

# The Northeast Ohio Recorder

## Rotation Issue

Jan / Feb / Mar 2023

<http://www.area54.org>

Volume XXVIII, Issue 1

### A Word From Our Delegate

Greetings

Thank you for electing me to be your Panel 73 Area 54 Delegate. I am grateful and will do my best for our area. Please check your trifold for all of our events happening in 2023.



We will propose our annual budget at the first assembly on January 15th. We also have a mini-conference planning meeting on January 22nd at the Double Tree in Westlake. There will be plenty of service opportunities. We could use a district that would be willing to host our hospitality room, folk's to man the registration table and receive registrations, greeters and bell ringers. Our committees will have displays and we will have literature and grapevine materials at the mini-conference.

We will also host the East Central Regional Forum on November 17th-19th at the Double Tree in Independence. Registration will be free. The general service office will bring Bob W. our general manager, Paul Konigstein our chief financial officer, GSO staff, grapevine staff, class A and B trustees and our own east central regional trustee Cathy C. We will report more in upcoming Recorders.

Yours in service

**Tim H. - Delegate**  
**Area 54 - Panel 73**

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### ROTATING DELEGATE'S REPORT

Thank you for a busy and sometimes hectic two years. I have been able to visit many parts of our Area. In October, I traveled over 1,000 miles to attend groups chosen for the Membership Survey to be taken in person. It was fun to meet new folks. I was able to renew friendships too. In addition, I was able to represent Area 54 at the Buffalo Fall Convention. I was the coordinator on a terrific Panel on Home Groups. I am proud to say Akron represented Northeast Ohio too with a fine panel and speaker.

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Looking back over the last year it was awesome to go to New York in person for the 72nd General Service Conference. Because I had met several of the delegates online it was wonderful to meet them in person. The delegates from the five states here in East Central Region had worked together throughout the year. It was good to be in the same room with them in person. Our Finance Committee had the opportunity via Zoom meetings to meet throughout the year. We were able

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## FROM THE OUTGOING EDITOR

### ROTATION

*[Reprinted from the Jan/Feb/March 2019 issue of the Recorder]*

There was an article in the June 1996 issue of the *AA Grapevine* titled “The Spirit of Rotation.” At the beginning of that article the author, Don P. of Aurora, Colorado, asks the following question: “How then can we continue to benefit from the experience of those who have rotated?” The article concludes with the answer to that question, “The best way I can think of to benefit from their experience is to be certain that they are a part of *mine*.” (<https://www.aagrapevine.org/magazine/1996/jun/spirit-rotation>, accessed 11/17/2020). Don’s point is simple. When I rotate *from* a position it is my responsibility to share the experience, strength and hope gained in that position with the AA rotating in. But it is a two-way street. It is also my responsibility as one rotating into a position to reach out to the AA rotating out. (The article is important to me for another reason. It was in June 1996 that I was first introduced to AA.)

This is the time of year in Area 54 when we experience the pains and gains from what we call rotation. It is not just an action, it also embodies the very spirit that is the foundation of AA.: One Alcoholic helping another. We need to remember that it is not just a game of “musical chairs.” In that game someone gets left out every time, and there are rarely any “new players.” In our “game” it should be just the opposite - always room for one more. Unfortunately, some have “politicized” the process, resulting in winners and losers. We see it in our jockeying for position, as well as in our lack of willingness to serve. We even see it in the language that we use. I have heard AAs say that they were “running for office.” And I have also heard others say “I ain’t volunteering for nothing.” Perhaps it is time to pause and review where this whole idea of AA rotation came from in the first place.

It has been said that the idea of rotation actually came from right here in Area 54. In the early 1940s Cleveland experienced exponential growth in AA. To maintain some semblance of unity among those groups a Central Committee was formed by one of the early Cleveland AAs, Abby G., who set the committee up with time limits on leadership. I have heard that Bill W. credits Abby with inventing AA’s traditional Spirit of Rotation. (<https://www.aacle.org/what-is-aa/history-of-a-a/>. Accessed 11/17/2020)

The Spirit of Rotation is at the foundation of our Second Tradition, which provides, in short form, “For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority - a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.”

Speaking of a “loving God,” I know at least one AA who calls the “hat” “the God Box.” When we cannot reach “substantial unanimity” in electing a servant to a position, we “go to the hat.” I suppose it is similar to letting go, and letting God. But perhaps there is another consideration before a candidate forces a “hat.” That consideration is ego.

I remember once standing for a position, with one other person also standing. By the third ballot it was clear that we had a divided house. The tally was very close, and with each ballot the tally remained about the same (pretty typical in a two-person election). Rather than putting the entire Assembly through the grueling process of voting again, and then deciding whether to vote one more time, before “going to the hat,” it occurred to me, “Just sit down!” I did, thereby “conceding” the election. It opened so many more opportunities to serve that now I am sure the voice saying “Just sit down” must have been the voice of God.

The whole point of the Spirit of Rotation is to protect us from our own ego. Sometimes when we “Just sit down,” we are doing the same thing Bill W. did when he called Charlie Towns back and said essentially, “Thanks, but no thanks.” (See *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, pgs.136-138)

In 1955 AA “Came of Age,” and Bill W. became an “elder statesman.” Basically, he “just sat down.” Perhaps we too might come of age. Certainly, for those who stood but were not elected there will be many, many opportunities to continue to serve. Remember, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.”

~James T., Rotating Editor

Submit your service-related contributions, comments and questions, or ideas and complaints to: [newsletter@area54.org](mailto:newsletter@area54.org)



# AREA REPORTS AND ARTICLES

## ROTATING DELEGATE'S REPORT

(Continued from page 1)

to see some of the results of the work-in-process. The Finance Committee was charged with reviewing all the service pieces and literature pieces written about finance and contributions, etc. All the finance literature needed to be saying the same thing. One example was that the contributions are sent to General Service Office (GSO) but we are to write the check to the General Service Board (GSB). This is very confusing.

I discovered the Conference was very spiritual. At the end of our committee meeting on Tuesday, I felt the unity on behalf of AA. The desire to take care of AA as a whole. As I have read all the Committee Considerations, there was an effort by each committee to explain the reasoning in taking no action. It appears to me that the 72nd General Service Conference wanted to be and was "Unified in Love and Service."

The Panel 71 officers and chairs are great leaders. They have been challenged and have charged ahead as a unit. Everyone has been dedicated to the job. We have had a great opportunity to learn, and work on behalf of Northeast Ohio AA Groups. I wish to thank each of you for going the extra mile and for your effort and dedication these past two years. You have represented AA and Northeast Ohio well.

Looking forward I will be the Immediate Past Delegate and the Co Chair of the 48th Mini-Conference, March 24 – 26, 2023. The Theme is "AA's Three Legacies – Our Common Solution".

Please mark your calendars and SAVE the 4th Sundays in January and February. The Mini-Conference Planning Meetings are at 2PM at the Doubletree Hilton Westlake. The purpose of the Mini-Conference is to inform our delegate on the conscience of Northeast Ohio. Every Member of AA is Welcome to Attend and to be ACTIVE.

Please attend these planning sessions to make our conference great. You can sign up to be greeters or to share about what it is like to be a GSR or a DCM or a Standing Committee Chair. We have so

many positions to fill. Committee Chairs remember to make and bring your display. Hospitality Room will need a committee too.

Have you wondered how do we get our theme for the General Service Conferences. The Agenda Committee reviews all the suggestions for the theme and votes on it.

On page 77 in the 2022 Final Report you will find the presentation theme and topics for 2023 73rd General Service Conference. They are:

Presentation Theme: "General Service - Our Mighty Purpose and Rhythm"

Presentation Topics:

"Our Common Perils and Common Solution"

"Using A.A.'s Literature in Carrying the Message"

"Fostering a Thriving Three Legacy Culture"

Workshop Topic for the 2023 GSC will be "Practicing Our Twelve Traditions Across All Group Settings"

Consider discussing these topics at your home group. or sponsor a workshop in your district.

I thank you for your love and support and for your love for AA.

***Susan R. . - Immediate Past Delegate***

***Area 54 - Panel 71***

***Newsletter Chair***

***Area 54 - Panel 73***

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## AREA CHAIR / ROTATING RECORDING SECRETARY REPORT

The Magic of Alcoholics Anonymous Happens Through Action.

We hear in AA that gratitude is an action. This is true, and so is love, service, showing up and keeping the hand out and doors open. When we take these actions, there is a magic that happens between one drunk helping another. I attended Gratitude Sunday in Area 54 and both speakers shared how being active in

(Continued on page 4)

# AREA REPORTS AND ARTICLES, CONT.

REPORTS & ARTICLES (Cont.)

*(Continued from page 3)*

service has not only helped them stay sober, but also participate in helping others which in turn creates this beautiful magic. One of our founders said that "Service is love with legs." This also requires action. If we take one action of love, one action to be in service or one action to show up for Alcoholics Anonymous, we are part of the evidence that is a light for those who come after us. This is where the magic happens. We are responsible to not only to keep the hand out, but to share the magic of AA. The next meeting you attend, look next to you and take one action to be an example of love and service to the person next to you. You have now invited another person to experience the Sunlight of the Spirit. That is MAGIC!

***Katie S. - Area Chair***  
***Area 54 - Panel 73***  
***Rotating Recording Secretary***  
***Area 54 - Panel 71***

## ROTATING TREASURER'S REPORT

My time as your treasurer is nearing the end. What an exciting two years. With Covid and shut downs, Area 54 continued with zoom, and with some in person assemblies (hybrid meetings), Area 54 fellowship kept the doors open. We end this year with a treasury surplus proving once again AA is alive and well for the alcoholics in the cradle of our AA fellowship.

We have a new website, (mobile friendly) a new web master, and we now accept Square donations. These innovations would not have been possible without trusted servants stepping up and lending the hand of help to Area 54. I know none of this would have happened without the leadership and communication between committee members and Panel 71.

I move on in my service journey never forgetting the groups who support Area 54, from all over our area. From donations of personal checks, group checking accounts as well as multi-district, inter-groups, individual and square payments, I want to thank all of you for your support of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Finally, I want to thank you and the fellowship for the trust you showed in choosing me as your treasurer.

Thank you, Area 54,

***Mark P. - Rotating Treasurer***  
***Area 54 - Panel 71***

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## ROTATING AREA MAILING SECRETARY REPORT

AREA 54 Trusted Servants,

It has been a true honor to have been a trusted servant and to have served on many panels back-to-back (4 to be exact). I have seen a lot and learned a lot. I have gained a lot of knowledge. The knowledge I have gained I have taken into my professional life. Some of what I have learned is all decisions, no matter if we understand them now or not. They are for the good of all concerned. Its not to be taken personally although some decisions are uncomfortable and hurt. When you see wrong, speak up no matter what no matter who. I wish I had done this more often. I am optimistic of the future. I look forward in continuing to serve Area 54 in any capacity the new panel will have me.

I look forward to being a support for the incoming mailing secretary until she gains her footing in the position. The new year always brings new challenges and periods of transition. My advice to those new to the Area panel is to ask questions of those who were before you, and maintain your spiritual backbone and ask ask ask questions. Do not just accept something as so because someone says so, ask why no matter who they are. Utilize your service sponsor. Make this service opportunity yours. But of all else please have fun! If you're not having fun why do it?

Sincerely,

***Tina C. - Rotating Area Mailing Secretary***  
***Area 54 - Panel 71***

***Floor Manager***  
***Area 54 - Panel 73***

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM GSO

Alcoholics  
Anonymous®  
www.aa.org

General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous

475 Riverside Drive, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10115 / Telephone: (212) 870-3400

Please direct all  
communications to:  
P.O. Box 459  
Grand Central Station  
New York, NY 10163  
Fax: (212) 870-3003

## 2025 International Convention, Alcoholics Anonymous

### Frequently Asked Questions About the 2025 International Convention & Travel to Canada Updated July 12, 2022

1. *When and where will the 2025 International Convention take place?*

The 90th anniversary of Alcoholics Anonymous will be celebrated at the 2025 International Convention in Vancouver, BC, Canada, July 3 – 6, 2025.

2. *What is the theme of the 2025 International Convention?*

The theme of the 2025 International Convention is "90 Years – Language of the Heart."

3. *Have A.A. International Conventions been held in Canada before?*

Yes. There have been International Conventions in Toronto (1965), Montreal (1985), and Toronto (2005). As you may know, the Responsibility Statement was adopted at the 1965 International Convention in Toronto.

4. *Are there any restrictions or regulations affecting travel to Canada in 2025?*

Yes. The U.S. and Canada each have restrictions and regulations that apply to citizens and visitors who travel from one country to the other. Border crossing into Canada has significantly changed, particularly in the last two years. (For more information: access links to Canada Border Services Agency website (CBSA) provided below question #6)

5. *Who will have to process forms and applications to gain admission to Canada?*

It is suggested that those who believe they have some past legal incident, such as a DUI or felony that could inhibit their attendance at the 2025 International Convention, seek assistance/information by accessing the CBSA links provided below question #6.

6. *What Canadian travel information is currently available?*

The International Convention assignment at G.S.O. is not yet up-and-running. However, below is a resource to aid members in making plans to attend the 2025 International Convention (most questions can be answered by connecting to the links below). Also, a good travel book on Canada will provide valuable information on needed documents and border crossing requirements, as well as vacation tips.

#### Information for those who may have entry issues due to past criminal history:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/immigrate-canada/inadmissibility/overcome-criminal-convictions.html>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/contact-ircc/offices/international-visa-offices.html>

For general information members may also access <https://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/menu-eng.html> or contact the **Border Information Service (BIS)** at CBSA by calling:

Within Canada

Toll-free

1-800-461-9999

TTY (for those with hearing or speech impairments)

1-866-335-3237

Outside Canada

Long distance charges apply

1-204-983-3500

1-506-636-5064

Press "0" to speak to an officer during regular business hours – Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (local time) excluding holidays.

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# RESULTS OF THIRD LEGACY PROCEDURE

## Area Election Results

The Panel 73 Delegate and Committee of Trusted Servants for Area 54 were elected on October 18, 2022 at the assembly. These Trusted Servants will serve for a two-year term, beginning January 1, 2023. Congratulations to all! A heartfelt thanks to all who were willing to stand for office.

### NAME and POSITION

<b>Tim H.</b> , Panel 73 Delegate	<b>Katie S.</b> , Area Chairperson	<b>Ellen W.</b> , Recording Secretary
<b>Mark P.</b> , Alternate Delegate	<b>Wellington R.</b> , Area Treasurer	<b>Amanda B.</b> , Mailing Secretary

## Panel 73 election results

For:		1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	Hat
Delegate	<b>Tim Hunt</b>					By unanimous consent
Alt. Delegate	Tina Cvetkovich	26	23	26	24	
	<b>Mark Potteiger</b>	27	29	27	27	*
Area Chair	<b>Katie Smith</b>	33	35			
	Bev Ferguson	18	17			
Treasurer	<b>Wellington Ramos</b>					By unanimous consent
Recording Secretary	<b>Ellen W</b>	24	28	30		
	Tina Cvetkovich	22	17	15		
Mailing Secretary	<b>Amanda B</b>	32				
	Crystal J	10				

# UPCOMING DATES FOR THE AREA AND BEYOND

## NOTE THE DATE

**January 15-** Hybrid Area Assembly **Gv Lit**

**January 24** – 48th Mini-Conference  
Planning Meeting - 2pm  
Doubletree Hilton Westlake  
1100 Croker Rd., Westlake, OH 44145

**February 19** - Virtual GSR School (Potluck)

**February 26** – Mini-Conference  
Planning Meeting - 2pm  
Doubletree Hilton Westlake

**March 19** – Hybrid Area Assembly  
and MC planning snow date

**March 24-March 26-** 48th NEOH Mini-Conference - Doubletree Hilton Westlake

## OUTSIDE OUR AREA

**February 10-12, 2023**

Conference of Delegates, Past and Present  
Columbus, Ohio

**March 3 & 4, 2023**

Area 55 Mini-Conference

**March 10-12, 2023**

Area 53 Mini-Conference  
Doubletree Hilton, Worthington, OH

**March 18-20, 2021**

Area 56 Mini-Conference

Gv = Grapevine sale days  
Lit = Literature sale days

**EXCEPT AS NOTED, Area Assemblies & Workshops begin at 2:00 pm and are held at The 12 Step Recovery Club, 1480 Pearl Rd. (in Brunswick Plaza), Brunswick, OH 44212. The club is on US Route 42, about 1/4 mile south of State Route 303. Phone: (330) 273-7216**

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7. When will registration and hotel information be available?

General registration and housing information will be available on the International Convention webpage in early 2024. Actual registration site links, forms, and hotel booking links will be communicated to the Fellowship in August/September 2024.

8. If travel to Canada is difficult for some U.S. members, why are we holding an International Convention in Vancouver?

The Fellowship of the United States and Canada makes up the General Service Structure of Alcoholics Anonymous in North America, and functions as one entity in spirit and in service to the Fellowship. As this event rotates through the regions of A.A., there will be times when it takes place in the U.S., and other times when it is held in Canada.

Laws and other circumstances may impede some members from traveling from one country to the other. For instance, some Canadians could not attend the 2000 International Convention in Minneapolis because of the difference in value of the Canadian dollar and U.S. dollar. Rotation of International Conventions provides accessibility for all members. The Vancouver Visitors and Convention Bureau has assured A.A. that Canada will do whatever is possible to welcome and cooperate with members for the 2025 International Convention in Vancouver.

Alcoholics Anonymous® | [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)



## RECOVERY, UNITY AND SERVICE

These are the Three Legacies of our A.A. experience. Our leaders are but trusted servants, they do not govern. God, expressed through 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, GSRs 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

#### Your Trusted Servants Committee 73

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

Standing Committee Chairpersons (Committee 73, 2023-24)		
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	1309 Valley Ave. Barberton, OH 44203	<a href="mailto:gvchair@area54.org">gvchair@area54.org</a>
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		<a href="mailto:groupservices@area54.org">groupservices@area54.org</a>
Hispanic Community Liaison	Wellington R.	(216) 287-6009
	209 East 216th Street Euclid, OH 44113	<a href="mailto:hispanicliaison@area54.org">hispanicliaison@area54.org</a>
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	2203 Ranfield Rd Mogadore, OH 44260	<a href="mailto:literature@area54.org">literature@area54.org</a>
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