

Area 53 Virtual Assembly
Hosted on Zoom w/ Remote Face to Face Meeting Rm. At Hoge Presb. Church
Minutes – June 6, 2021 10:00 am

Opening of Meeting – 10:00 am - (Marcia H., Alternate Chairperson serving as Chair)

- Call to Order and (We Version) Serenity Prayer
- Zoom Housekeeping -- Barbara P reminded members of Zoom etiquette, muting, how to vote, etc..
- Twelve Concepts – read by Joe M., Alt Secr.
- Agenda Review
MOTION: Approve agenda as presented. (Joe M / Nicholas B., DCMC); Passed, Acclamation
- March Assembly Minutes (Chris J., Secr) - Review & Approval
MOTION: Approve Mar. mins as presented. (Nicholas B/Joel K, DCM16); Passed, Acclamation

Officers Reports

- Delegate (Donna K.) - **Delegate Report on the 2021 General Service Conference**
See Attached Report.
Additional Information as follows
 - Financials: Linda Chisolm, General Service Board Chairperson, presented financial information highlighted as follows:
 - 2020 Seventh Tradition Contributions to GSO, \$10.26M This is up from \$8.86M in 2019, Majority of Contributions were from Individuals
 - AAWS Literature Sales Gross Profit was down, \$2.3M, less than 2019. Net Income \$2.1M, less than 2019.
 - Grapevine Gross Profit was \$1.2 M, Net loss after expenses of \$298,700 compared to loss of \$27,000 in 2019
 - General Reserve Fund at 7.9 Months
 - New East Central Regional Trustee was elected, Kathy C. from Indiana. (follows Mark E.)
 - General Service Office has a new General Mgr., Robert W., Past Trustee At Large
 - Opening for a new AAWS Non-Trustee Director
 - Opening for a new Grapevine Non-Trustee Director
 - Opening for a new Grapevine Publisher, Albin retired April 2021

Please contact me if you would like a Delegates Report at your Group, District or Committee
Delegate contact: Email: delegate@area53aa.org Phone: 614-446-4433.

Question: (Bill F., Past Del/Past Trustee) Was there any discussion or date set for Membership Survey?,

Answer: This issue was raised as an additional consideration but no recommendation.

Question: Was 2020 one of the best years ever for Group or Member Contributions?

Answer: Probably largest ever for Individual Contributions.

Question: Are you looking forward to these new quarterly conferences with the General Service Board (GSB) ? Do you think they will help?

Answer: Yes, these should help us get information out to our areas more quickly. We won't have to wait for Regional Trustee Reports to get up to date with what's going on with GSO and the GSB.

Question: (Frank G., Past Del) I understand literature sales and contributions were down, but what about total expenses? Are those also down?

Answer: (Donna K. Delegate) There was a large savings on expenses due to no travel, savings of \$1.1M.

Question: (Bill S., Past Del) Can you explain simply, the reason for discussions of censure of General Service Board?

Answer: (Donna K. Delegate) After last year's Conference, a letter was sent by a Delegate to all Delegates expressing several concerns about GSB actions, Among these were frustrations with last year's General Service Conference and Legal actions taken regarding the manuscript of the big book without prior consent from Delegates.

Point of Information: The 2021 Conference did not recommend to censure the GSB.

Question: (Joe M.) Is there concern about majority of contributions coming from individuals, rather than groups?

Answer: (Donna K.) Expect this is a one-year event resulting from COVID. GSO had asked for contributions due to the large financial hit when funds had to be set aside in the Retirement Fund because several office staff retired at one time.

- Update on Ohio State Convention Planning
The Ohio State Convention will be a virtual event, hosted by A55, Aug 21-22.
This is a free event but A55 is requesting online Registration.
Kathy C., new East Central Regional Trustee, is expected to attend.
- Chairperson (Ann B.) – See attached report
Marcia H., Alternate Chairperson serving as Chair, presented Ann's report
Marcia, invited e-mail or text with any questions.
- Secretary (Chris J.)
Requested an opportunity to meet with tech team to discuss how website forms for GSR and DCM reports might be revised to streamline incorporation into a consolidated report for the minutes.
- Treasurer (Tom D.) – See attached report (reflects corrections)
Corrected a couple typo/errors on submitted report,
Contributions are improving versus Q1.
Expenses are way down, largely due to savings of Delegate Expenses.
Postal and Supply likely to increase with PO Box due, etc...
Archives Line item increased at April ACM to \$500.
Corrections – Received \$100 that was earmarked for CFC.
Funds available \$19,400 but not likely to have nearly so much as budgeted due to continued Zoom Mtgs., and savings, etc.
MOTION: To Accept Treasurer's Report with Corrections (Donna K./Dan S.) Passed by Acclamation.
- Web Administrator (Ed A.) - See Attached Report
Ed thanked Kayla K., Alternate Web Administrator, for her many contributions to the website.
- Registrar (Dan S.) – See attached report.
Roll Call
55 members in attendance, representing twelve (12) service positions
16 % in person at Hoge Memorial Church with remainder attending via Zoom.
Attendance Includes

3 Area Alt Area Officers	1 DCMC
1 Alternate Delegate	1 Delegate
4 Officers	7 Past Delegates (a record?)
1 Alternate DCM	1 Past ECR Trustee
8 DCMs	

Question: (Barbara M., Intergroup Liaison) In updating group contacts, I notice a "mail contact" in addition to GSR and Alt GSR, Is this the way to get GSO mailings to groups who don't have someone willing to be a GSR?

Answer: (Dan S., Registrar) Yes, GSO wants to keep lines of communication open with groups for sending box 459 etc. Expect mailings will be similar to what's mailed to GSRs but there may be some things specific to GSR? (i.e. GSR Kit w/ lots of literature)

Donna K. added that, at this year's General Service Conference, Delegates voted to recommend online groups be recognized as regular AA groups in the service structure. The physical address would be based on that of the person holding the online account.

Dan stated that the question still remains; How that group connects to the General Service Structure? Pointed to an A53 Ad Hoc Comm. report to be presented in Area Comm Mtg in July.

1. Standing Committee Reports

- Accessibilities (Kathy B.) See Attached Report

Suggestion (Chris J): It might be desirable to reach out to disability groups in cooperation with CPC/PI committee.

Question (Dan S., Registrar) You mentioned funding for the deaf community. How does that relate to our 7th Trad of Self-Support?

Answer (Kathy B., Access. Chair) Funding would not be directly to AA but rather, to the individual with us asking them what other resources they are aware of that could provide for interpreters?

- Archives (Teri G.) See Attached Report

- Archivist (Frank G.)

Gave verbal report as follows

Studying Workbook. Appreciate work done by Archives Comm. to this point. Recognize that there is large amount of special knowledge required to function effectively.

- CPC/PI (Stacia Y.) See Attached Report

Chairperson absent but CPC/PI Report was submitted and is available on Area Website

- Correctional Facilities (Brandi V., Correspondence Rep, serving as Alt Chair)

Met Yesterday Saturday, June 5 in hybrid format. Next meeting will be in person only.

Some prisons reopening, Contact Chris J re: Madison,

Franklin County Corrections Center discontinuing Zoom and opening up soon.

Ample supply of literature.

Saturday Approved. \$2686.05, Add'l available \$15380.41

Shelves Falling down with the load

Need GIRs to come to Sept meeting at COGF

Operating balance \$236. Requesting second half of our line item.

UPCOMING EVENT. Nov 12-14, 2021. Nat' Corrections Conf., New Orleans

- Grapevine (Taffy J.) See attached report.

Upcoming event, Heard it Through the Grapevine Story Hour, Flyer Available

Taffy announced new GV book, Free on The Inside featuring stories of incarcerated members.

Brandi V. said this book is being added to list of literature available from CFC to inside groups.:

Bill F. Pointed out that July is annual Prison Issue for GV. Gives members a sense of the gratitude of Inside Members

- Group Services (Stephen S.) See attached report
- Intergroup Liaison (Barbra M.) See attached report.

Question: (Joe M.) How are intergroups other than COGF are doing?

Answer: Barbara stated that Newark is temporarily closed due to restrictions where they rent. The other four intergroups are doing fine.

Question: (Erica C., GSR Three Legacies) Can you confirm that Newark Intergroup closed? Where are members who relied on Newark Intergroup being directed?

Answer. Barbara stated that their website has meeting schedule and calls being re-routed to COGF

Question: (Maria, GSR Women's Sobriety and Serenity) We are not having success with questions related to COGF Membership Meeting Schedule.

Ans. Barbara stated that she is directing this Q to COGF?

Question: (Erica C.) How do Intergroups get started? What's the process?

Answer: Barbara, we were able to start because of Int'd AA who recognized the need, Springs up out of recognized need. This recognition must come from that local AA community.

- Mini Conference (Diann N.) See attached report.

Question: (Joe M.) How can we get more GSRs involved in Mini-Conference?

Answer: (Diann N.) Important question to be discussed in planning committee but must be a corporate effort from the area in general.

Question: (Chris J) Is there discussion within committee re: weekend-long format for Mini-Conference? Is the most effective way to engage groups in the purpose of sharing information and getting a sense of group conscience?

Answer: This will be discussed in depth at next planning meeting. Encourage all interested to attend.

Question: (Brandi V.) How many attended this year's Mini-Conference?

Answer: 68,

Question: Expressed concern re: rating speakers? Feels this is rude.

Answer: Apologize, did not intend to be rude,. Ratings questions asked to determine effectiveness of speaker and how we can do better?

Question: (Erica C.) Whos responsibility is it to determine venue or make decisions regarding next Mini Conference

Answer: Planning responsibility is with Mini Conf Comm. Committee meetings are well publicized on Area Website.

Question: (Jean S., Past Del) Did I understand that neither Deer Creek nor Salt Fork is available?

Answer: Salt Fork is available.

Question: (Madeline H., Past Del) It is being reported that 55% of participants were Area Officers or Committee Chairs. Very Concerned that most comments are from Delegates, Past Delegates, Officers. Concerned about getting back together to get our Area more unified.

Ans. Graph was respondents to survey, not the attendees.

Chair encouraged anyone with additional questions to attend the June 9th Mini Conf Meeting.

- Treatment Facilities (Sam K.) See attached report.

Question: (Sharon F., Past Del) How to connect the transitional housing unit in Marietta area?
Answer: First, we need to determine whether it is an Ohio Correctional Facility? TFC does not serve such facilities. CFC does.

Point of Information: Transitional Control facilities are under contract with DRC to help people transition out of prison who are still in custody of DRC. In Transitional Control, people are not free to come and go. In a halfway house, persons may be on parole or probation but are not in custody of DRC.

Question: (Barbara B., Alt Reg) Aware of a facility where they say there are several meetings but they are not registered. Would like TFC reps to meet with the Director to help them become better informed.

Answer: Sam and Brenda agreed to work together on this.

Question: (Joe M.) Are there AA meetings at the VA?

Answer: Sam, stated that there are AA meetings at the VA.

LUNCH BREAK

2. **District & GSR Reports (Nicholas B., DCMC)** See Attached written reports. Verbal reports below.

D12,

(Frank G.) No Actual DCM but GSRs do meet. Developed Trifold pointing people to Meeting Finder and Phone #s for Hotlines, etc..

Largest Meeting at Covenant Church just reopened.

D 15,

(Kerry, Woodfield Grp) Zoom on Tuesday, 7pm Friday. Plan Anniversary Picnic Sat Aug 14.

(Shawn, GSR, Byesville BYOBB) Pretty much back to normal, masks and social distancing are waning.

D22

(Greg, Into the Solution) Back to meeting in Person,. Thanked Heather for her efforts bringing life into the district.

D26,

(Jason, Grp???) Back to In person with masks and soc distancing, meeting outside when possible.

District Event: Sun, July 18th 10-2, Friendship Park BYO Picnic.

D28

(Tony, BYOB Morning Fellowship) Fully on Zoom M-F 7am sat 8am. Attendance 50-80. Newcomers showing up and celebrating some anniversaries of sobriety.

(Ian, Lodestar) Still meeting on Zoom, 7pm Step and Traditions meeting. Would like to go Hybrid but church is not open to allowing non-church activities.

D30

(Cheryl, Mon Night Steps and Traditions) Big topic is when returning to church?

3. Unfinished Business

- Proposed Guideline Change: Archives (presented by Teri G./Archives Chair) See Attachement

Was voted out of ACM in Jan, presented in March and presented today for Approval?
Motion (Diann / Joe M) Acclamation

4. New Business

- Item 1: Request to financially support the expenses for three people to attend the National AA Archives Workshop in 2021

Teri G. I have put together a budget, for 2-3 people to attend NAAAW 2021. This event is specifically for purpose of teaching skills and responsibilities of Archivists and others working with archival collections. Teri shared the agenda for event. Proposal seeks to maximize this opportunity. 2 tracks within event make it impossible for one person to attend all of the training sessions.

Discussion followed with following perspectives.

- Is it necessary that three people go?
- Three would be ideal to help the committee get some traction.
- In the past one person has attended, sharing information upon return.
- Sending more than one provides for rotation and backup. We have saved money in the past, and now this is a good use. Looks forward to hearing what participants bring back
- Past intergroup archivist has attended two times and found event very beneficial.

MOTION: To approve \$3300 for sending people to Archives Workshop. (Greg G. / Kerry K.)

- Question of possibility of one person attending and Zooming, recording etc..?
- Setting up Zoom Tablet would require permission and tech skills of the person in attendance.
- Teri G., Archives Comm Chair committed that information would be reported out at ACM and any requested workshops.
- Line Item? Deferred to Tom D. Edit line item 27, Archives. Or create another line item?
- Believe, it is reasonable to question prudence of sending three but in Panel 69 we put together an ad-hoc to strengthen archives efforts, We have established a committee, but there's a lot we don't know. Hence, it would be beneficial to send at least two ppl. This is the year to invest in a quality archives because we have a surplus.
- Donna, Concern for sending more than 1 because we need to preserve funds to re-activate other standing committees. It is time to get back to what areas do.
- One member shared her memories of how CFC started, would get together in cars and drive down. Wonders why nothing available via zoom. Any other avenue?
- No info that hybrid option available. Will inquire?

Called the Question, (Diann N., Alt Del./Cheryl ?) Vote (20:3)

VOTE ON THE MOTION (23:11)

Minority Opinion

- Concerned that we will have a higher line item for Archivist than for Delegate, fear that people will stand for position to get the paid trip.
- Appreciate points made in favor, but in terms of budget, while we have an overage now, the fact that things are opening up suggests we will be spending more later this year.

- Treasurer suggested, create a line item for education so it does not become a recurring expense.
- if it's not necessary, let's not do it.
- Concerns regarding accuracy of the count? Was stated, then corrected.

Ask if anyone voting in the affirmative wants to change vote? Hands raised.

Motion to Reconsider: Passed.

Discussion continued

- Compromise at sending two people?
- Suggestion to approve the \$Amt without stipulation of number of persons to attend, Let members of the Archives Committee decide.
- Some would like to see more precise budget.
- Not practical to bring back in September because of flight scheduling, room etc...
- One archives member stated be willing to accept partial reimbursement . Distance makes driving impractical. Airfares are high because of fuel costs. Etc...
- One member felt that Archives Committee proposed, and this body is getting involved in micromanagement when we do not know what the committee needs? Need to trust the groups to provide what we need.

Teri, Unsure how to proceed forward?

Point of Order: Motion arises from committee deliberation, Teri should feel free to amend motion.

REVISED MOTION One time line item for \$2000 to support expenses for National Archives Workshop allowing committee to spend judiciously. (Teri / Dan)

Point of Order: Amended motion changing dollar amount and documenting on a separate line item.

MOTION: This motion replace original motion. Passed (32/0)

Discussion on Amended Motion

- Why would we not put that into the Archives Comm line item to be transparent?
- Treasurer stated that he expects to see it labeled and does not expect it to be recurring cost to operate the archives.
- This is similar to Delegate having separate line items for Delegate Expenses and Conference expenses.
- Event represents a great informational resource and important source of training for aspiring archivists. Also believe in supporting our other committees that want to do things.
- Past Treasurer stated putting this expense in Archives is no concern because budget reconsidered every year
- Treasurer made a suggestion, Let him handle as he wishes
- Would like to see other committees bring budget requests to assembly

Called The Question (Ed / Donna)

MOTION: End Discussion? Passed (30:0)

Vote on the Motion Passed (30:2)

MOTION PASSED: Provide \$2000 to Archives Committee for travel expenses to NAAAW.

Item 2: Return to a face to face Assembly?

Brandi V., Alternate CFC Chair, expressed concerns that Area Committee is making decision regarding holding September Assembly on Zoom. Since government has lifted restrictions, she proposes that September Assembly be held at Hoge Memorial Presbyterian Church, 2930 W. Broad St., Columbus. Further proposes that GSRs bring potluck lunch since not many food outlets nearby. Hoge is a spacious facility with several air filters and regularly disinfected.

MOTION: That September 2021 Assembly be held in a face to face manner holding September in face to face forum at Hoge Memorial. (Brandi V., Alt CFC Chair / Bill F., Past Trustee)

Discussion with the following points of view shared:

- ACM voted in its January meeting that all 2021 meetings be Virtual.
- Concerns that question of a face to face Assembly be left for AC to decide.
- Choice of Zoom was in response to shut down. Now that restrictions lifted, why is this even a question for AC?
- Perhaps appropriate to ask unvaccinated to wear masks? CDC suggests vaccinated people are free to meet but that unvaccinated should continue to wear masks and/or social distance.
- If we tried to require masks, we would be performing an act of government. (Concept XII)
- Could make a recommendation that would go to Area Committee but that the questions of revised ways of operating a meeting still need to be considered in light of current recommendations.
- It is not appropriate to ask folks if vaccinated? Is there a hybrid option?
- Assembly supersedes the Area Committee so the decision resides with the Assembly,
- Boils down to personal responsibility.
- Concept IV reminds us to consider members who are unable to attend, therefore favoring a hybrid meeting.
- Some members feel this is premature. Health Guidelines do not say, wide open meetings are ok. The ACM is the appropriate ad hoc to consider all points,
- Zoom gives us an opportunity to include people who cannot get to the meeting.
- Appreciate that Brandi came with a solution but we cannot iron out everything today. We can recommend but to many unanswered questions for us to decide today. Some like idea of ability to flex the plan as go forward
- Hybrid allows us to include those with accessibilities concerns.
- Friendly amendment was suggested. "recommend to AC that assembly be face to face" but not accepted by she who made the motion.
- Report was prepared after interviews with many panel members over the past couple months? Many are excited to get back together but not confident that the whole of us can be responsible about what it takes. Ultimate responsibility falls on the Chairperson and others elected to serve.
- Some feel that Area Committee does not vote on policy but only plans the agenda.
- Six hour meeting may require all to wear a mask because much different than going to the store.
- A large group of elected persons know more than a committee.
- Guidelines are clear. Area Committee serves as a steering committee for the Assembly. Suggest the word "recommend" be inserted in the motion.
- Some remember past Assembly locations being voted on at the Assembly.

MOTION PASSED: September 2021 Assembly be held in a face to face manner holding September in face to face forum at Hoge Memorial. (24:5)

Minority Opinion was shared but no member voting with the majority changed their vote.

5. **Ask-It-Basket – Ed. Amos**

A. Three Part

1. Why does MC Comm make decision on location of Mini Conference?
2. Why doesn't Assy Decide?
3. How can Assembly have more of a voice in this decision?

- Diann N., Alt Del and Mini Conf Comm Chair pointed out that meetings of the Mini-Conference Comm are well publicized, offering members the opportunity to voice opinions.
- The Assy delegates Authority and Responsibility to the Trusted Servants and the Committees. i.e. GSC has Delegates because not everyone can attend. Mini Conf Comm operates according to Area 53 Guidelines, Committee members are Trusted Servants.

6. **Upcoming Events** - See Area Calendar for details (area53aa.org/events)

7. **Close Meeting** – Responsibility Statement

After you give your report, please give this copy to the Area Recording Secretary

GSR REPORT for AREA 53 ASSEMBLY

Date: June 6, 2021

GSR Name ERICA CLAIN

District # 34

- Home Group Three Legged
 - Location Holymanhood Church
2930 W. Broad St, Col OH 43204
 - Meeting Time 7pm, Sundays
20 home group members
 - Format Closed,
Rotating Literature Discussion
 - Average Attendance 15-16
- Upcoming Events That Will Occur Before the Next Assembly

Dist 34 Live Assembly's Event, and
Other JBA.

- Issue or Concern your Home Group is having, or had, that you would like to share Our Homegroup HAS concern for how the Area
is conducting itself regarding
- Unity
- Outreach to members → existing + future
- some of the Annual General Conference votes on issues

I slept and dreamt
that life was joy.
I awoke and saw
that life was service.
I acted and behold,
service was joy.

- Group conscience is end of every weekly beg. March
- Contributions are quarterly, and $\frac{1}{2}$ as per vote.
- There are 11 Service positions filled
- NO upcoming group events outside Weekly Live Meetings
- Keep coming back.