

Area 54 Assembly Minutes

July 19, 2026

Opening:

DeVona S. opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer. She reminded people to sign the attendance sheet clearly, and pick up flyers and other materials on the back table.

Nelson M. asked for prayers for his dad who has lung cancer. Tim H. asked for prayers for Don Atkins.

James B. read the 12 Traditions. Alan K. read the 12 Concepts. Curtis R. summarized Tradition 10. Susan R. gave her interpretation on Concept 10.

Announcements:

DeVona S. reminded people going to the Ohio State Convention Aug. 14-16 to register for the hotel room online by July 24 to get the discount. The link is on our Area 54 Facebook page. If you want to be on Amanda's email list, make sure she has your email. The General Service Workshop and Potluck will be Aug. 23 at 2 p.m. at the 12-Step Club. The 2026 Penn-Ohio Family Fun Day is Aug. 1 in Erie. See Susan for the cheap ride tickets.

DeVona read the resignation letter received from our former treasurer. It is on our website at Area54.org > About Us > Area Business.

Recording Secretary:

Joan S. asked for corrections or changes to the April 19 minutes but did not give them to James T. in time for the Zoom attendees to read them. We will vote on accepting the minutes at the September assembly. Joan read the statement of the findings of the Area 54 investigation on finances. Take the printed statements back to your home group and bring their comments to the Aug. 23 General Service Workshop & Potluck which will be devoted to our finances.

Treasurer's Report:

Wellington R. presented a financial statement based only on the bank statements for our three accounts, from March 11, 2025, to July 1, 2026. The balance is \$6,818 in the checking account, \$3,410 in the Money Market savings account (prudent reserve) and \$1,290 in the Mini-Conference account. Total is \$11,518.

Mailing Secretary:

No updates. We are cancelling the remaining three mailing parties this year to save money. We are publishing a digital newsletter. Make sure Tina C. and Amanda B. have your email addresses.

Registrar:

Tina C. said she appreciates the work Wellington R. and Joan S. did on the investigation after our treasurer resigned. She said the delegate and alternate delegate were told that they did not have access to the bank records. She asked the body to be patient and let the police and bank investigations unfold. Tina said there is a General Service Conference proposed agenda item submission by a registrar that proposes we do away with people's addresses in Fellowship Connection. They feel their phone numbers and emails are good enough. Tina has done significant updates to make sure people are in Fellowship Connection, and she's letting people know their updates are current.

7th Tradition:

Mae R. passed the basket for the 7th Tradition. The QR code is on the agenda.

Anniversaries:

Those with anniversaries since the last Assembly announced them. New General Service Representatives introduced themselves.

Introduction of new General Service Representatives and District Committee Members:

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.

Area Officer and Function Reports:

Wellington R. wanted to correct information about the June picnic. He said it was hosted by Districts 30, 43 and 22. There was a good turnout, about 75 people. They contributed \$237 for the 7th Tradition. Thank-you to Darcy, DCM from Area 43, and Horacio M., General Service Representative.

Unity Day:

Amanda B. reported that at the May 19 Unity Club event, Jeff Y., Edith F. and Ed W. shared their messages with themes of principles before personalities, unity through service, and from isolation through belonging. They reminded us that unity is preserved when we focus on our common purposes, rather than individual opinions.

Standing Committee Reports:

Mae R., Finance Committee Chair, reminded General Service Representatives SRs to tell their groups they can show their gratitude for sobriety on their anniversary with a contribution envelope to the General Service Office. If we would all contribute, our Big Books would practically be free.

Jim S., Archives Chair, said he has a second person on the Archives Committee: James B., District Committee Member, District 6. They will organize 64 boxes of materials at the Akron Intergroup office in August or early September.

Susan R., editor of The Recorder:

Please write articles and email to her. She needs General Service Representative and District Committee Member reports, and reports from standing committees. It can be whatever is going on or experiences you want to have at the convention.

District Committee Member Reports:

Al K., DCM for Heights Hub, District 32, 40, 41, 42 and 55: The next district committee meeting is Aug. 29 at 10 a.m. in the large meeting room at Mayfield Branch Library. District 55 was moved to 40 because Club 24 moved.

Jesse H., District Committee member, District 33, said they discussed groups that had to move from Greenbridge Commons, which had a lot of meetings, because they couldn't park in the residents' parking places. As of July 1, most of those meetings had to move out of his district. He told them to make our Registrar aware of it. Cleveland Northcoast Multi-District Picnic will be Aug. 22 at Forest Hills Park in Cleveland Heights, at 105 Shelter 2A and 2B.

James B., District 6, said they had a picnic at Willow Lake which was a success. He is learning how to navigate the Fellowship Connection. They typically have 5-8 General Service Representatives out of 58 meetings and he wants more participation.

Susan R., editor of The Recorder, said District 23 in Ashtabula County is having a 12 Traditions Workshop on Saturday, Sept. 12, at Lakeshore Park. There's a flyer on the table with more information.

Jeff C., Akron Multi-District Chair and District Committee Member for Districts 60 and 3, said their picnic had a good turnout. They had 47 people.

Intergroup Liaison Reports: None

Alternate Delegate's Report:

Wellington R. has worked on the picnic and getting Hispanics more involved in the Ohio State Convention. Michelle from Ohio Young People in AA, and Mike D. from District 30 were the speakers.

Delegate's Report:

Beverly F., said the General Service Office has a new Communications Division. Julie G. is the IT guru. Kelli C. is doing public information and has spoken at one of our events. You can find them at the EverythingAA app. Loners Internationalists is a correspondence service for people in remote areas. If someone needs American Sign Language, there's a video phone, at 503-714-3331. Or people can go to ACCESS@AA.org or Deaf@AA.org.

Beverly gave the highlights of the East Central Regional Conference in Eau Claire, Wisc. She was a speaker on Friday. Our East Central Regional Trustee from Area 55 gave her trustee's report. Al-Anon was there too.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Jamie B. made a motion to change Pages 2 and 30 to of the Area 54 Guidelines to read: "Area 54 guidelines are to be adhered to as written. They are not suggestions. They reflect the practices and procedures used in Area 54 Northeast Ohio General Service based on its experience. These guidelines are intended to highlight differences used in Area 54 from those described in the A.A. Service Manual and give an overview of the service functions in Northeast Ohio Area 54. This document will be reviewed and updated bi-annually in even years by the area panel and past delegates. Seconded by Wellington R. Al K., District Committee Member from Heights Hub, said it would be nice to have a written copy of the motion. Katie S. said people might be unfamiliar with the Guidelines and we should give them time to read them before voting.

Amanda B. made a motion to postpone a vote on this item and vote at the next Assembly. In the meantime, let's write what the Guidelines say now and what Jamie's motion calls for changing. Jeff Y. seconded. People can find the Area 54 Guidelines at our website at Area54.org under Publications. The motion to postpone passed.

Jamie B. made another motion regarding the treasurer, to change the language on Page 17 of the Guidelines, bullet #6 which suggests that the treasurer be bonded. It should be changed to read, "The Area 54 treasurer must be bonded. And if they cannot be bonded, they should relinquish their office to the Alternate Treasurer. And if no Alternate Treasurer exists, an election will take place to replace them. Any fees will be paid by the Area."

Jeff Y. made a motion to postpone a vote on this to give us time to get the proposed language to our groups for feedback before we vote. Tina C. seconded. The motion to postpone passed.

Amanda B. said we were supposed to get a report from the Delegate on Unity Day on what happened at the General Service Conference. Beverly F., Delegate, said her PowerPoint presentation and statistics are on our website at Area54.org.

What's On Your Mind:

Amanda B. apologized for not being present when Area 54 faced problems and needed her. She suggested we form ad hoc committees to review things like mailing parties, printed materials, going green where possible, the mini-conference format, and the state convention which we will host in 2028. She wants us to revisit qualifications for panel service and not exclude people with value, skills and perspective.

Jeff Y. read this statement from Bob McKimm who is traveling: "We ended the January 2025 budget meeting without a commitment to send our excess cash to the General Service Board who desperately needed it. We have learned an unfortunate result. Let us follow Will Rogers' suggestion to 'trust everyone but cut the cards.' And make our Budget & Finance Committee take an active part in this."

Gary G. brought us up to date on technology safeguards for websites, as well as email scams.

James B., District Committee Member: District 6 will be hosting a GSR School on Saturday, Aug. 1 at 4 p.m. at Third Christian Church on First Street in Warren. He has pamphlets with more information.

Katie S. reminded us that our elections are in October. If you don't know what those positions are, they are in our General Service Manual. If you have questions, ask us.

Tommy H. asked where the minutes from the Assemblies can be found. They are on the website after the minutes are approved, under Area Business at Area54.org.

DeVona made a motion to adjourn. Motion passed.

We closed with the Responsibility Statement.

Attendance: 41 in the room and 16 on Zoom = 57