

The Northeast Ohio Recorder

January, February, March 2000

www.aaneoh.org

Volume XIV, Issue 1

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 16 2pm
Third Legacy Meeting
* January 30 2pm
Mini Conference Planning
Sandusky, Ohio
* February ** 2pm
Mini Conference Planning
Sandusky, Ohio
February 20 2pm
Third Legacy Meeting
* March ** 2pm
Mini Conference Planning
Sandusky, Ohio
March 19 2pm
Third Legacy Meeting
* April 7, 8 & 9
Mini Conference
Sandusky, Ohio

All 3rd Legacy Meetings
and Workshops are held at:
The 12 Step Recovery Club
1480 Pearl Rd., Brunswick, Ohio
(on State Route 42 about 1/4 mile
south of State Route 303, next to
the Bowling Alley)



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from the Delegate

Hello Northeast Ohio:

It is with great sadness that we have accepted the resignation of Carol Tolson as our Mailing Secretary. In the interim I have asked Dan Mix if he would come back and fill in for her. Dan has the experience and needs no training and so makes for a smooth transition. So unless someone has a burning desire to stand for the remainder of the term, I will ask the Area to reaffirm the appointment in January at the Third Legacy Meeting. Dan's information can be found on the back page of this newsletter.

As many of you know I am in the middle of some major physical problems that have limited my ability to travel of late. They are going to perform surgery before ya'll get this and I should be back in the trenches once again in January.

I need to thank all sorts of folks for their help the past couple of months. There is not enough space here so I'll just let it be known that you elected an excellent Alternate Delegate for me. Tina has done a really good job of filling in for me in a lot of places and ways. She has picked up the ball and has really been a lifesaver to me.

As we move into the year 2000 we are gearing up for the Mini-Conference and the Ohio State Convention. We need lots of help so anyone interested in being involved on the Committees please see me or Tina and we will get you ACTIVE. Both

functions are going to be held at the same hotel in Sandusky OH.

Mini-Conference Planning begins on Sunday the 30th of January at the hotel. Come check out the facility, as there will be a tour. Committee assignments will be made and chairs for presentations will be set out as well. Please help to make this a well-attended Mini-Conference, as that is how I go to New York as an INFORMED Delegate. The more feedback ya'll get to me the better informed I am. The actual Agenda Items will be mailed out in early March to each of you. Share them with your groups and bring the feedback to us at the Mini-Conference.

Planning for the State Convention will kick off in May at the facility

**In Love and Service,
Rob Sebastian
Delegate Area 54, Panel 49**

Reminder

The Mini Conference Planning Meetings will be held on January 30, February 27 and March 26 at the Holiday Inn 5513 Milan Rd, Sandusky, Ohio

To get to the hotel, exit US 80 (the Ohio Turnpike) at US Rt. 250. Take US Rt. 250 north for 6 miles thru the US Rt. 2 interchange. The hotel is on the left.

Alt. Delegate Report

Hello Northeast Ohio

I am again reflecting on this past year as your trusted servant. This has been a very good year. A lot of good and productive things have happened as a direct result of the service that this Area has provided to A.A. I must say that I am proud to be a member of Area 54. Our committee chairs have done outstanding jobs with their displays, sales, communication, outreach and most of all their senses of humor. It is proven that a job can be well done when done with love and service as a priority. Kudos to you all.

This panel has traveled many miles this year in order to have your voice heard. Rob did a wonderful, exceptional job in representing us at the 1999 General Service Conference. We relayed your feelings to the staff at the General Service Office when we attended the East Central Regional Forum. We chaired and shared on panels at various conferences conveying our pride in this Area.

District activity is increasing. And a special thanks to the Districts that hosted this year's Open House and Gratitude Sunday. Thanks to all who made our Mini-Conference a success in attendance and in service. Area 54 deserves to give itself a great big round of applause.

2000 is here and there is a lot more work to do with our hosting the Ohio State Convention and redistricting, I am sure that you will pitch in as usual and make us proud. Thank you for allowing me to serve therefore allowing me to stay sober another 365 days.

In Love and Service,
Tina Hobson, Alternate Delegate

District News

Hi all,

I was appointed DCM of District 5, the Kent, Ravenna and Aurora areas, 2 months ago and have spent a significant amount of time trying to determine what meetings really exist and what meetings do not.

District 5 was a "vacant" district for quite some time and it has taken a while to figure out where they meet and see which ones are active or not. The information provided from New York was old, so it has been quite a task to get the information current.

I have been very lucky to have Thomas Nemerovsky come on board as Alt. DCM. Tom has taken the Kent meetings under his wing. As near as I can determine, there are 48 – 52 meetings in the District. That is far too large for one District. At the January 3rd Legacy meeting Tom and I will be presenting a redistricting plan to the Assembly.

I will visit the remaining 34 meetings outside of Kent in the coming days. I will visit the daytime meetings in December. I feel it important to "show my face" at the meetings and put a personal touch on General Service in the meetings.

If anyone has any information on the District, please let me know. I know of some meetings in the Kent area having some problems with disruptions from attendees. I need all of your eyes and ears to keep myself and Tom informed.

In Service,
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Gratitude Sunday

Thank you A.A. !

A few 24 hours ago I didn't know what gratitude was. Let alone have any gratitude. I take extra consideration during Gratitude month to review where I've been, where I am, and where I am going in my sobriety first and the rest just falls into place.

Not being from Cuyahoga County proper, but being somewhat active in the A.A. community in Lorain County, I know that anywhere I go I have family waiting for me with open arms. My A.A. Family.

Yet, there's that slight hesitation when walking up to a building I've never been to, filled with friends I haven't met yet. When I walked into the hall on Gratitude Sunday, I never could have planned the warmth, friendship and love that filled the room.

The very first face I saw was Ms. Lil. She promptly suggested it has been quite some time since she'd seen me and I felt right at home. There were others I have never seen before but we spoke and ate together as though we had been acquainted for quite some time.

The message of gratitude from the lead was inspiring. Sharing his experience, strength and hope I heard the promises coming true for him. I'm just a baby in the program of recovery and this kind of personal story gives me hope for a future one day at a time.

To be welcomed by all is an honor and a privilege, one I owe to my Higher Power and the program of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Respectfully,
Linda S. , Elyria, Ohio

*When anyone, anywhere reaches out for help
I want the hand of AA always to be there
And for that ... I am Responsible*

All DCMs, GSRs
Your group updates must be returned to the mailing secretary by Jan. 16, 2000 to be included in the Spring Eastern US Directory published by GSO.

Area 54 Committee Reports

Archives

Hello NE Ohio,

Sandra Stack, Archivist, took an oral history from Frank Conley, an Cleveland Westside old-timer.

Jay Moore and I have rearranged our office to make the shelving more convenient and to protect it against water leaks. We knew we should attempt better space utilization in part because we would be receiving the state archives display items since we host the State Convention next year. The need became more urgent on Nov. 13th at our state planning meeting in Columbus, because I was elected State Historian. As such, I also have stewardship of the non-display state archives. Bill Schmertz, past delegate and archive chair for Area 53 (Central and SE Ohio) was elected alternate historian.

We're starting to prepare displays for the State Convention. October may seem like a long way off but it pays to start as soon as possible. We have some state funds for enhancing their display.

We've added several pages to the Cleveland Central Office scrapbook. Others are planned but they require getting copies of some materials not in our possession and that takes a little longer. If any of you have items that relate to Cleveland's history and that you're willing to part with, please donate them to that office now. We know that letting go of these items is sometimes difficult, but many of us do this regularly. In some cases a good colored Xerox of the items would serve our purpose just as well.

Conversely, if you have items that relate to Area 54 or Ohio history we would gladly receive them. It's an archival principle that neighboring archives not compete for materials but rather specialize and cooperate with each other. We've had a very fruitful symbiotic relationship with our nearest neighbor, the Akron Archives, and would like to achieve the same with our other friends.

Yours In Service,
Bob McKimm
Archives Chair
Past Delegate, Panel 47

Grapevine

My Dear Friends,

As your Grapevine Chair it is my job to let you know how the Gv is doing. Low attendance at the Area 3rd Legacy meetings means the word is not getting passed on to homegroups.

The Gv is self supporting and has been operating in the red for over 5 years. Increased publishing and distribution costs, as well as decreased circulation are the main reasons.

The Gv communicates the experience, strength and hope of our members and reflects a broad spectrum of the AA membership. As Bill W. expressed in 1946, "The Grapevine will be the voice of the AA movement".

Sounds like a pretty weak voice to me. I would love to see NE Ohio be an example and join together in unity, reach into our pocket and subscribe to the Gv. It costs only \$1.25 per month, a little more than 4 cents a day. I have always believed AA's come through in a pinch. Well the pinch is on.

If you don't want the Grapevine, let us know. Have your GSR show up at the Area Assembly meetings in Brunswick and tell the Gv Rep. I could convey your message to NY GSO. We are here for your service, you are the voice of AA. What do you want?

If your life is anything like mine, you know time is of the essence. If you do not have time to read it, pass it on. Many correctional institutions love them. They have plenty of time to read.

If you don't have a subscription form, simply send a check for \$15 along with your name and address to:
Grapevine
P.O. Box 1980, Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163-1980

Please help carry the message through "our meeting in print". Subscribe today and get to know our friends around the world. You can even write your own article and submit it for review and publication.

In Love and Service,
Mo, Grapevine Chair

Finance

Hello again!

My name is Briar Adams and I am still the resident expert on finances for all of AA. And if you believe that, I have some swampland in Florida for sale at a good price. Actually it would be hard for anyone to be an expert on finances in AA, because we don't know from week to week how much money we will have to operate. But, it seems to work somehow.

I want to talk a little about how the various entities in AA spend their money and why everyone in AA needs money. The largest first, the General Service Office. The GSO operates in a large, but frugal, office in a non-profit building in New York. Since the fellowship does not donate enough to pay all the expenses, the shortfall is made up through the sale of literature. Literature fluctuates according to the operating cost needs. The GSO does not subsidize AA around the world, although it may help get them started. They have also paid to translate literature into other languages. The GSO also holds a World Conference to allow representatives from many countries to meet and share collective experience.

GSO is funded through contributions from groups, intergroups and individuals. Individuals contribute through the Birthday Plan, donating a dollar per year of sobriety.

We in NE Ohio are NOT generous donors to GSO. We are among the lowest contributing area in all of North America. I have heard many reasons and excuses, it is very embarrassing.

So how about a New Years resolution to put at least \$5 in your homegroups' basket and \$2 at other meetings you attend? You will feel better knowing that your contribution helps reach the suffering alcoholic.

In Love and Service,
Briar Adams, Finance Chairman

RECOVERY, UNITY AND SERVICE

These are the Three Legacies of our AA experience. Our leaders are but trusted servants, they do not govern. God, as He may speak in our group conscience, is our sole Authority. World Service is the heart of our Third Legacy. Our meetings are informative and educational. They are held so that the Committee Members, GSR's and all interested members may be better equipped to carry the message of World Service back to their home groups and individual members, thus giving a better understanding to our purpose, our

Your Trusted Servants Committee 49

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Visit the NE Ohio Area 54 Internet Website at



<http://www.aaneoh.org>

2001 Mini-Conference Agenda Items

The following is a summary of the results of committee recommendations to the Agenda questions that were discussed at the Mini Conference April 7-9, 2001, along with the voting results of the body when a recommendation was brought to it.

Agenda

1. Recommended the theme for the 2002 General Service Conference *The Home Group – My Responsibility, Our Traditions*. Passed on the floor with substantial unanimity.
2. Recommended workshop topics for the 2002 GSC: 1) Our Shared Responsibility: Unity Through The Traditions 2) Pass It On – Sponsorship 3) Old Timers Need General Service Too. Passed on the floor unanimously

Archives

1. Discussed what should be included in the new Archives Workbook with no recommendations.
2. Discussed the possibility of a pamphlet about how archives carry the message of AA suggesting it should put the message in historical perspective and show application of our principles to modern times without losing sight of our principles.

Cooperation with the Professional Community

1. Reviewed service piece *Working With Students Attending Professional Schools* and suggested sponsorship as the key to teaching what AA can and cannot do. Also suggested students should not participate in 12 step calls. No floor action was taken.
2. Discussed ways the CPC can help when individuals are referred to AA who focus on problems other than alcohol and suggested continuing the policy of welcoming all while maintaining the singleness of purpose and letting these people know where else they can seek help for their specific problem.

Correctional Facilities

1. Recommended the service piece to accompany the video *Carrying the Message Behind These Walls* quotation from p. 102 of Alcoholics Anonymous include two more sentences: “you should not hesitate to visit the most sordid places on earth on such a demand. Keep on the firing line of life with these motives and God will keep you unharmed”. This passed the floor with substantial unanimity, the minority feeling the wording was a deterrent to participation in twelve step work.

Finance

1. Recommended the Int’l Convention be a separate financial account from GSO. Unanimously defeated by the floor with the strongest arguments being that the Int’l is already a separate committee, separating the accounting will lead to profit problems.
2. Recommended the area develop self-support flyers with cartoons. This motion was tabled until the next Area Assembly (Third Legacy meeting) with the feeling that was the forum to address this issue.
3. Discussed an ad hoc Ways and Means Committee on how AA can become fully self-supporting with no recommendations.

Grapevine

1. Recommended and Gv announcement card stating “The Grapevine is our meeting in print ...” with a change to wording “get your subscription form” be changed to “for more information”. This passed the floor unanimously.
2. Reviewed Gv related items scheduled for production in 2002/2003: 1) voted against printing *Dear Grapevine* 2) suggested adding cartoons with meditations sayings to *Along Spiritual Lines* 3) needed more information on *Emotional Sobriety: The Last Frontier*. No floor action was taken as these suggestions are passed along to the Gv Committee.

Literature

- 1a. Recommended adding The Twelve Concepts (short form) as an appendix to Alcoholics Anonymous. This was defeated on the floor with the strongest argument being to “keep it simple”, this is our “basic text”. After the minority opinion stated the best way to educate is to make it available the motion was passed with substantial unanimity.
 - 1b. Recommended adding the GSO website address to the section *How to Get in Touch with AA*. Passed the floor unanimously.
2. Discussed proposal for new pamphlet on a variety of spiritual experiences with no recommendation.

Public Information

1. Recommended production of tv PSA specific to the Holiday Season. Passed with substantial unanimity.
2. Discussed a draft proposal on PI policy the co-founders’ posthumous anonymity and agreed with the policy that it “be maintained to the maximum possible extent”. No floor action was taken.
3. Discussed the GSO 2000 website activity report and the website as a PI tool agreeing that it was an excellent twelve step tool for those who have access. No floor action was taken.

Report & Charter

1. Reviewed and discussed the revisions to the 2000-2001 AA Service Manual clarifications to fifth ballot Third Legacy voting procedures. The committee agreed on the revisions, no floor action was taken.
2. Recommended a footnote #10 be added to the AA Service Manual on page 61 stating in essence that AA realizes the language is archaic, sexist and illegal, but that AA is in equal opportunity compliance and does base choices on skills and not gender. The motion passed with substantial unanimity.
3. Recommended a written explanation be included in the AA Service Manual regarding all of the 11th Concept from pp 48-61 stating the language is abusive towards women and that it needs to be rewritten. This passed the floor unanimously.

Treatment Facilities

1. Recommended inclusion of a two paragraph statement *Why We Are Here* in the Treatment Facilities Kit.
2. Discussed activities and BTG efforts in NE Ohio including building and maintaining a list of contacts, follow up on the GSO post card referral program and contact with the eight Intergrups in the area.

