

The Northeast Ohio Recorder

April, May, June 2004

<http://www.aaneoh.org>

Volume XVII, Issue 6

UPCOMING EVENTS

Apr 18 - Committees Workshop

May 16 - Area Assembly

June 27 - Open House Picnic
Shreiber Park
2800 Maple Ave. NE
Canton, OH
Hosted by District 15

July 18 - DCM Workshop

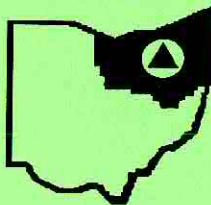
July 23-25
48th Ohio State Convention
Hudson Holiday Inn

August 22 - GSR Workshop

September 10-12
Bridge The Gap Workshop
Holiday Inn, Sandusky, OH

*Unless otherwise 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)*



Inside this Issue:

Delegate's Report	1
Area Officer's Reports	2
Mini-Conference Committee Recommendations	3
Mini-Conference Theme.....	4
Area Committees Reports	5
Area Officers & Committee Chair Contact Information	6



from the Delegate:

Greetings NE Ohio,

I would like to personally thank the AA members and groups in NE Ohio for their continued financial support of Area 54 General Service and the General Service Board. Final reports from both the Area 54 Treasurer and the General Service Board indicate the continued upward trend in contribution in both dollars and numbers of groups contributing.

As we continue to strive to be self-supporting through our own voluntary contributions in the spirit of our Seventh Tradition it is important that we better inform ourselves, and our groups, about all A.A. service entities and how these service entities assist in carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic. Two important pamphlets that can assist in educating AA members include: *Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix* and *Memo to an AA Group Treasurer*. Both of these pamphlets are free and can be read online at AA's website <http://www.aa.org>.

While the Twelfth Step work of carrying the message at the group level or in one on one contact with the suffering alcoholic is apparent to many of us in the personal witness of changed lives, often times in world service we work to carry the message to alcoholics

that we may never meet face to face. Our district, area, and world service committees work to carry the message to non-alcoholic professionals who may be the first contact with the suffering alcoholic, to break geographic, language and physical disability barriers through access to our meetings and our literature. On a world service level this would include sponsoring countries where there are no AA meetings exist today.

By supporting our service entities with contributions of our time and money we begin to see ways of extending the hand of AA to many that would be difficult, if not impossible, for one person or one group to reach.

The 48th Ohio State Convention will take place July 23-25, 2004 at the Hudson Holiday Inn. Included in the program are AA speaker meetings, alcathon meetings, panel meetings on the 12 Traditions & 12 Concepts for World Services. A Special Needs panel where AA members will share on how the hand of AA was extended addressing the obstacles they face. There will be three Al-Anon meetings and a "Friends of AA" meeting where Past Class A (non-alcoholic) Trustee Linda Chezem will share on her deep affection for A.A. and share why she dedicated so many years in service to our life-saving program.

We hope that you will join us to meet old friends, make new friends and share our new way of life.

In fellowship,

Dan M. [redacted] Panel 53 Delegate

Area Officer, GSR & DCM Reports

I have just returned from the 21st annual Southwest Ohio Area 56 Mini-Conference. This was very enjoyable to me, especially in the ways that other areas conduct their proceedings. The theme of this conference was *"Our Singleness of Purpose the Cornerstone of AA"*. The first thing that I noticed was that everybody did not know what Singleness of Purpose meant. That was very surprising to me, but I have to remember what assumptions did to me in the past. Secondly, I noticed that all the delegate areas are autonomous in their ways of presenting the issues to their service members. Some of the issues that were important to our Delegate weren't as important to the other Delegates. I got a chance to see the 3rd legacy process actually work while in another area. The third thing that I noticed was a lot of the problems that area 56 face are the same as ours in area 54, including: tradition breaks, people stating they will share "their story" regardless of the groups opinion, low interest in general service, and low contributions to GSO.

I worked on the Treatment Facilities committee and I really admire the amount of work they are doing with the "Bridging the Gap" program. They take a more intimate approach to treatment programs in providing literature and contacts, and the thing that really impressed me was the fact that they will be going into the nursing homes to carry the message to the residents that are there.

The voting process was very enjoyable to watch but we couldn't participate because only members of area 56 are allowed to participate in the voting.

The saddest thing about the whole weekend was the fact that I had to leave the conference in order to come our 3rd legacy meeting. And I am looking forward to our Mini Conference. I really think it will be enlightening to all who attend.

In Service,
Gregory J. [redacted] Area 54 Chair

GSR Observations

Hi! My name is Elisa S. I am a new GSR from District 15. I want everyone to know this is a great learning experience for me and I am enjoying this awesome way to live. This program is a blessing and so are all of you.

Love and Service,
Elisa S.

Intergroups and Central Offices Serving NE Ohio

Akron Intergroup Council
775 N. Main, Akron, OH 44310
(330) 253-8181

Ashtabula Area Intergroup
529 W. Prospect St. Suite #100, Ashtabula, OH 44004
(440) 992-8383

Canton Area Intergroup
627 S Main Street, North Canton, OH 44720
(330) 497-4427

Cleveland District Office
1701 East 12th Street, Cleveland, OH 44114
Reserve Square—Lower Commons
216) 241-7387

Columbiana County Intergroup
P.O. Box 433, Salem, OH 44460
(330) 332-5442 (330) 692-1436

Lorain County Central Office
577 Broadway, Lorain, OH 44052
(440) 246-1800

Richland County AA
122 Marlow Road #2, Mansfield, OH 44906
(419) 522-4800

Sandusky AA Intergroup
3416 Columbus Ave., Sandusky, OH 44871
(419) 625-5995 (888) 693-9768

Youngstown Area AA
4439 Mahoning Ave., Youngstown, OH 44515
(330) 270-3000

A short time ago while attending an Area Assembly meeting it was suggested that GSR's and DCM's get involved with a second committee. I immediately began to think where I could be of service.

Being a former inmate, the Correctional Facilities Committee came to mind. Once I made the decision I felt a strong need to carry the message behind the walls. My patience was tested because it was a difficult process initially. However, being a newly appointed DCM has increased my responsibilities and develop more AA contacts. I am grateful to have been asked to speak at the Mansfield Correctional Facility and recently had the opportunity to share my experience, strength and hope behind the walls.

The Mansfield Correctional staff was extremely professional and helpful. They made me feel a welcome guest. They invited me back to visit their group. From this experience I am comfortable with my decision to carry the message behind the walls.

After reading the article in Box 4-5-9 titled "Correctional Facilities", it is my goal to someday be able to meet one-on-one with alcoholic inmates and sponsor through an inmate sponsorship program. Service truly is the secret!

Donna L. [redacted] DCM District

2004 Mini-Conference Committee Recommendations

Summary of committee reports, recommendations, and voting at the 29th Annual Area 54 Mini-Conference.

Archives

Agenda item F: Reported on a review "Archives Workbook" and recommend:

- a) The copy policy for archival material be changed to reflect newer standards for preservation of fragile archival material by digital collection.
- b) Updating the reference "National Archives Workshop" to "National AA Archives Workshop", the name the convention adopted for itself.

Agenda item G: Recommended updating "Guidelines for Collecting Oral Histories" to include:

- a) The interviewer prepare by studying local AA history prior to the interview so the knowledge can be used to prompt the person being interviewed when necessary.
- b) Adding the statement: "It is helpful to have information about the groups from more than one source about the same series of groups, events or persons covered."

Cooperation with the Professional Community

Agenda item C: Reported on the importance of CPC committees educating individuals and professionals about our singleness of purpose. Reported on a discussion of CPC activities in Area 45.

Correctional Facilities

Agenda item C: Recommended adding trustees' Correctional Facilities Committee 3rd sample pre-release booklet to the Correctional Facilities Workbook.

Agenda item D: Reported on a discussion of current Correctional Facilities Committee work in Area 54 including: contact with correctional professionals, workshops, panels, and sharing with other correctional service workers to share ideas.

Grapevine

Agenda item B: Recommended revising "The AA Grapevine: Our Meeting in Print" pamphlet to include references to La Vina and La Vina representatives (RLVs). The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda item C1: Recommended the "AA Grapevine Workbook" be classified as service material and reviewed on an annual basis at the General Service Conference. The motion passed with substantial unanimity.

Finance

Agenda item B: Reported on a discussion of self-support noting the importance of educating our groups on supporting all four entities by utilizing the pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix" and flyer "Memo to an AA Treasurer". The committee also stressed the importance of educating individuals about the birthday contribution plan.

Literature

Agenda item B: Considered a draft introduction to "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions" and took no action

Agenda item C1: Recommended rewriting the pamphlet "Too Young?". The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda item C2: Recommended updating the pamphlet "Young People and AA". The motion passed with substantial unanimity.

Agenda item C3: Recommended the trustees' Literature Committee develop comic books for the new and younger members. The motion passed with substantial unanimity.

Agenda item C4: Recommended the trustees' Literature Committee develop a booklet for teenagers. The motion passed with substantial unanimity.

Agenda item E: Considered restoring punctuation in "Dr. Bob's Nightmare" in the 4th edition to 3rd edition state and took no action.

Agenda item F: Recommended update to the pamphlet "It Happened to Alice!". The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda item K: Recommended the development of an Intergroup/Central Office pamphlet. The motion failed to gain substantial unanimity, 36 for to 26 against.

Public Information

Agenda item D: Recommended the 2004 AA Membership Survey be conducted by area on a random basis as it was done in 2001. The motion passed with substantial unanimity.

Agenda item E: Recommended updating the videos "Young People in AA," and "AA – Rap with Us". The motion passed with substantial unanimity.

Treatment Facilities

Agenda item C: Reported discussion of Treatment Facilities activities in Area 54.

Agenda item D: Reported discussion on ways Treatment Facilities committees can help individuals referred to AA who focus on problems other than alcohol at AA meetings.

2004 Mini-Conference Theme

Our Singleness of Purpose—The Cornerstone of A.A.

1. Our singleness of purpose

a. Our responsibility to the newcomer is outlined in the Responsibility Statement, Tradition One, and to carry our message to the alcoholic who wants what we have. However we cannot change our message to accommodate the newcomer. Our responsibility to newcomer closely parallels our responsibility to AA., its purpose and traditions. Show him that it works by coming back ourselves. To provide a welcoming meeting for the newcomer. We must preserve the opportunity to recover from a hopeless state of mind and body. We owe the newcomer an education about what AA does and doesn't do. We set the example by our own behavior in meetings. To teach rather than correct. Extend the hand of AA. Use literature to teach. Encourage them to stay until they learn what and who they are. Results in freedom from alcohol as the result of working these steps. To help the newcomer along the path, which someone did for us. Carry the message as it's laid out in the Big Book. If they want to stop drinking, they are in the right place. To provide phone numbers and fellowship. Keep the doors open by adhering to the Traditions. To share out experience, strength and hope. Assist them to select the best literature suited for them. Make them feel welcome by shaking hands, coffee, and that someone talks to them before they leave. To talk about my tools in recovery and how those got and kept me sober. Note also the 3rd Tradition. Living the principles in our lives for all to see.

b. Communicating our Singleness of Purpose. Our Preamble, Traditions, and the actions of our service structure. In meetings, in service work, on committees, in the charter. When sharing one on one or from the podium, we should talk about our problems as they relate to alcoholism, even if there are drugs in our past. Communicate our Singleness of Purpose while remaining patient and tolerant of others. We are all guardians of the Traditions. Reading the Long Form of the Traditions occasionally. With a spirit of love and a message of hope, gently at the side. Focus on recovery in our leads and comments. Communicate in a civil manner, whether one on one, in sponsorship, or on a 12th Step Call. Use different forms of media, to ensure the best understanding, along with Big Book and pamphlets. Suggest what they can do, rather than what they can't. Keep it simple. Use of the Blue Card at beginning of meetings. Education is on-going. Reminding them that we want nothing in return for what we do or say. What fellowship can best help this person? We lead by example, through love and service.

2. The Cornerstone of AA

a. Safeguarding our Unity. Each service responsibility is matched with an equal service authority. Our group consciences were designed to promote unity by preventing any one person from being in charge, allowing every member a voice, spirit of rotation, involvement opportunities for everybody. By reading and discussing the Traditions. Diplomacy and tact with firm stress on the Traditions. By being Guardians of the AA Traditions, we will safeguard our Unity. By encouraging and striving for a fully formed and informed group conscience. By electing leaders who know, respect and follow our Traditions. Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of ALL our traditions. Unity will only be destroyed from within AA, not from without. By being at my ONE home group, I remain accountable and have strong and open

support group. Maintaining the belief that our Traditions work in spite of us. Staying active in service, as an informed member. By maintaining Three and Five in a dynamic tension, we ensure the Unity of AA as well.

b. Traditions Three and Five: Our members, our message. Our requirement for membership is different from our responsibility to membership. Every group has the responsibility to carry the message as it relates to alcoholism. There are no AA Police – we can temper the message of our traditions with love and tolerance. Our membership ought to include all who suffer *from alcoholism*. Our message as described in Tradition 5 is our mission statement. Desire to stop is sufficient to begin. Remember the lesson of the Washingtonians. Three only mentions drinking, not other problems. Discussion of other problems in AA can harm our Fellowship as a whole – not an autonomy issue. Familiarize ourselves with the 12x12 and work with a sponsor who does likewise.

How is Singleness of Purpose important to the individual, group, district, area, GSO and Grapevine?

1. Is there a philosophical difference between our Primary Purpose and our Singleness of Purpose? Primary refers to the individual and the group; Singleness refers to the Fellowship and our common illness. Both help to prevent distortion of the message. Yes AND No... No difference – just Bill using two different words to mean the same thing. Yes, we distinguish between how we stay sober and help others versus the idea that we all share one thing in common – our alcoholism recovery. Singleness refers to the way we relate to the outside world, with professionals and the public. Primary refers to the way we relate this message for the newcomer.

2. How does "Singleness of Purpose" relate to our 3rd and 5th Traditions? Traditions 3 and 5 refer to why we end up here and how we deal with it, as regards our alcoholism. As ex-problem drinkers, we are uniquely qualified to help another recover. Carrying our message to the still sick and suffering alcoholic that has a desire to stop drinking. Willingness to change our old ideas for new in a program that's all about change.

3. What can we do to clearly communicate our "Singleness of Purpose" without becoming too rigid? Our code is love and tolerance. Read the Blue Card. Best done tactfully, one on one, after the meeting. Educate and identify with the Traditions. Useful literature available; *What AA does and doesn't do* and *Problems Other than Alcohol*. Remaining inclusive while remembering and reminding that there is a time and place to talk about these other things, i.e., not in a meeting. Effective sponsorship. Recommend that the Blue Card be rewritten in a less rigid manner. Educate, don't humiliate! Drinking was but one symptom of our spiritual disease among many. Treat the disease and the symptoms will go away.

4. What measures can be used to clarify what AA is and is not, and how AA cooperates, but does not affiliate with:

Media – PI Committee actions. PSAs, remind that we do not publicize someone's sentencing referral to AA in the media. Emphasize Traditions 10, 11, & 12.

Treatment Centers – AA letter from TF/CPC committees, workshops, Bridging the Gap.

Court Programs – Corrections Committee can communicate with judges and probation officers.

Correctional Facilities

Things are going really well. There is loads of activity in regards to carrying the message behind the walls. The Cleveland Correctional Committee and our committee are cooperating with each other by sharing information that links volunteers with the appropriate facilities. Those of you who are doing correctional work please let me know so it can be documented. If you would like to volunteer to carry the message by going into correctional facilities or corresponding please let me know. GSO is looking for male correspondence volunteers. Maybe your group or district would like to act as temporary contacts?

We will be hosting the 14th Annual Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend. The event will be held at the Holiday Inn Sandusky, September 10-12, 2004. Volunteers are needed for the hospitality rooms, registration, greeters, and persons to pick up and return guests to local airports. The CPC, PI, and Treatment Committees are invited to assist in this effort.

FYI: Issues of "Released" the thread bound special Correctional Grapevine Issue is available for \$1 per copy for orders of 10 or more, this includes postage. Please contact the Grapevine at 212-870-3404 or on the web at www.aagrapevine.org In addition, remember that the CFC meetings are held one hour before each Area Assembly.

Gratefully yours,

Tina H [redacted] CFC Chairperson
Area 54 NE Ohio General Service

Public Information

The committee is in need of help. Our service to the AA community is to inform the outside world what AA is and what AA is not. Our service extends to communities, schools and groups

Please contact me if you are interested.
John K [redacted] PI Chairperson
Pager: 216-485-6750

Grapevine Committee

I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that help spreading the message will be appreciated during the Mini Conference, Founder's Day, and the State Convention. Just one hour of your time would be very helpful. I have been starting to make rounds to the district meetings to provide some information to people about ways that the message of the Grapevine can be spread. A subscription to the Grapevine can be used as a door prize at an anniversary meeting, or a group can purchase a subscription and at the end of each month, raffle it off in a 50/50 drawing. Groups and individuals can also sponsor Grapevine subscriptions to Hospitals, Drs. Offices, Treatment Centers, or jails/prisons where they are permitted. Groups could also make the magazine available as part of their regular literature sales. I would like to thank the districts where I have had the opportunity to bring this message and would like to continue to bring this message to other districts as time permits.

This June will mark the 60th anniversary of the Grapevine Magazine and in June, the Grapevine will be bringing the AA Grapevine Digital Archives to the internet free for the month of June. 12,000 articles written between the years of 1944 and 2002 will be available for reading on the website. Online subscriptions will be available beginning in July. If you are interested in getting more information visit <http://www.aagrapevine.org> for more information.

Yours in Love and Service,
Bill J [redacted]
Area 54 Grapevine Chair

Dual District 23/39

The Dual District serves and represents approximately 65 local groups in both Ashtabula and eastern Lake Counties. This large geographical area includes Madison, Perry, Ashtabula, Geneva, Conneaut, Jefferson, Orwell, Andover and all points between. More than a dozen new groups have sprung up throughout the district.

The double district realized a long time dream and opened a local Intergroup Office in Ashtabula. Years of faith, hard work and dedication paid off huge with the opening of the office at 529 West Prospect Road.

Today we are coming of age so to speak. The focus of the Dual District is changing, with Literature sales, publication of meeting schedules and handling of the 24 hour hot line now under the auspices of the Intergroup Office, the district is turning its attention to local needs of shut-ins and special service needs, Cooperation with the Professional Community, Public Information needs, the preservation of our local history (Archives), the exposure of AA Grapevine services and literature, and working with local prisons jails and treatment centers.

CPC is taking a monthly meeting to the local AWARE program held in a local hotel. Weekly meetings are taken into the county jail, local prison and treatment center. Recently a meeting was taken into a nursing home where a 40 year medallion was presented to a long timer. Bridging the Gap works with the Area and local institutions to connect local AA's with those leaving confinement and rehab.

Our strong working history with the area includes hosting the Mini Conference, Gratitude Sunday the Area Picnic and a continuing rotation of Trusted Servants to the Area Assembly. We are grateful for our blessings and realize our addiction to service work has only begun.

Dual District 23/39 Folks

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 M Panel 53 Delegate
P.O. Box 173
Chardon, OH 44024
Voice Mail: (216) 670-4397
E-mail: danm@fhome.net

Alice H, Alternate Delegate
6245 New London Road
Ashtabula, OH 44004
Home: (440) 969-1139
E-mail: Ah@el.net

Gregory J, Chairperson
26241 Lakeshore Blvd #761
Euclid, OH 44132
Home: (216) 346-0733
e-mail: Johgrg2@netzero.com

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

Joe H, Treasurer
916 W. Liberty St.
Wooster, OH 44691
Home: (330) 262-4791
e-mail: jh@snet.com

Jeff Y, Mailing Secretary
1076 Woodview Rd.
Cleveland Heights, OH 44121
Home: (216) 691-0917
e-mail: jy@cu.edu

Committee Chairpersons 2003-2004

Committee Name	Chairperson & Address	Telephone E-Mail
Archives	Kevin S, Chairman 289 Colgate Ave Elyria, OH 44035	(440) 323-9217 diamonds@bright.net
	Bob M, Archivist 1367 Grantleigh Rd. South Euclid, OH 44121	(216) 691-1605 bob.m@t
Correctional Facilities	Tina H 7830 Harvard Avenue Cleveland, OH 44105	(216) 271-3411 CleveAA89@acninc.net
Cooperation with the Professional Community	Clarence G. 5225 Superior Ave #818 Cleveland, OH 44103	(216) 426-0366
Finance	Jacob M P.O. Box 18280 Cleveland, OH 44118	(216) 469-8289 jacob@specchef.com
Grapevine	Bill Jc 1705 E. 28th St. #33 Ashtabula, OH 44004	(440) 997-5880 bj1538@adelphia.net
Literature	Richard U 6456 North Ridge East Geneva, Ohio 44004	(440) 969-2249 ace_rau@alltel.net
Newsletter	Rob S, Editor 261 Schrop Avenue #1 Akron, OH 44312-1204	(330) 733-7319 rsebas@aol.com
Public Information	John K 7524 Richmond Rd. Oakwood Village, OH 44146	(440) 786-0216 Longjohnfcmcc@earthlink.net
Special Needs	Margaret L 635 Dewey Ave. Elyria, OH 44035	(440) 323-3739 Lovebeacon52@Hotmail.com
Treatment Facilities	Dan F 840 Broadway Ave. # 308 Bedford, OH 44146	(440) 439-6492 danf@adelphia.net

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