The Northeast Ohio Recorder

January, February, March 2009

http://www.aaneoh.org

Volume XXI, Issue

UPCOMING

January 18 Area Assembly

2:00 PM

January 25 and February 22 2:00 PM

Mini-Conf planning meeting Beachwood Hilton (I-271 and Chagrin Blvd.)

March 15 2:00 PM Area Committee meeting (and MC planning snow date)

April 3 - 5 34th NE Ohio Mini-Conference Hilton Cleveland East

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



Inside this Issue:

Election Results	1
From the 'New' Delegate	
From the 'Old' Delegate	
Incoming/Outgoing Panel Reports	
From the Editor	
A.A. Around the Globe	
Area Contact Information	

Panel 59 Election Results

On October 19th, eligible members of Alcoholics Anonymous came together and voted in a new panel of area officers to serve for the next two years. The elections were conducted using Third Legacy Procedure, AA's unique voting method.

Delegate: Dan F.
Alternate: Bob D.
Chairperson: Ola P.
Recording Secretary: Diane K.
Treasurer: Klaus K.
Mailing Secretary: Jay M

Congratulations to the incoming Panel! There are also new Area Committee chairs who will be serving a two year commitment alongside the new panel. You can find them and their contact information on the back of this issue. ... And a special thanks to the outgoing panel. Your service over the past two

...And a special thanks to the outgoing panel. Your service over the past two years has been greatly appreciated!

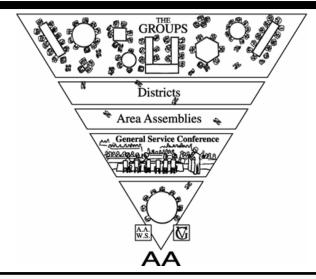
From the new Delegate...

Greetings to all and welcome to Panel 59! If only Dr.Bob and Bill W. could see us now. On October 19, 2008 my life changed! After all the meetings and twelfth step work and then trying to make twelfth step work possible, you all made me your Panel 59 Delegate by acclamation. That told me that you acknowledged my good works and that each and every one of you that were present that day want to ride on my shoulders and follow my lead through this next panel. The goose bumps didn't arrive until after Thanksgiving and it was not the "new job" that had hit me but it was where that new job is at. Northeast Ohio Area 54 is the Birthplace of Alcoholics Anonymous. There is so much history in our area that I try to absorb as much as I can. The day of the Panel 59 elections I stopped by

Dr. Bob's and Anne's grave. I prayed and meditated and after about five minutes. I opened my eyes and suddenly realized that the service position that I was going to stand for was a direct result of Dr. Bob's illness that took him to his end of days! There is one more dividend to having this new service position. I have had an opportunity to meet and share with many of the past delegates in Area 54 and every one of them gave me something that would help me at a later date. But you know, I guess that's what this AA program is all about, we share our experience, strength and hope with each other. My personal wish for all of you the next two years is that you all have an opportunity to explore and learn the "Three Legacies of AA". Don't be afraid to ask any questions as there is a lot to learn. That goes for our recovery as well as our service work. If vou take a new service position

whether it is on the Group, District, or Area level, go to your meetings and take notes so that you make a two minute report. If you can't make the meeting, call someone that can go there and take your place. This year we will be in Beachwood for our Mini-Conference. Give your Home Group a couple of decent two minute reports and I would be willing to bet they will pay for your hotel room and registration (all of mine did)! Last but not least, may the Grace of God be with you in all of your daily endeavors.

Love and Service, Danny F.,Panel 59 Delegate



In gratitude, for allowing me to serve...

It has been a privilege and a pleasure to have served the last two and a half years as your delegate to the General Service Conference. Over those 30+ months, you've welcomed me warmly into your homes and your home groups, your anniversaries and your business meetings. At the beginning of this panel in January 2007, I pledged to visit every district. I came close to completing that promise. Given Northeast Ohio's 1,500+ groups however, I feel as though I only scratched the surface.

By the time you read this, we'll have a new delegate and area committee in place. So, my thoughts turn these days to whether I left the area better than I found it. The area is on a sound financial footing. Contributions are up. Participation at the area assembly and in the districts is better than I've seen in six or seven years. Folks are beginning to learn and appreciate the many services that the area and GSO provide and have responded in gratitude.

Since 1975, we have held a Mini-Conference just prior to the General Service Conference to give your Delegate the informed area conscience on actual agenda items from the GSC which allows you personally experience the committee system and a voting conference. Our 34th such gathering will take place in

Beachwood OH, April 3-5, 2009. All AAs are welcome and encouraged to attend.

When Bill W. set out to plan the 1st International Convention in 1950. he chose Cleveland, Ohio for several reasons. The decade leading up to the convention saw individuals rising above "the greater whole" and pulling AA in different directions. Bill knew unity of the groups was necessary to AA's survival. Dr. Bob's failing health also convinced Bill that a system was needed to turn the founders' roles over to the members of the groups. To these ends, the 1st International Convention attendees adopted the Twelve Traditions that unite our groups and an experimental system of representation by members that would become the General Service Conference.

AA has continued to grow and flourish in Northeast Ohio since that time. I certainly owe my life and continued sobriety to AA in Northeast Ohio. I owe a debt of gratitude to you all of which I can barely begin to pay the interest.

We, in Northeast Ohio-Area 54, should be proud that once again the voice of even <u>one member</u> can be heard and recognized on issues of concern. At the 58th Conference this year, many delegates noted, with frustration, how hard it was to get

their area's items accepted on to the agenda. Most agenda item submissions <u>are</u> rejected by the trustees for various reasons. During the previous four years, our area has successfully obtained a place on the agenda of the GSC four times, with little to no difficulties. We were responsible for these:

2005 – Information on service sponsorship added to *Q&A* on *Sponsorship*.

2007 – Individual contribution limit raised from \$2K to \$3K.

2008 –Finance Committee Workbook resulting in a rework of the Finance folio, which will now appear in the literature catalog.

2008 – Request for Corrections Desk to collect local sharing on the use of the new Corrections DVD.

2009 – Request to consider rotating the General Service Conference out of NYC in alternate years, starting with Cleveland/Akron.

2009 – Request for revisions to outmoded language in *Q&A* on Sponsorship.

2009 – Request for revision to archives policies concerning access and photocopies.

2009 - Request to evaluate a locally produced video on "God as We Understand Him" as a potential conference-approved item.

Continued on Next Page...

... Cont'd from Page 2

I believe this speaks to the quality of sobriety and service work being done in Northeast Ohio. It underlines the essence of the Conference structure – to operate for the good of AA-as-a-whole and ever keeping in mind our primary purpose, that of carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic wherever s/he may be.

It is difficult to express in words the gratitude and enthusiasm that I have for AA service work after being to the General Service Conference in NYC. As I remind my sponsees on a regular basis, "Don't tell me about your gratitude, show me!" Therefore, I will be showing my gratitude as your new Literature Committee chair.

This will be my last message to you as your delegate. My experience over the last two-plus years in this role has been nothing less than the ride-of-a-lifetime. "It is an

experience you must not miss..." Thank you all for making it possible for this drunk to clean up, suit up and show up — One Day at a Time — to learn and then try to pass on the wonders and gratitude of my involvement in AA-as-a-whole.

Jeff Y., [57/54] Delegate



more words from the outgoing and incoming panel....

Hello to all in Area 54:

I can't believe this is a new year 2009, wow!! Time has always gone by at the same speed, but I have not. Since I have been in AA and actually participating in AA, time seems to have sped up. I really loved being recording secretary for area 54 so much, the two years just flew by. I learned so much more about Alcoholics Anonymous and there is so much more to learn. Unfortunately I didn't feel as though I would be able to give my all at this time due to my MS. However, I knew I wanted to continue to be a part of, so I agreed to be Finance Chairperson. I look forward to beginning this year with a different hat. I will be soliciting for committee members so anyone interested in joining the Finance Committee, please get in touch with me. I look forward to working with panel 59 and all of the other committee chairs, all of AA as a matter of fact. I love Alcoholics Anonymous.

Yours in Service Always,

Jamie A Bailey

Finance Chairperson

Outgoing Recording Secretary

More from Danny F...

Hi everyone my name is Danny F. and I am your outgoing Alternate Delegate for Panel 57. I was asked to share on the Alternate position and all I can say is it was an incredible ride! The position is as demanding as the Delegate position the only difference with this position is that you DO NOT go to New York with the Delegate. Everyone must have thought Jeff Y. and I were the Blues Brothers because we were always with each other at Area Functions and out of state conferences. We were always dressed in our" Sunday best" because that is what our Panel 55 Delegate told us to do. In February of the first year of the panel you enter into a new realm of service, the Region. You will meet AA's who have the same service position you have at the Conference of Delegates, Past and Present. On Friday evening you enter into a boardroom with your Delegate. You find a chair in the perimeter of the room with the Alternates from the Region and sit quietly (me?) and watch the committee process happen. The Delegate Chair produces a mock agenda item to be discussed. The delegates all share and vote upon said item. This is a preview of coming attractions for the General Service Conference. The other task for the

Alternate is to work with the Districts and attend district meetings, as well as their workshops and picnics. It is demanding also because you want to help "relight" the dark districts and help the district committee members procure and retain general service representatives. I found the aspect of this service position the most rewarding because you have an opportunity to meet so many members who want to be at the service level and who are hungry to learn our AA Traditions.

Yours in Love and Service,

Danny F. Alt. Delegate [57/54] Outgoing



More words...

My journey over the last two years has taken me into many for the past two years and am confident he will do an different facets of area service. I began

taking the message of service to several 'dark districts' in outlying areas, offering information about representation and service. The Special Needs Committee will always have a place in my heart. I Ordered and accumulated a generous amount of literature with brail, large print brochures, DVD's and audio CD's. We contacted several public service agencies and told them what we were about, left appropriate literature. Several district chairmen are now active in taking meetings into convalescent homes.

After the passing of Russ Walker, I was elected fill his position as Mailing Secretary. Russ did such a good job of having things in place it was easy to fill in. I'm looking forward to the next

two years of serving area 54 as the Alternate Delegate. I know these are big shoes to fill and I hope I can be as effective as my predecessors.

In Service, Bob D. Mailing Sec. Committee 57 Alt. Delegate Elect, Committee 59

To all of my friends in Area 54, I wanted to thank you all for the opportunity to serve as the Area 54 Archivist for the past two years. It truly has been a wonderful ride, I have learned much and hopefully have left the archives better than what I found. I have worked with Richard U. Jay M.

excellent job, and I will help however I can.

The great thing about service work is the fact that my Higher Power places me where He wants me to serve, not necessarily where I think I should. The "circle of service" as it were. I became the archivist after the Panel 57 elections when I not only did not get elected to any of the positions I stood for, but did not even come close! At the end of the meeting, Bob M., my service sponsor, asked me since he was becoming the registrar, would I consider taking over as Archivist. See? Placing me where He wants, not where I want.

In the October elections, I was honored to be elected the Mailing Secretary. Again, my service sponsor mentioned at the start of the meeting that he hoped I would stand as Mailing Secretary. I stood for other positions, even went to the hat in one, but was elected to the position the He wanted me in. (The He is my Higher Power, not Bob... although I never say no to Bob.)

So I am excited about becoming the new mailing secretary. I plan on involving as many of you as possible as it is a big job. One of the great activities we have at the Akron Intergroup are the folding parties for the Intergroup News. A bunch of us get around the table for a couple of hours and have a grand time talking about the Fellowship. I plan to do the same thing for our mailers, to give as many as possible, especially newcomers, a chance to participate. So when your phone rings, I hope you will say yes!

 Ψ

Hi everyone, my name is Dave S. and I will be your Area 54 NE Ohio Recorder editor for the next two h ψ years! I look forward to working with all of you and helping to keep everyone informed of district, area, and λ □ national general service happenings.

This is your newsletter, so feel free to submit anything of interest. Remember, though, submissions who should be in some way related to general service.

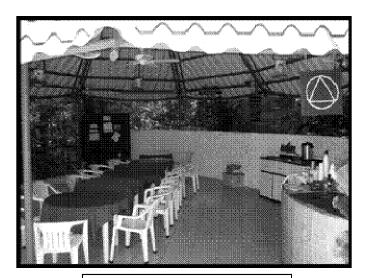
For the first issue, I am sticking to the current format, but I may change things up a bit in the future... I $^{\uparrow}$ welcome any input from all of you artistic alcoholics. On the next page you will find a few pictures of AA meeting spaces that I have visited in different parts of the world. One of the amazing things about Alcoholics ^ Anonymous is that wherever you go, you're home. No matter what our native language is, I have found that we all speak the 'language of the heart.' This is good for someone like me, who has the perpetual 'travel / ψ bug!' In fact, in three days I will be back in Costa Rica for a few weeks. Since I have been there already, I ψ \(\frac{1}{2}\) know where the meetings are. Hopefully I'll make a few.

Traveling makes me grateful to live in Cleveland, where I can literally walk to a meeting any time of A at all. It proves that anyone can recover if they have the willingness to do the work necessary!

Love, service, and whirled peas,

Dave S.

AA around the Globe... pictures by Dave S.



Manuel Antonio, Costa Rica



Fethiye, Turkey



AA convention. Kusadasi, Turkey



Slogans and the Serenity Prayer in Athens, Greece

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

Dan F., Panel 59 Delegate 1128 Broad Ave., N.W. Canton, OH 44708 Home: (330) 452-0266 delegate@area54.org

Bob D., Alternate Delegate
PO Box 8 50 N. Maple St.
Orwell, OH 44076
Home: (440) 437-8836
e-mail: altdelegate@area54.org

Ola P., Chairperson 4480 Granada Blvd. #22 Warrensville Hts., OH 44126 Home: (216) 662-8906 e-mail: chair@area54.org

Diane K., Recording Secretary
5 Chippenham Court
Rocky River, OH 44116
Home: (440) 333-5432
e-mail: recordingsecretary@area54.org

Klaus K., Treasurer 4520 McGregor Ave Newburgh Hts., OH 44105 Home: (216) 441-5804 e-mail: treasurer@area54.org

Jay M., Mailing Secretary
378 Sullivan Ave
Akron, OH 44305
Home: (330) 631-2604
e-mail: mailingsecretary@area54.org

►Visit us at http://www.aaneoh.org

Committee Chairpersons 2007-2008			
Archives	Tim H. 1944 Jefferson-Eagleville Rd. Jefferson, Ohio 44047 Richard U.	(440) 415-2960 archives@area54.org	
Archivist	6454 North Ridge East Geneva, OH 44041	(440) 466-4476 archivist@area54.org	
Correctional Facilities	Joel (Gypsy) T. 85 Morris Avenue Girard OH 44420	(330) 545-5158 cf@area54.org	
Cooperation with the Professional Community	James T. 7309 Franklin Blvd. Cleveland, OH 44102	(216) 322-7005 cpc@area54.org	
Finance	Jamie B. 3254 Redwood Rd. Cleveland Hts., OH 44118	(216) 932-8016 finance@area54.org	
Grapevine	Jeff N. 10137 Regatta Trail Aurora, OH 44202	(330) 562-8526	
Group Services	Clarence G. 25 Severance Circle #420 Cleveland Hts., OH 44118	(216) 297-9398 groupservices @area54.org	
Literature	Jeffrey Y. 1076 Woodview Rd Cleveland Hts., OH 44121	(216) 691-0917 literature@area54.org	
Newsletter	Dave S. 3023 Somerton Rd Cleveland Hts., Oh 44118	(216) 402-3779 newsletter@area54.org	
Public Information	Christine McG. 8905 State Street Kinsman, OH 44428	(330) 876-0258 pi@area54.org	
Registrar	Bob McK. 1367 Grantleigh Rd. South Euclid, OH 44121	(216) 691-1605 registrar@area54.org	
Special Needs	Quinsetta M. 2804 Archwood Ave Cleveland OH 44109	(216) 253-6315 specialneeds @area54.org	
Treatment Facilities	Susan R. PO Box 8 Orwell, Ohio 44076	(440) 437-8836 tf@area54.org	