

The Northeast Ohio Recorder

Fourth Quarter Issue

October, November, December 2025

<https://www.area54.org>

Volume XIX, Issue 4

A Word From Our Delegate

Greetings Area 54, on Friday evening, Aug. 8, I traveled to the Ohio State Convention with Wellington R. (Alternate Delegate). It was held at the the Delta Hotels, 3100 Glendale Ave., on the University of Toledo Medical Campus. We checked in and registered by 4:45 pm.

As the Delegate from Area 54, I had the honor of chairing the Friday night meeting. My fellow Ohio delegates who attended were Joel K. from Area 53, Josh D. from Area 55 and Warren G. from Area 56. I introduced Kelley C., a staff member of the General Service Office in New York who is assigned to the Treatment/Accessibilities Committee. She shared her experience, strength and hope. Several members of Area 54 also attended.

On Saturday morning, Warren G. (Delegate, Area 56 in Southwest Ohio) chaired the session. David A. shared his service and life's experience with us. The AI-Anon program was well represented by Rose R.

Area 54 participated in seven panels and truly represented Northeast Ohio.

Saturday night, Kelley C. presented a clever video that was a virtual tour of the GSO Office and our Staff. If you have a chance to see this video at various AA events, I encourage you to do so.

Sherry S., our newly elected East Central Regional Trustee, shared her service, strength and hope. The Ohio Young People in AA closed the evening session with a loud and fun sobriety countdown, followed by the convention's famous ice cream social.

At the Sunday morning session, our East Central Regional representatives participated in a wrap-up meeting. They discussed future events for the East Central Region. The region's Forum will be held Aug 22-24 at the Marriott Indianapolis Downtown. The OYPAA convention will be held Sept. 12-14 at the Wyndham Columbus.

A reminder for the panel of Area 54: Please mark your calendars for the next Ohio State Convention Planning Meeting on Nov. 1, 2025. It will be held at 11 a.m. at the Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 2480 W Dublin-Granville Road, Columbus.

Thank you once again for this opportunity to serve.

Very Sincerely,

Beverly F., Delegate

On the Right is a picture of the Big Meeting Saturday night at the 90 International Convention of AA in Vancouver B.C. This picture has been shared with us by GSO.



A Committee Report

I have been blessed with the opportunity to serve as your Treasurer on Panel 75. This position is significant to our Area, and I will not take it lightly. Yet this service is a small return to Alcoholic Anonymous for its part in the restoration and transformation of my life. Without God, the fellowship, and the Twelve Steps I would never be fit for such a blessing. And for that, I am forever grateful.

I had the opportunity to attend the 69th Ohio State Convention from Aug. 8-10 in Toledo which was hosted by Area 55 in Northwest Ohio. This was a wonderful time in AA that was both fun and informative. I had the privilege of speaking with three other panelists on the topic "The Spirit of Rotation, What's Next?". As always in AA, I learned from both the attendees and the panelists more than I gave. Isn't that one of the miracles that occur in the Fellowship of AA?

Throughout the convention, I gained a greater knowledge of the service functions and processes as well as my place in the processes of the General Service structure. For me as an individual member, it means I must take care of my spiritual condition if I want to have anything to give into the fellowship. This is where the desire to be a trusted service begins and continues, with me understanding my motives for service. Then it takes AA as whole, not just our individual groups, to keep the hand of AA there for the newcomer.

I'd like to thank all the groups and individuals for your contributions and service to the wonderful program of AA. And I would like to encourage us all to continue to support our groups, intergroup/service offices, districts, areas and the General Service Office as much as you can.

No contribution is too small because, with willingness, God can do miracles. If you are unsure of that, look at yourself in the mirror. Your first experience and view of miracles that are possible through willingness is the God of your understanding's work in and on you.

Blessings,

Candy L.

Treasurer, Area 54/Panel 75

Area Events and Sharing



This picture was taken at the "Old Timers" Big Meeting." Held in Rogers Arena in Vancouver, B.C. at the 90th International Convention of AA. International Convention.



Thanks to all who came the the **Penn-Ohio Family Fun Day** that was held on the 1st Saturday in August 2025 in Erie at Waldameer Park. The weather was perfect and thank you Steve for cooking the hot dogs and all the folks too many to list that made this event possible. Especially Mark S.& Diane WE are already booked for next year on the 1st Saturday in August, 2026. Watch for the Flyer in May –June 2026



FUN DAY OF GOLF was the 2025 ALICE HEATH MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING

Where else can you swing at a golf ball once year and they let you still participate. It was a great day.

AREA REPORTS

From the Chair

90th Ohio State Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous Report



From August 8–10, 2025, members of Alcoholics Anonymous, along with Al-Anon, gathered in Toledo, Ohio for the 69th Ohio State Convention of AA, hosted this year by Area 55 (Northwest Ohio).

The theme, “Attraction by Action,” guided our time together in unity, service and recovery.

The convention brought together members from all four Ohio Areas (53, 54, 55 and 56), along with Sherry S., our East Central Regional Trustee, staff members from the General Service Office in New York, trustees and past trustees, along with our friends in Al-Anon. Over the weekend, we shared in panels, speaker meetings and fellowship that reminded us of the strength and hope found in carrying AA’s message.

Highlights included:

Inspirational speakers from across the state, who shared their experience, strength and hope in recovery.

Panel discussions on service, sponsorship and spiritual growth.

Sharing by Alon-Anon, which enriched the weekend and reminded us of our common bond in recovery.

Fellowship opportunities in the hospitality room, mealtime gatherings, and informal conversations that deepened our connections.

A banquet and Saturday night speaker meeting, where the unity of AA’s three legacies – Recovery, Unity and Service – was celebrated.

As always, the convention served its purpose: to bring the spirit of the General Service Conference to the individual member, to strengthen our common bond, and to remind us that together we can do what none of us could do alone.

I extend heartfelt gratitude to all who worked tirelessly to make the convention possible – committee members, volunteers, speakers and attendees. Your service helped carry AA’s message and demonstrated that “Attraction by Action” is more than just a theme. It is a way of life.

I now look ahead with enthusiasm to continuing my service, and I encourage all members to stay connected through Area assemblies, District meetings, and upcoming events. May the spirit of this convention continue to inspire us in our service to the Fellowship and to the still-suffering alcoholic.

In gratitude and service,
DeVona S.

Chair, Area 54/Panel 75

For Contributions to AA see the information you need below:

Make checks payable to the “General Service Board”

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

You can also continue to make contributions online at www.contributions.aa.org, using a major credit card/bank card or PayPal.

Mae R, Finance Committee Chair, Panel 75



Copies Available!

The 2025 International Convention Souvenir book, “A BOOK OF FELLOWSHIP: 90 Years of Love & Service” is a lavishly illustrated celebration of our Fellowship, its vibrant history, and A.A. around the world today.

Limited Edition collectible art book.

More Area Committee Reports

When I was elected recording secretary of Area 54 in October, I had dozens of questions about my duties.

My service sponsor answered them patiently. Then she wisely referred me, over and over again, to one of the most valuable documents to learn what we do and why we do it.

It's the Area 54 Northeast Ohio General Service Area Guidelines. The 36-page document is an extension of suggestions found in the AA Service Manual. It reflects practices and procedures based on our experience. It's intended to highlight differences in Area 54 from those described in the A.A. service manual and give an overview of the service functions. You can find it at our website at Ara54.org/ > Publications > Guidelines.

The Guidelines often answer questions that I and many other AAs have had when we started attending the Assemblies: "Can someone explain what (fill in the blank) is all about?"

For example:

Q. What, exactly, is Area 54?

A. Page 36 of the current Guidelines show the map which includes numbered districts. You can find a more detailed map at Area54.org under "Districts," helpful for new GSRs and others who aren't sure of the correct district for their home groups. Hover your cursor over a spot on the map and the area's number will pop up.

Q. I'm a new GSR. What am I supposed to do?

A. The Guidelines provide a bulleted list of duties for every panel member, general service representative, district committee member and committee chair. I return to the Guidelines every other month or so to review my duties, just to make sure nothing falls through the cracks.

Q. I'm a new committee chair. What do I need to do to fulfill my obligations?

A. Duties for all 13 standing committees are summarized on Pages 21-26. If you want to be of service in Area 54 but you're not sure what you can do, you'll find opportunities galore, from reviewing the Area 54 budget to taking meetings into nursing homes and jails.

Q. When are the Assemblies?

A. See Page 28, which also lists the Area 54 events during the months when we don't have assemblies. You'll learn the difference between Unity Day and Gratitude Sunday and why attendance at all our events is so rewarding.

Q. Our district might want to host the Open House/Picnic. What do we need to know?

A. Details are on Pages 29-30. But don't wait until the last minute. The Open House/Picnic is hosted by a district or group of districts selected by the Area Assembly in January.

Q. What's the difference between the Ohio State Convention, the East Central Regional Convention, the East Central Regional Forum and the East Central Region's Conference of Delegates Past and Present?

A. These four events with similar names are detailed on Pages 32-33.

Q. What if I have a suggested change or addition to these guidelines?

A. An ad hoc committee reviews and updates the Guidelines periodically, then presents the suggested revisions to the Assembly for approval. You can volunteer to be on the committee, or pass your idea along to a committee member. Have we deviated from these Guidelines? Sometimes. But as my service sponsor reminds me, "There are no rules in AA. These are Guidelines, and you can adjust them depending on your situation in your area. They're not commandments."

Joan S.

Recording Secretary/Area 54/Panel 75

How to Register Your Group with the GSO Office in New York

Becoming a General Service Representative (GSR) or District Committee Member (DCM) in Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) is a very important role and a rewarding way to serve your home group and contribute to the broader fellowship. Here's a brief guide on how to register with your local area and the General Service Office (GSO) in New York.

Understanding Your Role:

GSR (General Service Representative): Represents their home group at district and area meetings, shares group concerns and brings back vital information from district meetings, area assemblies and the GSO office.

DCM (District Committee Member): Supports multiple groups within a district and facilitates communication between GSRs and the area assembly.

Steps to Register:

1. **Get Elected by Your Group:** Each AA group selects its GSR through a group conscience vote, typically during a business meeting. If you are stepping up as a DCM, your district will hold an election for the position.

2. **Connect with Your Local Area:** Your area's service committee provides essential resources and guidance. Contact your area's registrar to find out the specific registration process.

3. **Complete the Registration Form:** The AREA provides a registration form for newly elected GSRs and DCMs. This form collects basic information about your group and your contact details.

4. **Submit to the Area Registrar:** After filling out the form, send it to your area's registrar. Your area registrar will register you officially in the database.

5. **Attend District and Area Meetings:** Once registered, engage actively in district and area meetings to stay informed and participate in decisions affecting AA groups in your region.

Local Intergroup: Please reach out to your local intergroup office to be sure you are listed in their meeting schedules. They are separate entities from your local AREA District and GSO.

Why Registration Matters: By officially registering, you ensure that your group stays connected to AA's service structure, receives important updates, literature and opportunities for collaboration. Your group can also hold a group conscience, discuss proposed agenda items for the General Service Conference, and share that at the Assembly where it can be discussed. If your group hasn't registered, you don't have a voice. Whether you're stepping into the role of GSR or DCM, your service strengthens AA's ability to help members nationwide. Ready to get started? Reach out to your area committee today!

Tina C.

Registrar, Area54/Panel 75

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.

A Miracle Named Yonne

During the International Convention in Vancouver, B.C. in July, Bob D. and I met Yonne one warm evening while waiting for hot dogs and soft drinks at the Kraut & Sausage shop on our way back to the hotel from the Big Meeting at Rogers Arena.

I went inside to order and Bob waited outside on his scooter. That's where he met Yonne a short woman who looked in her sixties. She was out of breath, leaning against a tree. The tiny woman was bent over almost in half, we later learned, from curvature of the spine.

Bob asked if she wanted to sit down on his scooter and rest. She said "NO" she was always "like this." She asked Bob where he was coming from and why he wasn't taking the bus back to the hotel. He told her we had just come from the Big Meeting at the Arena. He didn't know we could get on the bus, or how, because we had no Canadian money. She assured him that we could ride the bus and she said she would get us on it. But she had to put her older sister onboard another bus first, before she could help us. She came into the store where I was waiting for our order and said she'd help get us back to the hotel.

By then, our order was ready. I joined everyone outside the shop where, by now, several "new friends" had congregated. We started our walk up the street.

Yonne told us she had been homeless and a "crack head" in this very neighborhood. She had been clean for a long time, had a job and lived nearby. When we got to the crossroad, she told us to cross the street and go to the bus stop on the right. Then she disappeared to put her sister on another bus. We did as we were told. When Yonne rejoined us, she leaned against a tree and said she could really use a ginger ale which she saw in the basket of Bob's scooter. I handed her the bottle. She was grateful and told us her story.

Yonne was indigenous, from a province just north of Vancouver. She had been thrown out of her home at age 15 because she was drinking and pregnant. After living on the streets, she finally got help and was okay for many years. Just then, a stranger waiting for another bus offered Bob a joint. Yonne yelled at the stranger and sent him packing. I thought I was in a movie.

When our bus came, she insisted that she would handle everything. She climbed aboard and recognized Erin, the driver. She ordered him to take us to our hotel even though we didn't have Canadian money because it was "the law." We drove Bob's scooter onto the bus, and Erin took us to the stop across from our hotel. The kind soul said it was the best he could do.

We were exhausted from the heat and the long day. But we were rewarded with Yonne's determination and caring. WOW. What a miracle!

Susan R.

Newsletter Editor

NOTE; If the **QR Code** in this flyer does not work go to **AA.org website**. This flyer was copied from the **AA.org website**. The QR code should be correct On the AA Website.

Save the Date

"Freedom from Within"

NATIONAL CORRECTIONS CONFERENCE 2025

Nashville Tennessee November 7th - 9th 2025

Join us for the 8th Annual National Corrections Conference at
"The Inn at Opryland"



Johnny Cash Package: Registration, Ice Cream Social, Hospitality Room, Coffee = \$150.

Dolly Parton : Registration, Ice Cream Social, Hospitality Room, Coffee, Banquet Saturday Night = \$200.

Registration!!! **Use QR Code**

For more information contact:
Charlie B.
Morris R. or
Shannon K.
2025.ncc.1@gmail.com



8th Annual National Corrections Conference

Hear the message of HOPE!
How many became free while
Incarcerated because
someone cared enough to
carry the AA message into
their facility

Speakers from across the country Live Music

There are over 35,000 AAs in
confinement and over 1,400 prison
groups throughout the United
States and Canada. These meetings
answer only a fraction of the need
for more groups. In correctional
facilities across the country. Many
there reach for, but don't find, the
hand of A.A.

ATTRACTIONS

1/2 mile from Opryland Hotel
1/2 mile from KOA campground for
-your RV
3/4 mile to the Grand Ole Opry.
Bus rides to an AA Prison meeting,
Nashville Tours on the "Hop On Hop
Off Trolleys"

Stories below were Shared from GSO

Language of the Heart

Even at the Vancouver airport the game was afoot. Who were the 40,000 anonymous alcoholics heading down to the Convention Center? Bet that lady over there wearing the "Smith & Wilson University" shirt is. Then out to the main airport lobby where AA volunteers were on hand to guide us on how to use the Skytrain to get downtown. Even blocks away from the Center you could start seeing blue name tags – first a few and then dozens and dozens. Then it became a groundswell where even moving through the crowd was tough. Block parties began Thursday night at 8pm. Have you ever seen 5,000 AAs rockin' out?

There were meetings every hour on the hour starting at midnight Thursday. The main event started at 9am Friday morning with mini-Leads, info sessions, & panels in 10 different languages. Topics ranged from "Tolerance and Trust" to "AA and Correctional Facilities" to "Pain: The Touchstone of Growth." Speakers were from around the world – my first mini-Lead was a New Zealander.

These workshops continued long into the day, ending around 5:30pm. Meanwhile, spread across the hotels were 25 hospitality suites featuring AA subgroups, e.g., "Deaf AA and Friends," (Continued on page 2)

"International Conference of Secular AA," "International Pilots and Aviation Industry," and (of course) "Irish." In the Convention halls were exhibit booths for "Carry the Message," "GSO Archives," and "Grapevine/La Viña." Both Al-Anon and Alateen had their meetings with over 1,800 Al-Anoners registered for the weekend. The crowd roared in approval as a fife & drum band loudly introduced Friday night's 8pm Big Meeting at BC Place. There was a Flag Ceremony where the 80+ represented countries had their flags paraded across the stage to great applause. Three mini-Leads followed – a woman from New York, a gentleman from Helsinki, and a Cree Indian woman from Vancouver. The Helsinki mini-Lead broke down several times during his recovery story demonstrating the Convention's theme, Language of the Heart.

Saturday was rinse and repeat. Tons of meetings. Food trucks of every variety. Beautiful views of the mountains across Vancouver Harbor. Cool breezes. And wonderful opportunities to just stick your hand out and say, "Hi, I'm from Cleveland." I met, not one, but two women who peppered me with questions about Clarence Snyder. I know many Cleveland AAs who have never heard of him, and here, 3,000 miles away, we talked about the lengths he was willing to go to stay sober. Towards day's end, Ohioans gathered for an impromptu photo shoot complete with the iconic OHIO formed by four AAs holding their arms aloft. I counted at least 20 Clevelanders I readily identified in the crowd. What a blast!

Back at BC Place Saturday night for the Oldtimers Big Meeting, and boy, we were not disappointed. Twelve AAs, each with 50+ years, regaled us with witty, poignant, inspiring, and funny 5 minute mini-Leads. Worth the price of admission. More dances ended the night and went into the morning (while I was in bed). *(continued to the right)*

From the Bob W, General Manager GSO:

Dear A.A. Friends,

I want to take this opportunity to express **my deep gratitude to all who attended and supported** the International Convention which took place in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, earlier this month. **More than 34,000 members and guests from over 90 countries** were present to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of our Fellowship. It truly was an extraordinary gathering of love and service! Being with tens of thousands of A.A. members from around the world was a powerful reminder of the depth and reach of our Fellowship—and the joy that comes from sharing our sobriety one day at a time. In my last communication, I mentioned that operations on the 8th and 11th floors at the General Service Office will be consolidated to the 11th floor only. This will not only realize a savings in occupancy costs but also allow for better collaboration and effectiveness among all departments and services we provide. This consolidation will require modifications to our 11th floor office space to accommodate our Publishing and Communication Services Departments, which currently are on the 8th floor. Over the last several months, we have spent considerable time and effort planning for the retrofit of our space. In order to keep associated costs and disruption to services to a minimum, **the office will be operating remotely beginning Monday, August 11**, and will do so for the duration of the project, which is expected to be about 10-12 weeks. Please know that our mail and shipping operation and our phones will be operational throughout. Unfortunately, visiting the office during this time will not be possible, but GSO tours will resume when the project is completed. For updates during this period, please check aa.org, aagrapevine.org, the Meeting Guide App, as well as the Grapevine and La Vina apps. We recognize that many of you may be planning visits to GSO, and we sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. We look forward to welcoming you back to a refreshed and revitalized GSO this fall. Thank you for your patience and understanding during this project. With gratitude for your continued service to Alcoholics Anonymous,

Bob W. General Manager, G.S.O.

"Language of the Heart" Continued

Sunday was the day to start saying goodbye to new friends. I can't tell you how many AAs I told to get ahold of me if they were ever in Cleveland or at Founders Day. The Closing Big Meeting began at 9am and brought closure to an emotion filled weekend. Do yourself a favor, and, just this once, don't live one day at a time. Instead, take your calendar and mark the weekend of July 4th, 2030, for AA's 95th Anniversary to be held in St. Louis. See ya there! P.S. Gratitude to Vancouver AA and the 5,000 volunteers. They did a fantastic job.

By: Paul R.

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.

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➡ Visit us at www.area54.org

UPCOMING DATES & NEWS

NOTE THE DATE

2025 AREA 54 EVENTS

September 21: Hybrid Assembly

October 18: Hybrid Area Assembly GV-Lit

November 1, Ohio State Planning , at Lord of Life Church, Dublin Granville Rd Columbus 43235

November 16, Gratitude Sunday GV-Lit

OUTSIDE OUR AREA

February 13-15, 2026 Host Area 34

Delegates Past & Present, Benton Harbor MI
Hilton Garden Inn 269 926-5000

Deadline for hotel 1/10/26

Host Western Michigan www.Area34aa.org

Gv = Grapevine Sale days

Lit = Literature Sale days

Grapevine Daily Quote August 25, 2025

"In that fear of accumulated wealth and bureaucracy, we should not discover an alibi for failure to pay AA's legitimate service expenses. For fear of controversy, our leadership should not go timid when lively debate and forthright action is a necessity."

AA Co-Founder Bill W., July 1965,
"Responsibility is Our Theme", The Language of the Heart

**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**



Tours of GSO Offices on HOLD Temporarily

Beginning Monday, August 11, the General Service Office will operate remotely and will be closed to visitors for 10-12 weeks due to the retrofit of our office space and work on our facilities.

Visitors will be welcome at the General Service Office Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tours are scheduled at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., and 2 p.m., and last about 45 minutes. On Fridays, GSO hosts an open A.A. meeting at 11 a.m. There is also a guided tour offered after the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

Please note that in accordance with building policy, all visitors must register in advance to gain access to the building. Accordingly, we strongly recommend that individuals contact us prior to their visit so that we can enter them into the building's security system. In addition, groups of 10 or more must contact us ahead of time to schedule their visit so that we can best prepare for their time at the General Service. Contact the GSO office when you are planning your visit.

GSO will be located on the 11th floor of the building called the Interchurch Center. The building main entrance is at 61 Claremont Avenue between 119th and 120th. IF you are taking the subway the nearest station is 116th Street Station on the No 1 train.

