

The Northeast Ohio Recorder

MINI-CONFERENCE EDITION

Apr / May / June 2021

<http://www.area54.org>

Volume XXVII, Issue 2

A Word From Our Delegate

The Virtual 46th Mini-Conference began March 26 at 6 pm in 2021. We had over 50 participants. Past Delegate Shyrl B chaired to meeting. After the Welcome and the Mini-Conference History by Dennis, we continued with Annetta P reading Love and Service. A Group Service Rep, a District Committee Member, an Area Committee Chair, an Area Panel 71 Officer, and the Area 54 Delegate share "What it is and My Experience."



The two new Panel 71 Delegates from Area 54 and Area 53 gave their Area Highlights and completed them within the two-minute limit. No one was "dinged." This year, 2021, the Area Highlights will not be presented by the Panel 71 delegates at the General Service Conference. They are expected to be included in the Conference Report. The Panel 70 delegates from Area 55 and Area 56 were given five minutes to share their experience at the General Service Conference last year. This included the original cancellation of the conference in April and the virtual General Service Conference that was truncated to just over four days in May.

Mark E, our East Central Regional Trustee, who will be rotating off after 71st General Service Conference gave us his final Area 54 report. He will be missed by this delegate. He has always given us the straight answers we requested. He has shared the activities of all his committees and I personally felt that I had some insight to the world of the trustees of Alcoholics Anonymous. I also felt that I was informed. Mark explained the job of an East Central Regional Trustee that serves 14 Areas in five states. He shared that this year he worked from his home instead of driving the usual 65,000 miles a year. He normally would have been away from home 40 weekends out of the year. Mark brought us up to date on the current issues and financial status of AAWS, Grapevine and *La Vina*. As usual, I felt that he had covered it all and I was well informed.

We completed our Friday session by thanking the eight Area 54 Past Delegates that attended. We are grateful for their participation.

Saturday morning started at 7 a.m. with an AA meeting, followed by the reconvening of the conference at 8:30 a.m. Our Finance team, Mark P and Mae R gave their reports urging us to continue to encourage our groups to contribute to the four entities District/Intergroup Offices, General Service Office (at Box 459 in NYC), our Districts, and our Area. A reminder by Mae that each member of AA costs AAWS over \$8.50 each per year.

Irene D, GSO staffer, presented her report. She presented a detailed and informative power point report.

She shared her experience of the shut down and the transition to working from home. Her current assignment is Accessibilities and Remote Communities.

Our chosen agenda items to discuss were separated into seven committees. At 9:30 we dispersed into breakout rooms. Each committee discussed and voted on the items that required a vote. It was decided that we did not have time in our virtual conference to

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FROM THE EDITOR

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

In this Mini-Conference Edition, the Editor has yielded this space to allow space for covering the Area 54 Mini-Conference Reports.

Love and Service

(Presented to 2021 Area 54 Mini-Conference)

Love is an action of having a feeling for someone or something. Love is unselfish, loyal and benevolent concern for the good of another. Love is an adoration of God.

Service is the action of helping or doing work for someone. Having a willingness to give putting others needs first.

Alcoholics Anonymous is a God given program. My responsibility is to help the next individual who is sick and suffering from alcoholism.

In my first year of sobriety, I was instructed to participate in the Women's Conference Committee. I was on the Hospitality Committee. I was given the opportunity to meet the ladies from different cities, and it gave me a sense of belonging. It was a pleasure being able to talk with individuals, get contact information and discuss activities offered in the Hospitality Room.

Love in the beginning...

When I entered Alcoholic Anonymous, I felt welcomed. I was given the necessary information and advice on how to stay sober. I received genuine hugs with no ulterior motives. And for the first time in my life, people were truly helping me and not asking for anything in return.

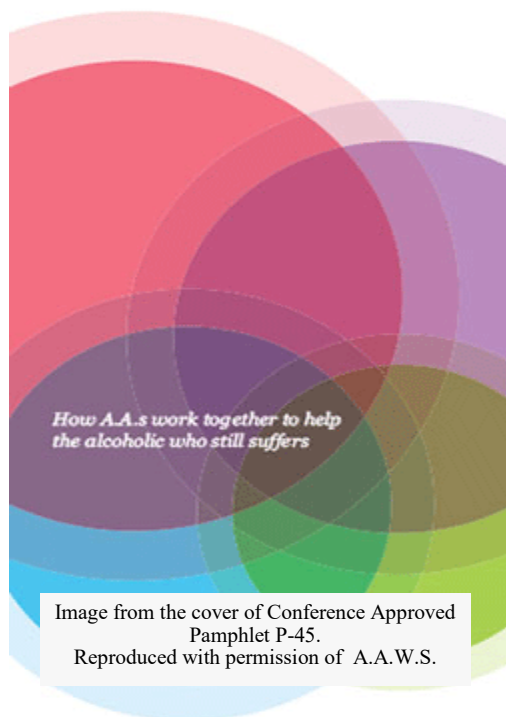
Love continues ...

The love I received, I was able to give to others. I felt needed in a positive way. My service includes:

- Women's Conference Committee - Hospitality
- Women's Conference Committee - Panelist
- Woman to Woman Luncheon - Secretarial

- Home Group - Secretary
- General Service Representative (GSR) - Voice of Home group
- District Committee Member
- Service Sponsor
- Support All Entities of AA
 - Cleveland North Coast Multi-District
 - Cleveland District Office of AA
 - Area 54 Northeast Ohio General Service
 - General Service Office

Circles of Love and Service



My love for Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) has enabled me to provide services in a loving and healthy way. I am committed to going above and beyond to make a difference in someone's life. I was able to give back what was given to me. To know that I can help someone to stay sober gives me a peaceful calm.

So when you leave this evening, I want you to remember this..... When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help. I want the hand of AA to always be there and for that, I AM RESPONSIBLE.

Arnetta P. - Chairperson CNCMD

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



AREA REPORTS AND ARTICLES

DELEGATE'S REPORT

(Continued from page 1)

have a vote by the body in the afternoon Mock Conference. Each committee worked diligently, and their reports were informative and complete. The body had an opportunity to question the thinking of the committee and received the information that they requested. The committees did a great job.

After a break, the conference reconvened at 6pm for our evening open speaker meeting. We enjoyed the personal story of recovery and message of hope from Irene D. It was inspiring and it was a strong message of healing. It amazed me that her Friday evening report, Saturday morning GSO report and her sharing Saturday evening were virtual and were transmitted from her family's home in Chile. She is staying there while also working on her Remote Communities assignment.

I am deeply grateful for all the participants and the extra hours of preparation by many members of the conference to prepare for our conference. We all owe them our gratitude for their hard work.

Love and service,

Susan R. - Delegate
Area 54 - Panel 71

ALTERNATE DELEGATE'S REPORT

Greetings Area 54

I think spring has finally sprung as the Ohio Mini-conferences are over and the Robins and Redwings are abundant. As alternate delegate I attended the delegates past and present meeting this year on February 13th via zoom. All of the Delegates from the east central region were in attendance as were the alternate delegates. The panel 71 delegates gave a 2-minute highlight report of their area, and panel 70 delegates gave a 5-minute report. This is also the time of the year that they give the agenda items to the delegates. We also had the candidates for the east central regional trustee position give a short talk on their experience in general service. We have had two trustees from Ohio for the last 8 years: Bill F. from area 53 and Mark E. from area 56. John C. from area 55 is a candidate for the ECR trustee position and we will have a new trustee at the end of the 71st General

service conference.

Shyrl B. group services chair did a great job on the GSR school workshop in February. As always, it was awesome and our new GSR's learned a lot.

I also attended the area 55 virtual mini-conference held on March 5th and 6th. I was a non-voting guest and served on the treatment and accessibilities committee. We also heard reports from Patrick C. GSO staff serving on the conference committee and Mark E. our east central regional trustee.

On March 12th and 13th I attended the area 53 virtual mini-conference as a nonvoting guest and served on the literature 1 committee. Reports were given by Mark E. ECR trustee and Jeff W. GSO staff.

On March 19th and 20th I attended the area 56 virtual Mini-Conference, again serving as a nonvoting guest where I served on the report and charter and agenda committee. The conference was also held on Sunday except my district meeting and area 54 assembly was held that day. Reports were given by Mark E. ECR trustee and Patrick C. GSO staff.

Area 54's mini-conference was held on March 26th and 27th and I served as chair of the Grapevine committee. We had a report by Irene D. GSO staff and Mark E. ECR trustee. We also had a mock conference Saturday afternoon with some lively discussion and comments. Attendance at Assemblies seems to be down. Please come and join us Virtually or in person at the Brunswick 12 step club. Information is on the website <http://area54.org> along with the Area 54 NE Ohio General Service 2021 schedule.

Yours in service,

Tim H. - Alternate Delegate
Area 54 - Panel 71

RECORDING SECRETARY'S REPORT

My Journey to General Service

I have always known of the 3 legacies in Alcoholic Anonymous: Unity, Service and Recovery. I felt like I was falling short in the general service area of my recovery. I of coarse sponsored and helped women, had a service position at my home group, but I realized that there was a

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AREA REPORTS AND ARTICLES, CONT.

RECORDING SECRETARY'S REPORT

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deeper level of service that I was not tapping into. I started by volunteering at Founders' Day. I then was asked to participate and be the voice of the International Women's Conference in Cleveland. I then started seeing our Old Timers dying and realized that we are responsible to pass this thing on. It made me ask myself, what am I passing on? So, I went to GSR School in 2019 and started to see what was going on in Alcoholics Anonymous behind the scenes. I was 32 years sober and humbly realized that I had so much to learn about being a General Service servant in AA. I started to attend monthly assembly meetings on Zoom in 2020 to learn more and see how God could use me as a vehicle. This was as my service sponsor kept inviting me to get active.

Jamie, who became my service sponsor during the election, was really encouraging me to show up. When I attended the October meeting, my name was drawn from "the hat" for Recording Secretary after it went to four ballots. God found a way to use me. I became Recording Secretary for Area 54 Panel 71. So, when you pray for God to help you with Ego, Pride, Patience and Tolerance, just know that you will end up in General Service!

It has been an incredible experience over the last 3 months. It is such an amazing way to give back. Dave T. an old timer who used to be in one of my home group used to always say "are you in AA or is AA in you"? General service has made me feel like AA is in me. Thank you, God, and Alcoholics Anonymous for a life I never imagined.

***Katie S. - Recording Secretary
Panel 71 - Area 54***

ARTICLE FROM THE PUBLIC INFORMATION CHAIR

Spirituality of the Program

When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I Am Responsible. That is an amazing statement for an Alcoholic like me to make. That statement in itself is Spiritual.

Before I came to AA, I was not a very Responsible

Person. I often times had good intentions but I could not muster the power to carry through on my intentions. Yet I was under the delusion that "in the reality of my own mind I was self-sufficient and in control. I had responsibility for people, places and things that were none of my business. I continued in this flawed thinking until I hit bottom came to A.A and began to apply Spiritual Principle in my life. Even today, I must be reminded that my perception may not be the reality of the situation. Today I realize that I had always lived in the kindness of others.

In A. A., I learned that I was responsible for my actions, that I was Powerless, not only over alcohol but also people, places and things. I needed a power greater than myself. I needed a God of my own understanding. In the chapter We Agnostics it states "Actually we were fooling ourselves, for deep down in every man, woman and child, is the fundamental idea of God. It may be obscured by calamity, by pomp, by worship of other things, but in some form or other it is there." I was told that I must find him now. I proceeded to develop a relationship with God of my understanding a Higher Power through the twelve steps of Alcoholics Anonymous. These Spiritual principles that, I have incorporated into my daily life allowed me to develop both fellowship and relationship with the God of my understanding. Today I know that God, my Higher Power brought me to Alcoholics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous brought me to God my Higher Power.

I remember being at a Big Book meeting a year into my sobriety and reading in the Big Book that "each individual, in the personal stories, describes in his own language and from his own point of view the way he established his relationship with God." I realized then and there that this had also happened for me. What an incredible moment. The book described what would happen and it actually happened to me. I had developed a relationship with God my Higher Power.

I have a GOD of my understanding. He is my Creator and I am his Creation, He is the Potter and I am the Clay. He is not just the God of my sobriety. He is God of my life. I experienced a Spiritual Awakening through the program of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Today I am Responsible. I tap into a Power Greater than myself each day. I do this through the power of Prayer. The Eleventh step talks about Praying only for knowledge

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2021 MINI-CONFERENCE

On Saturday afternoon, March 27, 2021, the Area 54 Mini-Conference attendees, in virtual meeting, conducted a “mock” conference to receive the results of committee deliberation. By prior Order of the Day established during Mini-conference planning, the committee deliberations were presented and discussed, with no action to be taken by the “mock” conference. Here is a report of the committee deliberations, as edited to approximate General Conference format.

Finance

A. The Pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix

1. Consider a request regarding contribution percentages to service entities [Committee took no action]
2. Discuss mechanization of group contributions. The committee recommends: 1) individual contributions should not dilute or replace group contributions; 2) Pamphlet should be rewritten to address virtual contributions or baskets [Unanimous]

C. Reconsider the 1972 G.S.C. “GSO should not accept contributions from clubs, listed or known as such, whether or not composed solely at A.A. members. Contributions are welcome from groups meeting in clubs as long as they are sent in the name of the group” [Committee took no action]

Report and Charter

B. Discuss AA Directories (Canada, Eastern US, and Western US. The Committee recommends: discontinue regional directories and update the F-25 service piece “Central Offices, Inter-groups and answering services in the US and Canada [Unanimous]

Cooperation with the Professional Community

B. Consider a request to create a pamphlet for mental health professionals. Recommended by committee. [4 in favor, 1 opposed] Additional considerations: Create a pamphlet targeted directly at Mental Health Professionals with a progress report to be presented to the 2022 General Service Conference. The committee reviewed the list of recommended topics to be covered and thanks Area 11 (CT) for this effort noting only that the pamphlet should be as brief as possible to encourage use.

Archives

B. Review report on “Proposed Book on AA History.” [Committee took no action] Committee comments: The committee reviewed the background material, noting that locales, even within a single area, might have significantly different histories, and had no strong opinion of the need for such a book. The committee felt that, if created, due consideration be given to an e-book format with many pictures and links (such as audio files) be included. The committee felt it important that archives throughout our structure be invited to submit input and that they be allowed fact checking before finalizing the version for approval.

Agenda

J. Discuss a request to provide additional avenues for AA members to share input on General Service Conference agenda items. [Committee took no action] Committee comments: The committee suggested that other areas consider adopting Ohio's method of accomplishing this. Area 54 (NE Ohio) holds an annual Mini-Conference open to all AA members where several Conference items are discussed and debated. The other 3 Ohio areas do this also and each delegate attends all 4 Mini-Conferences providing them with input from Ohioans on many of the agenda items.

Public Information

B. Review the 2020 trustees' Public Information Committee progress report on Google Ads performance. Committee reviewed the report with appreciation. [unanimous]

D. Public Service Announcements (PSAs).

1. Review the 2020 Report on the “Relevance and Usefulness of Video Public Service Announcement.” The committee reviewed with appreciation and noted that TV is being replaced by other media. [Unanimous]
2. Review a progress report on the development of two PSAs. [Committee took no action.]

E. Consider draft plan to develop podcasts. [Committee took no action]

Corrections

A. Consider request for a review of all correction related literature to replace terms such as “inmate” and “offender” with less stigmatizing language. Recommended by committee. [Unanimous]

B. Discuss innovative ways of carrying the message to alcoholics in correctional facilities/programs. The committee recommends moving forward with this discussion on the Conference level [Unanimous]

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MINI CONFERENCE, CONT.

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Treatment and Accessibilities

- A. Review progress report on the pamphlet “AA for the Older Alcoholic.” [Committee took no action]
- B. Review a progress report on audio interviews with AA members who are in the Armed forces. [Committee took no action]

Literature I

- B. Consider request to revise the book Alcoholics Anonymous
1. Add pages 3 through 41 of the pamphlet “The A. A. Group” as an appendix in the next printing. [Committee took no action]
 2. Revise the first 164 pages. [Committee took no action]
- H. Consider request to revise text related to self-support in the pamphlet “Frequently Asked Questions About A.A.” Recommended by committee. [Unanimous]
- M. “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated pamphlet:
2. Consider not retiring the existing version of the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated.” [Committee took no action] Additional consideration: Retire old version once new version is printed. [Unanimous]

Literature II

- C. Consider proposals related to possible Fifth Edition of the book Alcoholics Anonymous:
1. Develop a Fifth Edition. Recommended by committee [3 in favor 1 opposed] Additional consideration: First 164 to remain unchanged.
 2. Develop a Fifth Edition of the book Alcoholics Anonymous with updated stories and revisions to Appendices III and V. Recommended by committee. [2 in favor, 1 opposed] Additional considerations: Update medical view to modern understanding of medicine. Update religious view to be more inclusive
- E. Consider requests to revise the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions:
1. To remove the phrase “opposite sex” from paragraph two on page 117 in the chapter “Step Twelve.” Recommended by committee. [Unanimous]
 2. To reconsider use of the phrase “lustful enough to rape” in paragraph one on page 66 in the chapter “Step Six.” Recommended by committee. [Unanimous] Committee comment: Unnecessary use of a word that has potential to provoke trauma in sexual assault survivors.

Grapevine

- C. Consider a request to develop an AA Grapevine pamphlet on how the AA Grapevine can be utilized to carry the A.A. message. [Committee took no action] Additional consideration: Add this to the workbook as we already have a pamphlet [Unanimous, as to additional consideration]
- D. Review progress report on development of an Instagram account. [Committee took no action] Committee comment: Committee liked the Hashtag #idea (hash-tagging instagram posts for other sober users to find), and agree that it would help new, younger generation members.
- E Review suggested gender-neutral language options for changes to the AA Preamble. [Committee took no action] Committee comment: The committee discussed the preamble and liked it the way it is. Noted that, after a while, we wouldn't even notice the difference if it was changed.
- F. Consider the list of suggested Grapevine Book topics for 2022 or later. Recommended by committee [Unanimous] Additional consideration: Recommendations for consideration: Steps 4 & 5, Accessibilities, Diversity, Long-Term Sobriety, Mid-Sobriety Crisis.



UPCOMING DATES FOR THE AREA AND BEYOND

NOTE THE DATE

April 18 - Hybrid Area Assembly **Gv Lit**

May 15 - Cleveland North Coast Multi-District Virtual Workshop - Topic: "Zoom Basics and Beyond" Noon-2 p.m. Meeting ID 832 1361 7438 Case sensitive passcode CNCMD

May 16 – Virtual Unity Day Workshop

June 11-13 - Founders' Day **Gv**
Grapevine sales on Saturday one 6/12

June 27 – Area Open House Picnic
Swine Creek Reservation, Valley Shelter,
Geauga Park District
Additional information will be posted at
www.area54.org

OUTSIDE OUR AREA

April 18-24 - Virtual
71st General Service Conference

May 1st - Virtual
Ohio State Convention Planning Meeting

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

AREA REPORTS AND ARTICLES, CONT.

P.I. CHAIR'S ARTICLE

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of his will for us and the power to carry it out. I need that

Power to do the next right thing. I don't always want to do the next right thing. So I need a power greater than myself to tap into. As a famous Saint once said "Of myself I am nothing, My Father doeth the work".

Calvin L. - P.I. Chair

Panel 71 - Area 54

ARCHIVES CHAIR REPORT

We will be meeting soon to discuss priorities for the year. We welcome additional committee members.

For a couple years GSO Archives has been requesting shared experience on archives with digitalization in particular. I wrote and later revised a short piece. In early March I received notice that my submission was accepted and will be part of the next Archives Workbook.

Bob M. - Archives Chair

Panel 71 - Area 54

SAVE THE DATE



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.

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