

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

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

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

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

Registrar: / 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, Meeting ID 813-7037-7856, Password 100. 32 people were present on the video conference, including 5 Panel Officers including the Area 55 Delegate. 1 Past Delegate was present. 26 other participants were present, including 12 GSR's, 1 Alternate GSR's, 4 DCM's, 0 Alternate DCM's, 1 current DCMC, and 3 Area 55 Committee Chairs/Co-Chairs. 5 guests were present, including the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, General Service Liaison, and Alternate General Service Liaison of the Northwest Ohio/Southeastern Michigan Intergroup Association.

MEETING MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 15, 2020

Sherry S., Area 55 Chairperson, opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. with the Serenity Prayer. Clara D., Guest & member of Whitehouse 12x12, read the Mission Statement. Bill G., DCM – District 7, read the Eleventh Tradition. Mandy F., GSR – Raising the Bottom, read the Eleventh Concept. Panel 70 officers were introduced.

New GSR's/Alternate GSR's: No new GSR's

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

Intergroup Associations Present: Northwest Ohio/Southeast Ohio Intergroup Association – Tim D., Chairman; Kevin B., Vice Chairman; David G., General Service Liaison; Bruce M., Alternate General Service Liaison

Approval of October Minutes: George C., Recording Secretary, presented the October 18, 2020 minutes with 2 correction. Sherry S., Area Chair – Area 55 Panel 70, moved to approve the minutes with 2 corrections; seconded by John C., Past Delegate – Area 55 Panel 66. The motion carried unanimously, and the October 18, 2020 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 October Treasurer's Report: Chris C., Treasurer, presented the Financial Report for October 2020:

Operating Account: Beginning Balance 10/1/20: \$7,917.18; Income: \$447.58; Expenses: \$125.00; Ending Balance 10/31/20: \$8,239.76.

Prudent Reserve: Beginning Balance 10/1/20: \$3,003.08; Interest: \$0.05; Ending Balance 10/31/20: \$3,003.13.

2020 Mini Conference: Beginning Balance 10/1/20: \$2,000.00; no income or expenses; Ending Balance 10/31/20: \$2,000.00.

East Central Regional Conference: (Seed money for 2021 Ohio State Convention) Beginning Balance 10/1/20: \$1,500.00; no income or expenses; Ending Balance 10/31/20: \$1,500.00

September General Service Assembly Basket: \$0

Bill G., DCM – District 7, moved to approve the October Treasurer’s report; seconded by Wendy H., Committee Chair - Grapevine. The motion passed unanimously, and the October 2020 Treasurer’s Report was adopted.

COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS

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

Dawn F., Co-Chair, gave a brief report and submitted a written report for October. The Committee met on October 21 via Zoom, with 4 members present. All in-person commitments except the Driver Intervention Program are on hold due to COVID. Committee members have fulfilled all DIP commitments, although only 2 of 3 groups have fulfilled their part. The committee has not been able to reach someone from Southside Survivor’s II. The committee has released an assignment for the DIP programs for the remainder of the year. For DIP’s, only 4 AA’s can participate due to social distancing; the committee plans on 1 committee member and 3 home group members to attend each commitment. If a group cannot fulfill their commitment, the committee is asking that the group call the committee chair to inform them ahead of time, so that more committee members may attend. To find the upcoming DIP dates and the groups assigned, they are on the Area 55 and the Central Office website (in Central Office Announcements).

The Lucas County jail prohibits written correspondence with inmates and are unable to use CD/DVD’s. CTF-Men on-prison campus and CTF-Women both report that they now could do Zoom meetings. The committee will follow up with CTF-Men and CTF-Women regarding the next steps in getting an online meeting setup for the facility. There are currently no inmates in the Work Release program due to COVID.

Committee members have been attending a weekly international meeting held on corrections work. A committee member donated several boxes of books, CD’s, and Grapevine issues. The committee will be sorting through the donated material and will be delivering items to facilities soon. The next meeting will be November 18th at 6:30 pm via Zoom (ID: 834-6924-9046, Password: jail).

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: Mary Beth D. / cpc.pi@area55aa.org

Mary Beth D., Chair, gave a brief report. In October, the committee met with Midwest Recovery Center and its Operations Director. The committee presented Midwest pamphlets and information sheets, and a list of in-person and online meetings. The committee discussed transporting smaller groups of around 5 people to meetings, rather than large groups of 20+, since larger groups could be disruptive to smaller meetings. Midwest agreed to pass the transportation request to their coordinators and should have not have a problem meeting this request. At Midwest, patients in the short-term detox and the 30-day in-patient programs are not able to access phones, but Midwest look at casting online meetings to a TV screen. The Intergroup Hospital & Institutions Committee does host a meeting in the short-term detox center, and Midwest is interested in adding a meeting to the 30-day residential program. The Intergroup Hospital & Institutions Committee stated that they could not add a meeting due to a lack of committee members, it was suggested that the H&I Committee move the one Midwest meeting to the 30-day residential program rather than the short-term detox.

The committee also met October 21. The committee reviewed literature, including the pamphlet *AA At A Glance*. The committee discussed open and closed meetings and reviewed the CPC Workbook. The committee also discussed any follow up from the Midwest Recovery Center meeting. The CPC/PI Committee is seeking treatment contacts from the Intergroup H&I committee and seeking more contacts from jails and prisons from the Area 55 Multi-District Corrections Committee. The committee followed up with the UPMC Health Science Internship Clerk Coordinator regarding a presentation for students. The committee also contacted the TV stations in the area via letter and e-mail, asking them to run AA PSA’s and/or thanking them for running them. There are three HD-Broadcast ready PSA’s on aa.org. The next meeting of the CPC/PI Committee will be November 18.

The CPC/PI Committee meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month, 5:00 p.m., at Central Office; although during the pandemic their meetings will be at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom at 831-8766-3059, Password: 530.

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.

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

Wendy H., Chair, gave a brief report.

September Financial Report: Beginning Balance: \$145.62; No Income or Expenses; Ending Balance: \$145.62

George C., Recording Secretary - Area 55 Panel 70, moved to adopt the Grapevine Committee September financial report; seconded by Karen W., Mailing Secretary – Area 55 Panel 70. The motion passed unanimously, and the report was adopted.

October Financial Report: Beginning Balance: \$145.62; No Income or Expenses; Ending Balance: \$145.62

Sherry S., Assembly Chair – Area 55 Panel 70, moved to adopt the Grapevine Committee October financial report; seconded by George C., Recording Secretary – Area 55 Panel 70. The motion passed unanimously, and the 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. In **August**, the Committee will Meet August 10 at the Pearson Park Shelter House at 6pm.*

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.

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.

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

Nathan K., Chair, gave a brief report. The committee met on October 17 at 1:00 p.m. The committee discussed meeting changes and open/closed meeting changes. The Meeting Guide App has been updated to allow a meeting to have assigned a general area rather than specific address to accommodate online-only meetings. Search and filter plugins on the website are fixed. The committee discussed start posting excerpts from the newsletter that are four months or older. The committee is also discussing with the Grapevine Committee about setting up an online store on the website or to list items and prices.

*The Website Committee has **rescheduled** their meetings to the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at Zoom meeting ID 273-332-805, password 830.*

Ad Hoc Area 55 Online Meetings Committee: Josh D.

No report was given.

Ad Hoc Area 55 Redistricting Committee: John C.

No report was given.

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

The updated guidelines are now on the Area website. These are updates that were previously approved by the General Service Assembly from September 2016 through 2020 and were never updated into the guidelines document.

Northwest Ohio/Southeast Michigan Intergroup: Dave G., Liaison for the Intergroup Association of Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan, gave a brief report. There were 41 people at the last Intergroup meeting. Bridget B. was elected as the new Secretary. Vacant spots for the Entertainment Committee chair and vice-chair were filled.

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

NOCYPAA hosted an online Scavenger Hunt event Friday, November 13th that turned out well. NOCYPAA will be holding elections on Sunday, November 23, at 3:00 p.m., Zoom ID 588-428-583, password is 300.

MONCYPAA Liaison: Logan T.

No report was provided.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBER (“DCM”) REPORTS

DCM Chair: Kimbrough P., District Committee Member Chair

No report was given.

District 3: Tarik K., DCM – District 3

Tarik reported that a few meetings are still open, some are online, but most meetings are closed right now.

District 7: Bill G., DCM – District 7

Bill reported no changes to in-person meetings since last month.

District 11: Bonnie S., DCM – District 11

Bonnie reported that two meetings were canceled this last week - Friday Night Big Book and the Monday Night Women’s Meeting.

District 14: Christine M., DCM – District 14

The District Committee met October 28 with 6 people in attendance. All groups are doing well. District 14 meeting schedules are being printed out, and the committee will get them to the Area 55 Registrar. The Open-Minded group has opened back up. The Grace group has closed. Chrissy started a women’s 12-step group for women in halfway house, although it is on pause due to the halfway houses currently being in quarantine. The District Committee voted to donate Big Books to Lighthouse, a halfway house. Also, every other Thursday night, a half house is hosting an AA meeting. The next district meeting will be November 18, at 6:00 p.m., at Grace Fellowship Church in Lima.

DELEGATE’S REPORT: Jim S. / delegate@area55aa.org / (419) 708-4408

Jim S., Panel 70, Area 55 Delegate, and Alternate Chair of the CPC Committee presented the Delegate’s Report:

Area 55 Registrar: Jennifer H. has resigned; the Assembly will need to decide whether the body will elect a new Registrar or if the Delegate can appoint a new Registrar.

My Portal (New AA database): Should be up and running by mid-December. The Registrar and Alternate will be able to change information in the new database. Also, Delegates and DCM’s will have access to check information once the site is live.

Unity Day: Area 55 Unity Day was held yesterday (October 14), and it went very well. More than 40 were in attendance, including members from most of our districts, and the East Central Regional Trustee. Delegates and Alternate Delegates from Area 54 and 56 were also in attendance.

Mini-Conference Planning Committee: The Mini-Conference Planning Committee will start meeting, the first meeting scheduled for Saturday, December 12 at 10:00 a.m. on Zoom.

Ohio State Convention/East Central Regional Conference: Area 55 is hosting the 2021 Ohio State Convention (virtual), and the first local planning meeting will be held Saturday, January 23, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. The \$1500 hotel deposit was returned, and the hotel contract was canceled for the event. The Ohio State Convention Planning Committee met November 7 and reported a loss of \$346 for the 2020 Ohio State Convention, which included printed registrations prior to the cancelation of the in-person conference. Each Area will need to contribute \$86.50 and send that to Area 54.

71st General Service Conference: The General Service Board recommended at the 71st General Service Conference be held April 18-24, 2021 online via remote technology.

Grapevine: The Grapevine has reported that COVID-19 has greatly impacted their ability to sell Grapevine issues, Grapevine books, and other materials.

7th Tradition: 7th Tradition Donations can be mailed to: Area 55 Treasurer; PO Box 401; Toledo, OH 43697-0401; or can be made online at <https://area55aa.org/make-a-contribution/>. The receipt for the area55aa.org will say 'Ohio State Conference' as this is the old (but active) PayPal account.

OLD BUSINESS

\$86.50 needs to be sent to Area 54 for the 2020 Ohio State Convention loss. Per Chris C., Treasurer – Area 55 Panel 70, no action needs to be taken, since Area 55 already has an agreement to share any profit/loss from the Ohio State Convention

The assembly brought up for discussion service positions (General Service Representatives) with online-only groups. Sherry S., Assembly Chair, contacted the General Service Office regarding their thoughts. A lengthy e-mail from the General Service Office was presented and shared with the Assembly. It was noted that the Area can adopt its own policy. Jim S., Delegate – Area 55 Panel 70, will refer the matter to the Ad Hoc Online Meetings Committee, who can have separate meetings and report back to the Assembly with any recommendations.

NEW BUSINESS

Ynda C. has stepped down as Accessibilities Committee Chair, who has served for two years. Matt will step into the Chair position.

Chris C., Treasurer – Area 55 Panel 70 moved that the Assembly hold an election for Registrar at the December assembly meeting; seconded by Bill G., DCM – District 7. 15 voted yes, 8 voted now, 0 abstentions. The motion *failed* after not meeting a 2/3 passing requirement.

Rachel W., GSR – Trail Group, moved to have the Delegate appoint a Registrar to fulfill the unexpired term; seconded by Sheryl D., GSR – Open Minded. The Assembly discussed the motion.

- Lee J., GSR – Eastside 12x12, moved to close debate and call the question; seconded by George C., Recording Secretary – Area 55 Panel 70. 22 votes yes, 0 no, 1 abstention, the motion to call the question was passed.

On the motion for the Delegate to appoint a Registrar to fulfill the unexpired term, 20 voted yes, 2 voted no, 1 abstention. The motion passed, and the Delegate will appoint a Registrar. Both minority opinions were expressed, and no member indicated they wished to change their vote.

NEXT GENERAL SERVICE ASSEMBLY: December 20, 2020, 1:00 pm via Zoom

Zoom ID: 813-7037-7856

Password: 100

Tradition 12 will be read by Mary Beth D., Committee Chair – CPC/PI.

Concept 12 will be read by Chris C. – Treasurer – Area 55 Panel 70.

George C., Recording Secretary – Area 55 Panel 70, moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Janet H., GSR – Maumee Womens. The motion carried unanimously, and the Assembly adjourned at 3:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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