

# The Northeast Ohio Recorder

January, February, March, 2011

<http://www.area54.org>

Volume XXII, Issue 1

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**January 16**  
**Area Assembly** 2:00 pm

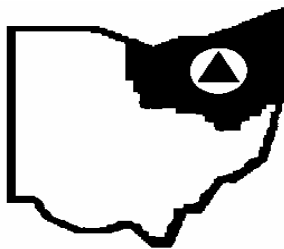
**January 23 and February 27**  
**Mini Conference planning Meeting at Independence**  
**Doubletree Hotel** 2:00 pm

**March 20** 2:00 pm  
**Area Committee Meeting**

**April 1-3**  
**36th NEOH Mini-Conference**  
**Independence Doubletree Hotel**

**April 17**  
**Area Assembly** 2:00 pm

**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**



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## A Word from our Delegate



I hope all had a joyous and happy Thanksgiving! Gratitude Sunday was enjoyable. It was so great to see all the attendees. Hats off to the Cleveland Multi-District!. Everyone was feed in a timely fashion. I so enjoyed Elvira's message. What a wonderful day of AA!

I know it has been with a kind and loving Higher Power, that I have been blessed to make this journey in service that started many years ago. It was 12 years ago at our Dual District 23/39 where I first heard the 12 Concepts.

I was so impressed that I wanted to learn more. I have been blessed with good orderly direction from service sponsors. I am grateful for the life-long friendships I have today from these experiences. I embrace all the meetings and efforts to re-light dark districts and the conference trips.

I give a special thanks to Dan F. with whom I traveled all over "Green Acres" for his support and assistance.

Thanks for all the support at the election including my home Dual Districts 23/39 (80% of the districts were represented). Nearly 90 people attended this Assembly. Thanks for all for the effort and support folks!

I am looking forward to the upcoming experiences and challenges. Our first 2011 Assembly will be January 16<sup>th</sup>, at the 12 Step Recovery Club located at 1480 Pearl Road in Brunswick at 2 p.m. There will be Grapevine and Literature Sales. Hopefully our 2011 Budget will be available for approval.

Pointing towards our April 1-3, 2011, 36<sup>th</sup> Mini-Conference, our **first planning meeting is January 21<sup>st</sup>**, at 2 p.m. at the Doubletree Hotel located at 6200 Quarry Lane in Independence. We will be looking for volunteers for the many committees and chair people needed to have a successful, educational and enjoyable conference.

When we are at different meetings, we need to carry the message of General Service and our Third Legacy. Talk about what is going on in your District and our Area. Mention our Assembly meetings and the April Mini-Conference. It is not too early for

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Alternate Delegate's Report



My most heartfelt thanks to all who supported me in being elected as your new Alternate Delegate. Also, my deepest gratitude to all who showed up and allow your voices to be heard. It sure would be great to see all of you again at the Area Assemblies. I have a deep respect and commitment to Area 54 Northeast Ohio General Service, and will continue to make every attempt to do what is in the best interest for the Area.

When I came into service, four years ago as a GSR, I had no idea that I would someday be an officer let alone the Alternate Delegate. As I reflect over the past four years, I can see that *God* has been doing with me what *He* will. If I were to take any credit, it would be for having the willingness to be of service. However, I am inclined to believe that *He* gave me that willingness. As someone once said, "don't ask God to guide your footsteps if you are not willing to move your feet."

In Loving and Grateful Service  
**Ola P. – Alternate Delegate (61/54)**

## From the Editor...

### ***WHY SHOULD I ATTEND THE NORTHEAST OHIO MINI-CONFERENCE?***

That's an interesting question and I hope that I can provide an adequately engaging answer. Below I will offer some good reasons why everyone, whether you are involved in General Service work or not, is encouraged and welcome to attend the 36<sup>th</sup> annual Northeast Ohio Mini-Conference.

**Exercise your voice and vote in A.A.-as-a-whole.** Don't let others make decisions for you! Express your opinion on the items of business that will be discussed and voted on by your elected delegate at the General Service Conference in New York City at the end of April. The mini-conference is designed to provide a forum for understanding the issues concerning the future of A.A. that will be decided, on your behalf, whether you choose to participate in General Service or not.

**Learn about service beyond the church basement steps.** Every service job in A.A. is important. Ranging all the way from the Twelfth Step itself to a phone call and a cup of coffee, and to A.A.'s General Service Office for national and international action. The sum total of all these services is our Third Legacy of Service. An A.A. service is anything whatever that helps us to reach a fellow sufferer, whether sponsorship of a new member or sponsorship of A.A. in a new country just getting started. Services include meeting places, hospital cooperation, and intergroup offices; they mean pamphlets, books, and good public relations of almost every description. They call for committees, delegates, trustees, and conferences.

**Why can't we just 'keep it simple'?** These services, whether performed by individuals, groups, areas, or A.A. as a whole, are utterly vital to our existence and growth. Nor can we make A.A. more simple by abolishing such services. We would only be asking for complication and confusion. Concerning any given service, we therefore pose but one question: "Is this service really needed?" If it is, then maintain it we must, or fail in our mission to those who need and seek A.A. The most vital, yet least understood, group of services that A.A. has are those that enable us to function as a whole, namely: the General Service Office, A.A. World Services, Inc., The A.A. Grapevine, Inc., and our board of trustees, known legally as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous. Our worldwide unity and much of our growth since early times are directly traceable to this cluster of life-giving activities.

**Meet your Regional Trustee and a staff member from your General Service Office in New York City.** Oh, and your delegate will be there, too. He'd like to meet you and hear your views on the pressing agenda items of the day. He will carry your ideas and the conscience of the whole area to the General Service Conference.

**Meet other A.A.'s who are interested in service beyond the group level.** Having trouble convincing some members of your home group that all that alphabet soup stuff is more than just 'AA politics'? Other General Service Representa-

tives (GSR) and District Committee Members (DCM) have already faced that difficulty and have great ideas to share on how to build interest at your home group. Come and learn!

**See how your generous contributions are being used to help carry the message.** New literature has been released in recent months, including a revised edition of the Spanish Big Book. New public service announcements and DVD versions of your favorite conference approved videos have been produced this year. These and more will be shown or will be available for sale at the mini-conference.

So, hopefully, one or more of these has sparked an interest for those of you who aren't sure about attending the 36<sup>th</sup> Northeast Ohio Mini-Conference on the weekend of April 9-11, 2011 in Independence, Ohio. If you are a GSR for your group, or even if your group has no representative to General Service, please ask your group for a little financial assistance. Maybe they would be willing to pay for one of your nights at the hotel. Join us on the 'broad highway' of service to A.A.-as-a-whole and find out what you've been missing.

#### ***In Love and Service, Jeff, your editor***

[Substantial material from the 2007-2008 *General Service Manual* combined with *Twelve Concepts for World Service* was used in writing this article.]

***We welcome your comments and questions.***

***Send topic ideas or complaints to:***

[delegate5754@gmail.com](mailto:delegate5754@gmail.com)



#### ***IN MEMORIUM***

Emery "Al" J., Jr., aged 85 passed away on Tuesday October 19, 2010. Sober since April 1982, he served Area 54 as our Panel 43 delegate, attending the 1993 and 1994 General Service Conferences. Al served on the Conference Committee on Trustees. He also served as Alternate Delegate, 1991-1992. Al lived in Oakwood, an eastern suburb of Cleveland. He served in the U.S. Navy during WWII. During his long life, Al served as a volunteer fireman, Boy Scout troop leader, a Steward in his church, employee of Ben Venue Laboratories in Bedford, father of eight children with his wife Pauline, and family historian.

## Northeast Ohio-Area 54 Elects New Delegate and Area Officers

# Area Election Results

The next Delegate and Committee of officers for Area 54 was elected on October 17th in Brunswick. These officers will serve for a two-year term, beginning January 1, 2011.

### NAME and POSITION

Bob D., Delegate Panel 61  
Ola P., Alternate Delegate

Jay M., Area Chairperson  
Calvin L., Area Treasurer

Jamie B., Recording Secretary  
Joel T., Mailing Secretary

## Vote Tally from the Third Legacy Procedure

Standing for Delegate						Standing for Treasurer		
	<i>1st ballot</i>	<i>2nd ballot</i>	<i>3rd ballot</i>	<i>4th ballot</i>	<i>Hat</i>		<i>1st ballot</i>	<i>2nd ballot</i>
Bob D	54	67				Calvin L	by Unanimous Consent	
Diane K	26	3						
Ola P	7	18						
Standing for Alternate Delegate						Recording Secretary		
Diane K	3					Jamie B	by Unanimous Consent	
Jay M	38	44	49	50				
Joel T	17	9						
Ola P	26	31	34	33	Drawn			
Standing for Area Chairperson						Mailing Secretary		
Diane K	8	1				Joel T	38	42
Jamie B	26	19				Quincetta M	28	21
Jay M	47	59						



## Delegate's Report Cont'd

groups to arrange to have attendees at this important conference that creates communication with our delegate heading to New York. This is the opportunity for the **Group's Voice to be Heard!**

My vision for the upcoming year is to increase the involvement in all of our committees. This is the backbone of 12-Step work. Committees are an opportunity to do the ground level improvement of communication with meetings and members and for better coordination of activities as well as a learning and education experience. In addition, my vision is to continue total commitment by the panel and committees to re-light dark districts.

I will continue to be available to hear your views and thoughts and stay abreast of the pulse of the Area. Please feel free to contact me at any time. You may reach me at 216.408.9020.

Respectfully submitted,

Love and service, **Bob Denihan, Delegate for Northeast Ohio-Area 54, Panel 61**

## Area Officer Reports

On January 1, 2009 I began a two year term as your Area Delegate. That was the culmination of service work starting almost immediately when I joined my first Home Group . God gave me sobriety on April 4, 1990 and the two gentlemen who twelfth stepped me led me to the Fellowship Group in Cape Coral, Florida. On my second day of sobriety (in a fog) they showed me how to make *Decaf* coffee for the meeting in the largest coffee pot I had ever seen in my life! I asked why Decaf coffee and they said the meeting was mostly attended by retired members and if we didn't serve Decaf coffee, we would be lucky to make it out of this church ALIVE! Harvey and Herb were two retired members who spent a lot of their time working with me and other alcoholics in early recovery. They were both involved in Service work at the Group, District, and Area level in General Service and were two of the happiest AA members I had seen in those early days of my sobriety. I believe that was why I got involved in Service work in AA. The happiest folks I saw in AA were carrying the AA message in to our local Detox in Fort Myers on Wednesday evenings. My sponsor who came from Rhode Island reopened a meeting in the local Salvation Army that had been disbanded after two years. The three gentlemen I just wrote about all believed in what I still adhere to today. If I have heard it once, I have heard it a thousand times, "In order to stay sober, we have to give it away!"

When my father became ill in Pennsylvania in the early nineties, I knew it was time to go home. I was the eldest child in my family and my Father and I had a very close father and son relationship. You see my old drinking buddy and mentor in the business world became sober on March 26, 1991. We communicated quite often and I used to enjoy saying to my father, "Gee Dad, isn't it great

we don't have to swing from the chandeliers anymore!" My service work in AA at the Area level took me to PA Area 60 when I became a District Committee Member and an Area Treatment Chair. There was a lot of driving involved because PA Area 60 covers one half of the State of PA! That is when I began coining the phrase, "Ah shucks, it's only an inch on the map!"

In 2001, I returned to Ohio (this time sober) and attended my first ever Mini-Conference in Ashtabula, Ohio in 2002. When I had attended assemblies like this before they were called Getaway Weekends (in PA) and Pre-Conference Assemblies in Florida. I learned a lot at this Mini-Conference because I was told that this mock Conference would show me what happens at the General Service Conference that is held every year in April. I have not missed a Mini-Conference since I arrived here in 2001 and I am Co-Chairing the Mini-Conference in April of 2011. I had the honor and privilege of representing the AA members in NE Ohio at the General Service Conference and some of the delegates were in awe that I came from the Birthplace of AA. I would tell them that Akron is a special place because I have met a few members who work at the Intergroup office who are *passionate* about sharing our AA history with us. The archivists at the Akron Office have helped me understand how AA began and how many friends we have had to help God and our Founders succeed in forming and keeping Alcoholics Anonymous what it is today. The past two years have been an incredible journey that took me to many places in the US where AA is alive and well. To see Twelfth Step work being done in AA or making Twelfth Step work possible in the US, Canada or worldwide has always been the goal of your General Service Office.

The Big Book of AA is the engine that drives the Office in New York, and that Big Book and God saved my life and countless other members in Alcoholics Anonymous. When I was at the 60<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference this year in New York, at the end of the Conference we had an opportunity to say our goodbyes (the Panel 59's would be rotating out of our service positions). When it was time for me to come to the microphone I reminded the Conference that the first Northern Ohio Delegate was Bill D. (*AA number three*) and he was on the Budget Committee. I thanked the Delegates who elected me to be the Chair of the Finance Committee. I firmly believe Alcoholics Anonymous is in good hands, as I have witnessed the AA members who work tirelessly trying to preserve it.

Love and Service, Danny F. (59)(54)

It is hard to believe that my two year term as Mailing Secretary is coming to an end. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve and have learned much over the past couple of years. We reinstated mailing parties, and I was able to travel all over Area 54 and meet many GSRs and other members of AA who I otherwise would not have. I and the other officers of Panel 59 were able to carry the message of General Service as well as get the mailings ready. I don't know about anybody else, but I had a blast!

I owe a deep debt of gratitude to many people who have helped. We all in the Area owe thanks to the Akron Intergroup who allowed us to print at their office, saving us significantly on the cost of printing. The Akron Board has agreed to allow us to continue to print at their office so the savings will continue. To all who helped to fold and stuff, thanks! I look forward to helping Joel in the

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## Area Officer and Committee Reports, Cont'd

transition to the next Panel.

Starting in January, I will serve as the Area 54 Chairman. Thanks to all who supported me, especially the Akron area GSRs and DCMs who attended the election Assembly. I believe we had 17 or 18 members from the Akron area and that is a tribute to the strength of the Akron Multidistrict. I had a couple of newer GSRs who wondered about the fairness of our Third Legacy Procedure. They were referring to the election for Alternate Delegate where I had received over 60% of the vote, yet Ola P. came out of the hat.

In American politics, that is a landslide. In Alcoholics Anonymous, it is not quite good enough. On the surface, it does seem somewhat unfair, but when examining the spiritual principles behind our Third Legacy procedure it becomes clear that it is a perfect system. We require substantial unanimity; removing any politics, railroading, or other "character defects" that might enter into our electoral process. Who can argue with leaving the choice up to God when someone is not an overwhelming choice? Ola is a great choice, she has served faithfully and fully deserves to be our Alternate Delegate.

I have learned over the years to not question what God has in store for me. The position of Area Chair is important and I very much look forward to serving over the next two years and helping the Area to grow and better carry the message. One of the basic tenets of AA is that there is no possession more valuable than a sober sunrise, and any drunk who demands more out of life than that will probably not have it. Asking for more is like trying to hold water in your fingers.

Jay M.— Mailing Secretary P59/  
Area Chairperson P61

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your Area 54 Panel 59 Chairperson. My most sincere thanks, and gratitude to all for your support during this time.

The position of Area Chairperson proved not only to be a meaningful growth experience, but a very humbling one as well. I came to realize that in order to be of maximum service, that practice of the principles as outlined in our Twelve Steps are most vital. I've learned that in order to maintain inner peace; I must always *"above all to thine own self be true. That in service as in life, but especially in service, "principles before personalities"*

must be constant and conscious.

Like the "old Arab, whose tent was pitched next to a company of whirling dervishes," I don't have to get caught with the whirling, I can choose to just let them whirl. I am an alcoholic and as such, as outlined in our Twelve Traditions, do not wish to engage in any controversy. This applies to my personal life as well as my AA life, and my service life. Over the years, "to be right" has lost its place in my thinking. Today I just want state of mind to do, by the grace of God, what is right.

Again, I thank you and I am forever grateful for your love, your understanding and your support over the years past.  
In Loving and Grateful Service  
Ola P. – Area Chairperson (59/54)

On October 17, 2010 I was elected Treasurer of Area 54, Panel 61 per the Third Legacy Procedure. Previously I held the position of Treasurer in Panel 59, filling a vacated position. The Area Guidelines state "Area officers do not stand for an office they currently hold, unless they were appointed or elected to fill a vacated position, then they can stand for a full term by election." The position of Area Treasurer has afforded me the opportunity to both rekindle and learn new skills. My basic responsibilities include:

- Recording contributions from groups, individuals and other entities.
- Sending Thank You letters to contributors.
- Trips to the Post Office Box to pick up mail.
- Trips to the bank to make deposits.
- Preparing treasurer reports of current income and expenses and year to date figures compared to Budget.
- Preparing payments per checks which require two signatures.
- Being available to assist in Area events.

I learn more as I continue in this process and am grateful for the opportunity to serve.

In Love and Service,  
Calvin L.—Area 54 Treasurer

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you, for giving me the privilege to serve once again as the incoming N.E. Ohio Area 54 Recording Secretary. I truly look forward to working with the incoming panel and committee chairpersons. In serving others, I serve my Higher Power. To give of ourselves—our time, energy, love and understanding—in joyous service to anyone is what I believe brings great happiness and satisfaction to me. As I contemplate my service as Recording Secretary, my heart is filled with gratitude.

Giving and serving to others, for this recovering alcoholic are the normal everyday joys I find in being able to live another day of sobriety.

Yours in Service Always,  
Jamie B.—Recording Secretary

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Finance

I am continuing to learn more about self support. I have learned about the anonymity of each group as it pertains to how we support the General Service Office. There is so much yet to learn and understand. I have seen members old and new place more than one dollar in the basket if they can. This helps me to realize that we are listening to what is being said about self support and that it is working.

We realize that many of us can't put \$3, \$5 or \$10 dollars in the basket each week. But, if we begin to put in the basket what we can honestly afford to, then we are doing our part in keeping AA Self Supporting. As it states in the "Self Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix" pamphlet, "Now that we are sober in A.A., the word "support" has to do with sharing, people, self-respect, gratitude, and what we are privileged to give — not take — in material terms.

I thank everyone in Alcoholics Anonymous who gave me the privilege to serve as Area 54 Finance Chairperson. It truly has been an honor.

Jamie B. - Outgoing Finance Chair

### Corrections

I was grateful to serve at this position and was able to learn a lot about corrections and serving of others got to meet a lot of new

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## Upcoming Events...

### Area 54 Northeast Ohio General Service Mini-Conference XXXVI

**April 1-3, 2010**

Only 93 delegates get to attend the General Service Conference in New York every year, so 36 years ago, the Mini-Conference was created to give the rest of us a taste of what the conference is like. Participating members get assigned to a committee where they discuss and vote on the actual agenda items that the delegates will be taking on at the real conference in New York. After the committee meetings conclude, all participants assemble to vote on all of the agenda items.

The Mini-Conference also provides great fellowship, a hospitality room, marathon meetings through the night, and a guest from our General Service Office in New York City. All AA members are encouraged to attend and participate, not just GSRs. Go to [www.area54.org](http://www.area54.org) to download the registration form, look for one in your area mailing, or pick one up at an AA meeting.



### 2011 Area Events

**January 16** – Area Assembly      **Gv Lit**  
**January 23** – Mini-Conf planning meeting  
 If inclement weather, then March 13<sup>th</sup> also  
*Double Tree Hotel – Independence, Oh*  
**February 20** – Workshop TBA  
**February 27** – Mini-Conf planning meeting  
*Double Tree Hotel – Independence, Oh*  
**March 20** – Area Committee meeting  
 (and MC planning snow date)  
**April 1-3** – 36<sup>th</sup> NEOH Mini-Conference  
*Independence Double Tree Hotel*      **Gv Lit**  
**April 17** – Area Assembly  
**May 15** – Unity Day TBA      **Lit**  
**June 10-12** – Founders’ Day      **Gv**  
 Grapevine sales on Saturday only 6/11  
**June 19** – Area Committee Meeting  
**June 26** – Area Open House Picnic  
**July 17** – Area Assembly      **Gv Lit**  
**August 21** – Workshop TBA  
**September 18** — Area Committee Meeting  
**October 16** — Area Assembly      **Gv Lit**  
**November 20** -- Gratitude Sunday      **Gv Lit**  
**December 18** -- Area Committee Meeting

**Gv** denotes a *Grapevine* sales day  
**Lit** denotes a **Literature** sales day

### Ohio, Regional...and Beyond

#### Elsewhere in Ohio

**Feb 25-27**—Perrysburg, OH  
 Area 55 Mini-conference  
**March 11-13**—Lore City, OH  
 Area 53 Mini-conference  
**March 25-27**—Kings Island, OH  
 Area 56 Mini-conference  
**May 14**—Columbus, OH  
 Ohio State Convention Planning Meeting  
 @ 10 am  
**August 5-7**—Cincinnati, OH.  
 55<sup>th</sup> Ohio State Convention  
**August 12-13**—Independence, OH  
 OYPAA Convention

#### U.S. and Canada

**May 1-7**—New York, NY  
 61<sup>st</sup> General Service Conference



#### East-Central Region

**February 11-13**—Appleton, WI  
 Conference of Delegates, Past and Present  
**July 22-24**—Columbus, IN  
 Indiana State Convention & ECR Conference  
**November 10-13**—Miamisburg, OH  
 East Central Regional Forum and Ohio State Convention Planning Meeting

## 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.

### Confidential Contact List

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 Visit us at <http://www.area54.org>