

The Northeast Ohio Recorder

Rotation Issue

Jan / Feb / Mar 2019

<http://www.area54.org>

Volume XXVI, Issue 1

A Word From Our Delegate

It's an honor and a privilege to serve Area 54 and I humbly thank you for giving me your vote of support as I continue down the service triangle. From the very first area assembly, I heard the words that we are all "delegates in training," meaning we are all learning what it takes to be a delegate in the service structure of Alcoholics Anonymous. I came to the assembly first as a GSR for my homegroup. Next, I became a DCM for my district (area where my homegroup meets). After a while, I became a part of one of the area's standing committee. It was Finance, where I learned a deluge of information about how spirituality and money CAN mix, when it comes to serving our fellowship and being self-supporting. When I stood for a panel position in the October 2012 election, I wasn't sure what to expect, but I was willing to learn. To be truthful, having the willingness to do the work is a good place to start. I was told early on that being an area officer was on-the-job training. You read the guidelines about what is expected for the position, but there is always more to learn and do. Then, as soon as you get in the groove of understanding what your responsibilities require, it's time to rotate on or out.



During this service journey, I have served Area 54 in several service positions and I'm grateful for everything I have learned. The knowledge that prior service members have shared has been put to good use throughout my voyage into service work. The one that stands out the most is that WE must work together. It does not mean we have to agree on everything, but we must respect other's opinion and thoughts. As panel members and officers of the area, we stand and work together for the good of Area 54. So once again, I express my humble thanks to you all for allowing me to serve as your Panel 69 Delegate. My journey is continuing, and I ask each and every one of you to please come along with me, with the goal in mind to learn more about general service and to grow in deep appreciation for our fellowship.

In Love and Service

Shyrl B. - Delegate
Area 54 - Panel 69

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ALTERNATE DELEGATE'S REPORT

Thank you for electing me to be your Alternate Delegate for Panel 69. Your faith in me is humbling. I will work hard to represent you and serve you effectively.

I have the honor of attending the 2019 East Central Region Conference of Delegates Past and Present. To be honest, February

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FROM THE EDITOR

I am pleased to “rotate” into the responsibility of serving as your Editor of the Northeast Ohio Recorder. I fully anticipate an exciting experience. To help facilitate a smooth transition, I had an opportunity to meet with the outgoing editor (a.k.a. “Editor Emeritus, for life”) who has provided me with ample information, including 454 digital files (Am I missing 5 files? ☺), totaling 342 MB. To put that in perspective, the Kindle edition of the “Big Book” is only 1.3 MB. The point seems clear to me: The massive amount of information available to me is but an indication of the massive responsibility I have accepted.

I do not anticipate too many changes in the near future, but one matter that is heavy on my heart is our policy of publishing two different versions of our newsletter. I do understand the need for an expanded internet edition in some instances, and I certainly understand the need for limiting our print edition to eight pages. My concern, however, is in fairness and equity. I am aware that some of our members are faced with limited technological skills and access, especially those of us over a certain age who never worked in an office. Is it fair that those individuals should be excluded from having access to the same information to which our “Technocrats” have access? Such an issue, though, must be balanced with the need to publish the full results of our Mini-Conference voting and information coming from the General Service Conference. Therefore, until you tell me otherwise, both the print version and the electronic version of the Northeast Ohio Recorder will be the same, except the issue immediately following our Mini-Conference, and (maybe) the issue following the General Service Conference.



We will endeavor to publish all appropriate content that you submit. But we reserve the right to make grammar and spelling corrections and adjustments for space, prayerfully without compromising your content. We also reserve the right to reject inappropriate content. Depending upon available

space, we may hold your non-time-sensitive submissions until a later issue. Of course, space is always reserved for the reports of our officers, committee chairs, and DCMs.

I asked my Service Sponsor about our policy on republishing content from the likes of “Box 459.” Instead of giving me a straight answer, he said, in his usual style, “I don’t think the Service Manual has changed.” He has a way of allowing me to find information instead of just feeding it to me, and I appreciate that. Anyway, here it is:

Newsletters and bulletins published by area committees or intergroups/central offices may include local A.A. news, information about groups and committees, and **reprinted material from A.A. literature**.

...

Local A.A. publications are permitted to reprint the Steps, Traditions, and/or the Concepts, and to quote a phrase, sentence or brief paragraph excerpted from A.A. literature such as the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, The A.A. Service Manual and Conference-approved pamphlets without a prior, written request to do so. When this occurs, the proper credit line should be included to ensure that the copyrights of A.A. literature are protected. After a quotation from a book or pamphlet, the credit line should read: Reprinted from (name of publication, page number), with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

Reprinted from *The AA Service Manual*, pg. S41, with permission of A.A. (Emphasis added)

As you may have noticed in the Banner on the front page of this issue, we have labeled this our “Rotation Issue.” In this issue you will find “swan songs” from some of our outgoing Panel 67 servants as well as “reports” from our incoming Panel 69 servants, many of whom are the same individuals serving in different capacities. That is both “good news” and bad news;” it helps facilitate a smooth transition. It also demonstrates the need for more of us to step up.

One final word: ***Please get stuff to us BEFORE our deadlines, whenever possible.*** Also, anyone interested in being on the “Newsletter Committee” should contact us immediately.

~**James T., Editor**

Submit your service-related contributions, comments and questions, or ideas and complaints to:
newsletter@area54.org



OFFICER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS, CONT.

ALTERNATE DELEGATE REPORT

(Continued from page 1)

is not my most favorite travel time, but I am excited to attend as your Alternate Delegate.

The Area 54 Guidelines directs the Alternate Delegate to work closely with the other officers and especially the DCMs. I am to visit groups and districts when requested. In my own district, we need to get our participation in service relit. So, I will be starting in my home districts.

As Alternate Delegate, I am to work on the Mini-Conference: planning and execution, and assisting wherever I am needed. I have been honored to be a part of the Mini-Conference planning the past few years. I hope you are interested in becoming more active too. There are many service opportunities available. Give me call if you can help.

The Alternate Delegate is to attend the Ohio State Planning Committee meetings in Columbus twice a year. I was looking at the calendar and discovered that on August 21-23, 2020, Area 54 Northeast Ohio hosts the Ohio State Convention. This will be the month following the 2020 International Convention.

I am also to act as a liaison to a standing committee as assigned by the delegate; attend the Ohio State Convention, the East Central Region Convention, the East Central Region Forum and all other Ohio Area Mini-Conferences with the Delegate.

Recently I have been attending a Concept Meeting. It has benefited my understanding of the service structure. I love the 'Right of Appeal', and the 'Right of Decision' concepts. I marvel of the detail and effort the early members shared to create our service structure so that all voices are heard and cooperation between departments was built into the structure. The best of all is the Minority Opinion which many times has changed the outcome of a vote. I encourage others to meet to read and discuss the concepts. Our discussions have been lively, and sharing past experiences of past officers has helped renew my dedication to the service process.

As I struggle to get words on paper, and struggle to share my thoughts, I know that this process will grow me and maybe help open and improve our lines of communication.

Yours in service

Susan R., Alternate Delegate
Area54 - Panel 67

AREA CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Greetings to all in Area 54. First off let me thank everyone for letting me serve as your Area 54 Chairperson. It is an honor and privilege. There will be a couple of date changes this year. The April Assembly will be held on the 4th Sunday (April 28th) as Easter falls on the 3rd Sunday, and the August Workshop will be held on the 4th Sunday (August 25th) as it conflicts with the Ohio State Convention. So make sure you check your tri-fold. We will be accepting bids to host Unity day in April and the Area Open House Picnic in June at our 1st assembly on January 20th. Get with your districts and see if you can host one of these fun events.

Also, don't forget about the Mini-Conference planning meeting on January 27th at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Westlake at 2pm. We need folks who can help out - plenty of service opportunities. We also need a district or districts to host the hospitality room and host the ice cream socials. So grab a Sponsee and come out, and you'll get an extra chance to win the mini-conference package.

Love and Service

Tim H. - Area Chairperson
Area 54 - Panel 69

OUTGOING CHAIRPERSON/AREA TREASURER'S REPORT

As I look back on my position as the Area Chairperson, it has helped my recovery tremendously. Being a trusted servant to AA has helped me to follow my dreams in my personal life to strive towards things I never thought possible. By being in this position the past 2 years it has helped me to learn a lot about myself. My ability to balance service work and personal life and my commitment and dedication to our fellowship have deepened. The most important part in this journey is to remain teachable in all areas. By remaining teachable I have gotten a lot better at understanding that asking for help when I don't understand something isn't a sign of weakness, but a sign of being humble. It's awesome to not be afraid to ask for help.

My service work and my recovery guide me in dealing with all aspects of life. No matter what those situations

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OFFICER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS, CONT.

AREA TREASURER'S REPORT

(Continued from page 3)

may be. Service work has encouraged me to push myself out of my comfort zone and to do more and be more than I ever expected. My recovery has changed over the years because of all the friends I have made, all the things I have learned, and from watching the examples of others. We are told that our recovery and higher power will help us through anything. Trust and believe, I know this for a fact: I wouldn't have or be where I am today without any part of my recovery.

Yes, I still tend to freak out, but I have also learned to trust in my recovery and what He has taught me, and to not overthink things (sometimes harder to do than other times). I am grateful for this opportunity to be of service and I'm looking forward to continuing to serve the area in my new opportunity as Area Treasurer. Thank you for entrusting me to be of service.

Love and Service,

***Tina C. - Treasurer
Area 54 - Panel 69***

AREA RECORDING SECRETARY'S REPORT

Service works...it really does. In 2017 God had me volunteer to take the Recording Secretary position, which was open due to illness, here at Area 54.

I have experienced all sorts of obstacles, but with God's help, I have completed the assignments I've been given.

My position has allowed me to get to know so many wonderful people, and how they also complete their tasks. When they or I reach out for help the hand of AA has and continues to be there.

Well, looking forward to the upcoming year ... more fun, travel and work to be done.

Thank you, God, for this opportunity to serve.

Love & Service,

***Beverly F. - Recording Secretary
Area 54 - Panel 67***

OUTGOING AREA TREASURER'S REPORT

The Spirit of Rotation

Thanks to the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous, sponsorship and a homegroup that knew exactly what I needed to smash some old ideas about what I think of myself and what I should be willing to do for others to carry the message, I have had what some would call a spiritual awakening of sorts. I'm not sure when this happened, but I can tell you that it happened while I was busy doing what was suggested and initially thinking "Okay, well if this is what you say will keep me sober..." Many other thoughts came after that, and a feeling inside me slowly changed from doing things solely to stay sober to doing these things because I really wanted to help. The Big "I" was transformed into the Big "We."

I am no longer afraid to share what I've done right, or to share the mistakes that I've made along the way. General Service has become a solid foundation for continued healthy growth in my life by helping others. Because of the wise and spiritual principle of rotation, we in Alcoholics Anonymous are blessed with an unselfish means to preserve what we have been so freely given. So, when my thoughts turn to "After this I'm done," I can always rely on a good AA to ask me to do something else which puts my selfishness in check and gives me a new response of "What can I do next to be of maximum service?"

Serving as your Area 54 Panel 67 Treasurer has increased my faith in people and in God. I thank Alcoholics Anonymous and all the people who came before me who shared their insight and experience to help me overcome my fears. Thanks for encouraging me just to be the best I can. I am forever grateful. It has been an honor serving you all.

***Dawn J. - Outgoing Treasurer
Area 54 - Panel 67***

AREA ARCHIVES CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Happy New Year to all in Area 54.

First of all, I would like to thank all of those who served with me on our previous panel 67. I continued to learn more about myself by working with each of the panel members. We did not always agree on issues; however, we were able to agree to disagree respectfully which was

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OFFICER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS, CONT.

AREA ARCHIVES CHAIRPERSON REPORT

(Continued from page 4)

accepting opinions other than my own, and that in itself is growth for me.

The longer I continue to be involved in general service the more I am able to understand and accept life on its terms. An added bonus to it all is the feeling of being a part of AA - not just a member. I am benefiting from service work by helping to keep the doors open not only for myself but for the newcomer and those who will need it in the future.

This is basically the 12th step: "Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to other alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs."

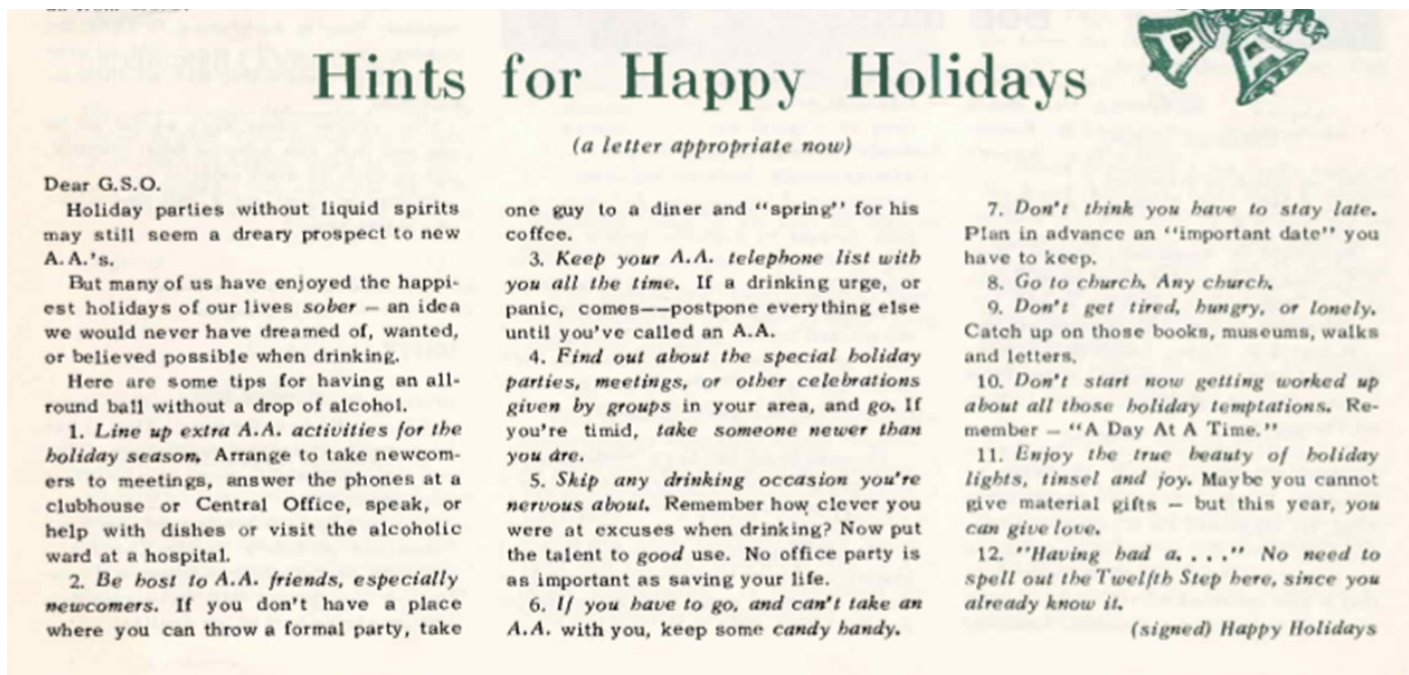
I love Alcoholics Anonymous!

Jamie B. - Archives Committee Chairperson

Area 54 - Panel 69 (Area 54 - Panel 67 Past Delegate "for life")

A BLAST FROM THE PAST

In recent years we find included in the Holiday Issue/ Winter Issue of *Box 4-5-9* a full, colorful page labeled "Twelve Tips for Keeping Your Holidays Sober and Joyous." It is not unusual to hear the "Tips" read in our Home Groups during the holiday season. The practice originated in the 1966 Holiday Issue of *Box 4-5-9* as an anonymous letter titled "Hints for Happy Holidays." Here is the original version:



Hints for Happy Holidays

(a letter appropriate now)

Dear G.S.O.

Holiday parties without liquid spirits may still seem a dreary prospect to new A.A.'s.

But many of us have enjoyed the happiest holidays of our lives *sober* — an idea we would never have dreamed of, wanted, or believed possible when drinking.

Here are some tips for having an all-round ball without a drop of alcohol.

1. *Line up extra A.A. activities for the holiday season.* Arrange to take newcomers to meetings, answer the phones at a clubhouse or Central Office, speak, or help with dishes or visit the alcoholic ward at a hospital.
2. *Be host to A.A. friends, especially newcomers.* If you don't have a place where you can throw a formal party, take one guy to a diner and "spring" for his coffee.
3. *Keep your A.A. telephone list with you all the time.* If a drinking urge, or panic, comes—postpone everything else until you've called an A.A.
4. *Find out about the special holiday parties, meetings, or other celebrations given by groups in your area, and go.* If you're timid, take someone newer than you are.
5. *Skip any drinking occasion you're nervous about.* Remember how clever you were at excuses when drinking? Now put the talent to good use. No office party is as important as saving your life.
6. *If you have to go, and can't take an A.A. with you, keep some candy handy.*
7. *Don't think you have to stay late.* Plan in advance an "important date" you have to keep.
8. *Go to church, Any church.*
9. *Don't get tired, hungry, or lonely.* Catch up on those books, museums, walks and letters.
10. *Don't start now getting worked up about all those holiday temptations.* Remember — "A Day At A Time."
11. *Enjoy the true beauty of holiday lights, tinsel and joy.* Maybe you cannot give material gifts — but this year, you can give love.
12. *"Having had a . . ." No need to spell out the Twelfth Step here, since you already know it.*

(signed) Happy Holidays

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Interestingly, this was also the very first issue of *Box 4-5-9*. Until that issue the newsletter was called *The AA Exchange Bulletin*. The piece did not appear again until 1970, slightly different. It has appeared in each "Holiday Issue" of *Box 4-5-9* since 1975, taking on the familiar format (with pictures) in 1981. In 1986 it was given its own dedicated page, with a side caption "Cut along dotted line, and post this page on your group's bulletin board." The side caption was eliminated in 1996. Then in 2009 the "Holiday Issue" was changed to the "Winter Issue." That same year *Box 4-5-9* went from a bi-monthly to a quarterly publication.

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RESULTS OF THIRD LEGACY PROCEDURE

Area Election Results

The Panel 69 Delegate and Committee of officers for Area 54 were elected on October 21th, 2018 in Brunswick, OH. These officers will serve for a two-year term, beginning January 1, 2019. Congratulations to all! A heartfelt thanks to all who were willing to stand for office.

NAME and POSITION

Shyrl B. , Panel 69 Delegate	Tim H. , Area Chairperson	Beverly F. , Recording Secretary
Susan R. , Alternate Delegate	Tina C. , Area Treasurer	Mark P. , Mailing Secretary

Vote Tally from the Third Legacy Procedure

Delegate		Alternate Delegate			
Ballot	1st	Ballot	1st		
Shyrl B.	44-0	Susan R.	44-0		
Area Chairperson		Treasurer			
Ballot	1st	Ballot	1st		
Tim H.	41	Tina C.	33		
Nelson M.	3	Nelson M.	10		
Recording Secretary					
Ballot	1st				
Beverly F.	48-0				
Mailing Secretary					
Ballot	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	HAT
Steve K.	23	23	29	28	
Mark P.	22	20	18	18	X

*if no candidate has 2/3 majority after 4 ballots, a motion for a fifth ballot vote is taken. If motion defeated, choice is by lot.

*if no candidate has 2/3 majority after 4 ballots, a motion for a fifth ballot vote is taken. If motion defeated, choice is by lot.

UPCOMING DATES FOR THE AREA AND BEYOND

NOTE THE DATE

January 20 2:00 pm
Area Assembly GV Lit

January 27 2:00 pm
Mini-conference planning meeting
DoubleTree by Hilton - Westlake
If inclement weather, then March 17th

February 17 2:00 pm
GSR School Workshop

March 17 2:00 pm
Area Assembly
And MC planning snow date

March 29-31
44th NEOH Mini-Conference
DoubleTree by Hilton - Westlake GvLit

OUTSIDE OUR AREA

February 8-10 - Schaumburg, IL
45th Conference of Delegates, Past and Present

March 1-3 - Perrysburg, OH
Area 55 Mini-Conference

March 8-10 - Deer Creek Lodge
Mt. Sterling, OH
Area 53 Mini-Conference

March 15-17 - Dayton, OH
Area 56 Mini-Conference

Gv = Grapevine sale days
Lit = Literature sale days

EXCEPT AS NOTED, Area Assemblies & Workshops begin at 2:00 pm and are held at The 12 Step Recovery Club, 1480 Pearl Rd. (in Brunswick Plaza), Brunswick, OH 44212. The club is on US Route 42, about 1/4 mile south of State Route 303. Phone: (330) 273-7216

A BLAST FROM THE PAST

(Continued from page 5)

So what is the point of this run through history? Well, I'm glad you asked that question.

The third promise of our familiar Ninth Step Promises states "we will not regret the past, nor wish to shut the door on it." (Big Book, pg. 83) I used to think this was the second promise because it is so often read that way from cards published by various intergroup offices. But after actually reading the Big Book and living it, I came to understand that *being amazed* before being half-way through with the 9th step "phase of our development" is also a promise.

In my 4th and 8th steps, I examined the *wreckage of my past*. Examining the history of our fellowship has given me the opportunity to examine the *record of our past*. I learned who I really am from that examination. In order for us to know who we are as a fellowship, I believe it is important to look at our history, from various angles.

4 Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.



I need to look at my life.

Anyway, from a "holiday" look-back, I cannot help but to realize a heightened level of gratitude and humility. For many, many years I looked forward to holidays because it meant a lot of parties with open bars. I could get drunk without paying for the booze. But when I got sober, I was like the person in the opening thought of the "Tips." The thought of holiday parties without liquid spirits did seem a little dreary. But when I attended some of those "must show my face" parties, I saw something different. There were quite a few people there who were just like me: they were not drinking. I always thought everyone drank at these parties. But it was not so. It was only me! It is amazing what we see when we take a sober look.

James T. - Outgoing Archivist
Area 54 - Panels 65/67

Image reprinted from "The Twelve Steps Illustrated," P-55, with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

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, expressed through 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, GSRs 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 69

Shyrl B., Panel 69 Delegate
PO Box 10344 (M)
Cleveland, OH 44110
(216) 702-0572
e-mail: delegate@area54.org

Susan R., Alternate Delegate
PO Box, 50 N. Maple St.
Orwell, OH 44079
(216) 407-6049
e-mail: altdelegate@area54.org

Tim H., Area Chair
1944 Jefferson Eagleville Rd.
Jefferson, OH 44047
(440) 415-2960
e-mail: chair@area54.org

Tina C., Treasurer
29 S. Maryland St.
Youngstown, OH 44509
(330) 531-2083
e-mail: treasurer@area54.org

Beverly F., Recording Secretary
1336 Hird Ave. #1
Lakewood, OH 44107
(216) 624-9610
e-mail: recordingsecretary@area54.org

Mark P., Mailing Secretary
629 Wellesley Circle
Avon Lake, OH 44012
(216) 406-1169
e-mail: mailingsecretary@area54.org

 Visit us at <http://www.area54.org>

Committee Chairpersons 2019-2020		
Accessibilities	-Vacant-	
		accessibilities@area54.org
Archives	Jamie B.	(216) 548-5410
	1339 Kent Drive S-1	archives@area54.org
	Brunswick, OH 44212	
Archivist	J. Steve K.	(330) 406-6603
	5657 Mahoning Ave.	archivist@area54.org
	Youngstown, OH 44515	
Cooperation with the Professional Community	Greg J.	(216) 346-0733
	4121 Wilmington Road	cpc@area54.org
	South Euclid, OH 44121	
Correctional Facilities	Brian J C.	(216) 849-5131
	P.O. Box 31266	cf@area54.org
	Independence, OH 44131	
Finance	Mae R.	(216) 926-1238
	1259 Ansel Rd.	finance@area54.org
	Cleveland, OH 44108	
Floor Management	-Vacant-	
		floormgmt@area54.org
Grapevine	Dustin S.	(330) 524-5833
	2203 Ranfield Road	gvchair@area54.org
	Mogadore, OH 4460	
Group Services	Jim S.	(330) 261-6256
	104 Sexton	groupservices@area54.org
	Struthers, OH 44471	
Hispanic Community Liaison	Wellington R.	(216) 287-6009
	209 East 216th Street	hispanicliaison@area54.org
	Euclid, OH 44113	
Literature	Dusty S.	(330) 620-9642
	4414 Point Comfort Drive	literature@area54.org
	Akron, OH 44319	
NE OH Recorder Newsletter	James T.	(216) 322-7005
	19104 Maple Hts. Blvd.	newsletter@area54.org
	Maple Hts., OH 44137	
OYPAA Liaison	Casey M.	(502) 640-1448
	4631 Deer Creek Ct, Apt 3	YPLiaison@area54.org
	Austintown, OH 44515	
Public Information	Robert M.	(216) 970-2333
	1367 Grantleigh Rd.	pi@area54.org
	South Euclid, OH 44121	
Registrar	Ola P.	(216) 408-0289
	4480 Granada Blvd. #22	registrar@area54.org
	Warrensville Hts., OH 44128	
Treatment Facilities	Calvin L.	(216) 334-4594
	3571 Riedham Road	tf@area54.org
	Shaker Hts., OH 44120	
Website	Dan M.	(440)853-6768
	PO Box 264	info@area54.org
	Middlefield, OH 44062	