

Area 54 Assembly Minutes

September 20, 2026

Opening:

DeVona S. opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer.

Sarah R. read the 12 Traditions. Pete P. read the 12 Concepts. DeVona reminded people to pick up reports and other materials on the back table. Ed W. summarized Tradition 11. Tina C. gave her interpretation of Concept 11.

Announcements:

DeVona S. said the Ohio Young People in AA convention is Oct. 16-18, hosted by Akron's O.Y.P.A.A., at the Double Tree in Fairlawn. Pre-registration is \$20, \$25 at the door. Ben W. said the QR code at their website wasn't working correctly and they will fix it. DeVona said the next hybrid Assembly is Oct. 18 at the 12-Step Club. Elections will be held. Anyone who wants to stand for a position should bring a service resume. The Ohio State Convention planning meeting is Nov. 7 at 11 a.m. at All Saints Church, 677 N. High St., Worthington. Gratitude Sunday will be Nov. 15 from 2 to 5 and discussed under New Business.

Recording Secretary:

Joan S. asked for corrections or changes to the April 19 minutes. Motion by Al K., second by Jamie B. to accept the minutes. Motion passed. Motion by Al K., second by Susan R. to accept the July minutes. Motion passed. Joan reminded anyone with written reports to give them to her during the Assembly, or email them, afterward. Include your phone number on the sign-in sheets. You must have attended 9 of the last 12 assemblies from January 2025 to October 2026 to stand for a panel position at the October elections. If you aren't sure if you are eligible, call her and she will check the attendance records.

Treasurer's Report:

Wellington R. presented the financial statement. From April 1 to Aug. 31, 2026. We had \$15,703 in contributions and \$12,573 in expenses. As of Aug. 31, we had \$8,938 in the checking account, \$3,412 in the savings account and \$1,290 in the Mini-Conference account for a total of \$13,640. Because money was transferred from the Mini-Conference account to either the checking or savings accounts, it depleted the Mini-Conference account which should have \$2,200 in seed money to conduct its business for next spring's conference. The Mini-Conference financial account is separate from Area 54's checking account. Wellington estimated that expenses next year will total \$22,300. A list of all contributions is on the back table, through the end of August.

Mailing Secretary:

Val D. was absent. All mailing parties for the remainder of the year have been canceled.

Registrar:

Tina C. said she is busy inputting information into Fellowship Connection. Any information she receives today will be updated by our October Assembly. She will try to input information you give her in October on the day of the Assembly. Keep the updates coming. If you have questions, call her. If she can't get you into the system, General Service Office will help.

7th Tradition:

Mae R. passed the basket for the 7th Tradition.

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:

Beverly F., Delegate, summarized her experience at the Ohio State Convention. Bob. D. gave a lead on Saturday morning. Other Area 54 officers served on committees. Hispanics were well-represented. She discussed the Young People in A.A. Convention.

Jim S. hosted District 6's GSR School workshop. There were 17 GSRs from several districts. It was two and a half hours.

Joan S. summarized the Aug. 23 Workshop. There was great food and discussion. She read a list of suggestions that were offered by Josh D., Delegate, Area 55, who moderated the event, and by those who went to the mic. Josh said he hopes we share our embezzlement story with the General Service Office because another area will experience the same problem eventually. Our guidelines could be part of the GSO Service Manual.

Standing Committee Reports:

Darcy F., co-chair of the Public Information Committee, said the public service announcements have been running on the buses in Akron. They're eager to see the results. The committee is wrapping things up and getting ready to transition to the next two years.

Susan R., editor of The Recorder, needs direction from the panel as to when the next issue should be published digitally.

Mae R., Finance Chair, said we need to let our home group members know about the 7th Tradition by giving them a contribution envelope when they announce their anniversaries. It helps finance activities all over the world.

District Committee Member Reports:

Jeff C., Akron Multi-District chair and DCM for Districts 3 and 60, said the multi-district met yesterday and had 23 attendees. The multi-district will host its service workshop Oct. 17. Bev F. will present the delegate report. A motion to send Area 54 money because of our financial difficulties was tabled. It will be discussed Nov. 21. Their elections will be held that day. Square and Paypal were added as other ways to contribute. There are four DCMs for the eight districts in the Akron Multi-District. Yesterday, a proposed agenda item was submitted by a member of the multi-district for consideration by Area 54: "Require fellowship-wide consideration and a subsequent 2/3 Conference vote before any textual change of Alcoholics Anonymous and the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions." There were no other proposed agenda items by Area 54.

Ben W., DCM for District 8, is working on letting people in his district and other districts know about our financial situation and suggesting they contribute a little more money to help stabilize our treasury.

District Committee Reports:

Al K., DCM for districts 32, 40, 41 and 42, said they had dismal representation at their meeting on Aug. 21. There's a lot of work left to do. Thanks to Darcy F. who shared her experience with District 43.

Darcy F., DCM for District 43, said she sent an email about a workshop for DCMs listed in Fellowship Connection, telling them about a roundtable she is planning. She wants to get them excited about service and urge them to come to district meetings. DCMs can share what is and isn't working. If you're a DCM who didn't get an invitation, contact her.

Intergroup Liaison Reports:

John C., Akron Area liaison for Area 54, encouraged everyone to visit the archives at the new intergroup office. Now that we have the room, it's worth the trip. He doesn't have a total on how well we did for Founders Day weekend. Attendance was about 1,000 fewer people than last year. He is a member of the Corrections Committee and is starting to get new people who are volunteering.

Horacio M., liaison for the Hispanic Community, said it's difficult for him to contact other Hispanics who need AA, even if they have their own meetings. Can someone help him get addresses and phone numbers? Christne F. said she has information for an underground Spanish meeting.

Bob McK., archivist for the Cleveland District Office, said the Cleveland Intergroup doesn't have a lot of GSRs and asked him to write an article about that for their October edition. Bruce at the Cleveland office can provide more information.

Beverly F., Delegate, gave highlights of AA World Service, her work on the Communication with the Professional Community committee, and her trip to Massillon. The EverythingAA app has been released. It remains available for download for free with an option to subscribe. She was asked to mention The Knuckleheads Big Book Study group which meets at noon Saturday at 106 Thomas Blvd. NW, Massillon and draws 34-40 people. She gave a workshop on service there. The new AA.org website draws more than 5 million people per quarter.

Old Business

In July, we postponed two motions regarding the Guidelines. Both were made and seconded. The first motion is to change Pages 2 and 30 of Area 54 Guidelines to state that the Guidelines must be adhered to. James T. said that since the Guidelines must be reviewed anyway, why not just institute a financial controls policy. It would reflect much of what was discussed at the August workshop such as setting up instant text messages from the bank. Janice S., Jamie B., Wellington R. and Tina C. also commented on the motion. Susan R. made a motion to postpone discussion on both motions until the final presentation of the amended Guidelines. Second by Tina C. Motion passed.

New Business

Tina C. made a motion and submitted a bid to hold Gratitude Sunday at the 12-Step Club on Nov. 15, have a potluck and a panel on gratitude. Wellington R. seconded it. The motion passed.

Joan S. explained the proposed timeline for creating the Alternate Treasurer position.

Darcy F. made a motion to create an Alternate Treasurer position. Motion by Tina C. to postpone the motion pending the revision and approval of our guidelines. Seconded by Amanda B. Motion passed.

What's on Your Mind

Janice S. said that because of our financial problems, she hopes the panel will evaluate the cost vs. benefit for all the conferences, workshops, etc. to make sure we are meeting our primary duty of helping the alcoholic who still suffers.

Tim H. asked if people standing for a panel position had to present themselves at the September Assembly. We discussed it but we did not vote on it.

Mae R. said we had procedures in place that ensured that panel members worked with people who would be taking their place on the next panel.

Jeff C. said he is willing to stand for Alternate Delegate but he will not be at the October Assembly because his daughter is getting married that day. He presented his resume.

Tina C. said she will call the secretary for the 12-Step Club on her way home to make sure Gratitude Sunday can be held here.

Bob M. said that he emailed panel members to tell them he is no longer getting emails from Area 54 but no one responded. He said the Responsibility Pledge requires us to respond.

Katie S. said she is on Zoom because it's her wedding anniversary. She will be here next month and will stand for a position.

Darcy F. said the current guidelines state that the Finance & Budget Committee should provide custodial oversight of area finances, very similar to the Alternate Treasurer's position.

Jamie B. urged people to read the Guidelines on our website so we know what they say before we try to update them.

DeVona S. and **Tina C.** said they are both standing for positions in October. Their resumes are on the back table.

Cheryl W., GSR for A Perfect Place in North Olmsted, reported that her homegroup discussed Area 54 finances and wants more information. The group also requested a vote on changes to the Guidelines. She did not come to the microphone.

Motion by Susan R., second by Ben W. to adjourn. Motion passed.

Attendance: 43 in the room and 13 on Zoom. Total: 56