

# The Northeast Ohio Recorder

April, May, June 2013

<http://www.area54.org>

Volume XXIII, Issue 2

**"Let us remember that great legion who still suffer from alcoholism and who are still without hope. Let us, at any cost or sacrifice, so improve our communication with all these that they may find what we have found - a new life of freedom under God."**

AA Co-Founder, Bill W., February 1961, From: "The Shape of Things to Come", *I Am Responsible: The Hand of AA*, © A. A. Grapevine, Reprinted with permission

## NOTE THE DATE

**April 21** – Area Assembly  
**May 19** – Unity Day  
**June 7-9** – Founders' Day  
**June 23** – Open House Picnic  
**July 21** – Area Assembly  
**August 18** – Workshop  
**September 15** - Area Assembly  
**October 20** - Area Assembly  
**November 17** - Gratitude Sunday

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

The 12 Step Recovery Club, located at 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

**Warmest Greetings Area 54** — As of this writing, I have served as your Delegate for exactly 3 months and one day. By the time you read this, three things will have happened. I will either be getting ready to depart for the 63<sup>rd</sup> General Service Conference, I will be there already, or I will have returned. It is a great honor for me to be chosen to carry the conscience of our area to the conference. Even though I must keep an open mind, somewhere in the recesses of my mind will be the conscience of Area 54, which I will have obtained at our Mini-Conference.



Although at times grueling, and at other times even dreaded, the reward is well worth the time, effort, and expense that comes with the job. I consider it just one of many blessings, to be given the opportunity to travel to the other Ohio Areas and share in their area's conscience. Another part of the blessing is the people that I have met over the years and the new friends that I make with each trip. This year we traveled to LaPorte, Indiana to attend the Conference of Delegates Past and Present. Again, to be surrounded by past delegates, first and second year delegates and past and present trustees is an incredible experience. It affirms for me that those of us, who toil in General Service, truly stand on the shoulders of giants. One such giant in particular, who so inspired me is Dorothy W., a past Trustee-at-Large. Dorothy will be moving back home to North Dakota and therefore will not be able to attend our region's conference any longer. Although I will miss seeing here at this conference, the internet will give me an avenue for lasting communication with her.

As I said before the schedule of the Delegate is sometimes grueling and beginning January 1, 2013 I have been on the go so much that my family calls me a Jet Setter.

To tell the truth, I sometimes feel like one, although, except for the General Service Conference, I travel by car. (*Giggles*) I am forever grateful that here in Ohio we have Mini-Conferences because it gives the Delegates a birds-eye view of what it will be like at the conference. Not all areas are so fortunate, as I learned at the Mini-Conference recently in Area 56. They had invited a Delegate from a neighboring state to attend to get an idea of the conference experience.

I will actually be at the Conference when we have our next Area Assembly, so all I can say now is *that* "I going to wake up in a city that never sleeps". Almost like a real Jet Setter.

*Humor - spiritual food for the Soul*

In Loving Service  
Ola P., Delegate  
63/54

### MY HOME GROUP IS....

I attended one of my regular meetings a few weeks back and got a little depressed. Neither secretary nor chairperson was present. Others were filling in for them. When I looked around the room, more than half the home group members were missing. In fact, the whole room was only half full. Waiting a few minutes after the hour, the substitute chair began the meeting with readings and announcements. The chair strolled in with her piping hot Starbucks cup as the lead was being introduced, offering no apology then or later. After the basket was passed, you couldn't have changed a five dollar bill, the collection was so small.

What is going on with this group? I guess everyone figures "Somebody else will do it." That somebody died back in September. His name was Eddie and he had 46 years of sobriety. At 89 years old, Eddie set up seven meetings a week, only one his home group. This quarter I'd like to reflect on our personal responsibilities to AA, specifically starting at our home groups. One thing Eddie stressed to me was that you were ALWAYS at your home group, no matter what. He would never accept another speaking commitment on the night of his home group, either – the group was more important than his story. Apart from serious illness in your family or your own funeral, Eddie made few exceptions to his rule. With this in mind, let me just say that **my home group is...**

**Where I feel at home.** We were loved into sobriety. This is one of the ways we practice these principles in all our affairs. Feeling like we fit in because others love and tolerate us. It was participation in my home group that I first learned about **our three legacies**.

**Where I learned about recovery.** Being a home group member who shows up every week makes me dependable and reliable for the people who need to see me and who need to find me on a regular schedule. Here starts our own good example for the newcomer. Using the Steps outside the rooms to the best of our ability helps us live life on life's terms. The home group is a lifeline to recovering alcoholics and needs to thrive.

**Where I learned about unity.** "Love and Tolerance of Others is Our Code." People tolerated me a lot when I was new – don't I owe that to others? It is up to all of us, in unity, to insure this occurs. We cannot, for one moment, think that someone else will make it happen. We must take on the responsibility ourselves and not leave it to chance. It is just too important. Remembering the Spiritual Principle of Our Twelfth Tradition; that I'm not that important. AA comes before me. Anonymity builds the spiritual principle of humility. It's amazing what we can accomplish together when we don't care who gets the credit. What's said here, stays here.

**Where I learned about service.** Activity at the home group includes having a GSR and an Intergroup Rep; others active on Corrections, Archives, CPC/PI committees. Participation in our fellowship's services, by responsible home group members, is what has kept Alcoholics Anonymous alive and thriving for all these years. That is what is needed to insure AA is here for all those who want it and have yet to realize that fact. Day-to-day service in our home groups is the basic building blocks of our service structure. By sending our GSR to district and area meetings, assemblies, mini-conferences our group voice gets heard as part of a wider AA group conscience. We must sometimes be reminded that our primary objective is to carry the message to the still-suffering alcoholic. This is accomplished at the personal, group, district, and area levels. We members must take action

and participate in our fellowship. At the personal level we must welcome the newcomer with open arms and offer our time, efforts, experience, strength, and hope so that we can keep what was so freely given to us. It also means that we need to participate at the home group level to insure there is a welcoming place for those who want the unique help only we can provide. This requires some personal sacrifice of time because we need coffee makers, leaders, greeters, treasurers, secretaries and yes, General Service Representatives to ensure the health and well-being of the home group and the fellowship as a whole. This requires some work by the members, inside and outside the group. Service inside the home group is vital to its survival and service outside the home group insures the health and well-being of the fellowship as a whole. Service outside the home group is actually all about service to the home group too because everything you do is aimed at carrying the message and allowing twelve step work to happen by the members of your home group.

**Where I am responsible** to carry our message of life-saving recovery from a seemingly helpless, hopeless state of mind and body – not just any message, but this message and these principles. Do I carry the A.A. message or my own? We try to rewrite the Big Book when we were new, until we come to discover the wisdom of AA as it is. Singleness of purpose ensures that the AA message will be here for the next alcoholic coming in. Only a desperate, hopeless alcoholic can carry this message of recovery to another hopeless, desperate drunk.

**Where I first learned about sponsorship.** Where sponsorship begins – making sure the newcomer is welcomed, identified, has a meeting schedule and a Big Book. "The sponsor begins by encouraging the member to become active in their home group; coffee, literature, cleanup, attending business meetings or Intergroup meetings, etc. The sponsor might help find tasks appropriate to an individual's skills and interests. Whatever level of service one performs, all are toward the same end—sharing the overall responsibilities of Alcoholics Anonymous." [taken from 2008 text of pp 28-29, Q&A About Sponsorship]

**Where I exercise my voice and vote** in AA. One member, one vote, one home group. We all have favorite groups we like to attend regularly but generally we can only afford to support one group financially, spiritually, and commitment-wise. If my home group were to fall on hard times, would I be willing to reach down into my pocket for \$5 or \$10, instead of \$1 or \$2, to keep the doors open? Can you afford to do that at two groups?

**Where Money and Spirituality Mix.** An AA dollar not spent is a drunk not helped. Maybe the dollar I put in the basket today can help start AA in some far away place like Mongolia. Try to put \$2 in the basket for the guy/gal who can't yet afford even one dollar. Do we grow shorter arms and deeper pockets in recovery? We do the best we can with what we have to work with, but home group members dig deeper to cover donuts, big books, donations. Letting go of money requires humility. Supporting AA as a whole helps me in a spiritual way.

The home group really is the heartbeat of AA. ~Your editor, Jeff  
We welcome your service-related contributions, comments and questions. Send topic ideas or complaints to: [newsletter@area54.org](mailto:newsletter@area54.org)



## Alternate Delegate's Report

**Informed Group Conscience**—We just experienced our 38th annual Northeast Ohio Mini Conference. All came together to hear and receive information, then vote on the various agenda items presented at the conference. Hopefully, we came to an informed group conscience.

What is an informed group conscience? First let us look at the definitions of the words. **Inform** – To give or impart knowledge. Supply with knowledge of a matter or subject. (Group Business/problems). **Group** – A collection of individuals who have regular contact and work to achieve a common goal. (Sobriety for AA). **Conscience** – The inner sense of what is right or wrong which impels one toward right action. (God Consciousness). An informed group conscience would be a collection of individuals who have regular contact and have been supplied with knowledge on a subject which will lead them to a right decision.

This would imply that individuals have been selected to go out and obtain information and report

back on the matter, with each individual having an equal opportunity to impart this knowledge. It would also imply that the recipients of said information would be of an open mind, and vote their conscience. They should not be influenced by popularity or loudness of individuals. Placing principles before personalities, one should vote his/her conscience based on the information imparted.

Once a vote is taken with a majority decision and/or substantial unanimity, it is imperative that the minority opinion be given the opportunity to express their opinion. If after the minority opinion is expressed one of the majority voters decides to change his vote, it becomes a motion to reconsider which must be seconded. This is particular to A.A. (Our fifth concept.) and we can discuss and decide to vote again or not.

Hopefully, we are also practicing this at the Group level.

**Calvin L.**  
**Alternate Delegate, Panel 63**

## Area Officer and Committee Reports

### AREA CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

I can't believe one fourth of the year is gone!!

Recently I have faced several difficult challenges that life itself presents, including me as one of the most prevalent. However, being involved in service and listening to others in alcoholics anonymous has allowed me to get out of myself. Undergoing some of these issues I was given the opportunity to truly practice step ten, not that I saw it as that at first. Someone in the program spoke to me straight from their heart, it was not until then and there, was I able to honestly look at myself and admit the part I had played in a situation. I was then able to make an honest and sincere apology for my actions. I realize the more I actually

practice the steps (especially step 10) and principles in all of my affairs, the more comfortable I will feel when being honest with myself in admitting that I am wrong. Being able to do this will allow me to promptly admit my wrong doing to those involved. Service in alcoholics anonymous has afforded me the ability to grow into becoming a better person and helping others to the best of my ability one day at a time. I really love Alcoholics Anonymous.

Yours in Service Always,  
Jamie B.—Area Chairperson

### AREA RECORDING SECRETARY'S REPORT

the Journey continues...

During the last four months, my journey into general service works

has given me the opportunities to experience things that I have done before, but just in a different light. For example, I have been a secretary before, but now my duties include recording and transcribing minutes from our area assemblies. Little did I know the time-consuming effort this would be, but it has given me a chance to look for shortcuts...I have not found any yet, but it is still early. Additionally this position allows me to learn what is happening in Area by reading and adding districts reports to our assembly minutes. It is amazing to see general service developing and growing in our community, I just wished more people would take part. They do not know what they are missing! Another thing I've done before is travel in recovery. My sponsor and I would take road trips to conferences all around the U.S., and we have had great times.

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## Committee Reports, Cont'd

(Continued from page 3)

However, now I travel as representative of the Northeast Ohio General Service area. I have met many different people and the amazing thing is that they are experiencing the same thing I am, learning about service work at the area level.

Recently, I met a recording secretary who was new to the position in her area. We compared notes and found that while we still have a lot to learn, the process has been a positive encounter for our recovery. Besides meeting new people, I am getting to know our panelists by sharing in conversations while driving to different events. It is enlightening to hear about their stories.

So, if you reading the Recorder for first time or the hundredth, come and join us at our next assembly! Draw closer to AA by getting involve in general service work. You might be "amazed before you are half-way through" (a portion of the ninth step). In Service,  
Shyrl B.  
Area 54/Panel 63  
Recording Secretary

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

The committee participates in two activities during this reporting period; the Ad Hoc for the 2015 International Convention Hospitality Room and Making recommendations to the Area Mini-Conference regarding 2 agenda items about updating a video and publish an anniversary edition of the Big book (1st Edition). We affirmed both recommendations. We look forward to hearing how the Conference handled these agenda items.

James T, Archives Chairperson

### CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE

Akron Intergroup hosted a corrections workshop on March 30th. The Youngstown Multi-District has a new corrections chair, Ross, who started March 10. Cathleen S. has joined our committee as alternate chair.

The co-chair of the correction committee within multi-districts 7, 8, & 48 went to a corrections workshop in area 53 and found very informative. Our chairperson Tina C., is in contact with Mahoning County Jail to bring a meeting for women to the jail. We are possible bringing a meeting to women's misdemeanor jail when it reopens.

Love and Service,  
Tina C.—Corrections Chairperson

### DARK DISTRICTS

Dark District ad Hoc Committee- I was asked to "shed" light on dark districts and help current district maintain service. Recently, I have done extensive work with the Lorain district. We rebuilt the entire service structure. Yesterday I visited Akron Multi-District and rolled out new service forms to make service position easier. On May 1st, I schedule with wellington to see what is happening in District 30.

Dan F., chairperson

### FINANCE COMMITTEE

Susan presented a well-received presentation on the 7th tradition at the mini-conference. The chairperson also announced the availability

of the anniversary envelopes for those celebrating an anniversary in April.

Terry H., chairperson



**AA Grapevine**  
"Our Meeting in Print"

### GRAPEVINE COMMITTEE

We have 22 Gvr's through out the area. One of the gvr is an artist that draws cartoons for our magazine. Remember to get a subscription. There several different options ranging in price \$ 28.97 to \$ 49.97 for the magazines and a 26.97 digital archives subscription. In preparation for Founder's Day we are placing an order for materials.

Bob D., AAGV chairperson

### HISPANIC LIAISON

The Hispanic council met with Area 54 representatives. The Hispanic core participants are Wellington R., Harry Q., Carlos Z., and Ricardo. Two others were absent at time of the meeting/ Suggestions were passed about a formation of the Hispanic Council by are representatives and are being implemented.

Wellington R.

### GROUP SERVICES COMMITTEE

We had our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual GSR School February 17. An entirely new Group Services Committee (except me, of course ) presented!!! First

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## Committee Reports, Cont'd

(Continued from page 4)

things first... I would like to introduce the new members of the Group Services Committee: Alli B., Amy C., Erika B.. This was their first time presenting and I think they did an extraordinary job. Can we please give them a round of applause? It was a packed house, even though we missed some of our Panel and a few others due to the Delegates Past and Present weekend.

We reorganized parts of the Powerpoint Presentation, making it more logical and flowing. Future goals include updating the GSR Workbook to coincide with the presentation.

We have been asked to present another workshop on May 18<sup>th</sup> in Akron. More information at the next Assembly.

We also need more members. Please feel free to signup if you are interested in Group Services.

Diane K.—Group Services Chairperson

### LITERATURE COMMITTEE

I recently became committee chairperson for Literature in Area 54. Terry H, past chair, has offered to participate on the committee until I become more experienced. If anyone else is interested in participating on this committee, please let me know. In addition to literature sales at the mini-conference, we sell literature five other days per year.

The committee's first event was the 38th Mini Conference. In preparations for the conferences packets for attendee we order materials from GSO. The total sale was \$54. During the mini-conference we had sales that total \$200. To replenish deleted stock and to fill individual orders an additional order was made to GSO that amounted to \$ 267.

Jerry P.—Literature Chairperson

### NORTHEAST OHIO RECORDER

The recent issue of the NE Ohio Recorder was given to the mailing secretary on the day following the mini-conference. The voting session was the last item in. A few reports and one article were not included because of lack of space. I ask the area officers to consider a larger format for the newsletter so that reports needn't be left out.

Jeff Y., your editor

### PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE

Want to thank everyone who participated in PI discussion at the Mini Conference. There were four agenda items. Public Information also received a request from Case Western School of Medicine /Child Psychiatry to cross-link their website with AA and the AREA 54 website. I respond that AA is always willing to those who want to stop drinking and answer any questions, but according the sixth tradition we couldn't link the websites.

Quinsetta M—PI Chairperson

### SPECIAL NEEDS COMMITTEE

On 1-3-13 I went to the Akron Intergroup Broad Meeting with Special Needs trifold and asked if they would set some out so other AA's could take and help get them out in the AA community .

1-13-13 I went to a meeting at St. Thomas Hospital to see if they

would be willing to become an ASL meeting and they voted and will be a ASL meeting. Also had another talk with Green Leaf about starting a hearing impaired meeting there. It was suggested to start in a meeting already started. Passing out trifold to committee members to take back to their areas so they can be set out at meetings. Have been back in touch with Green Leaf about helping a member with his ASL skills so that he may be the ASL person at the SUNDAY MORNING MEETING at St. Thomas Hospital.

Humbly Submitted,  
Roosevelt T.—Special Needs Chair

### TREATMENT COMMITTEE

We had 130 new AA members as a result of Bridging the Gap (BTG) work. We need a BTG contact in Cleveland. If anyone would like to know more about Treatment service work or BTG, contact Gary C or Bill H.

We have had Bridge to gap from West Virginia to Washington D.C. We have 233 new contracts. To help follow up on these new contacts please see me after the meeting.

Gary C.—Committee Chair

### **I am responsible ...**

When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help. I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible.



## District and Committee Reports, Cont'd

### DISTRICT COMMITTEE REPORTS

**D#01 – Ron O:** I have spent time updating information on the meeting new in my district. Six are no longer in existence and 5 have move to another district. I also enrolled seven new meetings.

**D#02—Roosevelt T. :** Since receiving the package from the area, I have been going to meetings and updating them with some success. One meeting had move out and another moved in.

**D#04—Vincent W. :** I have updated about 9 groups. These groups have update information with some having GSR's or contact and some in the process. I still need to visit a few more.

**D#05A—John McP.:** Meetings continue to have good attendance and income. Group secretaries are rotating, but new treasures need info or in-services about their responsibilities. Some groups are having difficulties with disruptive people and harassing situations.

**D#08—Jim S. Alternate DCM:** The DCM is getting familiar with his new position. His is updating and visiting groups. We have recently added a new women's meeting.

**D#10—David W. :** held two events, a 12 Step- workshop in November of 2012 and hosted a mailing party. Additionally all current groups are updated. Our annual picnic will be on August 4<sup>th</sup> at Christmas Run Park.

**D#13—Gary C. :** We had an election and got a new chair, alternate DCM and treasurer. The district is

strong and we are getting a new chairperson for treatment.

**D#19A—Ellen W. :** I have updated most of the meetings. The alternate has been assisting as well. Most of the meetings are well attended. I plan to visit each meeting to promote donations and encourage attending Brunswick and the Lorain Multidistrict.

**D#23—Dave T. :** Most groups are reporting above average attendance. I am updating and contacting meetings. I am also working with 39 on Area Open House picnic.

**D#27—Nick W. :** 27 have been a "dark" district for some time. Only 2 groups had GSR's and none donate to Area. Some contact info is 10 year old. I have been updating groups since July 2012 and have obtained updated information.

**D#29—Denise H.:** There are two new meetings in the district with GSRs. The groups are Circle of Friends and Kinsman Saturday Morning. We thank you for your service.

**D#30 – Wellington R.:** sponsored a GSR workshop in November at Nite & Day Club where we had 12 new people interested in GSR work. We are working on framework for the Lakeshore Multi-district. It will include districts 30, 43, & 44. We plan to have a secretary's workshop in July and our picnic in August.

**D#34 — Quinsetta M. :** So far this year there seems to be one basic question in the district , where to send the money. I have handed out a list of the four entities and also the Self-Support packet.

**D#35 — Edward U. :** Four groups have elected new GSR. I will send

the change forms to registrar before next meeting.

**D#36 — Robert A. :** As the newly chairperson of the Cleveland North-coast Multi-district, I am continuing to carry the message in an attempt to get more of us involved in service.

**D#45 – Michael R. :** Just turn in my DCM package and there are a lot of changes. I am still going to meetings in district that do not have a GSR and encouraging them to elect one.

**D#49 – Jerry P:** District 49 consists of 25 groups in northern summit county. I am pleased to report that the group information for all of the groups in the district has been updated.

**D#50 — Bill H. :** I have recently been appointed to this position . D# 50 has approximately 50 groups. I have been visiting the groups and updating them. King School has a new GSR, Gussie J.

**D#61— Nelson M:** I have talking with groups about electing an GSR, but none want to get involved, but want to be the primary contact. I am bringing a sober guy to the mini-conference. He wants to know more about general service.

### INTERGROUP REPORTS

**Bill H. – Akron Intergroup:** Registration have begun for Founder's Day. Registration is \$20 and you can register online at [www.akronaa.org](http://www.akronaa.org) or by mail. Registrations are also available on site that weekend. The Akron Intergroup 59th anniversary will be Sunday April 21th at St. Sebastian Church.

*(Continued on page 7)*

# District and Committee Reports, Cont'd

(Continued from page 6)

## Joel T. – Youngstown Intergroup:

By this coming Tuesday (In March) the intergroup will be in a new building. There is a contact number for information: 1-330-270-3000.

## FUNCTION REPORTS

**Diane K. – GSR School:** It was our 3rd annual workshop. A new committee present the workshop and it turn out well. Many people came out and it was well attended. The Power-Point used will be re-tooled to fit with our GSR workshop. The committee will be presenting another workshop in Akron in the month of May.

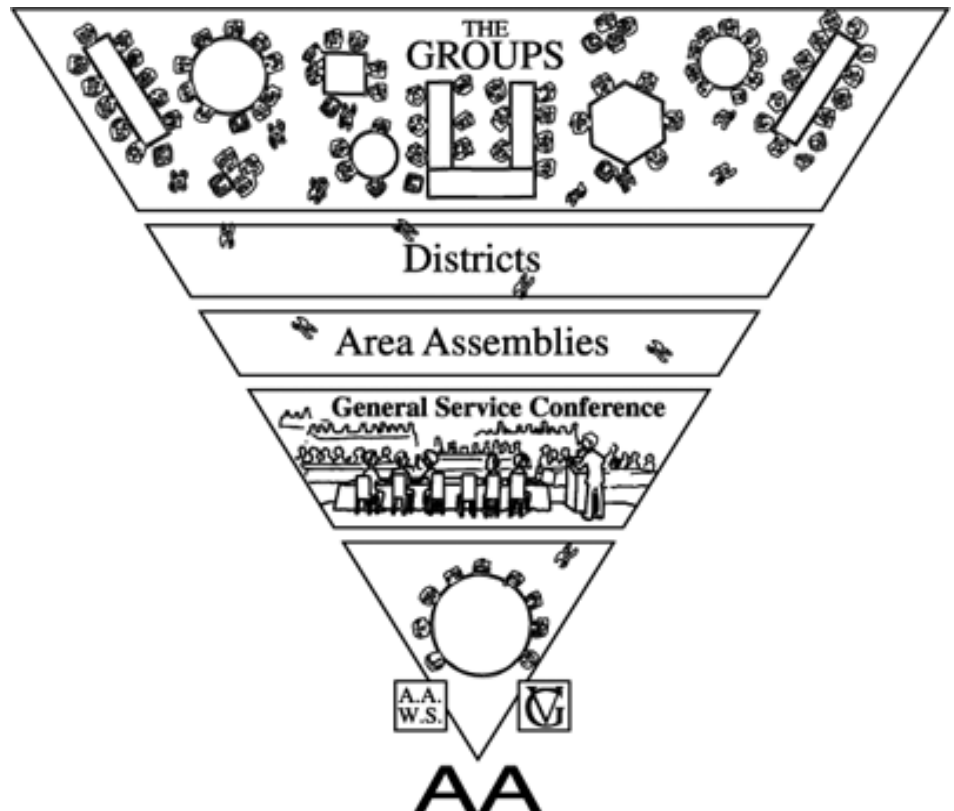
**Wellington R. & Diane K.—Unity Day Update:** The theme for Unity day will be “Where Money and Spirituality Mix”. The pamphlet baring that name will be use along with other literature. It is important we all be educated about this topic. It is pot-luck, so bring a dish.

**Dave/Dual district 23/39—Open House Picnic Update:** The location is the Lower Pavilion at Conneaut twp Park. There is no cost. The speaker will be a part trustee Bob M. Committees are being chosen and supply list worked on. A Flyer will be available at the Mini-Conference.

### Declaration of Unity

This we owe to A.A.'s future; to place our common welfare first; to keep our Fellowship united. For on A.A. unity depend our lives, and the lives of those to come.

**Shyrl B.—Area 53 Mini-Conference** It was weekend that I thoroughly enjoyed. On Friday, the conference started with introductions and Pam R, ECR trustee's report. On Saturday at the early bird meeting, I had the opportunity to connect with other area officers. On Saturday we were in committee most of the day. That evening Rick W., from GSO gave his report and lead. On Sunday, we had the voting session.



## Mini-Conference Agenda Items and Deliberations

### Archives - Chair: James T.

Consider a proposal to revise the video *Markings on the Journey*.

**The committee recommends the video *Markings on the Journey* be revised as presented.**

**Changes included image of Bill W. not consistent with the narrative, use timely images; clarity of blurred images; an SE Post 1941 without mailing label; zip code to get further information is incorrect.**

**MOTION passed 90-0**

Consider a proposal to publish a commemorative "75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition" of the First Edition, First Printing of *Alcoholics Anonymous* in April 2014.

**The committee recommends that AAWS publish a commemorative "75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition" of the First Edition, First Printing of *Alcoholics Anonymous* in April 2014.**

**Supporting reasons: no longer own copyright; several outside publishers are doing it; get back into publishing our own book; AA is the only entity that can publish a commemorative edition; might establish a new copyright?**

Consider a request to post selected archival audio recordings on GSOs A.A. Web site.

**The committee considered the request and took no action. Additional consideration: that the trustees' Archives Committee specify what recordings will be posted on the Website. Suggestion from floor that the recordings would rotate and include newly restored actions; Archivist should have latitude to select those as a trusted servant; right of decision Concept 3. Committee discussed that recordings might be stolen and that once in cyberspace it can be bootlegged.**

Review the Archives Workbook.

**The committee did not have time to review.**

### Cooperation With the Professional Community - Chair: Chris McG.

Discuss suggestion to revise text in the section *Referrals From Court and Treatment Facilities* in the pamphlet "If You Are a Professional ..." to reflect current A.A. experience.

**The committee recommends that the text in the section *Referrals From Court and Treatment Facilities* in the pamphlet "If You Are a Professional ..." be revised to reflect current A.A. experience.**

**MOTION passed 53-3**

Review the contents of the C.P.C. Kit Workbook

**The committee did not have sufficient time to review the CPC Kit and Workbook**

### Corrections - Chair: Tina C.

Referring to the pamphlet "A Message to Correctional Professionals"

1. Review draft replacement for the section "A.A. in correctional facilities" and two additional revisions. Discuss a review of the entire pamphlet.

**The committee recommends that two revisions be made to the section "A.A. in correctional facilities" in the pamphlet "A Message to Correctional Professionals."**

**The committee reviewed the entire pamphlet "A Message to Correctional Professionals" and took no action.**

**Additional consideration: 1) Add the aa.org web address to the section of listings of newspapers.; 2) replace 1,155 replace with words that don't change so often – like thousands.**

**MOTION passed 70 – 2 Motion to reconsider after the minority opinion was defeated.**

Review contents of Corrections Kit and Workbook.

**The committee reviewed the Corrections Kit and Work-**

**book and took no action.**

### Finance - Chair: Terry H.

Review suggested area contribution for delegate expense for the Conference.

**The committee reviewed the area contribution for delegate expense and took no action.**

Review Self-support Packet

**The committee reviewed the self-support packet and took no action.**

Review report on Self-support from the trustees' Finance Committee.

**The committee reviewed the report on self-support and took no action.**

### A.A. Grapevine- Chair: Bob D.

B. La Viña magazine:

Review the results of the 2012 assessment of La Viña as a bimonthly, perfect bound, black and white, 68-page magazine.

Consider discontinuing the requirement for the current format of the La Viña print magazine (i.e. 68 pages, perfect bound)

**The committee recommends that the required format that the La Viña magazine be printed as a perfect bound, 68-page magazine be discontinued.**

**To give the editors editorial decision making opportunity; a friendly amendment to change "discontinued" to optionally-sized; committee reworded the motion**

**MOTION passed 73-0**

D. Review contents of the A.A. Grapevine Workbook.

**The committee reviewed the public information video "Tengo Esperanza." video and make the following comments:**

### Literature #1 - Chair: Jerry P.

Consider a request to replace language in the second paragraph of the dust jacket of the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

*(Continued on page 9)*



## Mini-Conference Agenda Items and Deliberations

(Continued from page 8)

**The committee recommends that the second paragraph on the front dust jacket flap of the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of Alcoholics Anonymous be changed to: "The message of *Alcoholics Anonymous* contained from in 'The Doctor's Opinion and pages one through 164 of the Big Book.'"**

**MOTION was defeated 15 – 61; minority opinion the Kentucky statement was untrue because it said nothing was changed since 1939**

Consider a suggestion to add "Nonalcoholics may attend open meetings as observers" to the end of the *open meeting* side of the Primary Purpose (blue) card.

**The committee recommends that the sentence "Nonalcoholics may attend open meetings as observers" be added to the end of the text on the *open meeting* side of the Primary Purpose (blue) card.**

**Committee wants the information from "The AA Group Pamphlet" to match the blue card. However, the statement may preclude non alcoholics from commenting at open meetings**

**MOTION failed 18-51 Minority opinion – comments at AA meetings should be limited to alcoholics;**

**Motion to reconsider passed; nonalcoholics are welcome at meetings with some restrictions**

**Friendly amendment to change nonalcoholics to nonmembers was rejected by the committee.**

### Literature #2 - Chair: Dan M.

Consider a request to add an index to the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous.

**The committee took no action. Additional considerations:**

**That the trustees' Literature Committee prepare a draft index to Alcoholics Anonymous based on the 1970's index, after it is reviewed by a professional at a cost not to exceed \$5,000, and return the report, or a progress report, to the 2014 GSC Literature Committee.**

**That the trustees' Literature Committee conduct a feasibility study to determine the cost of publishing an index to the Big Book as a part of the book, or as a separate pamphlet, and return the study, or a progress report, to the 2014 GSC Literature Committee.**

Consider a request to add the subtitle "None Left Behind" to the newly revised "A.A. and the Armed Services" pamphlet.

**The committee recommends that the subtitle "None Left Behind" be added to the "A.A. and the Armed Services" pamphlet.**

**MOTION failed by substantial unanimity.**

### Public Information - Chair: Quinsetta M.

Discuss Fellowship sharing on the effectiveness of the language of the short form of Tradition 11.

**The committee recommends no change to the wording of the short form of Tradition Eleven**

Review a report from the trustees' P.I. Committee on establishing a P.I. Social Media Page. **The committee reviewed the report and accepted the report.**

Consider a request from A.A.W.S. for permission to use commissioned online stores to sell and distribute digital A.A. literature. **The committee recommends granting AAWS permission to use commissioned online stores to sell and distribute AA literature.**

**MOTION passed 59 - 4**

Review the contents of the P.I. Kit and Workbook

**The committee reviewed the PI Kit and Workbook and took no action.**

### Special Needs – Accessibilities- Chair: Roosevelt T.

Review contents of Special Needs/Accessibilities Kit and Workbook.

**The committee reviewed the kit and workbook and took no action.**

Discuss how Special Needs-Accessibilities committees can communicate the various ways to make meeting places accessible to all alcoholics. **The committee discussed the importance of using meeting facilities that are more accessible to those with physical and mental challenges.**

Discuss ways that Special Needs committees might help groups prepare in advance for arrival of deaf/hard of hearing alcoholics. **The committee discussed the need to highlight the locations of ASL meetings in local meeting schedules.**

### Treatment Facilities- Chair: Gary C.

Review a report on the pamphlet "A.A. for the Alcoholic with Special Need" formatted for alcoholics who are blind, deaf or learning challenged.

**The committee reviewed the report and took no action.**

Review contents of Treatment Facilities Kit and Workbook.

**The committee reviewed the Treatment Facilities Kit and Workbook and agreed that the pamphlet "A.A. for the Alcoholic with Special Needs" be added to the PI Kit.**

## Enabling 101

Dear Friend,

Your last letter arrived in the mail just one day later than the Easter card you made for me. It means a lot to me that you are willing to take the time to draw me cards and write me letters! I know how busy you are with Substance Abuse Program. Everything you've told me about the "sophomore phase" suggests I'm very fortunate I was able to get sober using the "easier, softer" way of plain old Alcoholics Anonymous. They're saying you can get paroled after completing the SAP program. My fervent wish is that once released from prison you can make use of the AA tools you've learned to stay sober on the outside.

I'm glad you're still interested in becoming a chemical dependency counselor and I'll look into finding that book you asked me about.

Even though I had no training, I still fancied myself a "chemical dependency counselor" for many years. I came from a family that was well populated with alcoholics and addicts. Before I got sober I prided myself on knowing what was best for each of those suffering individuals. I would make the choices that I was sure would help them "see the light" and find their way to sobriety. It was my job, after all, because I was a really smart guy with a talent for knowing how to best help other people! I figured my problems would be solved if I could just get all those other folks sober. It never occurred to me that it was myself I had to look at.

After I developed a taste for sobriety through the rooms of AA that vision of my curative capabilities came crashing down. I discovered that I had been a first class enabler. I thought I knew what was best for everyone else. I made decisions for them because I thought they weren't capable of doing it alone. But making decisions for other people deprives them of the ability to be responsible for their own decisions. It deprives them of the chance to grow and learn from the consequences of their own actions.

There's one other thing I'd like to get off my chest, if you don't mind. In this program we talk a

lot about character defects. Well that's not my favorite label because I like to think of myself as a pretty flawless person! But I have to face the fact that I suffer from the disease of alcoholism. And one of the ways that I can combat that disease is by taking a good look at the idiosyncrasies of my own personality. I'll call those idiosyncrasies "character defects" if that's what it takes to help me find recovery. It takes courage to make changes within myself but I've discovered that it's myself that is perhaps the only thing I can successfully change.

This organization called Alcoholics Anonymous is a nifty phenomenon. What other organization espouses service to others as a way to make sure that one is taking care of one's own best interests? One can shake hands at the door, make coffee for the suffering or talk to the newcomer as they stumble into the rooms. One can also decide to participate in the formal structure of AA service. I've dabbled in all of them and the process has been a valuable learning experience.

But I've found that through it all I have to remember that one of my "personality idiosyncrasies" is that I'm a first class enabler. I still have the tendency to think I know what's best for other people. And unfortunately the structure of "formal" service work in AA sometimes throws gasoline on the fire of my own tendency to be a first class know-it-all.

I'm sorry you have to spend so much time writing for being held accountable. Don't let it make you too grumpy, okay? Next letter, maybe you can talk more about the "thinking errors" they are focusing on in the classes you're taking in prison.

It's funny that you mention the masks that people wear. I was just thinking about that the other day. You see, I have several friends in the program that always seem to hold everybody at arm's length. I've been noticing that all of them seem to be extremely focused on the image they present. Does that mean they're more interested in the mask they wear than in what's truly inside them?

Maybe.

It's not for me to say.

Your friend,  
Bill C.

## Step Seven inside Tradition Seven inside Concept Seven

As we have moved from our three-legged stool number one to stool seven, we have reached a degree of humility that should allow us to look outside ourselves, and begin to see what we can offer others; not only in Alcoholics Anonymous, but in the world we live in.

Humility comes at a price; but it does have value? Are we ready to look at the price we have paid or are we willing to pay for our spiritual recovery?

It amazes me when others speak of the discipline needed to change their lives. "I forced myself not to steal, not to gossip, not to do the many things that had ruined my life prior to coming into Alcoholics Anonymous". This statement appears to say: the various items that plagued their relationships, and made their lives unmanageable had vanished, just by the exercise of their own will! Not one word of the discipline needed to ask and rely upon God and or A.A. to change their lives; this lack of understanding of how others had helped them to learn and experience, "turning their will and their lives over the care of God" seems to have eluded them. They obviously paid a different price for their spiritual recovery.

Our Big Book is resplendent in the ways and effort it takes to refute the words of those members that believe we can change by the discipline we put forth in self- effort as opposed to spiritual effort. There is a difference!

Step Seven does not suggest, but clearly states on page seventy-six (76), second paragraph:

"My Creator, I am now willing that you should have all of me, good and bad. I pray that you now remove from me every single defect of character which stands in the way of my usefulness to you and my fellows. Grant me strength, as I go out from here, to do your bidding. Amen"

The quote is clear; who is asking, (the member) and who is providing the recovery (God). If we need to understand, with regards to our own recovery, which of the two has provided the needed help, we might not have acquired the necessary humility or paid the price needed to grow. If by page seventy-six we have not acquired the need to ask; or learned to rely upon anything more than our self-effort, we might ask ourselves; am I doing this thing right?

Without the knowledge of who controls our nature after Step Seven, we are in serious jeopardy of lacking the humility necessary it takes to understand the value of Tradition Seven. In understanding and accepting the value of our new found humility; we have a deeper appreciation of what the people who came before paid for our recovery.

The price Paul S. paid when coming to his first A.A. meeting; being told he could not sit at the table, but must sit at the back of the room because he was too young to join "their" group! Though they did accept the funds he contributed!

When told there were no monies in the treasury, at least three of your delegates had to wait until enough groups contributed to cover the one hundred or two hundred dollar stipend they would receive for the year they would serve. As

for one, his expenses were in excess of two thousand dollars; and to the best of his ability, did what he was asked to do, and preformed the duties in the area. Neither Paul, nor the others were independently wealthy; and the means to support Area 74, with the services required, was not always available. The delegates and area trusted both God and A.A. to provide the funding without making it mandatory the monies come before the services. As an area, we ask ourselves these questions about how we treat our monies and our area servants:

1.) Are they paid employees of A.A.? 2.) Are they being paid an adequate amount for services rendered? 3.) Can we get others to do the services at a lower cost per service? 4.) Are the fringe benefits these paid employees receive necessary? 5.) Most importantly, have we denied them the right to grow in their own recovery; both spiritually and with a deeper wisdom of what it means to serve?

Humility is not asking others to do the right thing, but demanding of ourselves the integrity to do what God and A.A. would ask. Those who came before us showed us how to grow into a recovery they outlined in our text book. "**To show other alcoholics precisely how we have recovered is the main purpose of this book.**" I need to go back to this simple sentence when confronted with what is expected of me as an A.A. member. It is not the monies we offer our servants or that they accept the gratuities; but in the larger question, what have we done to the spiritual program we were given? These answers are seen in Concept Seven.

If we assuage our guilt at any level of service by giving money instead of ourselves, we have violated both Step Seven and Tradition Seven. The "Carpenter" when referring to what it means when He said: "render unto Caesar what is Caesar's and render unto God what is God's," clearly seen the value of Step Seven, Tradition Seven, and Concept Seven. After receiving from God the bounties of our program, we give our lives back to God to serve Him and our fellow man; we offer our treasure to the advancement of this spiritual way of life only. We do not pay or give our treasure to anything that does not advance our spiritual way of life. This idea brings us to Concept Seven.

Those who framed our "service structure" were very clear in empowering the trustees and the three corporate boards with the right and duty to conduct and manage our affairs. They were also correct in giving the fellowship full control over the purse to fund those efforts. If we, as a fellowship, do not provide oversight into how those funds are used at any level of service, be it our group, our district, our area, or A.A. as a whole, we are violating Step Seven, Tradition Seven, and Concept Seven. When we do not allow our corporate boards, our area, our districts, and our groups the same recovery program granted each of us, the error is in each member. When we withhold our oversight, it is not the people within the structure, incapable of practicing the humility needed to grow without God's aid that was in error, but the mistake was, by our negligence to do the duties God would have His servants do, we all paid the price by devaluing our Fellowship.

When we honor what God and A.A. has done for us, when we are willing to pay the price for the value received by these gifts; then we must learn to expect the same from all our members, including our servants.

ELD, Ishpeming, MI Area 74

## 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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