

**Motion: That Area 53 – Central and Southeast Ohio submit a Proposed Agenda Item to the 74<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference as follows : Consider whether trusted servants of Alcoholics Anonymous should have the choice of format (email v's postal mail) regarding communications distributed by the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous, US and Canada.**

1. The General Service Office has implemented a major policy decision to cease sending print documents via postal mail in favor of electronic documents via email. This has been increasingly the case since 2020.
2. They have made this change without consulting the General Service Conference.
3. Based on communications with the Member Services Department at GSO, their policy is not to send postal mail, even if the GSR does not have an email address. They suggest that the group would then need a mail contact with an email address.
4. In fact, an Area Registrar cannot create a service position holder record for a GSR without an email address. Member Services states that, if sent the info, they will register the GSR but that he / she will not get communication.
5. Conversations with the last two Area 53 Past-Delegates and last two East Central Regional Trustees indicate that the question was never considered, neither by the General Service Conference nor by the General Service Board. Hence, the decision had to be made, either by the AAWS board or the General Service Office Staff. With all due respect to those individuals, they were acting well beyond their delegated service authority.
6. Consequences of this exclusively electronic communications policy have been to make it more difficult for trusted servants, particularly those without technology skills, to receive, read, and share information.
7. The time has come for the General Service Conference to consider this policy question and give guidance to the General Service Board with an Advisory Action. (See AA Service Manual, 2021-2023 Edition, p42)

Respectfully Submitted,  
Chris J, Area Registrar  
Area 53 General Service

