

GENERAL SERVICE ASSEMBLY

Area 55, Panel 70 NW Ohio & Southeast Michigan
P.O. Box 401 Toledo, OH 43697-0401 www.area55aa.org

Delegate: James S. / delegate@area55aa.org / (419) 708-4408

Alternate Delegate / Area Chair: Cheryl S. / alt.delegate@area55aa.org / (419) 309-0637

Recording Secretary: George C. / recording.secretary@area55aa.org

Registrar: Jennifer H. / registrar@area55aa.org

Treasurer: Chris C. / treasurer@area55aa.org

Mailing Secretary: Karen W. / mail.secretary@area55aa.org

Only GSRs, DCMs (GSR/DCM Alternates may make motions and vote in their absence), Committee Chairs, Elected Officers and Past Delegates may make motions or vote, although everyone has the right to be heard. Business conducted normally requires substantial unanimity to pass (2/3 vote on most items).

This meeting was held via Zoom Teleconference. 4 Panel Officers were present. 1 Past Delegate was present, and 20 other participants, including GSRs, Alternate GSRs, DCMs, Alternate DCM's, DCMC, Area 55 Committee members, and 1 guest were on the video conference.

MEETING MINUTES FOR MAY 17, 2020

Cheryl S., Area 55 Chairperson, opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. with the Serenity Prayer. Marty C., GSR – New Hope, read the Mission Statement. Bridget B., GSR – Clean Air, read the Fifth Tradition. Lorrie E., GSR – Missions for Traditions, read the Fifth Concept. Panel 70 officers were introduced.

New GSR's: No new GSR's were present

Visiting GSR: John G., Milan (OH) New Hope Group GSR was visiting from Area 54.

Past Delegate: John C., Past Delegate, Area 55 Panel 66 & Delegate Chair of the CPC Committee.

Approval of Minutes: George C., Recording Secretary, presented the April 5, 2020 minutes. Amanda B., Alternate GSR – Warm Heart Serenity, moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Lorrie E., GSR – Missions for Traditions. The motion carried unanimously, and the minutes were adopted.

Please note: Committee meeting minutes and District reports may also be submitted electronically by e-mail to Recording.Secretary@area55aa.org. Reports need to be submitted by or on the day of the Area Assembly for the mailing to be completed on time.

Approval of April Treasurer's Report: Chris C., Treasurer, presented the Financial Report for April 2020:

Operating Account: Beginning Balance 3/31/20: \$6,353.67; Income: \$1,072.65; Expenses: \$803.95; Ending Balance 4/30/20: \$6,622.37.

Prudent Reserve: Beginning Balance 3/31/20: \$3,002.78; Interest: \$0.05; Ending Balance 4/30/20: \$3,002.83

2020 Mini Conference: Beginning Balance 1/31/20: \$2,296.17; Income: \$197.00; Expenses: \$296.17; Ending Balance 4/30/20: \$2,197.00.

East Central Regional Conference: (Seed Money for 2021 Ohio State Convention) Beginning Balance 3/31/20: \$1,500.00; No Income or Expenses; Ending Balance 4/30/20: \$1,500.00

Marty C., GSR – New Hope, moved to approve the April Treasurer's report, seconded by John C., Past Delegate – Area 55 Panel 66. The motion passed unanimously, and the April 2020 Treasurer's Report was adopted.

COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS

Archives: / Billy S. / archives.chair@area55aa.org

No report was given.

The Archives Committee meets the 4th Monday of each month, 6:30 p.m., Tim Horton's – 2621 Navarre Ave; Oregon, OH; although may be suspended during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Multi-District Correctional: Dawn F. and Geno F. / corrections.chair@area55aa.org

Dawn F., Co-Chair, presented a brief report. The Committee met on April 21 via Zoom, with 11 members present. The Committee discussed the importance of attending the meetings. The Committee discussed the importance of contacting each commitment to make sure they have literature and other materials since no in-person commitments are happening right now. The Committee is also discussing with the prison and the jail about the possibility of having a Zoom meeting inside the facilities.

The Multi-District Correctional Committee has changed their meeting time. The Committee will now meet the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m., at Central Office; although the Committee is meeting via Zoom during the Pandemic – for more information, visit area55aa.org.

CPC/PI: Dave F. / cpc.pi@area55aa.org

No report was given.

The CPC/PI Committee meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month, 5:00 p.m., at Central Office; although may be suspended during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Grapevine: Wendy H./ grapevine.chair@area55aa.org

Wendy H., Chair, presented a brief report. The Committee has not met since Mini-Conference due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Financial Report: Beginning Balance: \$268.37; Income: \$100 seed money for purchase of books and \$109.00 from book sales at the Mini-Conference, Expenses: \$331.75 spent for books for the Mini-Conference; Ending Balance: \$145.62

Amanda B., GSR – Warm Heart Serenity, moved to approve the Grapevine Committee financial report, seconded by Karen W., Area 55 Mailing Secretary. The motion passed unanimously, and the financial report was adopted.

The Grapevine Committee meets the 2nd Monday of each month, 6:00 p.m., Tim Horton's – 2621 Navarre Ave; Oregon, OH; although may be suspended during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Group Services: John C. / groupser.chair@area55aa.org No report was given.

The Group Services Committee meets the day of the General Service Assembly, at 11:30 a.m. at the Downtown Senior Center; although may be suspended during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Accessibilities: Ynda C./ accessibilities@area55aa.org

No report was given.

The Accessibilities Committee meets the 2nd Monday of each month, 6:30 p.m., at Central Office; although may be suspended during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Website: Nathan K. / web.comm.chair@area55aa.org

Nathan K., Chair, presented a brief report. The Committee met today via Zoom, there may be another meeting in the next couple of weeks. The Committee is not going to post events that may occur during the Ohio "Stay at Home" order. The Committee will also not post individual meeting guidelines (requirements for each meeting to return to in-person meetings).

The Website Committee meets the day of the General Service Assembly, at 10:00 a.m., Black Kite Coffee – 2499 Collingwood Boulevard; Toledo, OH; although may be suspended for the Coronavirus pandemic.

Ad Hoc Area 55 Online Meetings Committee: Josh D.

Wendy S., Area 55 Webmaster and member of the Ad Hoc Online Meetings Committee, presented a brief report. The Committee has met a couple of times since last General Service Assembly. On May 3rd, The Committee hosted a second “How-To” online workshop to help groups establish online meetings. The slides from that presentation are on the area55aa.org website. There are still several slots available on the three Area 55-sponsored Zoom accounts. Groups wanting to get online to utilize the shared account to get their meeting setup can fill out a “Request a meeting” form on the area55aa.org website – this form will go to the Ad Hoc Committee, and someone will help get your meeting online. The General Service Assembly, DCM meeting, and several Area 55 Committee meetings are on one of the Area 55-sponsored accounts. 107 meetings are currently listed on the Area 55 Online Meetings spreadsheet.

Ad Hoc Area 55 Redistricting Committee: John C.

John C., Chair, presented a brief report. The Committee has not met due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Committee encourages any input as to how the Area could re-district.

Ad Hoc Area 55 Guidelines Committee: Cheryl S. / alt.delegate@area55aa.org

The Committee is reviewing the current Area 55 Guidelines, as they have not been updated in 4 years. If you are interested in reviewing the Guidelines and suggesting changes, please e-mail Cheryl.

Northwest Ohio/Southeast Michigan Intergroup: Tim D., Chairman, Intergroup Association of Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan, presented a report. The April and May meetings for Intergroup were canceled. The Officers met the first week of April via Zoom. There was an Officers and Committee Chair meeting held via Zoom at the end of April. The In-person May Intergroup Association meeting has been canceled. There will be another Officers and Committee Chair Zoom meeting in May. The June Intergroup meeting has not been decided upon, although it is still scheduled. Central Office is conducting literature sales – to purchase, send an e-mail or text to Karen M., and she will fulfill the order and meet you at Central Office to pick up and pay for your order. Central Office donations and literature sales are still happening via cash, check, or PayPal. Several Intergroup events still on schedule, but on hold. The Intergroup Pig Roast is scheduled with the church, but no contract has been signed. The Intergroup Picnic is still scheduled with the city. Dinners before Intergroup may not be viable in the short-term when Intergroup resumes their in-person meetings.

Newsletter Liaison: No report was provided. *There is not currently a Newsletter liaison.*

NOCYPAA Liaison: Nathan K. (Northwest Ohio Committee of Young People in AA)

Connor G., member of NOCYPAA, presented a brief report. NOCYPAA held meeting online April 26th. NOCYPAA will be postponing their bid to host the Ohio Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous (OYPAA). The Committee has been hosting a meeting and game/trivia night every Friday night in April. OYPAA 2020 is still scheduled for October 16-18 in Mansfield. Other Young People Committees in Ohio are struggling to get new members, NOCYPAA has about 10 active members. NOCYPAA’s next meeting is May 24 at 3 p.m. via Zoom.

MONCYPAA Liaison: Logan T., MONCYPAA gave a brief report. The Committee is dormant right now due to COVID-19. MICYPAA is hosting some meetings online.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBER (“DCM”) REPORTS

DCM Chair: Kimbrough P., District Committee Member Chair

Kimbrough P. gave a brief report. The DCMC meeting was held today at 11:30 a.m. via Zoom with 9 members present. Unity Day, which was originally going to be scheduled for July will have to be moved. The Committee discussed moving Unity Day to August or the fall, but may have to do an online Unity Day. The Committee will discuss this further at their next meeting. The Committee discussed the importance of making contributions to General Service. Most Districts have at least 1 zoom meeting. A couple of districts still have in-person meetings, although it is discouraged with the “Stay-at-Home” order in place.

District 4: Bridget B., Alternate DCM

Several meetings are happening via Zoom in District 4.

DELEGATE’S REPORT: James S. / delegate@area55aa.org

Jim S., Panel 70, Area 55 Delegate, was not present – as he was attending a General Service Conference online meeting.

ALTERNATE DELEGATE’S REPORT: / Cheryl S. / alt.delegate@area55aa.org

Cheryl S., Panel 70, Area 55 Alternate Delegate, presented some information regarding contributions.

Contributions to AA General Service Office: This is important, as the GSO has had to dip into their prudent reserve as donations during the pandemic fall.

Contributions to Area 55: These can be made online via area55aa.org or sending a check to our PO Box.

Contributions to Toledo Central Office: These can be made online at or via PayPal.

OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business

NEW BUSINESS

George C., Area 55 Panel 70 Recording Secretary, moved to modify the Area 55 General Service Assembly recurring agenda to include a spot for any Intergroup Association which may provide service in Area 55. The motion was seconded by Kimbrough P., DCM Chair. Discussion was held on specifically inviting the Sandusky and Monroe Intergroup associations an invite to the Area 55 Assembly.

- Wendy S., GSR – Ottawa Open Discussion, moved to table the motion to allow General Service Representatives time to get input from their groups before voting on this issue. The motion to table was seconded by Eva S., Alternate GSR – Live and Let Live. The motion to table the *main motion* passed via a voice vote (the original motion is now tabled). The minority voice was heard.
- After hearing the minority voice, one member stated they would like to change their vote. Another vote was held to determine if the Assembly would like to *reconsider* the vote to table the original motion. With 5 in the affirmative, and 6 in the negative, the motion failed. The original motion presented to the Assembly is *tabled*.

Chris Carson, Area 55 Panel 70 Treasurer, moved to donate the \$197.00 excess revenue from the Mini-Conference to the AA General Service Office in New York. The motion was seconded by John C., Past Delegate – Area 55 Panel 66. The motion passed unanimously.

George C., Area 55 Panel 70 Recording Secretary, moved to allow the Treasurer to reimburse the three Zoom account holders of which Area 55 has utilized shared accounts, if requested, for the months of May and June, at a cost of \$16.07/month per account. John C., Past Delegate – Area 55 Panel 66 seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The Assembly discussed the process of AA re-opening up after Stay-At-Home orders are lifted. Chair Cheryl S. shared some insight on the autonomous nature of each group. There was also discussion on how other Areas utilize online Zoom platforms to conduct business. No action was taken by the Assembly.

NEXT GENERAL SERVICE ASSEMBLY: June 14, 2020 via Zoom

Tradition 6 will be assigned.

Concept 6 will be assigned.

Rachel W., GSR – Trail Group moved to adjourn the Assembly, seconded by Karen W., Area 55 Panel 70 Mailing Secretary. The motion passed unanimously, and the General Service Assembly adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

George C., Recording Secretary Panel 70, Area 55, Northwest Ohio & Southeast Michigan