

# 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

**Recording Secretary:** Melanie R/ [recording.secretary@area55aa.org](mailto:recording.secretary@area55aa.org)

**Registrar:** Karen W / [registrar@area55aa.org](mailto:registrar@area55aa.org)

**Treasurer:** Larry B/ [treasurer@area55aa.org](mailto:treasurer@area55aa.org)

**Mailing Secretary:** Bridget B / [mail.secretary@area55aa.org](mailto: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. 51 people were present including 2 Panel Officers, 1 Area Delegate, 0 Alternate Delegate, 3 Past Delegate(s), 25 GSRs, 4 Alternate GSRs, 4 DCMs, 1 Alternate DCM, 1 current DCMC, 1 Alt. DCMC, 5 Area 55 Committee Chairs/Co-Chairs, 5 guest(s).

## MEETING MINUTES FOR AUGUST 20, 2023

Larry B, Treasurer, Area 55, Panel 72, (pro-tem) opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. followed by the Serenity Prayer. The Mission Statement was read by Geneva G, Chair, Multi-District Correctional; Carol H, GSR, Woodville, read Tradition 8, Jim S, Past Delegate, read Concept 8. Panel 72 officers were introduced.

**New GSRs/Alternate GSRs:** Jay B, GSR, Raising the Bottom

**New DCMs/Alternate DCMs:** 0

**Past Delegates:** Jim S, Past Delegate, Area 55, Panel 70; Henry C, Past Delegate, Area 55, Panel 68; John C, Past Delegate, Area 55, Panel 66.

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

Motion to accept: Henry C, Past Delegate; Seconded by Kenneth G, GSR, Inner City. 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 July 2023, Treasurer's Report:** Larry B, Treasurer, presented the Financial Report for July 2023.

**Operating Account:** Beginning Balance: 7/1/2023: \$6,677.21; Income: \$2,796.03; Expenses: \$2,136.05; Ending Balance: 7/31/2023: \$7,337.19.

**Prudent Reserve:** Beginning Balance: 7/1/2023: \$5,006.06; Interest: \$0.00; Ending Balance: 7/31/2023: \$5,006.06.

**Area 55 Mini Conference:** Beginning Balance: 7/1/2023 \$2,000.00 Income: \$0; Expenses: \$0. Ending Balance: 7/31/2023 \$2,000.00.

**Group Contributions for YTD. 2023:** \$11,066.49

**Total Income Received YTD. 2023:** \$15,070.21

**Total Expenses YTD.:** \$11,432.79

**July Assembly Basket:** \$ 77.50

**July Group Contributions:** \$2,703.53

**July Individual Contributions:** \$15.00

**Motion to accept the financial report made by:** Mardy B, DCM; Seconded by: Jim S, Past Delegate

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

No report

**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:** / Geneva G / [corrections.chair@area55aa.org](mailto:corrections.chair@area55aa.org)

There are 3 new members. The men and womens CTF is running smoothly. Lucas County Jail- JB B, Phil M and Kenneth G cover that commitment for Monday nights. The two LCI commitments have been cancelled. DIP – All the AA groups have been attending with no issues. Lisa K will be rotating off the committee and a replacement to schedule the AA home groups for the committee will be found or the responsibility will be given back to Central Office; tabled till August meeting. CCNO/Stryker – A training for new and potential volunteers on August 22, 2023, 5:30 p.m., at Cornerstone Church in Maumee. This will be 4 hours, combines training session where current volunteers may attend to satisfy the annual refresher training.

**August 16, 2023, meeting minutes** – The committee is tabling the possibility of a zoom meeting till the September meeting. District 8 and 10 should be responsible for the Bowling Green jail. The re-entry coalition program that meets monthly for the purpose of assisting alcoholics in recovery with living essentials has been breaking AA traditions by representing themselves as an affiliation with AA, using AA verbiage, etc. in their meetings. They have asked for our assistance in carrying on with this program and it is the decision of the committee to turn this over to CPI/CPC for further direction.

OYPAA members have asked that we attend their conference October 10-13, 2023. Contact will be made to see what they need. The DIP responsibilities have been filled for the month of August and September.

**Next meeting: September 20, 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)

The report was emailed to the recording secretary. Family court, Domestic Relations Court – making contact, ongoing. No responses from area probation departments. No responses from various media outlets regarding PSA's. Discussed successful Unity Day. Consider chair for 2024-2025 term.

**Next meeting September 20, 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, Chair / [grapevine.chair@area55aa.org](mailto:grapevine.chair@area55aa.org)

Completed one commitment since last meeting, Unity Day. Upcoming commitment is St. Charles, August 24<sup>th</sup>. Lisa will need someone to report at the General Assembly meeting August 20, 2023, 1:00 p.m. Discussed Grapevine representatives to let people know that annual subscriptions would be a great idea for their own home groups to purchase.

Finance report June/July 2023; Beginning balance \$266.25; Book Sales \$39.99; Book Orders \$45.00; Ending balance \$261.24.

Motion to accept: Mike J, GSR, Message of Hope                      Seconded by: Michael C, GSR, New Hope

Finance report July/August 2023; Beginning balance \$261.24 Book orders \$0 Book Sales \$83.90; Ending balance \$345.14.

Motion to accept: Monica Z, GSR, New Noon South                      Seconded by: Joe Y, GSR, 12 Step West

**Next meeting: September 13, 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](mailto:groupser.chair@area55aa.org)

The committee covered sound necessity for Unity Day and have a commitments for the Starlight Anniversary and Raising the Bottom on October 26, 2023. We also still need to meet to register Back to Basics South on Tuesday, at 8:00 p.m. There is a need of active committee members, as well as a chairperson for panel 74.

**Next meeting: September 17, 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:** Beverly Z / [accessibilities@area55.org](mailto:accessibilities@area55.org)

*(Report was given from recording)*

The committee met on July 26, 2023. Discussed Unity Day, a few members volunteered to sit at the table. Set up meetings, taking them to 5 people every 2 weeks regularly. Contact Bev if you would like to participate in these meetings, you do not have to be on the committee. Sending cards. We have changed the meeting time back to the third Wednesday of each month.

**Next meeting: September 20, 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 Area55 webmaster, Wendy S, purchased a mini-PC and mouse during Amazon Prime Days that could possibly be used for a hybrid meeting. The committee would like to conduct a brief demonstration of the body. If the body were to accept this option, the cost of the mini-PC would be \$151.99, and the keyboard and mouse were \$21.68. Upon the body's approval of these costs, the webmaster would provide receipts for reimbursement. If your group has an event or anniversary that you would like added to the calendar, please email [web.chair.com@area55.org](mailto:web.chair.com@area55.org)

**Next meeting: September 5, 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

Operating balance: \$16,035.22 Children's Christmas Party balance: \$1,409.50

**Central Office:** Next meeting is August 10, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. at Central Office. They are going with North Coast Security for the alarm system. They need to renew the subscription for the QuickBooks accounting software. They forgave \$212.00 that was owed by the Area55 newsletter for copies. 219 calls, 102 visitors, 12- Twelve step calls. **Anniversary Committee:** Next meeting August 14 at 6:00 p.m. this is a hybrid meeting. Looking for groups to donate a \$5 or \$15 subscription or other donations for the Anniversary dinner. The Anniversary dinner will be held October 6, 2023, at St. Elias Church. Deadline to buy tickets is September 23, 2023, no tickets sold at the door. Tickets are \$25.00 and being sold at the Central Office.

**Children's Christmas Party:** Next meeting August 9, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at Central Office. This party will be on December 2, 2023, at Faith United Lutheran Church. Considering using tickets to be passed out for the food line.

**Entertainment Committee:** Date change for next meeting is August 24, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. Working on the New Years Eve dance. Seeking donations. **Finance Committee:** Next meeting August 8, 2023, at 6:30 at Central Office. The dance in August was voted down because of lack of attendance at the prom. The lock needs to be repaired at the Central Office for the General Service Assembly. There was a loss of \$239.38 at the Pig Roast. Literature sales totaled \$24.10.

**Hospital Committee:** Next meeting August 8, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. Need women on the committee. If your group has a responsibility that month, please show up. They are having people go to the commitments but not coming to the committee meetings. **Newsletter Committee:** Next meeting is August 18, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at Central Office. A vice chair is still needed. They are looking to reform the paper. The folding date has been moved to be the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month rather than the 4<sup>th</sup> because the delivery by mail is taking longer. They need subscriptions.

**OYPAA:** There was a donation of \$600.00 to send one person to the 63<sup>rd</sup> ICYPAA Conference 2023. The Slip n Slide Kick Ball event will be held on August 26, 2023, 1:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m. at St. Lukes Lutheran Church. The OYPAAXL Conference will be held on October 13-15, 2023. The event is all paid for. **Next meeting is August 26, 2023. Respectfully submitted, Kellie S**

**Newsletter Liaison:** Mike J, Chair/

The committee is looking for a Vice Chair. Created a flyer for Intergroup Association announcements mailing with subscription forms. First one out August 2023 announcements mailer. Subscription forms are to be left at the Intergroup meeting for representatives to take back to the group. The form is available to print online at [toledoaa.com](http://toledoaa.com). A request had been made to the Area55.org webmaster to ask for a spot on their website to have a flyer. Outreach to the Anniversary attendance. Road trips to outlying meetings. Potential DCM's, GSR's, Intergroup representatives, would carry blank forms on their rounds and to their groups. Get a list of zoom meetings and attend to mention signing up. Our goal is maintaining subscriptions to hard copy at 200 so we can obtain the charitable organization bulk mailing rate for free mailings, currently we have 145 subscriptions. Find a person who will volunteer to format the monthly letter using Microsoft Publisher software. Also find an editor to choose submissions that will be published. Next meeting August 23, 2023, Central Office, at 630 p.m.

**OCYPAA:** Jimmy B

No report.

**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 Member Chair

**DCM Monthly Report:** 5 districts were represented. **District 3** August 25, 2023, is the next meeting. **District 5** Discussed their New Years Eve open house and an October 28, 2023, workshop. **District 10** Discussed the details for a workshop on the disease of alcoholism.

Unity Day attendance was 130 people.

New business: Discussed DCM and GSR schools, tabled to next month.

**Next meeting: September 17, 2023, 11:30 a.m.**

*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

We members of Area 55 have only two months before we elect a new panel consisting of Alternate Delegate, Treasurer, Registrar, Recording Secretary and Mailing Secretary. Each of these positions serves a two-year term.

Beginning on January 1, 2024, the Delegate will be Kimbrough. She has served our fellowship for the last two years as Alternate Delegate and according to Area 55 guidelines Kimbrough will automatically rotate into the Delegate position.

Our Area guidelines provide that if any of the current panel members want to stand for a different panel position they may do so without being nominated from the floor. Any other nominations for members of the Area that may wish to fill a position must be nominated from the floor by another individual. The nominated person may accept or decline the nomination made.

In addition to panel positions, Kimbrough will need committee chairs. These are appointed positions made by the Delegate and Committee Chairs currently serving. The committees are:

- Archives
- Corrections
- Cooperation with the Professional Community/Public Information (CPC/PI)
- Grapevine
- Group Services
- Accessibilities
- Website
- Newsletter Liaison
- Intergroup Liaison
- YPAA Liaison

If you have an interest in serving our Area in any of these positions, please speak with Kimbrough and let her know.

During my term as Delegate, the need for our Area to have an alternate panel member and committee chair member has been demonstrated. This Area needed to replace the newly elected Treasurer due to illness, the panel filled in for the Alternate Delegate while she recovered from an accident, our Registrar has had a serious health issue, a Committee Chair had to step down due to work issues. I have suggested and would like this body to entertain a Motion that this Area adopt a new guideline that during the October election, the member with the second highest votes be automatically named as the alternate for the position in which they accepted a nomination.

Area 55’s Guidelines may be found at [area55aa.org](http://area55aa.org) by clicking the Service tab at the top and then clicking Guidelines. Each of the position duties and responsibilities are listed. Remember this is a “WE” program and there is help available for all of these positions.

It is a great learning experience and opportunity not only to serve our Area and the Fellowship, but also to continue to grow. Since we last met:

- I attended Unity Day held in Bowling Green Ohio. The District Committee Member Chair, Alternate Chair and the District Committee Members are to be congratulated for a spectacular event! Area 55 was well represented with members from Monroe MI to Lima OH from Port Clinton to the west boundary. Thank You All! It was well attended. I am told the count was near or exceeded 130 people in attendance.
- I attended a virtual meeting with the East Central Regional Trustee and the other 13 Delegates in the ECR.
  - Cathi shared that effective June 23<sup>rd</sup>, the audio Daily Reflections will be sold at \$11.99.
  - Prices of audio books were brought into alignment with eBook prices.
  - A.A. for the Older Alcoholic has a list price of \$2.00, is in a booklet format and is available for purchase.

- I attended the Ohio State Convention held on Aug. 11 thru Aug 13 in Fairborn OH. Area 55 was well represented, some members attended for the first time! The OYPAA members from Area 55 assisted with the Sobriety Countdown by individually congratulating each member attending this event. It was a “fun” time had by all. I was told that this was the “best” Sobriety countdown some had ever experienced.
- I was asked to join an Ad Hoc Committee meeting for the Conference of Delegates Past and Present related to the February Conference. I accepted and we had our first virtual meeting on August 14th. This committee will provide updates for that event in an effort to keep current with any changes at the General Service Conference
- I attended a virtual General Service Sharing Session with 130 participants including the acting Chair, Trustees, General Service Office Staff and 92 other Delegates for an update of activities since the General Service Conference.
  - o This meeting was the result of an advisory action from the floor of the Conference. The General Service Board intends to have two more such meetings prior to the 74<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference.
  - o Last year the cost of a Delegate’s attendance at the General Service Conference was \$9,058 this year the cost per Delegate was \$14,934. Area 55 sent \$1,800. Next year this Area is asked to send at least \$2,200 for the Delegate to attend.
  - o There was an agenda. Reports were provided from Grapevine; GSO/AAWS
  - o There were reports from the five Ad Hoc Committees
  - o Trustees Committees provided reports and updates on progress since the General Service Conference
  - o Jeff W. is retiring effective October 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Finally, I have registered to attend the East Central Regional Forum to be held in Independence OH November 17-19, 2023. There is no cost to attend this event. Flyers are on the back table. Please take these back to your districts and groups for anyone interested in learning more about Alcoholics Anonymous. There will be workshops, presentations and much more.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Collection:** There was \$81.00 collected for today’s Assembly basket.

Motion made to keep the contributions in the treasury by: Mike C, GSR, New Hope; Seconded by: Kenney A, DCM  
 Demonstration by Wendy S, webmaster, of a hybrid meeting. She found a mini pc, wireless keyboard and mouse that would serve the needs of the equipment. Discussed the options of signing up with a zoom account. If the body decides to go with this equipment, all documentation of set up and usage will be provided by Wendy.

A motion was made by Jim S, Past Delegate to purchase the equipment; Seconded by Mike C, GSR, New Hope  
 The motion passed unanimously.

The total amount of \$173.67 for the equipment will be reimbursed to Wendy S.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

A motion was made to purchase a separate zoom account for Area 55 General Assembly by Kenney A, DCM, District 4  
 Seconded by Jenny Jones, GSR, Open Minded. Motion carried.

## **NEXT GENERAL SERVICE ASSEMBLY: September 17, 2023, 1:00 p.m. the Senior Center (corner of Jefferson Street and 23<sup>rd</sup> Street; Toledo, OH)**

The Mission statement will be read by Monica Z, Alt. GSR, New Noon South

Tradition 9 will be read by Jenny J, GSR, Open Minded

Concept 9 will be read by Jackie B, Vice Chair Accessibilities

Cleanup for the September meeting will be Raising the Bottom

**Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by:** John C, Past Delegate

**Seconded by:** Jenny J, GSR, Open Minded

Closed with “A Declaration of Unity”

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie R

Recording Secretary, Area 55, Panel 72