

# GENERAL SERVICE ASSEMBLY

Area 55, Panel 70 NW Ohio & Southeast Michigan  
P.O. Box 401 Toledo, OH 43697-0401 [www.area55aa.org](http://www.area55aa.org)

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*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. 33 people were present on the video conference, including 6 Panel Officers including the Area 55 Delegate. 1 Past Delegate was present. 27 other participants were present, including 12 GSR's, 1 Alternate GSR, 3 DCM's, 0 Alternate DCM's, 1 current DCMC, and 2 Area 55 Committee Chairs/Co-Chairs. 7 guests were present, including the Central Office Manager and the Vice-Chair of the Northwest Ohio/Southeastern Michigan Intergroup Association.

## MEETING MINUTES FOR JANUARY 17, 2021

Sherry S., Area 55 Chairperson, opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. with a moment of silence in memory of AA members who have lost their lives recently, followed by the Serenity Prayer. Kimbrough P., DCM Chair – Area 55 Panel 70, read the Mission Statement. Larry S., GSR – Eastside 12x12, read the First Tradition. Mandy F., GSR – Raising the Bottom, read the First Concept. Panel 70 officers were introduced.

**New GSR's/Alternate GSR's:** Larry S., GSR – Eastside 12x12

**Past Delegates:** John C., Past Delegate – Area 55 Panel 66

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

**Upcoming Conferences:** The 2021 Area 55 Virtual Mini-Conference will be held March 5-6, 2021; Registration for the Mini-Conference can be completed online at [area55aa.org](http://area55aa.org). Also, Area 55 will be hosting the 2021 Ohio State Convention in August 2021, which will also be held Virtually.

**Approval of December 2020 Minutes:** George C., Recording Secretary, presented the December 20, 2020 minutes with 1 correction. Lorrie E., GSR – Mission for Traditions, moved to approve the minutes with 1 correction; seconded by Larry S., GSR – Eastside 12x12. The motion carried unanimously, and the December 20, 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](mailto: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 December 2020 Treasurer's Report:** Chris C., Treasurer, presented the Financial Report for December 2020:

**Operating Account:** Beginning Balance 12/1/20: \$8,262.58; Income: \$1,022.57; Expenses: \$613.42; Ending Balance 12/31/20: \$8,671.73.

**Prudent Reserve:** Beginning Balance 12/1/20: \$3,003.18; Interest: \$0.05; Ending Balance 12/31/20: \$3,003.23.

**2020 Mini Conference:** Beginning Balance 12/1/20: \$2,000.00; no income or expenses; Ending Balance 12/31/20: \$2,000.00.

**East Central Regional Conference:** (Seed money for 2021 Ohio State Convention) Beginning Balance 12/1/20: \$1,500.00; no income or expenses; Ending Balance 12/31/20: \$1,500.00 (However, the \$1,500 hotel deposit for the convention was returned to the Area; the additional deposit will reflect on the January 2021 report).

**December 2020 General Service Assembly Basket: \$60.00**

**2020 Year-To-Date Income/Expenses: Total 2020 Income: \$9,715.00; Total 2020 Expenses: \$8,424.47**

Bill G., DCM – District 7, moved to approve the December Treasurer’s report; seconded by John C., Past Delegate – Area 55 Panel 66. The motion passed unanimously, and the December 2020 Treasurer’s Report was adopted.

## **COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS**

**Archives:** / Billy S. / [archives.chair@area55aa.org](mailto: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 and Geno F. / [corrections.chair@area55aa.org](mailto:corrections.chair@area55aa.org) /

Dawn F., Co-Chair, gave a brief report and submitted a written report. The Committee met on December 16, 2020 via Zoom, with 3 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 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 website and the Central Office website (in Central Office Announcements).

The committee mailed packets to correctional facilities on December 8, including a cover letter, “Sharing behind the Walls” brochure, a correspondence form, and a pre-release contact form. The CTF Men’s on-prison campus and the CTF Women’s campus and Work release have started Zoom meetings (beginning 1-4-2021) and are being held every Monday from 7-8pm. The Zoom meeting information is on the area55aa.org website. The committee also donated 10 Big Books on January 10 to the CTF facility. The Allen-Oakwood Correctional Institution (AOCI) in Lima now can do online meetings – the committee will follow up with this. Also, AOCI connected an inmate with a committee member to seek a sponsor.

The committee meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of each month pm via Zoom (ID: 834-6924-9046, Password: jail). The January meeting will be January 20.

*The Multi-District Correctional Committee has changed their meeting time. The Committee will now meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:cpc.pi@area55aa.org) /

Mary Beth D., Chair, gave a brief report. The committee has added a couple of new members. The next CPC/PI committee will meet January 20 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom ID 831-8766-3059, passcode: 530.

*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.*

**Accessibilities:** Matt A. / [accessibilities@area55aa.org](mailto: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.*

**Grapevine:** Wendy H. / [grapevine.chair@area55aa.org](mailto:grapevine.chair@area55aa.org) /

No report was given.

*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](mailto: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](mailto:web.comm.chair@area55aa.org) /

Wendy S., Chair, gave a brief report. The committee met on January 5 at 6 p.m. via Zoom with 3 members present. The committee discussed new submissions for placement on the website, including a January 15 trivia night hosted by NOCYPAA and a Grapevine meeting from another area. The committee also discussed posting Grapevine materials on the website. The committee also discussed taking on the responsibilities of the Ad Hoc Online Meeting Committee once the ad hoc committee is dissolved. For December 2020, there were 3,159 unique visitors to the area55aa.org website, with 5,401 total visits, which is 1.7 visits per visitor. There were 81,571 pages visited, or an average of 15.1 pages per visit.

*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.*

**Northwest Ohio/Southeast Michigan Intergroup:** Dave G., Liaison for the Intergroup Association of Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan, gave a brief report. The new Intergroup Vice Chairman is Ryan O'Connor. There are five committee vice-chair positions still available for 2021, including the Children's Christmas Party, Finance, Hospital & Institutions, Anniversary, and the Newsletter Committees. The next meeting will be on the fourth Saturday in January 27 at 6:30 p.m.

**NOCYPAA Liaison:** Connor G. (Northwest Ohio Committee of Young People in AA)

No report was given.

**MONCYPAA Liaison:** Logan T.

No report was provided.

**Ad Hoc Area 55 Online Meetings Committee:** Josh D. /

Wendy Schimmoeller, member of the committee, gave a brief report. The committee held a sharing session on January 14 regarding online meetings participating in the Area 55 service structure.

*Today's minutes will be accompanied by an addendum detailing the report from the Sharing Session.*

**Ad Hoc Area 55 Redistricting Committee:** John C. / [jcarter51956@yahoo.com](mailto:jcarter51956@yahoo.com)

No report was given.

## **DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBER ("DCM") REPORTS**

**DCM Chair:** Kimbrough P., District Committee Member Chair

Kimbrough P., DCMC, gave a brief report. The DCM meeting was held January 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. with 4 districts represented. District 7 is having a workshop February 27 – a Big Book Study. The committee discussed the need to have several districts represented in the Area 55 Mini-Conference planning and the Ohio State Convention planning. The committee discussed open and closed in-person meetings. Duplicate group registrations with the Area 55 Registrar were also discussed. The committee is also looking for an Alternate DCMC.

**District 7:** Bill G., DCM – District 7

Bill G., DCM – District 7, gave a brief report. The District meeting was held January 7, with 4 people in attendance. There are no major changes regarding in-person meetings in the district. District 7 is also planning on doing a 4-hour workshop/Big Book study via Zoom on Saturday, February 27. The next District 7 meeting will be held February 18 via Zoom.

**District 14:** Christine M., DCM – District 14

Christine M., DCM – District 14, gave a brief report. The District 14 Committee met in November, with only 2 attendees. The meeting schedule for District 14 was sent to the Area 55 Registrar. The next District 14 meeting will be the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, at Grace Fellowship Church. The Alkathon hosted in the District had a good turnout.

## **DELEGATE'S REPORT:** Jim S. / [delegate@area55aa.org](mailto:delegate@area55aa.org)

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

**Mini-Conference Planning Committee:** 1/23 10am. Registrations are already available at [area55aa.org](http://area55aa.org). We do ask that everyone register for the free conference. Registering will allow the Area to make sure the proper platform can be used to accommodate the number of attendees. The next Planning Committee meeting will be held Saturday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom.

**Sharing Session – Online Groups/Service Structure:** The sharing session hosted by the Ad Hoc Online Meetings Committee on January 14 was successful. The minutes from that session will be attached to these minutes.

**Fellowship Connection:** This is the program utilized by the Registrar. Upon reviewing the Area information, there are a lot of duplicate group registrations, and outdated groups. The Area needs to have updated information for this program on all groups.

**East Central Regional Forum:** The East Central Regional Forum will be held virtually November 19-21, 2021.

**Ohio State Convention/East Central Regional Conference:** Area 55 is hosting the 2021 Ohio State Convention (virtual), and the planning committee meetings are being held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of the month via Zoom.

**2021 General Service Conference:** This conference will be held online. The Conference has increased the cost for Delegate's participation from their area to \$1800 and will be due in March. There will be between 90-100 agenda items.

John C., Past Delegate – Area 55 Panel 66 moved to send \$1,800 to New York for our Delegate's participation in the 2021 General Service Conference; seconded by Wendy S., GSR – Ottawa Open Discussion. After discussion, there were 13 voting in favor, 5 voting against, and 1 abstention, and the motion carried – the Area will send the \$1,800 to the General Service Office in New York. 2 minority vote opinions were heard, with no requests to change a vote.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Chris C., Treasurer – Area 55 Panel 70, presented a report and quotes to the Assembly for obtaining a climate-controlled storage unit to store Area 55 equipment and other items. Bill G., DCM – District 7, moved to authorize the Area to enter into an agreement with a storage facility for the purposes of storing Area property, costing no more than \$100 per month; seconded by Larry S., GSR – Eastside 12x12. The motion passed unanimously, and the Area & its Treasurer is authorized to enter into an agreement with a storage facility.

\$61.00 was collected during today's January General Service Assembly PayPal basket. Wendy S., GSR – Ottawa Open Discussion, moved to keep the \$61.00 from today's basket within Area 55; seconded by John C., Past Delegate – Area 55 Panel 66. The motion passed unanimously, and the monies received will be kept within the Area.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Tim D., Registrar – Area 55 Panel 70, gave a brief update on the new Registrar program. He will be providing lists of groups to the DCM's. Some districts have multiple same-named groups registered.

## **NEXT GENERAL SERVICE ASSEMBLY: February 21, 2021, 1:00 pm via Zoom**

**Zoom ID:** 813-7037-7856

**Password:** 100

Tradition 2 will be read by Bill G., DCM – District 7.

Concept 2 will be read by Dawn F., Co-Chair – Area 55 Multi District Corrections Committee.

Dawn F., Co-Chair – Area 55 Multi District Corrections Committee, moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Larry S., GSR – Eastside 12x12. The motion carried unanimously, and the Assembly adjourned at 2:51 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

George C.

Recording Secretary

Panel 70, Area 55 - Northwest Ohio & Southeast Michigan

# **ADDENDUM TO THE JANUARY 17, 2021 AREA 55 GENERAL SERVICE ASSEMBLY MINUTES**

## **Area 55 Sharing Session Regarding Online Groups January 14, 2021**

8:00 p.m. start time

30 participants including 5 members of the Ad Hoc Committee for Online Meetings - all met on Zoom

Josh D. opened the meeting explaining we're here to obtain feedback from Area 55 members regarding online groups having a place in our service structure.

Serenity Prayer was prayed.

Josh D. continued by introducing Sherry with the background information.

October 18, 2020 assembly discussion ensued regarding representation for online groups. Sherry contacted GSO who explained that if there was no physical address, how does an area decide which district the group resides.

Sherry S. discussed the background of the issue of online group representation in the service structure explaining that there are online groups in the area that wish to continue staying online only. Sherry S. wrote to GSO asking for guidance and read the response from GSO, which was also posted on the [area55aa.org](http://area55aa.org) website prior to the sharing session.

Josh D. then provided background on what the Ad Hoc Committee for Online Meetings has discussed to date as options for groups who only meet online to have representation in the AA service structure expressing that it is important for online groups to have representation within the service structure just as groups that meet in person already have. Josh D. stated that the online district discussed by the ad hoc committee would solely consist of those groups who meet online only and would not include groups who maintain the conduct of meetings in a physical location. The online only group district would discuss issues that impact them. Another possibility that was discussed is creating an online area nationally. A lot of the members on our committee thought that the local option of having a district within our area made more sense. And, that will allow our area service structure to still serve those groups and will address accessibility and provide other benefits. The ad hoc committee also discussed the potential for groups to start out as part of this district potentially but then if over time the composition of the membership changes and the meeting continues without members from Area 55, they would no longer be a district in Area 55 and be able to plug into another service structure that is more suitable to their current composition.

The ad hoc committee thinks that some of the benefits of this is that online groups are going to outlast the pandemic so it's a way to ensure that those members who choose to continue being part of groups online have a voice in the service structure.

Jim S. then offered the following references to AA literature which pertain to the subject of group representation:

1. From the forward to the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of "Alcoholics Anonymous" page xxiv states

"While our literature preserved the integrity of the A.A. message in new customs and practices within the Fellowship. Taking advantage of technological advances, for example, A.A. members with computers can participate in meeting, anywhere, AA's share experience, strength, and hope with each other, in order to stay sober and help other alcoholics. Modem-to-modem or face-to-face, A.A.'s speak the language of the heart in all its power and simplicity."

2. From the Pamphlet "The A.A. Group" page 12, also from Long Version of Tradition Three page 189 of the Twelve and Twelve

"What is an A.A. Group? As the long form of Tradition Three clearly states, "Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group they have no other affiliations."

3. From the Pamphlet "The A.A. Group" page 12, also from the "Twelve Concepts for World Service", Concept 12, Warranty six:

- No penalties to be inflicted for nonconformity to A.A. principles;
- No fees or dues to be levied-voluntary contributions only;
- No member to be expelled from A.A.-membership always to be the choice of the individual;
- Each A.A. group to conduct its internal affairs as it wishes-it being merely requested to abstain from acts that might injure A.A. as a whole; and finally
- That any group of alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group provided that, as a group, they have no other purpose or affiliations.

4. From the Pamphlet The A.A. Group page 15

#### "The A.A. Home Group

Traditionally, most A.A. members through the years have found it important to belong to one group that they call their "home group". This is the group where they accept service responsibilities and try to sustain friendships. And although all A.A. members are usually welcomed at all groups and feel at home at any of these meetings, the concept of the home group has still remained the strongest bond between the A.A. member and the Fellowship.

With membership comes the right to vote on issues that might affect the group and might also affect A.A. as a whole-a process that forms the very cornerstone of A.A.'s service structure.

As with all group-conscience matters, each A.A. member has one vote; and this, ideally, is voiced through the home group.

Over the years, the very essence of A.A. strength has remained with our home group, which for many members, becomes our extended family. Once isolated by our drinking, we find in the home group a solid, continuing support system, friends and, and very often, a sponsor. We also learn firsthand, through the group's workings, how to place "principals before personalities" in the interest of carrying the A.A. message.

5. Near the end of the essay on Concept iv.

There is another good reason for "participation," and this one has to do with our spiritual needs. All of us deeply desire to belong. We want an A.A. relation of brotherly partnership. It is our shining ideal that the "spiritual Corporation" of A.A. should never include any members who are regarded as "second class." Deep down, I think this is what we have been struggling to achieve in our world "participation" at every important level. Just as there are no second-class world service workers, either.

George C. shared about the distinction between a meeting and a group to ensure an understanding of terminology and shared the following information:

- From the AA Pamphlet "The A.A. Group... Where It All Begins"

"Some AA's come together as specialized AA groups - for men, women, young people, doctors, gays, and others. If the members are all alcoholics, and if they open the door to all alcoholics who seek help, regardless of profession, gender or other distinction and meet all the other aspects defining an AA group, they may call themselves an AA group."

"AA groups are encouraged to register with the General Service Office, as well as their local offices: area, district, intergroup, or central office."

"Most AA members meet in AA groups as defined by the long form of our Third Tradition. However, some AA members hold AA meetings that differ from the common understanding of a group. These members simply gather at a set time and place for a meeting, perhaps for convenience or other special situations.:

"AA MEETINGS can be listed in local meeting lists."

"The main difference between meetings and groups is that AA groups generally continue to exist outside the prescribed meeting hours, ready to provide Twelfth Step help when needed."

- From Twelve Concepts for World Service, Concept Twelve, Warranty Six:

"Any group of alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an AA group provided that, as a group, they have no other purpose or affiliation."

George C. explained that no decision will be made tonight - it is only valuable input for the Ad Hoc Committee for Online Meetings and the notes from the sharing session will be reviewed

during the next Ad Hoc Committee for Online Meetings meeting to develop a recommendation for Area 55.

Valerie P. kept time and explained who she would keep time and provide notices of 30 seconds left to share and time up to share.

Josh D. asked that those who want to share raise their hand, sharing would be limited to 2 minutes, and each member would have the opportunity to share once prior to the opportunity to share a second time. Then, sharing from participants commenced as follows:

- Jeff H. thinks there's a problem as there is a possibility of getting 50 groups in 1 district and therefore groups should be kept in the districts in which the members reside. Jeff adding an online only group would cause confusion with group consciences and DCMs.
- Josh D. clarified that we are talking about groups that do not have a physical meeting location and only meet online.
- John C. sees this as a need which can be used in a lot of places such as nursing homes. John C. thinks a lot of online groups will dissipate at the end of the pandemic and we will not know that until the end of the pandemic. John C. thinks it is a great tool but too early to make a decision at that time and it might turn out that we have only one (1) online group in each district. John C. thinks we should assess the issue after the end of the pandemic.
- George C. shared that COVID-19 presents its own challenges and we have an opportunity to allow groups that meet online only and do not have a physical meeting location to be represented in the service structure. George C. thinks that online groups will face their own challenges and having them in one district they'll have some commonality there in the at least in the format of how they meet. George thinks right now there are two (2) or three (3) meetings/potential groups that if they can get organized that would love to be part of the service structure here and George thinks giving them a voice would benefit the service structure.
- Tarik K. said that if the new district was for groups that meet only online, like the Saturday online meeting at 2:00, he would be for the creation of the new district.
- Jim D. thinks it is important to have online groups for shut-ins and thinks they should have representation in the service structure. Jim D. thinks the online groups could join a district which the group felt was appropriate for them.
- Chris C. researched this concept and it brought to mind the linguistic districts which are composed of groups that speak a certain language such as Spanish. Chris C. thought a district for online only groups would be using the same principle as those districts created based on linguistics. Chris also shared that Area 55 could also be divided into quadrants based on geographical location - northwest, southeast, southwest, northeast and still address geographical challenges they face in their own section of Area 55.
- Tim D., Area 55's newly appointed Registrar, stated he recently attended the Fellowship Connection training and said that registering online groups is a concern across the nation with only two (2) ways to register an online group right now: international and



remote, but neither has representation in the service structure; therefore, any online group in Area 55 does not currently have rights as far as the Area Assemblies are concerned. We could lead the way and make a decision to do something or do nothing. Tim also reiterated that we are discussing groups that only meet online.

- Larry S. stated he is for online meetings and asks how the online group gets their voice out.
- Ron S. points out the need for a form as stated in the response from GSO. Ron notes that we cannot add an Area, because that takes A.A. conference action, but we are able to decide on local representation and stated we should focus on what we can do.
- Bill G., DCM for District 4, agrees with John Carter in that we really do not know what is going to happen after the pandemic. Bill Gotthart thinks online only groups should have their own district.
- Donna S. asked if after COVID-19 pandemic is over and in person service meetings such as the General Assembly occur again how will in online only groups attend?
- Josh D. interjected and stated that Donna's question would be addressed during the Q&A at the end of the sharing session.
- Mandy F. who has only attended online meetings states she would prefer a district designated for online only groups so it would be easier to problem solve and still be part of Area 55.
- Kevin B. thinks from an overall standpoint we don't know enough and being on the leading end is not always a good thing. Kevin states sometimes it is good to be a follower and this may be one of those times.
- Nancy M., past delegate of Area 55, shared that she does not have a permanent residence anymore, so she has taken advantage of online meetings and considers it a blessing to have access to meetings she has not had access to before. Nancy stated her group in Area 55 stopped meeting during the pandemic, so Nancy joined an online group that is international and does not have an area. Nancy thinks a district for online only groups is a wonderful idea. Nancy thinks it is also important to be part of a group and have a voice and unless the group is registered in New York, it does not have a voice. If the online district eventually becomes obsolete, then the Area just does not have the district. If the group wants a voice, it has to be registered. GSO does not know what to do but does understand the dilemma. Nancy stated we need to come up with the solution and is listening for her own international group. Nancy reiterated it is important to have a voice.
- Chuck K asked for another explanation of the difference between a meeting and a group. In response, Jim Snider, Area Delegate, talked about the Saturday 2:00 p.m. meeting continuing because attendees wanted to become members of a group. After six (6) months, the members desiring to become a group inquired about how to become a group within the service structure. The group should have a vote because they say they are a group and groups run A.A. Those A.A. members want to be called a group with a vote recognized by A.A.
- Janet said she hopes online meetings continue for shut-ins because people do not go to shut-ins as much anymore and shut-ins need to keep their sobriety.
- Josh D. welcomed second shares after the completion of round 1 of sharing:

- Ron S. said if we create an online district, GSO will create a form - based on what was stated in their response to Area 55.
- Sherry S., Alternate Delegate, said we have to decide as an area how we treat online groups. If an online group wants to continue after the pandemic, they can but will not have a voice in A.A. issues/policies unless the area decides to create a space for online only groups within the area. As an area, we need to come to a conclusion and let New York know.
- Tim, D. stated there is a back door way to register groups without a physical address on the Fellowship Connection and we could just enter a physical address (just pick an address). Tim stated a GSO will create a form once the decision is made. Tim also stated the GSO is going to a system of email addresses for registering groups.

Josh D. transitioned the sharing sessions to Q&A:

- Ron S. asked if we could use Box 401 or Central Office as a physical address.
  - Response was that we would need an agreement with Intergroup to use the Central Office address and the P.O. Box would not work.
- Josh D. addressed a question posed during the sharing portion of the session - How will online groups be represented at service meetings such as the General Service Assemblies?
  - Josh responded that the service/business meetings could be hybrid in nature - there could be a person connecting the in person meeting to the online attendees by having the in person meeting shown online and/or representations not attending in person could call in on the phone. The votes from the representatives not in attendance in person would be recorded the same as those that were placed in person.

Summary statements were made and the meeting closed with the we version of the responsibility statement at approximately 9:17 p.m.

*Respectfully and sincerely submitted by Wendy S., Secretary for the Sharing Session*