

The Northeast Ohio Recorder

April, May, June 2009

<http://www.aaneoh.org>

Volume XXI, Issue 2

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 2 10:00 AM
AA Corrections Volunteer
Training Workshop
Reserve Square– Lower Commons
1701 E 12 Street
Cleveland, OH

May 17 2:00 PM
Unity Day

June 12-14
Founders' Day
Akron University
Akron, OH

June 21 2:00 PM
Area Committee Meeting

June 28 12:00 PM
Area Open House Picnic
Huntington Beach
Bay Village, OH

July 19 2:00 PM
Area Assembly

Unless 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)
(330) 273-7216

Inside this Issue:

From the Delegates1
Officer/Committee reports.....2
DCM/Intergroup reports.....4
Mini-Conference Recommendations6
Theme Questions/Answers9
Regional Trustee Speech10
Mini-Conference Experiences11
Area Contact Information.....12

From the Delegate...

Hi everyone, I'm Danny F., your Panel 59 delegate for Area 54. On page S19 in the Service Manual there is a glossary of terms for frequently used terms used in general service activities. When I looked up "delegate," the manual states: "a man or woman elected every other year to represent the area at the annual conference meeting in New York and to bring back the results of that meeting."

That makes the job sound pretty simple, but it is a learning process just like every other service position I have held in AA. I have been very fortunate that my friend Jeff, who also happens to be one of my service sponsors, helped me put this year's mini-conference together as well as other day to day functions in this job. Jeff was not so lucky. We had a delegate pass away in midstream, so he had to make many decisions shooting from the hip, so to speak. What I have learned from his experience and with the help of my panel is to give them tasks to perform so I am not up until midnight on the computer or on the phone all the time. The journey I am about to embark on to New York is going to be one of the most important events in my life. God has spoken through you when we share the agenda items and your thoughts and feelings about them. I will ask for his help when given the opportunity to vote for the whole of AA. Some day one of you will fill these shoes, I just want you to rest assured that like our recovery, from now on you will never be alone.

Yours in love and service,
Danny F. Panel 59 Delegate

From the Alternate Delegate...

The conference trail began with the Regional Past Delegates Conference in Springfield, IL. The first night, the seated delegates held a mock conference to experience taking an agenda item to committee and then to the conference floor. After discussing the item, they came to substantial unanimity. They elected the 2010 Chairman for the Regional Past Delegates Mock Conference, our own delegate, Dan F. This makes four years in a row that an Ohio delegate has been elected to this position. Saturday night, the nine candidates for Regional Trustee for East Central Region shared their experience and why they should be the new trustee. Area 54 past delegate, Bob McK., is one of the candidates.

In March, we visited the other three Ohio Area Mini-Conferences: Area 55, in Perrysburg; Area 53, at the Shawnee State Park near Portsmouth, and Area 56, in Dayton. At all three of these mini-conferences, I witnessed the true democratic process of group conscience in action. Each delegate was given the area's conscience on the agenda items.

During the off travel time, I have been working on lighting three dark districts. I've endeavored to take the message of service to these dark districts.

Love and service,
Bob D. Panel 59 Alternate Delegate.

Area Officer and Committee Reports

Mailing Secretary

To all of my friends in Area 54, I wanted to thank you all for the opportunity to serve as the Area 54 Mailing Secretary. The last time I wrote I said I planned on involving as many of you as possible in the mailings, and the first "folding party" was a great success. Carrie R. hosted for District 30 and, with some of the officers and our Registrar, spent a Saturday afternoon folding the mailing and talking about AA and service work.

The next party will be hosted by Districts 7, 8 & 48 at the Youngstown Intergroup Office. After that, we need a host for June 14 and District 10 in Wooster has expressed interest. Coming up will be the September and Year end mailings. If your District or Multi-District is interested in this great way to get GSR's and others involved in service, please let me know. I can be reached at 330-631-2604 or come find me at any of our meetings.

The cooperation with the Akron Intergroup Office to do our printing has worked out great, we are saving a significant amount of money and we should all be grateful for their cooperation and help.

Also remember that we are happy to mail a flyer for any District events. One sided on white paper only costs \$25 and is a great way to get the word out!

In service,
Jay M.
Panel 59/Area 54 Mailing
Secretary

Chairperson

I would like to thank the Area 54 Assembly for once again giving me the opportunity to be of service.

As I move forward in this new position, it is my hope that I will continually strive also to move toward a greater humility and away from grandiosity; that I never forget

that our past is indeed our greatest resource; that I will always respect and embrace what I have learned to be vital to my growth, that is, "suggestion," "instruction," "direction," and "appraisal." I want never to be too afraid or ashamed to ask for help; to never be too proud to admit when I don't know; to remember and practice to the best of my ability, the words of co-founder Dr. Bob, "to guard that erring member the tongue...to use it with kindness, consideration, and tolerance."

Finally, I take from the last talk of co-founder Bill W. an ancient Arabian salutation sent to him by an AA member, which says, "I salute you and thank you for your life."

In Love & Service

Ola P. Chairperson
Panel 59/ Area 54

Recording Secretary

Hi everyone. My name is Diane K. and I am an alcoholic. I am also your new recording secretary for Area 54, Panel 59. If you don't understand what that means, don't worry, I was rather confused at my first mini-conference too! Since that time I have been to 4 other mini-conferences and it is only now that I am beginning to feel at home. So don't worry!!!!

I have fallen in love with general service these last 3 years. I began, like most, at the group level. I became the GSR of my home group. Self appointed, I might add! Shortly after, I came to an assembly in Brunswick and found out that we had no DCM in Districts 52/53, which include Bay Village, Rocky River and Westlake. It kind of made me mad and in the spur of the moment I volunteered to be the DCM. I believe it was Danny F. who brought the issue to Alice H., God rest her soul. She made a decision to give me the position and shortly afterward the

sobriety time for becoming a DCM changed. I think it might have been a God thing.

Obviously, I didn't know a thing, and becoming a DCM was all new to me. There were no GSR's and the words "General Service" weren't even words in the groups' vocabulary. So it was a very difficult time. Little by little, I did start making headway and we got a GSR here and there. I began to hold district meeting at my house and districts grew. I still am the DCM and we're a tight group. I know when people at meetings see me they know where I'm coming from and that I represent AA as a whole.

In January I became the new Recording Secretary for Area 54. This time I thought I might know a little since I had some experience filling in for our previous secretary Jamie B. Well, "little" is exactly what I knew. Yes I do record and type up the minutes of Assemblies and Committee meetings, but there is so much more. I keep all the records for attendance, which is important, as it is one of the indicators of whether or not members are qualified to stand for office. There are so many other duties and commitments to fulfill, but really, doing all that is not what being an Area Officer really means to me. The friendships I am making, being a part of a panel of fellow service fanatics, hanging out with the old-timers, knowing that I am giving back to AA in ways few really know, learning things like the Concepts, the Service Manual, our GSO- what they do and how they do it. It's amazing. I feel so honored to be here, representing your Panel 59 officers. I love you all and thank you.

Diane K. Recording Secretary

Special Needs

Since the beginning of this year I am realizing and understanding how very important and special the Special Needs Committee actually is. There are many other areas as well as other

Area Officer and Committee Reports, Cont'd...

committees that may be involved in Special Needs work in order to achieve more effective results. I have stayed in contact with Donna C., who is one of the ASL interpreters from the 2008 State Convention and have shared as well as gained some very useful information from her. For example, I have learned of a treatment center focusing on the needs of individuals with various special circumstances being in the works in the very near future. This is very exciting news in that those of us with special needs that make us feel different will know that they are not alone. Also, I've had the opportunity to speak with Valerie O'N. from the General Service Office Staff, Special Needs Assignment. We talked about the upcoming mini-conference and she offered to send any literature or other info available that would be helpful.

Quinsetta M, Special Needs Chair

Cooperation with the Professional Community

During this first reporting period your CPC Committee has received three referrals from GSO. The CPC assignment desk at GSO e-mailed your chairperson requests from facilities in Lorain and Canton expressing interest in having AA meetings at their respective facilities, noting that from time to time they have clients seeking meetings. Your CPC Chair has made contact with the facilities in question and will send a packet of appropriate pamphlets for display/distribution at the facilities. Follow-up is planned once the particular districts are identified so that referrals can be made to the appropriate DCMs. A student nurse also contacted your chairperson in an effort to locate a convenient open meeting in either Holmes or Wayne County that she might attend as part of the

requirements for her clinical education experience. Her contact information has been forwarded to our District 10 DCM, who I understand has made personal contact and identified meetings for the student. Your chairperson solicits input from whoever may have experience in this area for assistance and guidance in better handling these types of requests as they are received, and acknowledges the previous offer for assistance from the immediate past CPC Chair, along with her invitation to work jointly on the new assignment. CPC and PI will present a joint project for the August Area Workshop.

James T., CPC Chair

Public Information

We reviewed and sorted out all the literature. Filled out an order for additional literature to be ready for the mini-conference.

Christine McG., PI Chair

Treatment Facilities

We are compiling a Bridging the Gap network of persons who will contact the people leaving treatment. In building this contact list a couple of Inter-Groups have offered to have their 12-Step committee or Treatment committee make the calls. Bridging the Gap calls are 12-step work.

At District 10's Gratitude Workshop and at the NEOH Mini-conference a Treatment Facilities display was present.

At the NEOH Mini-Conference the "Treatment Facilities Committee" had several persons that are active in AA meetings at the treatment centers. It was a great session of sharing of ideas, problems and solutions. Also under discussion was the concern is AA working with the outpatient treatment programs and providing AA information to the

professionals and patients, AA meetings, or Bridging the Gap to these facilities.

We would also like to develop a directory of AA meetings at treatment centers.

Feel free to contact me if you would like to:

- 1- take a AA meeting to a treatment facility
- 2- offer information on AA meetings at treatment facilities
- 3- be part of a Bridging the Gap Program by working with an ongoing program
- 4- be part of developing a Bridging the Gap Program
- 5- be part of contacting persons leaving treatment

Thank you for allowing me to serve,

Susan Robinson –Treatment Chair

Grapevine

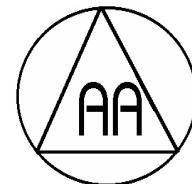
Went to district 10 for their all day affair. It was both educational and fun. Sold \$20.00 worth of magazines and handed out catalogs, subscription forms, and GVR forms, and gave a talk on why I went into general service and what the Grapevine agenda items for the mini-conference are. I also invited anyone to help out on my committee.

Jeff M, Grapevine Chair

Corrections

Been going to a meeting in Akron put on by the Akron Correction Committee. I also started a Correction Directory in order to better keep in touch with other Corrections workers. Went to a workshop in Wooster where I talked about the agenda for the mini-conference.

Joel T, Corrections Chair



Area Officer and Committee Reports, Cont'd...

Literature

Big books in Serbian, Maltese, and Malagasy were completed, and translations are being finalized in Tibetan, Lugandan, and Arabic.

Jeff Y, Literature Chair

Archives

It has been a wonderful and exciting 3 months as your area 54 Archives Chair. The 34th annual Northeast Ohio mini-conference was a spectacular event with around 140 in attendance.

Learning how to collect records from our area and how to preserve material from previous panels is great for my

sobriety and unity.

Tim H, Archives Chair

Unity Day Chair

Don't forget May 17th is our second annual Unity Day. I have asked some people to speak on what Unity means to them. I am currently working on a flyer which should be circulating at the Mini-Conference. Bring a dish to share, if you can. Last year's Unity Day was a grand slam success, so please join us this year!

Chantal, Unity Day Chair

DCM, Multi-District, and Intergroup reports

District 7- still updating meetings and getting new GSR's. Talked about a chicken roast. –Joel

District 8- At this point 2/3 of the groups have been visited and updates have been turned in to Bob. Approach to each group appears to be a vital part of the response. Our goal is to have accurate information for each group by May or June. – Bob D. Alt DCM

District 10 – Treasurer packets have been distributed to 8 groups and were well-received. Several groups were unsure where to make contributions and the suggested split. We have 8 new GSR's added to our roster. The District 10 "Gratitude in Action" event was held. Area 54 was well-represented by showing us 'Gratitude in Action' with 7 committee chairs and the Mailing Secretary giving speaker presentations. The District extends our thanks to all who participated and attended. The event broke even, financially. Our next event will be our picnic, time and date TBA. We have 8 registrations for the mini-conference and will be cohosting the hospitality suite. We voted to bid on hosting Gratitude Sunday in November. – Steve B

District 23 – The district is looking forward. We are trying to implement an email report from district, area, and conference meetings to be sent to all GSR's, committee chairs, and district intergroup offices. We are looking to the future and paying it forward, that what was paid to us with love and understanding. – Glen G.

District 29 – Attended the GSR/DCM Workshop in February. The panel discussion was informative. Also attended both planning meetings for the mini-conference. Volunteered to Chair the Early Morning meetings on Sat and Sun. I am also a regular attendee of the Cleveland North Coast Multi-district. I am grateful for the turnout of all GSR's and especially those from District 29. Currently in the process of updating the group information sheets for groups in District 29. – Calvin L.

District 30 – District 30 has changed our monthly meeting to the first Tuesday of every month at 7pm at the Euclid Public Library. This has made a difference in attendance and is more convenient for our GSR's. We continue to study the traditions and the concepts each month with a

discussion meeting and everyone shares their experience, strength, and hope. We have consistently about 6-8 people each month with new GSR's coming to check out the "new" meeting. We have grown up some, electing Shyrl B. as our sec/treasurer and have implemented a format and sign-in sheet and minutes and agenda. We strive to be an example and to show others in our district that service work in general service is rewarding and can be a part of our personal unity legacy. We hosted a mailing party for Area 54. I was so impressed at how many of our panel showed up to support our district. We had 18 people all together and had great fun, great fellowship and I am happy to report, no paper cuts. It was a wonderful blend for the people of my district and they got to hear about the history of AA and our area. I have since heard from people at that meeting how fun it was to meet new people and hear the stories and conversations about this "thing" called General Service. I am learning on a personal note that people are not so much unwilling or opposed to service work as they are just unaware of its existence. I look forward to the mini conference as another way to learn how "our conference functions. We

DCM, Multi-District, and Intergroup Reports Cont'd...

have several people from our district who are planning to attend. To be a part of our area "group conscious" is an important thing. So its one day at a time, one event at a time we grow in our recovery and our history. - Carrie Rodick, DCM

District 36- Your District 36 DCM has little to report for this period. EW could blame the weather or any number of other things like we used to blame for falling short on our responsibilities, but it would be far more honest to be responsible for not only our accomplishments, but also our lack thereof. Nonetheless, we did manage to address one particular issue that has cropped up for the second time during this servant's tenure: a "seemingly hopeless state" between two groups meeting at the same facility, at the same time. Like our state of mind and body upon discovering AA, this state of affairs only seems hopeless. As we reported last year during the late winter, we have an outdoor group that meets during inclement weather in the coffee shop area of one of the district's historic treatment facilities. The problem is that an older group must pass through - and is accustomed to having fellowship in-the coffee shop after it's meeting, typically occurring prior to the conclusion of the foul weather meeting. Your DCM pointed out to the older group, through its GSR, that if the facility wishes to allow the other group access, then that is the facility's choice. If the problem becomes too overbearing, then the older group must remember that it has no lease, and is free to go wherever it desires. We intend to schedule a District 36 meeting in our near future, to discuss, among other things, rotation of our DCM and continued participation in the Cleveland North Coast Multi District. - James T, DCM

District 39- Things are running smoothly in District 39. Our district had our meeting today and had 6 GSR's and two visitors from our district. We are all looking forward to the mini conference and warmer weather. -Tim H, DCM

District 52/53 - At February district meeting, Jennie B. elected to represent Dist. 52/53 at Central Office Advisory meetings. Huntington Park was chosen as the location for the Area Picnic, to take place on June 28. Submitted by Glenn D.

Cleveland North Coast Multi District- held its first three monthly meetings of this biennium on Saturday, January 10, 2009, Feb 1, 2009, and Mar 7, 2009 at the Carl B. Stokes Center on Cleveland's east side, The new panel of servants have assumed their respective responsibilities and additional assignments have been accepted, including a new literature chairperson, and a new coffee person. The first of our 2 annual workshops/presentations will be held in lieu of our regular May meeting on Sat May 2, at 1pm. We will present a panel discussion on the topic "singleness of purpose: facts and fictions." Flyers will be available in the rear. Also, our annual picnic has already been scheduled for August 15 at Forest Hills Park. We look forward to planning productive term carrying forward our usual agenda of presenting service-related programs and holding our annual picnic. Consisting of Districts 29, 31,33,34,35,36, and 45, we meet on the first Saturday of each month. At this time we are seeking willing servants to step up and fill DCM vacancies for several of our districts. The April meeting has been moved to the second Saturday so as not to conflict with the mini-conference. - James T, Chair

Akron Intergroup Report- "Jar Fever" is on. The website registration stated at 12:01am on March 1 and 48

people were logged on. The peak was hit at 12:22 when 838 people were registering while many others were trying and being kicked off because the server was overloaded. This has become an increasing problem that will need to be addressed in the future. We cannot afford the enterprise level server capacity to handle this one day rush. The intergroup is holding a series of open houses for groups to come down and visit the office, talk to all of the committee chairs, and tour the Archives. We are hoping to attract a number of people who have never been to the office. Jim H., our Corrections Chair, recently held a corrections workshop that included our own corrections chair, Joel T., area 53, and most of the intergroups from Area 54 come to share their experience, strength, and hope as well as make sure all areas were being covered. A number of officials in corrections were also their including a warden who gave an excellent presentation.

Jay M, Intergroup rep



Area 54 Mini-Conference 2009 RECOMMENDATIONS AND ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Vote for 2/3 or majority 48 for 2/3 44 for majority; 2/3 will be needed to adopt any measure.

Cooperation With the Professional Community and Special Needs Committees

Review contents of C.P.C. Kit and Workbook.
No recommendation Reviewed with appreciation.
Review contents of Special Needs Workbook
No recommendation Reviewed with appreciation.

Discuss specific possible uses of the A.A. Grapevine and La Viña in C.P.C. (and Special Needs) endeavors.

Additional considerations: The Committee discussed ways to utilize GV and suggested placing old issues in professional offices and places they serve, i.e. doctors, barbershops, recovery houses, rescue missions, DUI schools, VA hospitals, teen pregnancies centers, judges and drug court professions, educators and other.

Consider request to develop a new Special Needs recovery pamphlet for newcomers or prospective members. *Recommend:* that the Publications Department develop a new Special Needs recovery pamphlet for newcomers or prospective members, and that a draft or progress report be considered by the trustees' and the Conference Committees next year. **After no debate, the floor voted 88-4 to approve this recommendation.**

Consider request "to develop a generic A.A. poster or posters for places such as hospitals, places of employment, doctors' offices, etc." The committee made no recommendation.

Consider request to publish a book of stories from members living in remote communities...*Recommend:* that the Publications Department develop draft materials of stories from members living in remote communities, or progress report, to be considered by the trustees' and the Conference Committees next year. **After no debate the recommendation passes 89-3.**

Corrections Committee

Review contents of Corrections Kit and Workbook.

Additional considerations: Conversion of the video to DVD and update "Inmate to Inmate" literature

Consider updating the pamphlet "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell."
Recommend: that the pamphlet "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell" be updated, and that a draft revision or progress report be returned to the trustees' and Conference Committees next year. **After no debate the recommendation passes 87-5**

Discuss issues that may be involved in A.A. members' complying with the rules of correctional facilities, such as signing "sponsorship agreements" or legally binding documents. **Additional considerations** In favor of AA members complying with the rules of correctional facilities but adding literature to explain the responsibility of signing legally binding documents or sponsorship agreements

Finance Committee

Review material submitted from the Fellowship concerning the 2008 Conference Advisory Action "the trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee gather input from the Fellowship on the benefits and liabilities, both spiritual and practical of fully funding G.S.O. Services to the Fellowship (G.S.O. functional expenses) by the voluntary contributions of A.A. members and groups." **Additional Considerations** We feel that self-support should be a goal. We feel that one method would be to emphasize the Birthday Plan that we ask GSO to give a separate report of Birthday Plan contributions by area to the delegates.

Discuss request to produce a Seventh Tradition poster.
Recommend that the Publications Department develop a draft poster on the Seventh Tradition, and that said draft or progress report, be considered by the trustees' and the Conference Committees next year. **After lengthy debate, the recommendation failed.**
Additional considerations -- color; illustrations; and creativity be considered.

Discuss other aspects of self-support: No discussion

Grapevine Committee

Review contents of A.A. Grapevine and La Viña Workbook.
No recommendation

Consider request that "the 2007 Conference Advisory Action recommending that 'the Grapevine and La Viña include a section on the medical, legal, and social aspects of alcoholism, with an appropriate disclaimer' be rescinded." *Recommend* that the current section on the medical, legal and social aspects of alcoholism, in the AA Grapevine and La Viña be removed. **After lengthy debate the recommendation fails.**

Consider request that the following 2004 Conference Advisory Action be rescinded:

"To allow the widest distribution of the A.A. Grapevine and La Viña to all purchasers, while guarding against affiliations with any outside enterprise, a) subscriptions to the A.A. Grapevine and La Viña magazines be issued only by A.A. Grapevine, Inc., or by A.A. trusted servants directly; and b) the A.A. Grapevine, Inc., adopt standardized sales practices and pricing structures for all purchasers. Note: This recommendation is to clarify the 1993 Advisory Action stating that the Grapevine Corporate Board not actively pursue the placement of Grapevine materials for resale in commercial (non-A.A.) outlets."

Additional considerations The Grapevine board to investigate alternative printing practices including material to minimize cost.

Literature Committee

Consider request that the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" be reviewed toward eliminating or revising outmoded ethnic, cultural and vocational references.

Recommend that the Publications Department review the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" toward eliminating or revising outmoded ethnic, cultural and vocational references, and that

RECOMMENDATIONS AND ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS Cont'd...

revision or progress report be returned to the trustees and Conference Committees next year and that the publications department review all other pamphlets for similar outmoded language as they are reviewed. **A request was made to remove the “,and...” part of the recommendation as a friendly amendment. The committee decided not to accept the amendment. After some debate the recommendation was approved.**

Consider request to add a sentence to the pamphlet “A Newcomer Asks” that encourages newcomers to obtain and study the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous.

Recommend that a sentence be added to the pamphlet “A Newcomer Asks” that encourages newcomers to obtain and begin to study the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, and that a draft revision or progress report be returned to the trustees’ and Conference Committees next year. **After little debate the recommendation passed.**

Discuss whether there is a need to develop Conference-approved literature that focuses on the topics of spirituality, and agnostics or atheists/nonbelievers in A.A.

Recommend that there is a need to develop Conference-approved literature that focuses on the topics of spirituality, and agnostics or atheists/nonbelievers in A.A., and that a draft or progress report be returned to the trustees’ and Conference Committees next year. **After some debate the recommendation failed 56-29.**

Consider request to develop a second volume of Daily Reflections. No recommendation

Consider request to develop a video on the General Service Representative (G.S.R.). No recommendation

Public Information Committee #1

Consider request to add the text “Provide initial motivation” to the section “What A.A. does NOT do” in the pamphlet “A.A. at a Glance.”

Recommend that the text “Provide initial motivation” be added to the section “What A.A. does NOT do” in the pamphlet “A.A. at a Glance.”

After no debate the recommendation passed.

Review updated text and graphics of the pamphlet “A Message to Teenagers...,” which utilizes selected text and graphics from the current “Too Young?” pamphlet.

Recommend that the updated text and graphics of the pamphlet “A Message to Teenagers...,” which utilizes selected text and graphics from the current “Too Young?” pamphlet be approved, and that the Publications Department will make the necessary changes when current stock is depleted.

After no debate the recommendation passed.

Public Service Announcements (P.S.A.s): Review current television P.S.A.s for relevance and usefulness. As an **additional consideration**, the committee felt that “What It Is Like” be updated with recommendations

listed by the trustees’ PI Committee.

Public Information Committee #2

Consider draft 2010 Alcoholics Anonymous Membership Survey Questionnaire.

Recommend that the draft 2010 Alcoholics Anonymous Membership Survey Questionnaire be approved.

After little debate the recommendation passed.

Consider the need to clarify the importance of not breaking the anonymity of living A.A. members in memorial announcements when A.A. members when one of our Fellowship dies. *Recommend* the need to clarify the importance of not breaking the anonymity of living A.A. members in memorial announcements when one of our Fellowship dies by changing the Understanding Anonymity pamphlet.

After some debate the recommendation passed.

Discuss suggestion that Public Information committees “explore the use of the A.A. Grapevine and La Viña in their endeavors.”

Additional considerations, if any – Add sample GV to PI Kit Review contents of P.I. Kit and Workbook. Recommendation (non-voting) to add a sample GV, P-36 “Is AA for Me?”, and P-02 “44 Questions”.

Treatment Facilities Committee

Discuss a proposal that Treatment Facilities literature include information that would assist Treatment Facilities committees with their effort to inform treatment professionals about A.A. and to carry the A.A. message to patients in out-patient treatment programs.

Recommend that Treatment Facilities literature include information that would assist Treatment Facilities committees with their effort to inform treatment professionals about A.A. and to carry the A.A. message to patients in out-patient treatment programs.

After some debate the recommendation passed.

Discuss request that the Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities expand its scope to include service to Special Needs Committees and that the name of the committee be changed to the “Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities/Special Needs.”

Additional Consideration that Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities expand its scope to include service to Special Needs Committees and that the name of the committee be changed to the “Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities/Special Needs.”

Discuss specific possible uses of the A.A. Grapevine and La Viña in Treatment endeavors. **Additional considerations** - AA entities i.e. groups, districts, area to provide GV to TF facilities

Review contents of T.F. Kit and Workbook. **Additional considerations** – Inform that TF is available online

Archives

Review contents of Archives Workbook. No recommendation
Discuss ideas to make A.A.’s archives and history more readily available to the Fellowship. No recommendation

RECOMMENDATIONS AND ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS Cont'd...

International Conventions/Regional Forums

Discuss an anonymity-protected photograph of the flag ceremony to be taken at the 2010 International Convention.

Recommend that an anonymity-protected photograph of the flag ceremony to be taken at the 2010 International Convention.

After no debate the recommendation passed.

Consider a broadcast of the 2010 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony similar to the encrypted, anonymity-protected, delayed extranet broadcast of the 2005 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony.

Recommend an encrypted, anonymity-protected, delayed extranet broadcast of the 2010 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony.

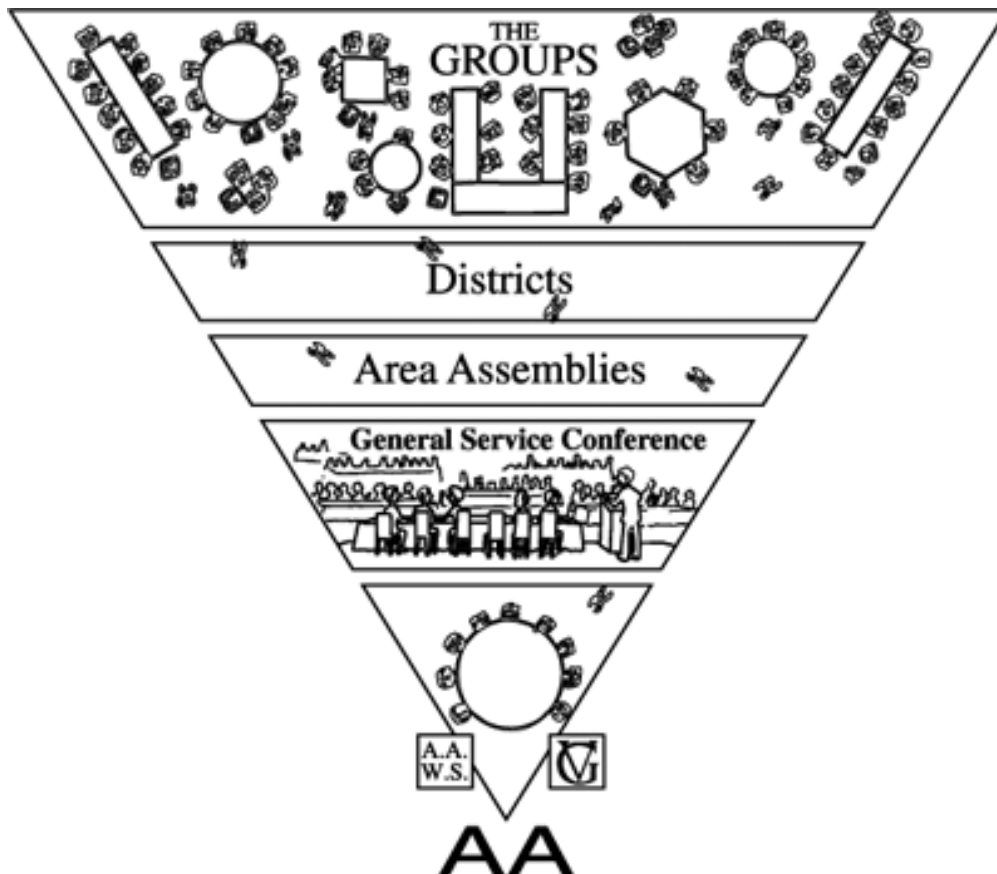
After no debate the recommendation passed.

Floor Action: Appreciating the extensive body of literature recommend that there is a need to develop conference approved literature that focuses on the topics of spirituality, and agnostics or atheists/non-believers in AA, and that a draft or progress report be returned to the Trustees and conference committees next year.

A friendly amendment was made that the committee identify a current pamphlet that can be revised and make it clear it addresses this particular issue. The amendment was not accepted.

After a second and debate the floor action passed 49-24

**THANKS EVERYONE FOR PARTICIPATING!!
SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!**



**OUR COMMITMENT TO CARRY
AA'S MESSAGE-
ENTHUSIASM AND GRATITUDE
IN ACTION**

Area 54 groups discussed and submitted their answers to the following questions:

Humility and Sacrifice

Am I setting an example as an AA member?

Yes – 31; Sometimes - 5

Is the Group a good example and adhering to the 5th Tradition?

Yes – 31; Sometimes – 2;

Do I understand Anonymity and how it sacrifices our Egos?

Yes - 33

Enthusiasm and Gratitude

Do I now have Hope and Purpose after experiencing Defeat and Despair?

Yes - 36

Am I now Happy, Joyous and Free?

Yes – 26; Sometimes - 7

Do I now find enthusiasm in my recovery now that I have learned to take a personal inventory? Do I think it is a Gift?

Yes -33

Spiritual Program in Action

How can I carry the AA message? Do I emphasize the Spiritual Benefits in my twelfth step work?

12th Step Work – 14; Prisons – 2; Intergroup/Gen Service – 8

Retreats – 1; Give rides – 2; Live the Program – 6; Anonymity – 1; Sponsoring – 5;

Visit Treatment/Hospitals - 2

Where do I find the Spiritual part AA in the Traditions?

Which ones stand out in my mind?

1st Tradition – 3; 2nd Tradition – 13; 3rd Tradition – 1;

5th Tradition – 2; 12th Tradition – 17; All - 3

In my Recovery do I live in a part or all of my life based on our Twelve Traditions?

Yes – 8; Sometimes – 22; No-2

General Service: “What it is and My Experience”

A talk from this year’s Northeast Ohio Mini-Conference...

Hello everybody, my name is Howard L. and I am an alcoholic. It is my pleasure and privilege to be serving Alcoholics Anonymous as the Southeast Regional Trustee on the General Service Board. Before I start on tonight's topic, I bring you greetings from Bob M., your Regional Trustee. As you probably know, Bob had a conflict this weekend and he was not able to be here. He sends his regrets and he is sorry he could not be here. I, on the other hand, am not sorry that Bob could not be here because that allows me to be here and I am really happy to be in Area 54!

I have been thinking about this topic and I would like to start by saying that to me, there are two types of service: Service Work and General Service. What are these two and what is the difference?

Service work is, in large part, the service work that we do in our home group and maybe a little at the district level. It is things like making coffee, setting up chairs, leading the meeting . . . things like that. These are the things that make Alcoholics Anonymous work.

General Service is similar, though it takes a longer view. General Service is taking A.A. beyond the reach of our home group. General Service is doing our part to make sure that Alcoholics Anonymous is there, wherever there is an alcoholic who reaches out for help. This is how we take responsibility for A.A., as is indicated in Concept I. General Service is what we do in the Districts, Areas and the General Service Conference to reach out beyond what we can do in our local group.

Which of these is more important? Neither. Both. Why? It is like either taking a bath or a shower. It is two different ways to accomplish the same thing. Regardless of whether you bath or shower, the purpose is to get clean and that is what happens. Whether you are doing Service Work or General Service, the purpose is the same – to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous and no matter which way you go, it works.

What is my part in this as a Regional Trustee? Like so many of our jobs in A.A., the Regional Trustee is a two-part job. First, I am a Trustee on the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous. Here I am legal and financial responsibility to protect and oversee our money and our message as it is presented in our literature.

Then there is my Regional Trustee responsibility. To define the Southeast Region, if you draw a line across the top of Virginia, West Virginia and Kentucky, all the way

over to the river and come down south to the Gulf of Mexico, grab Louisiana, go to the end of Florida and get Puerto Rico, as well. That is the Southeast Region. What do I do? Well to start with, I do not “represent” the Southeast Region, like a Senator or Representative. I do not “lobby” to get things for the Region. I mean, what would I try to get? More drunks for the Southeast? No, but I do serve the Fellowship and I travel and visit within the Region. I do what I am doing here in Area 54 this weekend. I visit and share with you what is going on, what you think, what you want to say. You could say that I, and all of the Regional Trustees, are the face of the General Service Board to the members of Alcoholics Anonymous. We (the Regionals) get to hear what we (the members) think about what we (the board) are doing and what we (the board) should be doing. It is the best of the service jobs because I get to spend more time with “us” than any other Trustee position except maybe the Chair of the General Service Board because he or she travels to all of the Regional Forums and to a lot of functions on behalf of the board.

So there you have it, what I think General Service is and a quick description of the service job of a Regional Trustee. Again, I am truly grateful and happy for the opportunity to be here in Area 54 this weekend. If there is anything you want to say, ask about, or share, I am here all weekend and that is why I am here – to hear what you have to say.

Thank you for allowing me to be here with you.



Members' Experiences from the Northeast Ohio Mini-Conference

With New Eyes

High dear fellowship, I would like to give you this first time look at the mini-conference.

I got to the hotel in time to register and make the opening. After a moment of silence for the still sick and suffering, the opening was the start of a learning packed experience. I do not think I could give all the details justice. So please, let me give you some of the highlights.

After the silence ended, everything went into overdrive. The openings and introductions was given in the spirit of the fellowship, "Heart felt and with Love!"

The 7th Tradition was presented by Klaus K.. He went on to tell the story of a homeless man in California. How every time he went to a meeting, he would drop in some change, even if it was only a penny. Every penny does COUNT! He also went on to say a quote from a Jan. 82 Grapevine, "Anything past a prudent reserve has nothing to do with A.A. functions at group level."

I must give praise here to the Hospitality Room here. Great Job!!! AAAsome Ice Cream Bars and FOOD!!!

On the second day I started off with the Early Bird Discussion where I learned more about Humility. Then everything got interesting for this newbie. After opening remarks, Trustee's report and GSO report, the Issues & their history was given. We were then released into our assigned committees to discuss and present our findings. Mine was Public Info Committee #1.

In our committee, we discussed and argued our causes. We came to the conclusion in this committee to add a sentence to "A.A. at a glance", update "a Message to Teenagers..." and to retire a PSA (Public Service Announcement). We presented our findings so they maybe brought to the floor for voting. Lunch Time!

Let the Mock Conference BEGIN! We argued and discussed each issue until the least and most was stated. Then the vote was taken. Some passed with ease, others with many of words, yet others did not pass at all. All this with decorum and fellowship. I would be in great fault if I did not give of the mistakes made. I for one could not make a motion. For as hard as I tried, I always made an "E"motion. I will let those others admit their own mistakes.

The banquet was superb, the skit over hilarious, the lead I could relate to and was heart glad to hear. But the topper for me was the Alcahthon chaired by Lara N. that night. I went with no expectations and left with a profound feeling of continuance. From the start, selfishness in service, to when I left after midnight, I seen the future of A.A. I am deeply grateful to the young women & men for their insights.

When one young woman asked how her sponsor did everything she did, I only gave half an answer. Here is the whole one. Your sponsor drinks from a chalice filled with the nectar of the gods! The chalice's name is "UNCONDITIONAL". The nectar is called "LOVE". She gives freely from this chalice, hence the flow of nectar never ceases. To hoard this is to stop all flow. So drink freely and give freely and you will find where her energy comes forth.

On our last morning we came to hear the theme questions and their answers. Ten minutes before opening bells, I was asked to speak on Enthusiasm and Gratitude. Thank God it was on something I don't know about. I just hope the message was taken with love as it was given.

We closed with the ask-it basket. Wow, what a time. I hope I can see more of these conferences. I am always open to learn!

With Love and Service,
Glen G.

Came...Came To...Came To Believe

My first conference I came, but I didn't know anything. I went to a room and heard that AA should stay the same, not to add any other substance. I went to a banquet, didn't know who spoke or what they talked about.

After a few years coming, even when I was not the GSR, I came to learn about the triangle: at the top were the groups, and at the bottom was GSO. Then I came to believe that the groups could make changes that would go to GSO and that GSO would put them into action as we suggested.

Mae R., GSR for ODAAT- Cleveland



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.

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