

Columbus 1728 Group History

July 9, 2025

The Columbus 1728 Group is an online A.A. group registered with G.S.O. and part of Area 53. It holds closed literature-based sharing meetings with weekly rotating themes covering the Three Legacies and Sponsorship. The group also hosts quarterly Anniversary meetings where members with sobriety anniversaries that quarter share their experience. A Group Conscience meeting is held on the fourth Wednesday of each month.

The Group began celebrating its Anniversary in July 2023 at the end of its third year. The group invites a speaker to share their story with us. Tonight we are celebrating our fifth anniversary.

The Group maintains an online storage capability where it maintains copies of the readings for each meeting, a database of possible future readings, the minutes for the Group Conscience meetings, monthly Treasurers' reports, updated home group lists, annual updates of the group's history, and any other information that the group considers relevant. The information is made available to all home group members.

Origins and Early Development.

The group was founded in Columbus, Ohio in March 2020 as a temporary online response to the COVID-19 shutdown by three members of the Three Legacies Group: Dan S., Nick P., and Stephen S. Initially, they saw themselves as starting a meeting, not a new group, anticipating a quick end to pandemic restrictions. The name "Columbus 1728" was chosen to signify their focus on A.A.'s Three Legacies, with 1728 being 12x12x12.

They adopted a rotating format with weekly themes of Recovery, Unity, Service, and Sponsorship. The practice of the chairperson selecting readings from A.A.W.S. or Grapevine literature was inspired by the Gahanna After Work Group.

Evolution into a Registered A.A. Group.

The first meeting as the Columbus 1728 Group was held on July 1, 2020. By July 2021, the group had ten home group members, many of whom had prior service experience in other A.A. capacities. They registered with G.S.O. in July 2021, elected a G.S.R. (General Service Representative), and began participating in Area 53 General Assemblies via Zoom. They also elected representatives to Area 53's Accessibilities and Archives Committees.

Navigating the Service Structure.

A.A. faced challenges integrating virtual groups into its Service Structure. The 71st General Service Conference recommended recognizing online groups and encouraging their participation. Consequently, G.S.O. modified its registration form for area-based virtual groups, and in December 2021, Columbus 1728 updated its registration to be recognized as an Area 53 Online Group.

In 2022, the group focused on finding its place within the Service Structure. They proposed creating an online district within Area 53, but the motion did not pass. The group

chose to join District 37 based on the GSR's home address. In 2024, with the selection of a new GSR, the group became a member of District 26.

Joining a local intergroup was another challenge. Columbus 1728 was a member of The Central Ohio Group Fellowship (C.O.G.F.) until the end of the Pandemic when C.O.G.F. adopted a policy that member groups had to have a physical location. This left the group without a permanent district or a local intergroup at the end of 2022. In response, the Group decided to join the Online Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous (OIAA), which represents over 7,000 online groups worldwide.

C.O.G.F. was the only local entity uploading meeting lists to G.S.O.'s Meeting Guide App, meaning online-only group meetings could not be listed. Two members of Columbus 1728 collaborated with G.S.O. to address this problem by developing a website listing G.S.O.-registered Area 53 online-only groups. In February 2023, G.S.O. recognized the Central Ohio OnLine Alcoholics Anonymous Intergroup (COOLAA) as its first online Intergroup, allowing Columbus 1728 and other online only groups in Area 53 to be listed in the Meeting Guide App.

Financial and Service Development.

In 2023, the group continued its evolution by establishing the infrastructure for the Seventh Tradition. They opened a nonprofit bank account to facilitate treasurer rotation and created accounts with PayPal, Venmo, and Cash App for contributions. A Prudent Reserve was established, and a policy was set to distribute excess funds. The Group also began offering a virtual Attendance Verification form for use by attendees needing proof of attendance.

In July 2023, the Group Conscience decided to distribute excess funds quarterly as follows: 40% to the General Service Board, 40% to Area 53, 10% to COGF, and 10% to OIAA. In December 2024, the group decided to also make contributions to the Area 53 Correctional Facilities Committee's (CFC) "Spare Change Saves Lives" Fund and to the District. Revised Contribution percentages were set at: 35% each to the General Service Board and Area 53, 10% each to COGF and OIAA, and 5% each to the CFC Fund and District 26.

In 2023, the Group also purchased an annual online subscription to the AA Grapevine. The logon information is made available by request to the Secretary for use by anyone attending the meeting who would like to read the latest issue or search the Grapevine Archives. For security reasons, the Password for the subscription is updated annually when the subscription is renewed.

In 2025 the Group decided to use its Zoom account to support a monthly online meeting at the Grafton Correctional Institution (GCI), with Dan S and Stephen S serving as the Outside Sponsors. The group added a new position: Medallion Coordinator, responsible for distributing sobriety medallions to home group members.

History of Group Officers.

2020 - 2021 Secretary Stephen S. was our only officer.

2022 - Stephen S. continued as Secretary. Norma S. was selected as our first GSR., and two members were selected as Area 53 Standing Committee Representatives: Sue D as Accessibilities Rep and Mary M as Archives Committee Rep. .

2023 - Stephen S and Norma S continued as Secretary and GSR, respectively. Dan S. was selected as our first Treasurer. The two standing committee reps, Sue and Mary, continued in their positions.

2024 - Lori R. was selected as Secretary and Teri G. as GSR. Sue and Mary continued in their standing committee roles and Susan K was selected as our Group Institutional Rep (GIR). We also added two new positions. Bob B. was selected as our OIAA IGR and Stephen S. as our Readings Committee Coordinator.

2025 - Jessica E was selected as Secretary, David C. as Treasurer, and Lori R as Readings Committee Coordinator. Teri G. (GSR), Bob B (OIAA IGR) and Susan K (GIR) continued in their positions. Kim B. was selected as our first Medallion Coordinator.

Future Focus:

The group's focus for the future is to continue exploring ways to provide services common to in-person meetings, such as distributing literature and medallions and supporting sponsorship. Their highest priority is to improve outreach to newcomers as an online group.