The Northeast Ohio Recorder

October, November, December, 2010

http://www.aaneoh.org

Volume XXI Issue 8

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 17	
Area Election Assembly	2:00

November 21	
Gratitude Sunday	2:00
St. Aloysius Church	
10932 St. Clair Ave	
Cleveland	

December 19			
Area Committee Meeting	2:00		

Unless noted, Area Assemblies & Workshops are held at The 12 Step Recovery Club 1480 Pearl Rd., Brunswick, OH (on US Route 42 about 1/4 mile south of State Route 303) (330) 273-7216



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60th General Service Conference Report

Hi everyone my name is Danny F. and I am your Panel 59, Area 54 Delegate. This is my report on the 60th General Service Conference, which was held from April 18–24, 2010 at the Hilton Rye Town in Rye Brook, New York. The theme of this year's Conference was "Practicing AA's Principles-the Pathway to Unity." The hotel is located in Westchester County, New York, near the Connecticut border.

This was my second Conference and the second time I was at this Hotel. Some of you may know I was elected last year to chair the Finance Committee and I was at this hotel in January for what is known as Board Weekend. I met with the Trustees as they hammered out the final agenda items that would be discussed and voted on at this year's Conference. I felt like I was a senior in high school again as I had really good handle as to what was going on all week long.

On Saturday April 17th, the day before the Conference was scheduled to begin, I walked into a large ballroom and met my friend from last year, the delegate from Connecticut. I was to chair the Remote Communities Sharing Session and my friend had made a newsletter for the attendees. The newsletter contained shared experience in twelfth step work being done in remote areas in the United States and Canada. I had two American and three Canadian delegates come to the podium and give five-minute reports. I then split the room into three roundtable groups where all who attended could share their input on culture, language, and geography. I appointed three delegate recorders for each committee and they each came to the podium and gave a report back near the end of the session. We then elected the Vermont delegate to the chair the 61st Conference sharing session, which will now be back on the island of Manhattan near Times Square. The Arizona delegate will be his alternate.

On Sunday we had our roll call, which cemented our attendance as voting members of Alcoholics Anonymous for the United States and Canada. This year we had 131 voting members. We had 93 Area Delegates, 24 Trustees, A.A World Service Directors, and Grapevine Directors, and 14 General Service office and Grapevine Staff. In regards to the Delegates, the average delegate in age was 55,the oldest delegate was 75,and the youngest was 34. The average length of sobriety was 19 years.

In 2009 we made money! Gross sales were \$14,300,000 and our gross profit was \$8,452,850 or 60.6%. The Big Book makes up 55% of all of our sales of books. Non AA's purchased 30% of all of our literature sold in 2009. Our Contributions from Groups and individuals were down with just a little over 44% of the A.A. registered groups contributing. In total, contributions received for 2009 were just over \$6,296,100. The General Service Office at the end of 2009 had 78 full time and 5 part time employees. The contributions online project is due to roll out in mid-summer 2010. We also had 1,703 new Groups register in 2009.

The committees went to the breakout rooms on Monday morning and met thru Tuesday and our committee (Finance) had to meet Tuesday evening after the Conference evening sessions. On Wednesday we saw two new Trustees (Canada and Pacific Coast Regions) get elected. We now have our first Native American Trustee, Rod B. from Utah, who served with our own Bob McK., at the Panel 47 General Service Conference. The Committees gave their report backs (conclusions) and voting began on Wednesday evening. The agenda item Area 54 submitted last year dealing with the language in *Questions and Answers on Sponsorship* was rewritten and after review, it passed.

After watching the entire Committees' come to the dais it was finally my turn! I was the last Committee Chair (Finance) to come to the podium. I was also the only Delegate from the East Central Region so my Trustee Pam R. sat up in the front to give me support. There was almost a "donnybrook" over those pie charts in the Self Support pamphlet. Some delegates complained about the percentages in the pie charts in the

Cont'd on Page 3

From the Editor...

It has been a pleasure serving Area 54 for the past two years as editor of the Northeast Ohio Recorder. It hasn't always been easy getting people to write articles, but it has been well worth the effort. Editing the Recorder has given me an outlet for my own thoughts on General Service and AA as a whole. Specifically, I've been able to write editorials on the relationship between young people and general service, the 11th Tradition, and most recently an article about anonymity as it relates to social networking sites online. In writing these pieces, I found myself digging deeper for a greater understanding of the Traditions and Concepts. My experience in AA has been that when I ask a lot of questions about AA and don't take anything for granted, I find myself searching out the answers to those questions. When I find the answer to my questions, it serves to draw me closer to AA as a whole; it makes the program mine. I've never been one to follow anything blindly, and AA was not an exception. There was a time when I was new that it made sense to follow directions, but after a while I wanted to know what was going on "behind the scenes." Where did these directions come from? Who's in charge here? Who came up with this stuff? Asking these questions led me inevitably into the world of General Service, the Traditions, and the Concepts. I found in General Service a bunch of other people who didn't take anything for granted, who cared about the future of AA, and who also through seeking found themselves pulled closer to AA.

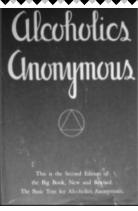
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Thank you for helping me enlarge not only my spiritual life, but also my intellectual life. For me, the two are inextricably connected...

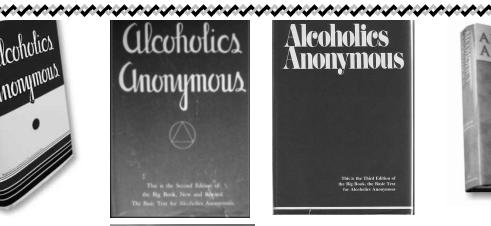
Dave S.



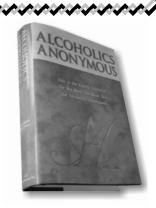


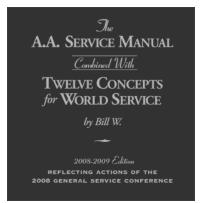












Alternate Delegate's Report

Where did summertime go? It seems like we just left Cook Forest and it's now time to go back. So many places to go and to take part in sobriety. Unity Day was great, as we had the participation of several Intergroup offices, who shared their vital part of AA General Service. Founder's Day was a great success, with the big meeting in the new football stadium and great weather. The Area 54 Open House Picnic was in the center of Cleveland at Edgewater Park. Attending the 75th Anniversary of AA at the International Convention in San Antonio was a wonderful experience. The weather was not as hot as predicted. Representatives from 90 countries participated. I enjoyed great panels, talks and discussions with folks from around the world. We had car trouble that slowed us down on the way home. What a blessing that it didn't happen on the way there! In August, the State Convention in Perrysburg was one of the few events that I was able to ride my motorcycle to. It had record attendance (556 paid registration) and will challenge Area 54 to match it in 2012. There were great leads and panels. Good participation from Area 54 with panel and committee members and all were well prepared. They did us proud.

Bob D. Alternate Delegate



General Service Conference Report Cont'd...

pamphlet. Our committee came up with a "blank" pie chart that a Group treasurer or Group chair could fill in the dollar amounts to send as we added "blank lines" to be filled in on page 13 of the pamphlet. This agenda item was voted down although a floor action recommitted to the General Service Board trustee's Finance Committee the request to replace the existing pie charts on Page 12 of the pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money & Spirituality Mix," and report back to the 2011 General Service Conference.

<u>International Desk</u>: Rick W. was working full steam on planning our 13th International Convention in San Antonio, Texas. The dates were July 1-4, 2010. There were over 50,000 in attendance. Bill Clark (Class A Trustee) and Don M. (US Trustee at Large) attended the 35th Anniversary Celebration of A.A. in Japan.

The A.A. Grapevine: Now for the bad news...the future of the A.A Grapevine ultimately is in the hands of the fellowship. Many factors are contributing to the decline in subscriptions (73% of the GV subscribers are over 50,the information and technology revolution, and no sustained circulation program to build and maintain circulation). The steps they have taken to save the GV are: hired a new circulation director, hired a new La Vina editor, requested funding to make online ordering easier, and hired a publishing consultant. On a sad note, Robin B., the GV editor, is leaving.

The Conference ended on Friday evening after we voted on many (17!) floor actions. The Panel 59 delegates had a chance to approach the microphone and say their goodbyes. I reminded the Conference that the first Northern Ohio Delegate at the first GSC was Bill D, A.A. number three, and *he* was on the Budget Committee. The last Delegate to come to the microphone was from West Virginia, and she sang a love song to all of us that I will never forget. The Grace of God was with me this whole journey and I hope that some day an AA member from our Area will experience the same feelings I received as I continue to trudge the Road of Happy Destiny.

Love and Service, Danny F. (59)(54)

Area Reports-Panel and Committee

Chairperson's Report

Warmest Greetings to All

It was an extreme honor and privilege to be given the opportunity to speak on a panel at this years 54th Ohio State Convention. Hosted by Area 55, the theme was "Unity," and I shared on the topic: "What is our roll as Sponsors concerning AA Unity?"

This proved to be a wonderful learning experience for me and I would like to share with you a few of the things that I learned in the process.

To the world around us the term "sponsor" usually involves some type of financial backing or vouching for one's character. Such was the case in the early days of our fellowship. Many drunks would not be admitted to a hospital for treatment without a sponsor who vouched for them.

To the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous, the term sponsor began to take on a new meaning when Ebby T. showed up on Bill's doorstep, and continued to show up even after Bill had his spiritual awakening. "In the kinship of common suffering, one alcoholic had been talking with another." (pg. 59) Ebby T. shared what he had learned, with no expectation of personal gain or material reward.

While pacing the lobby of the Mayflower Hotel, Bill realized that he needed another alcoholic to talk to. "You need another Alcoholic as much as he needs you." (pg. 66) He found Dr. Bob and shared with him what he had so freely received from Ebby T.

Bill and Bob went on sponsoring each other, "mutual give and take" (pg. 70), until Dr. Bobs disastrous trip to Atlantic City, which resulted in his last drink. The day after this debacle, Dr. Bob said to Bill: "Bill don't you think that working on other alcoholics is terribly important." (pg. 71) It was here that the term sponsor took on not just a new, but also a different meaning. (Service)

As sponsors, we have a responsibility to pass on what has been so freely given to us, the message of hope and recovery through practice of the principles outlined in our "Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts." It is our duty to nurture the seeds of hope and recovery that have been planted. We must, to the best of our ability, lead by the example of "not looking at all that's wrong with the world and its people, but rather focus on all that's good with the world and its people." May we always remember that "no matter how wrong things seem to be, they are still all right. Things are all right with God and His world." (pg. 63)

We alcoholics, when speaking at a meeting or in general conversation with another member, probably use the term "my sponsor" more than the term alcoholic itself. One just might conclude that in the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous, next to **God,** is "my sponsor".

Concerning AA Unity, the role of the sponsor is at the very heart of the fellowship. It is for me, the heart beat that keeps the life saving grace of God flowing throughout the fellowship.

In Loving Service Ola P. – Chairperson

Treatment Chair

I would like to thank each of you who has worked in AA service helping with meetings in treatment facilities and halfway and three-quarter houses. Many of our members chair and secretary at these meetings. Also thanks to those of you that have helped in Bridging the Gap and answering the temporary contact requests.

I am still slow getting out all the requests for temporary contact but you have stepped and offered that assistance. As you all know, the Bridging the Gap from treatment facilities/extended care facilities to the community can be very difficult and this extension of our hand and contacting that person in transition is vital for sobriety. A lot of talk is going about to get people sponsors before they leave the facilities. This does make that transition easier. Many stays at treatment facilities today are only 5 or 7 days so that contact is a 12-step call for sure.

I had an inquiry from New Directions about how AA cooperates with treatment facilities. I forwarded lots of information and will follow up. I am happy to say the Young People in AA do meet with the young men and women there every other week. As a committee it would be great to do a formal monthly Bridging the Gap presentation at New Directions. Hopefully, we will be invited to do so.

Sincerely, Susan R., Treatment Committee Chair

Mailing Secretary's Report

Summer is usually a quiet time for the Area, but it certainly has not been silent! There has not been a mailing since the Mini-Conference as we cancelled the June mailing. Because only a couple of items would have been mailed, the Panel felt that the expense was not worth it. In these difficult economic times, saving monies is important.

The Open House was an excellent event with a great crowd and cooperative weather. The Ohio State Convention was also excellent! 556 registrants represented the best turnout in years, and Area 54 was well represented. Bob D, your Alternate Delegate, Patty, one of our DCM's, Ola P., our Chairperson and myself all gave panel presentations. Our Delegate, Danny F., chaired one of the panels. There were also other DCMs, GSRs and officers in attendance.

Thanks to all who helped with this mailing, Districts 23/39 hosted the mailing party and a great time was had by all. District 10 will be hosting the year end mailing party. It is my sincere hope that the next Mailing Secretary will continue hosting mailing parties at Districts in the Area, it is an great way to increase service opportunities and gives the Officers a chance to meet GSRs.

In service, Jay M.





Conference Advisory Actions of the 60th General Service Conference

Conference Advisory Actions represent recommendations made by the standing committees and approved by the Conference body as a whole; or recommendations discussed and voted upon by all Conference members during general sessions. Some Advisory Actions and a few additional committee considerations appear below in condensed form. A complete list will be published in the Final Conference Report.

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Floor Action

It was recommended that:

- * Motion to recommit to the General Service Board development of procedures for the submission of Concept V minority appeals to the General Service Conference, taking into account considerations expressed during the 2010 General Service Conference, report to be forwarded to the 2011 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions.
- * The revised 60th Conference draft pamphlet, "The A.A. Member Medications and Other Drugs", be returned to the trustees' Literature Committee for additional discussion and report back to the 2011 Conference Committee on Literature.
- * To recommit to the GSB trustees' Finance Committee the request to replace the existing pie charts on page 12 of the pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money & Spirituality Mix," and report back to the 2011 General Service Conference.

Agenda

It was recommended that:

- * The theme for the 2011 General Service Conference be: "We are Responsible for A.A.'s Future Let it Begin With Us."
- * The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2011 General Service Conference:
 - a) Alcoholics Anonymous in a Digital Age:
 - 1. Practicing Our Traditions in a Digital Age
 - 2. Carrying A.A.'s Message Online
 - 3. Grapevine "A.A.'s Meeting in Print" and More . . .
 - b) An Informed Group Conscience: The Voice of A.A.:
 - 1. Self-Support Where Do Money and Spirituality Mix?
 - 2. Humility Accepting the Group Conscience
 - 3. An Informed Group Conscience Using the Three Legacies
 - c) Diversity in A.A.:
 - 1. The Language of the Heart is Spoken Here
 - 2. The Hand of A.A. Inclusive Never Exclusive 3 Tradition Five Our Primary Purpose
 - d) Sponsorship:
 - 1. Importance of a Home Group
 - 2. Leading by Example Attraction Not Promotion 3 Recovery, Unity, Service
- * The following be the workshop topic for the 2011 General Service Conference: "How to Increase Participation in A.A. Striving for Self-Support in All Our Affairs."

Corrections

It was recommended that:

* The pamphlet "Carrying the Message Into Correctional Facilities" be revised so that the sentence "Obey the rules of the facility you are visiting" is replaced with the following text: "Deciding to participate in Corrections Twelfth Step work is an important individual decision. A.A. members should carefully read all paperwork required by correctional facilities, and fully understand and be willing to comply with all rules/regulations prior to commencing such work."

Finance

It was recommended that:

- * The following be added to the pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix" where appropriate:
 - Q. Can our group make financial contributions to A.A. Grapevine?
 - A. No. A.A. Grapevine Inc., is not set up to take contributions from groups or individuals. Groups and individual members sup port the Grapevine by purchasing Grapevine and La Vina magazine subscriptions and other Grapevine publications and using them in their Twelfth-Step work.
- * The trustees' Finance Committee gather personal stories drawn from the Fellowship that humanize the impact of Seventh Tradition monies for the purpose of communicating with the Fellowship about Self-Support in new or existing literature.

Grapevine

It was recommended that:

- * La Vina achieve spiritual parity with the A.A. Grapevine, beginning in the following manner:
 - Publishing La Vina as a bimonthly, perfect-bound, black-and-white, 68-page issue at an additional estimated cost of \$21,400 per year for one year beginning in 2011 followed by a year of review and assessment in 2012. The results of this review and assessment will be brought to the 2013 Conference Committee on the A.A. Grapevine.
 - Content and substance be of primary importance.
 - An announcement will be published in La Vina magazine beginning immediately and throughout the trial year, encouraging increased submissions and subscriptions, moving toward the goal of being self-supporting.
- * The A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board, in order to reach the broadest spectrum of the Fellowship, sharing on the following items be gathered from the General Service Conference delegates on behalf of the 2010 Conference Committee on the A.A. Grapevine:
 - What is the value of the Grapevine magazine to you?
 - How do you use the Grapevine magazine?
 - What would you like to change about the Grapevine magazine?
 - What do you think the purpose of the Grapevine magazine should be?

Literature

It was recommended that:

- * The revised pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" be approved.
- * The trustees' Committee on Literature develop literature which focuses on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are successfully sober in Alcoholics Anonymous, and bring a draft or progress report to the 2011 Conference Committee on Literature.
- * The trustees' Literature Committee update the pamphlet "A.A. and the Armed Services" to include recent experiences from members on active duty and a section which focuses on veterans of the armed services, and that the range of experiences be reflected in the title of the pamphlet. The committee requested that a draft or progress report be brought to the 2011 Conference Committee on Literature
- * The trustees Committee on Literature review the booklet *Living Sober* and present a report to the 2011 Conference Committee on Literature.

Public Information

It was recommended that:

- * The 2010 television public service announcement, "My World," developed by the trustees' Public Information Committee, be approved.
- * The following text be included in the Conference-approved pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity," under Facts About Anonymity on page 10, to read as follows: "A.A. members generally think it unwise to break the anonymity of a member even after his or her death, but in each situation, the final decision must rest with the family. A.A. members, though, are in agreement that the anonymity of still-living A.A. members should be respected in obituaries or in any type of printed remembrance or death notice."
- * The A.A. Video for Young People titled "Animation" be approved with a minor change in format so that there is one informational frame that reads: "For more information, search 'Young People' at www.aa.org."
- * The term "drying out" be replaced with "detox" and "rehabilitation" replace "sanitarium" in the "What A.A. Does Not Do" section of the "A.A. at a Glance" flyer so that the phrase reads "...provide detox, rehabilitation, or nursing services..." and the entire section reads as follows: "A.A. does not: Furnish initial motivation for alcoholics to recover...solicit members...engage in or sponsor research...keep attendance records or case histories...join "councils" or social agencies (although A.A. members, groups and service offices frequently cooperate with them)...follow up or try to control its members...make medical or psychological diagnoses or prognoses...provide detox, rehabilitation or nursing services, hospitalization, drugs, or any medical or psychiatric treatment...offer religious services or host/sponsor retreats... engage in education about alcohol...provide housing, food, clothing, jobs, money, or any other welfare or social services...provide domestic or vocational counseling...accept any money for its services, or any contributions from non-A.A. sources...provide letters of reference to parole boards, lawyers, court officials, social agencies, employers, etc."
- * The trustees' Public Information Committee report back to the 2011 Conference Committee on Public Information with a draft policy on showing or not showing faces of actors who are portraying A.A. members or potential A.A. members in Conference- approved visual media, reviewing and taking into consideration targeted audiences for all available A.A. tapes and videos.

Report and Charter

It was recommended that:

* The General Service Board consider adding a section describing the role of trustees emeriti to *The A.A. Service Manual*.

Grapevine Survey

Greetings and Salutations! An advisory action at the 60th General Service Conference authorized a survey to be created for the A.A. Grapevine. We here in Area 54 want to hear from you. If you are interested in participating in the survey, send your results via email to delegate@Area54.org or by mail to: Akron Intergroup Office,775 N. Main Street, Akron, Ohio 44310. Attention Area 54 Mailbox.

Love and Service, Danny F. (59)(54)



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GRAPEVINE SURVEY
Inspired by the 2010 Grapevine Conference Committee
1) What is the value of the Grapevine magazine to you?
2) How do you use the Grapevine magazine?
2) What would not like to show a hart the Council of the show a hart the show a hart the show a hart the council of the show a hart th
3) What would you like to change about the Grapevine magazine?
4) What do you think the purpose of the Grapevine magazine should be?
5) Please answer one of the following questions about the Grapevine magazine:
a) If you <u>currently have</u> a print subscription: If the GV offers digital delivery (eg, e-mail) in addition to the print version,
will you opt out of the print version? Yes NO
OR
b) If you <u>currently do not have</u> a print subscription: If the GV offers digital delivery (eg, e-mail) in addition to the print version, will you begin subscribing? Yes NO
If Yes, and the digital and print are a bundled subscription, would you opt out of the print version? Yes
NO
6) Important questions about you: a) How old are you?
b) How long have you been sober? years
c) Are you a GSR? Yes NO
d) What district are you in (if known):

Grapevine Survey Cont'd



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7) Do you currently subscribe to the Grapevine Magazine? Yes NO
8) If you do not currently subscribe, have you previously? Yes NO If yes:
a) How long ago?years b) Why did you discontinue your subscription? (check all that apply) Content Price increase
No longer read magazines No longer use or benefit from Other:
9) If you do not currently subscribe to the Grapevine Magazine, what would need to change for you to subscribe? Content Format (digital)
Price reduction (willing to sacrifice color, pages) Nothing, will not subscribe Other:
10) If you checked "content" as a reason you do not subscribe or as an area you would like to see change, please elaborate what specific changes would you like to see?:
11) Do you think it is important for the Grapevine Magazine to continue?: Yes NO
12) In reference to pricing: (the Grapevine currently operates in a deficit, with shortfalls being covered by General Service Board approved withdrawals from the Reserve Fund).
a) Do you think the Grapevine Magazine should be priced so that the Grapevine is self-supporting? YesNO DON'T KNOW
b) Do you think the Grapevine Magazine should remain priced lower than the cost of production, and that the Grapevine Board and General Service Board should generate plans to subsidize operations to bring to the fellowship for consideration? Yes NO DON'T KNOW
165 NO DON I KNOW
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Electronic Delivery- What do you think?

Recently, the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous gave full support to a recommendation to the GSO "to begin developing e-publishing as a digital format that will enable electronic delivery of our literature" Your GSO has formed an E-technology team and they are now working in several areas. The team is beginning development of an e-publishing strategy; they are also assessing expert advice on current technology costs and best uses for AA. The team is also collecting e-delivery sharing from our Fellowship. As we hear from the Fellowship about what is needed and wanted, your input will help us to determine priorities in digital literature accessibility and services. We here in Area 54 want to hear from you. If you would like to complete the questionnaire below please e-mail your response to delegate@area54.org or you may mail your response to the Akron InterGroup Office, 775 North Main Street, Akron, Ohio 44310. Attn: Area 54

	electronic delivery		
Т	TELL US WHAT YOU THINK		
help d	and Canada A.A. General Service Office needs your input to etermine how best to serve those interested in accessing A.A. ure or information electronically.		
1. Are you in	terested in reading A.A. literature on your mobile device or computer		
	Yes No Maybe Don't know		
If yes/ma	If yes/maybe, which devices would you use?		
	☐ E-Reader ☐ Smartphone/Mobile Device ☐ Computer/Desktop/Laptop/Netbook		
Oth	et (please specify)		
2. Which A.A	. book would you want available electronically?		
3. Which A.A	. pamphlet would you want available electronically?		
	r services or information do you want your G.S.O. to provide		

Upcoming Events...

Area Elections

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The next panel of officers for Area 54 will be elected on October 17th at 2pm at the 12 Step Recovery Club on 1480

Pearl Road in Brunswick (entrance is in the rear, lower level next to the bowling alley). These officers will be elected for a two-year term. If you are a GSR or DCM, please make every effort to attend the elections, as this is a time where your group entrusts you to represent them at the area level. It is also a great opportunity to familiarize yourself with AA's Third Legacy voting procedure. Please come represent your group's voice in AA on October 17th!



<u>District 13 - GSR Workshop</u>

Saturday, October 16 2:00 - 4:30 PM

Oxford House 320 Benton Rd., Salem, Ohio 44460

Everyone is welcome - refreshments provided Contact Pat K. (419) 543-6969 or Eric B. (330) 301-4765

RECOVERY, UNITY AND SERVICE

These are the Three Legacies of our AA experience. Our leaders are but trusted servants, they do not govern. God, as He may speak in our group conscience, is our sole Authority. World Service is the heart of our Third Legacy. Our meetings are informative and educational. They are held so that the Committee Members, GSR's and all interested members may be better equipped to carry the message of World Service back to their home groups and individual members, thus giving a better understanding to our purpose, our hopes and our work.

Confidential Contact List

Your Trusted Servants Committee 59

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Visit us at http://www.aaneoh.org

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