

The Northeast Ohio Recorder

MINI-CONFERENCE EDITION

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<http://www.area54.org>

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A Word From Our Delegate

Greeting's Area 54 Members,

It's been a busy few months in area 54. We held our budget assembly in January along with a mini-conference planning meeting In February a few of us traveled to Muncie Indiana for the Conference of Delegates Past and Present, had a General Service Workshop about the agenda items that Group Services put on our website for members, and another Mini-conference planning meeting. In March the panel members attended the three other delegate areas in Ohio: Area 55 in the northwest, Area 53 in the southeast and Area 56 in the southwest; followed by our own 49th Northeast Ohio Mini-conference. We had about 105 attendees at our Mini-conference and heard from our General Service Office staff member Michael R. who serves on the Cooperation with the Professional Community Desk. We also had a Class A nonalcoholic Trustee, Sister Judith Ann Karam, who resides in Area 54. They both gave nice talks about issues affecting the fellowship and information about what is going on at the office in New York.



On Saturday we broke out into groups and went over some of the agenda items and issues we will be discussing and possibly voting on this year at the General Service Conference (GSC) were I will be serving on the Corrections Committee. I heard your voices and will use the areas conscience. I would also like to thank everyone who helped make our Mini-Conference a great service experience for all our new and seasoned service members.

I have received about 40 responses on Founders writings, and they are mixed - about half for changing them and half for no changes. We will have a discussion for one and a half hours at the conference. We also will have a chance to view the Plain Language Big Book at the GSC. It will be an agenda item on the literature committee. The Corrections committee has four items: A - Consider updated singleness of purpose text to replace the existing paragraph in the pamphlet A Message to Corrections Professionals; B - Review content and format of Corrections kit and Workbook; C - Review the video "Carrying the Message Behind These Walls" for effectiveness, relevance and intended audience; and, D - Consider a request to develop a pamphlet on the transgender alcoholic in AA. I will give a Report on the GSC at Unity Day May 19th at the Brunswick 12 Step Recovery Club.

We will be hosting The 68th Ohio State Convention with the theme "Our Great Responsibility" on August 23rd-25th. We will have planning meetings for the State Convention on 06/02 and 07/14 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Independence at 2pm. We look forward to seeing you there, as we need lots of help to make this a

wonderful event. If any groups or districts have an item they would like to see the General Service Conference look at next year bring them to the Area Assembly or submit them to chair@area54.org.

Yours in service,

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

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AREA REPORTS & ARTICLES

Alternate Delegate's Report

Let us go on AA journey, through the state of Ohio:

East Central Regional Forum - Spanish Interpreter's/ Equipment and a fantastic time was had by all.

Conference of Delegates Past and Present - Area 22/ Northern Indiana. I had the opportunity to witness voting on a Mock Agenda Item which went from 10-12:15pm.

Area 53 - Central/Southeastern Ohio - Salt Fork Lodge - The chance to be a voice that connects Central and South-east Ohio to the A.A. fellowship as a whole.

Area 55 - NW Ohio/SE Michigan - Shared on a Panel "Connecting with Love Unity & Service.

Area 56 - Southwest Ohio - Sobriety Countdown was done by our own OYPAA, with loads of enthusiasm and energy.

Area 54 - NE Ohio - Attended my first conference as your Alternate Delegate, in my 15th year involved in service.

Thank you for this opportunity to Serve.

Love and Service,

Beverly F. - Alternate Delegate
Area 54 - Panel 73

Area Chair's Report

"Conference is Precious"
Sister Judith , Class A Trustee

This process is truly magical. The words that come to mind after Area 54 Mini Conference are: fun, inspiring, challenging, informative, enlightening and spiritual to name a few. We invite the God of your understanding in and pray together to let each voice be heard and that our delegate is not so exhausted that he can hear us. We pause and pray so that we are not a barrier in someone else's participation. I was honored as Area Chair to participate in Saturdays voting and discussion. I am always inspired by you who show up to have your voice heard and represent your groups. The panel Sunday morning was truly the cherry on top for me. 3 speakers, 3 conference workshop topics and great perspectives. I never knew what 1728 Sponsorship

was. That will be another article! However Josh D. from Area 55 shared about some barriers of participation. IT WAS AWESOME! Here are some questions to ask yourself to see if you are a barrier to someone else's participation in AA:

- Am I staying in a position and not allowing someone else to have an opportunity?
- Am I so caught up in the business of AA, that I am not keeping a path for the newcomer?
- Am I willing and open to hear new ideas from the newcomer or anyone that wants to share and not just shutting them down?

If you were not able to attend, I really encourage you to put it on your calendar for next year and PLEASE come visit us at the Area 54 Assembly meetings. I would love to see you and welcome any questions.

Katie S. - Area Chair
Area 54 - Panel 73

Mailing Secretary's Report

Hello everyone! First, I want to make sure everyone knows to email me your flyers for any local events your area is having. I will make sure to include them in my monthly emails to the group so we can get out and support. If you would like to host a mailing party, please reach out to me. I have one this year for September 14th I need to fill. A place on the west or south side of the area would be great that way we have spread the parties out over the year. We are actively working on way to reduce the mailing and only physically mail the ones that want it. We will offer email, website and assembly pick up for the others. I appreciate everyone's patience while we work on this.

Lastly, I would like to thank you all that attended the 49th Annual Area NE Ohio General Service Mini Conference. It was so wonderful to see old friends while making new ones. There weren't a lot of consideration items this year, but we did have some wonderful debates during the mock conference for the few we did have. There were a couple that I came in thinking one way, hearing others' opinions and ideas did make me look at the issues differently. I

AREA REPORTS AND ARTICLES, CONT.

Mailing Secretary's Report

(Continued from page 2)

learned a lot of lessons thru this year's conference. The main one is that we are a family and when help is needed all you have to do is ask.

Love and Service,

**Amanda B. - Mailing Secretary
Area 54 - Panel 73**

Group Services Report

The Group Services workshop was held in February. We focused on learning about and preparing for the Area 54 Mini-Conference. This was a great opportunity to learn about the history of the Mini-conference and for GSRs and DCMs to share their experience, strength and hope and ask questions about the Area 54 Mini-Conference. Please reach out to me and let me know what you would like to the August A.A. General Service Workshop to be about, and if you are willing to help out. Keep a look out for emails and communications from our Mailing Secretary Amanda, about the 68th Ohio State Convention, which is being hosted by Area 54, August 23rd-25th, 2024 in Independence, OH.

The 49th Area 54 NE Ohio General Service Mini-Conference was held in Westlake 03/22-03/24-2024. I took notes during Michael R.'s (GSO Staff) report on Friday night, they have been added to the Google Drive Mini-Conference folder. The The Mini-Conference Committee Session Reports have also been added to the Google Drive Mini-Conference folder, so you can take that information back to your groups as well. There was much discussion about the Plain Text Big Book (PLBB), so there is also a PLBB FAQ that our Delegate Tim has provided, this is on the google drive under the 74th GSC folder. Thank you all who attended and contributed to our growth in service.

The Area 54 Group Services Google Drive has been updated:

There is a folder named "General Service Conferences" which includes the 74th General Service Conference coming up in April. Adam P.'s

notes from Michael R. GSO Staff, the 49th Mini-Conference Committee Session Reports, the 74th GSC Agenda Item and all background materials, the Proposed Agenda items that didn't make it to the 74th GSC conference, and a FAQ on the Plain Language Big Book (PLBB) have also been added to the Google Drive.

I am on the Ad Hoc Area 54 Guidelines Committee, and we continue to make progress. The purpose of the committee is to review and update our guidelines so that our Area is operating uniformly and can refer to this document to see our processes and best practices. I am grateful to be a part of this committee and have the opportunity to listen and learn from the experience of others and help to grow in service through our codes of love and tolerance. Just like I heard when I got to A.A. That "no one said recovery is easy" I find that to be true of service as well, but they are always rewarding. We will most likely have our review and recommendations for the Area 54 Guidelines completed to present to the Area hopefully by the July 2024 assembly.

If you have any questions about General Service, or need help with your groups from Area 54, or have ideas of how to carry the message, please reach out to me at groupservices@area.54.org

Area 54 Group Services A.A. General Service Documents Google Drive:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1oJ-HboBvPhNLLPtosM4uvdTxDAT-4-Jg?usp=share_link



Love and Service,

**Adam P. - Group Services Chair
Area 54 - Panel 73**

2024 MINI-CONFERENCE

On Saturday afternoon, March 23, 2024, the Area 54 Mini-Conference attendees conducted a “mock” conference to receive the results of committee deliberation. Here is a summary report of the committee deliberations and conference actions.

COMMITTEE 1 (International Conventions/Regional Forums Corrections)

Agenda Item D. (International Conventions/Regional Forums) - Discuss options for closing the Big Meeting at the International Convention. **The committee discussed the item and took no action.**

Agenda Item A. (Corrections) - Consider updated Singleness of Purpose text to replace the existing paragraph in the pamphlet “A Message to Corrections Professionals.” **The committee considered the request and made no recommendation.**

Agenda Item E. (Corrections) - Review progress report on updating A.A. Service Material to better carry the message to alcoholics with intellectual or information processing challenges, communication challenges and diverse neurological abilities.. **The committee reviewed the progress report and took no action.**

COMMITTEE 2 (Policy/Admissions, Cooperation with the Professional Community, Treatment and Accessibilities)

Agenda Item C. (Policy/Admissions) - Discuss report on Equitable Distribution of Workload (EDW) process. **The committee discussed the item and took no action.**

Agenda Item B. (Cooperation with the Professional Community) - Review progress report on the development of outward facing pamphlet for mental health professionals. **The committee discussed the item and took no action.**

Agenda Item E. (Treatment and Accessibilities) - Review updated Bridging the Gap service material. **The committee reviewed updated Bridging the Gap service material and took no action.**

COMMITTEE 3 (Public Information, Literature, Cooperation with the Professional Community)

Agenda Item F. (Public Information) - Review report on Meeting Guide app. **The committee reviewed the report and took no action.**

Agenda Item G. (Literature) - Review progress report on the development of the Fifth Edition of the book Alcoholics Anonymous. **The committee reviewed the progress report and took no action.**

Agenda Item E. (Cooperation with the Professional Community) - Consider a request to develop a pamphlet on the unhoused alcoholic in AA. **The committee considered the request and made no recommendation.**

COMMITTEE 4 (Agenda, Grapevine/La Viña)

Agenda Item A. (Agenda) - Review suggestions for the theme of the 2025 General Service Conference. **The committee reviewed suggested themes of the 2025 GSC and took no action.**

Agenda Item C. (Agenda) - Discuss workshop topic ideas for the 2025 General Service Conference. **The committee discussed workshop topics for the 2025 GSC and took no action.**

MINI CONFERENCE, CONT.

Agenda Item C. (Grapevine/La Viña) Discuss the cost effectiveness and sustainability of continuing to print LA Viña. **The committee discussed the item and took no action, as Grapevine/La Viña items do not come before the conference for vote.**

Agenda Item E. (Grapevine/La Viña) - Consider a request to develop a pamphlet on the Asian and Asian American alcoholic in A.A. **The committee considered the request and recommended developing a pamphlet on the Asian and Asian American Alcoholic in A.A. (9 in favor, 3 against). After discussion the conference voted against the recommendation (22 in favor, 48 against). Minority opinion spoke, but there was no Motion for Reconsideration.** [NOTE: Though assigned to the Grapevine committee, this item is a Literature item. The assignment was due to Equitable Distribution of Workload (EDL)]

COMMITTEE 5 (Report & Charter)

Agenda Item A. (Report & Charter) - The A.A. Service Manual, 2024-2026 Edition: 1. Review list of editorial updates. The committee reviewed with appreciation the paragraphs on the agenda item summary, but was unable to review the editorial notes and updates and the draft of sections 8 through 12 as they were too lengthy to be provided. **The committee took no action.**

Agenda Item B. (Report & Charter) - Discuss General Service Conference Final Report. **The committee discussed the GSC Final Report and took no action.**

Agenda Item C. (Report & Charter) - Discuss the reporting of the Simple Majority Items. **The committee made an additional consideration of keeping the section but have it written with more clarity. The committee took no action. On the additional consideration.**

COMMITTEE 6 (Finance, Literature)

Agenda Item A. (Finance) - Consider a request that the General Service Board develop supplemental reporting focused on the actual and evolving costs of various services provided by the GSB. **The committee considered the request and took no action.**

Agenda Item C. (Finance) - Review progress report reflecting shared experience from the Fellowship on possible future changes to literature written by A.A.'s founders. **The committee reviewed the progress report and took no action.**

Agenda Item J. (Literature) - Review progress report on revisions to the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship." The committee reviewed the progress report and took no action.

Agenda Item K. (Literature) - Consider a request that the words "Donation" and "Contribution" be swapped under Warranty One in "The Twelve Concepts Illustrated" pamphlet. **The committee considered the request and took no action. Additional consideration: Send the item back to the group that proposed it for clarification.**

FLOOR ACTION

N

Consider whether each trusted servant should have a choice between AA correspondence sent via email or postal mail. **Motion to decline to discuss failed. Conference consensus: "This item deserves discussion at the General Service Conference."** [Vote not reported to the editor]

MINI-CONFERENCE , CONT.

03/22/2024 Notes from Friday Evening's Speaker, Michael R., GSO

Staff Notes Taken quickly (and not perfectly!) by Adam P.

- Numerous people shared including Class A Trustee Sister Judith Ann
- Michael R. Employee at the GSO
 - Coordinator for CPC for the conference
 - Report for the GSO
 - 2025 International Convention in Vancouver
 - Patrick C. International Convention coordinator
 - 50,000 people are expected to show up
 - Hotel and registration maybe will be in September
 - He had to submit for criminal rehabilitation
 - He said they are working on getting virtual events for those that can't attend.
 - He has information
 - Public Information Service Cards
 - Downloadable and scalable PDFs for use.
You can have you address, phone numbers meeting guide app link
 - Young people's project flyers, looking for stories, brief videos of how they got sober s
tayed sober.

- 2024 membership survey is out
- CPC

Also have a downloadable and scalable PDFs for use.

Sometimes the conversation has to go to the next step...but we want the professional to have more information as well. They can go to the about AA webpage and sign up for a newsletter. And committees can do what they need to with the cards.

2023 updated workbook is available on the online bookstore.

There were paper shortages, and it wasn't printed since 2018

As a volunteer, or if you were helped aa.org get involved. Looking for stories of those who were affected or involved.

Mental health pamphlet draft pamphlet will be available for the trustees to review for the 2025 GSC. He got to work with a lot of professionals.

Finished editing the CPC guidelines.

2nd Saturday of the month at noon have a zoom meeting

Please come visit the GSO

Philly, Boston, NY

Regional Forums

4 regional forums in 2024

The GSO comes to the local areas in US and Canada

Literature Desk

Call to contribute, the do you think you're different pamphlet, due April 30th this year, and on thw what's new page of AA.org

Corrections

Hoping to go to Tennessee with a proposal with 2 class A trustees to take the message behind the walls and also to bridge the gap when they get out.

Talked about how he got to do CPC for 3 years and it's been a blessing, to have the time to learn, but also to carry the experience to the next assignment

Digitally reproduced things for prisoners like pamphlets and such

Daily reflections audio books for prisoners

Let corrections professional know AA has national contracts with digital vendors/tablets.

You can contact corrections@aa.org

Corrections correspondences, looking for Spanish speaking men for US, and women and transgender or non-binary members, a call out from facilitiesaa.org.

UPCOMING DATES FOR THE AREA AND BEYOND

NOTE THE DATE

April 21 - Hybrid Area Assembly **Gv Lit**

May 18 @ 12:00 pm

CNCMD Workshop –
“The Grapevine: A Tool of Recovery”
Cleveland District Office, 1557 St.Clair Avenue,
Cleveland, OH,

May 19 – Area Unity Day, GSC Report & Potluck

June 7-9 - Founders’ Day **Gv**
Grapevine sales on Saturday only 6/8

June 23 – Area Open House Picnic
Swine Creek Reservation
16004 Hayes Rd, Middlefield, OH

OUTSIDE OUR AREA

April 14-20 - 74th General Service Conference,
Brooklyn, NY

May 4 – Ohio State Convention
Planning Meeting, Columbus, OH

June 7-9 – East Central Regional Conference,
Grand Rapids, MI

Gv = Grapevine sale days
Lit = Literature sale days

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(Continued from page 6)

- International corrections meeting is online every week, present and past corrections chairs, it’s an online zoom meeting the 1st and last Sundays at 6pm, the other Sundays at 11am
- International
 - AA world service meeting established in 1969 and happens every other year attended by service delegates from around the world for a world wide group conscious. The group conscious of US and Canada are the places we have a say in. Other countries come together. It will be October in NY, and he is chairing a session. He did observe some of the online world service meetings and it was so powerful.
 - A woman came from Mongolia (as remote as you can get) she created a general service structure and they have about 30 meetings. And he says the service glow (it was being translated) sharing how the groups came together.
- Group Services (Karina)
 - Working hard on updating service material and guidelines. Scouring every piece of service material, the kits, GSR kit. The new group kit, and been going through the material and getting it up to date, removing pamphlets that are out of date, adding the about AA newsletter.
- Language Services
 - The translate everything into Spanish and French
 - Every single document that has to be translated to prepare for the conference. They created a spreadsheet to track all of the documents. Over 900 documents to translate.
 - They have been translating for years but it has been taken over by the language services in 2022.
 - He gets emails from French speaking professionals and students from Canada, so he works with them to get translation
- Conference
 - He loves that we have our little min-conference.
 - The conference shapes AA for the alcoholics here, not here yet and not yet born. James says Today is someone’s day one.
 - The conference guides us and your voice guides the conference. Your delegate is here to carry the message from your Area.

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

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

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