

# The Northeast Ohio Recorder

January, February, March 2004

<http://www.aaneoh.org>

Volume XVII, Issue 5

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 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
- May 16 - Area Assembly
- June 27 - Open House  
Location TBA

*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)*



- Inside this Issue:**
- Delegate's Report.....1
  - Area Officer's Reports .....2
  - Area Committees Reports .....3
  - Area Officers & Committee  
Chair Contact Information .....4



## from the Delegate:

### Greetings NE Ohio,

At the outset of this new year we have much to look forward to in the near future. We will host three major events including the annual Mini-Conference, the Ohio State Convention and the Bridge The Gap Workshop. There will be plenty of opportunities for all AA members in NE Ohio to get involved. If you been wondering "What's next?" - I invite you to join the Area Committee in planning and hosting of these events.

Planning for the 29th Mini-Conference begins January 25 at 2:00PM at the Hudson Holiday Inn in Hudson, OH. We will be discussing the budget, assigning roles to volunteers and finalizing the schedule. Our February 29th planning meeting will include a walk-thru of the hotel facilities.

The Trustees' Committees have been hard at work reviewing the potential agenda items for the 54th General Service Conference. The agenda will be finalized at the January Board Weekend. We expect the final agenda from GSO in February. At that time we will distribute information to all groups on the items we will discuss at the Mini-Conference.

The Area Committee continues preliminary planning of the 48th Ohio State Convention. The convention will take place July 23-

25, 2004 at the Hudson Holiday Inn. All AA members in NE Ohio are encouraged to participate in making the weekend a successful event. We are pleased to announce that there will be more involvement from Al-Anon at the convention this year, including parallel meetings for Al-Anon members.

Our Special Needs Committee Chair has been hard at work making contact with members throughout the Area. This has resulted in the development and institution of some new programs to reach our members that have special needs. This includes addressing the needs of the hearing impaired and members suffering from brain or spinal cord injuries.

The Area Committee thanks the members from the Lorain County multi-district for hosting a wonderful Gratitude Sunday dinner in November. There is no doubt that an enjoyable time was had by all who attended. Our Special Needs Committee and the Lorain multi-district provided an American sign language interpreter for a half dozen members at the dinner.

Please continue to check the Area 54 website for up-to-date event schedules and other information at:

<http://www.aaneoh.org>.

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



## Area Officer Reports

### REGISTRAR'S YEAR IN REVIEW

I'm not sure if our newsletter editor will let me double-dip, but here is a review of the last year from the Area Registrar's perspective. Area 54 is comprised of 62 districts in 20 counties in Northeast Ohio. It stretches from the shores of Lake Erie to the banks of the Ohio River. There are approximately 1450 groups serving over 22,000 members of AA.

The job of the area registrar is to provide accurate information concerning these groups to the General Service Office (GSO) in New York. We keep GSO Group Services hopping. Our area submits on average over 250 group changes every month. Consequently, I encourage the DCM of each district to visit the groups in his neighborhood frequently to ensure that the lines of communication stay open. When a group has an active GSR, that group is ensured a steady stream of valuable information about AA as a whole from GSO, from the Area and from the district. It's so important that we maintain an accurate record of who the GSR is and where s/he lives to get that information out to the groups in a timely fashion. AAWS publishes a yearly three-volume directory of groups with contact information. Thus, GSO asks for a phone number and full name to provide this confidential service to the alcoholic who might be traveling through Northeast Ohio. This directory also serves as a compact resource for the delegate and the treasurer since it contains service numbers for all the groups listed. I reach for my Eastern Directory all the time to help members locate their group's service number or district number. I was recently contacted by GSO to help them 'clean up' the area database. It seems there are over 350 groups registered with NY from our area that do not have a listed GSR. We know that most if not all of these meetings are still active. But we have no contact name, thus no communication. GSO will remove these groups from the directory listing if they do not hear back from them soon. I urge you all to encourage the members of all the groups you attend – please, register your group and keep the lines of communication open. Your GSR is your Voice and your Vote to AA as a whole.

Speaking of databases...our area will be

receiving a new type of database from GSO very soon. Group Services in NY promises it will function better and faster than the DOS-based version in use for many years. This new platform is Windows compatible in Microsoft Access, a very powerful program. If you attended the Regional Forum last summer, you had an opportunity to get a sneak peak at this program.

Our hope, looking forward to 2004, is have a clean database of all the meetings and groups in Northeast Ohio, to better serve the still sick and suffering alcoholic. "Some day we hope that every alcoholic who journeys will find a Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous at his destination." – page 162. This is a goal we must strive toward together.

### MAILING YEAR IN REVIEW

It's been a whole year since I was drafted from the floor of the elections assembly. Emotions have ranged from "What have I gotten myself into?" to "Can anyone think of a better job in AA?" The position of mailing secretary in Area 54 can sometimes be time-consuming. A typical mailing to 1250 groups includes a copy of our Recorder, several flyers, maybe a service piece, and usually a registration form for an upcoming conference. Six mailings are typical for a year. I will be stuffing this column into my seventh mailing sometime between Christmas and New Year's Day. During the last year, many friends and pigeons have helped out on 'Envelop Nights' at my house. We enjoy dinner and the fellowship of each others company while we handle approximately 8,000 pieces of paper [that's 8,000 opportunities to get a paper cut –YEAH!]. Then mailing labels are affixed to these now sealed envelopes. The Area has a bulk mailing permit that saves us 40 cents on every piece of mail, provided we deliver our trays of envelopes to the Akron post office in zip code numbered order. Having accurate addresses for our GSR's saves the Area a lot of money that can be spent more usefully.

Looking forward to 2004, our Committee is working hard to plan the Mini-Conference. Mark your calendars now for the Area 54 Mini-Conference, held this year once again at the Hudson Holiday Inn, April 2-4, 2004. The theme of the Mini-Conference and the 54th

General Service Conference is "Our Singleness of Purpose - The Cornerstone of AA." Look for the early-bird flyer in this mailing. Our state conference will focus on "Experience, Strength and Hope - The Changing Face of Sponsorship."

Mark your calendars for July 23-25, 2004, in Hudson. We are fortunate to host the nation-wide Bridging the Gap Conference in Sandusky, September 10-12, 2004.

By the way, if any of you are interested in finding out more of what the mailing secretary's job is like, come to one of my 'Envelop Nights'. Contact me at [jyour@jcu.edu](mailto:jyour@jcu.edu) if you want to help. I'll let you know what the schedule looks like. Jeff Y., Mailing Secretary and Registrar

### Hi Family:

As the year comes to an end, I have taken sometime for myself to reflect on the trials, tribulations, joys and happiness.

Serving my first year as Recording Secretary of Area 54 has been a combination of trials, tribulations, joy and happiness.

I am also looking forward to the coming year continuing as the Area 54 Recording Secretary.

So many people have told me from the beginning and even today "Just keep coming back". I have tried to do just that and I have learned so many things... About AA, myself, friends and a Higher Power.

Looking back, I have had the privilege to serve as registrar for our Area 54 Mini-Conference where I got to learn first hand how service keeps the message of AA ungarbled. I have helped host the Gratitude Sunday dinner. Something I have thoroughly enjoyed is attending Mini-Conferences and conventions in our area and in other Areas. The people have become more than a name and a face from out of town. They have become guides for me to follow and friends that I can walk side by side in recovery.

When I became involved in Service work in AA outside my homegroup a whole new perspective of responsibility took shape. I have found that I am so NOT alone and have so much in common that I can't imagine what sobriety would be like without that third legacy.

I want to thank everyone who has come before me to make it possible that AA was here waiting for me and I want to thank everyone that came with me for not letting me do it alone and thank everyone that is on their way because without you I would wonder why and what would I be responsible for. Thank you and God Bless you, Peace & Serenity, Linda S., Area 54 Recording Secretary

## Area Committee Reports

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Correctional Facilities Workshop

The Committee would like to thank all who attended and participated in the CFC Workshop on October 26, 2003.

There was so much to learn and we did and wow, the fellowship was phenomenal. Following is a synopsis of the days events:

- a. There were 27 preregistered attendees and 22 walk-ins
- b. Visitors from Toledo, Columbus, and Mansfield, Ohio
- c. Professional Panel: Brad Wise Recovery Services, Mansfield Correctional Institution and Gwen Mitchell Cole, Deputy Warden of Special Services, Northeast PreRelease Center in Cleveland, OH
- d. Recovery Panel: Area 54 members, Alice H., Golena W., and Peter McH.
- e. Cleveland Intergroup Correctional Panel Chaired by Jay P.
- f. Inmate from Mansfield Correctional Institution: Donnell M. Donnell gave such a heartfelt plea for more volunteers to come into the institutions. He shared his personal "what it was like, what happened, and what he is doing today" with us. He was by far a perfect example of how our CFC work touches and changes the lives of those "behind the walls" finding and embracing AA.
- g. Jay M. and Ellen J spoke on their past experiences being in prison and finding AA
- h. Our lead speaker was Chris D. from Cleveland. Chris shared his ESH with us, letting us know that, "no matter how far down the scale we have gone" our experiences can and will help others.
- i. All surveys were favorable

There will be no Correctional Workshop next year due to our hosting the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend. The Workshop will be held September 10-12, 2004 at the Holiday Inn in Sandusky Ohio. If you would like to volunteer for this event please contact me at [CleveAA89@acninc.net](mailto:CleveAA89@acninc.net) or 216-271-3411. Donations can be sent to CFC P.O. Box 605287 Cleveland Ohio 44105. Let's show AA how Area 54 does it and believe me we do it well.

In Love and Service

Tina H. Area 54 CFC Chairperson.

Once again, Alcoholics Anonymous has showed me that there is more to A.A. than sitting in a seat at a meeting. I recently attended my first East Central Regional Forum, July 18-20 in Columbus Indiana. As a new G.S.R. for my home group. While there some members wore buttons that said "Service is the secret". Secret to what? Secret to enhance my sobriety and to becoming a more informed member of which I am apart of. The program in which "we" call Alcoholics Anonymous.

**Golena W.**

G.S.R., Area 54, District 33

### **There are no Special A.A. groups, only individuals with special needs.**

"Serving Alcoholics With Special Needs" © 2001 A.A. World Services, Inc.

### **Hearing Impaired**

Signs Of Hope

Provides American Sign Language

Thursdays at 7:30 PM

Archwood United Church

2800 Archwood Ave., Cleveland

"Experience suggests that most groups will agree to having a non-A.A. attend it's closed meetings to act as interpreters for the deaf alcoholic. Professional interpreters adhere to a strict code of ethics which assures the confidentiality of the A.A. meeting."

- "Serving Alcoholics With Special Needs" © 2001 A.A. World Services, Inc.

### **Shut-ins**

Mobile Groups; These are volunteers who take a regular A.A. meeting to those members who will be home bound or hospitalized for a long period of time. These members of our fellowship may consist of our Old Timers, and we should not let them disappear because they can no longer attend meetings. It may be a member who has a chronic illness or is bed ridden due to an accident. What ever the reason may be, they can no longer attend A.A. meetings for the love and fellowship they need. It would be ideal if we had Mobile Groups in each district. It could prove to be such rewarding 12 Step work.

### **Blind or Visually Impaired**

This group of A.A. members primarily need volunteers who are willing to provide transportation to and from meetings and other A.A. events. It is also important that we be aware of the special needs the blind have in attending our meeting. The meeting should be set up exactly the same each week if at all possible. If anything has been moved, someone needs to guide him or her to their seats, restrooms, etc. If it is their first meeting, they should be informed of the literature that is available to them in braille or large print. It is also good to keep in mind, that some Alcoholics are embarrassed by the fact that they can't read or write. In order to be of help to them without singling them out, we can have the chair person point out that most of the A.A. literature is available on audio cassettes and cd.

### **Physical Disabilities**

Some physically challenged A.A.'s can get to meetings. If your meeting is wheelchair accessible, make sure the room is arranged so that there is ample space for wheelchairs and walkers. They may need volunteers to drive them to and from meetings. Also, check that near by parking is available. If your meeting is wheelchair accessible, make sure that it is coded as such on your local meetings list.

### **"The goal is to enable every alcoholic to be an active participant in the group, without emphasizing differences."**

"Serving Alcoholics With Special Needs" © 2001 A.A. World Services, Inc.

**Please volunteer your services!**

## 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>