

## Area 54 Assembly Minutes

April 19, 2026

### Opening:

**DeVona S.** opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer. She reminded people to sign the attendance sheet clearly and include your phone number. Val asked us to keep Dave C. in our prayers.

Katie O. read the 12 Traditions. Carolyn read the 12 Concepts. Amanda B. summarized Tradition 9. Katie O. read and discussed Concept 8.

### Announcements:

DeVona said our Hybrid Unity Day and General Service Conference Report are on May 17. Our Open House Picnic is on June 28 from 12-4 at Jindra park, 901 Talmadge Ave., Wickliffe. Our next hybrid Assembly is July 19. The Ohio State Convention Planning meeting is May 2 at the Lord of Life Church, 2480 Dublin-Granville Road, Columbus, at 11 a.m.

### Recording Secretary:

**Joan S.** presented the March 15 minutes. No changes. Motion to approve the minutes by Tina C., seconded by Jamie B. Motion approved.

Joan reminded people to include their phone numbers on the sign-in sheets and their home groups on their Hello badges. If you're on Zoom and are on someone else's iPad, be sure to let her know it's you so you get credit for the attendance. Anyone who has written reports can email them to her at [RecordingSecretary@Area54.org](mailto:RecordingSecretary@Area54.org) or hand them in. People have two minutes to speak at the mic.

### Treasurer's Report:

**DeVona S.** said we have an official letter of resignation from our treasurer, Candy L., who was not at the Assembly. The panel has found discrepancies in our bank account. We have removed all access to our checking account and debit card. Beverly F., Delegate, and Wellington R., Alternate Delegate, have been to the bank and started the process of what we need to do. We don't have definite facts or figures at this point, or answers to your questions. It's being investigated on several fronts. We consulted with the General Service Office and are proceeding as they recommend. There is no treasurer's report this month. Wellington will fill in for the treasurer temporarily.

### Mailing Secretary:

**Val D.** said Bob D. and Susan R. from District 39 were gracious hosts for the mailing party on April 11 in Rome, Ohio. She needs hosts for the June, August and December mailing parties.

### Registrar:

**Tina C.** said she is continuing to do group updates. We kept the last mailing at 972 envelopes. We've removed duplicates.

### 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition:

Mae R. passed the basket for the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition.

### Anniversaries:

Those with anniversaries since the last assembly announced them. New GSRs introduced themselves. Mae R., Finance Chair, reminded us that people with anniversaries were given

contribution envelopes so they can donate a certain amount for every year of sobriety on their AA anniversary.

### **Introduction of new GSRs and DCMs:**

New GSRs and DCMs introduced themselves. They are welcome to meet with Wellington R., Alternate Delegate, or other panelists who can answer questions after the meeting. DeVona S. reminded them to make sure they're registered with Fellowship Connection through the General Service Office. Even if you're registered at the Intergroup level, that doesn't necessarily mean you're registered with the GSO.

### **Area Officer and Function Reports:**

Tim H., Mini-Conference treasurer, gave the final 2026 Mini-Conference report. We had 104 registrations, 61 banquets. He will report the balance after his name has been added to the bank account.

**DeVona S.**, Chair, gave her experience at Area 56. She was focused on their voting session. They had a good turnout. They used smaller rooms which gave us a feeling of "part of" rather than a big open space.

**Beverly F.**, Delegate, reported on our Area 54 Mini-Conference. We had 14 agenda items or committees and lively debate during voting. She reported on the 16 surveys that were returned. Asked what part of the conference they enjoyed the most, they ranked it as follows: speaker meeting, committee sessions, voting session, presentations, GSO officer Kacie N., the trustee report, fellowship and the Ask-It Basket. She said Sam K. is our new Grapevine chair. Representatives from both Akron and Cleveland Intergroups attended our Mini-Conference.

**Wellington R.**, Alternate Delegate, reported on the upcoming Open House Picnic June 28. It will be hosted by groups in districts 30, 42 and 43.

**Amanda B.** reported on Unity Day. She will have a three-member panel. Bring food to the potluck. Beverly F. will give her report on the General Service Conference.

**Amanda B.**, Chair, Corrections Committee, said there were multiple discussions over Zoom availability for AA meetings and inmates in public and private prisons. They discussed the Inmate Correspondence Program coordinated by the General Service Office. She will bring forms that can be filled out and sent to the GSO which will guard confidentiality. Let's let our home group members know about this program. The committee will also look into getting "Prison In Recovery Packets" for individuals who are being released. They discussed updates that need to be made on the Corrections web page. The next meeting will be May 4 on Zoom.

**Mae R.**, Finance Chair, reminded us to let our home group members know about the finances of AA. We don't get money from churches or the government. We are self-supporting through our own contributions. It is suggested that for our anniversary or birthday, we give a certain amount for each year. It goes to the General Service office which publishes our literature. Donating shows our gratitude.

**Susan R.**, editor of The Recorder, said we had a successful April-May-June edition off the press. Reports are due to her by June 23 for the next edition. We welcome DCMs, GSRs, and all committee chair reports.

### **District Committee Member Reports:**

**Jeff C.**, Akron Multi-District Chair and DCM for Districts 60 and 3, said the Multi-District met on April 18 and discussed how to make it easier for groups to donate to the district by using

Square, PayPal, etc. The spring seminar on March 21 was a success, with 32 people attending. They had a three-member panel on service. John C. is the new liaison between the Akron Intergroup and Area 54. He gave a brief summary on the Corrections Committee report. All the events in the Akron area are on the AkronAA.org website.

**Ben W.,** Chair, District 8, has been actively getting groups to update forms for their groups. He will update with the registrar as soon as possible.

**Dustin S.,** Chair, District 5A and 5B, had his meeting last month with one other person. Dustin gave him a service manual, some instructions, and directions on how to get to our Assemblies in Brunswick. He uses the meetings as workshops each time. We don't have a lot of support but we keep the lights on.

**Jesse H.,** chair, District 33 in Cleveland, said group discussions are constantly updating new GSRs and groups. He has been explaining to the groups they can contribute more than once a year instead of letting their treasury build up. They will have a May 16 workshop at the Cleveland District Office.

### **Intergroup Liaisons:**

**John C.** said he is replacing John K. as the Intergroup Liaison. The Akron Intergroup had an open house a few weeks ago that was well-attended. He recommended we visit the new offices on Romig Road.

### **Alt. Delegate Report:**

**Wellington R.** said a Hispanic group is helping to host the annual Open House picnic June 28. Cleveland now has its first Oxford House specifically for Hispanic AAs, with Hispanic professionals to help with recovery. At one of the Mini-Conferences, he learned that we had the opportunity to get the translation not only from English to Spanish but to get it shown on the screen using Wordly, an automatic translation program. Thanks to Beverly F., Delegate, it will be the first time that the Ohio State Convention will be translated into Spanish. An Hispanic will participate in three events at the convention. Wellington thanked us for our support, especially to Bob D. and Ola P., both past delegates, who urged him to make our Hispanics more visible.

### **Delegate Report**

**Beverly F.,** Delegate, said Wordly is expensive but the General Service Office will supply a link we can use for the convention. The GSO has returned to its retrofitted building. It is looking for short stories, with anonymity protected, for its podcast. She discussed the dangers of Naltrexone, medication used to treat alcohol and opioid use disorders. She said there was good debate to keep Paul G.'s story, Gutter Bravado, in the Fifth Edition of the Big Book. Cooperation with the Professional Community will be able to let us glance at the upcoming Fifth Edition. She will bring back what she can after the conference.

### **Old Business:**

**Darcy F.,** Chair, Public Information Committee, presented her committee's request for funds to pay for a \$2,000 campaign for public service announcements on buses in Northeast Ohio. In Lake County, Laketrans would let us display inside and outside posters on three buses, for two months, for \$775. In Cuyahoga County with RTA, we can have posters inside three buses for three months for \$300. In Summit County, the Akron Metro Transit would let us have an interior digital display on 90 buses, and an exterior display on three buses, for two months, for \$500. These quotes are from November. So far, we have \$1,000 from Cleveland District Office, and

\$200 from Akron Intergroup. We need \$675 from Area 54, or whatever we can provide. The Cleveland District Office is willing to contribute \$1,000 every three months to keep the ads running in Lake and Cuyahoga counties. Can we split the expense between Public Information and Communication with the Professional Community committees? Amanda B., Wellington R., Tina C., Bruce R., Dustin S. and Katie S. commented or asked questions. Motion by Bruce R. and second by Jeff C. to table discussion until we know how Area 54 stands financially. The motion passed.

### **What's on Your Mind:**

**James T.**, Tech Chair, said a comment on Zoom from Jeff Y. suggested that whoever we elect as treasurer ought to be bonded.

**Ben W.**, District Committee member, District 8, suggested that Darcy's public service announcements could be displayed by public universities.

**Wellington R.**, Alternate Delegate, said we need to revise our guidelines to have the treasurer bonded. We also need resumes from people willing to stand for treasurer one month before the election so we can evaluate candidates instead of just hearing them at the microphone the day of the election.

**Amanda B.** thanked all the new people for attending. Before the October election, she will break down duties for each position and email them to those on our email list.

**Bob McK.** said tabling is for moving things later in the same meeting. He suggested postponing the issue of public service announcements on buses until our next meeting or whenever we get a report on finances. He suggested Darcy F.'s committee do things in Cleveland that don't require more funds from us.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn. Motion approved. We closed with the Responsibility Pledge.

**Attendance:** 41 in the room and 11 on Zoom.