> half of Correctional Facilities Committee Line Item?  
Answer - Tom, asked for e-mail request with payee information so he has documentation.

Question: Joel asked about where to get reports? It's not on the website.  
Answer: Tom stated that he had not sent to Web team. Chris stated that it had been included in the Pre-Assembly e-mail sent to Panel and GSRs,  
Question - Cherie stated that previously, it had been suggested that groups send money to GSO because Area didn't need it. Asking whether groups should now return to sending contributions to Area?  
Answer – Donna stated that this is a Group Conscience decision. Treasurer's Reports for 2020 did show a substantial surplus, but so far in 2021, contributions are lower than budgeted. GSRs can inform their groups of this situation so that those groups can make a decision according to their Group

Conscience. Frank pointed out that Mark E., Regional Trustee reported Friday evening that GSOs 2020 contributions were way up, meaning the situation there is no longer dire.

Tom pointed that a lot of things happened between Dec Assy and end of year. He believes that Reports should be made on quarterly basis with cut-off date documented rather than on an Assembly to Assembly basis.

Question - Donna, Delegate, Asked if \$3000 budgeted has been sent to GSO?

Answer - 2 checks sent \$1800 for Delegate Expenses to Conference and and \$1200 additional.

**Motion** - To accept Treasurer's Report as Presented (Joe M. / Diann N-H)

Vote: Acclamation

- Registrar (Dan S.) Written Report Attached  
Roll Call included in Dan's Report

Question: Frank G., Past Delegate, asked , If he, as an acting DCM, needs to send updated info for Group Primary Contacts who are not GSRs.

Answer - Dan pointed out that Fellowship Connection database gives Read only access to DCMs. This will allow them to check this data more often. Chris J., Secretary emphasized the importance of DCMs getting primary contact information for all groups to aid flow of niformation to the groups informed.

Question: Barbara M. asked if a person is able to give only an e-mail or phone number.

Answer: Dan stated that he needs an address in order to update a record on Fellowship Connection.

Question - Frank asked about sending copy of COGF change form to Area?

Answer – Chris stated that there are two lists. e-mails for Area Secretary to use in mailing info to from the Area to the group Representatives, and another list, of group information maintained by Dan in Fellowship connection. Dan stated that those making changes should use the appropriate form available on the website. [www.area53aa.org](http://www.area53aa.org)

- Web Administrator (Ed A.) Submitted Attached Written Report  
Brought website up on screen share and modeled how to access documents for the Assembly

Question - Chris J asked about looking at web service provider or plan that allows faster transfer rates?

Question - Cheryl asked about Standing Committee Minutes being posted?

Answer – Ed stated that posting them to committee pages is no problem if committee chairs e-mail them to him.

## **Standing Committee Reports**

- Accessibilities (Kathy B.) Submitted Attached Written Report

Question - Barbara asked about polling activities?

Answer - Kathy clarified that if another service entity is sending out any kind of questionnaire, her committee would like to add a questions or two to inquire about what we can do to assure that AA is accessible and available related to accessibilities.

Question - Becky asked about “funding for interpreters” expressed concern about \$\$ from outside  
Answer - Kathy clarified that there is funding available for individuals who are deaf from outside agencies that they qualify for to have interpreters for whatever activities they are involved with? Hence, AA isn’t accepting anything, just becoming aware of resources our members might access. The funding or support relationship is between the member and the outside organization.

- Archives (Teri G.) Submitted Attached Written Report
- Cooperation with the Professional Community / Public Information - (Stacia Y.) Submitted Attached Written Report

In addition to written report,

1. Meet 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays 1-2pm on Zoom info on Area53 website
2. Two PI events tentatively scheduled for Nov, if Health guidelines suggest it is wise to proceed.

- Correctional Facilities (Jeremy R.) Verbal report with these highlights  
CFC still trying to fill some positions, no alternates.  
Members still not able to get inside state prisons.  
CFC tabled discussion of getting Grapevines inside until more info available  
There will be no CFC Workshop due to COVID.

Question - Chris asked whether information he’d sent the CFC for distribution was sent out?  
Answer - Jeremy said that these items had not been sent out but would be.

- Grapevine (Taffy J.) Verbal report with Highlights  
Moving to 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday each month. Info on Area 53 website  
Elected new Secretary for Grapevine Committee  
Purchased Grapevine Complete Subscription for the Committee  
Reached out to Treatment Facilities Committee, considering  
Excited to have some new GVRs joining committee.
- Group Services (Stephen S.) Submitted Attached Written Report

Question - Cheryl S. asked about GSR School section on website?

Answer - Stephen clarified that committee is talking about how what we’ve been doing can be improved by employing website.

- Intergroup Liaison (Barbra M.) Submitted Attached Written Report  
Intergroup Liaison Meetings not regularly scheduled, E-mail Barbara for schedule of next mtg.
- Mini Conference (Diann N.) Verbal w/ highlights  
All sub-committees did wonderful job, thank you!  
153 Registrants.  
Informative discussions took place to support our Delegate.  
Follow-up survey form/poll will be forthcoming.

Question - Frank expressed Concern that through years, there is less and less time for discussion and presentation of Agenda items. Think it's important for future planning to create more time for committee discussions as well as Mini Conf.

Answer - Diann stated that it was challenging to know how virtual formats would affect the process?

Comment – Kathy B. Thanked committee. This was her 1<sup>st</sup> Mini-Conference. She feels better informed about how to share info about the Mini-Conference going forward.

Question - Brandi asked about attendance?

Answer - Diann said max was Saturday night, about 68

- Treatment Facilities (Alison B.) Submitted Attached Written Report  
Allison stated that the committee is trying to get a good list of treatment facilities within Area 53. Tony suggested she contact ADAMH boards in Dif. Counties. to get lists of treatment facilities.

Comment - Frank emphasized that members don't need Area consent to go into a Facility, although acknowledges that work can be more effective when part of the We.

Response - Allison stated that members don't need permission, Treatment Facilities Committee serves to provide back up.

#### **District & Group Reports (Nicholas B., DCMC) Submitted Attached Written Report**

D4 - Crystal G. Report Attached

Of particular interest, since last Assembly, a group within the district had a challenge with someone openly carrying a firearm in the meeting. No one knew how to handle this. Group members met with the church and found that a person's right to carry a firearm within a church is dependent on whether there is a sign posted prohibiting firearms on the property. Some churches where groups are meeting have such signs but not all.

D8/9 - Beth R., Report attached

D11 -Cherie B., Alternate DCM. Report attached.

The Way Out Group, Mikayla, GSR. Report attached

D12 - Frank G., Acting DCM. Verbal Report.

District has replaced the Clark Co. Directory with a tri-fold with info for Meeting Guide App, Area 53 , COGF, and phone numbers of some local members.. COVID impact had made it difficult to keep the Directory up to doate.

Tom D. believes a lot of issues with service attributable to COViD. Hope to get back on track later this year.

D15 - Joel K. DCM.

Four counties, Meetings going back and forth, Zoom, Face to Face and back again. Hybrids not working out. Open question to groups re how District can serve groups during COVID / Lockdown? Currently meet on Zoom but actively looking for another space.

Woodsfield Group, Gary K, GSR. Only group in Monroe Co, Meett 2x per wk 8pm Zoom Late Dec opened Friday mtg at new facility Woodsfield, COC 7pm Big Book study both nights.

Byesville BYOB, Shawn T., GSR. Byesville, BYOB About 20 ppl / wk, F2F Stopped zoom months ago, following guidelines set by church.

Barlow Hand in Hand, Sharon F. Acting GSR Meet 2 times per week, One in person (crowded) , One on Zoom, Internet availability poor in some parts of the district, challenges connecting willing members to Zoom meetings due to rural internet probs Want area to consider mailing minutes to them. Returning to county jail, with limited attendance

GPS Group, Belfrey, Matt P. GPR. A lot of folks from across river. Live mtg 10-25 folks. Group Require masks at Belfrey Hts UM Church. Got loose with policy and discussed in mtg. 1 person got up and left. Also a Zoom mtg.

Question: Jeremy, CFC Chair asked about Jail meeting re-opening?  
Washington County.

D16 - Debbie R., DCM

Meetings Daily, 5 groups, Mix of face to face, Zoom, and hybrid formats. Attendance varies 3-25. Friday night grp meets in multiple rooms. District has activated PI Comm. to aid in keeping schedules up to date during time of COVID related scheduling challenges.

D17 - Stan B.

Three Counties, six groups, but only 2 are meeting, 1 face to face, , 1 on Zoom.

Pleasant Valley been meeting on Zoom, 30-40 in attendance, including people from around US and Australia. People attending who've been through 12 steps and have never been to a face to face meeting.

D18 - Barbara M. Report Attached

All Chillicothe meetings in person. Many don't use masks. Circleville has a couple meetings where they do wear masks.

Barb will be rotating out this summer.

Studying concepts at District Meeting

D22 - Heather R. DCM. Written Report Attached

Watch Area Calendar for Sober Saturday Events!

Avery Road Group, Shirley, GSR. Meet Face to Face and on Zoom.

Bike Ride April 24<sup>th</sup>.

D26 - Deborah P., DCM Report Attached.

Also reporting on behalf of Women in Sobriety and Serenity. Currently Zoom Format, 10-25ppl.

After Work Group. Julie, GSR Group meets Tues 6pm with Literature format.

Northeast Discussion Group, Jason . Just reopend , informed cogf. So far just home grp members coming.

#### D28. Written Report Attahced.

Plug in the Jug, Kelly C. GSR. Currently on Zoom. Had met at Holy Name but turning keys into church. So will be looking for a new location.

BYOC Fellowship, Tony B., GSR. Launched. on Zoom, off-shoot of worthington All Virtual grop Have a sponsorship list, GC discussing Future of Grp

Clintonville Big Book, Chris J. Outgoing GSR. Group to discuss return to face to face at next group business meeting.

Grant Us the Laughter, Kayla, Outgoing, GSR, Church still shutdown. Looking at face to face. Maybe Hybrid? Church offered outdoor option.

Lodestar, Ian Lodestar Group meeting on Zoom. Discussing return to face to face.

#### D30 No Report.

Monday Night Steps and Traditions, Cheryl. Meeting on Zoom, Tried hybrid in fall. Didn't work well. Discussing returning to face to face. Group is paying church to hold our spot.

D33 Margaret, DCM, District covers J. Bexley, Near East , Short No, Downtown. Most Groups on Zoom, with only a couple in person. Most GSRs have stepped down. Currently only 1 GSR.

#### D34 No Report

Three Legacies, ,Erica C., GSR. Meet Sunday at 7, Vote in next group business meeting to host a Hybrid Assembly meeting to encourage unity.

### **Unfinished Business**

- Proposed Guideline Change: Archives (presented by Teri G./Archives Chair)  
**Motion** (Archives Comm.)  
That the Assembly Consider, at our next meeting, making the proposed Change (attached)  
Passed by Acclamation.

### **New Business**

- No new business.

### **Ask-It-Basket**

1. Has the Area considered mailing minutes and other documents.  
Yes. Chris J., Secretary pointed out that we need to re-learn how to do this, He has no experience with mail= merge etc...for label creation.
2. Would Mini-Conference Committee be open to comping registration for interpreters assisting members at Mini Conference?  
Diann stated that the planning committee would need to consider this idea.

**Upcoming Events** - See Area Calendar for details ([area53aa.org/events](http://area53aa.org/events))

- State Convention Aug 20-22, hosted by Area 55
- Area 53 Rap Sessions, Weekly, beginning March 22 at 7:30 pm
- Area 56 Mini-Conference, March 19-21

**Motion to Close** (Diann, / Joel) Passed by acclamation.

**Closed Meeting** at approximately 4:10PM with Responsibility Statement