

# The Northeast Ohio Recorder

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<http://www.area54.org>

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**"A vast communications net now covers the earth, even to its remotest reaches ... Nothing can matter more to the future welfare of AA than the manner in which we use this colossus of communication. Used unselfishly and well, the results can surpass our present imagination. Should we handle this great instrument badly, we shall be shattered by the ego demands of our own people -- often with the best of intention on their part."**

AA Co-Founder, Bill W., November 1960. From: "Freedom Under God: The Choice Is Ours". *The Language of the Heart*. Reprinted with permission.

## A Word From Our Delegate

My Warmest Greetings to All,

The 2014 year serving as your delegate started off as did the 2013 year, with a bang; I literally "hit the ground running." Beginning in February with attendance at the Conference of Delegates Past and Present, held in Schaumburg, Ill. It was a great honor for me to serve at this year's conference as Chairperson of the Mock Committee Session as well as to Chair the Delegates Only Meeting. Just an awesome experience. The Delegates Only Meeting afforded me the opportunity to meet personally with the incoming Panel 64 Delegates and the current Panel 63 Delegates of the East Central Region. The Panel 63 Delegates shared their experience, answered questions and addressed concerns, if any, about the upcoming 64<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference.

As I sat on the Dias during the Mock Committee Session, I just happened to notice that there were five past delegates from Area 54. They were all sitting together, Mary B., Bob M., Jeff Y., Danny F., and Bob D., "recovery warriors of the fellowship." I am so forever grateful for the very essential part that they each play in my life.

Next, beginning the first weekend of March, it was off to the Ohio Areas Mini-Conferences. Area 53, 55, and 56 respectively. At each of these conferences, I was privileged to participate in their committee sessions (a voice but no vote), which provided me with a sense of their areas conscience in addition to our area, regarding the topics that will be addressed at this year's General Service Conference. Also, as is customary, at each of the four Ohio Mini Conferences, I shared my first year General Service Conference Highlights. I was truly humbled to be asked to share my experience, strength and hope on Sunday morning in Area 55. Their scheduled speaker was unable to make to the conference due to serious illness. Although the schedule is grueling, attending so many conferences, it is none the less a joy to meet new friends and get reacquainted with old friends.

Over the past several years, my attendance at conferences and conventions has been most informative and enlightening. As a result, it becomes more and more apparent to me that of all the issues facing our fellowship, the issue of our "primary purpose" seems to take precedence over all others. It has been the source of many endless debates since our early beginnings, and I am sure that it will continue to be of special concern to the fellowship for years to come. However for me, I have found that our "Declaration of Unity" gives clarity to the grey areas surrounding this seemingly endless discussion.

### **"A Declaration of Unity"**

***This we owe to A.A.'s future; to place our common welfare first to keep our fellowship united.***

***For on A.A. unity depend our lives and the lives of those yet to come.***

"A Declaration of Unity" was written in honor of A.A.'s 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary International Convention held in Miami Beach Fl., in 1970. There were 11,000 in attendance and the theme was "Unity Within Our Fellowship." This was co-founder Bill W.'s last convention, he passed away six months later.

The keynote speaker and then General Manager of GSO stated that *"Unity is our most precious possession, our best guarantee of A.A.'s future. May we all value and preserve it, today and all the tomorrows to come."*

Amazingly, contained within this brief declaration, is our Traditions One, Three, Five, Twelve and our Twelfth Step. By placing our common

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welfare first, I meet the only requirement for membership and fulfill the qualification for Group inclusiveness. By placing my problem with alcohol first, despite any others that I may have, I commit myself to carry the message of recovery to the alcoholic who still suffers. The realization is that I can never repay all that I owe to Alcoholics Anonymous nor its future, but in doing the next right thing I am making my best effort to show my gratitude to God for the life saving grace that He has bestowed upon the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. May I, one day at a time, only express true ambition: *"a deep desire to live usefully and walk humbly under the grace of God."* (pg. 124-125 Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions) *"Understanding is the key to right principles and attitudes, and right action is the key to good living."* (pg. 124 Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions). My thanks to our Area Archives Chair James T., for providing the historical data.

Yours In Loving Service,  
Ola P., Delegate, Panel 63 – Area 54 Northeast Ohio



## OUR AREA CONSCIENCE SPEAKS

In this issue of the *Northeast Ohio Recorder*, we recap the results of our annual mini-conference at which area members of AA were given real items from the agenda of the upcoming General Service Conference for consideration. These members discussed the issues in committee, then reported out the results of their deliberations to help our delegate get a more fully informed sense of our area conscience on the issues of the day. We present the items which were passed by substantial unanimity as well as those items that were voted down. When in doubt—don't! Additional committee considerations note the items which the committees felt needed attention within or in addition to the agenda item.

Our delegate heads out to Ryeatown, NY to attend the 64th General Service Conference to bring her conscience, informed by our area, to bear on the business of AA for another year. On her return, she will be giving a full report at Unity Day, May 18th in Brunswick. Save the date and bring a covered dish.

Our alternate delegate, in addition to his primary job of standing ever ready to shoulder the tasks of the delegate wherever needed, offers his well-considered experience, strength and hope this issue on our Primary Purpose and Singleness of that Purpose.

In the enlarged web version of this publication, you can see the minutes, committee and DCM reports from the recent Area Assemblies. Len D. also offers his quarterly meditation; this issue focuses on the Eleventh Step,

Tradition, and Concept. Our prayer and meditation powers our Twelfth Step work. How can I best serve Thee? In speaking publicly about our recovery, we give no reference to our personal names, but give credit to whatever success we may have found to A.A., and our recovery to those who gave it to us, and its loving spiritual path to us by their hard work and diligence to service. Let's be the very best servants of our message we can be. If we are in a position to hire special workers or elect trusted servants, then we take that responsibility seriously. This is not the old boy's network and the person who steps out of the room to relieve themselves is DEFINITELY NOT the best choice for secretary or GSR of our home group. Enjoy the opportunity to unpack the spiritual significance and inter-relatedness of our principles.

### **Declaration of Unity**

This we owe to A.A.'s future; to place our common welfare first; to keep our Fellowship united. For on A.A. unity depend our lives, and the lives of those to come.

### **I am responsible ...**

When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help. I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible.

Workshop topics were mailed out to each group with a request to share those with the area at the mini-conference. We offer a brief digest of your thoughts on page 6. Notable quote: *"Passing on recovery principles in a unified manner despite differences, having no regard for selfishness, standing for the AA way rather than standing in the way of AA."*

*~Your editor, Jeff*

***We welcome your service-related contributions, comments and questions. Send topic ideas or complaints to:***

[newsletter@area54.org](mailto:newsletter@area54.org)



## Alternate Delegate's Report

### *Our Singleness of Purpose*

The purpose of Alcoholics Anonymous is to provide recovery from alcoholism. Each member's purpose is to stay sober and help another alcoholic to recover from alcoholism. A single purpose for A.A. and a primary purpose for each member of the fellowship. Alcoholics Anonymous is about but one thing - recovery from alcoholism.

Tradition Three states that "The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. One thing - Stop Drinking. In our early beginnings the A.A. Groups proposed many membership rules. The Groups were fearful and intolerant of those not like themselves.

However they learned that to deprive an alcoholic the opportunity to recover was to sentence him to the endless misery of jails, institutions and even death. No one wanted to be responsible for condemning another alcoholic. We became inclusive and not exclusive. All membership rules were abandoned.

Tradition Five states "Each group has but one primary purpose - to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers. The message is the message of Alcoholics Anonymous. The members of Alcoholics Anonymous have shown that they are uniquely qualified to assist in bringing recovery to the new comer. It is a gift from God. We must give it away to keep it.

The Washingtonians were a temperance/abstinence from alcohol group started in the mid-1800's. Their membership grew to the tens of thousands. But they got involved with politics, religion, slavery, and prohibition. It fragmented the organization and they dissolved. The Oxford Group provided help to alcoholics. However they were specific about religion and particular about their membership.

Alcoholics Anonymous learned from these mistakes. Two lessons were learned. First that it was better to do one thing supremely well, than many badly. Second, that we should be inclusive and not exclusive. Thus Singleness of Purpose was born.

Tradition Six states "an A.A. Group ought never endorse, finance or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money property and prestige divert us from our Primary Purpose.

The early A.A. members thought that we might be the vanguard for a new period of enlightenment and spirituality. We might transform the world... There would be A.A. hospitals. We would rewrite school and medical textbooks. We would even rewrite the laws. Pretty hefty ideas and also quite presumptuous of the early A.A. members. They soon realized that though we could help as concerns alcoholism, we would not be as effective if we spread out into other areas. Alcoholics Anonymous would stick to one thing "Recovery from Alcoholism".

Tradition Seven states that "Every A.A. group ought to be fully self supporting, declining outside contributions." We give to support, sustain, and grow this wonderful fellowship. This unites us with a Single Purpose. A.A. accepts contributions from A.A. members only and there is a limit to each member's yearly contribution (currently \$3,000.00). We do not accept outside contributions. This is really simple. If people contribute to your organization, they will tend to want to give directions. A.A.'s support A.A. and run A.A. for A.A.s for one purpose only - recovery from alcoholism.

Singleness of Purpose is our life blood. Recovery from alcoholism, this is what we do, One Thing, Solitary, not divided, unbroken. "Singleness of Purpose" Bill Wilson said "Let us resist the proud assumption that since God has enabled us to do well in One area we are destined to be a channel of saving grace for everybody."

Love and Service,  
Calvin L.



# Mini-Conference Voting Results

## Committee Recommendations Approved at the Mini-Conference

The following motions passed with substantial unanimity.

### Cooperation with the Professional Community

It was recommended that changes to the section, Referrals from Court and Treatment Facilities in the pamphlet “If You Are a Professional” concerning secretary signature at meetings be approved.

It was recommended that changes to the section, Referrals from Court and Treatment Facilities in the pamphlet “If You Are a Professional” concerning suggestion to add internet listing for [aa.org](http://aa.org) be approved.

### Corrections

It was recommended that the section “What A.A. does not do” in the pamphlet “A Message to Corrections Professionals” be revised to be consistent with similar text in Cooperation with the Professional Community literature. Motion approved 80-1.

It was recommended that a new video be developed to replace the current video, “It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell.” Estimated cost: \$70,000. Motion approved 83-0

### Finance

It was recommended that Area contributions for delegate expense for the Conference, currently \$1600, be increased. Motion approved 69-3. Motion for reconsideration failed 32-33.



### Grapevine

It was recommended that *The Grapevine* produce a suggested list of book topics in 2015 or later.

### International Conventions/Regional Forums

It was recommended that the current policy on anonymity protected photographs of the flag ceremony to be taken at the 2015 International Convention be continued. Motion approved 87-0.

### Literature

It was recommended that suggested change to the pamphlet “The Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated” be made to correct inaccurate quotation in Concept Twelve. Motion approved 63-0

### Public Information

It was recommended that proposed revisions to the Anonymity Card be implemented to broaden the scope because of new and ever changing technology. Motion approved 47-7

## Additional Committee Considerations

### Archives

Requested spelling error be corrected, “seesion” should be “sessions”.

### Cooperation with the Professional Community

Suggested removing phrase “I can’t stand the smoking” and forward to the CPC Trustees Committee to be updated.

### Grapevine

Suggested list of Grapevine book topics also be published in Braille, Audio and Electronics that can utilize text to speech capabilities on mobile devices.

That Conference Coordinator provide proposed revisions

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## Mini-Conference Voting Results

(continued from page 4)

sions to “A.A. Grapevine and La Vina: Our meeting in Print,” in the background information to all members for review and discussion.

### Literature

Suggested that, if ‘circle and triangle’ be adopted as unofficial service mark, that the words Recovery—Unity-Service be added as well.

### Public Information

Suggested adding a copy of Public Information Guidelines to the *PI Kit and Workbook*.

### Report and Charter

*Concerning item to Reconsider the 2013 Conference Advisory Action regarding editing Area Service Highlights:* Suggested that the editing staff and the delegate have a dialogue before publishing Final Report

### Treatment

The committee suggested adding a notation after the word ‘Treatment’ in the pamphlet “Bridging the Gap”, to include other entities, facilities, and institutions.

### [Committee recommendations not passed by the Mini-Conference](#)

### Cooperation with the Professional Community

The committee recommended that changes be made to the pamphlet “A.A. as a Resource for the Health Care Professional.” Motion failed 40-43.

### Literature

The committee recommended the use of the circle and triangle as an unofficial A.A. service mark on Conference-approved Literature. Motion failed 20-

65.

The committee recommended to add “Non-alcoholics are welcome to attend open meetings as observers” to the end of the Primary Purpose (blue) card. Motion failed 17-65. Motion for reconsideration failed 19-58.

### [Agenda Items Which did not Receive Committee Approval — Committee Took no Action.](#)

### Archives

Committee reviewed *Archives Workbook* and had no recommendations.

### Cooperation with the Professional Community

Committee reviewed *CPC Kit and Workbook* and had no recommendations.

### Corrections

Committee reviewed *Corrections Kit and Workbook* and had no recommendations.

### Finance

Committee reviewed *Self-Support Packet* and had no recommendations.

### Grapevine

Reconsider publishing the “Alcoholism at Large” section of the A.A. Grapevine magazine. Committee took no action.

Review suggested changes to pamphlet “A.A. Grapevine and La Vina: Our meeting in Print.” Committee took no action.

Committee reviewed *Grapevine Workbook* and had no recommendations.

(Continued on page 6)



# Mini-Conference Voting Results

(Continued from page 5)

## Literature

Committee discussed suggested changes to booklet *Living Sober* and took no action.

## Public Information

Committee reviewed final report on the centralized distribution, tracking, and evaluation of the video Public Service Announcement (PSA) for the Spanish-speaking community "Tengo Esperanza", and took no action.

Committee reviewed progress report on development of a brief video on anonymity and took no action.

Committee discussed how delegates might stimulate local discussion in light of ongoing anonymity concerns and took no action.

## Report & Charter

Consider request to modify Article III of the current Conference Charter. Vote 1-10. Committee took no action.

## Treatment/Special Needs/Accessibilities

Committee reviewed *Treatment Kit and Workbook* and had no recommendations.

Committee reviewed *Special Needs Kit and Workbook* and had no recommendations.

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The theme of the 64th General Service Conference will be:

**"Communicating Our Legacies—Vital in a Changing World"** and workshop topics will be "Living the Heart of AA", "Recovery, Unity, and Service — Our Responsibility", and "Passing it on Through Sponsorship". Home groups were invited to share experience, strength, and hope on these topics. Condensed digest of this sharing is presented here.

Passing it on through sponsorship means that I am giving away what was freely given to me. I must give it away in order to keep it. Being a servant in AA means helping the sick and suffering, carrying the message in all my affairs, offering the hand of AA for anyone I can help. We share our experience, strength, and hope. Sponsorship keeps the recovery going within ourselves and within the fellowship. It means teaching through experience, direction, and by suggestion what has been so freely given to me. If it wasn't for the sponsors I have, no one would be able to share my burden. I don't have to be afraid of what I go through and don't have to drink over it. Today I can look at that drunk in the mirror and don't fear her. I'm a free person with peace of mind. A program of attraction.

A well-balanced sobriety and recovery is like a three-legged stool—it cannot stand without all three. This implies the incorporation of the Steps in my daily activities inside and more so outside the fellowship of AA, being of maximum service to God and others. Recovery, Unity, and Service implies the continuation of AA principles being passed on to the newcomer and continually practiced by long-standing members. Passing on recovery principles in a unified manner despite differences, having no regard for selfishness, standing for the AA way rather than standing in the way of AA. United we stand.

We communicate the Traditions of AA through the eleven standing committees of Area 54. They must be available and approachable, willing to go to any lengths. This is a WE program. We must look out for others and stick together.

Living the heart of AA means that we are carrying the message of living a sober life. It's our responsibility to stay sober and recover so we can help others. Unity through the 12 Traditions binds all AA groups together. Service includes being part of a home group. Living in the heart of AA means that when there is no meeting you can still internalize AA within yourself. It means carrying forward the Founders' ideals of one alcoholic helping another. What helps the Heart of AA pump? Keeping us alive by example, hope, Steps, sponsorship.

Our Legacies remind us to get in the 'middle of the bed'. All I have learned and earned has been through the program of AA and if I continue in recovery, I can keep what I have. Recovery is earned and practiced; Unity is family, and Service is necessary to keep the doors open. A legacy is something (such as property or money) that is received from someone who came before us and is no longer here. Legacies are our building blocks.

With changing times, it is important that I communicate and share what I learned in my beginnings. Otherwise it will die out and people will lose the substance of our past learnings. If AA is destroyed, it will be from within, not from outside changes.

## GRAPEVINE

### Quote of the Day

"I am responsible as a trusted servant to be informed -- my group

expects and deserves that. That responsibility requires me to take action, to do some reading, and to find out what the principles say -- not what I think ... The beautiful thing about AA is that we don't have to reinvent the wheel. We have directions and guidelines that we can follow; they were hammered out on the anvil of experience by those who have gone before us."

*San Carlos, California, October 1994, "The Anvil of Experience"*

## Area Officer Reports

The Alcoholics Anonymous program continues to open my eyes and my mind into comprehending many things I never before considered. I now understand that behavior and attitude are not the same thing, however they are related to each other in important ways. My "attitude" is an inner thought or belief I hold about the world around me. Attitudes can be positive, negative, or neutral regarding people, places and things. Behavior is the physical expression of my attitude. My "behaviors" are one way of letting people know my attitude. I also discovered that changing my behavior and attitude must be done at the same time, since one influences the other a great deal.

People will quite often judge my attitude by my behavior and this may not always be correct. This is because sometimes I will hide my attitude and behave as if I feel differently than I really do. Even though attitude and behavior are connected they are different.

Change is not an easy task for me; nevertheless I do have faith that if I continue to seek out the positive side of whatever situation arises, that my attitude and my behavior will also reflect a positive change in me.

Perhaps more important is the attitude of looking for personal improvement in my daily life. This is something I must practice every day. Repetition of anything good will only produce more good things in my life because it's my thinking that causes my experiences! I must remember it's about "progress not perfection". I love Alcoholics Anonymous.

Yours in Service, Love, & Gratitude  
Jamie B., Area 54 Chairperson

I was truly excited to hear Bill F., our East Central Regional Trustee, report that the contributions to the AA General Service Board increased in 2013. This means that we as members of AA understand that literature revenues are decreasing and we need to step up to the plate. This decrease in literature revenue is due to easier access by the membership to electronic/digital copies of the pamphlets and other literature with electronic devices. Yes, I too have gone to AA.org and downloaded "a" copy of a pamphlet. I did later purchase some copies of this pamphlet from an intergroup office at 25¢ each.

But now, we as members of AA will have to reach into our "Short Pockets" and find some dollars for contributions to not only our group, intergroup office, district, and area but more to our General Service Office in New York. I sent in my 2013 birthday (anniversary) contribution electronically and was able to credit it to my group. Yes, I know, some of you are saying, what took so long! But at least I did it! With group donations and individual donations being accepted electronically, several of us can do this more easily than ever: No. check, no stamp, no delay!

When I "came to" in AA, "they" explained that my brain was defective. I took offense, of course; they were dead wrong I thought. Fortunately, I learned they were right. Next thing was the slogan "Think, Think, Think." Now how did that work with my defective brain? The explanation was simple: "Think through the desire to drink."

As members we can also "Think, Think, Think" how we can keep AA strong financially. How we as members can have AA strong for our grandchildren and more. We just have to think it through.

One of the strengths of Area 54, Northeast Ohio, is our support to AA. In the last few years, we have worked harder to support not only GSO, our groups, intergroup offices, but Area 54. We have used the money to have GSR Schools, DCM College workshops, assemblies, etc. but best of all to support our delegate and alternate delegate in the work we ask them to do. I experienced firsthand that in several Areas in the US only people that are financially able *personally* can afford to go the Conference in New York. Thank you Area 54 for allowing our delegate to go on our dime. Thank you for allowing our Committee chairs the budget to purchase literature for displays and attend workshops in our area and other areas. Thank you for putting the work of AA first. Thank you for serving.

NOTE: Upon review of the financial report for the first 3 months of 2014, we are in the minus column because we have spent over 46% of our budgeted expenses. This is the time of year for Mini-Conferences and the General Conference. We have received 26% of our budgeted contributions. With the Ohio State Convention and Workshops that our Committees need to attend, I ask you to continue to forward your Area contributions.

Area 54 asks not to give until it hurts but to give until it feels good!  
THANKS AGAIN!

Yours in love and service,  
Susan R., Area 54, Panel 63 Treasurer

## Let's Go Green!

Area 54 General Service is inviting you to Go Green! Get your Area flyers, information, and an EXPANDED web-only version of the Northeast Ohio Recorder. All the information that comes to your USPS mailbox now can come to your inbox.

The NE OH Recorder you're reading now is 8 pages long—that's the page limit to keep postage weight within our budget and so that it can be folded to fit in an envelop. But we have so much more Area 54 news for you! The web version of the last issue of NEOHR was 14 pages packed with experience, strength, and hope.

Let Jim S., your Area 54 Mailing Secretary, know that you would like to save a tree or three (and save the area some \$Green\$) with a message at [mailingsecretary@area54.org](mailto:mailingsecretary@area54.org)

Please note: if you do nothing, you will still get your Area mail by USPS and by email (if we have your email address) as you always have.

## RECOVERY, UNITY AND SERVICE

These are the Three Legacies of our A.A. 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 63

**Ola P., Panel 63 Delegate**  
4480 Granada Blvd. #22  
Warrensville Hts., OH 44128  
(216) 408-0289  
delegate@area54.org

**Calvin L., Alternate Delegate**  
3571 Riedham Rd  
Shaker Hts, OH 44120  
(216) 334-4594  
e-mail: altdelegate@area54.org

**Jamie B., Area Chairperson**  
3254 Redwood Rd.  
Cleveland Hts., OH 44118  
(216) 548-5410  
e-mail: chair@area54.org

**Susan R., Treasurer**  
PO Box 8, 50 N. Maple St.  
Orwell, OH 44076  
(216) 407-6090  
e-mail: treasurer@area54.org

**Shyrl B., Recording Secretary**  
PO Box 10344 (M)  
Cleveland, OH 44110  
(216) 702-0572  
e-mail: recordingsecretary@area54.org

**Jim S., Mailing Secretary**  
104 Sexton St.  
Struthers, OH 44471  
(330) 261-6256  
e-mail: mailingsecretary@area54.org

➡ Visit us at <http://www.area54.org>

#### Committee Chairpersons 2013-2014

<b>Archives</b>	James T. 19104 Maple Heights Blvd. Maple Hts., OH 44137	(216) 322-7005 <a href="mailto:archives@area54.org">archives@area54.org</a>
<b>Archivist</b>	Tim H. 1944 Jefferson-Eagleview Rd. Jefferson, Ohio 44047	(440) 415-2960 <a href="mailto:archivist@area54.org">archivist@area54.org</a>
<b>Correctional Facilities</b>	Tina C. 29 South Maryland Youngstown, OH 44509	(330) 318-9168 <a href="mailto:cf@area54.org">cf@area54.org</a>
<b>Cooperation with the Professional Community</b>	Mary Ann K. 1779 Madison Avenue Wooster, OH 44691	(330) 876-0258 <a href="mailto:cpc@area54.org">cpc@area54.org</a>
<b>Finance</b>	Terry H. 2961 Essex Rd. Cleveland Hts., OH 44118	(216) 406-4089 <a href="mailto:finance@area54.org">finance@area54.org</a>
<b>Grapevine</b>	Bob D. 50 N. Maple St., PO Box 8 Orwell, OH 44076	(216) 408-9020 <a href="mailto:gvchair@area54.org">gvchair@area54.org</a>
<b>Group Services</b>	Diane K. 5 Chippenham Court Rocky River, OH 44116	(440) 333-5432 <a href="mailto:groupservices@area54.org">groupservices@area54.org</a>
<b>Hispanic Community</b>	Wellington R. 209 East 216th Street Euclid, OH 44113	(216) 287-6009 <a href="mailto:hispanicliaison@area54.org">hispanicliaison@area54.org</a>
<b>Literature</b>	Jerry P. 856 Comanche Trail Macedonia, OH 44056	(216) 870-1131 <a href="mailto:literature@area54.org">literature@area54.org</a>
<b>"Recorder" Newsletter</b>	Jeffrey Y. 1076 Woodview Rd Cleveland Hts., OH 44121	(216) 496-7594 <a href="mailto:newsletter@area54.org">newsletter@area54.org</a>
<b>Public Information</b>	Quinsetta M. 23301 Lori Drive Bedford Hts., OH 44146	(216) 253-6315 <a href="mailto:pi@area54.org">pi@area54.org</a>
<b>Registrar</b>	Patricia R. 180 College Park Drive #C-3 Elyria, OH 44033	(440) 365-7416 <a href="mailto:registrar@area54.org">registrar@area54.org</a>
<b>Special Needs</b>	Roosevelt T. 400 Locust St., Apt. 804 Akron, OH 44307	(330) 459-1559 <a href="mailto:specialneeds@area54.org">specialneeds@area54.org</a>
<b>Treatment Facilities</b>	Gary C. 1530 Victor Ave Youngstown, OH 44505	(234) 855-0833 <a href="mailto:tf@area54.org">tf@area54.org</a>
<b>Website</b>	Dan M. P O Box 173 Chardon, OH 44024	(440) 853-6768 <a href="mailto:info@area54.org">info@area54.org</a>



# Area Committee and DCM Reports

## Area 54 Assembly Minutes

January 19, 2014

Jamie B. opened the Assembly with the Serenity Prayer. Rob read the Preamble Roosevelt T. read the 12 Traditions. Joan O. read the 12 Concepts. Tradition seven was read and discussed by Mae R. Concept seven was read and discussed by Gene A. Jamie B. reminded assembly about Mini-Conference Hospitality Room bids will be accepted at the Planning meeting.

### **Recording Secretary**

Shyrl B. recording secretary explained the sign-in procedure for all DCM's, GSR's, Area Committee Chairs and past Delegates to establish eligibility when standing for office in our next election. Remember there is a 2-minute time limit for giving reports.

### **Area Treasurer:**

Susan R. Treasurer reviewed the Operating Surplus/Loss vs. Full Budget for Area 54 for 2013 Total group contributions went up. Bill D. made motion for report to be accepted. Wellington R. seconded the motion. Treasurer's Report was accepted. Susan also discussed the balance sheet and group contribution for the Area.

### **Mailing Secretary:**

Jim S. - Next mailing party will be on February 15, 2014. We need a district or meeting to host. In this mailing look forward to Mini-Conference information and a finance piece. Our Go Green list is saving the area money. In the next mailing, we should be sending fewer pieces. If you wish to go green please contact Jim S. via [mailingsecretary@area54.org](mailto:mailingsecretary@area54.org).

### **Registrar:**

Patti R. - District packets have arrived. Please pick up your packets. Of our 63 districts we have 13 that are dark and 4 with a DCM we have not heard from in 2-5 yrs. Additionally of the 2161 groups, 346 of them have an unknown status. Please return updated information to the registrar by the March 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly. Patti R. can be contacted by phone or e-mail [registrar@area54.org](mailto:registrar@area54.org) if anyone needs any assistance.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**The Following Committee and DCM reports were written reports received at the Assembly:**

**Corrections** - Tina C. -Youngstown's Multidistrict 7, 8, &48 will be having a corrections workshop on March 8, 2014 from 10-3am at the Economy Inn Hotel. District 10 is doing great work at the two jails serving men and women.

**Grapevine**—Bob D.—The pass along of each issue is 195,00 monthly and the Grapevine online subscriptions numbers are about 5100. These subscribers have access to online and print

materials. Grapevine Audio needs you to share your experience as you would in a meeting up to seven minutes. Go to [AAGrapevine.org](http://AAGrapevine.org). The Grapevine still needs your support.

**Treatment**—Gary C.—We had a good year, with 396 people from treatment centers, hospitals and the "clinks". There are 3 new treatment centers and 5 new contacts for bridging the Gap.

**Special Needs**—Roosevelt T. - On 15<sup>th</sup> of January attended the Lorain Advisory board meeting to discuss solutions for the needs of a deaf member who needs an ASL signer. Some options discussed included purchasing a monitor that would be held at the intergroup office and utilized for meetings there. Finally as a committee, we would like to put out a flyer to create a list of volunteers who are willing to be ASL singers in their area.

## **DCM REPORTS**

**District 5A** - John McP. - Preparing to update meetings with district 5B. Also preparing a leadership meeting for the district. Also looking at distributing funds to the four entities in the area. The Kent meeting moved to the Trinity Lutheran Church because of raise in the rent at the previous place.

**District 5B**—Mike G. - Updated most of the groups in the 5B area All the group paid some amount to the Intergroups and other entities as they could. Most of groups are having difficulty keeping the meetings going, but they managed to send something.

**District 13** - Gary C.—We are low on GSR's but we are putting together a list of meetings. We are going to visit at the meetings to get a GSR for each meeting. We are looking forward to a good year in 2014

**District 38** - James A.— Meet and Greet was held at the Saharid Club on January 11, 2104. Of the 32 groups that meet there, three home group representatives attended. Area reps were Ola P. delegate and the James A. the district DCM.

**District 45** - Still going to meetings in district, asking groups to elect a GSR. Still need an alternate DCM. Buckeye Monday is moving to Buckeye Square Apartment located at 11529 Buckeye Rd in Cleveland.

## **FUNCTION REPORTS**

**Gratitude Sunday**—Mary Ann K.- Gave a report on Gratitude Sunday which was held on November 24, 2013 hosted by District 10. It was well attended. We thank everyone who attended.

**GSR Workshop** - Jerry P. – group services is in dire need of help. GSR Workshop on February 16 @ 2pm. The group services

*(Continued on page 11)*

## Step Eleven inside Tradition Eleven inside Concept Eleven

With the exception of Concept Twelve that quotes our "General Warranties," Concept Eleven is the longest of our concepts. With this in mind, I'm starting my reflection on the concept and not the step.

If Alcoholics Anonymous is to continue as a program of recovery for those still not born, we, who are serving the fellowship today, must safeguard its integrity by supplying each level of our service structure with the best possible people as trusted servants.

Where are we to find these servants? What should we expect from them? What can we do if we find they have committed errors that placed our fellowship at a disadvantage at "helping the still-suffering alcoholic?" Perhaps they did not offer our fellowship the principles we should demand from each other? What if they are paid employees? Are these questions fair? More about these questions later, but now let me reflect on the Eleventh Step.

When I started these reflections, back at Step One, I wrote about the home group I cut my teeth on with respect to learning about our steps and traditions. The concepts had just been adopted by the 1962 General Service Conference, so my group and I cut our teeth together with respect to them.

To refresh our memories, there were four men in this group; the oldest in recovery came to A.A. in 1941 before Jack Alexander's article in the Saturday Evening Post. The next oldest in recovery came to A.A. in 1953 and was our area's seated delegate for Panel 12. The other two came in about the same time and had six or seven years in recovery. One of these members wrote the humor column for, and contributed many articles to the Grapevine. These four gentlemen served the fellowship well and added immeasurable to my recovery. Over the years my understanding of "blessed" has grown as I recognize what this small group of men had given me.

They taught me that Step Eleven is an action step. Not just in prayer, but what that prayer would or could lead to! Many nights after the meeting, (some of you may know about this other real A.A. meeting) when we would sit around digesting the thoughts we had just heard. Some one might say, "was this comment or that comment helpful," and they would all look at me, perhaps wondering if I had understood the spiritual significance in their answers. These meetings after the meetings not only allowed my recovery to grow stronger, but forced me to understand at a much deeper level, how I responded to questions from newcomers as my recovery grew. The informal gatherings like these have roots going back to our founding days in Akron, before our Big Book or traditions.

Step Eleven's history goes back to Anne S., Doc's wife, where the Oxford Group members (that had separated from the mother group) would sit around her kitchen table and try and help each other on their spiritual journeys. They

soon learned by sharing their experience, strength, and hope, and by passing this experience on, the newcomers were finding this new way of life quite fulfilling. They learned together that by sharing this exciting new spiritual path others were being attracted to this way of life. Thus Tradition Eleven was being formed.

The Eleventh Step and Tradition and their relationship to my recovery can never be separated. When a twelve-step call came to our group we all contributed to the call. Most of the time two went on the initial call, if we knew the prospect had a family, we would bring a member of Al-Anon with us. Our Big Book calls our disease a "family sickness," so we came prepared for a long talk with the family. The relationships between the families contributed to a better understanding of the chapters dealing with wives and families and added immensely to the growth and well being of both fellowships. Later on in my recovery, as a member of a professional board dealing with alcoholism, later to be renamed "substance abuse," I was privileged to offer experience having served on Cooperation with the Professional Community committee as a Panel 26 delegate. Both of these experiences dealt with attraction rather than promotion. The professionals, then and now, see our recovery program as a solution for this family disease, but do we share their attitudes today, or are we possibly creating a business climate for bottom line profits? Are we ignoring how people seeking recovery view our services? Our "text book" deals with the family concept, but do we offer insights into the services we can and must provide? This is one small service, but without the spiritual significance of this service we will find in Step Eleven we will not offer an answer to the recovering person or their family.

Much can be discussed about why we pray in Step Eleven if we are a business dealing with offering a solution for sale to treatment centers? Why would we meditate on God's will if we are offering our solution as a business venture?

Concept Eleven ends with a serious stipulation: "*.... will always be matters of serious care and concern.*" Each member, be it a paid staff person, a Director, or a Trustee is given a clear directive within this concept. Each of us owes the Fellowship careful consideration when acting on AA's behalf. The least is a clear considered explanation to our General Service Conference. This courtesy shows the depth at how AAWS, the Grapevine, and General Service Board of Trustees sought the will of God through Step Eleven, Tradition Eleven and Concept Eleven.

Step Eleven invites every member of our fellowship to act in a prayerful and meditative manner so the recovery others see will be attractive. Those others may see what God has done and is doing in our lives.

Tradition Eleven demands we safeguard the names of all our membership. In speaking publicly we give no reference to our personal names, but give credit to whatever success we may have found to A.A., and our recovery to those who gave it to us, and its loving spiritual path to us by their hard work and diligence to service.

In closing I'm reminded of what those four members of my

*(Continued on page 11)*

## Area Committee and DCM Reports

## Step/Trad/Concept

(Continued from page 9)

committee will be presenting information that will teach about service. There will be a Potluck dinner, so bring a dish.

**Alternate Delegates' Report** – Calvin L. participated on a Service Panel at the Twelve Promises Group at the request of the North Coast Multi District. Calvin also gave a report about the upcoming Area 54 Mini Conference, which will be held on April 4-6<sup>th</sup> at Radisson Hotel in North Olmsted. The Theme is "Communicating our Legacies—Vital in a Changing World". All members of A.A. are encouraged to attend.

### Delegate's Report

**Ola P.** – gave a hand to District 10 for great event and encourage our chairs and committee members to try an attend area functions. We are self-supporting and we need to make an effort to make these events when given throughout the area. DCM and Committee Reports are due for every assembly. Our area committees need support. Please consider joining one. AAWS - announced 2025 International Convention site is Vancouver, British Columbia in Canada. There are two new personnel at GSO. Correction desk need male correspondence to correspond with male inmates. Check the website to get more information.

**Old Business** – Bob McK. – 2015 National A.A. Archives Workshop will be held at the Doubletree in Independence. Host Committee had a planning meeting on January 12, 2014. At this meeting, officers and committee members were elected. There are still a few committee member position still open, they include; Literature, Decoration and Hospitality. The National A.A. archives members, hopes that the area would to host the hospitality suite, but this will be discussed at later time. There is sign-up sheet going around the room for any interested members, who would like get involved with this function.

### New Business

**Ola P.** Presented the proposed 2014 budget, after discussion, Wellington R. made motion to accept the budget, Tina C. second. Area 54 2014 Budget was approved.

**Jamie B.** – For Unity day, Jamie will chair the event. She will be contacting several people to plan the event. Gene A, DCM from District 40 bid on the Open House Picnic. His District was unopposed.

### What's on Your Mind

**Genny M.** - Cleveland Intergroup Report-shared information about the Cleveland Central Office. Central office held its traveling secretary workshop in Lakewood on January 11. The following Wednesday the advisory was held at the central office. A date has been confirmed for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Goodtime III Cruise –Saturday September 6, 2014. Tickets are \$17.00. Cleveland has a newsletter called the Central Bulletin. Cleveland Corrections Committee will be having a Workshop on March 29<sup>th</sup> Saturday 10-Noon at Central office.

**Jim S.** – District 23/39 stepped up to do the next mailing party on February 15, 2014 at New Lyme Church.

**James A.** - Thanked the panel for increasing the font of the assembly minutes.

**Tina C.** - Youngstown will be holding a correction workshop on Saturday March 8. Motion to adjourn was made by Bill H. and Joyce C. seconded, passed, followed by the Responsibility Pledge and the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Shyrl B.  
Area Recording Secretary

group offered, not just to me, not to each other, but to the districts they served, the area they served and the fellowship they served. If that was not enough, they were blessed, to give more richly than ever! Countless Upper Peninsula of Michigan families were served and helped with the cooperation of Al-Anon. They and others were involved with bringing the message of recovery to a professional community that saw something in them that would save countless lives and offered their services with the only thought of compensation to be another day of recovery.

In my fifty-two years of recovery I have been blessed with knowing many of the servants whose lives demonstrated what a prayerful, meditated life can do. These folks lit up the path you and I will follow as "*we trudge the happy road ..*," but lest we forget Concept Eleven, we have been entrusted by our inheritance with the gifts started in Akron, on Ardmore Avenue. They were seeking a spiritual path that has no financial value. A path for all to see and if they care to join our happy fellowship: "*Give freely of what you find and join us.*"

If the servants who serve us do not live by these principles, we should replace them. Not only for our recovery, but for those who have not been born. If these are not serious cares or concerns, then we can throw the Big Book and Twelve and Twelve out the window, but page sixty-eight (68) of our Big Book states: "*We never apologize for God. Instead we let Him demonstrate through us, what He can do.*"

Contributed by ELD, Ishpeming, MI,  
Area 74



# NOTE THE DATE

## 7th Annual Area 54 Unity Day

May 18, 2014

2:00 PM

UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY

One of the definitions of unity is: the combining or joining of separate things or entities to form one.

Brunswick 12 Step Club - 1480 Pearl Road - Brunswick Ohio

HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE



Delegates' 64<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference Report  
Cleveland District Office & Other Intergroup Liaison Reports



### Founders' Day Herald

79<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Alcoholics Anonymous  
June 6, 7 & 8, 2014 | Akron, Ohio | Birthplace of A.A.

#### FRIDAY ACTIVITIES

**A.A. 12 Step Panel** | 10 a.m. – 10 p.m.  
Discussion of One Step Per Hour  
Chaired by: Jeff C.

**A.A. Early Bird Meeting \*** | 3 p.m.  
Angie J. – Austintown, OH  
\*Take your sobriety and go beyond your sobriety\*  
Chaired by: Pam H.

**Actors Guild Play** | 5 p.m. & 8 p.m.  
Open Discussion  
Chaired by: Aida C.

**Reunión En Español A.A.** | 6 – 9 p.m.  
Open Discussion  
Chaired by: Aida C.

**A.A. Old Timers' Panel \*** | 7 – 8:30 p.m.  
Jim C. – Canton, OH  
Stu B. – Severna Park, MD  
Phil L. – Tampa, FL  
\*A.A. Then and Now\*  
Chaired by: Matt H.

**A.A. & Al-Anon Meeting \*** | 9 p.m.  
Chaz & Judy D. – Cambridge Springs, PA  
Joys and challenges of working an AA & Al-anon program\*  
Chaired by: Roberta T.

**Serenity Singers** | 8:30 – 9:30 p.m.  
Young People's Meeting  
11:30 p.m. – 2:30 a.m.  
Beth & Dave F.

**Al-Night Alkathon A.A.** | 11:30 p.m. – ?

#### SATURDAY ACTIVITIES

**Bus Tours of Historic A.A. Sites**  
9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
3 buses continuously – Bierco Circle

**A.A. Archives**  
Located in Akron Intergroup Office  
(Stop on bus tour)

**The 12 Traditions** | 9 a.m.  
Gail L. & Harmon V.  
\*Why it works\*  
Chaired by: Matt H.

**A.A. Speaker Meeting \*** | 10:30 a.m.  
Kurt C. – Sandusky, OH  
\*It's just that simple\*  
Chaired by: Juanita W.

**Grapevine 70th Anniversary Celebration**  
11:30 am Presentation  
Chaired By: Matt H.  
1:30 pm Presentation  
Chaired By: Pam H.

**Actors Guild Play** | 12 p.m. & 2:30 p.m.  
\*The New Guy\*  
Chaired by: Jeff C.

**A.A. Speaker Meeting \*** | 2:30 p.m.  
Katie P. – Austin, TX  
\*Freedom from the bondage of self\*  
Chaired by: Jeff C.

**Reunión En Español A.A.** | 3 p.m.  
Felix R. – Puerto Rico  
\*Mi oportunidad de Vivir\*  
Chaired by: Tom O.

**The History of Our Big Book** | 4 p.m.  
Presented by: Gail L. The Villages, FL  
Chaired by: Pam H.

**Serenity Singers \*** | 7 p.m.  
UA Infocision Stadium

**A.A. Speaker Meeting \*** | 8 p.m.  
Denny B. – Houston, TX  
\*If you don't drink, you won't get drunk\*  
Chaired by: Doug M.

**WEST SIDE ONLY UA Infocision Stadium**  
Chaired by: Doug M.

**DANCE! DANCE! DANCE!**  
10 p.m. – 1 a.m.  
Saturday Night

#### SUNDAY ACTIVITIES

**MOTORCADE TO DR. BOB'S GRAVE \***  
7:30 A.M.  
Motorcycle procession and graveside memorial tribute to Dr. Bob & Anne Smith  
Speaker: Tom R.  
Chaired by: Juanita W.

**A.A. SPIRITUAL PLAN MEETING** | 9 a.m.  
\*God as we understand Him\*  
Chaired by: Kathleen K.

**A.A. CLOSING SPEAKER MEETING \***  
10:30 a.m.  
Chuck S. – Las Vegas, NV  
\*Page 151\*  
Chaired By: Dain R.

\*A.S.L. INTERPRETER

#### AL-ANON

##### FRIDAY ACTIVITIES

**Al-Anon Long-Timers Panel** | 3 p.m.  
Joan B. – Brecksville, OH  
Karen P. – Chagrin Falls, OH  
Mike B. – N Canton, OH  
\*Al-Anon celebrates recovery – keep coming back\*  
Chaired by: Roberta T.

**A.A. & Al-Anon Meeting** | 9 p.m.  
Chaz & Judy D. – Cambridge Springs, PA  
\*Joys and challenges of working an AA & Al-anon program\*  
Chaired by: Roberta T.

##### SATURDAY ACTIVITIES

**Al-Anon Panel Meeting** | 10 a.m.  
Elaine T. – Westwood, OH  
Pat W. – Akron, OH  
Phil B. – Uniontown, OH  
\*Changed attitudes can aid recovery\*  
Chaired by: Jeff B.

**Al-Anon Skit** | 11:30 a.m.  
\*The dating game\*  
Chaired By: Linda K.

**Alateen Panel Meeting** | 1 p.m.  
\*Celebrating recovery the alateen way\*  
Chaired by: Micki G.

**Al-Anon Workshop** | 2:30 p.m.  
\*Celebrating recovery! Why we keep coming back\*  
Chaired by: Roberta T.

#### REGISTRATION

UA Student Union  
**CREDIT CARDS NOW ACCEPTED!**  
Registrations must be picked up by 6 p.m. Saturday – **NO EXCEPTIONS!**  
Package Plans must be picked up at designated dormitories.  
Coffee & Fellowship Room  
Student Union  
A.A. Literature Sales  
Friday 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.  
Saturday 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
**CREDIT CARDS NOW ACCEPTED!**

FOUNDERS' DAY IS A SERVICE OF THE AKRON AREA INTERGROUP COUNCIL OF A.A.  
Name badges & ribbons must be worn for admittance to all meetings – NO EXCEPTIONS!  
NO BASIC REGISTRATION REFUND.  
\$30.00 FEE FOR ALL PACKAGE PLAN CANCELLATIONS!

58th Ohio State Convention of A.A., Hosted by Area 55 General Service



**58th OHIO STATE CONVENTION**  
**East Central Regional Conference**  
July 25, 26, 27, 2014

Service: Alcoholics in Action

... from the coffee pot to world service.



#### WEEKEND EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- Panel Discussions
- Sobriety Countdown
- Alkathon
- Banquet
- Committee Displays
- Hospitality Rooms

#### Holiday Inn French Quarter

10630 Fremont Pike Perrysburg OH 43551  
(419) 874-3111 [www.hfq.com](http://www.hfq.com)  
Room Rate: \$89.00/night plus tax  
July 3 is the Cut-Off Date for the Convention Rate!  
Call: 1-888-874-2592

When you call, be sure to tell them you are with the 58th Ohio State Convention. This is a non-smoking facility. Smoking is not permitted within 25 feet of hotel entrances.

Please Note: Registration is Required for All Activities and Badges Must Be Worn for All Events!

#### 58th OHIO STATE CONVENTION REGISTRATION

##### REGISTRATION INFORMATION

☐ AA ☐ Al-Anon ☐ Alateen

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (as you would like it on badge): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please note any special needs: \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTRATION  
Registration after July 5 \$22.50 x \_\_\_\_\_  
Early Registration \$20.00 x \_\_\_\_\_  
Alateen Registration \$10.00 x \_\_\_\_\_

MEALS  
Saturday Breakfast \$11.00 x \_\_\_\_\_  
Saturday Lunch \$14.00 x \_\_\_\_\_  
Saturday Banquet \$25.00 x \_\_\_\_\_  
Sunday Breakfast \$11.00 x \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Meal Package \$61.00 x \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Banquet Meal Choices:  
☐ Beef ☐ Chicken ☐ Vegetarian

Please send this registration with your payment to:  
58th Ohio State Convention, 3328 Glanzman Road, Toledo, OH 43614