

# GENERAL SERVICE ASSEMBLY

Area 55, Panel 72 NW Ohio & Southeast Michigan  
P.O. Box 401 Toledo, OH 43697-0401 [www.area55aa.org](http://www.area55aa.org)

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

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

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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 at the Senior Center; 2308 Jefferson; Toledo, OH 43604. 64 people were present including 4 Panel Officers, 1 Area Delegate, 1 Alternate Delegate, 3 Past Delegate(s), 36 GSRs, 8 Alternate GSR, 4 DCMs, 0 Alternate DCM, 1 current DCMC, 0 Alt. DCMC, 5 Area 55 Committee Chairs/Co-Chairs, 6 guest(s).

## MEETING MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 19, 2023

Kimbrough P, Alt. Delegate, Area 55, Panel 72, opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. followed by the Serenity Prayer. The Mission Statement was read by Kellie S, GSR, Women's Road to Recovery. Vanessa S, GSR, Open Minded, read Tradition 2; Eva S, GSR, Live and Let Live, read Concept 2. Panel 72 officers were introduced.

**New GSRs/Alternate GSRs:** Geneva M, Inner City, Alt. GSR; Ashley L, Principles before Personalities, GSR; Justin K, Principles before Personalities, GSR; Doug S, Living Sober, GSR; Aaron W, Oregon's Friday Night Men's Group, Alt. GSR; Cheryl M, Zoom Busters, GSR.

**Past Delegates:** Jim S, Past Delegate, Area 55, Panel 70; Henry C, Past Delegate, Area 55, Panel 68; Kelly C, Past Delegate, Area 55, Panel 56.

**Approval of January Minutes:** Melanie R, Recording Secretary, presented the January 15, 2023, minutes.

Motion to accept: Dave F, GSR, North End; Seconded by Wendy H, DCM, District 5. Motion moved.

*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 January 15, 2023, Treasurer's Report:** Larry B, Treasurer, presented the Financial Report for January 15, 2023.

**Operating Account:** Beginning Balance: 1/1/2023: \$3,699.77 Income: \$1,438.62 Expenses: \$25.00; Ending Balance: 1/31/2023: \$5,113.39.

**Prudent Reserve:** Beginning Balance: 1/1/2023: \$5,005.84; Interest: \$0.02; Ending Balance: 1/31/2023: \$5,005.86.

**Area 55 Mini Conference:** Beginning Balance: 1/1/2023 \$1,668.40; Income: \$1,255.00; Expenses: \$25.00; Ending Balance: 1/31/2023 \$2,898.40.

**Checkbook Adjustment:** \$600.00

**Group Contributions for YTD. 2023:** \$778.62 **Total Income Received YTD. 2023:** \$1,438.62

**Total Expenses YTD.:** \$25.00

**January Assembly Basket:** \$ 60.00

**January Group Contributions:** \$778.62

**January Individual Contributions:**

**Motion to accept the financial report made by:** Henry C., Past Delegate, Area 55, Panel 68

Seconded by: Mark H, GSR, New Hope

**Archives:** Eva S / [archives.chair@area55aa.org/](mailto:archives.chair@area55aa.org/)

The committee met on Monday, January 16, 2023, at Central Office. Three items were on the agenda, Newsletter, Group Histories, and Interviews.

**Newsletter:** The Newsletter Committee publishes Area 55 Newsletter under the jurisdiction of the Toledo Intergroup, so there is a question as to whether our committee should be involved. The monthly Area 55 newsletter has been kept in digital format as of May 2021. The Newsletter Committee has not maintained an archive of the publications prior to that date. The Area 55 Archives Committee Guidelines does not specify the collection of newsletters; we would view newsletters in the category of local AA historical material. Lima, Ohio and Monroe, Michigan area do not produce newsletters.

At the January 23, 2023, committee meeting, we reviewed the Area 55 committee guidelines and information obtained on the websites of other areas in Ohio and Michigan. The committee made copies of that information for the General Service Assembly representatives to take with them at today's General Assembly Meeting.

We voted with substantial unanimity to continue archiving the Area 55 Newsletter. In addition, to maintain an awareness of costs involved in archiving and to follow the 7<sup>th</sup> tradition, we also voted to archive newsletters in PDF format electronically on a thumb-drive. We will begin with the recent and future issues and pursue scanning of old issues at a future date. Eva Slawson, Chair, will email the Area 55 Newsletter Committee chair to request the Archives Committee be added to the mailing list.

**Displays:** Anniversary of Warm Heart Serenity group, January 24, 2023, Northpoint Ministries Church, Toledo, OH. Their updated group history has been placed in the Group Histories notebook.

Anniversary of Dare to be Different group, January 25, 2023, Third Baptist Church, 402 Pinewood Avenue, Toledo, OH.

**Group Histories:** The Covid-19 pandemic disrupted meetings across the country. We are asking groups to take this to their groups conscience/business meeting to update their histories. Include how the Group handled the challenges of the pandemic. The Archives Committee will place this information into the Group Histories notebook.

**Interviews:** The Archives Committee has been collecting names and contact information of AA members who have 30 or more years of sobriety. We encourage groups and individuals to submit the names of members we should include. Amy H and Carl C, are training with the Archives Workbook, interviewing old-timers.

**Next meeting is February 20, 6:00 p.m. at Central Office.**

**Archives Committee Chair:** Eva S

**Area Archivist:** / Deborah A/ [archives.chair@area55aa.org](mailto: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/](mailto:corrections.chair@area55aa.org/)

The Driver Intervention Program will no longer be at the Holland Courtyard Marriott; it will only be at the Rossford Courtyard Marriott. Upcoming DIP dates for Rossford: March 11, 18,25, 2023. Bryon F. has resigned from the Correctional Committee, Val is rotating out from Lucas County jail Women meeting and Jennifer R. will commit to covering the meeting for women on Saturday at the Lucas County jail. Lucas County jail men is covered, no issues.

CFT: Men and women covered, no issues. TCI covered, no issues. Kenneth will be covering the Mini-Conference and using the same display from the last Mini-Conference. Kenneth or Geneva will be contacting Mr. Nolan to set up another PRIA Training. Geneva will be stepping in for Kenneth as chair of the committee temporarily because of a work schedule. If the work schedule becomes permanent Geneva will move up to Chair and James B will step into the Alt. Chair.

**Next meeting: March 15, 2023, Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at Central Office**

*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; the Committee may meet at an alternate location – for more information, visit [area55aa.org](http://area55aa.org).*

**CPC/PI:** Michael D / [cpc.pi@area55aa.org](mailto:cpc.pi@area55aa.org)

March 24<sup>th</sup> to present to UTMC residents and medical students, time TBD. Spoke to Julie N/TPS, referred to Glenn C, director of Employee Benefits; no interest in anything not directly part of their EAP Program/established networks. Have processes in place and if we are not a 3<sup>rd</sup> party administrator, they are not interested. Tried to explain AA and repeatedly shut down; follow up email sent. Going to send follow up emails to probation department. Divided PI list of contacts created by Mary Beth among group members. Discussed upcoming Mini- Conference.

**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](mailto:grapevine.chair@area55aa.org)

Finance report as of January 2023/February 2023: Beginning balance \$267.13; Book Sales \$110.10; Book Orders \$0; Ending balance \$379.22 Overage: \$2.00

Motion to accept: Motion to Approve: Henry C, Past Delegate, Seconded by: Wendy H, DCM, District 5

Completed 1 commitment(s). One upcoming commitment. Reminder to register for Mini Conference. Discussed who is working at the Mini Conference. Motioned vote to donate past monthly Grapevine Magazines to the Multi-Correctional Committee. Discussed next Grapevine Chair to be considered.

**Next meeting: March 8, 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](mailto:groupser.chair@area55aa.org)

We discussed the upcoming events to bring sound equipment for Warm Heart Serenity and Rossford Group on Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>. Discussion of what pamphlets to distribute to new groups. The pamphlets chosen are: "This is AA, Self-Support Where Money and Spiritually Mix," "The AA Group," and "GSR, General Service Representative." The Group Information Change form and New Group form will also be provided. We received a request from the DCM committee meeting on how to assist groups dealing with disruptive and unruly people who come to meetings. This we realized could be shared with all DCM's and groups who requested this information from Group Services; we will start this project at our next committee meeting. We are seeking committee members and someone willing to Chair this committee for Panel 74.

**Next meeting: February 27, 2023, 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](mailto:accessibilities@area55.org)

Vice Chair of the committee is Jackie B. Added 3 more people to the shut-in list. It was decided to have committee members assigned to people on the list for the purpose of consistency. They are to call and if requested, coordinate visits.

We will have a table at the Mini Conference. Committee members agreed to take turns sitting at the table. Bev is to bring a flyer asking groups for referrals and will have it at the Mini Conference. Discussed putting it in Central Office announcements, but may not be appropriate. Jody pointed out that some text located in a part of the Accessibility Workbook Kit, mentioned interpreters should not be denied just because service entities think it's too expensive.

**Next meeting: February 22, 2023, 5:30 p.m. at Memorial United Church of Christ**

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

The committee went over the technology survey the Delegate forwarded to the webmaster and web committee, it has been submitted. The Committee received an email from OYPAA asking if their events could be added to our website. We discussed and made a group conscience decision not to add OYPAA events because they are not a committee under the structure of Area 55; they are a separate entity. We will, however, add a link to the OYPAA website to our links page. We continued discussing a viable internet connection for a possible hybrid Assembly meeting. Discussed making a Group Change form more visible on the website home page. Discussed adding a link, "How to Get the Meeting Guide app from [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)."

**Next meeting: March 14, 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*

**Northwest Ohio/Southeast Michigan Intergroup Liaison:** Kellie S, I have not heard from the Intergroup Association giving me permission to make a General Service report or reporting the information from Intergroup to the General Service.

**Newsletter Liaison:** vacant

**OCYPAA XL Liaison:** Valerie P, Chair of OYPAA / We are hosting a conference this year. Deciding right now if we will host it in the fall, October 2023, or change it to the end of January, early February 2024. Gathering contracts from the Renaissance, Hilton downtown Toledo, Holiday Inn Express in Perrysburg. Next weekend will have our ongoing dodge ball tournament. We would like to have an ongoing dodge ball tournament every month, to get new people involved and something to do. They

are held at Christ Presbyterian Church on Sylvania Ave. at 2:00 p.m. March 4th we will perform a live skit at the Area 55 Mini Conference.

March 25<sup>th</sup> co-hosting a Spring Formal with MONCYPAA at Church of St. Andrews on Heatherdowns at 6:00 p.m. and April 8<sup>th</sup> Spaghetti Dinner, \$15.00 per ticket, Church of St. Andrews on Heatherdowns. Asking home groups to donate baskets for a Basket Raffle. We would like to thank you for adding the link from your website for our website, oypaaxl.com.

The ICYPAA donation check in the amount of \$600.00, from Area 55, to help pay for expenses to attend the conference in New Orleans was lost. Valerie requested a reimbursement check in the amount of \$600.00 to replace the donation. It covered the cost of the room and registration. Receipts were presented.

Motion made by Henry C, Past Delegate, to issue a check in the amount of \$600.00 for reimbursement. Seconded by Mike J, GSR, Message of Hope. Motion carried.

**MONCYPAA Liaison:** vacant

## **DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBER (“DCM”) REPORTS**

**DCMC Chair:** Chrissy H, District Committee Member Chair

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

**DCM Monthly Report:** There were 4 districts represented at the meeting. District 4, Working on setting up a zoom meeting; coordinating with all the GSR's for that meeting. District 5, a district picnic on June 17, 2023, at St. Luke's Church, Yondota Rd., Pig Roast. District 10, The church where most meetings are held, including the district meeting, have been asked to leave due to people's conduct. The deadline is February 28, 2023.

Unity Day theme is being discussed i.e., “Bring Your Sponsee,” “Service Sponsor,” “Getting Involved in Service.” The date for Unity Day is towards the end of July. Will be in touch with the church in Bowling Green.

**Next meeting: February 19, 2023**

*The District Committee Meeting meets at the Senior Center prior to the General Assembly Meeting at 11:30 a.m.*

**DELEGATE'S REPORT:** Sherry S / [delegate@area55aa.org](mailto:delegate@area55aa.org) / (419) 309-0637

There was an announcement on February 23, 2023, that Linda Chezem resigned the position of Class A Trustee, Chair of the Board. There will be a Class B Trustee, in the Chair position temporarily.

I want to thank you for allowing me to serve as your Area Delegate. Let me share with you what an honor it is to do so.

I was privileged to attend the Conference of Delegates Past and Present or the CDPP if you like acronyms. This event was held in Columbus OH Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> or Friday through Sunday. It's a planned event of the East Central Region Trustee for the seated Delegates before the General Service Conference. Of course, I was excited to see the Panel 72 Delegates I serve with and to meet the Panel 73 Delegates I am serving with this year. Each of us brings to the table a different perspective based on our individual experiences, strengths, and hope for the perpetuation of Alcoholics Anonymous.

There were introductions. The first year Delegates or 73's are allowed two minutes to provide their area highlights. There's a timer! Overruns are not permitted. This practice allows learning how to address a large body succinctly within a limited amount of time. There are eight (8) Panel 73 Delegates this year. Next up were the Oldtimers. We, all six of us, had been to the General Service Conference once. We were given five (5) minutes to share the impact we felt from our experience serving Alcoholics Anonymous at the General Service Conference last year.

After the introductions and our sharing, the seated Delegates combined task was to address a mock agenda item as though it were a real item to be dealt with in April. We started at 9:30 p.m. on Friday and ended at 12:30 a.m. on Saturday. The poor alternate Delegates sat against the wall observing and they aren't permitted to speak during this process but must be present to observe should they be required to attend the General Service Conference in place of the seated Delegate. Saturday was spent addressing the questions from past delegates participating as General Service Conference attendees drilling the committee members about cost and other concerns to assure these were not overlooked. We had dinner together, laughed and listened to a lead from the visiting General Service Office member attending this event.

Bill W. in talking about his recovery in the Big Book explained how he was soon to be catapulted into what he liked to call the fourth dimension of existence. Bill's eloquence and passion for recovery is repeated again as he wrote “When, therefore, we were approached by those in whom the problem had been solved, there was nothing left for us but to pick up the simple kit of

spiritual tools laid at our feet. We have found much of heaven, and we have been rocketed into a fourth dimension of existence of which we had not even dreamed.”

It is that description that also applies to me and the feeling I returned with from this event I just described. Today I realize how blessed by a God of my understanding I am to be talking to you about this experience. I have rocketed into a fourth dimension of service to Alcoholics Anonymous.

This year we will hold elections for the Panel 74 positions of Alternate Delegate, Treasurer, Registrar, Recording Secretary and Mailing Secretary. We will have vacancies for Committee Chair positions on Accessibilities, Archives, Cooperation with the Professional Community/Public Information, Multi District Corrections, Grapevine/LaVina, Group Services, and Web. GSR's and DCM's, the DCMC, Alternate DCMC and Archivist positions will need to be filled as well. I encourage you to talk with the current panelists, chairs and others serving. Find out how they serve, the time commitment, what they do to serve. Decide to walk past any fears you may have, that whisper I don't know how to do that or I'm not good enough or I can't or any other excuse your disease creates in your mind. Alcoholism does that you know.

My disease told me I wasn't good enough to do the job of Delegate. I was firmly convinced in 2019 that I was going to serve District 5 as the District Committee Member for two years while Jim served as Delegate in 2020-21 and then we would trudge off into the sunset. I can tell you today God had other plans and I am grateful that on the day of my nomination I was able to set aside my fears and what I thought was best for me. Instead, I followed that quiet intuition that if nominated I would accept whatever God had planned for me. I hope that through prayer and meditation, speaking with your sponsor and your family, you find the courage and strength to accept God's invitation to be rocketed into a fourth dimension of service to Alcoholics Anonymous. Thank you for the privilege of being of service.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Collection:** There was \$94.00 collected for today's Assembly basket. Motion made to keep in our account by Chris C, Group Services Chair.

Seconded by Joe Young, DCM District 3 Motion carried.

The Birthday Fund flyer is being worked on by John C, Past Delegate.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

The audit was performed by Larry B, Jackie B, and Kevin B. Jackie B is preparing the formal letter that will be presented at the April 16, 2023 General Assembly meeting.

A reminder of registering for the Mini Conference by Kimbrough P, Alt. Delegate  
Jim S, Past Delegate, announced that there are scholarships available for the Mini Conference.

### **NEXT GENERAL SERVICE ASSEMBLY: April 16, 2023, 1:00 pm the Senior Center (corner of Jefferson Street and 23<sup>rd</sup> Street; Toledo, OH)**

The Mission statement will be read by Ashley L, Alt. GSR, Principles before Personalities

Tradition 3 and 4 will be read by Dave F, GSR, North End

Concept 3 and 4 will be read by Nancy C, GSR, Oregon St. Charles

Cleanup for the April meeting will be Sally C, GSR, Friday Night Catawba

**Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by:** Nancy C, GSR, Oregon St. Charles

**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