

Area 53 Assembly (Hybrid Format)
Agenda – September 12, 2021 10:00 am

Meeting Locations:

Hoge Memorial Presbyterian Church | 2930 W Broad St, Columbus, OH 43204
And Area 53 Virtual Meeting Room on Zoom

1. Opening of Meeting – 10:00 am - (Ann B. Called meeting to Order)

- Call to Order and (We Version) Serenity Prayer
- Zoom Housekeeping and Announcements f “How to Vote” etc..)

Marcia H. (Alt Chair) assumed the Chair for the morning session.

- Twelve Concepts (Barbara M)
- * Additional Announcement. (Ann B., Chair) Columbus Mayor Exec. Order Requiring Masks in indoor meeting places. We request that all members comply.
- Present Agenda

- June Assembly Minutes (Chris J.) - Review & Approval
The June Draft Minutes were presented for approval.

Question: (Joel K., DCM 15) Regarding Item 2 Return to Face to Face Assembly? Concern that some points as presented in the draft minutes were not actually from the June discussion of this motion but rather from discussions which occurred at the July Area Committee Meeting,

Additional objection (Madeline H, Past Delegate stated that many of the points are statements of personal opinion.

Secretary (Chris J) stated that he is willing to investigate and make corrections but that he had made a good faith effort to accurately summarize the discussion. Chris further suggested a motion to table approval of the minutes.

MOTION TO TABLE MINUTES (Madeline / Donna)

Vote: 45 Yea / 2 Nay

2. Officers Reports

- Delegate (Donna K.) Written Report Attached

Question: (??) Regarding the Plain Language Big Book recommended at the 71st General Service Conference, Who decides what is plain language?

Donna replied that the Intent is for the book to be 5th grade reading level.

Question: Process for the General Service Office deciding to stay closed when other public venues are open?

Answer?

Question: Why was e-mail from the GSR in Area 61 re Preamble sent out?

Donna, Had heard from many people who were dissatisfied with that conference action. A decision of the Conference can still be addressed by later action.

- Chairperson (Ann B.) Written Report Attached

The Chair received several questions and comments related to the Area Committee decision to provide for both Face to Face and Zoom attendance at this meeting after the Area Assembly had voted for a face to face event.

Answer: (Ann B, Chair) It is the responsibility of Area Committee to plan Assemblies (p S36 of Service Manual.) The Area Committee planned this Assembly, with input from those in attendance at the June Assembly.

A contentious discussion followed with several comments being made both in opposition to and support of the Area Committee's decision in this matter. After a reminder of the importance of Unity, we moved on.

- Secretary (Chris J.) No Report
- Treasurer (Becky R., Alt Treasurer) Written Report Attached
Becky shared the year-to-date budget information.
MOTION: Accept report (JOE M / STACIA Y)
(40 YEA / 0 NAY)
- Web Administrator (Ed A.) Written report attached
- Registrar (Dan S.) Written report attached
Question: (Mark C. Sober in Place) Wondering about a District for online groups?
Answer: (Dan) This topic will be discussed in the Report of an Ad Hoc Committee in New Business.

3. Standing Committee Reports

- Accessibilities (Kathy B.) Written Report Attached
- Archives (Teri G.) Written Report Attached
Question: (Heather R, DCM 22) Questioned use of a basement for the temporary Archives Sort Site?

Answer: (Teri. Stated that storage space has dehumidifier and shelving unit to keep things off floor, Most items in plastic boxes, Archival boxes on order, Taking care to keep things moving along so we don't have any issues with moisture. Also, this is a temporary work site which gives the committee more room to sort than at COGF.

Heather offered suggestion not to store in plastic tubs and to share more info.
- Archivist (Frank G.) Verbal Report
NAAAW Conference Canceled
- CPC/PI (Stacia Y.) Verbal Report
Upcoming Event, this coming Wednesday. Need Volunteers. Contact Stacia.
- Correctional Facilities (Jeremy R.) Verbal Report
Met in person, about 20 in attendance
Some state facilities open
Franklin Medical needs volunteer (Brandi)
Franklin County Corrections Center. back to meeting on Zoom
Contributions to CFC are down. Concerned as facilities reopen.

- Grapevine (Taffy J.) Written Report Attached
Added that there is a new GV Book on Prayer and Meditation, should be available at COGF soon.
- Group Services (Stephen S.) Written Report Attached
- Intergroup Liaison (Barbra M.) Written Report Attached
- Mini Conference (Diann N.) Verbal Report
Decision was previously made to hold March 2022. Planning for in person.

Question: Joe , Asked if there will be Hybrid or Zoom options?
Diann invited Joe to attend Comm Mtg Wed.
- Treatment Facilities (Sam K.) Written Report Attached
Correction to written report, will meet in October, not September.

4. District & GSR Reports

- DCMC (Nicholas B) Written report attached
Nine (9) DCMs at the morning DCM Meeting.

Reporting Districts and GSRs (Barbara P, Alt DCMC moderator)

D4, Crystal G. - Written Report Attached

D11, Barbara P, Written Report Attached

Several mtgs w/in district have closed for good.

Chili Cookoff / wear costumes. Chili must arrive by 5pm. Marcia to speak.

D12, Frank G,

Supporting a Recovery Center.

Active outreach to professionals including appt. with an MD in coming week.

D15, Joel K.

Working to get Standing Comms Active.

To Promote Service, Hosting Workshop, AA As A Whole. On October 18th

D15 Groups: GPS Belprey, Matt P; Barnesville, Koel D; Byesville BYOB, Shawn, T; Woodsfield, Joel K; Hand in Hand Grp., Marlene D (written report attached)

D16, Athens County, Debbie R.

Created new meeting and phone lists. Working on District Website.

D19, Clinton and Highland Counties, Bob S.

Recently had a dinner dance, and Bonfire. Groups meeting mostly in person with some hybrid. Some Zoom only as well. Upcoming event, October 9th, Bonfire.

D21, Scioto and Lawrence Co., Chris B. Written Report Attached

Only concerns are that facilities are limiting capacity in response to COVID. Fall picnic being planned for Sept 25., 2 Speakers. Discussing Creating a shared Zoom Acct for more than one mtg to use with same Zoom login info.

D21 Groups, Ironton, ; Menford Hope Grp.; 12and12; Shawnee Group; Portsmouth Nooner, Don K.; Portsmouth United Grp; Sarah,

D22, Hilliard, Dublin, Heather R

District participation growing. Now 7 GSRs meet Hybrid. Only concern was about Preamble Change

Hilliard Sobriety Group, Shirley; New Beginnings, Jo A; Hosting Fifth Tradition Workshop, Scioto Park BYO Lunch, and folding chair.; Greg, Into the Solution

D26, Whitehall, Reynoldsburg, Gahanna, New Albany and Westerville, Deborah P.
Alkathon planning is current topic of District Meetings.

D26 Groups: Laura, Westerville Women's Recovery Grp. Only concern is question of how to provide babysitting?; Blair, Rise and Shine Grp., Written Report Attached; Women's Sobriety and Serenity, Maria, Had started in person Aug 4th at but Group Conscience has decided to resume meeting on Zoom due to the surge in COVID cases.

D28 Ben K.

Hosting "AA in the Information Age" event Oct 16th at Whetstone Park, Panel Discussion, 3 old-comers and 3 new-timers. Flyer forthcoming.

D28 Groups: Tony, BYOCoffee Morning SIP Meeting, Organizing a bike ride, Sat, Oct 16, 1:30pm; Kelly, Plug in Jug, Lost meeting place so moved to new location -55 East Blake Av; Design For Living, Glenn; Sober In Place, Mark C, written report attached.

D30, Julia reporting for David F, DCM

D33, Margie J. See Written Report

D34, Kevin D,

Recently focused on getting ready to host today. Planning Game Day / Fun Day November 6th at Desert Island Club.

Three Legacies, Erica C. written report attached. Group Cons concerns about the present and future of AA outreach to those still suffering in and out of the rooms. Anniversary Nov 7th.

5. Old Business

- No Old Business

6. New Business

- Proposed Guideline Change #1: See Attachment

MOTION: (Area Comm.)

Consider Addition of Web Admin and Alt Web Admin to list officers (Article XII, Section 1)

Procedural Note: First presentation today so, will Vote to Consider. If approve to consider, GSRs will have an opportunity to take back to groups before vote to adopt at December Assembly.

Discussion

Frank asked if, given past problem of finding people to serve in this role. Is there discussion of making this a non-rotating position? Chair replied rotation would be outside scope of this change.

VOTE: (40yea, Unanimous)

- Proposed Guideline Change #2: See Attachment

MOTION: (Area Comm.)

Consider language change to remove provision for formation of an ad hoc nomination committee (Article XII, Section 3)

Discussion

Question: (Erica C., Three Legacies) Why have we not been practicing this guideline? Should we? What would it take to reinstate?

Comment: (Donna K, Delegate) Thinks it might be good to go around area and find more folks willing to Serve.

Comment: (Sharon F) Years ago we decided to do away with because it became too exclusive. Tried different approach of just asking people to stand. She recalls that this was voted on in an Assembly but cannot recall exactly when? She read 3rd Legacy procedure and affirmed her belief that this method works out well.

Comment: Madeline, recalls it was 2004 when stopped using Nominating Comm. Past practice was to talk to qualified members and let them know what jobs entail, But the process got complicated when an information form much like a resume was employed and Assembly said no. Important to be clear that nominations other than that of the nominating committee were also accepted. However, at this time we are not getting many folks to stand. Many members won't nominate themselves. Perhaps time to return to this practice?

Frank, (Past Del.) Need process of encouragement. Personal experience that he was encouraged by others to stand.

Bill S. (Past Del.). Two sides of coin. See no problem with keeping current guideline. Have encouraged others to run who turned out to be good officers. Also agree that service manual 3rd Leg procedure is fine

Chris J. (Secr.) Matters of Qualification should always be given serious consideration Nominating comm gives us best chance of having a person on ballot qualified to serve. Very Slippery slope to have something in the Guideline which we do not follow.

Stephanie, Maybe better to edit this Guideline so not a requirement but an option?

Vote (22 Yea, 26 Nay) Failed

- Report from Ad Hoc Committee on Virtual Only Group Registration

Dan read **Proposal to Add New District for Virtual-Only Groups (attached)**

Dan read **Recommendation to Add New Area for Virtual-Only Groups (attached)**

- December Assembly

Chair invited discussion but stated that we won't make a decision because the planning of the Assembly is the responsibility of the Area Committee.

Donna (Delegate) stated that the guidelines say Area Committee Plans the Agenda and asked where Chair finds statement suggesting they plan the Assemblies?

Chair Replied: Page S 36 of Service Manual “Assemblies are responsibility of the Area Committee and conducted by the Chairperson.”

Madeline (Past Del) read Area 53 Guidelines concerning Area Committee.

Chair stated that she has read through all Area 53 Assembly Minutes since 2010 and found 11 different Assembly references in minutes that point to Assembly planning being responsibility of Area Committee or Chairperson.

Bill S. (Past Del) The ambiguity in AA is what makes it work. The point is that this fellowship is so broad that we can have differences in opinion, guidelines and structure. Not rigid nor totally etched in stone. Found Confirmation that P S 44 of Svc Manual and p 4 of Guidelines point to Area Committee makes decisions

Ty pointed out that great care shall be taken no position of unqualified authority over others.

Chair stated that she'd been approached by several members requesting Zoom and . If you look at today's attendance (36 Zoom, 27, Face to Face and 9 in Hillsboro pod) it is plain that to take away either half, would yield half of an Assembly.

Stacia Y. (CPC-PI Chair) Does Tradition 4 apply here? Autonomy?

Taffy (Grapevine Chair) Reminded Assembly of prior motion to end assembly at 3pm and table any unfinished business.

Bill F, (Past Del) Spoke of a couple situations where area comm or gsc board had to exercise right of decision. area Chair used right of decision not to have an AC meeting due to an ice storm in interest of safety of members. Sometimes GSC voted for things that board could not do, i.e. didn't have funds or the time? i.e. Documents in French and Spanish at Conference. One time, GSC voted to censure the board of trustees and board voted not to approve that censure.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: (Taffy / Stephanie)

7. Ask-It-Basket

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

9. Close Meeting – Responsibility Statement

Delegate Report

Since our June assembly I have been in contact with numerous GSR's and DCM's regarding conference item decisions. August 28th I was invited to speak and give my conference report at District 22's picnic, it was wonderful to see so many people having a great time fellowshiping and enjoying the food.

I conducted a sharing session with our area officers discussing concept 10 and our scope and responsibilities for our positions in the area, some found the discussion helpful. I have scheduled a similar event with our DCM's, we will be having an informal sharing session and cookout at my home on October 2nd, all DCM's are welcome.

I was able to attend our Ohio State Convention in August. Area 53 will be hosting the Ohio State Convention for 2022. The convention will be held at Doubletree at Worthington August 5-7, 2022.

I have scheduled the first planning meeting to be held October 27th at 7:00 at 956 Bryden Rd Columbus, Ohio 43205. We need to get started on the planning for next year as we are having a live conference. All officers are to be part of the planning process, I would love to GSR's, DCM's and Committee chairs to also be apart of the planning process.

The 2021 General Service Conference Final Report is now available our area website, www.area53aa.org. Hardcopies of the report will be available late fall.

Happenings at GSO since the conference:

Our GSO is working on passed agenda items, below are some of the items that are being worked on and some announcements.

As a result of the Equitable Distribution Workload (EDW) – Agenda items with forms must be submitted by 9/15.

The newly revised Preamble placards and wallet cards are now available at www.aa.org under Whats New on AA.org.

The Remote Communities Service page will soon be available on the aa.org website. The page will include relevant literature and access to useful links for service work.

Literature: Twelve and Twelve soft copy will go to print with recent changes shortly; the GSO office is almost out of the soft copy books. There are a high number of hard copies of the Twelve and Twelve so it will be a while before these are printed with changes.

- Proposals have been submitted for the simple plain language Big Book
 - 70-100K expected cost of book
 - Navajo translation was 48K
 - Funds are expected to be replaced through sales. If sales are one million sold per year the cost would be covered, not sure if that many would sell that many of the simple plan language Big Book first year.
- Other Literature Items
 - Reduced shipping charges continue through October 18, 2021
 - CD sets of the Big Book with new recordings in English, French and Spanish are projected to be available around early October.
 - Our Great Responsibility eBook is projected to be available in October

- The brand new, fully revised A.A. Service Manual is projected to be available in digital format in November. (Expect print version to be delayed).
- Experiencia, Fortaleza y Esperanza (newly completed Spanish translation of the English-language title Experience, Strength and Hope) is expected to be available around January 2022.

New General Manager: Our new general manager, Bob W., started on June 1. Bob served as a consultant at GSO in the past couple of years. Before that, he was a trustee-at-large/US, and before that he was a Panel 52 delegate. His knowledge and experience are valuable assets to the office and to the Fellowship.

GSO Staff to Go Back to the Office: On-premises work has resumed on a limited basis. October 1 is the target date for a full return. Eligible staff members will retain the option of remote work for 1- 3 days a week. Consultation with an epidemiologist continues as the pandemic situation continues to evolve.

Financials: So far, Seventh Tradition contributions are up from last year. For the six months ended June 30, 2021, contributions were \$4,976,316, which is 51% of the 2021 budget of \$9,725,000 and \$911,513 more than this time last year. Contributions are averaging \$829,386 per month, higher than the budgeted amount of \$810,417 for 2021.

Gross literature sales year to date are \$5,735,705 which is 65% of the 2021 budget of \$8,865,000 and \$837,572 more than last year. Gross literature sales are averaging \$955,950 per month.

Save the Date: Virtual East Central Regional Forum on November 19-21, 2021. As with traditional Regional Forums, the day will include workshops, presentations, Q&A's, General Sharing, and much, much more! Registration will open on October 25, 2021 and can be accessed on www.aa.org. All members are invited, Once I get the flyer I will have it posted on our website.

Submitted in Love and Service,

Donna K, Area 53 Panel 71 Delegate

Chairperson's Report

The Area Committee met for its quarterly meeting virtually on July 11 at 1 PM. Twenty-four voting members attended: Delegate and Alternate Delegate, 2 Past Delegates, 5 Area Officers, 4 Alternate Officers, 6 Standing Committee Chairs, 3 DCMs, and the DCMC. Also attending: Area Archivist.

The Ad Hoc Committee to Review Area Guidelines shared several proposed guideline changes or updates, one of which was added to the Assembly Agenda for September.

As is the responsibility of the Area Committee, the planning for September's Assembly took place. A number of requests had been made for the Assembly to be accessible through Zoom. After much discussion, the Committee voted in favor of the September Assembly being hybrid, in-person at Hoge Methodist Church and virtually through Zoom (18 in favor/3 opposed). The following problems/concerns were discussed:

Archives needed input regarding a temporary alternate storage site. The Committee approved a \$275 increase to Archives rent to provide for temporary off-site storage.

A Standing Committee Chair asked for support in dealing with a difficult committee member.

Our Delegate gave a report on preliminary plans for the 2022 Ohio State Convention and stated plans to hold a meeting to discuss concept X and responsibilities of officers.

A question was raised about the amount of money appropriated for Zoom meetings.

The Secretary has the minutes from the Area Committee Meeting available. They are also available on the Assembly page of the Area Website.

Questions for the Area Inventory are being compiled and will be presented to the Area Committee in October and then out to the Area. There will be a survey on the website as well as a printable document that can be distributed with the questions. The results from the inventory will be shared at the December Assembly. If there is an item that you feel needs to be addressed in the inventory, please forward that to me in an email: chair@area53aa.org

I've attended various Standing Committee Meetings, reached out to GSO and spoke with Jeff W. for shared experience from other Areas on navigating Area business through the pandemic, and continue to attend the Area Chairs Sharing Sessions.

As some of you know, our Alternate Website Administrator needed to resign. If you, or anyone you know, are interested and able to serve as the Alternate, please contact me either by email or phone.

If you aren't subscribed to the Area 53 email newsletter, make sure you do that so you don't miss important information.

Yours in Service,

Ann B.

Area 53 Chair, Panel 71

2021 Area 53 Budget a/o 5 Sep 2021							
Incomes		2021	YTD	Qtr 4	Qtr 3	Qtr 2	Qtr 1
1	January 2021 Bank Balance (Starting Balance)	\$ 20,351	\$ 22,901		\$ 22,770	\$ 20,423	\$ 20,351
2a	Group/Individual Contributions - PO Box	\$ 18,000	\$ 8,831		\$ 3,107	\$ 3,033	\$ 2,691
2b	Group Contributions - Online (PayPal)	\$ 1,600	\$ 2,283		\$ 800	\$ 405	\$ 1,078
3	Total Funds	\$ 40,100	\$ 11,114	\$ -	\$ 26,677	\$ 23,861	\$ 24,120
Expenses							
Officer Expenses							
4	GSO Expense--Delegate to NY	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000				\$ 3,000
5	Delegate International Fund - Current Bal \$3000	\$ 500	\$ -				
6	Delegate Expenses	\$ 3,400	\$ -				
7	Alt Delegate Expenses	\$ 2,000	\$ -				
8	Chairperson Expense	\$ 1,400	\$ 21				\$ 21
9	Alt Chairperson Expense	\$ 700	\$ 21				\$ 21
10	Past Dels to CDDP/A53 Mini-Conf	\$ 1,500	\$ -				
11	Other Officers to Area 53 Mini/State Conv/Forum	\$ 3,000	\$ -				
12	Other Officers or Alternates to Assembly	\$ 250	\$ -				
13	DCM Chairperson Mileage Expense	\$ 150	\$ -				
14	Total Officer Expenses	\$ 15,900	\$ 3,042	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,042
Operating Expenses							
15	Rent for Archive Storage	\$ 400	\$ -				
16	Postal and Supply Expenses	\$ 260	\$ 242		\$ 74	\$ 112	\$ 56
17	Copying Expenses	\$ 331	\$ -				
18	Bank Service Charges	\$ -	\$ -				
19	Web Site/Web Services	\$ 600	\$ 529		\$ 50		\$ 479
20	Certificate for State of Ohio Registration Non-Profit		\$ -				
21	Total Operating Expenses	\$ 1,591	\$ 771	\$ -	\$ 124	\$ 112	\$ 535

Meeting & Convention Expenses							
22	DCM/Area Committee Meeting	\$ 300	\$ -				
23	Assemblies/ ZOOM	\$ 3,000	\$ 401		\$ 63	\$ 165	\$ 173
24	State Convention-Hospitality Room	\$ 200	\$ 87				\$ 87
25	Total Meeting & Convention Expenses	\$ 3,500	\$ 488	\$ -	\$ 63	\$ 165	\$ 260
Committee Expenses							
26	Mini-Conference	\$ 150	\$ -				
27	Archives	\$ 500	\$ 312		\$ 116	\$ 76	\$ 120
	Archives Committee Training	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,233			\$ 1,233	
28	CPC/PI	\$ 1,000	\$ -				
29	Correctional Facilities	\$ 900	\$ 900		\$ 450		\$ 450
30	Treatment Facilities	\$ 500	\$ -				
31	Grapevine	\$ 500	\$ 50				\$ 50
32	Group Services	\$ 500	\$ -				
33	Special Needs	\$ 500	\$ -				
34	Liasion	\$ 100	\$ 30		\$ 30		
35	Committee Chairs to Area 53 Mini/State Conv.	\$ 450	\$ -				
36	Total Committee Expenses	\$ 7,100	\$ 2,525	\$ -	\$ 596	\$ 1,309	\$ 620
39	Total Expenses	\$ 28,091	\$ 6,826	\$ -	\$ 783	\$ 1,586	\$ 4,457
40	Ledger Balance				\$ 25,894	\$ 22,275	\$ 21,213
42	Prudent Reserve \$3500			\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500
43	Funds Available for Use			\$ (3,500)	\$ 22,394	\$ 18,775	\$ 17,713

REGISTRAR'S AREA 53 ASSEMBLY MEETING REPORT

Attendance: 72 people in 9 service positions are attending the September 12, 2021 Area 53 Assembly hybrid meeting, with 27 attending in-person at Hoge Memorial Presbyterian Church, 9 attending in person at the Hillsboro POD gathering, and 36 attending on Zoom.

Individuals in the following positions are in attendance:

Area 53 Alt Officers – 2

Delegate – 1

Alt Delegate – 1

GSRs – 12

Area 53 Officers – 3

Interested AA's – 6

DCMs – 8

Past Delegates – 6

ALT DCMC – 1

Standing Committee Chairs – 4

DCMC – 1

Past ECR Trustee – 1

Registrar Report Con't

On July 26, 2021, I attended another quarterly G.S.O. sponsored Fellowship Connection Sharing Session on Zoom. Technical issues regarding upload of bulk data from the Area to the Fellowship Connection database were discussed. Also, in addition to Regular and Corrections group types, the GSO added a Virtual group type to the Fellowship Connection database.

Area 53 registered its first Virtual group on April 6, 2021, Sober In Place Online Meeting Group, which is the After Hours Group virtual-only counterpart which was created in response to the pandemic.

DCMC Nicholas, the DCM's and I have worked together to update all DCM information with the Fellowship Connection database. This should result in newly registered DCM's receiving their DCM kit, and their read only access to the Fellowship Connection database so they can better track group activity in their Districts. Thank you Nicholas, and thank you DCM's!

Area Secretary Chris J. and I continue to work on updating G.S.R. contact information, as well.

The most recent Area 53 trifold has been provided to the Web Admin team for publication on the Area 53 website's Contact page. The last revisions were made in August 2021.

Alt Registrar Brenda B. has continued to provide current Area 53 information for publication in the monthly Conscience Contact publication.

Web Admin Ed A., Chairperson Ann B. and I worked together to plan and organize the September Assembly online preregistration. Alt Registrar Brenda B. and I coordinated so that we could arrange our plan for the hybrid Assembly registration.

Respectfully,

Dan S, Area 53 Registrar, Panel 71

Area 53 Assembly Quarterly Meeting Accessibilities Committee Report September 12, 2021

The Accessibilities Committee hold their meetings on the fourth Saturday of the month at 11 am. The committee would like to welcome anyone interested in serving.

During this year, 2021, the committee redefined the purpose of the Accessibility Committee to:

The Accessibilities Committee explores, develops, and offers reasonable accommodations to alcoholics with disabilities and/or special needs to ensure accessibility of the A.A. program and its resources whenever possible.

The Committee establishes and implements service priorities for A.A.s with disabilities and/or special needs whenever possible at the individual, group, district, and area level.

The committee wanted to stress to our AA members with disabilities and/or special needs that we would help whenever possible. We have also spent time identifying resources to make available to those in need, including literature, meetings, and online materials.

Some of our projects include:

- Lending library
- List the zoom A.A. meetings to continue for those who may be homebound
- Reaching out to nursing homes to provide literature as well as meetings
- Providing Grapevine magazines and/or subscriptions to those homebound

Area 53 Assembly Meeting
Archives Committee Report – September, 12th 2021

The Archives Committee with the help from a couple other folks managed to move several boxes of materials to our temporary space (Affordable Care Health Clinic). The sorting and documenting of the items is on-going. Thanks to all who supported the move and continue to support the Archives Committee. We have purchased a shelving unit and archival storage boxes to support the work. We plan to revisit the collection of oral histories at our next committee meeting.

The National A.A. Archives Workshop has been cancelled, and there is not a plan to have a hybrid or on-line option. Folks are working to obtain refunds for their expenses.

The Archives Committee is seeking volunteers that have experience and knowledge related to developing displays and digital presentations. The Archives Committee has decided not to accept donations for the Area Archives at this time. We need to work on inventorying and sorting what we have before we take on new items.

The Archives Committee continues to meet once a month on the fourth Saturday of each month at 9:00 a.m. on Zoom.

Meeting ID: 972 9646 8435 **Password:** Archives

Respectfully,
Teri G, Chair
A/53 Archives Committee

Grapevine Committee Report to Area 53 Assembly

September 12, 2021

- We had a successful Grapevine Story Hour on Zoom June 24th. A slideshow presentation on Grapevine and La Vina, three Grapevine articles and some jokes were presented.
- We had a display at Picnic in the Park presented by District 26 in July.
- Grapevine Committee purchased and donated three Grapevine subscriptions to a local treatment center and two halfway houses.
- Along with CPC/PI we will have a display at a local job fair, Hope Works, on September 15th.
- Our focus is still on using Grapevine and La Vina as twelve step tools.

Respectfully submitted,

Taffy J. Chairman Grapevine Committee

Area 53 Group Services Committee September Area Assembly Report - revised 9/12.

The Group Services Committee met in July and August to continue work on upgrading the Area's G.S.R. support program. Progress is limited by the small number of volunteers available. We have had no one volunteer to continue facilitating in-person G.S.R. Schools. In response, a small group has worked on developing digital options in the form of a series of self-paced, self-administered learning modules.

The Committee will meet again on Saturday September 18 at 11 am. Due to the controversy in the Area over use of virtual options, we will discuss postponing this project until the Area resolves its differences. I will, again, request volunteers willing to facilitate in-person GSR Schools.

If we do not get any volunteers and the virtual project is tabled, the committee will stop meeting regularly until further notice.

Respectfully,

Stephen S. Group Services Chair

Intergroup Liaison Report
September 2021 Area 53 Assembly

I. The Intergroup Liaison Committee met August 12th and will meet next November 4th.

II. IGRs meet next at

1. COGF Saturday October 9, 10 am. Contact Rodney F (937) 830-2782 rodneymf@att.net
2. AOIO Saturday November 13 at 11 am. Contact Barbara M. 740 370-2525.
3. LAI Wednesday September 13 at 6 pm. Contact LAI 740 653-4869.
4. MAGF Sunday October 3 at 6 pm Contact MAGF 740 387-5546

III. Issues at Intergroup Offices

COGF

- Meeting Guide is regularly updated by GSO
- COGF Office Manager updates aacentralohio.org.
- COGF's Big Book order from AAWS was shipped out before AAWS sent out an email that paper shortages, shipping and printing back logs may create literature back orders.
- Will have new Grapevine book, *Prayer and Meditation* soon.

LAI

- Fall Hog Roast with raffle for TV.
- Lease for 2nd year at new location.

AOIO

- Elections in November.

MAGF

- Monthly meetings with 7 IGRs attending; need officers.

LICO

- Office is closed for the time being.

Submitted by Barbara M.

Treatment Facilities Committee Report

Area 53 Assembly, September 12, 2021

The Treatment Facilities Committee has continued to meet monthly on the third Saturday of the month via Zoom. September is postponed. In October, we hope to have our first in-person committee meeting at COGF. Zoom option will still be available for those who would like to join remotely.

We have continued to have an average of 7-8 attendees of the committee meetings. The committee currently has 6 officer positions filled but is still looking for members to get involved. Due to the size of Area 53, there is plenty of service opportunities for those interested. **The committee would like to emphasize the importance of a Group Treatment Representative**, which is an AA group's link to the activities of the standing committee. If your homegroup is looking for service positions to fill, we encourage you to send representatives to join our committee. Since the last Assembly, we have had at least 2 groups elect a Group Treatment Rep.

During the last quarter, the Treatment Committee held a hybrid workshop sponsored by District 28. This workshop explained the function of the treatment committee, service opportunities, best practices for starting a treatment meeting, Bridging The Gap, and how to get involved with the committee. We also presented our Area 53 treatment handbook which was developed in Q1 of 2021. The workshop was a fantastic event with good turnout. We encourage other districts to hold similar events in conjunction with the committee! We would be delighted to hold more such events to help raise awareness of our committee. I have also been in discussion with Nicholas, our DCMC, about speaking at one of his meetings.

Meetings & Bridging The Gap:

Since the last assembly, the committee successfully placed 2 more meetings at Ohio Addiction Recovery Center (one male, one female). This brings our total to 9 commitments facilitated since Q1. We have also received over a dozen volunteers through our volunteer sign-up sheet. Volunteer sign-up sheets can be acquired from the committee to be passed around at home groups. When a request for a meeting comes to the committee, these volunteers are contacted to see if they can take the commitment.

The committee also started rolling out our Bridging the Gap temporary contact program. Meeting sponsors (the AA member facilitating the meeting in a facility) has cards they give to the clients at their meetings. The client can then include their discharge date and phone number, which is directed to the Bridging The Gap Coordinator. They are then matched with a Bridging The Gap volunteer. Newcomers and volunteers are matched based on zip code and gender. Through our Bridging The Gap sign-up sheets, we have had over 30 volunteers. Bridging The Gap sign-up sheets can also be acquired from the committee, or from Danny, The Bridging The Gap Coordinator. More information about Bridging The Gap can be found on the treatment page of area53aa.org.

Funds:

The committee announced last assembly that we would begin taking direct contributions from groups for the purpose of purchasing literature for the alcoholic in a treatment setting that does not have access to AA literature. Since then, we have gained \$50 in contributions. Due to the abundance of need, the committee spent \$300 on literature and other materials to be reimbursed out of our \$500 budget from Area 53. This literature was distributed to alcoholics in treatment settings. I will make sure funding reports are made to Tom by Oct. 1.

We are still in the process of acquiring a P.O. box, which will likely max out our budget for the year. The literature bought in Q2 has already been exhausted, so we are asking groups to consider contributing to the committee with funds that exceed prudent reserve or by means of a "Treatment Can." The committee does have some funds earmarked for the purpose of purchasing cans for groups that would like a can. All funds

directly contributed to the committee are strictly used for AA literature. More information about the use of funds can be found in the Treatment Committee Policies & Procedures Handbook.

Last Words

The committee is still greatly in need of members from outside of Franklin County. Because it is a large area, our services tend to favor the proximity of committee members. To help serve all of Area 53, we are asking GSRs from groups outside of Franklin County to communicate this to their groups. As mentioned, the committee would be happy to hold workshops or speak at district meetings to help raise awareness. Lastly, I followed up with our secretary to be sure minutes are sent to the web admin. Apologies for the delay in the minutes being available.

Thank you!

In Service,

Sam K [REDACTED], Chair,

Treatment Facilities Committee

Area 53, Panel 71

DCM REPORTS TO AREA 53 ASSEMBLY

SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

DCM Reports

Area 53 Assembly, Sept 11, 2021

District 4, Knox County

Crystal G, DCM

Submitted: 09/08/21

District Meeting: Third Saturday of every quarter at 6:30pm, 100 East High St Mt Vernon 43050

Active GSRs: 1GSR,1 alternate GSR

District Report on Events and Discussions:

None

Numerous people sharing their opinions about changing the preamble back and having it placed on the future agenda item.

District 11, Union and Madison County

Barbara P, DCM

Submitted: 09/07/21

District Meeting: First Tuesday of the Month at 6:00pm, 210 W 5th St, Marysville, OH 43040

Active GSRs: 9

District Report on Events and Discussions:

October 16th 5:30pm-8:30Pm. 1126 North Maple St. Marysville, OH 43040. Chili Cook-Off and service speaker Marcia H. Come in costume to add more fun! Chili entries must Arrive @ 5pm.

All meetings are meeting in person now. One meeting is continuing the hybrid format for now. A number of meetings in London have shut down for good. Our district has updated a meeting schedule for our district and they have been distributed. Our district will have elections in October for all rotating positions including DCM, Alternate DCM, Secretary and treasurer.

District 21, 11 home groups active 3 groups non active

Chris B, DCM

Submitted: September 9,2021

District Meeting: 3rd Saturday of each month at 11:00am, (Hybrid) 610 4th street Portsmouth Ohio

Active GSRs: Average of 7

District Report on Events and Discussions:

None

District 33, Near east side of Columbus

Margie , DCM

Submitted: 07/16/3021

District Meeting: None at None, None
Active GSRs: 0
District Report on Events and Discussions:
No

No

GSR REPORTS TO AREA 53 ASSEMBLY
September 12, 2021

Hand in Hand Group, District 15

Marlene D [REDACTED], GSR
Submitted: 9/11/2021

Meeting Format: Open discussion
Meeting Time & Location: Saturday; 7:30 pm, Barlow, OH,

GSR Report on Events and Discussions:
None

Into the Solution Group, District District 22

Greg [REDACTED], GSR
Submitted: 9/8/21

Meeting Format: Mini lead
Meeting Time & Location: Sat. 6pm, Hilliard United Methodist Church,

GSR Report on Events and Discussions:

We've been meeting in-person since May. Recently, the church asked us to resume wearing masks

Rise and Shine Group, District 26

Blair C [REDACTED], GSR
Submitted: 7/30/21

Meeting Format: Closed Discussion
Meeting Time & Location: 8:00 am, New Life Church, Gahanna,

GSR Report on Events and Discussions:

Sober in place Group, District 28?

Mark C [REDACTED], GSR
Submitted: 9/9/21

Meeting Format: Big book 12 and 12 Discussion
Meeting Time & Location: 10pm Fri Sat Sun, Zoom,

GSR Report on Events and Discussions:

We would like to have an explanation of the * asterisk and how to use it making it easier to see an and explanation of the italics add to Big book and 12 and 12

Monday Nite Steps & Traditions Group, District 30

Cheryl P. [REDACTED], GSR

Submitted: 9-10-2021

Meeting Format: Step/Literature (12&12)

Meeting Time & Location: Mondays at 7:00 PM, Meadow Park Church,

GSR Report on Events and Discussions:

None

We have started meeting in person again as of mid-May, initially with masks optional but in light of the Delta variant, we have requested everyone who attends to wear a mask. We have had many first time attendees in the last few weeks, some who are recently sober.

April 2019

Area 53 GSR School

Giving a Report at the Area Assembly

GSR REPORT for AREA 53 ASSEMBLY

Date: 12 Sept 2021

GSR Name: Erica C.

District Number 34

Group Name: Three Legacies

Number of Home Group Members: 22 Average Meeting Attendance 35-46

Meeting Times / Format: Sunday, 7pm, 5th / 10th / concept; 4th wk open speaker

Meeting Place: Hope Presb Church, 2930 W Broad St Average Attendance 35-46
Columbus OH 43204

The information below includes some suggestions that you might consider reporting on your group at the Area Assembly. There may be other things you want to share, which can be noted at the bottom of this page. When you give your report at the microphone, you only have to mention things you consider to be interesting or important. **After you give your report, give this copy to the Area Recording Secretary.**

Group Conscience (how often, issues being discussed, decisions made):

Quarterly (1st Sunday);
Annual Group Inventory was Aug 2021;
Topics: Unity, supporting ^{closed literature} servants, outreach to those suffering the Traditions

Group Contributions (how often, which entities contributed to, percentages):
→ 7th TRADITION BEING USED FOR COMMITTEES + INSTITUTIONS.

LAST 2 GC VOTES HAVE BEEN TO DONATE FINANCIALLY
TO 3, not 4: DISTRICT 34, Inter group (conf), and GSO
INEQUAL AMOUNTS.

Service Positions filled within the Group:

22

Upcoming Group Events:

Meeting Every Sunday @ 7pm in person;
Anniversary Nov 7 (34 yrs); Support Dist 34 events.

OTHER INFORMATION:

Don't Drink, Keep coming Back +
THIS TOO SHALL PASS (D)

PLEASE PRINT NEATLY SO IT IS EASY FOR THE AREA RECORDING SECRETARY TO PREPARE THE ASSEMBLY MINUTES. THANKS!

April 2019

Area 53 GSR School

April 2019

Area 53 GSR School

Giving a Report at the Area Assembly

GSR REPORT for AREA 53 ASSEMBLY

Date: 9/12/21

GSR Name: BLAIR R O [REDACTED]

District Number 26

Group Name: Rise N Shine

Number of Home Group Members: 80? Average Meeting Attendance 40 NOW

Meeting Times / Format: 9:00 Am Sat - Open Discussion

Meeting Place: New Life Church - Gahanna, Ohio Average Attendance 40-80

The information below includes some suggestions that you might consider reporting on your group at the Area Assembly. There may be other things you want to share, which can be noted at the bottom of this page. When you give your report at the microphone, you only have to mention things you consider to be interesting or important. After you give your report, give this copy to the Area Recording Secretary.

Group Conscience (how often, issues being discussed, decisions made):

Quarterly

Group Contributions (how often, which entities contributed to, percentages):

All

Service Positions filled within the Group:

JGR GSR Sec. Treas.

Upcoming Group Events:

Movie Night (depends on Court) Oct 16, Rocketman. RSVP The Group

OTHER INFORMATION:

[Empty lines for other information]

PLEASE PRINT NEATLY SO IT IS EASY FOR THE AREA RECORDING SECRETARY TO PREPARE THE ASSEMBLY MINUTES. THANKS!

**Area 53 Assembly
September 12, 2021
Proposed Guideline Amendments**

Proposed Amendment #1:

Amend Article XII, Section 1) – Election of Area Delegate, Alternate Delegate and Area Officers by adding “Website Administrator, and Alternate Website Administrator.”

Current Wording:

At the September Area 53 Assembly Meeting of each even-numbered year, the Area Assembly will hold elections of the Area Delegate, Alternate Delegate, Chairperson, Alternate Chairperson, Registrar, Alternate Registrar, Secretary, Alternate Secretary, Treasurer, and Alternate Treasurer.

Proposed Wording:

At the September Area 53 Assembly Meeting of each even-numbered year, the Area Assembly will hold elections of the Area Delegate, Alternate Delegate, Chairperson, Alternate Chairperson, Registrar, Alternate Registrar, Secretary, Alternate Secretary, Treasurer, Alternate Treasurer, **Web Administrator and Alternate Web Administrator.**

Rationale:

These positions have been added to the structure of the Area 53 Officer elections

Proposed Amendment #2:

Amend Article XII, Section 3) – Election of Area Delegate, Alternate Delegate and Area Officers by striking Section 3.

Current Wording

At the beginning of this even-numbered election year, the Chairperson will ask the immediate Past Delegate to chair an ad hoc nomination committee to identify, secure, and submit names of qualified nominees.

Proposed

Strike all of Section 3.

Rationale:

This Guideline is no longer practiced.

May 19, 2021

Area 53 Ad Hoc Committee on Virtual-Only Group Registration

(Dan S., Nita S., Brenda B., Rick A.)

Proposal to Add New District for Virtual-Only Groups:

The Area 53 Ad Hoc Committee on Virtual Group Registration recommends that Area 53 add a new district within the General Service structure as a virtual-only district for those groups that have no affiliate district or wish to change from their district affiliation to virtual-only. This district would include all virtual-only meetings/groups that would like to remain/become active within Area 53 service structure.

This new district would function completely as a virtual district, having district meetings organized virtually. Each group within this district could elect a GSR to attend Area events and fulfill the responsibilities of a GSR. These GSRs could elect a DCM to serve as representative of the district at the Area Assemblies and to fulfill all other DCM responsibilities. The formation of this new district will ensure that all groups within Area 53 have the right to participate in Area 53 service, to have a voice, and receive service support, which is the right of all AA groups. After this proposal passes, this new virtual-only district will have the opportunity to vote at the Area. Once the district is formed, the operating structure and decision of this district will be left to the district as is its right of decision.

Background: During the Coronavirus outbreak, many meetings transferred from in-person, physical meetings to online (aka virtual) meetings. Online meetings became the norm, as some groups chose the online option for safety reasons or state regulations forced their hands. Other physical locations took the opportunity to sever relationships with groups and end meeting access. Additionally, to meet the new need for connection, virtual meetings (and corresponding groups) have sprung up without attachment to a physical space. To address this influx of new online groups, GSO is now recognizing virtual meetings/groups with a Group Number.

Virtual Districts, in practice, resemble Linguistic Districts, where groups are gathered by language preference vs. geographical location. These special districts allow groups to have a representative voice at the AA table and provide communications opportunities, a deficiency identified in GSO's recent Communications Audit.

Key elements from this proposal include:

- Virtual groups utilize technology to conduct their meetings. Current technology in use includes video conference platforms such as Zoom, phone conference, message boards, email listservs, chatrooms. As technology evolves, the tools Alcoholics use to get and stay sober will undoubtedly change. *"Nothing matters more to AA's future welfare than the manner in which we use the colossus of modern communication. Used unselfishly and well, it can produce results surpassing our present imagination."*—Bill W., The Grapevine, November, 1960
- AA is not a place; a home group doesn't need a permanent physical address. Our service manual states *"the home group affords individual A.A.s the privilege of voting on issues that affect the Fellowship as a whole; it is the very basis of the service structure."*—Service Manual S25
- Tradition 3 states *"any two or three alcoholics may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation."*
- Concept 1: *"The final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship."* How can we expect GSO & AAWS to be fully informed when all groups are not included in the group conscience of our fellowship?

- Since all Areas are autonomous, an Area can organize in the way that is most effective for the groups and members involved.

Additionally, online meetings/groups fill the accessibility and inclusion shortfalls of AA and prove to benefit our current aging membership and provide opportunity for those, to this point, unable to join us. For example:

- Online meetings meet the homebound AA member's need for a meeting and fellowship while providing high value regarding meeting accessibility (no stairs to climb, unimpaired ability to hearing the speaker, no ride-getting hassles, etc.),
- Online meetings provide fellowship and sobriety networks by connecting working members, parents-without-babysitters, and other special-circumstance individuals access to meetings on their time, without scheduling conflicts or location limitations.
- Online groups provide those members unable to connect with a physical group, the opportunity to participate in the service structure and to share their experience, strength and hope.

May 19, 2021

Area 53 Ad Hoc Committee on Virtual-Only Group Registration

(Dan S., Nita S., Brenda B., Rick A.)

Recommendation to Add New Area for Virtual-Only Groups:

The Area 53 Ad Hoc Committee on Virtual Group Registration recommends that GSO consider adding a new Area to the service structure as a virtual-only Area for those groups that have no affiliate Area. This Area could include all virtual-only meetings/groups that would like to remain/become active in the General Service structure. This new Area would function completely as a virtual-only Area, having groups organized virtually. This new Area could elect a Delegate who is willing and able to attend GSO events and fulfill the responsibilities of an Area Delegate. This would ensure all groups have the opportunity to participate, have a voice, and receive service support, which is a right of all AA groups. After this proposal passes, this new virtual-only Area will have a vote at the General Service level. Once they are formed within the operating structure, decision of this area will be left to this Area.

Background:

Since its beginnings, the General Service Structure has been geographic in nature. The 93 areas in the US and Canada are defined by physical geography, the districts within those areas are as well (with the exception of linguistic districts) and groups are generally part of a district that is geographically closest to them. When online groups began to emerge in the 1990s, it led to a 1997 Conference Advisory Action about how to list those groups which was confirmed and updated in 2005 to read:

On-line A.A. meetings that request to be listed in A.A. directories be added to the "International Correspondence Meetings" in A.A. directories, that each listing include the internet address of the on-line meeting, and that each on-line meeting requesting to be listed in our directories furnish G.S.O. with the name and physical address of a member willing to serve as "mail" contact. This information is provided in the A.A. Directories in a special section titled "Online Meetings/Online Groups."

This Conference Advisory Action has guided how GSO currently lists online groups. It's why there is a different "New Group Form" for online groups, one that doesn't have a space for the location of the group or for the group's "GSR" because they are International rather than part of a district or area. Before the pandemic, many of the members attending online meetings also belonged to a home group that met in a physical location. If those members wished to participate in General Service, they often did so through their physical home group. However, the situation has obviously changed since the pandemic. Many members are only attending online meetings and that may be the case for some time. Also, many online groups have more of an international feel because their membership has grown beyond a specific geographic location during the pandemic. So, having them participate in a new Area rather than in a district within an existing Area makes sense versus an online group with a very "local" membership.

We know that the topic of listing online groups and meetings is being discussed in district meetings, sharing sessions, and area assemblies throughout the US and Canada. So that all groups will have a voice and be able to participate in General Service, creating a new area (Area 94?) specifically for online groups only makes sense.

We certainly do not want the questions surrounding this issue to feel like barriers to any group or member wanting to participate in General Service. Concept IV explores the "Right of Participation." As it says in that Concept:

The preservation of the principle of “Participation” in our service structure is, to those of us who already understand its application and benefits, a matter of the highest importance to our future.

And near the end of the essay on Concept IV is another passage that feels relevant to these discussions:

There is another good reason for “participation,” and this one has to do with our spiritual needs. All of us deeply desire to belong. We want an A.A. relation of brotherly partnership. It is our shining ideal that the “spiritual corporation” of A.A. should never include any members who are regarded as “second class.”