

GENERAL SERVICE ASSEMBLY

Area 55, Panel 70 NW Ohio & Southeast Michigan
P.O. Box 401 Toledo, OH 43697-0401 www.area55aa.org

Delegate: James S. / delegate@area55aa.org / (419) 708-4408

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

Recording Secretary: George C. / recording.secretary@area55aa.org

Registrar: Jennifer H. / registrar@area55aa.org

Treasurer: Chris C. / treasurer@area55aa.org

Mailing Secretary: Karen W. / 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 via Zoom Teleconference, Meeting ID 813-7037-7856, Password 100. All 6 Panel Officers and the Area 55 Delegate were present. 2 Past Delegates were present, and 11 other participants, including 9 GSR's, 1 Alternate GSR, 2 DCM, 0 Alternate DCM's, 1 current DCMC, Area 55 Committee members, 1 Intergroup Liaison, and 0 guests were on the video conference.

MEETING MINUTES FOR JUNE 14, 2020

Sherry S., Area 55 Chairperson, opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. with the Serenity Prayer. Karen W., Area 55 Mailing Secretary, read the Mission Statement. Larry B., GSR – Sunday Serenity, read the Sixth Tradition. Sheryl D., GSR – Open Minded, read the Sixth Concept. Panel 70 officers were introduced.

New GSR's: No new GSR's were present

Past Delegate: John C., Past Delegate, Area 55 Panel 66 & Delegate Chair of the CPC Committee, and Ron S., Area 55 Panel 48.

Approval of Minutes: George C., Recording Secretary, presented the May 17, 2020 minutes. John C., Past Delegate – Area 55 Panel 66, moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Lorrie E., GSR – Mission for Tradition. The motion carried unanimously with 1 abstention, and the minutes were adopted.

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 May Treasurer's Report: Chris C., Treasurer, presented the Financial Report for May 2020:

Operating Account: Beginning Balance 05/01/20: \$7,250.65; Income: \$268.10; Expenses: \$327.42; Ending Balance 5/31/20: \$7,191.33.

Prudent Reserve: Beginning Balance 5/1/20: \$3,002.83; Interest: \$0.05; Ending Balance 5/31/20: \$3,002.88

2020 Mini Conference: Beginning Balance 5/1/20: \$2,197.00; Income: \$0; Expenses: \$197.00; Ending Balance 5/31/20: \$2,000.00.

East Central Regional Conference: (Seed Money for 2021 Ohio State Convention) Beginning Balance 5/1/20: \$1,500.00; No Income or Expenses; Ending Balance 5/31/20: \$1,500.00

Kimbrough P., DCMC, moved to approve the May Treasurer's report, seconded by John C., Past Delegate – Area 55 Panel 66. The motion passed unanimously, and the April 2020 Treasurer's Report was adopted.

COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS

Archives: / Billy S. / 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 F. and Geno F. / corrections.chair@area55aa.org

Dawn F., Co-Chair, submitted a written report. The Committee met on May 20 via Zoom, with 6 members present. The Committee welcomed Bryan B. as a new member. All in-person commitments with the exception of the Driver Intervention Program (first one held May 16 at Rossford Marriott) continue to be on hold due to COVID-19. The next Driver Intervention Program was held May 30 at the Holland Marriott. The DIP is limiting attendance to 10 participants. Dawn F., Co-Chair, has been in contact with all of the facilities and will stay in contact once a month for the purpose of making requests, fulfilling any literature request, and informing us when in-person commitments can resume. 6 PREA applications were submitted in February – the Committee is still awaiting results. No more PREA trainings are being held due to COVID-19. The Committee is taking this time to review the contents of the Corrections Workbook. The Committee encouraged its members to sign up with New York to be available for correspondence with inmates. The next Committee meeting will be June 17th at 6:30 pm on Zoom.

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; although the Committee is meeting via Zoom during the Pandemic – for more information, visit area55aa.org.

CPC/PI: Dave F. / cpc.pi@area55aa.org

No report was given.

The CPC/PI Committee meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month, 5:00 p.m., at Central Office; although may be suspended during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Grapevine: Wendy H. / 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.

Accessibilities: Ynda C. / accessibilities@area55aa.org

Lee J., GSR – Eastside 12x12 and member of the Accessibilities Committee, presented a brief report. There is \$102 in the Committee Treasury. Ynda did send Mother's Day Cards in May to the Shut-Ins, and will send Father's Day Cards in June. The Committee also has 2 more shut-ins added to the list.

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.

Website: Nathan K. / web.comm.chair@area55aa.org

Wendy S., Committee member and Area 55 Webmaster, presented a brief report. The Committee met today, June 14, at 10:00 am via Zoom with 3 members present. The Committee discussed e-mails sent from groups regarding meeting changes and updates. The Committee also discussed sharing information with Central Office regarding meeting updates. The Committee is asking groups to keep Area 55 informed of any meeting updates or changes – there is a form on www.area55.org in which groups can submit this information. The Committee discussed allowing groups to make an informed group conscience decision by posting any state public health orders on the Area 55 website and will present this during new business during today's Assembly.

The Website Committee meets the day of the General Service Assembly, at 10:00 a.m., Black Kite Coffee – 2499 Collingwood Boulevard; Toledo, OH; although the Committee is meeting via Zoom during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Group Services: John C. / 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.

Ad Hoc Area 55 Online Meetings Committee: Josh D.

Wendy S., Area 55 Webmaster and member of the Ad Hoc Online Meetings Committee, presented a brief report. The Committee met Thursday June 11 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom. George C. scheduled the DCMC meeting for June. George C. will also post a disclaimer on the top of the Area 55 Online Meetings spreadsheet to inform members that some groups may not be listed any longer if they have informed Area 55 that they are back to in-person meetings. As of today, there are 101 non-business meetings listed on the spreadsheet. The Committee is willing to help groups get their meetings online and can use one of three shared Zoom accounts. The Committee is also recommending that groups check their recurring meeting settings to make sure they extended out as far as will be needed.

Ad Hoc Area 55 Redistricting Committee: John C.

John C., Chair, presented a brief report. The Committee has not met due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Committee encourages any input as to how the Area could re-district.

Ad Hoc Area 55 Guidelines Committee: Sherry S. / alt.delegate@area55aa.org

The Committee is reviewing the current Area 55 Guidelines, as they have not been updated in 4 years. There are a lot of clerical change that also need to be made. If you are interested in reviewing the Guidelines and suggesting changes, please e-mail Sherry.

Northwest Ohio/Southeast Michigan Intergroup: Tim D., Chairman, Intergroup Association of Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan, presented a report. The Intergroup Officers and Committee chairs met at the end of May in an emergency meeting (as allowed in Intergroup bylaws). The next meeting will be June 27, which will also be an emergency meeting of Intergroup officers & committee chairs only. The Pig Roast will not be taking place, as the church is not scheduling any events. The Intergroup Association is still planning on having a picnic later in the summer if possible. The rest of the events are still scheduled, but no action has been taken to the contrary.

Newsletter Liaison: No report was provided. *There is not currently a Newsletter liaison.*

NOCYPAA Liaison: Nathan K. (Northwest Ohio Committee of Young People in AA)

Jennifer H., NOCYPAA Treasurer and Area 55 Registrar provided a brief report. There will be a NOCYPAA meeting today at 3 p.m. via Zoom. The Committee has still had their regular business meetings on the second and fourth Sunday of every month. The Committee recently had a bonfire for committee members, so they are staying in touch. At the bonfire, a new member attended with 90 days sobriety – so the committee is still reaching new members. After having success with the April trivia and game nights held in Zoom, the NOCYPAA Committee was asked to host a game night for a YPAA conference based in Milwaukee.

MONCYPAA Liaison: Logan T.

NO report was provided.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBER (“DCM”) REPORTS

DCM Chair: Kimbrough P., District Committee Member Chair

Kimbrough P. gave a brief report. The DCMC meeting was held today at 11:30 a.m. via Zoom with representation from Districts 3, 4, 7, 9, and 14. The Delegate and Alternate Delegate were also in attendance as well as 2 guests. District 3 had a Zoom meeting recently and may be looking into doing a picnic and a workshop. Some districts were reporting that a few meetings were back to in-person. Discussion was held on suggesting that the Area 55 General Service Assembly meet less often (currently once a month) and potentially rotate the locations of the Assembly around the Area to different districts. The Committee is also seeking input about Unity Day – it is unknown whether it will be in-person, via Zoom, or a hybrid combination.

District 7: Bill G., DCM

Bill reported that Chapter 5 is open and that the following groups are meeting in-person at the club: Swan Creek Noon, Happy Hour at 6 p.m., Monday Night Men's at 8:30 p.m., and Thursday Night Men's at 8:30 p.m. Another face-to-face meeting in District 7 is Monday night Airport Group 12x12 group at Providence Lutheran Church. District 7 is planning on having a Big Book Study meeting start sometime in the fall, and more information will be given at a later time regarding this new meeting.

District 9:

Larry B., GSR – Sunday Serenity, presented a brief report. The Alano Club in Wauseon is holding every meeting on the club schedule except Sunday Serenity. Other District 9 meetings being held in-person include the Thursday night Together With Faith meeting in Napoleon and the Defiance Sunday Night Lead.

DELEGATE'S REPORT: James S. / delegate@area55aa.org / (419) 708-4408

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

2020 Ohio State Convention: The conference scheduled for August 21-23 in Area 54 has been canceled, and the hotel has given Area 54 a full refund.

2020 International Convention: Starting July 1, www.aa.org will announce a schedule for a month-long Virtual Conference in lieu of the in-person conference. Several activities are planned, including speakers, panels, and the 40 millionth Big Book will be passed out.

Position opening at AAWS: There is a volunteer non-trustee director position open at AA World Service in New York – if anyone is interested in applying, they can contact AAWS.

70th General Service Conference: The 70th AA General Service Conference was held via Zoom May 16-19, with 4 days of activities.

- The Conference is composed of 93 Delegates, 27 Trustees (20%), and 15 AAWS and Grapevine Directors (12%). The average age of the Conference attendees was 59 years, the average length of sobriety was 22 years, and the average length of service was 17 years.
- 2 new Trustees were elected: Mike L. was elected as a West Central Regional Trustee, and Erma V. was elected as a Western Canada Trustee.
- Agenda items: due to the limited conference, only the agenda items that needed pressing attention or selected by each Committee were selected to be discussed at the conference. All other agenda items will be automatically forwarded as agenda items at the 71st General Service Conference in 2021. Only 45 minutes were allotted for debate on each agenda item – after 45 minutes without any action, the item would be forwarded automatically to next year's General Service Conference.
- Items that were passed and/or adopted at the General Service Conference will be posted on the Area 55 website.
- The Theme for the 71st General Service Conference will be "AA in a Time of Change."
- The Topics selected for the 71st General Service Conference will be "Unity in a Changing World," "Service in a Changing World," and "Recovery in a Changing World."
- The Conference debated at length over the selection of a non-trustee director, which did not conform to AA's policy. The position will remain open and a selection will be made at next year's Conference.

AAWS Financial Information: In 2019, contributions were up 5.7% from 2018. There were increased costs in 2019, primarily due to the cost of implementing a service for groups that went over budget. The General Service Office also shut down an office and opened a new combined office, which cost over \$1 million, and now must re-open the closed office due to fire code capacity violations in the new space. During 2020, AAWS was losing over \$1 million per month due to a drastic drop in sales and contributions during the Coronavirus pandemic. However, in May, a record was broken as over \$850,000 was contributed. Sales dropped drastically as well but are slowly starting to trend upward.

Area 55 Groups Re-Opening: Jim asked that groups that are considering re-opening to please inform themselves of all appropriate information, including any relevant public health orders. The goal of any group discussing whether to re-open is to have a fully informed group conscience. Jim also mentioned that the State of Ohio may be coming out with guidance for small groups such as recovery groups.

OLD BUSINESS

Collections received during today's Assembly will be reported next month, and the Assembly will vote next month on how to direct any funds received online during the Assembly.

NEW BUSINESS

Tim D., Chairman, Northwest Ohio/Southeastern Michigan Intergroup Association started a discussion about Area 55 posting on its website. Wendy S., GSR – Ottawa Open Discussion moved to have Area 55 post on its website any relevant guidelines from <http://coronavirus.ohio.gov>. The motion was seconded by Don S., GSR – New Beginning.

- George C., Area 55 Recording Secretary, moved to amend the motion to state "Area 55 may post coronavirus guidelines from the state of Ohio or Michigan, as long as a disclaimer is made on the website that this information is not an AA directive, but only to help each group have an informed conscience." The motion to amend was seconded by Wendy Schimmoeller, GSR – Ottawa Open Discussion. After discussion, Ron S., Past Delegate – Area 55 Panel 48 moved to call the question/end debate, seconded by Chris C., Area 55 Treasurer. The Assembly voted 10 yes, 1 against, 0 abstention, to call the question – proceed to vote.
- The motion to *amend* to main motion (change the main motion) passed with a vote of 16 yes, 4 against, 0 abstentions.
- The amended motion passed the Assembly, with 15 yes, and 6 against. The amended motion of "Area 55 may post coronavirus guidelines from the state of Ohio or Michigan, as long as a disclaimer is made on the website that this information is not an AA directive, but only to help each group have an informed group conscience" passed.
- Rachel W., GSR – Trail Group, Marty C., GSR – New Hope, and Ron S., Past Delegate – Area 55 Panel 48, spoke in the minority opinion. After hearing the minority voice, John C., Past Delegate – Area 55 Panel 66 indicated that he would like to change his vote. In accordance with AA guidelines, the Assembly then took a vote to re-consider the action. The motion to reconsider passed, with 18 for, and 4 against, and 0 abstentions.
- The Assembly then re-voted on the amended motion, with 5 voting yes, 17 voting no, and 0 abstentions. The motion failed, and no Area 55 action will be taken on this issue.

Tim D., Chairman – Northwest Ohio/Southeastern Michigan Intergroup Association, mentioned that there is a new group in District 4 called "In the Book." The group meets Mondays 5:30 p.m. at Bible Fellowship on Dorr Street, and has appointed a General Service Representative.

Discussion was held about a couple of groups with Zoom accounts that have expressed interest in donating that account to the Area to help with any Accessibilities, Shut-Ins, or Committees.

Rachel W., GSR – Trail Group, mentioned the importance of mailing out the minutes and treasurer's report before the July meeting.

Tarik K., DCM – District 3, moved to have Unity Day information added to the Area 55 guidelines. The motion was seconded by Eva S., GSR – Live & Let Live. The motion passed, with 19 voting yes, 1 voting no, and 0 abstentions. Unity Day will be included in the Area 55 Guidelines. The minority opinion was heard.

Tarik K., DCM – District 3, moved to reduce the frequency of Area 55 General Assembly meetings to quarterly instead of monthly. The motion was seconded by Chris Carson, Treasurer – Area 55 Panel 70.

- Jim S., Delegate - Area 55 Panel 70, moved to table the motion until the Assembly's August meeting to give members time to seek input from their group conscience. The motion was seconded by George C., Recording Secretary – Area 55 Panel 70. The motion to table passed unanimously. The issue will be tabled until the August Assembly meeting.

NEXT GENERAL SERVICE ASSEMBLY: July 19, 2020 via Zoom

Zoom ID: 813-7037-7856

Password: 100

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

Concept 7 will be read by Eva S., GSR – Live & Let Live.

Tarik K, DCM – District 3, moved to adjourn the Assembly, seconded by Sheryl D., GSR – Open Minded. The motion passed unanimously, and the General Service Assembly adjourned at 3:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

George C.

Recording Secretary

Panel 70, Area 55 - Northwest Ohio & Southeast Michigan