

The Northeast Ohio Recorder

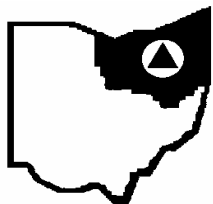
October, November and December 2006

<http://www.aaneoh.org>

Volume XIX, Issue 3

UPCOMING EVENTS

- October 15, 2006 2:00 PM
Area Assembly
- November 19, 2006
Gratitude Sunday Dinner
Location TBA in Canton, Ohio
- January 21, 2007 2:00 PM
Area Assembly
- January 28, 2007 2:00 PM
Mini-Conference Planning Meeting,
Westlake Holiday Inn Westlake OH
- February 9-11, 2007
Conference of Delegates, Past and
Present, Huron OH
- February 18 2:00 PM
Area Assembly
- February 25, 2007 2:00 PM
Mini-Conference Planning Meeting,
Westlake Holiday Inn Westlake OH
- March 18 2:00 PM
Area Assembly
- March 30, 31, April 1, 2007
Area 54 NE Ohio Mini-Conference
Westlake Holiday Inn Westlake OH
- 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) (330) 273-7216



Inside this Issue:

- Alt. Delegate's Report1
Area Officer's Reports2
Globe Trudging the Road
to Happy Destiny3
Area Officers & Committee
Chair Contact Information4

from the Alternate Delegate:

What would you say if I told you that AA is considering naming an alcoholic trustee as Chairman of the Board? This would be a quantum leap in our continuing *Coming of Age* as a fellowship. Is this a wise idea? How will the trustee protect their anonymity at the level of press, radio, film and TV? The General Service Board has asked each Area Assembly to consider this possibility. This issues was discussed, as well as other important issues, at the Area Assembly on Sep. 17.

On Oct. 15th, 2006 the Area Assembly will hold an election for the Panel 57 Delegate to the General Service Conference and the other area officers. Attendance should be a priority for all GSRs and DCMs. Don't let your voice and your vote stall out at the basement steps of your group's meeting place!

The members of District 15 in Canton will be host our annual Gratitude Sunday celebration on November 19th at Timken Mercy Hospital.

For those of you who have been thinking about getting active in General Service, all committee chairs will be rotating at the end of the year as well. We need talented, willing and able people to fill these important positions. It's a great way to show your gratitude for the gifts your have received in sobriety.

It has been a busy summer for your trusted servants in Northeast Ohio. Beginning with the sorrow of our dear delegate's demise, we soldiered on as Alice would have wanted. The Open House picnic hosted by the Heights Hub multi-district was a smashing success. The large turnout was a great fellowship opportunity for all participants. At the same time, many attended Alice's memorial picnic on the same day. I attended both functions. Our East-Central Regional trustee, Bob M., drove all the way from Milwaukee to extend his sympathy in person to Alice's family and to the area. GSO also had a representative in attendance.

In July, the DCM workshop was hosted

by mailing secretary Bob Denihan. In August, the GSR workshop was hosted by recording secretary Rose Martin. These workshops are a great opportunity to meet fellow service workers and learn about the role of the GSR and DCM.

The Ohio State General Service Convention was held in Toledo July 14 -16. Mary Clare L. from our General Service Office shared her story at the Saturday banquet.

The ECR Convention held August 11 -13 in Troy, Michigan was about the largest regional gathering I've ever attended. The paid registration was over 950 people. We will be hosting this event in our area in 2008, so please consider assisting the committee with planning. Bob M., ECR Trustee was particularly interested in hearing feedback from the 14 areas in attendance. This channel of communication between the region and the area is critical. Bob gave a presentation on membership growth in the fellowship during a "What's on Your Mind" session. Elsewhere in this newsletter are reports on these two conventions attended by your trusted servants.

Even though this has been a tough year for Panel 55, I wouldn't trade the experience, strength and hope I have gained for anything else. Let us hold our fallen servants in our hearts and minds with gratitude for the short time we enjoyed their earthly company:

- David R., special needs chair and DCM
- Bill Johnson, Area Treasurer, Past Grapevine chair and DCM
- Alice H. Panel 55 Delegate, and numerous service positions.

Outside our area, we note the tragic loss of Herbert H. - Panel 51, Area 53 and the passing of Retha G. - Panel 25, Area 53 and Grapevine Director.

In Love and Service,
Jeff Y.
Alternate Delegate

Area Officer, Committee Chair & District Reports

I am happy to report that our communications with GSO have improved. We forwarded our updates to GSO successfully and received in a timely manner their updates. Hopefully all new GSRs and DCMs have received their kits, or will shortly.

It has been a busy summer. I attended the Ohio State and SE Michigan Convention in Perrysburg, Ohio and the East Central Regional Conference in Troy, MI. At the Ohio State Convention, I had the honor to be part of a panel that discussed the Concepts. Each of these conferences was well attended and our accommodations were very nice. The panels were helpful and the speakers were enjoyable and enlightening.

The archives display at the East Central Regional Conference was impressive. It even included information on the anonymity break of William H., a 1940's Cleveland Indian baseball player. Instances like this encouraged Bill Wilson to stress the importance of anonymity in our Traditions.

I had the privilege of chairing the DCM workshop, in spite of the small attendance everyone who attended benefited.

In Love and Service,
Bob D., Mailing Secretary

Hi Everyone,

Many years ago, one of my favorite movie actors Peter O'Toole had a starring role in a movie called "My Favorite Year." As a member of the Area Committee, the year 2006 has truly been a highpoint in my sobriety,

thus, "My Favorite Year."

In 1993 when I attended my first General Service District Meeting in Naples, Florida. My service sponsor, the same man that twelfth-stepped me three years before, told me to take notes and listen to every thing that was being said. He said, "You are going to take your notes and create a two minute report for your home group at their next group conscious meeting." I still find myself taking notes wherever our Area sends me! The last time I had an opportunity to take notes was when our East Central Regional Trustee, Bob M. informed us that our General Service Office will remain in New York City as they just signed a ten year lease. The Grapevine offices will be downsizing to save money.

Why has 2006 been an incredible year for me? I have met so many active members in General Service from our neighboring service Areas in Ohio, as well as the East Central Region. We shared similar concerns for the future of Alcoholics Anonymous. Is AA being "watered-down" today? Are sponsors "sugar coating" recovery so they won't leave? The most important item my colleagues in service agree upon is how can we best carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. I am fortunate that God has availed me the opportunity to meet many wonderful AA members who belong to groups, districts, and areas who believe that our fifth Tradition is our top priority!

Yours in Love and Service,
Danny F., Area 54 Chair

Cleveland North Coast Multi-district

We would like to thank the groups that donated to the Cleveland North Coast Multi-district picnic held at Forest Hill Park through their donations and volunteer help. It all played an important part in making the picnic a success that was enjoyed by all. Here is a list of the groups that helped:

Addison High Rise	Calvary Group
Kaiser East	King Kennedy
Kinsman Sat. Morn.	Mustard Seed
Lee Seville Group	New Freedom
Living in Sobriety	Temple Group
St. Phillip Sunday	
In Love and service, Clarence G., Chair	

Archives Committee

Little has occurred over the past two months since the May Area Assembly except work at the Akron Intergroup office. During Founders' Day weekend I was as a tour guide for Archives at the office. It not only proved to be informative, but quite enjoyable for myself, as well as anyone who may have visited there that weekend.

In service,
Richard U., Archives Chair

Public Information Committee

The PI Committee met on Saturday, August 19th at the Canaan Missionary Baptist Church in Cleveland, Ohio. Despite the small turn out there was extra interest in PI literature and services. The minister of the church expressed interest in have regular AA meetings at the church.

In service,
Klaus K., PI Chair

Thoughts to Ponder

Why attend the Area Assembly?

- Service is the secret to long-term sobriety.
- The Area Assembly is the effective conscience of AA in a geographic region and a GSR's vote is an exercise of the groups voice and vote in AA as a whole.
- We widen our contacts outside our local groups by meeting people throughout the delegate Area.
- This is where we elect our Delegate to the General Service Conference.
- The Area Assembly brings districts together for common problem solving and experience sharing.
- At the Area Assembly we can hear of service activities outside normal group activity and get involved carrying the message of recovery to correctional institutions, treatment facilities, and non-alcoholic professionals.

- We have to act our way into good living, not read or way or talk our way into it.
- Whether you are an egomaniac or have a fear of people, the Area Assembly can help you overcome these self-defeating shortcomings.
- The Area Assembly is the forum for AA developing new literature and updating existing literature.
- It's an opportunity to use our "tools", like patience, tolerance, and humility.
- It is my direct connection to the General Service Office and General Service Board.
- Service commitments leads to bonding experiences with other recovering alcoholics.
- Service work is the way to freely give back what was so freely given to me.
- In service work we meet many people and learn new ideas that I can bring back to my group and share.
- Service work dividends are endless, even if not immediate.

Globe-Trudging the Road to Happy Destiny

My travels in the past year and a half have increased my appreciation for Alcoholics Anonymous and what it has done for millions of people around the world. To see a worldwide fellowship grow up about me has been an awe-inspiring experience. I started my travels last summer with a fellow AA in Greece, where we were met with warmth by the Athens Group. Our daily meetings were followed with fellowship at a local café. After a jaunt on the Greek islands, we stopped on the coast of Turkey for a few days. I put in a call to a Turkish couple I had met at the World Conference in Toronto a few months prior, but I wasn't able to connect. We befriended some amazing Turkish people, who took us to beautiful parts of the country and introduced us to their friends. The warmth I experienced during those few days would lead me back to Turkey for a more extended period.

A few weeks later I landed in Israel, bound for Haifa, a city plastered all over the news lately. After parting ways with my friend, I would live in Haifa off and on for about five months. Haifa had few AA meetings. I was able to attend one English-speaking meeting and one Hebrew-speaking meeting a week. I felt grateful that in Cleveland, Ohio there are meetings all the time close to where I live. From time to time I would drive for an hour to Tiberias with a friend to have a meeting with a loner living there. Despite one Hebrew-speaking meeting a week, the AA in Haifa was very powerful, with many members having long-term sobriety. The meeting generally ran for two hours, with a short break. I contacted some of the members of that group recently, and they told me they were unable to meet in their normal location, a bomb shelter, because it is being used now for its original purpose. They were able to find another location, but attendance is down. I also wonder if the AA meetings in Beirut are able to meet.

I was drawn back to Turkey in September and October of 2005. I made a few meetings in İstanbul before heading down to the southern coast. I found myself in the small town of Fethiye (pronounced fe-TEE-ye) feeling bad and stuck in my own head. Looking back, it amazes me how I can be in such a breathtaking part of the world and still set stuck in self-centeredness, fear, and ego. As I was sitting in a café feeling sorry for myself, a gentleman walked in wearing a t-shirt from a twelve-step convention in the U.S. I approached him and asked if he spoke English. He did, and then I asked him if there were any meetings in the area. He informed me that there was one in a half hour, and that it was only five

minutes down the road! He took me, and it was there that I ran into the gentleman I met at the World Conference months earlier! The meetings were well attended in Fethiye and the message was being carried humbly and effectively. I also had the experience of visiting a loner in central Turkey along with an American and Australian. He invited us over for dinner and we had a meeting at his house. It was an incredible experience, and once again made me grateful for all the meetings I can go to. This gentleman had to drive four hours north to Ankara if he wanted to attend a meeting!

Due to the large number of loners and the distance between groups in Turkey, a convention is held every few months, giving the AA's across the country a chance to get together, as well as to hash out issues relating to general service. I had the honor and privilege to attend the first International AA Conference in Kuşadası, Turkey at the end of October, 2005. It was a great feeling to show up and see people I knew from across the entire country. While I was the only attending member from the USA, there were other internationals in attendance, including members from Greece, Scotland, Ireland, and Australia. I was given the opportunity to speak on an "AA history" panel, where I shared some of the early history of AA in Cleveland and Akron. It was an experience I won't soon forget.

At the conference, I observed a meeting of the Turkish General Service committee. Though it was in Turkish, I could tell that the members were taking their positions very seriously. This was also apparent due to the large number of questions I was asked regarding the traditions. Turkish AA's have accomplished some remarkable things in its short 20 years. It has spread across the country and has more groups than any other country in the region. I can't wait to see what it will be like in 20 more years!

My travels have contained one blessing after another. I have met members of our fellowship from across the globe (just recently on a trip to South America, I literally stumbled across La Paz, Bolivia's Central Office. In my broken Spanish, I was able to find out that AA in Bolivia just celebrated 25 years! The city of La Paz has about 17 groups, each meeting multiple times a week). I know now that Alcoholics Anonymous unites us, through our common problem, from across many cultures, backgrounds, and religions, into a true brother/sister-hood. Wherever I go in Alcoholics Anonymous, be it down the street or halfway around the world, I know that I am home. The Big Book says that "someday we hope that every alcoholic who journeys will find a Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous at his destination" (p.162). Unfortunately, this is not yet the case. It is our responsibility to carry the message *wherever* anyone reaches out. Through donations to GSO, we provide funding for translations of our texts into foreign languages, as well as keep the link alive between AA's around the world. We have a lot of work to do, but there are loyal and trusted servants around the world willing to do it. Join them (and us) as we trudge the road to happy destiny!

In love and service,
David S. DCM District 32

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



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 55

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