

The Northeast Ohio Recorder

April, May, June 1999

www.aaneoh.org

Volume XII, Issue 2

UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 18
DCM Workshop
- May 16
GSR Third Legacy Meeting
- * June 11, 12, 13
Founders' Day
University of Akron
- * June 27
Open House, Sippo Lake
Canton Ohio
- July 18
DCM Workshop
- * August 6, 7, 8
Regional Convention
Lansing, MI
- August 15
GSR Workshop

All 3rd Legacy Meetings
and Workshops are held at:
The 12 Step Recovery Club
1480 Pearl Road
Brunswick, OH
(on State Route 42 about 1/4 mile
south of State Route 303, next to
the Bowling Alley)



Inside:

From the Delegate page 1

Committee Reports page 2
From the Editor page 2
District News page 2
Alternate Delegate page 2

Mini Conf Results page 3-4

1999 Open House page 5
3rd Legacies in Action page 5
In Passing page 5

Officers & Committee Chair
Contact Information page 6



from the Delegate

Hello Northeast Ohio:

I wish to first off thank all who sent cards and called just to see how I was after my recent surgery. They tell me it was a success and Tina and I are both praying they do not ever have to do it again.

By the time you are reading this I will be in New York attending the 49th Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference. We will have had our Mini-Conference and I will have the ideas and feelings of you all, who make up Area 54. I will be mailing Early Bird Announcements of the final decisions of the Conference to all DCM's, Committee Chairs and Past Delegates as well as the current Panel Members directly from New York. I ask that you all please share these results with those around you as soon as possible. I will also be making a report of these at the May Third Legacy Meeting in Brunswick.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Wilma Hall who found it necessary to resign from the Chairmanship of the Special Needs Committee due to health and personal reasons. We sincerely appreciate her efforts and contributions to this committee. And, please join me in welcoming Jill Siegel as the new Chairperson

for the Committee.

And, speaking of Committees, they do not operate without membership and lots of help. We are asking all of you to get involved with one committee at least and to share your experience strength and hopes to help the still suffering alcoholic who might be affected by the actions of these committees.

Please help me in thanking our immediate Past Delegate Bob cKimm for his efforts in organizing the office space with the Akron Intergroup. We now have a secure and safe place to store our Archive materials as well as all of our other 'stuff'. This is also where he created the living Area 54 Time Line that was previewed at the Mini-Conference. If you missed seeing it, I am sure he will bring it to a Third Legacy Meeting in the near future as well.

See you all in May for the Conference Report. And thanks again to all who helped to make me prepared to attend our Conference as an informed Delegate.

In Love and Service,

Rob Sebastian
Delegate, Panel 49

NE Ohio Area 54 Committee Reports

Archives

We reviewed our "oral history" form plus questions, and will begin using it.

We've completed setting up our room in the Akron Intergroup Office. Please visit it.

We've received an additional box from Mary Alice Baker of John T.'s memorabilia. Emmett helped me sort it. We've processed the last 8 boxes and have a signed memorandum of gift for this. Thank you, M.A.!

We've added all the originally-planned labels to our "living archives" display and are adding pamphlet labels.

I'm planning a small "International Convention" display for this mini-conference also.

Bob McKimm
Archives Chair,
Past Delegate, Panel 47, Area 54

Public Information

The Area 54 Public Information Committee has a new member. Don H. has accepted a position on the P.I. Committee, and is a radio station producer. I'm sure he will bring new insight in the development of P.I. messages, and as an advisor in dealing with the media in the future. Welcome to Area 54 Public Information Committee Don.

Don can be reached at 440-823-8409
His e-mail address is :
ZMTN51A@prodigy.com .

Our web site (aaneoh.org) now has an online web page count at 52, approximately 97 pages of html text. On 3/21/99, our Area 54 web page was updated, and a Founder's Day registration flyer was added.

In Service
Mike Tomlin
Public Information Chair

District News

District 19A, 19B and 20

We discussed the splitting of District 19 B, and 20. We voted to split 19B as soon as time allows us to get together to work up the maps. Yolonda wanted the splitting of 20 tabled until she could talk with you. We had one new G.S.R. in attendance. District 19B has a new Alternate DCM.

At our meeting we discussed the purpose of the Mini Conference and encouraged attendance.

In Service,
Mike Tomlin, DCM

Plan Ahead International Conv. 2000

We are currently developing plans for busing to the International Convention in Milwaukee. There will be several pickup points in NE Ohio and Toledo.

Talley Management, AA World Services' Convention Coordinator, will arrange the housing.

If you want details as the plans develop, I will have a sign-up sheet at our next few area assembly meetings. Also, you can write me. My address on the last page of this newsletter.

Bob McKimm
Past Delegate, Panel 47

Alternate Delegate Report

Dear NE Ohio,
Again I would like to thank this Area for being the very best Area in Ohio and the East Central Region. I am proud to be a member of Area 54. We are 1/8 into this Panel 49 and each and everyday is a new and exciting adventure. Being allowed to serve you all is truly an honor. There are events that occur outside this Area that allows me to serve you better. Each convention, conference, and workshop that I all end are chock full of fellowship and information that has enabled me to be a more effective trusted servant.

One of my responsibilities is to assist any District Committee Member in making their district more manageable as far as size is concerned. We realize that some of

our districts are extremely large and need to be downsized, please feel free to contact me (216-271-3411 or TTNAHOBSON@AOL.COM) if assistance is needed in this area. Remember that I work for you.

I hope that all who attended our Mini-Conference enjoyed yourselves and came away better informed than when you arrived. See you all in May.

In Love and Service,
Tina Hobson, Alternate Delegate

From the Editor:

Another Recorder delivered to the printer and I am beginning to count the remaining ones. It was difficult to get any contributions. A very unfortunate situation considering that this newsletter acts as a valuable tool to all NE Ohio Groups.

Again I can only repeat, if I am not informed, NE Ohio will not be informed.

All contributions can be e-mailed or mailed to me. The deadline for the next edition will be June 18th, 1999.

Yours In Service,
Dan Mix, Editor

When anyone one, anywhere reaches out for help - I

NE Ohio Open House

On Sunday, June 27th, Area 54 will host our annual Open House/ Picnic at Sippo Lake Park in Canton. Districts 12, 15 and 16 will help us host this wonderful event, but it remains an Area Function.

The doors be open from 10am-4pm, rain or shine. We will meet in the clubhouse (has a large deck with grills) overlooking beautiful Sippo Lake nestled between Canton and Massillon in Perry Township. We will share a wonderful pot luck picnic at 1pm and a regular open AA meeting with a speaker, "Handlebar" Rick S, Delegate Area 56, from Wapakoneta will begin at 2:30.

There is a long dock at the park just below the clubhouse where we meet for fishing (lake well stocked with large mouth bass and other game fish) and the park rents boats, and paddle ducks at the

marina within easy distance. Bait and snacks are available at the Marina. There are hiking trails and a nature center at the park a great place for your family to enjoy the day.

The Open House/ Picnic is a wonderful opportunity to introduce your family, friends and other AA members to those you work with at the area meetings. It is also a wonderful opportunity to fellowship with those we don't have enough time to talk with during our regular meetings.

To reach the park, drive S on 77 to the Tuscarawas Downtown Exit in Canton. Go straight through the light at 4th St. to Tuscarawas and turn west (right). Go 2.5 miles straight west on Tuscarawas to Perry and turn right. Just past 3rd St., turn left on Tyner into the park and follow it 2 blocks to the park entrance. We will be at

the clubhouse located on the N. W. side of the large parking lot. A handicapped ramp is easily accessible.

We have only reserved the clubhouse until 4 PM but you are welcome to stay on and enjoy the park facilities. Bring along an extra folding chair, your cards, a pot luck dish and your company!! You'll all come!! We will see you there.

For more Information and maps call:

Chuck K. 330-837-9663

Chris D., 330-492-1152

Pete G. 330-492-9330

OTHER AREA NEWS

The Area 64, Tennessee State Archives was officially dedicated on April 16th, 1999.

The building, *Precious Memories*, is located at :

801 North Maney Ave.

Murfreesboro, TN, 37130

Any one wishing information can check the website at :

<http://www.tennesseearchives.org>

or call : (615) 495-5225

or email: archivetrn@aol.com

In Passing

Charlie Surace passed away on March 18, 1999. Charlie was an active member of NE Ohio General Service, most recently serving as the DCM for District 40.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family. He will be missed.

Our Third Legacies In Action

GROUP CONSCIENCE

At the Third Legacy meeting on March 21, we watched a wonderful example of what group conscience truly means. An ad hoc committee studied the issue of smoking at the meeting and made the recommendation that the group take a simple vote. As a motion out of an ad hoc committee, there was no discussion and the vote was heavily in favor of keeping the meeting smoking. Then we saw the difference between a democracy and group conscience. In a simple majority rules system, the issue would have been over.

However, in our system, the minority has an opportunity to speak and a number of people did so. This is an issue that pervades all of A.A. and evokes passion on both sides. The minority spoke with great eloquence and fervor, and when done, a few people decided to change their votes. Thus, a vote was held to reconsider the issue, and after a long debate the meeting was voted to be non-smoking by a large margin. No matter how you feel on the issue, it was a wonderful process to watch.

I am also on the Akron Intergroup News committee, and ironically, I wrote an article on smoking and emotional sobriety for the April issue. I would like

to invite anyone who has an opinion to write a letter or article on the smoking issue (or any other subject, for that matter) and submit it to the News. We will be happy to print it. You can e-mail me at Jayaa@aol.com or call me at (440) 729-7483. We would love to hear from you!

In Service,
Jay Moore, GSR Chesterland Monday Men's, District 21



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

Your Trusted Servants Committee 49

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Committee Chairpersons 1999-2000

Committee Name	Chairperson & Address	Telephone E-Mail
Archives	Bob McKimm, Chairman 3378 Washington Blvd. Cleveland, OH 44118-2541	(216) 321-2534 bobmckimm@compuserve.com
	Sandra Stack, Archivist 1220 Donald Ave. Apt #18 Lakewood, OH 44107-2861	(216) 228-6444 SStack086@aol.com
Correctional Facilities	Rob Watling, Chair 354 Cloverdale Ave. Akron, OH 44319-1615	(330) 434-1232
Cooperation with the Professional Community	Judy Durham, Chair 1364 Rosa Parks Drive Cleveland, OH 44106-1414	(216) 761-7142
Finance	Brian "Briar" Adams 4273 Greenwich Road Norton, OH 44203-5435	(330) 336-2308
Grapevine	Mo Mosyjowski, Chair 218 Swartz Road Akron, OH 44319-1115	(330) 724-5115
Literature	Chuck Kirby, Chair 103 Woodland SE Massillon, OH 44646-8159	(330) 837-9663
Newsletter	Dan Mix, Editor 195 South Main Street Chagrin Falls, OH 44022-3229	(216) 670-4397 danmix@nacs.net
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Treatment Facilities	Joey Ruffin, Chair 846 Broadway Apt 104 Bedford, OH 44146-3663	(440) 439-6865

Visit the NE Ohio Area 54 Internet Website at



<http://www.aaneoh.org>

1999 Mini-Conference Agenda Items

The following is a summary of the results of committee recommendations to the Agenda questions that were discussed at the Mini Conference, along with the voting results of the body when a recommendation was brought to it.

Archives

1. No recommendation was made on a proposed draft of Composition, Scope and Procedure.
2. Recommended modifying the current Archives Handbook to a 3-ring loose leaf style workbook that would include information specifically targeted to the new Archivist or Committee. The action was discussed and passed on the floor 44-1.

Correctional Facilities

1. No recommendation on the one page informational letter to wardens and correctional professionals.
2. Unanimously accepted the first to stories for the pamphlet "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell", but felt the third was outdated. The committee also suggested going behind the walls and interviewing inmates who have maintained long term sobriety.
3. The following suggestions were made AA's more interested in Correctional Correspondence: a) let the AA members with no jail time know that they have something to offer the inmate. b) include the reminder 'there But for the Grace of God'. c) added security measures. d) make guidelines more available. e) communication is the greatest need.

Cooperation with the Professional Community

1. Recommended a revised text under the title 'Singleness of Purpose and Problems Other than Alcohol' be added to 6 CPC pamphlets. This action was defeated on the floor 13-22.
2. Recommended drawing a new panel 'Elsewhere – Anywhere' to replace 'Our Beginnings' panel in the current CPC exhibit by a vote of 10-0-3. No floor action was taken.

Finance 1

1. The committee discussed self support and made suggestions, including: a) power of example b) groups develop costs in crease charts c) GSRs need to communicate to groups more d) raffles to raise money e) spending less on anniversaries and passing more on to Intergroups and GSO f) educate AA's about recommended contributions.
2. The committee recommended that GSO raise the individual contribution limit from \$1000 to \$2000 per year. The action passed on the floor unanimously, 37-0.

Finance 2

1. Reviewed the General Service Board policy on discounts and subsidies without recommendation.

Grapevine

1. Committee considered and rejected producing the Grapevine on audio tape agreeing it was too costly.
2. Committee considered and rejected new Grapevine related materials including a soft cover book on the steps and Dear Grapevine, a collection of letters compiled from 1944 to present.
3. Committee considered and rejected a request that a committee of AA members be established to review and approve all articles prior to publication in the Grapevine.

Literature

1. Reviewed a request for an AA history book without recommendation.
2. Reviewed a pamphlet directed to Black/African American alcoholics without recommendation.
3. Recommended that a list of 'reaching out' pamphlets be reviewed by the Trustees Literature Committee to assure that the need for the pamphlets still exist. The recommendation passed on the floor with substantial unanimity 31-2.
4. Reviewed a proposed large print 'Time to Start Living' pamphlet without recommendation.

Public Information

1. Unanimously agreed that anonymity breaks on the Internet should be handled in the same way they are currently, by forwarding such information to the delegate.
2. Unanimously agreed that the Web Site serves as a valuable Public Information tool upon review of reports.
3. A recommendation to the floor to grant permission to a film producer to use footage from the film 'Bill's Own Story' in a television biography that will also include Dr. Bob. The recommendation failed to get a 2/3 majority (64.5%) on the first vote. The minority opinion was able to get reconsideration and the recommendation passed 40-16 or 71%.

Report & Charter

1. The committee unanimously recommended that a footnote be added to Warranty Five, on page 72 in the Twelve Concepts for World Service Manual, stating that Alcoholics Anonymous will continue to oppose unauthorized use of its registered trademarks. No floor action was taken.
2. Recommended the proposal that GSO print all groups in its Directories, unless a group chooses not to. The recommendation was defeated on the floor by a vote of 12-35.

Treatment Facilities

1. Unanimously decided to include the condensed summary of responses to the November 1997 TF Questionnaire requesting sharing on carrying the message into psychiatrist/mental health facilities or state hospitals.
2. Discussed Area Temporary Contact / Bridging the Gap efforts concluding that a lot of informal work is done by individuals and groups. They also concluded that we should continue to offer new contacts and available connections to whatever degree they are accepted by the institutions.
3. After reviewing the contents of the TF Workbook and TF Handbook there was no action taken on title "Suggested Goals for TF Committees". It decided with substantial unanimity that the proposed revised statement of resources in the TF handbook and TF Workbook were not necessary, the vote being 10-1.
4. Unanimously recommended to keep the current format of the TF Workbook as a 3-ring binder rather than the proposed loose folder style. The major reason being that the contents could easily be separated with the proposed folder.

1999 Mini-Conference Agenda Items (cont'd)

1999 Mini-Conference Theme: 'Moving Forward: Unity Through'

Prepared by Moderator

Chairperson Gerard Pinkas
(pinkas@en.com)

Please accept my warm thanks to all Attendees, Moderators, Recorders, and Timers that worked together to help make the workshops successful. All workshop groups contributed a large volume of input to these questions, general summaries and examples are provided:

1. Our Responsibility to AA Unity:

a.) Do your Members participate in the Home Group?

Summary: All groups reported participation, but it is often the few that support the many. With a focus on the positive, improvements in activity can be promoted through: Spirit of rotation & the assignment of lots of jobs, up-to-date rosters, regular group conscious meetings, contributions to multiple service entities, brief and interesting service reports with info including worldwide activity, "kind and gentle" invitation of home group members to service activities, and the emphasis on the welcoming of new people and sponsorship.

One workshop was concerned that specialized meetings (eg: men, women, young peoples, etc.) can be exclusive. Though we welcome you all, "bathroom elections" may not be the best introduction to service.

b.) Does your Home Group Participate in the AA Service Structure? Such as Intergroup, Districts/Multi-Districts and Areas and GSO?

Summary: By the nature of this being a Mini-Conference, most present participate in the

Service Structure, though some groups know little of what we do here. GSR's that try to involve their home groups in a "loving way" certainly help the process. Gentle sponsorship on "AA as a whole" can help plant service seeds.

c.) Does your Group participate in AA Worldwide?

Summary: A majority of the workshop groups had one comment: Huh? This can best be covered by each of us asking "Am I helping my home group understand that AA can only go beyond our walls and our country borders with our support of GSO?"

2. Many Faces - One Fellowship:

a.) Accepting Our Differences: Do we accept our fellow members as Alcoholics instead of Who or What they are?

Summary: With the majority of success in communicating our emphasis on singleness of purpose, workshop groups all supported this in spirit. Short comings can arise, but we have steps, traditions, and sponsors to guide us.

b.) I Am Responsible- Are We?? Summary: Hey, we're all at this Mini-Conference, aren't we?

c.) Do We Really Place Principles Before Personalities?

Summary: Without fail this was a concept repeatedly supported by all of the workshop groups, representing no better example of our good intentions.

3.) Our Future Together:

a.) Do We Participate in the Sponsorship portion of the Program?

Summary: All workshops agreed that 12 step sponsorship work was instrumental to a joyful and humble recovery for both

the sponsor and sponsee.

Temporary and/or Co-sponsorship can often spread the wealth as well as provide a much needed backup, clearly indicating that two heads can be better than one.

b.) Do We as Members and Groups Promote and Purchase AA Conference Approved Literature?

Summary: This is often dependent on personal preference or that of the group conscious, but most understand that Conference Approved literature best represents our true unfiltered AA message and permits money to best directly support our AA work. Giving away subscriptions to local newsletters and the Grapevine helps to encourage our in-house support of AA.

c.) How Well Do We Support AA Entities at the Level of Tradition Seven, Self-Support at the Basket?

Summary: All workshops indicated support of 7th tradition work often only the Intergroup is the receiver of monies due to lack of knowledge on other entities. Many understand that some can't afford to put money in the basket, but many encourage through sponsorship, the contributing any amount, no matter how little. Where able, reaching for \$2 instead of \$1 is encouraged. Some groups have assessed that money directly applied to AA support is often more valuable than that spent on outside activities such as group anniversaries. Ensuring that "picnic" money is raised separate from "basket" money can result in responsible fellowship. Area 54 plans the