

GENERAL SERVICE ASSEMBLY

Area 55, Panel 72 NW Ohio & Southeast Michigan
P.O. Box 401 Toledo, OH 43697-0401 www.area55aa.org

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

Alternate Delegate / Area Chair: Kimbrough P / alt.delegate@area55aa.org / (419) 575-9166

Recording Secretary: Melanie R / recording.secretary@area55aa.org

Registrar: Karen W / registrar@area55aa.org

Treasurer: Larry B / treasurer@area55aa.org

Mailing Secretary: Bridget B / 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 at the Senior Center; 2308 Jefferson; Toledo, OH 43604. 47 people were present including 3 Panel Officers, 1 Area Delegate, 1 Alternate Delegate, 2 Past Delegate(s), 28 GSRs, 6 Alternate GSR, 3 DCMs, 0 Alternate DCM, 1 current DCMC, 0 Alt. DCMC, 4 Area 55 Committee Chairs/Co-Chairs, 0 guest(s).

MEETING MINUTES FOR December 18, 2022

Kimbrough P, Area 55, Alt. Delegate Panel 72, Chairperson, opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. followed by the Serenity Prayer. The Mission Statement was read by Robyn A, GSR, Tiffin New Hope; Shannon C, GSR, Bowling Green Tuesday Night read Tradition 12; Kellie S, GSR, Women's Road to Recovery, read Concept 12. Panel 72 officers were introduced.

New GSRs/Alternate GSRs: Robyn A, GSR, Tiffin New Hope; Don K, GSR, Perrysburg AM; Floyd P, GSR, 2 Lives in 1 Lifetime; Angelo A, GSR, Fostoria Monday Night; Michelle P, GSR, Positive Group; Jeanne P, GSR, Zoombirds.

New DCMs/Alternate DCMs: none

Past Delegates: John C, Past Delegate, Area 55, Panel 66; Jim S, Past Delegate, Area 55, Panel 70

Approval of November Minutes: Melanie R, Recording Secretary, presented the November 20, 2022, minutes.

Revision: Archives Committee Report, "Eva S was present at the November 20, 2022, General Assembly Meeting."

Motion to accept: Eva S, GSR, Live and Let Live; Seconded by Mike J, GSR, Message of Hope

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 November 20, 2022, Treasurer's Report: Larry B, Treasurer, presented the Financial Report for November 2022.

Operating Account: Beginning Balance: 10/31/2022: \$3,559.23 Income: \$1,370.25 Expenses: \$614.54; Ending Balance: 11/30/22: \$4,314.94

Prudent Reserve: Beginning Balance: 10/31/2022: \$5,005.76; Interest: \$0.04; Ending Balance: 11/30/2022: \$5,005.80.

Area 55 Mini Conference: Beginning Balance: 10/31/2022 \$1,750.00; Income: \$0; Expenses: \$25.00; Ending Balance: 11/30/2022 \$1,725.00

Group Contributions for YTD. 2022: \$13,800.10 **Total Income Received YTD. 2022:** \$26,730.30

Total Expenses YTD.: \$23,028.30

Approx. Excess 2021: 0

November Assembly Basket: \$ 79.00

November Group Contributions: \$1,161.13

November Individual Contributions: \$130.12

Motion to accept the financial report made by: Chris C, Chair of Group Services

Seconded by: Carrie C, GSR, West Group

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

The committee met November 21, 2022, Central Office. Chris C, Chair, Group Services and Eva S, Chair of Archives found recording equipment with microphones at Central Office. The equipment is dated and cumbersome. The committee may be looking into a simpler approach for interviewing our AA members. An updated Archives Workbook has been printed off from the AA.org website. **Next meeting is December 19, 2022, 6:00 p.m. at Central Office.**

Area Archivist: / Deborah A / archives.chair@area55aa.org

The Archives Committee meets the 3rd Monday of each month, 6:00 p.m., at Central Office.

Multi-District Correctional: / Kenneth G / corrections.chair@area55aa.org

No report

Next meeting:

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; the Committee may meet at an alternate location – for more information, visit area55aa.org.

CPC/PI: Michael D / cpc.pi@area55aa.org

No report

Next meeting January 18, 2023, 5:30 p.m. at Central Office

The CPC/PI Committee meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month, 5:30 p.m., at Central Office

Grapevine: Lisa C / grapevine.chair@area55aa.org

Finance report as of December 2022: Beginning balance \$99.00; Book Sales \$69.75; Book Orders \$0; Ending balance \$168.75

Motion to accept: Kalen C, DCM, Seconded by: Lynn M, GSR, Warm Heart Serenity

Completed the commitment at SST meeting. Upcoming commitments are Open Minded, January 8th, Eastside 12x12, January 11th, Warm Heart Serenity, January 24th, 2023. The books will increase in price in January 2023.

Next meeting: January 11, 2023, at Eastside 12x12 at 5:45 p.m.

The Grapevine Committee meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month, 5:45 p.m., Eastside 12x 12

Group Services: Chris C / groupser.chair@area55aa.org

The committee is seeking new members, there is no sobriety requirement. Contact Chris C- group.ser.chair@The Firehouse Group in Grand Rapids, OH is registered with the GSO. There are 2 confirmed for January at Amazing Grace and Open Minded anniversaries. Preparing for the Mini Conference in our Area 55.

Next meeting: December 19, 2022, 6:00 p.m., at Central Office

The Group Services Committee meets the fourth Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at Central Office.

Accessibilities: / Bev Z / accessibilities@area55.org

No report currently since we are meeting tomorrow, Monday, December 21, 2022

Next meeting: December 21, 2022, Wednesday

The Accessibilities Committee meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month, 5:30 p.m. Memorial United Church of Christ, 1301 Starr Ave. Toledo

Website: Bill G / web.comm.chair@area55aa.org /

The committee is continuing the discussion of the necessary equipment needed to facilitate a hybrid General Assembly Meeting focusing on the importance of obtaining a hard-wired internet connection hoping to use the senior centers. Planned the first Ad-hoc committee meeting for the further examination of equipment needs for a hybrid assembly meeting.

Next meeting: January 3, 2023, 6:00 p.m. on Zoom

The Website Committee meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. on Zoom. Meeting I.D. 273-332-805 password 800

Ad-Hoc Committee for Hybrid General Service meeting: The Committee met on Monday December 12th at 6:00 p.m. on Zoom. We discussed equipment needed for hybrid meetings. Brian, from Findlay Thursday Night shared his experience with running his home group as a hybrid meeting and how the equipment he used to accomplish that worked. The committee agreed the most important thing needed for a successful hybrid meeting is a solid internet connection. The next Ad-hoc meeting date and time is to be determined.

Northwest Ohio/Southeast Michigan Intergroup Liaison:

New Year's Eve Dinner/Dance tickets will be available through Dec. 22. The event will be held at Glass City Boardwalk in Moline, OH. The ticket cost \$30.00 per person. Children's Christmas Party was a great success, serving over 80 children under the age of 10 years of age. Karen M. was thanked for her service as Central Office manager and will be retiring the end of the year.

Financial reports: Intergroup \$17,519.06, Children's Christmas Party \$69.56, Central Office, \$38,091.49, Newsletter \$322.13

Nominations and elections held for Intergroup: Vice Chairperson, David M, Secretary,

Jocelyn P, Central Office Co-Chair, Mike T, Finance Co-Chair, Vincent C, Hospital Co-Chair, Lori N. The following positions had no nominees Co-Chairs for Anniversary, Entertainment, and Newsletter, these positions were tabled till next month. If interested in any of these positions, contact Central Office or the Committee Chair. Intergroups calendar for the year is only indicating when Intergroup meets currently.

Prior to the January meeting is the Chili Cook-Off at 4:30 p.m. Cost for 2 hotdogs and chili tasting is \$6 per person.

Next Intergroup Meeting is January 28, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. Bethel Lutheran Church, 1853 South Ave. Toledo, Oh

Newsletter Liaison: vacant

OCYPAA Liaison: Brian

Committee members attended the Kentucky and Michigan state conferences last month; good and interesting. We are open for membership and appreciate your support. Currently finalizing our upcoming events. Looking at hosting the conference at the Glass City Center, downtown Toledo (formerly the Seagate Center), negotiating with the Hilton Garden Inn. There is a website up now, OYPAAXL.com

They are hosting a New Year's Eve event, held at Christ Presbyterian Church. A dodge ball league is forming.

Follow up with Sherry for local conference events.

MONCYPAA Liaison: vacant

DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBER ("DCM") REPORTS

DCM Chair: Chrissy H, District Committee Member Chair

Alt. DCMC: George C, Alt. District Committee Chair

Districts 3, 4, 7, 12 represented. No reports from 3, 7,12. Report from 4 indicated low attendance and home members in meetings.

DCM Monthly Report:

Old Business: Preliminary agenda for Mini-Conference, real agenda in February.

District 5 is holding an ice cream Social March 3rd at the Mini- Conference, chili at January General Service meeting for Area 55.

Mini-Conference planning needs? Suggest going back to groups in each of their districts and encourage GSR to attend. Suggest groups paying for GSR fee for registration. Discussed Mini-Conference and agenda items to mirror what happens in New York at the annual General Service Conference with delegates. Agenda items at New York delegate voting conference discussed by Sherry and others. The preamble change came up as a topic of discussion in response. Annual report for conference brought up.

New Business: Don brought up the subject of keeping newcomers coming back. Joe suggested food. Kimbrough brought up attraction rather than promotion. Others attending discussed that. Sherry brought up flow of information being better in active groups generally. Joe and others mentioned fellowship before the meeting as important. General talk about working the steps for newer people, getting them beyond Step 3. Welcoming newcomers discussed as well. Suggestion, getting well attended meetings to branch out with members and attend other meetings in other areas (road trips) to jump start them. Old sobriety members remaining active was also mentioned as important. Home group members for core is also important.

Unity Day planning brought up by Chrissy. Pinning down dates and items.

District 10 Alkathon in Lima, Ohio over the holidays, December 31, New Year's Eve 6:00 p.m. Start until 2:00 a.m. January 2nd.

DELEGATE'S REPORT: Sherry S / delegate@area55aa.org

In 2023 Kimbrough and I will travel to Columbus 4 times; Dayton two times; Cleveland twice and Indiana once. I will travel to New York. Area 55 covers the travel expenses for both the Trustee and the GSO staff when they attend the mini conference in March. This area needs a connection to our beloved Fellowship just like you and I need our local connection to the Fellowship. Your contributions are important in fulfilling these obligations we agreed to perform as Delegate and Alternate Delegate. Each year, Area 55 contributes \$1,800 toward the cost of the delegate's stay in New York. The actual cost last year was in the neighborhood of \$9,500. Some areas have been blessed to fully fund their delegate, but we haven't reached there yet. This is when the spirituality of the program and money mix.

Highlights for New York's General Service Office and Boards are as follows:

GSO opened to visitors on Oct. 5th. Mon.-Fri. from 9a.m. to 3 p.m. Advance registration is required. You may contact gsotours@aa.org or (212) 870-3430 Tours are 10 a.m., 11 a.m., and 2 p.m. and last about 45 minutes. Groups of 10 or more must contact GSO ahead of time to schedule so staff can prepare for their time. Also on Fridays, GSO hosts an open A.A. meeting at 11 a.m.

A Document Translation Department has been formed to do the in-house translation. GSO expects to have all the background identified and translated from the General Service Conference in time for the Jan. 2023 Board Meeting.

General Service Board Revenue is down with a Sept. decrease of \$168,105 from August and \$69,189 from Sept. of last year. Year to date contributions is \$30,118 less than last year. A contribution made online costs \$2.67 less to process than a check contribution. Operating expenses are \$1,094,808 more than last year. Largely due to the increased travel and meetings expense associated with the return to in-person meetings.

The jacketless Big Book and 12 x 12 are expected to ship in Dec./Jan. This design will reduce printing costs.

The AA Grapevine Board reviewed the 22 proposed agenda items involving the A.A. Preamble and took no action. The Board determined that no additional information was provided that required further discussion. 184 proposed agenda items were submitted for the 2023 Conference. There were approximately 90 Literature related PAI's submitted for the 2023 GSC.

The GSB recommended that the 2024 Conference be held in New York City.

Local Recap of Year:

We have completed the redistricting of Area 55. The Ad Hoc Committee is formally dissolved.

The DCM's armed with current information in the Fellowship Connection Database are working to verify current group information. The registrar is working on updating the Fellowship Connection with the most recent information.

I want to thank Jim S for his work as the General Service liaison to Toledo's Intergroup and his work as Toledo's Intergroup liaison to Area 55's General Service. He has fulfilled a year and we now need someone to step forward and fill this position. If you are willing and able to assume the liaison duties, please see me after this meeting.

I want to thank the GSR's for your service, dedication, and participation to our beloved Fellowship in Area 55 this year.

Thank you to the DCM's who attend the 11:30 a.m. meeting before this one for their continued support and efforts in

gathering information, visiting groups in their districts and their service. Thank you for your efforts and support for our beloved Fellowship.

Finally, I wish to thank the Panel Officers, Committee Chairs and Members, Planning Committee Members for your continued work. You all are doing a fantastic job and reigniting Area 55. Your hard work is noticed and appreciated.

Thank you all and warm wishes for a safe and happy holiday season. We will see you next year!!!

OLD BUSINESS

Collection: There was \$79.00 collected for today's Assembly basket. Motion made to keep in our account by Larry B, Treasurer.

Seconded by John C, Past Delegate, Area 55, Panel 66. Motion carried.

Ad Hoc Banking Committee Meeting 12/17/2022:

Our committee met for the 3rd time on 12/17/2022 at Central Office. Present were Kimbrough P Alt. Delegate/Area Chair Panel 72, Larry B, Panel 72 Treasurer, Chris C, Panel 70, Treasurer, and guest from KeyBank John Nonnemacher, Branch Manager

The committee heard a presentation from Mr. Nonnemacher regarding services Key has available for business banking as we review a possible move away from 5/3 bank. The highlights are as follows:

- No maintenance fee checking available, if a balance drops below \$1,000 there is a \$5 fee assessed.
- We can maintain two separate accounts for the mini conference and our general use account under the same EIN (tax id#)
- Business savings is fee free if \$300 is kept in the account, otherwise a \$4 fee

We also discussed merchant services options to look at eliminating the need for PayPal for receiving contributions/registrations for events. He had paperwork with us; however, his merchant services rep was unavailable to answer questions and a call was set up with our current treasurer for the week of 12/18/2022. The average transaction cost for a merchant services transaction with Key was \$0.10 plus 2.5% of the transaction, which on a \$100 transaction received would be \$2.60. Whereas PayPal charges \$0.30 plus 2.9% per transaction currently which on \$100 would be \$3.20

After the meeting we also researched Huntington bank:

- A Fee free checking where up to 100 transactions are allowed per month, also you must sign up for electronic statements or a \$3 fee is charged each month.
- Business Premier Savings where if an average balance of \$500 is kept, they waive the \$5 maintenance fee.
- Offer of merchant services from the same vendor as KeyBank.

We researched these two banks due to the availability of branches within Area 55. Other banks researched within the area did not have the branch availability required.

At this time the committee has come up with the following recommendations:

- Within the most feasible time frame, exit our business relationship with 5/3 bank to avoid being charged further fees of the \$50 per month for maintenance.
- We recommend currently combining both bank accounts onto one PayPal account for further ability to take online registrations for the mini conference.

- Investigate further merchant services through any bank we choose to determine if we can decrease our total cost of receiving registrations/contributions via online means and also possibly have available a Point-of-Sale device that can be set up to take credit/debit cards at events for walk in registrations. Which would alleviate hopefully the need to use PayPal.

We as a committee appreciate the opportunity to serve the area and will continue our work as needed throughout this process. Respectfully Submitted, Chris C, on behalf of the Ad Hoc Banking Committee.

Discussion occurred from the body. A motion was made by John C, Past Delegate, to move forward on this issue and the body gives the permission to allow the committee to make the decision of what bank will be chosen. Motion seconded by Kenney A. Motion carried.

Mini-Conference Planning meeting is cancelled for January 7, 2023. Next meeting is January 21, 2023.

NEW BUSINESS

John C, Past Delegate, Area 55, Panel 66 expressed concern about Intergroup Hospital Committee not having a Co-chair. It was expressed that they do have one for this coming year by the Chair. John indicated to the body if there would not be one, that the General Assembly would take over that responsibility. He also stated how much money it takes to run our General Service Office in New York. The Birthday Club was mentioned in support of our own area, being able to pay for our delegate to attend the conference in New York. An explanation was given to what the Birthday Club is.

NEXT GENERAL SERVICE ASSEMBLY: January 15th, 2023, 1:00 pm the Senior Center (corner of Jefferson Street and 23rd Street; Toledo, OH)

The Mission statement will be read by Kellie S, Women's Road to Recovery

Tradition 1 will be read by John C, Past Delegate

Concept 1 will be read by Monica Z, New Noon South

Cleanup for the January meeting will be District 5

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by: John C, Past Delegate, Area 55, Panel 66

Seconded by: Jim S, Past Delegate, Area 55, Panel 70

Closed with the Responsibility Statement

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie R

Recording Secretary, Area 55, Panel 72