

The Northeast Ohio Recorder

Fourth Quarter Issue

October November December 2024

<http://www.area54.org>

Volume XXVIII, Issue 4

A Word From Our Delegate

Greeting's Area 54 Members,

I would like to thank everyone who helped make our 68th Ohio State Convention a success. There were 177 registrations and 87 folks at our banquet. The program committee, hospitality committee, speaker committee, registration committee, printing committee, entertainment committee, floor manager, Al-Anon coordinator, Wellington and Reyes and all their work with the Hispanic community, Jeff our treasurer for the Convention. And Amanda B. our co-chair who coordinated so much of this Convention all worked tirelessly to make it all happen. All the standing committees who showed up with their displays Dustin and Mathew who brought Grapevine and Literature the round table facilitators James T. who did a statewide GSR school presentation. Our East Central Regional Trustee Cathi C. who gave us a report on the General Service Board and answered many questions from our attendees. Misha Q. our General Service Office staff member who gave us a report on what is happening at our office and answered questions all weekend. The Delegates from the other 3 delegate areas, Area 53 Ed A., Area 55 Josh D., Area 56 Warren G. who chaired 3 of the speaker meetings. And anyone I may have missed. The ad-hoc committee that was tasked with reviewing and updating our Area 54 Guidelines have completed their task and will present them for discussion at our September Assembly, and we will vote on them before we start our Election Assembly in October at the Brunswick 12 Step Club. We will also be voting on Trustee at large US. East Central Regional Trustee. As well as our Panel 75 Delegate. Alternate Delegate. Area Chair. Recording Secretary. Treasurer. Mailing Secretary and Possibly Area Registrar if the Guidelines pass. I will forever be grateful for the opportunity to serve Area 54 as your Panel 73 Delegate.

Love and service,

Tim H. 9-5-23

Area 54, Panel 73

ALTERNATE DELEGATE REPORT

I write after the conclusion of the 68th Ohio State Convention. This brings to a close yet another successful Ohio State Convention. The Rountables and all events were well attended with lots of conversation in between the events. Our visitors received the effect of our awesome Volunteers!!

Warren G. and I spoke on Corporate Poverty. I passed out "The 7th Tradition/Where Spirituality Mix" and Warren gave the history of the beginning of the "funding of AA". The discussion after was lively, with questions asked and answered.

Crystal, our Archivist, was in a room devoted to our rich history. Taking the time to do some organizing.

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Once again thank you for this opportunity to serve

*Beverly F, Alternate Delegate Area 54, Paanel 73
Area 54, Panel 73*



COMMITTEE REPORTS

ACCESSIBILITIES COMMITTEE

The Committee's nice display presented pictures of several signs of accessibilities. The Signer at the meetings. Wheel chair transportation, A cane for making accessibility possible. And the Parking space for Close-to-the-Door-Parking. Thank you!



GROUP SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thank you all who contributed to the Group Services workshop in August. We focused on learning about the different service positions available at the Area level and hearing the experience, strength, and hope from those current positions. We talked about which positions we would be voting to elect at the October assembly and how to stand for those positions. We also talked about other appointed positions and how to make you willingness to serve in those positions known. A big shout out to Bob M., who presented on the history of A.A. Service in Northeast Ohio.

The 68th Ohio State Convention of A.A. Was an awesome experience. I got to connect with so many people and thank Cathi C., our East Central Regional Trustee, whose term is ending. Cathi let us know that the Plain Language Big Book would be available November 1st in paper and ebook formats. I also got to share my experience, strength, and hope on Saturday which was a very humbling and spiritual experience.

I was on the Ad Hoc Area 54 Guidelines Committee, and we completed our work over the past year and a half, and I would like to thank the team of Wellington R., Jamie ., Tina C, Ellen W, Bob M., and Jeff Y. The purpose of the ad hoc committee was 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 have been a part of this committee and to have had 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 have submitted our review and recommendations to Area 54.

AREA REPORTS

Continued from page 2 Group Services Committee Report

I am so grateful for the opportunity to serve Area 54 Group Services Chair for Area 54. Thank you all for helping me to grow in service and for your support and friendship. My term will end Jan 1, 2025, if you are interested in serving as Group Services Chair, please reach out to me or the Delegate Elect, who will be elected at the October 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
Adam P
Area 54 Group Services A.A. General Service Documents Google Drive:

MAILING SECRETARY REPORT

What a busy couple of months it has been in the Area. June's mailing party was hosted by District 23 at the Ashtabula Library. Such a beautiful library filled with even more beautiful people. They had an awesome turnout despite the horrible rain and flooding situation in the area that day. We had a great day of fellowship and getting over 1300 mailings out. I would like to thank everyone for coming out and DCM Judy K for putting it all together. The next and my last mailing party as secretary will be December 7th 10:30 am at Good Shepherd Christian Church. Address is 9571 Shepard Rd, Macedonia, Ohio 44056. This is being hosted by Western Reserve Group from Sagamore Hills. Thank you to Joan, their GSR for getting this together. Hope to see everyone there.

I really want to take time to thank everyone that came out to the 68th Ohio State Convention. It was a pleasure and learning experience serving as your co-chair for this event. All the committee chairs did such a great job getting their areas together for a successful event. Thank you Tim for asking me to co-chair and support. Jamie for your direction on matters and Jeff all the answers to tons of questions I had. Our speakers did a fabulous job, thank you for sharing and making yourself available. Al Anon and OYPAA for participating in so many ways. To all the

GSR's for coming out, listening and asking questions about general service. We wouldn't have been able to do it without all of you.

The rest of this year is going to fly, Look forward to seeing everyone at the September Assembly, October elections, and then end things with Gratitude Sunday. Don't blink, you might miss it. Please take time to sit back and enjoy this beautiful fall weather.

Amanda B., Mailing Secretary
Area 54, Panel 73 9-5-24

RECORDING SECRETARY REPORT

The past couple of years has gone by so quickly. I have been blessed to serve as the Recording Secretary for Area 54 (Panel 73). I have had the privilege of attending conventions, conferences and many other Area events where my sober family has grown. I don't meet strangers; I meet new friends. I also get to drive our Alternate Delegate, Bev F., to these events. I have learned that you don't make friends by osmosis. You make friends by listening and truly caring about people. During the July assembly, those in attendance experienced and participated in a group inventory. The inventory taught me how to look at myself and how each interaction affects other people. I know my Higher Power, that I choose to call God, has great plans for me. I will continue my service with Area 54 as a trusted servant so I can continue to make friends, help others and grow my spiritual life. "God doesn't choose the qualified; He qualifies the chosen."

In Service,
Ellen W., Recording Secretary A54/P73

REGISTRAR AREA 54

There was a nice poster about the Registrar's Committee position. With duties, etc.

The duties of the registrar have evolved with the implementation of ***Fellowship Connection***. Registrars often are a crucial first point of contact for A.A. groups and trusted servant's data. Although the registrar's duties will vary by area, the need for accurate information and clear communications is the foundation of this role. Other duties may include:

- Develops and maintains records of all groups in the area, including group name, meeting location and

(Continued on page 4)

AREA REPORTS

COMMITTEE REPORTS CONTINUED *(page 3) Registrar Committee Report*

(Continued from

- GSR or Group contact.
- Works with trusted servants to maintain accurate and up-to-date names, addresses, email addresses and phone numbers of the GSRs, DCMs, district and area officers and area committee members
- The Registrar works locally with the delegate and DCMs on verifying the accuracy and the data submitted and wherever necessary following up communication for corrections
- Works with the G.S.O. Operations department in keeping area information up to date

Qualifications: Duties of a registrar vary by area, but area registrars will require training on the “Fellowship Connection” (a user-friendly interface that facilitates information sharing between areas and G.S.O... Familiarity with computer system and spreadsheet tools and an understanding the data and downloading custom and standard reports. Other qualities needed may include.

- Familiarity with the area and district structure, and ability to communicate throughout it.
- Ability to organize, communicate and manages detailed information.
- Ability to relay information via email to G.S.O., locally and within the area.
- Ability to responsibly handle and protect personal information
- A solid period of sobriety.
- And work closely with *G.S.O. Groups Members Committee*

Thank you Devona for all your hard work and having our information available to us.

Note: *the above description is in the AA General Service Manual.*

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

The new address for our contributions is
General Service Office
Post Office Box 2407
James A Farley Station
New York, NY 10116-2407



Thank you Mae R. for your Poster on Finance at the State Convention. The picture does not do it justice. Thanks for you work as Finance committee chair and handing out the Birthday envelopes

Does your group hand out Birthday Envelopes when Anniversaries are announced. You can get them from Mae or order from G. S. O, if you wish.



AREA REPORTS and Meet New Class B Trustees

GRAPEVINE COMMITTEE REPORT

Thank you Matthew P. for being at the Convention with the Grapevine Books, etc. If you want or need a Grapevine book call Matthew and arrange to get your book. You do not have to contact New York, Area 54 has a large selection of Grapevine Books right here in Area 54.

In Love and Service
Matt P, Grapevine Chair
Area 54 Panel 73

LITERATURE COMMITTEE REPORT

Dustin was at the convention to have our literature available to purchase.

Thank you for your service. Thanks for always having a nice supply of literature available for us locally.

FROM Box 459 Vol 71, No 2/ Summer 2024 MEET TWO NEW CLASS B GENERAL SERVICE BOARD TRUSTEES

Following their election in April at the 74th General Service Conference, two new Class B (alcoholic) trustees joined the General Service Board of A.A.: Gail P., of Victoria, British Columbia, Western Canada regional trustee; and Charlie H., of Lincoln, Nebraska, West Central regional trustee. While all trustees represent the Fellowship as a whole and no trustee can be said to “represent” a geographical section, these newly elected A.A. members bring extensive service experience and invaluable regional and professional points of view and experience to the board’s deliberations.

A blizzard changed **Gail P.**’s life and set her on the road to sobriety, although not without a few pitfalls along the way. “I was born in Fort William, Ontario, and then grew up in Winnipeg,” she says. “There was a blizzard in 1966 that shut the whole city down for four days. A guy on the radio described Vancouver as ‘God’s country,’ and I thought, I want that. So I started heading west and eventually ended up on Vancouver Island, where I’ve been since 1980.” I lost my home and ended up renting — I blamed it on all kinds of things, but it was my drinking. I was a single parent with a 13-year-old daughter and a job. So I sat at my table and thought, I could quit my job and just drink.. That might be a valid option. But as I played the tape until the end, I knew that I would never get it together again. So the only option was to ask for help.”

CONTINUED CLASS B TRUSTEE GS BOARD TRUSTEES, GAIL P.,

Gail picked up the phone and called the Victoria cCentral Office. (She had previously taken the “20 Questions” quiz to gauge her alcoholism, answering the questions “one way on paper, but another way in my brain.”) It turned out the woman who answered the phone lived only a block from her. After Gail got off work, she went straight to the woman’s home. The woman said to her, “Do you have another drunk?” And Gail said, “I don’t know.” The woman replied, “Of course you do. But do you have another recovery.” And Gail said, “I don’t know.” The woman replied “Exactly.”

“Those words were there for my first 10 years in A.A.,” Gail says. “Every time I contemplated not being in A.A., I knew I wouldn’t recover again. That was the key.”

Gail never drank again and her sobriety date is June 23, 1985. Like a lot of alcoholics who put the drink down, Gail’s smarts and drive came to the fore (front) as she got sober. She left her job as a legal assistant to build, along with a partner, a beachfront dive shop and café, which she describes as “hugely successful but an incredible undertaking, one of those things that you have to do one step at a time.”

In 2000, finally with spare time and income, she joined a home group that met every day. “I found myself living with these people. We went for breakfast, went for hikes, played charades, had house parties.” But being with the same 15 people on such a close basis began to feel claustrophobic to Gail and she became disillusioned. “So I stood up and walked out of that group, thinking, well, I’ll find another one.” Instead, she stopped going to meetings and spent the next two and a half years not drinking, but not in A.A. “I was adrift and it scared me very badly. So I made the decision to go back to A.A. and get in the middle.”

Which meant general service, something she had never before tried. Gail became a GSR and then a DCM. She became the Area 79 treasurer, alternate chair and chair, then alternate delegate and finally Panel 69 delegate, experiencing the 2019 Conference in person and the 2020 Conference virtually.

“Until 2003, I really had no idea how vast Alcoholics Anonymous was. I had an intellectual understanding that it was a worldwide organization, but it is so big, so broad. In general service, what you find is such a love for our Fellowship and our program.” And being in general service has helped Gail in other areas of her life. Her only daughter — 13 when Gail got sober — died of alcohol and drug addiction in 2016. “All I can say is that I don’t think anyone should die of alcoholism. But it does happen. Thank God for A.A. service. I was the area chair when that happened and I was too busy to sink into a horrible depression. A.A. and the people in it saved my life. I have three amazing grandchildren who have never seen their Grandma drunk.”

Gail describes her life today as both “busy and serene,” but she is looking forward to her service as Western Canada regional trustee. “My first inclination was, ‘I’m too old for this job,’” she says. “But in talking to Scott H. [new General Service Board chair], when he was encouraging

Continued “Meet New Class B GS Board Trustees”

(Gail’s story continued)

me to do this, he said, ‘You could be a very unifying force for our western region.’ I think that what he was referring to was the fact that Covid seemed to change everything for that two years, when we didn’t travel, didn’t hug, didn’t laugh. And so I have an opportunity to work with our region, to build and increase unity, and help us enhance the vibrancy of the wonderful region we are.”

Charlie H. remembers his first drunk as “just walking around the neighborhood with a friend and a bottle of Jack Daniels. I can remember that night so clearly because it was like the world quit spinning. I can remember how the moon hung in the sky, how it glistened across the grass. I looked at my buddy and said, ‘This stuff is great. Why isn’t everybody like this all the time?’”

Charlie was 13 years old that night and would only have about six more years to drink, but he packed a lot into those six years. The son of well-educated, nonalcoholic parents, he had “a pretty typical childhood for a kid in the ’70s and ’80s. I had lots of free rein and my ego historically got me into problems because I didn’t have enough sense to ask questions. As a result, I did a lot of dumb things.” In high school, Charlie was able to drive and the predictable results were hair-raising drunk-driving incidents, such as the time he was arrested for a DUI when he was 17 or 18. “They were alarmed because I tested at a 2.6 or 2.8 [Blood Alcohol Content] but the cops said I appeared sober. Which I thought was a point in my favor, but they thought it was bizarre that a kid that young could handle that much booze.? When they took him in. Charlie decided to lie and say that he only blacked out once or twice a week, thinking that was what normal people did, and was shocked to learn that normal people didn’t black out at all. (Charlie had also taken the “20 Questions” quiz, but even then he sensed that “only alcoholics take alcoholic evaluations, so you basically fail automatically.”)

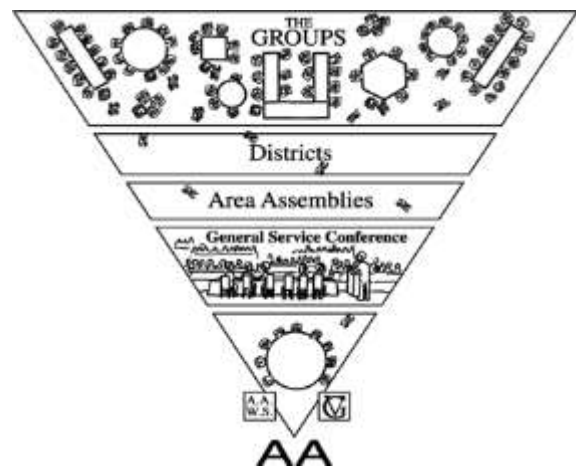
Finally, after getting arrested “about every 90 days” and seriously injuring himself when he crashed his car while driving drunk, Charlie quit drinking at the age of 19. “I knew that it owned me,” he says. He was in an outpatient treatment center and a woman came in and spoke about A.A. “She said that what A.A. does is reach out to drunks and they do it for free and that’s how they get better. I thought, well, they’ve got something if they can do that.”

Charlie’s sobriety date is October 28, 1990. A pivotal moment very early in his sobriety was when he went to an A.A. workshop at the local Holiday Inn. One of the

speakers was Tom I., from North Carolina who was sober 34 years at that time. Tom’s story and his evident love for A.A. and A.A.s was so compelling that he became a lifelong friend and mentor of Charlie’s. “He just lit me up like a Christmas tree,” Charlie says. “He put a fire under me.” At about a year sober, he was elected alternate GSR, and moved on to becoming GSR and then DCM. He held just about every Area 41 office (except treasurer) and served as a Panel 56 delegate.

Recovery began to feel like coming back to life. “I do remember that I was about three or four years sober” Charlie says, and I was driving down the road and shockingly, I noticed the world was in color. I hadn’t realized that in so long.” At the urging of his family, he quit working in the spring of 2023 to focus on their real estate holdings and spend more time with his wife and four children. He did not expect to become a trustee — “I am happy as heck as a husband and a father and an A.A. member” — but at the urging of the current Nebraska delegate (also his sponsee) he threw his hat in the ring and was elected.

“I don’t have an agenda — my agenda was actually to lose the election,” he laughs. What he brings to the table as a trustee, Charlie says, is a deep love and understanding of the Traditions and Concepts and a desire to help promote harmony within the Fellowship. “I think if the Fellowship wants us to be looking at something, I really think our job as a Board is to be looking at it and thinking about it.” Other than that, he says, “if at the end of four years Alcoholics Anonymous is in better shape than it was at the beginning, then I’ll feel like I’ve done my job.”



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>

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	Maple Hts., OH 44137	
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	PO Box 264	website@area54.org
	Middlefield, OH 44062	

UPCOMING DATES & BOX 459 NEWS

NOTE THE DATE

Assembly September 15 Hybrid Area54 Assembly
GV Lit

October 20– Hybrid Area Assembly ELECTIONS
GV Lit

November 2, 2024, Saturday 11 AM
Ohio State Convention Planning Meeting
Lord of Life Church, 2480 W. Dublin Granville
Rd, Columbus, OH 43235

November 17, 2024 Gratitude Sunday 2PM
St Mary Church 103 N Maple St. Orwell OH
44076

January 19, 2025 Hybrid Area54 Assembly GV
Lit

January 26, 2025 Mini-Conference Planning at
Best Western Hotel Plus, Strongsville, 44136
Ohio at 2pm

OUTSIDE our AREA

February 7-9, 2025, East Central Regional Conference
of Delegate Past and Present.,

February 9—11, 2024 Present & Past
Delegates Conference East Central Region
Fort Wayne, Indiana

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



The following came n an email from GSO

Dear A.A. Friends,
This is an exciting time in the planning of our 2025 International Convention. The Registration and Housing Processes will open on September 10, 2024, at Noon, Eastern Time.

This memo includes information on the 2 WAYS TO REGISTER

- ONLINE: www.aa.org
- MAIL: PO Box 7032, Lancaster, PA 17604

Print the cover letter and brochure for your groups and members to read about the 2025 International Convention. The only attendees filling out a mail-in registration form are those paying by check or money order. Made out to ; 2025 International Convention Registration Brochure
Warm regards,
Patrick C.
2025 International Convention Coordinator
2025ic@aa.org

ONLINE REGISTRATION AND HOUSING PROCESS

Attendees planning to register and book housing online through our vendor, Showcare, **should use the Online Registration and Housing Process.**

In the online portal, attendees can register, as well as add on our exciting product offerings, Once the online registration is complete, attendees seeking housing will be guided to book an option.

Attendees can access the Online Registration and Housing Process via a link on our website at <https://www.aa.org/international-convention>. Additionally, the Registration Brochure is filled with information about the 2025 International Convention you want to review. (Find the Registration Brochure at . <https://www.aa.org/international-convention>.)