

The Northeast Ohio Recorder

April, May, June 2000

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Volume XIV, Issue 2

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 16 2pm
DCM Workshop
May 21 2pm
Third Legacy Meeting
* June 4
Open House
Massillon, Ohio
* June 9, 10 & 11
Founders Day
Akron, Ohio
* June 29 to July 2
International Convention
Minneapolis, MN
July 16 2pm
DCM Workshop
August 20 2pm
GSR Workshop
September 17 2pm
Third Legacy Meeting

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:

Since this will come out after the Mini-Conference, I want to thank all of you who were able to participate in this unique process we have here in Northeast Ohio. While it is a long involved process of putting on one of these Mini-Conferences the benefits that the Area receives in return are priceless. Your Delegate goes to New York for the General Service Conference very well prepared and educated with the ideas and thoughts of the entire Area thru this process. By utilizing a full weekend to go over most of the issues on the actual Agenda of the Conference we are then able to openly discuss any and all of them. A general consensus is taken and I get that to take with me to the Conference. Without this process I would go with only my ideas and thoughts as well as a few others who I was able to communicate with. This way more are brought into the process.

Summer is also upon its way and we all think of taking some time off General Service Work, but I would like to remind all that we are now planning Workshops for the summer and would like to encourage all to at least participate in at least one of the Workshops. Again, there will be two DCM and one GSR workshops. Flyers will be mailed about all three of them and unless someone makes a liar out of me there will be a discussion on the Concepts in there somewhere.

This summer is also big with other AA activities as well. Founders Day over the second weekend in June and

then the biggie: The International at the end of June in Minneapolis. Several of our Area members have been selected to speak at a few of the functions over the long weekend. We have our bus trip together and it should be an excellent meeting on the way as well as the long ride home too.

This is the 50th anniversary of Bill and Dr. Bob turning AA over to the General Service Conference structure and this will be the focus of the Ohio State Convention to be held here in Sandusky in October. Please make your plans to include this in your calendar. Committees will be forming in late May to begin the labors of putting this Convention together. All are welcome to get involved and have a say in what happens at this Convention. Get involved and see what Service in AA is really all about.

I need also to extend my sincere thanks to my Panel who went above and beyond the call of duty while I was under the weather the last of 1999 and beginning of 2000. I especially need to thank Tina, our Alternate Delegate for learning very quickly the true meaning of Alternate. She did an excellent job of filling in for me when necessary which allowed me to heal and regain my strength properly.

Happy Sober Summer All.

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

Alt. Delegate Report

Hello Northeast Ohio

I will focus this article on our Area's Committees. We have 10 wonderful committees, including: Finance, Newsletter, Treatment Facilities, Correctional, Grapevine, Literature, Special Needs, Archives, Cooperation with Professional Community, and Public Information. Dedicated and hard working people chair each of these committees. It saddens me, however, to see how hard they are working with little or no help. As we know one person does not make a committee. Most of our committees are committees of one without as much as a co-chair to take over responsibilities if they were to become ill or unable to fulfill their duties. Our chairpersons could accomplish so much more if more people would assist them. One proposition is to have DCMs gather the GSRs of your districts as a whole to join a committee. I have seen this done in other Areas and it works. For example: Special Needs could have a district concentrate on making visits to shut-ins or taking meetings to them, that way the district is active and the committee is active as well. Our districts join together and pull off some really great social events and I applaud you. Let's do the same with carrying the message of Service via our committee activities throughout Area 54.

Therefore, I urge everyone to please pitch in help make our committees successful ones. This panel will soon be coming to an end and I would love to see some specific activities in place by October so there is a continuum of services and activities within the Area. This would make it so much easier for those future chairpersons.

Anyone wishing to join specific committees please contact the committee chairperson listed on the last page of this newsletter.

Yours in Love and Service
Tina Hobson, Alternate Delegate

District News

Hello Northeast Ohio,

Since the last Northeast Ohio Recorder some big changes have occurred in Portage County. At the February Third Legacy meeting, the District was split into 5B (Ravenna) and 5B (Kent, Aurora, Streetsboro, Garrettsville) with Tom Nemerovsky now DCM of 5A. This change, while not ideal as to the number of meetings, nonetheless breaks the area into at least a manageable # of meetings in the District.

I have updated the District the best possible, but it has not been finished. There are still a number of Ravenna meetings I have not been able to visit, and my goal is to get to every one.

On another front, I received a letter from one of the GSR's in the Kent area concerning problems Kent area meetings were having with court papers. Many meetings were being overwhelmed and had reached the point where the Group welfare was affected. While we want to keep the doors open, Traditions are clear that the Group welfare comes first.

This was a sticky problem, as many who are "forced" through the doors eventually do get sober. In cooperation with the Akron Intergroup and Area 54 Corrections Committee, we have reached what may be a solution. Jerry G., a lawyer who practices in Ravenna, has discussed the matter with the Common Pleas judges in the county.

We are working on a journal system where the folks "asked" to attend by the courts will be required to keep a journal for each meeting they attend. They will write the date, name of meeting, and a synopsis of what was

discussed and what they got out of the meeting. Thus, the burden of proof will be placed on the attendee rather than the meeting. The system is still in the development stage, and I will report further once it is implemented.

I can be reached at JayAA@aol.com, my cell # is 216-956-5253, home is 440-729-7483 and the office is 800-689-5253.

Yours In Service,

Jay Moore
DCM, District 5A

Hello Northeast ♦ Ohio

The news of the Akron Area General Service Multi-District is brief and to the point. At present, a rather large number of our meetings (approximately 230) have been updated for the Eastern Directory and their GSR's are anticipating their New York packets. Woe to the meeting in Brunswick should all these persons show up. (Ha Ha)

A sincere thanks for the efforts of those who assisted, and as soon as I can obtain the "missing" districts that were requested, we can proceed with the rest of the updates. Our efforts come from a sincere desire to reach out to the still suffering alcoholics and with God's will, it has been a success.

Picnic plans are in the works for the Memorial Day weekend. Keep your eyes on the weekly flyers for more detailed information.

Yours in Service,
Dawn Deinzer, Chair
Akron Area Multi-District

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



Committee Reports

Archives

Hello NE Ohio,

I failed to mention last quarter that Jim Burns was the key person who waterproofed our ceiling in our office in the Akron Intergroup. We would like to thank him for his assistance, it is deeply appreciated.

Archives work with the Cleveland Office continues. We could use volunteers for this effort. Brother, Sister, can you spare some time?

We received a \$600+ check from Akron for our part of the surplus from the 3rd Archives Workshop.

We requested and received photos of the 1st Int'l Convention held in Cleveland in 1950. We will use some of these for press releases about our upcoming convention in Minneapolis/St. Paul.

We've received notebooks containing the 1975-79 area minutes, etc. and have placed them into acid-free folders and boxes. The location, if any, of prior minutes is unknown to us. If anyone has copies or knowledge of their existence, please contact me.

The Archives Committee meets one hour prior to the Third Legacy Meeting in Brunswick. Please plan on attending.

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

Focus on Our Traditions What shall I name my new AA group?

Greetings NE Ohio,

As your Area Mailing Secretary it is my job to keep the General Service Office updated on all existing AA group changes and information about new groups throughout Area 54. This information is used to communicate between the Area and the GSO with the individual groups through mailings and also is used to create and update regional confidential directories most commonly used by AA members that travel.

The importance of these directories cannot be underestimated. We all have experienced times of need and usually have come to find that meetings of AA are our relief from the daily struggles of life. They are our classrooms for learning and coping, as well as a forum for sharing our experience, strength and hope with others in need.

When a person walks into a meeting of AA they should come to expect that the group practices the Traditions of AA. The reason that the Traditions exist is to promote Unity within groups that are, in reality and by Tradition, completely autonomous to govern themselves as they please. In layman's term, a newcomer or visitor should expect consistency in the message delivered and the method in which it is delivered. Our Traditions are one way we accomplish this difficult task.

With new meetings beginning every day one of the first things a group needs to do is pick a name for itself. There are often tendencies to name a group after the building, club, church or organization in which the group meets. This practice, however, breaks the

Sixth Tradition of cooperation but not affiliation. And while the choice may have been done innocently, or as a matter of convenience, it can lead non members and newcomers to believe that some affiliation exists.

Another practice of naming a group in honor of an AA member, alive or dead, as a recognition of his service is also avoided. This practice can violate the Twelfth Tradition and is one way in which we 'place principles before personalities'.

The General Service Office does not accept new groups named after the institution they meet inside of, nor after any actual person, AA or non AA. And although there are groups that are named this way already, and the GSO does not insist they rename their groups, they do not add groups named in these ways to the directories.

So choose carefully that new group name and bear the AA Tradition in mind when selecting a name. You can refer to the pamphlet "The AA Group" for these guidelines, as well as many guidelines on starting your new group. It is well worth the time to read before you have your first meeting.

Yours In Service,

Dan Mix
Area 54 Mailing Secretary

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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	Sandra Stack, Archivist 1220 Donald Ave. Apt #18 Lakewood, OH 44107-2861	(216) 228-6444 SStack086@aol.com
Correctional Facilities	Rob Watling, Chair 354 Cloverdale Ave. Akron, OH 44302-1615	(330) 434-1232 RWATLINGJR@aol.com
Cooperation with the Professional Community	Judy Durham, Chair 1364 Rosa Parks Drive Cleveland, OH 44106-1414	(216) 761-7142
Finance	Brian "Briar" Adams 4273 Greenwich Road Norton, OH 44203-5435	(330) 336-2308
Grapevine	Mo Mosyjowski, Chair 218 Swartz Road Akron, OH 44319-1115	(330) 724-5115
Literature	Chuck Kirby, Chair 103 Woodland SE Massillon, OH 44646-8159	(330) 837-9663 cmd@raex.com
Newsletter	Dan Mix, Editor P.O. Box 247 Chagrin Falls, OH 44022-0247	(216) 670-4397 danmix@netzero.net
Public Information	Mike Tomlin, Chair 4570 Hawthorne Ave. Sheffield Lake, OH 44054-1353	(440) 949-5664 mustangmike@centuryinter.net
Special Needs	Jill Siegel, Chair 355 Solon Road #409 Chagrin Falls, OH 44022	(440) 247-7664 jes1126@access.webcombo.net
Treatment Facilities	Joey Ruffin, Chair 846 Broadway Apt 104 Bedford, OH 44146-3663	(440) 439-6865

Visit the NE Ohio Area 54 Internet Website at



<http://www.aaneoh.org>

2000 Mini-Conference Agenda Items

Summary of recommendations to the Agenda items discussed in committee and voting results of the mock Conference.

Archives

1. Recommended the following changes to Archives handbook, including:
Introduction. Reinstate removed paragraphs, perhaps under supplies and materials. The “special mandate” by the Trustees to GSO Archives to “foster the development of local archives centers throughout A.A.,” needs amplification to mention other ways, beyond making purchasable materials available, that GSO Archives carries out this mandate.
Mission Statement. Changing “business hours” to “designated hours” to be more generalized. Add “, living or deceased” to the end of “anonymity of our members” would help underscore the posthumous anonymity we practice. Need to explain how archives serves our primary purpose and aids our service workers. More a definition statement than a mission statement.
Role of the Archivist. We strongly recommend adding the Annual Archives Workshop as a source of training and support.
Role of Archives Committee. The term “creative parameters” needs explanation and examples.
List of Equipment. Buffered folders, interleave sheets and de-acidification spray should be added here as in basic tools.
Anonymity. We recommend using the phrase “posthumous anonymity” and then defining it.
Preservation. Replace “encapsulation” with “stabilization” in the first sentence. Repair should be mentioned as an archival process. Some guidelines on what to preserve/conservate would be helpful. Need the citation for the final italicized sentence stressing paper vs. electronic documents? Recent developments might cause this to change in the near future.
Establishing a Preservation Program. A useful addendum to “get in touch with fellow archivists” would be “Your delegate may obtain a the list of AA archivists from GSO archives for you.”
2. We recommend that there not be a slash between the title archivist/collector, that the values, concerns, scope, and purpose of these two avocations differ so fundamentally that it’s well nigh impossible to be both. We also recommend that definitions of archivist, AA archivist, collector, historian, and conservator be added to the handbook.

Correctional Facilities

1. Recommended that the CF Kit and Workbook be changed from Conference approved literature to service material. This was unanimously passed on the floor.
2. Recommended that the fourth line of Story #3 wording change from “my addiction to alcohol and other substances” to “my alcoholism and addiction to other substances”. The are vote was 31 for and 23 against and did not have 2/3 vote to pass.
3. Recommended the pamphlet It Sure Beats Sitting In A Cell adopt a more graphic and easier to read format. This was passed unanimously on the floor.
4. Recommended that the selected stories relative to longer term sobriety be added, but this died on the Area floor due to #2.

Cooperation with the Professional Community

1. The committee recommended requesting the GSO to send extra CPC Newsletters to Area CPC Committee for distribution to Area professionals. This did not get a 2/3 majority vote from the floor, but remains a strong suggestion from the Area.
2. Reviewed a pamphlet targeted to the clergy stating that existing literature Members of the Clergy Ask About AA, Let’s Be Friendly to Our Friends, and AA As A Resource For The Health Care Professional were already sufficient.

Finance

1. Discussed that GSO stop increasing/decreasing literature prices to balance the prudent reserve and made a strong suggestion that book prices be stabilized and priced as such to allow all pamphlets to be given away free. There was no floor action.
2. The committee discussed self support, including: a) groups investigate better how to split up money , they do not seem to know how GSO recommends distribution of excess b) the need for active GSRs c) having active GSRs visit inactive groups.

Grapevine

1. Committee considered and rejected producing the Grapevine on audio tape agreeing it was too costly.
2. Recommended reinstating the About Alcoholism “gray pages” section in the Grapevine. This passed on the floor but after hearing the minority opinion it was defeated.
3. Recommended the production of three additional Grapevine items for 2002, or later, including: The Beginners Grapevine, Spiritual Experience and Emotional Sobriety. No floor action was necessary.
4. Recommended changing Grapevine Representative to Grapevine Subscription Chairperson. This was defeated on the floor.

Literature

1. The committer reviewed the Trustee’s Literature Committee progress report on the draft 4th Edition of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous. Discussion included how subcommittees work and the process of how a piece of literature becomes conference approved. Discussion also involved the lengthy amount of time that has been taken in arriving at the 4th edition of the Big Book. There was a strong sentiment to finish the book and get it to print.

Public Information

1. Recommended accepting changes to service material and conference literature recommended by Trustee’s PI report that dealt with adding anonymity at the level of the Internet. This passed with substantial unanimity on the floor.
2. Reviewed the 1999 GSO report on GSO’s A.A. website activity indicating a 55% increase in activity in 1999 and agreed that the use of the website was as a valuable PI tool for carrying the message and supplying information.
3. Recommended removal of question #17, physical disability, from the 2001 AA Membership Survey. Defeated on the floor.
4. Discussed and did not recommend the removal of question #4, regarding race, from the 2001 AA Membership Survey.

Report & Charter

1. Recommended that the description of the AA Group, including the long form of Tradition 3 and a section of Warranty Six in Concept Twelve, be reinstated in Chapter 2, The Group and It’s G.S.R. on page S23 of the AA Service Manual. This passed with substantial unanimity on the floor. The minority opinion stating that Six Point definition of an AA Group be reinstated.
2. Recommended to reinstate the sentence “The proposed redistricting should be approved by the Area Assembly” in the

2000 Mini-Conference Agenda Items (cont'd)

section on redistricting in Chapter 3: The District and the D.C.M. of the AA Service Manual. This passed unanimously.

Special Needs

1. Reviewed and discussed the responses from delegate areas to the Special Interest questionnaire.
2. Recommended the need for a pamphlet on special needs targeted to the fellowship to heighten awareness of people with special needs. This passed with substantial unanimity on the floor with only one dissenting vote.

Treatment Facilities

1. Discussed the Area Bridging the Gap/Temporary Contacts effort included: a) what BTG is and how it works b) how BTG efforts cross the borders into many other committees such as PI, CPC, CF and TF work c) using alumni as volunteers at treatment facilities d) important to keep people informed of the do's and don'ts, what AA can and cannot do e) importance of having open meetings in treatment facilities and keeping the meetings going with backup help f) very important to supply local meeting schedules to people in treatment and treatment workers.
2. Discussed how the TF committee funds and distributes AA literature by utilizing as much free information available from GSO and wisely investing the limited budget to the most necessary literature, such as meeting schedules and Questions and Answers on AA Sponsorship. Suggested AA groups begin a literature recycling program at meetings and get them to the Treatment Facilities Committee and/or Correctional Facilities Committee for distribution to those in treatment and jails.

These results will be carried to the 2000 General Service Conference in New York City by our Delegate, Rob Sebastian.

2000 Mini-Conference Theme: Trusting Our Future to AA Principles

1. Recovery

Have you turned your will and life over to a God of your understanding and how has it changed your life?

All agreed it was essential. Needs to be done on a daily basis; Thinking needed to change from being sober to a complete change; Dr. Bob's humility; "More serenity"; More aware of God conscious; "How hasn't it changed my life?" It has changed both thinking and actions; "Our lives just keep getting better".

Is being dry enough?

All agreed no. Cannot stay dry without God; "Try to walk the walk"; "If being dry was enough we would not be here. "We are either part of the solution or part of the problem." "If we persist in dancing around AA, we will dance right out the door"; being involved in service does not allow one to be only dry.

How do you carry the message...

Sharing, 12th step work, service, sponsorship, home group anniversaries, speaking, jail work; Beginners meetings" I may be the only copy of the Big Book someone else may see"; Driving newcomers to meetings; just showing up; Staying sober; "Respecting AA"; "Service is the easier softer way"; "Power of example".

2. Unity

How does your home group practice unity as it pertains to AA as a Whole?

Stick to the Traditions was the common theme of all the groups - Keep the doors open; Support other home groups and the General Service Office; Self supporting; Stay informed; be active; be prepared; Broaden our knowledge; "Take a stand" Keep in mind primary purpose.

Does your home group have an informed group conscience at group meetings: Does your home group railroad, simple majority or 2/3 vote?

Majority said railroad sometimes, some said 2/3 vote; Informed group conscience very important; Use 3rd legacy procedures; Use literature for information; Railroad sometimes to get positions filled.

How does your group practice genuine humility through anonymity – how do you as an individual?

Humility through rotation; Every group mentioned rotation; Rotation is difficult in small groups; Most groups seemed confused by the first part of the question; Not using last names if requested; not inside meetings but remain anonymous outside; Understanding God's will; Through willingness and remaining teachable; Group inventories.

3. Service

I am responsible – Are we? Are you?

Financial responsibility; Some groups forget the "big picture" of AA; Keeping the doors open; Question the small amount donated to NY and area; "Live

the Traditions"; We need to adapt to new issues.

How does your group practice our primary purpose outside its meeting room door (other groups, district, Intergroup, Area, GSO, worldwide)?

All mentioned financial support; Donating literature; donate to jails; "Showing up"; Having a General Service Representative (GSR).

How does your group practice the spirit of rotation in elected positions?

Rotation practiced a 2 meetings and not 2 in one group; rotation is difficult in small groups; Chairperson rotates; annual or bi-annual elections (4); 2 year terms with alternates; Some groups have an "old timer" who dominates; Some do their jobs out of obligation then "run like the wind"; Attendance seems to grow at elections time.

**Prepared and submitted by
Moderator Chair**

Jay Moore, DCM 5A