

The Northeast Ohio Recorder

July, August, September 2003

<http://www.aaneoh.org>

Volume XVII, Issue 3

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 13 2:00 PM
DCM Workshop

July 18, 19 & 20
East Central Region Forum
Columbus, Indiana

August 17 2:00 PM
GSR Workshop

September 21 2:00 PM
Area Assembly

October 10, 11 & 12
Ohio State Convention
Miamisburg, OH

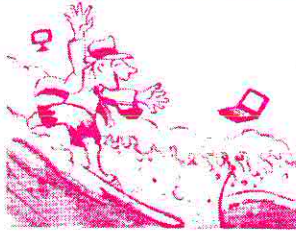
October 19
Area Assembly

Unless otherwise noted, Area
Assembly Meetings &
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)



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from the Delegate:

Greetings NE Ohio,

Many thanks to the members of districts 6, 23 & 39 for a wonderful Open House Picnic. It turned out to be great weather and a good time was had by all. There was wide representation from throughout the Area.

In the next couple months we will have a DCM and GSR Workshop. I encourage everyone to participate in these informative and educational events.

For the next year the General Service Board will be operating short one class A non-alcoholic Trustee. At the end of this year another non-alcoholic Trustee will be also rotate off. The input from our seven "friends of A.A." serve a vital role in of our structure. The Board is accepting applications from non-alcoholics with background in the medical, clergy, legal, social work and education fields to fill these voids.

As a result of several Conference Advisory Actions several trustees' committees have begun collecting information and shared experience from AA members, including:

1. Suggestions for revisions to the pamphlet *The AA Group*.
2. Pamphlets or flyers used by groups, districts and areas that address court-ordered attendance at AA meetings.
3. Typed manuscripts from

members that are currently incarcerated, or have been and continue on the road of recovery, to update the personal stories section in the book *A.A. in Prison: Inmate to Inmate*.

In the coming months there will be more requests regarding Advisory Actions. I will be sure to pass the request on to our fellow members.

A new Public Service Announcement has been distributed by our Public Information Committee. I have had reports of it's viewing by several members. If you would like a copy sent to a local television station, please contact our PI Committee.

Since the Conference I have taken the opportunity to share my report on almost two dozen occasions, including districts and Intergroups. I still have several more reports scheduled in July and August. Please contact me if your group, district or Intergroup would like to hear the report and see my display.

I will take this opportunity to share my personal experience portion of my 53rd General Service Conference Report in the next few pages. Keep an eye out for the Final Conference Report for a full report of the Advisory Actions, Board and Trustee reports. This is due out by August.

In fellowship,
Dan M:
Panel 53 Delegate



Delegate's 53rd General Service Conference Report

Before I begin I wish to thank the members of NE Ohio for the opportunity to serve Area 54 as your Delegate. The past few months have been an interesting journey and have opened my eyes, my mind and my heart. I have listened to and learned from members throughout NE Ohio, from visiting Youngtown and Canton Intergroups, attending AA meetings outside my district, sharing with our GSRs and DCMs at the Area Assemblies and the 28th Mini-Conference in Hudson, Ohio. Rest assured that your feelings, needs and problems have been heard. We all share the same primary purpose "to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers". This can only be accomplished by adherence to our first Tradition "Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of use will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward."

The 53rd General Service Conference was held April 27th through May 3rd 2003 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Manhattan in New York City. There were 135 voting members that includes 93 (68.9%) Delegates from the US and Canada, 27 (20%) Class A and Class B Trustees, AAWS and Grapevine Directors, and 15 (11.1%) General Service Office and Grapevine Staff members. Delegates function as representatives of AA groups in fulfilling the ultimate responsibility for AA World Services. The Trustees, AAWS and Grapevine Directors are responsible for policy and implementation. The GSO and Grapevine Staff carry out the policies of the Conference and report back to the General Service Board and Conference. Our co-founders Bill W. emphasized that AA's future survival

was dependent on listening to our collective group conscience when he stated, "Hence it is with a sense of great security that we old-timers have now fully vested in AA's General Service Conference the authority for giving shape – through the labors of its chosen Delegates, Trustees and service workers – to the destiny that we trust God in his wisdom is holding in store for all of us." (AA Service Manual, p.9)

I am grateful to serve Area 54 as Delegate and humbly share the



following highlights of the 53rd General Service Conference.

Pre-Conference

I arrived in New York City on Friday April 25th in time to tour the General Service Office at 475 Riverside and attend the Friday morning AA meeting. I am glad I took the opportunity to tour because by the time the Conference members attended on Tuesday afternoon the office was so packed it was hard to move around. This gave me the chance to take a more relaxed visit of the office.

On Saturday April 26th I presented the City of Cleveland for consideration as a site for the 2015 AA International Convention. Dave Toler, of the Convention and Visitors Bureau of Greater Cleveland, gave an enthusiastic and informative

presentation of the City of Cleveland. Included in the presentation was the debut of a video of highlights of visiting Cleveland set to background music by Jewel. I could tell from the members of the committee they were very pleased. Several commented to me before leaving New York that his presentation was the most exciting and the only one that addressed all of the requirements for hosting an International Convention. As I left the room I received hugs from every GSO Staff members and several of the committee. Although I was not nervous prior to giving my presentation, I must admit I was very relieved when the experience had ended.

I won't delay in telling everyone that Cleveland was not selected as one of the final three cities to be visited this summer, but do not be discouraged. From discussions with committee members I understand that eliminating Cleveland and Detroit were a very difficult decision. The cities all offered the full capability of hosting and International. The lack of a dome on Browns stadium did not prevent our selection. The final decision came down to minor details that probably would not normally eliminate a city from consideration. I urge the Area members to prepare to bid again in 2008 for the 2020 International. One day at a time, one bid at a time, we can bring the International back to Cleveland!

On Saturday evening I attended the Delegates Only Meeting. It is the intent of this meeting for 2nd year Delegates to share and offer suggestions to help first year Delegates to have a rewarding experience. We are fortunate to have East Central Regional Delegates/Past Delegates Conference to serve this

Delegate's 53rd General Service Conference Report (cont'd)

same purpose. Obviously not all regions have the same preparation.

On Sunday April 27th there were presentations of the new Area Database and Remote Communities. Because we have had the opportunity to review the new program for the past 6 months, I attended the Remote Communities meeting. Delegates shared their experience in carrying the message to people facing language, cultural or geographic barriers that we don't normally experience here in NE Ohio. Some members in Alaska hold meetings by speakerphone. One Area mentioned an annual travel budget in excess of \$75,000. Now that is the Seventh Tradition in action.

The Conference

Elaine McDowell, Class A non-alcoholic Trustee and chair of the General Service Board, opened the 53rd General Service Conference Sunday afternoon. Following a roll call of conference members by GSO General Manager Greg M, we dispensed with the first order of business. Jim Keeney, General Secretary of G. S.O. Great Britain, and Ann Napier, General Secretary Elect, G.S.O. Great Britain, were granted unanimous permission to attend the 53rd General Service Conference as observers. Torv T. Alternate Delegate from Area 74, Northern Wisconsin/Upper Peninsula Michigan, was seated to replace the absent Delegate.

The keynote address on the theme of the Conference, "Living AA's Principles Through Sponsorship" was given by Class A non-alcoholic Trustee Linda Chezem. This was Linda's last Conference as a Class A Trustee ending a six-year term of service to AA. This was followed by the opening dinner and AA meeting of

five speakers that included two delegates, a GSO Staff member, an AAWS Director and our own East Central Region Trustee Dorothy M.

At this point our committee work began. Sunday evening we met jointly with the Trustees Literature Committee to ask questions and clarify the scope of our work. This was followed by two scheduled three-hour sessions on Monday and Tuesday morning. We immediately recognized the need for more time in the Literature Committee and began each of those scheduled sessions one hour early and met Monday evening at the end of activities until the wee hours of the morning. In all the Literature

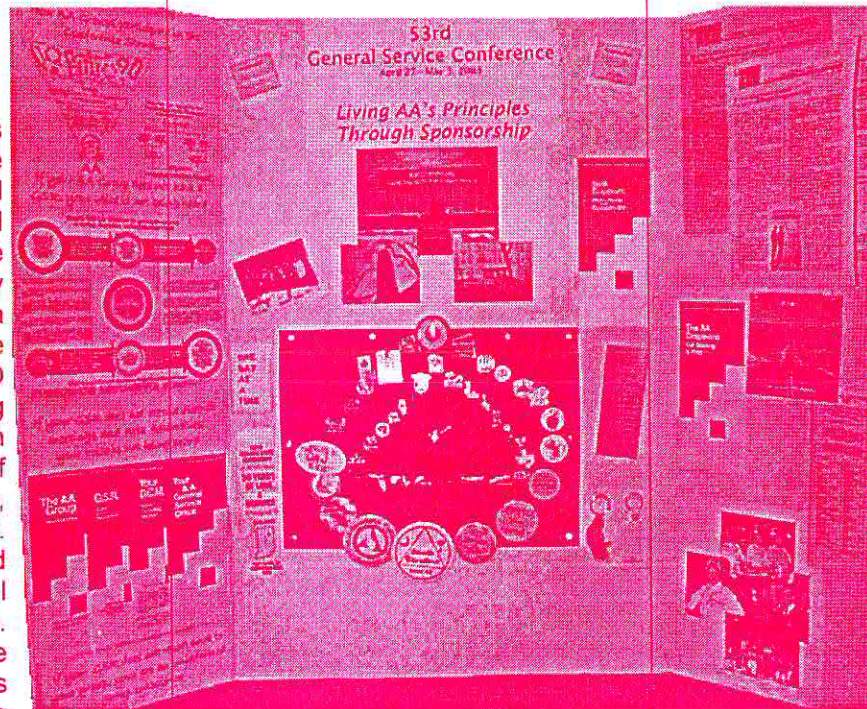
year Delegates gave their two-minute Area highlights. I was fortunate to do mine on Monday evening, so I could relax and listen closely to all the other Areas. Andy T., Area 53 Central and SE Ohio, had to give his report without his typed copy as it was misplaced. He received a standing ovation – nothing new for Andy!

Presentations included *The Grapevine: Editorial Purpose* by Des T., Executive Director of the Grapevine; *Around the Fellowship* by Pete B. Delegate Mid-Southern California; *17th World Service Meeting* by Charles B., Trustee-At-Large US; and *New Frontiers in AA* by Bill A., GSO Staff. It was unclear at the

outset if Bill would be able to attend due to his ongoing treatment for cancer. His presentation informed us on the General Service Offices travels in carrying the message to many countries around the world. His description of the events and experiences was very moving.

There were additional presentations on the theme of the Conference including: *Responsibilities of Sponsorship* by

Miles B., Delegate Maine; *Is Sponsorship Fading Away* by Betty B., Delegate Tennessee; and *Working With Medical Practitioners, Other Professionals and Friends* by Dr. George Valiant, Class A non-alcoholic Trustee. Dr. Valiant's presentation was particularly interesting because he addressed the importance of his being sponsored by an alcoholic. This concept is new to me. It was later repeated on Wednesday morning "How do AA's in your Area sponsor professionals?" when we met in



committee met 14 hours. I will also mention that we were on the Conference floor 6 hours and 27 minutes that overlapped a lunch and dinner break.

Between committee sessions we listened to reports and presentations. The General Service Board, AAWS Board and Grapevine Board presented their annual reports. This was followed by the Finance report by the chair of the Trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee.

Throughout the presentations first

Delegate's 53rd General Service Conference Report (cont'd)

committees to discuss these theme questions. The composition of these committees included Delegates, GSO Staff and Class A & B Trustees.

Some final presentations on the theme included *What are the Principles* by Rita L, Delegate SW Texas and *Living the Principles, Accepting our Differences* by Joe O., Delegate Southern New Jersey.

We witnessed the third-legacy elections of the NE Regional, SW Regional and the Canada-At-Large Trustee. Each election had a varied number of voters made up of the Delegates of the region and Trustees Committee members selected from the hat just prior to the election. The Area Delegate presented each candidate with a two-minute highlight and a resume was distributed to all Conference members. The first election went to the hat, the other two finished in three or four ballots.

Throughout the early conference sessions there were frequent *What's on your Mind* sharing sessions, similar to how we do at our Area Assembly and Mini- Conference. This was an opportunity to ask questions of GSO Staff, Publications Department, Class A & B Trustees, AAWS and Grapevine Boards. It became apparent to me during this time that again we should be thankful in the East Central Region for the training we are given. We don't have to wait until the Conference to ask questions. We can phone, write or even email the General Service Office. Many of the questions I heard asked could have been addressed this way.

Conference reporting, discussion and voting began on Wednesday evening and ran through Friday afternoon. We actually finished all reports within 15 minutes of the scheduled time. There was one floor action made and passed. The Conference was adjourned on Friday with the saying of the Serenity Prayer in Spanish, French and English.

It is important to stress the work of Conference Committees. A thoroughly discussed and well thought out recommendation was given great weight on the Conference floor.

Committee members stood together prepared to answer all questions and to show they had examined all questions and aspects of a consideration. Only two recommendations brought before the Conference were defeated. The other 31 recommendations all passed by wide margins. There were no attempts to reverse a committee's choice to take no action on a consideration.

In the closing sharing session many referred to this as the "Conference of the friendly amendment". There were 7 friendly amendments accepted, including friendly amendments to friendly amendments. There were 6 motions to reconsider of which only one passed. This motion to reconsider actually reversed the original vote on a Literature Committee recommendation to restore the punctuation in Dr. Bob's Nightmare to its Third Edition format.

On Friday evening I went to dinner in Greenwich Village with most members of the Literature Committee and some Delegates from Canada. Afterwards we attended a step meeting in Greenwich. At midnight I went to a meeting with three other East Central Regional Delegates in SOHO (South of Houston). It was a "real" city meeting with a half dozen people sound asleep against the walls. They never awoke, even during the meeting.

The closing brunch on Saturday included farewell talks by rotating Trustees of the General Service Board including Class A non-alcoholic Trustees Linda Chezem and Rev. Bob Miller, and Class B Trustees Alex P., Trustee-At-Large Canada, Beth R., SW Region, Tony T., NE Region, and Greg T., Grapevine Board.

Summary

All of the Conference Advisory Actions, board reports and presentations will be summarized in the final report due by August. The July/August Box 4-5-9 includes a summary of the highlights and

committee advisory actions.

My overall experience at the Conference has given me a better understanding of the structure of AA's representation and the process that takes place to achieve the goal of hearing everyone's voice. Since becoming a GSR for my home group my involvement has allowed me to see World Services in action at all levels, from the group, districts, committees and the Area Committee. This experience has allowed me to see the final stage of all the personal sharing and service work performed by many individuals in our Area. Coming together with the rest of the Delegate Areas to come to a "group conscience" of AA as a whole to share that experience and work truly was a spiritual experience.

Our work for the coming year has begins now. Over the course of the next few months we will continue to gather more needed input from our members and begin to put in place some of the Advisory actions that have resulted from this Conference.

The theme for the 54th General Service Conference will be: "Our Singleness of Purpose - The Cornerstone of A.A." Please join us in Hudson, Ohio for our 29th Annual Area 54 NE Ohio Mini-Conference where will convene to discuss some of the issues on the agenda for the 54th General Service Conference.

Gratefully submitted,
Dan M
Panel 53 Delegate Area 54 NE Ohio

*When anyone, anywhere
reaches out for help
I want the hand of AA
always to be there
And for that ...
I am Responsible*



Area 54 NE Ohio General Service of Alcoholics Anonymous

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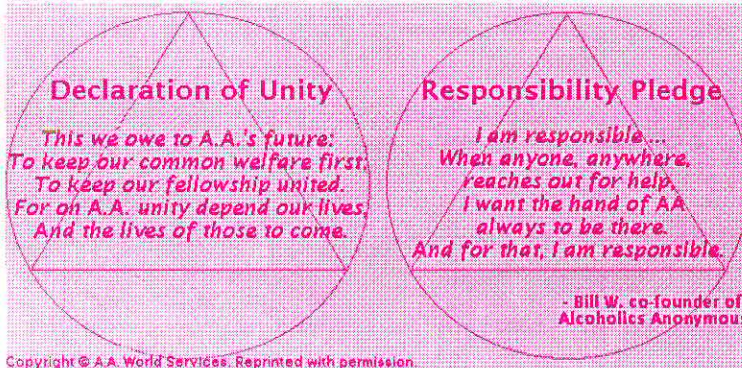
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Welcome !



Preamble of Alcoholics Anonymous

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.

The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

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Our website has been updated for a new look, added information, and easier navigation. Please visit <http://www.aaneoh.org> and take a look.

Area Officer Reports

I am so impressed by the enthusiasm and dedication shown by the Cleveland Multi-district. Starting at 1 pm Saturday, May 17th, over 30 members of AA met at the Carl B. Stokes Social Service Mall on Woodland Avenue to share their experience, strength and hope around General Service. Multi-district Chair, Clarence G, opened the meeting and introduced the panelists.

Bob McK shared the history of the 12 Traditions, originally titled 12 Points to Ensure Our Future. First published in the Grapevine in 1946 as a series of articles by Bill W, they were formally accepted by the Fellowship in 1950 at the First International Convention in Cleveland. Each of us is now a guardian of the Traditions. Bob gave real life examples of how the Traditions work in AA.

Carolyn C spoke to the group about service as a GSR. She was elected by her

group only 8 months sober. She now serves as secretary of the Cleveland Multi-district. She continues to educate and inform her home group about the role of the GSR and the place of the group within the larger AA circle. Be sure to ask Carolyn for a copy of 'The Four Entities', a publication of the Multi-district which explains where our donations go and why it is important to be self-supporting at all levels of AA service. She also talked about the importance of service sponsorship. She shared her struggles with finding acceptance of General Service with her own home group and tools she uses today to overcome group resistance.

Mike T, District 29 DCM, shared his experience moving from GSR to DCM. Mike says, "Service is important and necessary because I don't want to get drunk anymore." DCMs must visit their groups, not just call the GSRs occasionally. He shared how to avoid the pitfall of becoming

the villain to his district groups. He encourages groups to invite a service panel to come and share at your group. He also offered suggestions on how groups can fund their anniversary party without using our Seventh Tradition collection.

Tina H, Panel 51 Past Delegate, talked about her eight years of involvement with Panels 45-51. Speaking to the assembled AAs, she shared her experience and advice for officers. The area chairperson is the responsible person to ensure that the assembly meeting comes off at the area (or district or group) level. An Area chairperson must be familiar with Robert's Rules of Order and the Third Legacy Procedure. The GSR is the real voice and real vote of the group to the district, the area, and AA worldwide.

All the panelists were very informative and I appreciated their participation. In Love & Service,
Jeff Y , Mailing Secretary

Cleveland Multi-Districts
29, 31, 33, 34, 35, 36 & 45
of Area 54

Annual Picnic

Saturday August 23, 2003

Forest Hill Park
Cleveland Heights, Ohio

9:00 AM to 6:00 PM
Speaker at 2:00 PM
Alice H.
Alternate Delegate

Meats provided
Please bring a desert or
side dish to share

Food
Fun
Fellowship

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.

Your Trusted Servants Committee 53

Dan Miller, Delegate

P.O. Box 173
Chardon, OH 44024
Voice Mail: (216) 670-4397
E-mail: danmiller@earthlink.net

Alice Hill, Alternate Delegate

6245 New London Road
Ashtabula, OH 44004
Home: (440) 969-1139
E-mail: AliceHill@alltel.net

Gregory Johnson, Chairperson

26241 Lakeshore Blvd #761
Euclid, OH 44132
Home: (216) 732-9595
e-mail: Johgrg2@aol.com

Linda Smith, Recording Secretary

289 Colgate Ave
Elyria, OH 44035
Home: (440) 323-9217
e-mail: diamonds@bright.net

Joe Hill, Treasurer

916 W. Liberty St
Wooster, OH 44691
Home: (330) 262-4791
e-mail: jhiller@ssnet.com

Jeff Yoder, Mailing Secretary

1076 Woodview Rd.
Cleveland Heights, OH 44121
Home: (216) 691-0917
e-mail: jyoder@earthlink.net

Committee Chairpersons 2003-2004

Committee Name	Chairperson & Address	Telephone E-Mail
Archives	Kevin Smith , Chairman 289 Colgate Ave Elyria, OH 44035 Bob Miller , Archivist 5999 Bear Creek Dr #323 Bedford Heights, OH 44146	(440) 323-9217 diamonds@bright.net (440) 786-1246 bob.miller@worldnet.att.net
Correctional Facilities	Tina Hill 7830 Harvard Avenue Cleveland, OH 44105	(216) 271-3411 CleveAA89@aol.com
Cooperation with the Professional	Clarence G. Hill 5225 Superior Ave #818 Cleveland, OH 44103	(216) 426-0366
Finance		
Grapevine	Bill Johnson 1705 E. 28th St. #33 Ashtabula, OH 44004	(440) 997-5880 bj1538@adelphia.net
Literature	Richard U. Hill 6456 North Ridge East Geneva, Ohio 44004	(440) 969-2249 ace_rau@alltel.net
Newsletter	Rob Smith , Editor 261 Schrop Avenue #1 Akron, OH 44312	(330) 733-7319 rsebas@aol.com
Public Information	Marcus Miller 2280 W River Rd. N #C10 Elyria, OH 44035	(440) 324-4560 breeze313@rock.com
Special Needs		
Treatment Facilities	Dan Fisher 894 Broadway Ave. # 308 Bedford, OH 44146	(440) 439-6492

Visit the NE Ohio Area 54 Internet Website at <http://www.aaneoh.org>