

The Northeast Ohio Recorder

April, May, June, 2010

<http://www.aaneoh.org>

Volume XXI, Issue 6

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 16
Unity Day
Brunswick 2:00

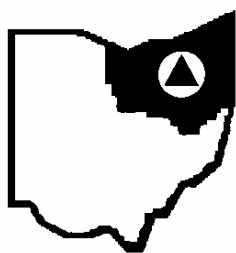
June 11-13
Founder's Day
University Of Akron

June 20
Area Committee Meeting 2:00

June 27
Open House Picnic
Edgewater Park 2:00

July 18
Area Assembly 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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Delegate's Report

Hi everyone! I wanted to communicate with you all just how fortunate we are to be AA members in Northeast Ohio. Last year, when I attended the 59th General Service Conference, I was invited by one of the Michigan delegates and his wife to attend mass on Sunday morning at St. Patrick's Cathedral. I have never been in this parish before and for years growing up I was in awe admiring the architecture and atmosphere of this famous landmark. I watched a documentary years ago on PBS and I swore to myself that some day I would darken the doors of St. Patrick's Cathedral! I thanked the delegate and his wife for the invitation because during our dinner that Saturday, I suddenly realized why I was in New York: Area 54 had sent me to New York to represent their conscience, as well as to find out as much information as I could about Alcoholics Anonymous and to bring them back a comprehensive report detailing what happened at the General Service Conference.

The Remote Communities Workshop takes place every year on the Sunday just prior to the General Service Conference. This Workshop is not a part of the Conference so the delegates set the workshop agenda and produce a report that is distributed containing all of the sharing from the delegates in the United States and Canada.

Cont'd on Page 3

Alternate Delegate's Report

I attended the Past Delegates Conference with Dan F, Delegate and Area 54 Past Delegate (1989-1990), Mary B. Dan and I enjoyed the visit on the ride to and from with Mary. We enjoyed the stories of General Service she had to pass along.

On Friday, they have a Mock Conference. The past delegates have Dan F. present an agenda item and they challenge him. I had to sit aside and not participate or speak. It was difficult for me to keep my mouth shut. Pam R, East Central Regional Trustee, had confidence in Dan and supported him. There was a lot of voting and controversy. Several votes and re-votes were taken. I am grateful to our Area 54 Past Delegates. Our Bob M. was asked several questions on procedures. He had the answers because after all, they are "Robert's Rules." There were several Golden Mic Awards as many comments were made and remade. At the end, Jeff Y., Area 54 Past Delegate, made a motion to reconsider. The agenda item went back to committee. For me, this was a true training experience. I value the minority opinion as the purest form of democracy in action.

We have several groups in Lake County that are now represented and will be forming a multi-district (Districts 22, 43 & 44). These members of AA are re-lighting these previous dark districts. I have been present at their meetings and need to say that it is very exciting to see these groups back in General Service.

In addition, I am very excited to report that recently I received a call from a member of AA who wants to re-light Districts 14, 15, & 16, and I have promised to assist.

If anyone needs information on how to re-light a district or to learn more about re-lighting dark districts, feel free to call me at 216.408.9020. I will be delighted to assist you.

Bob D., Alternate Delegate

Love and Service

From a talk given at the 35th Northeast Ohio Mini-Conference...

We are a minority group...within a minority group. 1.7 million recovering alcoholics among 350 million, but then there are those of us who do service work.

Dr. Bob told us in 1950

Our Twelve Steps, when simmered down to the last, resolve themselves into the words love and service. We understand what love is and we understand what service is. So let's bear those two things in mind...And one more thing, none of us would be here today if somebody hadn't taken time to explain things to us; to give us a little pat on the back; to take us to a meeting or two; to have done numerous little kind and thoughtful acts in our behalf. So, let us never get the degree of smug complacency so that we're not willing to extend, or attempt to, that help that has been so beneficial to us, to our less fortunate brothers.

There are 100 stories in this room and none of them are pretty. We did not come here because our lives were going well...And we are still here because someone extended that hand.

Bill W. told us...

GRAPEVINE, MARCH 1962

One exercise that I practice is to try for a full inventory of my blessings and then for a right acceptance of the many gifts that are mine - both temporal and spiritual. Here I try to achieve a state of joyful gratitude. When such a brand of gratitude is repeatedly affirmed and pondered, it can finally displace the natural tendency to congratulate myself on whatever progress I may have been enabled to make in some areas of living.

I try hard to hold fast to the truth that a full and thankful heart cannot entertain great conceits. When brimming with gratitude, one's heartbeat must surely result in outgoing love, the finest emotion that we can ever know.

Love and service cannot be separated. If we are truly grateful, we have love for our fellow recovering alcoholics and those still suffering...If we have this love, how can we not do service? It started when we were at our bottoms and were not welcome anywhere. All doors were closed to us... but one. The doors of AA held a man or woman who said "welcome, I am glad you are here," and asked us, "are you ready to take certain steps?" How long had it been since someone was glad to see us?

Maybe, for some of us, we decided to go back and experiment a bit more. Eventually, we crawled back, expecting the same looks of contempt and disgust we got everywhere else. But what we got was a man or woman standing at the door who said

"welcome back, I am glad you are here," and asked us, "are you ready to take certain steps?" And that man or woman led to the beginning of recovery and the writing of another 100 stories, this time with a better ending, this time with redemption. And those stories for each of us led to gratitude for our recovery and lives. And that gratitude leads to love. And that love leads to service.

- Love and service is the volunteer who answers the phones at the Intergroup without thought of reward.
- Love and service is the man or woman who accepts the inevitable criticism that goes with the territory of taking any service position.
- Love and service is the fellow who shows up just to put price stickers on the new literature.
- Love and service is the person who donates to the archives and asks that the donation be anonymous.
- Love and service is the person who spends a beautiful Sunday in Brunswick rather than doing something else.
- Love and service is the person who steps up to help a committee.
- Love and service is the person who seeks out the newcomer after the meeting rather than eat donuts with his friends.
- Love and service is the person who answers the phone at 2:00am and goes to help the alcoholic in trouble, who does not make excuses.
- Love and service is the person who stands for a position at the Area and smiles after not being elected because they have faith that God has other plans.
- Love and service is the GSR who asks to make a report at his home group and despite the eyes rolling extends his enthusiasm for an AA world outside of that room.
- Love and service is the DCM who goes to meetings trying to get GSRs active and is rejected. And gets in the car the next night and happily goes to another meeting to get GSRs active.
- Love and service is a trustee who basically gives up their life for 4 years to serve.
- Love and service is the person who quietly stays after the meeting and cleans up.
- Love and service is the person who goes to the meeting in a blizzard in case a new guy shows up.
- Love and service is the person who reacts to criticism with a 10th Step rather than an angry answer.
- Love and service is the many people who show up for the folding parties, or to cook at the picnic, or setup at Gratitude Sunday without being asked.
- Love and service is the man who came up to me at my first meeting and did not just say "keep coming back" and walk away, he appointed himself my sponsor and got me to a meeting the next night.
- Love and service is the same man saving my life.
- Love and service was Fitz M. in 1938 ...Fitz had liquidated his farm so he could survive and continue to serve.
- Love and service is Archie T. not getting anyone sober in Detroit for a couple of years but never giving up.

Continued on Next Page...

Love and Service Cont'd...

- Love and service is Dr. Bob putting service to alcoholics ahead of his own best interests

Dr. Bob to Richardson 11/26/40

"...I do know that I have always been able to earn a living practicing medicine or surgery, that is, when I tended to it some attention. It is a somewhat slow and painful process to rehabilitate a business which has been neglected for 5 years but it can be done with a little persistence...I really do hope that the Foundation can continue to help me at least for a little while during this procedure...I am especially anxious that Bill be provided for in some way."

Love and service is the respect we give to minority opinion. Where else can someone be on the losing side of a 75-1 vote and be listened to. We love our principles and fellow alcoholics enough to actually think the lone voice in the corner saying "Wait a minute" might be right.

The best example of this is when in the mid 1940's a man had a vision of what the future of the service structure in Alcoholics Anonymous needed to be. Every Trustee but one was completely against his idea. Most of the Fellowship was against his idea. Even Dr. Bob did not think it was "a particularly guided thing to do." But this fellow persisted. This fellow did not think that because everyone was against him he must be wrong. Because Bill Wilson stood firm today we have the General Service Conference and we are all here tonight.

Why do we do service? Every piece of service work in AA is important and aims for the same thing. Be you a Trustee, GSO Staff member, Delegate, Area Officer, DCM, GSR, Committee chair, Intergroup staff member, or just the person who helps out, your work has equal value and an equal aim.

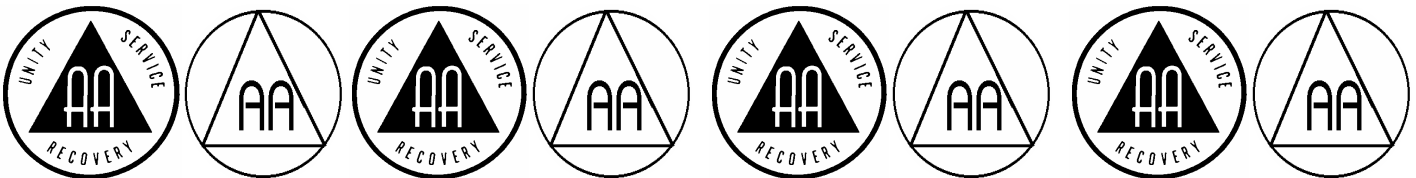
An aim to allow the one thing that happened to each and everyone in this room.

All of the things we do, be they large or small work towards making one moment possible

The one thing that happened when Dr. Bob met Bill W.

The one thing that is the result of our gratitude and the love for the alcoholic

All service work leads to the moment in time when a desperate, hopeless alcoholic looks into our eyes and sees to the place in all of our souls where hope resides.



Delegate's Report Cont'd...

(From Page 1)

I was elected last year to chair this year's workshop and I asked a delegate from Nova Scotia/Newfoundland to be my alternate. The sharing from the delegates in carrying our AA message to these communities must meet part or all of three criteria: language, culture, and geography. I shared with the other delegates that during my drinking days I was a "remote community" all to my self! During the last years of my drinking fear caused me to isolate myself.

I really enjoyed the Canadian's sharing and heard how painstaking it is to get to some of the Native Canadian reservations. I had an opportunity to see the work in photographs in Labrador (Canada) where the AA members work in treatment facilities with two distinct aboriginal groups. The first photos I saw showed them working with Innu, who are of North American Indian descent. Then I viewed and heard of work being done with Inuit alcoholics, who are of Eskimo descent. Some of these communities in Labrador not only face language and cultural barriers, but are often in total isolation and can only be reached by air (helicopter or commercial) year round and by coastal boat service during the summer months. In our meetings, we read and heard about "going to any length" to carry the AA message. If this isn't an example of that quote, I don't know what is. The past few weeks I have been "rounding up" all of the delegates (ten in all), and I asking them to put their reports together and submit them to two delegates (Connecticut and SE New York) who volunteered to put the reports together and produce a Final Report. GSO will provide the copies we need for distribution. If you are interested in seeing how we carry the AA message in Utah, Northern Ontario, Colorado, and even West Virginia, let me know. I told the West Virginia delegate that I know where all of their "remote communities" are. I used to sell aluminum siding in West Virginia years ago (thanks to my Father and Grandfather who were there years before me) and I told her that I knew where every "holler" and "sharp bend in the road" is in that Mountain State.

Love and Service,
Danny F. Northeast Ohio Delegate,(59)(54)

Area 54 Mini-Conference 2010 RECOMMENDATIONS AND ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Finance Committee

- In the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix”, consider request to remove the “pie charts” and replace with text.
 - Committee recommends to keep the pie charts but also add “Suggestions for Groups” instead of “Examples for Groups” above it. Also add “Each group is autonomous and its informed conscience should determine the contribution amounts to the following entities: District Area; GSO and Intergroup/central office; if one services your district.” **Motion passes with unanimity**
- Discuss request to include information about AA Grapevine
- Committee discussed and liked the idea of promoting but feels not enough people would actually pick up the information and read it. But it would be nice to show people where the money is going. **Discussed.**
- Consider request to add Seventh Tradition stories
 - Committee voted no. **Not discussed at MC**

Cooperation with the Professional Community/GSC

Agenda Committee

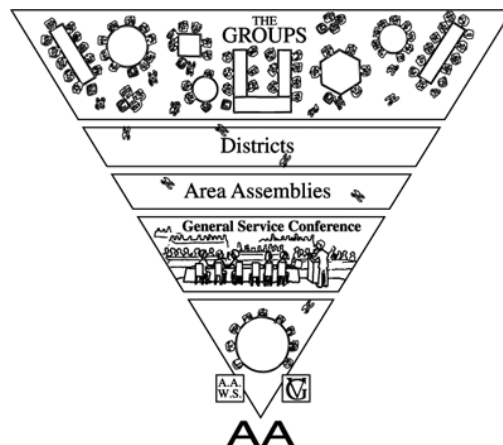
- Review contents of CPC Kit and Workbook.
 - Reviewed in committee
- Review suggestions for the theme of the 2011 General Service Conference.
 - Recommendation that #22 “Attraction rather than Promotion” be selected as the 2011 GSC theme, and that # 10 (Diversity in AA), #11 (Anonymity in advanced tech), #29 (we are responsible) be used as workshop topics. **Passed unanimously at MC**

AA Grapevine Committee

- Review contents of the AA Grapevine Workbook.
 - Additional considerations, include documented suggestions in chapter 7 of the workbook on reaching out to intergroups and central offices to spread the word on the Grapevine, LaVina and the workbook itself. **No vote at MC.**
- Consider request that *La Vina* be published on an equal basis with the *A.A. Grapevine*.
 - Took no action on item in Committee
 - Recommended that LaVina be published in perfect of sewn binding so it may be taken in to correctional facilities. **Passed with substantial unanimity at MC**
 - Recommend LaVina include more stories. **Passed with substantial unanimity at MC**

Public Information/Special Needs Committees

- Consider adding a statement to the pamphlet “Understanding Anonymity” to clarify the importance of not breaking the anonymity of living A.A. members in memorial announcements when one of our fellowship dies.
 - Recommend adding a statement to the pamphlet “Understanding Anonymity” to clarify the importance of not breaking the anonymity of living A.A. members in memorial announcements when one of our fellowship dies. **Passed unanimously at MC.**
- Consider replacing the term “drying out” with “detox” in the “What A.A. Does Not Do” section of the “A.A. at a Glance” flyer.
 - Additional considerations, to trustees committed on public information to review the entire language to update phrase
- Consider placing the full text of the “What A.A. Does Not Do” from “Information on A.A.” into the service piece, “A.A. at a Glance” **Passed with Substantial Unanimity at MC**
- Consider development of a policy on the practice of showing full faces of actors who are portraying A.A. members or potential A.A. members in Conference – approved media.
 - Committee recommends that trustees’ Public Information Committee develop a policy on the practice of showing full faces of actors who are portraying A.A. members or potential A.A. members in Conference – approved media and return a draft policy statement or progress report to the 2011 Conference. **Passed at MC**
- Consider submitting a request to the trustees’ Committee on the Conference to hold a future General Service Conference on the theme of “Anonymity in a Digital Age”
 - Recommended by committee. **Passed with substantial unanimity at MC**



RECOMMENDATIONS AND ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS Cont'd...

Treatment Facilities and Archives Committees

- Consider a suggestion to change “Treatment Facilities” to “Treatment” in the Conference Committee name and in related A.A. literature.
--Recommend changing the term “Treatment Facilities” to “Treatment” in the Conference Committee name, and not in related A.A. literature as these are reprinted.
Passed with substantial Unanimity MC
--Additional considerations, as described in Agenda B Background Doc 1 Section C Recommendations (C.1) only in workbook and AA Guidelines
- Consider two locally created forms – one for treatment clients and one for AA members willing to serve as temporary contacts.
--Committee recommends sample local forms be provided as a service piece. **Passed at MC.**
- Review Archives Workbook.
--Reviewed workbook with no additional considerations

Corrections Committee

- Review progress report from trustees’ Committee on Corrections on signing sponsorship agreements and legally binding documents.
-- Committee agrees to put information into correction workbook, so AA member is protected by reading the rules before signing any papers.
- Consider request to add a phrase to the pamphlet “A.A. in Correctional Facilities” regarding the signing of volunteer agreements.
-- Committee recommended. **Passed with substantial unanimity at MC.**
- Consider request to add two sentences to the pamphlet “A Message to Corrections Professionals” regarding communication between A.A. members and prison administrators about the specific regulations of individual facilities.
-- Committee recommended. **Passed with substantial unanimity at MC.**

Literature Committee

- Consider developing Conference-approved literature, which focuses on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are successfully sober in Alcoholics Anonymous.
-- Recommend that the trustees’ Literature Committee develop draft materials which focus on spirituality, that include stories from atheists and agnostics who are successfully sober in Alcoholics Anonymous, and bring a draft or a progress report back to the 2011 GSC.
-- **44-34; revote required at MC (substantial unanimity of 2/3 not achieved). After majority speaks, motion to reconsider passes.**
-- **65-24; Motion passes with Substantial Unanimity at MC**
- Consider request to change a sentence regarding closed meetings in the pamphlet “Frequently Asked Questions About A.A.”
-- The committee considered the request to change a sentence regarding closed meetings in the pamphlet “Frequently Asked Questions About A.A.” The committee recommends that the sentence be revised to reflect the language already used on the “singleness of purpose” card (Blue card). **Passed with Substantial Unanimity at MC**
- Consider request to develop a book on the history of “early pioneer women in A.A.”
-- Committee took no action. Committee agreed that AA Grapevine consider developing an anthology containing stories from early AA woman. The committee noted with appreciation the extensive resources in the Grapevine archives as cited in the background materials. **Took no action at MC**
Floor Action (Grapevine Committee)
- Floor Action to print Grapevine in black and white
-- Motion to not consider the floor action made by Jeff Y.
Passed with Substantial Unanimity at MC.

**THANKS EVERYONE FOR PARTICIPATING!!
SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!**

Where Money and Spirituality Mix

*Two talks given at the NEOH Mini-Conference from
our Area 54 Treasurer and Finance Chair...*

How can money and spirituality mix? The definition of money is “anything that is generally accepted as payment for goods and services and repayment of debts.” The main functions of money are distinguished as a medium of exchange, a unit of account and a store of value. It has been said of old that money is the root of all evil. The fact is money in and of itself is not evil and may be used for the GOOD and betterment of all.

What is the definition of spirituality? Spirituality can refer to an ultimate or transcendent dimension of the world, an inner path enabling a person to discover the essence of his or her being, or the deepest values and meaning by which people live.

Spiritual practices including meditation, prayer and contemplation are intended to develop an individual’s inner life. Such practices often lead to an experience of connectedness with a larger reality: a more comprehensive self, other individuals, or the human community, nature or the cosmos or the divine realm. “The spiritual life is not a theory...” it must be lived.

How do money and spirituality mix?

Alcoholics Anonymous is a spiritual program. It suggests implementing the 12 Steps in one’s life. By implementing/practicing these Steps (I like to call them Spiritual Principles) in your life, a transformation occurs. Our text talks about a psychic change. This change is spiritual, but how does it come about?

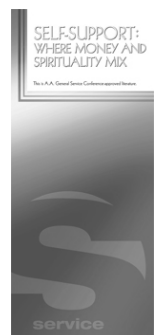
It came about for me and continues to come about for me by attending meetings: Lead meetings, Big Book Meetings, 12 and 12 Meetings, Discussion Meetings and Meeting meetings. It came about by practicing these learned principles in my daily life. People shared their experience, strength and hope. They told me to pray. They told me to think about other people. They told me that I needed to examine my life. I read that “the unexamined life is not worth living.” They told me and showed me how to forgive others and ask for forgiveness. They gave me hope. There was literature available, free pamphlets and books at cost (though sometimes free). There was some place to go each day to hear about this new way of life. There was always someone there to deliver the message or facilitate the meeting. There were Big Books and 12 and 12’s available at those meetings. Everything was there just waiting for me to arrive. Someone would come early to set up the meeting and make the coffee. Someone would bring the doughnuts. Everything was prepared beforehand just waiting for me. None of these things were free. Yet they taught me about being spiritual.

Someone had to rent the meeting place. Someone had to buy the coffee, cream, sugar, cups, stirrers and the coffee pot. Someone had to buy the doughnuts. Someone had to buy the books and pamphlets. Perhaps there was a stand for the literature that someone had to buy. Someone had to come and set up, it cost them to get there. It costs money to deliver our message of recovery from alcoholism. It takes money to deliver this spiritual message.

When Ebby first carried the message to Bill, it was a spiritual message, but it cost money for Ebby to call and to ride the subway to Bill’s apartment. “Freedom from alcohol is the great ‘Must’ that must be achieved else we go mad or die.” (As Bill Sees It, p.134) Freedom is not free.

Money and Spirituality have always mixed. I just didn’t always see it. Today I do. On page 221 of Language of the Heart it states “When we are generous with the hat we give a token that we are grateful for our blessings and evidence that we are eager to share what we have found with all those who still suffer.” By contributing, we are keeping the door open for the new person. It’s spiritual but it is not FREE!!

Calvin L., Area 54 Treasurer



Where Money and Spirituality Mix, Cont'd...

Recently a friend and fellow member in AA sent me an e-mail of something that had in the past been sent to the NE Ohio Recorder. After reading the e-mail, I truly believed that it being sent to me at this time was not a coincidence. I asked if I could use it and was told that since it had been sent in anonymously, I could. I wanted to share this with all of you.

It is titled "How Much Does AA Mean to Me, and What, Do I Give It, in Return"

I can't remember exactly when I first started "doubling my dollar" at my AA home group. I know I wasn't the first in my meeting to do it. That honor, I think, went to the woman who could least afford it, a woman still deeply in debt but grateful for the profound emotional, spiritual, and financial progress she has been making in AA week after week and year after year. At some point I noticed that she was dropping two \$1 bills into the basket each week. I felt a little sheepish and ashamed that I, with more years and more financial resources, wasn't doing the same. Gradually, one or two other people started dropping an extra buck in from time to time, and then regularly. I began noticing this more, and becoming a little more uncomfortable. Week after week, I was forced to ask myself, "Why aren't I doing that, too?" The trend to contributions above the traditional dollar amount was helped by our frequent discussions at group conscience meetings. After years of being flush, inflation was taking its toll, and we did not have the money to easily put on some of the events we'd put on in the past. And our fund to send our GSR to the Area 54 Mini-Conference was accumulating much too slowly (a previous GSR had paid for his own way, but a group should not expect everyone to do this). And so, little by little, it became clear that all of us who could afford it, needed to do a little more. And that included me. By tradition, my home group does not have a lot of gimmicks. We don't hold raffles, 50-50s, we don't pass the basket two or three or more times, and we don't even charge for literature (it has long been our policy to give literature away as part of our 12th-Step work). We have long felt that AA members in recovery need to squarely face the fact that we are responsible for our own recovery, and that includes paying for it. We pass the basket once, and trust that members with real recovery will meet the need. Many AA service bodies have been beating the drums for a more realistic level of self-support for years. In fact, "double your dollar" and "thrive with five" came from one of those awareness-raising campaigns. But, fearful alcoholic that I am, I am a cheapskate, a skinflint-tighter than the bark on a tree. Doubling my dollar might be logical, affordable, and spiritually responsible; there might be no reason in the world NOT to do it; but my fear of financial insecurity kept me from actually taking the action for a long, long time. I think I gasped the first week I threw those two singles in the basket. It really was traumatic. But after a few weeks, it began to seem normal, reasonable. Within a month or so, I had become comfortable with this new level of power and responsibility in my life. I had faced the fears of "not enough" and moved forward. I realized that even if I put \$3, \$5, or \$10 a week into my home group's basket it wouldn't even come close to paying for what Alcoholics Anonymous has done for me, and for the wonderful abundance of recovery I enjoy today

-Anonymous

Many of us can't put \$3, \$5 or \$10 dollars in the basket each week. But, if we begin to put in the basket what we can honestly afford to, then we are doing our part in keeping AA self-supporting. As it states in the "Self Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix" pamphlet, "Now that we are sober in A.A., the word 'support' has to do with sharing, people, self-respect, gratitude, and what we are privileged to give — not take — in material terms."

With Love & Service

Jamie B., Area 54 Finance Chairperson



Chairperson's report

Tradition four states that "Each group should be autonomous except in *matters* affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole." Therefore, it came as no surprise to me, when at the recent GSR School Workshop held in Brunswick, a new GSR asked the question: "What '*matters*' affect other groups or A.A. as a whole?" It became apparent to me that so many of us pay little, if any attention to the second part of this tradition.

I have often given pause to wonder, what if Bill W. had reversed this tradition to read: "Except in *matters* affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole, each group is autonomous." Would we then pay closer attention to its intended meaning? Simply put, as in Tradition One "Our common welfare should come first..." Would it help us to understand that we have an obligation to adhere to this part of Tradition Four.

In answering the GSR's question, I pointed out that there are at least three "*matters*" affecting other groups and A.A. as a whole: our singleness of purpose, anonymity, and self-support.

While it is easy for us to cling to our right to be self governing, we also too often fail to consider how our actions and decisions will affect the whole of A.A. Co-founder Bill W. defines autonomy as a ten dollar word, "it gives us the right to be wrong."

So, we need only ask ourselves, especially in our group conscience meetings, three simple questions:

1. Do we allow discussions about things other than alcohol?
2. Do we make every effort to give up our natural desires for personal distinction as A.A. members?
3. Do we contribute to the whole of A.A. by giving to the four entities as has been suggested?

By answering these questions honestly and with an open mind, we will be able to see that failure to give careful consideration to "*matters*" which may affect the whole of Alcoholics Anonymous is a possible threat to our "*unity*". As stated by Bill W. "The unity of Alcoholics Anonymous is the most cherished quality our Society has. Without unity, the heart of A.A. would cease to beat; our world arteries would no longer carry the life-saving grace of God."

Yours in Loving Service,
Ola P. – Area Chairperson
Panel 59

Archives

Our committee went to Akron and worked in the archives room located at the intergroup office. We had a display of books and literature at the mini conference as well as a new timeline that Kevin S. is working on to show books and pamphlets and the year they were made, as well as changes that were made in later years. We are going to have a display of these items at the upcoming International Men's Conference to be held in Independence, OH. We continue to collect and preserve Area 54 specific records and literature as well as oral histories of old-timers in our area.

Tim H.
Area 54 Archives Chair

Treatment Facilities/Bridging the Gap

District 10, with Jeff B. leading the way, is working with the Steps facility to develop a Bridging the Gap program.

The BTG committee has put together a good list of temporary contacts for Area 54 with the exception of Cleveland suburbs and Canton. I am especially looking for help in Parma & Parma Hts. areas. In addition, approximately 5 more people have signed up at the Mini-Conference.

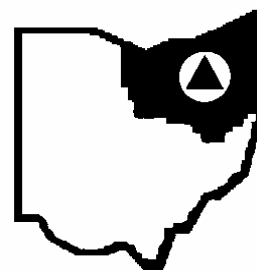
Dual District 23/39 Committee reports that there is good response to the new "Hope" DVD. The Bridging the Gap presentation at Glenbeigh, Rock Creek is now once a month. This committee is working on assisting the Turning Point program in Ashtabula.

We revised our Temporary Contact Form to include a tear off portion with all the Area 54 and neighboring Central and Intergroup office phone numbers.

I have had discussions with a couple members of AA who work with the NEOCAP program in Warren. We want to approach NEOCAP and encourage them to develop a Bridging the Gap program. Anyone who would like to support, this let us know.

I am still behind getting out the requests for temporary contacts but moving to respond more efficiently.

Susan R.
Area 54 Treatment Chair



Area Reports - Panel, Committee, District

Corrections

The Corrections Committee is going well. There was a workshop on March 27, 2010 at the Paradise Club in Akron Ohio. This workshop was put on by the Akron Corrections Committee and all professional people were invited, as well as all members of A.A who wanted to carry the message behind the walls. There is a meeting starting up at the Juvenile Center in Warren, Ohio and they are asking for books for their meeting. The committee will see that they receive them and anything else they need. Books and literature are provided as needed to jails and prisons.

Joel T.

C.F.C Area 54

Registrar

I wish to thank all you DCMs, or acting DCMs, that have worked so hard to get their district's groups updated by the May 7 deadline for directory printing. We have no DCMs for these eight districts:

05A Portage County south of I-80 (except the City of Ravenna). Includes Brady Lake, Brimfield, Deerfield, Kent, Randolph, Rootstown, Streetsboro, and Windham.

05B City of Ravenna in Portage County

12 Portage & Summit County lines on the north, east to Mahoning County line, south to State Route 153; east of Summit Line, south to Mt. Pleasant, east to Lutz Ave, south to Portage St., east to Brunnerdale, south to Fulton Dr; east along the Corp Line (50th St.) to State Route 43, south to State Route 62, east to Fairhope and Louisville, east on State Route 153 to Parks Ave.; north along Twp. Lines to State Route 619; west to State Route 44. Includes North Canton, Louisville, Fairhope, Uniontown & Hartsville.

15 Canton and East Canton. Fulton Rd. - 50th St. and the Summit County line on the north; State Route 153 east to the county line, Lake O Springs / Brunnerdale on the east; south to the county line; the rest of southern Stark County (except Sandy Twp)

26 Cities of Berea, Brook Park, Linndale, Middleburg Hts., North Royalton, Parma Hts., Strongsville, and remainder of SW Cuyahoga County.

27 Broadview Hts., Brooklyn, Brooklyn Hts., Brecksville, Independence, Parma, and Seven Hills.

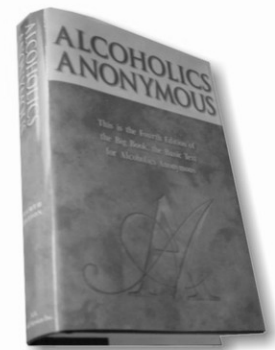
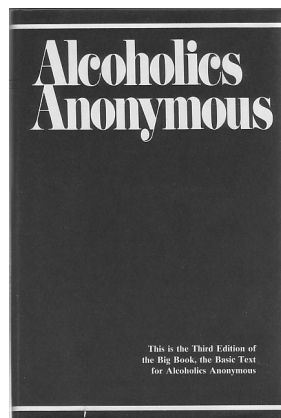
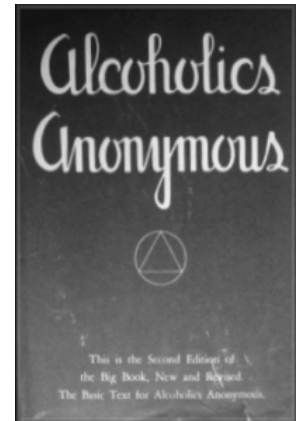
46 Bedford, Bedford Hts., Oakwood and Walton Hills. South of Miles Rd.; east to Richmond Rd, south to Cannon, west to Shepard, south to Summit County line, west to Walton Hills, north on Dunham Egbert Rd., Egbert north to Northfield Rd. (SR8), N. to Broadway, W. to Rockside Rd. E. to Warrensville Center Rd., N. to Miles Rd.

56 Central Medina County, Medina. North of State Route 162; South of State Route 18, Mallet Creek, Fenn Rd. & State Route 3.

If any of you are willing to undertake updating the group information for any of these districts, I would be most grateful as would our area and ultimately the districts themselves. Please contact me at registrar@area54.org or 216-970-2333.

Bob McK.

Area Registrar



Area Reports - Panel, Committee, District

District Reports

We have been updating meetings for the new directory which will be printed this year and have a small amount of meetings to follow up on. There will be a fund raiser for the Ashtabula Multi-district and Multi-Districts 7, 8 & 48 on June 6, 2010. We hope to have your support. Multi-Districts 7, 8 & 48 will be holding their annual Chicken Roast on June 20, 2010 and flyers will be out soon for these events. We also are planning a G.S.R Workshop put on by the Multi-Districts 7, 8, & 48 combined with District 6 to help get more members active in service work.

Joel T.

DCM, Dist 7

District 10 (Wayne/Holmes counties) would like to express its gratitude to Area 54 for holding a great Mini-Conference. District 10 had 12 attendees, 7 of which were first-timers. I am thankful for our District 10 groups that made it possible for us to have a voice in AA. It was a great learning experience for us to attend and have a voice in our respective committees and floor voting sessions on Saturday. The Saturday night speaker's personal story was a witness to how our service structure makes 12th step work possible. I was blown away by reminders of how General Service is not a governing body, but a governed body of tireless workers. The authority rests with our groups as expressed by our loving God as we understand Him. General Service is the voice of the group conscience of our entire fellowship, and the sole successors of its co-founders Dr Bob and Bill W. (as adopted as a resolution at our 1955 20th Anniversary Convention of AA). We co hosted the Hospitality suite with Heights Hub Multi-District and made sure the 7th Tradition opportunity was open to all. District 10 will be holding our annual district picnic Sunday, July 25th at Christmas Run Park in Wooster...hope to see you there!

Yours in Love and Service, (and service is just Love with its work clothes on)

Steve B.

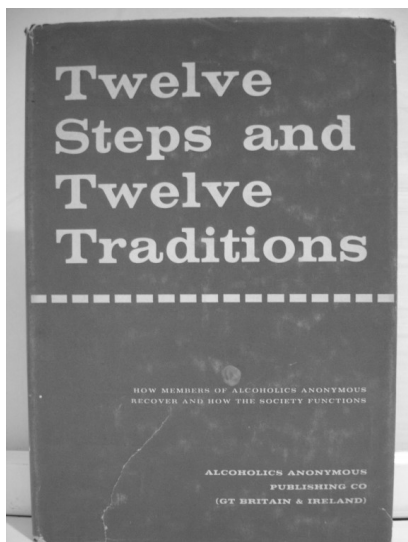
DCM Dist 10

I trust that all GSR's & DCM's from our Multi-District enjoyed the benefits gained attending the Area 54, 35th Mini-Conference. For myself, I reflect on this weekend with immeasurable gratitude for service work, and all the efforts of our dedicated members of general service. With a great increase in active participation at the multi-district level over the last several months, I feel that our collective group conscience has been well represented to Area 54, our delegate, and the members of the GSO staff. With continued participation, our delegate and alternate delegate can carry our message more accurately.

Love and service,

Bill P.

Multi-Dist. 7,8,48 Chair



Upcoming Events...



The 2010 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous will be held July 1-4 in San Antonio, Texas with the theme "A Vision for You." A.A. members and guests from around the world will celebrate A.A.'s 75th year at this event with big meetings held Friday night, Saturday night and Sunday morning in the Alamodome. Other meetings, scheduled or informal, will take place throughout the weekend in the San Antonio Convention Center and local hotels.

Convention registration and housing reservations are now open. Also, all GSRs should have received registration packets in the mail. You can go to www.aa.org for online registration and more info. The non-finalized schedule is currently available on the website. As of April, there are over 36,000 people pre-registered!!

The registration process is slightly different than the previous convention. Rather than having a hotel lottery, all registrants will be able to reserve hotel rooms on a first come, first serve basis. After you have registered, you will be emailed a registration code, which you can then use to book a hotel room. All of the hotels near the convention center are booked, but there are plenty of hotels outside of the city center still available, and the city will be providing transportation from all the hotels to and from the convention center.

Flying from Cleveland to San Antonio is expensive, but you may be able to get a better deal if you fly on off-peak days (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday). Check www.kayak.com for a variety of airfare options.

Ohio State Convention

August 13-15, 2010

The Ohio State Convention is taking place on August 13-15, 2010 in Perrysburg, OH at the Holiday Inn. Room rates are \$89/night.

See the flyer at <http://www.aaneoh.org/pdfs/2010-54thOhioStateConv.pdf>

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.

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