The Northeast Ohio Recorder

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A Word From Our Delegate



Greetings all. This has been a busy August. The Ohio State Convention was held in Columbus and hosted by the Central and Southeast Area, Area 53. Many folks from Northeast Ohio were in attendance. Thanks for your participation. There were 214 attendees from the four Ohio areas.

Unfortunately, the Delegate from Central and Southeast Ohio, Dona K. was hospitalized just before the convention. The entire panel for Area 53 stepped in and all events went off without a problem.

Friday night included a report from Cathi C, our East Central Regional Trustee. She shared several items that were discussed at the Quarterly Trustees and Board Meeting. One of these is that the cost of printing and shipping supplies ("supply chain") are creating a problem for our budget. We expected to have income from Literature Sales. The budget plan estimates the cost to print literature would be 40%. The cost is now expected to be 55% or more. This will result in a loss (deficit) at the end of the year. Once again, I appeal to all the members of AA to step up and follow our Traditions of Self-Support. We not only need to have our groups self-supporting, but we need GSO to be self-supported. Therefore, I appeal that we send more monies — from our groups and individually. We sent money in during the pandemic. These pandemic financial woes are still haunting us. Each of us needs to take a minute and send monies to GSO. If you pay be "card", GSO have a fast and simple way for you to contribute. Let us all help allow GSO be self-supported.

The Friday night speaker was John C., Past Delegate from Northwest Ohio, Area 55. John is always an inspiring speaker. The evening concluded with the Ice Cream Social. Saturday morning started with a Panel on "Walking with Purpose." Mark P, Area 54, was a panelist. The next event was an AA & Al-Non program on Using the Principles in our Relationships.

Our own Past Delegate Shyrl B. spoke at the Saturday Morning Meeting. Great message as always. In the afternoon, we had a Panel: "Unity in our Fellowship" with Katie S representing Area 54. Also, in the afternoon, was an Al-Anon speaker followed by an Al-Anon 4th & 5th Step Workshop. The 3pm afternoon panel was "Service: Is it Necessary." Jim S. represented Area 54 on the panel. The evening speaker was Donny M, Past Delegate from Area 80, Panel 70, Manitoba Canada. His sense of humor and story were inspiring.

Sunday morning started with a Panel on "Personal Recovery." Sam P. represented Area 54. The Sunday Morning Speaker, Cathi C. our East Central Regional Trustee, shared her story of recovery.

(Continued on page 3)

Inside this Issue:

Editorial..... 2
Area Reports and Articles 3
Upcoming Events..... 7
Contact Information 8

EDITORIAL

APATHY AT THE LEVEL OF GENERAL SERVICE

One word that only appears once in the Big Book is "apathy." It shows its grimy face in Chapter Nine, "The Family Afterward":

> If they sense these things, they will not take so seriously his period of crankiness, depression, or apathy, which will disappear when there is tolerance, love, and spiritual understanding. (Alcoholics Anonymous, 127)

In context, "they" refers to the family of an alcoholic relatively new to recovery. "These things" are the problems that arise when the alcoholic leaps head-first into trying to resolve the many problems encountered by the family directly related to the alcoholic's drinking days - especially money issues! Crankiness, depression and apathy seem to be sort of a progression.

It occurred to me that the same thing can happen in General Service. We discover General Service, and we react in one of two ways: either we decide it is not for us (and, face it, General Service may not be for all alcoholics) or we jump in "head-first," and soon may experience the progression of crankiness, depression and apathy. First, I was cranky when you didn't serve the way I thought you should. Then, I became depressed about service. And, finally, I just said "whatever," becoming apathetic - unwilling to even participate. As I looked over the fine report from our Delegate included in these pages, it seems this same thing may even be happening at the staff level of our General Service Office: "2 staff positions open and recently 2 more GSO staff resigned." When apathy raises its ugly head, the work load becomes "unmanageable" for the remaining servants possibly resulting in more "burn-out" for the remaining servants. My apathetic unwillingness to serve does not reduce the workload! It just puts more and more on the proverbial "back-burner."

As we approach our time to "rotate," we need to think about these things. Will there be service opportunities for which no one stands, apathy having set it? Will there be opportunities for which some may sink into that deep, dangerous hole of resentment when they did not get the votes to serve in a capacity for which they "stood," thereby demonstrating crankiness, or even progressing into depression? (Been there, done that…tried to hide it, and have not "stood" since!)

So, if we notice "these things" cropping up, we have a solution. They "will disappear when there is tolerance, love, and spiritual understanding." Show some tolerance. Reach out and love on that "rusted servant," you have not seen for a while, or even that "bleeding (or bleating) deacon" you see at every Assembly. Afterall, it is our code.

Speaking of rotation, this article is sort of my "swan song." The next edition will be put together by the servant rotating in as Chair of the Newsletter Committee (aka Editor-in-Chief). Thank you for your kindness over the past several years. I only receive one ***written*** "complaint" the whole time. I suppose other complaints were buffered by "our code."



Submit your service-related contributions, comments and questions, or ideas and complaints to:
newsletter@area54.org

(Continued from page 1)

Thanks all who attended and a ***HUGE Thank You*** to our Panelists. They took the time to share their experience, strength and hope. Well done. You represented us in ***good style.***

East Central Regional Conference was the 2nd weekend in August. This was a great opportunity for delegates and alternate delegates and members from 14 Areas from 5 States to meet and discuss issues and concerns. Our East Central Regional Trustee gave an in depth report. One of the concerns includes the heavy workload of the GSO staff. We had 2 staff positions open and recently 2 more GSO staff resigned. The volume of projects in process generated by the General Service Conference from Panel 71 and Panel 72 are tremendous. Also include all the projects that were in the works before the pandemic and even with working from home many of these projects had been delayed.

I spoke from the floor when it was open for questions or concerns. I asked that we look to prioritize. In the past, we have delayed work on newer editions of books. We have paper and printing issues with these currently. In addition, some projects need new stories, and we are having issues getting new stories. Let us delay these until we get the best stories. In addition, hire temporary employees. Other attendees discussed the need to recruit new GSO staff. We all have members of AA that are qualified. In addition, we agreed to reach out to all AA members to support GSO financially too.

Please attend all Assemblies either in person or on Zoom. All GSR's and DCM's need to be sure you are registered so that you can be a voting member at the October Elections. If you are a new **GSR** you must send to our Registrar a Group Change form. If you are a **new DCM**, please send to our Registrar a DCM Change form. These can be found on our website. If you can not locate one send me an email and I will email you the form. The Registrar's information is on the back of this newsletter. If necessary, bring the form with you to the Election so that we can certify you as a voter.

WOW. This has been a great ride serving as your Delegate. Service is a great way to stay sober. We have had a great Panel and Standing Committee Members. It is only at the end of my term when I have had a position, did I understand how to do the job. Thanks for allowing me to represent you.

OOOPS!! We had Zoom technical difficulties at the DCM College. We apologize. We are taking actions to correct.

Susan R. - Delegate
Area 54 - Panel 71



ALTERNATE DELEGATE'S REPORT

Greetings Area 54 Members,

I had the privilege of attending the 2022 Illinois state and East Central Regional conference on August 12th-14th at the Sheraton Lisle Naperville Hotel in Lisle Illinois. The conference was opened at 7:00 pm by Cathi C. our East central Regional Trustee, followed by a flag ceremony, history of the East Central Region, and remarks by the Illinois chair and co-chairs.

The conference had panels and roundtable discussions on Saturday. Topics were amends, how to conduct a big book study group, home groups, getting members active in service, service sponsorship and other panels. Roundtable discussions included CPC, PI, Answering services, corrections, treatment and bridging the gap. There were 5 rooms used for sessions throughout the day and some wonderful discussion on the topics.

Saturday night included a banquet and sobriety countdown. The speaker was Mike M. from Cedar Rapids Iowa who talked about his journey to sobriety and his life today.

Sunday morning there were reports from the 3 Illinois delegates, a report from Cathi C. our East Central Regional Trustee, and a report by Sandra W., Director of Staff Services at the General Service Office. She reported on the changes to the Big Book cover. It will no longer have a dust jacket but will have the cover embossed. She also reported that some pamphlets are unavailable at this time due to paper shortages.

She further reported that if you have a felony or some other type of conviction such as a DUI and would like to attend the International Convention in Vancouver British Columbia in 2025, you should contact the General Service Office for ways to be granted permission to attend. I

t's been a great summer with many AA events , I hope you were able to attend some of them.

Yours in service,

Tim H., Alternate Delegate
Area 54 - Panel 71



(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

HISPANIC LIAISON REPORT

Our delegate met with Maria do Carmo, the Brazilian trustee, at the 71st. Conference who was very grateful for our efforts for her to be accepted as an invitee by AAWS. Since the end of May, there has been an unexpected rise of interest for and to services on our community, after almost 2 years of chasm. The following has happened:

1) Got a call from AA Cleveland's Central Office to give assistance to NORA – Northern Ohio Recovery Association to a Hispanic patient from West Virginia that could not speak English in an intelligible manner. Assistance was given through visits and provided along with a copy of Big Book, pamphlets, patient left without further information.

2) Two Hispanics Groups have reopened: 1) Grupo Nueva Vida at 2800 Archwood Avenue, Cleveland with meetings on Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday; 2) Grupo Hay Una Solucion at 242 N. State Street, Painesville with meetings on Monday, Thursday, and Friday. Mr. Reyes Macias has been voted GSR.

3) Both meeting information have been passed on to AA Cleveland Central Office in order of updating meeting schedule directory.

4) We were informed that the Hispanic UMADAOP Recovery Center re-opened Casa Alma to provide service to bi-lingual patients.

5) Area 54 have been invited, by Hispanic UMADAOP, to participate on open house (Street Fair) with a table, 08/27/2022, for us to provide AA literature, pamphlets, and other information to the population at large.

There is an AA saying, *"Aún no has visto nada"* ("you haven't seen nothing yet")! Well, it is true.

Yours in service,

Wellington Ramos, Hispanic Liaison
Area 54 - Panel 71

"Conocí la libertad en aa"

CLEVELAND NORTH COAST MULTI-DISTRICT ANNUAL PICNIC

On Saturday, August 20, 2022, the Cleveland North Coast Multi-District hosted its Annual Picnic at Forest Hill Park in Cleveland Heights. There was something for everyone, and a good time was had by all.



No one should have gotten lost!



Cooks manned their grilling stations



Bouncy House for children of all ages!



DJ set-up and ready to “rock-n-roll” from behind the speaker’s podium.

UPCOMING DATES FOR THE AREA AND BEYOND

NOTE THE DATE

September 18 - Hybrid Area Assembly **Gv Lit**

October 16 – Hybrid Area Assembly **Gv Lit**
(Elections Assembly)

November 20 – 1:00 pm **Gv Lit**
Gratitude Sunday
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
2747 Fairmount Boulevard
Cleveland Heights, OH 44106
Host - District 42

OUTSIDE OUR AREA

November 5, 2022
Ohio State Convention Planning Meeting
Columbus, OH

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



Some of our history buffs may recall the story of "Rollicking" Rollie Hemsley, the Cleveland baseball catcher known as Bob Feller's personal catcher.

Hemsley was also known for having a drinking problem, one which caused him to be kicked off four separate clubs. He would later attend Alcoholics Anonymous meetings. Hemsley revealed his AA membership to the press in 1940, becoming one of the first AA members to break their anonymity on a national level.

Hemsley's anonymity break was one of the first developments to raise questions and concern about personal anonymity in A.A. - thus, the beginning of a huge influx of members to our fellowship, and a long-standing interest between Cleveland AAs and the Cleveland baseball team.

The Cleveland District Office of Alcoholics Anonymous is hosting a limited block of tickets at the Cleveland Guardians (vs. Minnesota Twins) Game on Saturday afternoon **September 17, 2022.**

Tickets are $30.00 each, and may be purchased at the Cleveland District Office of Alcoholics Anonymous

1557 St Clair Ave NE
Cleveland, OH
(800) 835-1935
(216) 241-7387

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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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