

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. 53 people were present including 4 Panel Officers, 1 Area Delegate, 1 Pro Tem Alternate Delegate, 2 Past Delegate(s), 29 GSRs, 5 Alternate GSRs, 4 DCMs, 0 Alternate DCM, 0 current DCMC, 1 Alt. DCMC, 5 Area 55 Committee Chairs/Co-Chairs, 2 guest(s).

MEETING MINUTES FOR MAY 21, 2023

Melanie R, Pro tem Alt. Delegate, (*Kimbrough P, Alt. Delegate absent*) Area 55, Panel 72, opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. followed by the Serenity Prayer. The Mission Statement was read by Karlotta H, Alt. GSR, Eastside 12x12; Matt V, GSR, OCYPAA, read Tradition 5; Kellie S, GSR, Women's Road to Recovery, read Concept 5. Panel 72 officers were introduced.

New GSRs/Alternate GSRs: 0

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

Approval of April minutes: Melanie R, Recording Secretary, presented the April 16, 2023, minutes.

Motion to accept: Dan B, Oregon Men's; Seconded by Wendy H, DCM, District 5. Motion moved.

Mike Z, GSR, Walbridge Park, asked about the count of the vote, changing of the reimbursement cost regarding mileage. The vote count was accurate as written.

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 2023, Treasurer's Report: Larry B, Treasurer, presented the Financial Report for April 2023.

Operating Account: Beginning Balance: 4/1/2023: \$3,041.19; Income: \$1,454.15; Expenses: \$1,562.03; Ending Balance: 4/30/2023: \$2,933.31.

Prudent Reserve: Beginning Balance: 4/1/2023: \$5,005.94; Interest: \$0.00; Ending Balance: 4/30/2023: \$5,005.94.

Area 55 Mini Conference: Beginning Balance: 4/1/2023 \$4,736.36 Income: \$0.00; Expenses: \$163.66; Ending Balance: 4/30/2023 \$4,572.70.

Mini Conference Summary: Beginning Balance: \$0: Total Income: \$0 Total Expenses: \$0 Ending Balance: \$0

Group Contributions for YTD. 2023: \$5,983.15 **Total Income Received YTD. 2023:** \$7,146.31

Total Expenses YTD.: \$7,713.77

April Assembly Basket: \$ 134.00

April Group Contributions: \$1,320.15

April Individual Contributions: \$0

Motion to accept the financial report made by: George C, Alt. DCMC; Seconded by: Carrie C, West Group

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

No report

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 /

The Lucas County Jail women's commitment is two Saturdays per month from 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. The Lucas County jail for men's meeting is going well. Driver Intervention Program (DIP), as of May 18, 2023, is being run by Empowered by Excellence (EFE), no longer run by Talbot Services. The new committee Vice Chair is Phil M. beginning in 2024. The TCI and the Men's CT are running smoothly. Women's CTF is Mondays 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. The Lucas County Jail is in the process of changing how approval of people will be handled. Only active members on the Corrections Committee will be allowed to participate in this commitment. The Women's Saturday meeting at 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. will continue to be held. Men's Lucas County jail is going well. Empowered for Excellence is considering changing to an earlier time to meet, will inform the committee when a final decision is made. The CCNO/Stryker is to start a new program. Tiffany brought to the committee her communication from CCNO. A packet which included inmate policies and applications for admittance was given to the committee chair. If the committee considers taking on the commitment, members may schedule and meet with the staff at their location to discuss the options and requirements.

Next meeting: June 21, 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 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 due to lack of committee for April.

May 17, 2023, only myself and Mary Beth were present. We discussed the presentation at UTMC Internal Medicine residents on March 24, 2023, 12- 1 pm, Toledo Hospital Legacy Building. There were 23 residents in person/7 virtually. Family Court, Domestic Relations Court – Dennis scheduled a meeting with The Clerk of Courts that he and Michael attended on April 3rd. We discussed what our committee does and who would need to contact at the various courts. Received letter from Lima area that was sent to Lighthouse Behavioral (will discuss with full committee in June). Still no updates on letters to various media outlets regarding PSA's. There are still no updates on letters sent to various media outlets regarding PSA's. Consider chair for 2024-2025 term.

Next meeting June 21, 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: Nancy C, Co-Chair / grapevine.chair@area55aa.org

The committee met on May 10, 2023

Finance report April/May2023; Beginning balance \$152.75; Book Sales \$10.00; Book Orders \$0; Ending balance \$162.75

Overage/Short: even

Motion to accept: George C, Alt. DCMC; Seconded by: Wendy H, DCM, District 5

Reviewed commitments, none at this time. Discussed two upcoming commitments for attendance. A reminder of the General Service Assembly.

Next meeting: June 14, 2023, at 5:45 p.m., Memorial United Church of Christ

The Grapevine Committee meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month, 5:45 p.m., Memorial United Church of Christ, 1301 Starr Ave., Toledo

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

Report for April 24th and May 21st, 2023.

April, we had no commitments. We have attempted to reach out to the group Addicts Against Addiction, however we have received no return contact currently. The committee decided to move the meeting, at the Senior Center, 12:00 p.m. in May before the General Assembly meeting. Next meeting is May 21st at the Senior Center, 12:00 p.m. May, we are waiting for the date of Unity Day. On May 20th we had a sound system commitment at Perrysburg AM Anniversary. We are arranging to visit two meetings, Filling the Void, in Swanton, and Come as You Are, in Kalida. A third meeting, Ladies Living their best Lives, will be attended.

Next meeting: June 11, 2023, 12:00 p.m., at Senior Center

The Group Services Committee meets the third Sunday of each month at 12:00 p.m. at the Senior Center, 2308 Jefferson Ave. Toledo

Accessibilities: Bev Z / accessibilities@area55.org

In the absence of chair Bev Z, Vice-Chair Jackie B reported.

We have discussed all shut ins and have visited many. The remainder of the list we are in the process of calling or researching in other ways to try to get a hold of them. We had several deaths from our former list. We sent condolence cards to their families. Currently our budget is \$83.35. Last month our balance was \$89.35, purchase of a Big Book on CD with a cost of \$6.00. Sent a card to Kimbrough P, Thinking of You. We are asking groups to please adopt a shut-in, send them a card to let them know that they have not been forgotten.

Next meeting: May 17, 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

We continued discussing the necessary equipment needed to create a hybrid General Assembly Meeting, looking at laptop options together. We discussed what visitors would like to see and reviewed the statistics to determine which pages were receiving the most visits, i.e., meeting schedule, the events calendar, assembly meeting minutes, etc. If your group or district has an anniversary or event you would like to put on the website please email Bill, web.com.chair@area55.org

Next meeting: June 6, 2023, 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

The Website Committee meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. Meeting I.D. 273-332-805 password 800

Northwest Ohio/Southeast Michigan Intergroup Liaison: Kellie S

April 22, 2023, report: It was brought to my attention that the Central Office Funds were \$43,078.56, I included liabilities and equity by mistake. The correct amount is \$33,881.67. Treasurer's Report: \$19,652.32, of which \$1,309.50 goes to the Children's Christmas Fund.

Central Office Financial Report: \$30,601.43. Central Office Committee: 143 calls, 76 visitors, 12 Twelve Step Calls. Anniversary Committee: First hybrid committee meeting went well. Anniversary dinner tickets are \$25.00, held at St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Church, Sylvania, Oh, October 6, 2023. Looking for groups/individuals to donate to an Area 55 newsletter subscriptions. A Vice-Chair position needs to be filled. Childrens Christmas Committee: The location for the Childrens Christmas Party is Echo Meadows Church. Entertainment Committee: Intergroup Picnic is September 16, 2023, at Walbridge Park, Toledo, OH, 1:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Finance Committee: 17 dinners sold at Intergroup. Total sales \$108.00 for meal/beverages. Need cleanup crew for the May 13th Prom dinner/dance. Pig roast date not yet confirmed, either July 8 or 16th. Planning a dance for August 15th. Literature will be brought to the General Service Assembly meeting. Hospital Committee: Low attendance at Cherry Street. Joshua treatment is looking for a women's meeting to be held. Newsletter Committee: In need of a Vice Chair, \$137.41 in funds.

Next Intergroup meeting, May 20, 2023.

May 20, 2023, report: Jim S, (Kellie S was absent) gave report. Intergroup A.A. Anniversary Oct.6, 2023. Children's Christmas Party Dec. 2, 2023. Intergroup Picnic Sept. 16, 2023. Pig Roast July 15, 2023. The Hospital Committee needs more members to do Twelve Step work in facilities serving alcoholics. The Newsletter Committee has a new chairperson, Jeff Z, and the Alternate Chair is Mike J. Finance Committee reported that they are looking at placing a cabinet at the General Service Assembly to store books; need to get lock fixed on the one they have. Intergroup checkbook balance: \$18,777.92. Central Office checkbook balance \$10,435.77. Central Office prudent reserve/certificate \$20,887.25. Next meeting is June 24, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

Newsletter Liaison: vacant

OCYPAA: Matthew V, GSR / Summer Kickoff Bonfire, May 27, 2023, at University Church 4747 Hill Ave. Toledo, OH a \$5.00 suggested donation. The date for the Toledo OYPAAXL Conference is October 13-15, 2023, Holiday Inn & Suites, 27355 Carronade Dr. Perrysburg, OH.

MONCYPAA Liaison: Franklin S, Chairperson/ No report.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBER ("DCM") REPORTS

DCMC Chair: Chrissy H, District Committee Member Chair

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

DCM Monthly Report: George C (reporting for Chrissy Harper in her absence), There were 5 districts represented today, Including the Area Delegate, registrar, and GSR for OYPAA. The focus of the meeting was Unity Day. Save the date, Saturday, July 29, 2023, First United Methodist Church in Bowling Green, OH, (East Wooster St.) from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. The DCMs are hosting a Zoom meeting, Sunday, June 4, 1:00 p.m. to discuss Unity Day.

GSR's, do you know what district you're in? Take a moment to learn about your DCM, not only the General Service Assembly, but do you attend your district meeting? Wendy H, DCM, District 5, announced their picnic on June 17, 2023 at St. Lukes Lutheran Church, 20 S. Yondota, Oregon, Ohio from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Bring a dish to share and your family.

Next meeting: June 11, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. not 11:30 a.m. (to finalize details)

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

Good afternoon, everyone. Thank you all for attending this area's monthly General Service Assembly.

There are flyers on the back table for you to take back to your group. Ohio State Convention registration forms, please take and distribute them out. At the General Conference I reviewed several chapters of the new Plain and Simple Language Book Big. In the preface it indicated that it offers the same ideas as the original Big Book, to be more easily understood. The book is not intended to replace the original Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book. Another tool that can be used to carry the message. The third most important book created by Alcoholics Anonymous, just behind the A.A. Big Book, The Twelve Steps and The Twelve Traditions.

Report:

The Conference of Delegates Past and Present (CDPP) was held in February. There were four mini conferences in March. On March 8th I received a loving invitation to give a presentation at the General Service Conference. I attended the 73rd General Service Conference in New York in April and gave a five-minute speech from the dais on the theme "General Service – Our Mighty Purpose and Rhythm" the talk I was asked to give was on the subject of "Our Common Perils and Common Solution". It will be printed in the final report of the 73rd General Service Conference.

I attended the Ohio State Planning Meeting on May 6th.

Today I need to speak with you about service positions that will be vacant at the end of this year.

General Service Representative's (GSR's) are a vital communication link and play an important role in the service structure. The GSR has a voice and a vote at these assemblies. A GSR is asked to attend district meetings where they again have a voice and a vote. As a GSR, you take all the information you have gathered from these meetings to your home group where you make regular reports during your group conscience meetings. You participate in district and area activities; work with the group treasurer to develop 7th Tradition support for the district, area, and General Service Board; you encourage participation in a regular contribution plan and in the Birthday Plan; you learn and share about new applications for technology such as the meeting guide app and grapevine podcasts, new literature and service materials; you supply the District Committee Member (DCM) with up-to-date group information and serve as the mail contact for the area and General Service Office. Groups are encouraged when able to pay some of the expenses incurred by the General Service Representative when serving the group. The GSR is the voice of a group. So, as you begin to wind down as GSR, your group needs to decide who will take your place. Bring that person with you to the next several meetings so they get an understanding of the assembly process before they begin to serve the group.

Area 55 has 13 Districts. The District Committee Member (DCM) is the voice of a district. GSRs may look to the DCM for guidance on being a GSR and serving a group; GSRs may look to the DCM to form an agenda for district activities, such as workshops, picnics, general information about other groups anniversaries, celebrations, etc., within the district.

The DCM learns the thoughts, wishes, and needs of the district's groups by listening to reports given by GSRs at district meetings on what's happening in their groups. The DCM visits and communicates directly with groups. Eventually, the conscience of a district is understood by asking questions and making suggestions, proposing new ideas and helping when asked. It is up to the groups of a district whether it will reimburse its DCM for all or part of the travel expenses, but it should be remembered that a person's finances should not be a barrier to service. Bring that person with you to the next several meetings. What does this have to do with my travels and fulfillment of the responsibilities you have asked me to undertake? Well, you GSRs and DCMs, Committee Chairs, and Area Officers are all Delegates in training. We will be having an election in October 2023, just five short months from now.

Service opportunities are an opportunity to refresh and grow and learn. The need for members to be of service never stops.

Currently, this area has seven committees. The Accessibility Committee, Archives Committee, Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) Public Information (PI), Multi-District Corrections Committee, Grapevine Committee, Group

Services Committee, and Website Committee.

Service is not a popularity contest. Rather, service is about fulfilling an individual responsibility to serve this area, to fulfill our personal responsibility to this beloved Fellowship, and the still suffering alcoholic that doesn't know there's a way out. We all have God given talents and skills that can be used to good purpose within the confines of service work.

So, here I am today asking you to step outside your comfort zone and start to be of service to our beloved Fellowship in this area. When we recite the Responsibility Statement there is meaning behind the words "I am responsible when anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there, and for that I am responsible."

Say yes, I can serve a few hours a month, attend a committee meeting, use my skills to help. Say yes, I want to continue to grow, to serve this Fellowship that saved my life. I can do that, yes, I can.

OLD BUSINESS

Collection: There was \$91.36 collected for today's Assembly basket. Motion made to keep in the checking account by George C, Alt. DCMC

Seconded by Melissa T, GSR Trail Group, Motion carried.

Articles of Information – Sherry S, Delegate - A.A. Guidelines for Finance were used for reporting to the body (www.aa.org) for explanation of incorporation. Michael C, GSR, New Hope requested a copy of the Article of Incorporation for Henry C, Past Delegate. There was no promise made to receive copies of the Articles of Incorporation, but an explanation of the Articles of Incorporation and who the Statutory Agent for service was.

Literature Committee – Jim S, Past Delegate

A motion was made to form a Literature Committee, it was tabled last month. I would like to take it off the table.

Jim S, Past Delegate, made a motion to take it off the table. Second by Dan B, GSR, Oregon Mens. All in favor, no abstentions, motion passed.

Literature Committee Guidelines (www.aa.org) read and discuss at your groups for an informed decision.

NEW BUSINESS

Mini-Conference Reserve – Larry B, Treasurer

The ending balance in the checkbook is \$4,572.70 for the prudent reserve. Asked the body to put into the General Fund \$2,572.70 and keep a balance of \$2,000.00 for 2024 Mini-Conference. Motion: Chris C, Group Services Chair

Second: Dan B, GSR, Oregon Men's Friday Night. All in favor, no opposed.

DCM Committee – George C, Alt. DCMC

Motion to approve seed money for food at Unity Day (to Wendy H) of \$300.00; Second by Glen W, GSR, Monday Night Mens. All in favor, no opposed. Motion approved.

Motion to approve a check payable to the United Methodist Church of Bowling Green, for Unity Day of \$125.00; Second by Lori C, GSR, Reno Beach Sobriety. All in favor, no opposed. Motion approved.

NEXT GENERAL SERVICE ASSEMBLY: May 21, 2023, 1:00 pm the Senior Center (corner of Jefferson Street and 23rd Street; Toledo, OH)

The Mission statement will be read by Wendy H, DCM, District 5

Tradition 6 will be read by Bev Z, Accessibilities Chair

Concept 6 will be read by Matt V, GSR, OYPAA

Cleanup for the June meeting will be Reno Beach Sobriety

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by: Mary M, GSR, Slice of Serenity

Seconded by: Wendy H, DCM, District 5

Closed with the "A Declaration of Unity"

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie R

Recording Secretary, Area 55, Panel 72