

The Northeast Ohio Recorder

October, November, December 2004

<http://www.aaneoh.org>

Volume XVII, Issue 8



**October 17 - Area Assembly
Panel 55 Delegate &
Area Officer Election**

**November 21—Gratitude Sunday
Doors open 3:00 PM
St. Malachi Church Hall
2459 Washington Ave.
Cleveland, Ohio**

----- 2005 -----

January 16 - Area Assembly Gv Lit

February 20 - Area Assembly Gv Lit

March 20 - Area Assembly

**April 1-3 - 30th Mini-Conference
Holiday Inn Lakeside Gv Lit
1111 Lakeside Ave.
Cleveland, Ohio**

*Gv Denotes Grapevine Sales Days
Lit Denotes Literature Sales Days*

**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)**



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from the Delegate:

Greetings NE Ohio,

As we approach the last quarter of the Panel 53 term it becomes important to begin planning for our next two years. Our eleven standing committees will need new service workers ready to carry the message through such efforts as cooperating with the professional community, working with correctional and treatment facility programs to bridge the gap and bring meetings into facilities that do not offer meetings, providing public information, continuing to address the needs of our members with special needs, as well as carrying our message through our literature and AA Grapevine. All of these committees provide unique service opportunities for our members to carry AA's message of recovery in much wider ways than the average group or individual usually do.

If you have been wondering how you can get involved in twelfth step work at a different level, now is the time to contact our existing committee chairs and volunteer. Our Panel 55 Delegate will be tasked with assigning new committee chairs and will certainly look forward to members stepping forward. We don't always have to wait to be asked to serve.

The 2005 schedule of Area Assemblies and events is now available online at <http://www.aaneoh.org>. These will be

mailed to all groups after the Panel 55 Delegate and Area Officers are seated and committee chairs filled.

Planning for our 30th Area 54 NE Ohio Mini-Conference continues. The weekend returns to Cleveland after spending many years in the outlying regions of Area 54. The Mini-Conference will be held April 1, 2 and 3, 2005 at the Holiday Inn Lakeside. We look forward to a successful conference full of discussion and new ideas.

We also begin work on the 55th General Service Conference. The theme for the 2005 Conference will be "Basics of Our Home Group – Recovery, Unity and Service". We look forward to wide input from the members and groups in NE Ohio sharing how the home group works to carry the message, strengthen the AA Tradition and prepare for the AA of tomorrow.

All groups should have received registration forms for the 2005 International Convention that will be held June 30 to July 3, 2005 in Toronto, Canada. Anyone wishing to attend is encouraged to register by mail or online at <http://aa.org> by October 29, 2004 to be included in the housing lottery. Pre-registration will continue through May 16, 2005 and there will be registration at the convention.

I thank the members of NE Ohio for the opportunity to serve as the Panel 53 Delegate. It truly has been a growing experience.

In fellowship,

Dan M., Panel 53 Delegate

Area Officer Reports

CONCEPT IX: *Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety...*

"Good leadership originates plans, policies, and ideas for the improvement of our Fellowship and its services. But in new and important matters, it will nevertheless consult widely before taking decisions and actions. Good leadership will also remember that a fine plan or idea can come from anybody, anywhere...[and] will often discard its own cherished plans for others that are better."

c. 1962, Twelve Concepts for World Service by Bill W., page 39

The trusted servants that we elect ~ the chair, secretary, treasurer, GSR, DCM, or delegate ~ necessarily exercise some leadership in their respective roles. Even the coffee maker at your home group must decide how much coffee to make and whether it is time to buy more cups. We expect them to show personal initiative in these tasks. Leadership may take more far-reaching form, too. The phone contact that we provide to our General Service Office so that travelers can find an AA meeting is an example. This seemingly unimportant item has a far-flung impact.

I was speaking to one of our DCMs and he mentioned his experience with the Eastern Directory. On his travels to another state, he noticed that most of the numbers were incorrect or disconnected. I have had a similar experience right here in Ohio, while visiting family.

The point I am trying to make is that we ought to consider the careful selection of our trusted servants. Haven't we all heard about the GSR who was elected

because s/he went to the restroom. A funny bit of AA folklore, but isn't it telling? We elect the person sometimes least capable of carrying out the job. "Well," we counter, "they'll grow into the position." Perhaps they will, but the Peter Principle is not part of our service structure. Lord knows, I rose to my level of incompetence in my drinking days. I don't have to act that way any more. Not when there are so many resources available to me: the General Service Manual, Area assembly, a service sponsor, and the experience of my predecessor.

I have noticed a disturbing trend as area registrar. Some groups file change forms several times a year, always with different names. The GSR elected in January is soon replaced in May, who falls by the wayside in July. Rarely does the alternate rotate up, if there is one. "Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning..."

Is my group participating in the entire service structure? **Yes? Wonderful!**

Is my group self-supporting, contributing to the Four Entities?

Of course! Fabulous!

Do we practice the spirit of rotation, giving everyone an opportunity to grow in service and spirit? **"Sure"**, we answer.

"Our GSR was just secretary the last four months, after finishing his aftercare program."

Hmmmm.

Every group is autonomous, EXCEPT in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole. Is our choice of ill-prepared servants affecting AA as a whole?

Can the potential GSR commit to a full term of two years, which is typical for this position? The service manual suggests a

period of two years continuous sobriety for the successful candidate. IS s/he willing to faithfully attend area assembly (only six times yearly) and give a report to their home group? Is our home group supportive to our newly elected GSR - listening politely to his/her report, providing support to attend the annual mini-conference? We practice regular rotation of officers to prevent stagnation in the group. Isn't it just as important to have some stability in our leadership, too?

Let's give our trusted servants the time and support they need to develop the experience, strength and hope necessary to mentor their successor. We encourage electing an alternate at the same time we elect our GSR. This provides more service opportunities for the group, so more new AA's can feel involved right away.

Hopefully, this apprenticeship allows our trusted servants to grow into those important positions.

In Love & Service,
Jeff Y., Mailing Secretary

If you were being charged with being a member of Alcoholics Anonymous

Would there be sufficient evidence to convict you??

And if not, why not??

Dual District 23 & 39

Many people from the Dual District are serving in the area level. They are doing a wonderful job; however our District and Intergroup have been experiencing growing pains due to lack of participation. "You are not alone." This is a WE program. Everyone needs to get involved at some level.

Sincerely,
Bob D. & Penny C.

Cleveland Corrections Committee

TRAINING WORKSHOP

A training workshop for those interested in serving as a volunteer at AA meetings behind the walls and those who wish to help facilitate that work as a committee member or correspondent.

**Saturday, November 20, 2004
10 AM - 1 PM**

St. Joseph Byzantine Church
8111 Brecksville Road
Brecksville, Ohio

Directions from I-77:
Exit at the **Wallings Road** Exit heading East. At **Brecksville Road**, take a right and follow to the top of the hill. The church will be on the left-hand side.

If you should have any questions, please call either:
Bill J. at (440)570-9361
or
Russ W. at (440) 327-1308.

Announcements

Call for Spanish Language Stories

Spanish speaking members of Alcoholics Anonymous are invited to send their stories to the General Service Office for consideration for inclusion in an updated edition of *Alcoholicos Anonimos*, the Spanish language version of the Big Book.

The aim of the trustees' Literature Committee is that stories in the updated edition reflect the diversity of A.A. members today. As stated in the preface to the Big Book, "All changes made over the years in the Big Book ... have had the same purpose: to represent the current membership of Alcoholics Anonymous more accurately, and thereby reach more alcoholics." This will be applied to changes made to the Spanish edition of the Big Book.

The Literature Committee will review submissions according to the following guidelines.

- Stories must be double-space typewritten in Spanish, maximum 3,500 words.
- Deadline for receipt of manuscript is September 1, 2005.
- The words "Spanish Third Edition" should be written on the mailing envelope and the first page of the manuscript.
- The author's full name and mailing address should appear on the first page of the manuscript.

The anonymity of the author shall be protected by the General Service Office. Please mail manuscripts to:

Literature Coordinator, General Service Office
Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163

Call for "Young People" Stories

Young members of Alcoholics Anonymous are invited to send their personal stories to the General Service Office for consideration for inclusion in an updated edition of the pamphlet *Young People and AA*. These stories are shorter than would appear in the Big Book.

The Literature Committee will review submissions according to the following guidelines.

- Maximum of 800 words, handwritten or double-space typewritten.
- Deadline for receipt of manuscript is January 1, 2005.
- The words "Young People" should be written on the mailing envelope and the first page of the manuscript.
- The author's full name and mailing address should appear on the first page of the manuscript.

The anonymity of the author shall be protected by the General Service Office. Please mail manuscripts to:

Literature Coordinator, General Service Office
Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163

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

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Visit the NE Ohio Area 54 Internet Website at



<http://www.aaneoh.org>