

The Northeast Ohio Recorder

October, November, December 2003

<http://www.aaneoh.org>

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UPCOMING EVENTS

October 10, 11 & 12
47th Ohio State Convention
Holiday Inn, Miamisburg, OH

October 19— Area Assembly

Oct 26—Correctional Workshop
Marriott Cleveland Airport
W 150th & I-71 8AM—5PM

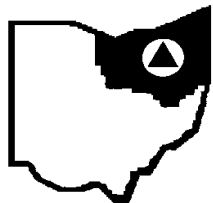
November 16—2PM
Gratitude Sunday
St. John Catholic Church
Rt. 57 & Homewood, Lorain, OH

2004

January 18— Area Assembly
January 25—Mini-Conference
Planning, Hudson Holiday Inn
February 22— Area Assembly
February 29—Mini-Conference
Planning, Hudson Holiday Inn
March 21 — Area Assembly
April 2-4, 29th Mini-Conference
Holiday Inn, Hudson, OH
April 18 Committees Workshop

*Unless otherwise noted, Area
Assemblies & Workshops are
held at:*

*The 12 Step Recovery Club
1480 Pearl Rd., Brunswick, OH
(on US Route 42 about 1/4 mile
south of State Route 303)*



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from the Delegate:

Greetings NE Ohio,

As we wind down on sharing the experience and recommendations of the 53rd General Service Conference, we now look to the 54th General Service Conference. The theme will be "Our Singleness of Purpose – The Cornerstone of A.A.". The GSO Staff and Conference Committees are already hard at work reviewing agenda items brought forward from the 53rd General Service Conference, as well as the flood of additional potential issues and information that have come forth from the fellowship.

Some of the issues that have been returned from Conference Committees to the fellowship for additional sharing include: suggested updates to the pamphlet The AA Group; the collection of manuscripts to update the book Inmate to Inmate; the collection of samples of local flyers used in aiding court referrals to AA used in bridge-the-gap efforts.

We have begun planning for our 29th Area 54 Mini-Conference. Any A.A. member interested in participating with the planning and execution of the weekend is encouraged to attend the planning meetings scheduled for January 25 and February 29, 2004 at the Hudson Holiday Inn at 2:00 PM. At the Mini-Conference all AA members in Northeast Ohio are invited to share on actual agenda items that will be discussed at the General Service Conference, along with sharing sessions with members of service at all levels and discussion of the Conference theme.

In addition to the Mini-Conference,

we will also host the 48th Ohio State Convention July 23-25, 2004 at the Hudson Holiday Inn. We are only in the preliminary stages of planning, so everyone who wishes to participate is welcome to join the committee in making the weekend a fun-filled and successful event. We thank the Akron Intergroup and Akron Archives for their invitation to include a tour of the Intergroup and archives as a part of the weekend.

Another exciting event that will occur in the coming year is the hosting of the Bridge The Gap Workshop, September 10-12, 2004 at the Holiday Inn in Sandusky, Ohio. We thank Panel 51 Past Delegate Tina H. for her diligent work in preparing the bid to host the workshop. Keep your eye open for future announcements of planning meetings.

The 2004 Area 54 Assemblies, workshops and events schedule is available at <http://www.aaneoh.org>. As workshop and event flyers are prepared they will be available online and mailed to all registered groups in NE Ohio. Averaging more than 2,000 hits per month, the website has proven to be a valuable tool in providing information to our members.

I personally invite anyone who reads this newsletter to join us November 16, 2003 at our Gratitude Sunday Dinner at St. John Catholic Church in Lorain, Ohio. This is a great opportunity to meet many members who are dedicated in their service to others and share in celebration for this way of life.

**In fellowship,
Dan M., Panel 53 Delegate**



Conference Attendees Reports

I was asked to share my observations and reflections on my experience at the East Central Regional Forum as a first-time attendee. I have yet to be misguided or disappointed when I choose to follow direction or suggestion offered freely by members of the AA fellowship and especially by my broadly-based support group. The ECR Forum was no exception. I came across a flyer, was encouraged to attend, heard a travel-seat was available, asked to go, and it all worked out. I arrived at the Forum with no expectations or understanding of its purpose, format, or promise.

Beginning Friday evening through Sunday noon, except for a few hours of sleep each night, 416 attendees from 15 areas covering five states fellowshiped, sharing their experience, strength and hope with one another. In attendance from New York were both standing and past Class A and Class B Trustees, Board Members, and General Service Office staff members. Via brief presentations, each shed light on their respective roles of service.

Then, the heart and soul of the forum took place: open sharing from the microphone and Ask-It-Basket. Question after question after comment after question was responded to by the appropriate presenter. Never did I believe or imagine my home and support groups, through me as their GSR, could interact so easily, so comfortably, so directly with those in New York to whom we've entrusted our life-giving fellowship.

For me, this was the miracle of the ECR Forum -- love and service from the bottom of our fellowship to the top, and back down again. New York and Orwell put their pants and dresses on the same way. We're alcoholic. We live one day at a time in recovery, unity and service.

In reflection, I received a three-fold message from both regional forum attendees and our trusted servants in New York: (1) The health and growth of our AA fellowship rests in the hands of each and every AA group. There are no rules, no 'pat' answers to our concerns and questions. (2) An 'informed' group conscience, at every level, grants unity and direction to our primary purpose of carrying the AA message to the still-suffering alcoholic. (3) By keeping our program simple, each of us can be of maximum service. The steps, traditions and concepts, simply put, come down to two words: love and service.

The gifts of the ECR Forum, which I brought back, include: new and renewed friendships, a stronger and broader personal support group, two service sponsors for personal guidance, a deeper appreciation for our fellowship, a reassurance in the direction and quality of our service work, and new-found trust in our leadership and our society's structure.

Most of all, I have increased gratitude. I get to do this today; an alcoholic like me! Service is but love in action. It all works if we all work it!

Submitted by Frank O.

GSR Orwell Sunday Night Dual District 23/39, Area 54

District AA Grapevine Chair,
Ashtabula Area AA InterGroup
Newsletter Chair

I attended the East Central Regional Forum in Columbus, Indiana from July 18-20, 2003. All my enthusiasm for the program came flooding back again. I was like a kid in a candy store, but this store filled me with knowledge. I met GSO Staff, Trustees, Delegates

and other AA members. I was very impressed with the agenda of meetings, activities and workshops. Here are some of the moments I experienced:

- 1 A film called *Markings on the Journey*, which was very enlightening.
- 2 How the cover of the Grapevine is selected along with the stories.
- 3 Dan M., Area 54 Delegate' report was filled with compassion and a willingness to serve.

These along with numerous others. I truly felt honored and privileged to be in attendance.

I also had the opportunity to attend the East Central Regional Convention in Urbana, Illinois on August 1-3, 2003. This too was a new experience for me. I met many new friends who were very eager and willing to share their experience of what service work has done for them. Again I met Delegates, Trustees and AA members for all over the region. The beauty of this program is that if you're new and look lost as I did, there are people here who are willing to reach out and help you understand all the lingo.

I would like to thank Alice and Dan for picking me up on short notice and allowing me to get to know them a little better. In doing so I found that Dan can talk and tell jokes. Another think I found out is that this Area will put you to work -- thanks Tina!

Humbly submitted,
Golena W.
GSR District 33 Area 54

Area Officer Reports

About 55 people gathered for the 2003 Area 54 General Service Representative Workshop, August 17th, in Brunswick, Ohio. A panel of past and present GSRs* shared their service experience and fielded questions from the assembly. What's On Your Mind featured prominently in the format. Some of the questions asked are listed below. Committee chairs and Area officers were introduced and Delegate Dan M. had some words of welcome for all the new GSRs present. All received new Service Manuals and Final Reports from the 2003 General Service Conference hot off the presses.

- 1 Some of the questions for the panelists or their talks included these subjects.
 - o What's the difference between Inter-group and General Service?
 - o Why should I get on a committee?
 - o What's this thing called "Service sponsorship"?
 - o GSR - pipeline of information,
 - o What's the recommended length of office for GSRs? Other group servants?
 - o Can a past area officer rotate back 'down' into the area service structure?
 - o Your GSR - Your voice and Your Vote
 - o Growth through Service
 - o What is an informed group conscience?

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Y., Moderator and Area 54 Registrar and Mailing Secretary

I am so impressed by the enthusiasm and dedication shown by the Cleveland Multi-district. Starting at 1 pm Saturday, May 17th, over 30 members of AA met at the Carl B. Stokes Social Service Mall on Woodland Avenue to share their experience, strength and hope around General Service. Multi-district Chair, Clarence G, opened the meeting and introduced the panelists.

Bob McK shared the history of the 12 Traditions, originally titled 12 Points to Ensure Our Future. First published in the Grapevine in 1946 as a series of articles by Bill W, they were formally accepted by the Fellowship in 1950 at the First International Convention in Cleveland. Each of us is now a guardian of the Traditions. Bob gave real life examples of how the Traditions work in AA.

Carolyn C spoke to the group about service as a GSR. She was elected by her group only 8 months sober. She now serves as secretary of the Cleveland Multi-district. She continues to educate and inform her home group about the role of the GSR and the place of the group within the larger AA circle. Be sure to ask Carolyn for a copy of 'The Four Entities', a publication of the Multi-district which explains where our donations go and why it is important to be self-supporting at all levels of AA service. She also talked about the importance of service sponsorship. She shared her struggles with finding acceptance of General Service with her own home group and tools she uses today to overcome group resistance.

Mike T, District 29 DCM, shared his experience moving from GSR to DCM. Mike says, "Service is important and necessary because I don't want to get drunk anymore." DCMs must visit their groups, not just call the GSRs occasionally. He shared how to avoid the pitfall of becoming the villain to his district groups. He encourages groups to invite a service panel to come and share at your group. He also offered suggestions on how groups can fund their anniversary party without using our Seventh Tradition collection.

Tina H, Panel 51 Past Delegate, talked about her eight years of involvement with Panels 45-51. Speaking to the assembled AAs, she shared her experience and advice for officers. The area chairperson is the responsible person to ensure that the assembly meeting comes off at the area (or district or group) level. An Area chairperson must be familiar with Robert's Rules of Order and the Third Legacy Procedure. The GSR is the real voice and real vote of the group to the district, the area, and AA worldwide.

All the panelists were very informative and I appreciated their participation.

Jeff Y.
Mailing Secretary

Don't believe everything you think !!

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 hopes and our work.

Your Trusted Servants Committee 53

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Visit the NE Ohio Area 54 Internet Website at <http://www.aaneoh.org>