

GENERAL SERVICE ASSEMBLY

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

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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 via Zoom Teleconference, Meeting ID 813-7037-7856, Password 100. 32 people were present on the video conference, including 5 Panel Officers including the Area 55 Delegate. 1 Past Delegate was present. 26 other participants were present, including 11 GSR's, 3 Alternate GSR's, 4 DCM's, 0 Alternate DCM's, 1 current DCMC, and 2 Area 55 Committee Chairs/Co-Chairs. 5 guests were present, including the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Northwest Ohio/Southeastern Michigan Intergroup Association.

MEETING MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 18, 2020

Sherry S., Area 55 Chairperson, opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. with the Serenity Prayer. Billy S., Committee Chair - Archives, read the Mission Statement. Ron S., Past Delegate – Area 55 Panel 48, read the Tenth Tradition. Dawn F., Committee Chair – Multi-District Corrections, read the Tenth Concept. Panel 70 officers were introduced.

New GSR's/Alternate GSR's: Mandy F., Raising the Bottom; Dion M., Starlight; Stacey K., Perrysburg Staying Sober.

Past Delegates: Ron S., Area 55 Panel 48 & Delegate Chair of the Policy & Admissions Committee.

Intergroup Associations Present: Tim D., Chairman – Northwest Ohio/Southeast Michigan Intergroup Association.

Approval of September Minutes: George C., Recording Secretary, presented the September 20, 2020 minutes with one correction. Sherry S., Area Chair – Area 55 Panel 70, moved to approve the minutes as corrected; seconded by Chris C., Treasurer – Area 55 Panel 70. The motion carried unanimously, and the September 20, 2020 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 September Treasurer's Report: Chris C., Treasurer, presented the Financial Report for September 2020:

Operating Account: Beginning Balance 9/1/20: \$6,572.95 (\$7,274.92); Income: \$945.56; Expenses: \$303.20; Ending Balance 9/30/20: \$7,215.31 (\$7,917.28).

Prudent Reserve: Beginning Balance 9/1/20: \$3,003.03; Interest: \$0.05; Ending Balance 9/30/20: \$3,003.08.

2020 Mini Conference: Beginning Balance 9/1/20: \$2,000.00; no income or expenses; Ending Balance 9/30/20: \$2,000.00.

East Central Regional Conference: (Seed money for 2021 Ohio State Convention) Beginning Balance 9/1/20: \$1,500.00; no income or expenses; Ending Balance 9/30/20: \$1,500.00

August General Service Assembly Basket: \$0

Bill G., DCM – District 7, moved to approve the September Treasurer's report; seconded by Dawn F., Committee Chair - Corrections. The motion passed unanimously, and the September 2020 Treasurer's Report was adopted.

COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS

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

Billy S., Chair, gave a brief report. The Archives Committee is wanting to start documenting what Area 55 is doing during the COVID-19 pandemic. If anyone has any recommendations the Committee can document this, please contact the Committee. *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, gave a brief report and submitted a written report for September. The Committee met on September 16 via Zoom, with 5 members present. All in-person commitments except the Driver Intervention Program are on hold due to COVID. Committee members have fulfilled all DIP commitments. The Committee has released an assignment for the DIP programs for the remainder of the year. For DIP's, only 4 AA's can participate due to social distancing; the Committee plans on 1 committee member and 3 home group members to attend each commitment. If a group cannot fulfill their commitment, the committee is asking that the group call the committee chair to inform them ahead of time, so that more committee members may attend. To find the upcoming DIP dates and the groups assigned, they are on the Area 55 and the Central Office website (in Central Office Announcements).

Each committee member will take one facility to build a relationship with via AA guidelines and recommendations. The co-chairs will meet with each member one-on-one to review expectations beyond at least once per month contact. Allen-Oakwood Correctional Institution in Lima has the ability now to do online meetings. CTF Men's facility also can do Zoom meetings. CTF Men will also be inventorying their literature and report back, and also stated they can use CD's and DVD's.

The next meeting will be October 21st at 6:30 pm via Zoom (ID: 834-6924-9046, Password: jail).

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: Mary Beth D. / 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 during the pandemic their meetings will be at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom at 831-8766-3059, Password: 530.

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. In **August**, the Committee will Meet August 10 at the Pearson Park Shelter House at 6pm.*

Accessibilities: Ynda C. / accessibilities@area55aa.org /

Ynda C., Chair, submitted a written report. Cards were sent out in August and September. The Committee will purchase Halloween cards for October. Ynda reported she will have family obligations on Sundays for the next three months but will continue to do the cards. Ynda will speak with Lee J. about being the chair of the committee next year, as he has shown interest.

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.

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.

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

Nathan K., Chair, submitted a written report, and a brief report was also given by Wendy S., Area 55 Webmaster. The committee met on Tuesday, October 6 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom with three members present. In September, there were 2,586 unique visitors to the area55aa.org site, with 4,232 visits (1.62 visits per visitor); and 68,193 pages visited (16.11 pages per visit). Wendy S. attended an AA technology conference via Zoom (originally planned for Seattle, WA) and shared with the group her experience. One topic the conference included website challenges of incorporating meetings that are only online onto the Meeting Guide App, since that app is location-based. Also, at the conference, members from Port Clinton, OH shared about virtual reality meetings. If there are members within Area 55 that are members of a virtual reality group and want their meeting connection information listed on the website, use the Online Meeting Request on the website. Meeting change information continues to be shared between the Area 55 Webmaster, the toledoaa.com Webmaster, and the Central Office Manager. The Unity Day flyer has been posted on the website. Corrections Committee information and a Grapevine event were also posted on the website. The Committee also discussed the idea of creating an online-only district within Area 55.

*The Website Committee has **rescheduled** their meetings to the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at Zoom meeting ID 273-332-805, password 830.*

Ad Hoc Area 55 Online Meetings Committee: Josh D.

No report was given.

Ad Hoc Area 55 Redistricting Committee: John C.

No report was given.

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

The updated guidelines are now on the area website. These are updates that were previously approved by the assembly from September 2016 through 2020 and were never updated into the guidelines document.

Northwest Ohio/Southeast Michigan Intergroup: Dave G., Liaison for the Intergroup Association of Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan, was not able to make the last Intergroup meeting. A brief report was given by Tim D., Chairman of the Association. The Intergroup Association met September 26 with about 20-25 attendees. The current Secretary died, and a new election will be held in October for her replacement. Central Office has experienced some losses. The Anniversary Committee is looking to do a Zoom celebration this year. The Children's Christmas Party Committee entertained the idea of doing a drive-through party, but that was voted down. The Chair and Vice Chair of Entertainment are vacant and will be filled at the October meeting. The Newsletter Committee is looking at making some changes, including moving from print-only to a digital format. Current positions vacant include the Secretary, the Vice Chair of the Children's Christmas Party, and the Vice Chair of the Anniversary Committee. A Nominating Committee formed for next year. Elections will take place at the December meeting. Central Office reported 75 calls, 10 visitors, and 6 twelve-step calls for September. The next meeting will be held October 24th at 6:30 p.m. During the October meeting, the body will be voting on two sets of bylaw amendments – one to change the name of a committee, and the second to revise the overall bylaws. Central Office is also in need of updated 12-step call lists from groups.

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)

No report was given.

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 17 attendees, including representation from Districts 2, 3, 4, 7, 11, 12, and 14. The committee discussed meetings in which masks are required. The group shared their experience with enforcing masks requirements. Kimbrough will ask each DCM to send her a report about how their district and meetings have been handling the COVID pandemic – what has worked well, and what challenges they have faced. Unity Day is Saturday, November 14 from 3-6 p.m. via Zoom. Unity Day will feature three panels: (1) Tradition 7, (2) Tradition 3, and (3) Anonymity. There will be another Unity Day Planning meeting next Saturday, October 31 at 11:30 a.m.

District 11: Bill G., DCM – District 7

Bill G. gave a brief report and submitted a written report. Bill reported that a new in-person meeting has started up – Swanton By the Book on Tuesdays at 8:00 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church at 200 Dodge Street. Masks are required for the meeting, and attendees should bring their own Big Book. There is no limit to the number of attendees. As a new group, they are needing support. Bill also reached out to the GSR's in his district to request if any group is having any issues – no issues were reported back.

DELEGATE’S REPORT: Jim S. / delegate@area55aa.org

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

General Service Office update: To cut cost, 24 GSO staff members had been approved for early retirement; 14 of which requested lump-sum payments for their retirements. The plan is to only replace those positions that are necessary and redistribute the workload among other staff. GWO also reported they had to draw down \$1.5 million from its reserve due to cash flow problems. It was made clear that the fellowship continues to donate at a remarkable high level, and literature sales have increased some.

Mini-Conference Planning Committee: A conference planning committee needs to be formed for the March 5-6, 2021 Area 55 Mini-Conference. If you are interested in joining that planning committee, please contact Jim.

Ohio State Convention/East Central Regional Conference: Both conferences for 2021 have been canceled. The hotel stated they will return our \$1,500 deposit. The Ohio State Convention planning committee will meet next on November 7, where we will propose that Area 55 host a virtual conference.

Delegate / Past Delegate Conference: This conference scheduled for February 2021 has been canceled.

7th Tradition: 7th Tradition Donations can be mailed to: Area 55 Treasurer; PO Box 401; Toledo, OH 43697-0401; or can be made online at <https://area55aa.org/make-a-contribution/>. The receipt for the area55aa.org will say ‘Ohio State Conference’ as this is the old (but active) PayPal account. For General Service Office donations, you can mail to: G.S.O.; PO Box 459; Grand Central

Archiving Area 55’s Response to COVID-19: Jim has spoken with the Area 55 Archives Chair about documenting the area’s response to the pandemic. The Archives Committee will be starting this project. Individuals, groups, committees, or other service entities are encouraged to participate in this endeavor.

Unity Day: Area 55 Unity Day will take place on Saturday, November 14 from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. The event will take place via Zoom. The Zoom ID and password can be found on the Area 55 website.

OLD BUSINESS

\$0 was collected during last month’s meeting.

Sherry S., Area Chair, brought up an issue of registration of online groups. Specifically, a question for the body to consider will be how online-only groups can register – should these groups be part of a newly created online district of Area 55? Attendees are encouraged to go back to their groups and evaluate their group conscience, and report back to the area assembly for future consideration.

NEW BUSINESS

Jeff H., Alternate GSR – Kenwood, discussed the need for an Alternate Intergroup Liaison for the Northwest Ohio/Southeastern Michigan Intergroup Association, since the current Liaison has an issue attending the meetings. Bruce M.,

Guest, volunteered to serve as an Alternate Intergroup Liaison.

NEXT GENERAL SERVICE ASSEMBLY: November 15, 2020, 1:00 pm via Zoom

Zoom ID: 813-7037-7856

Password: 100

Tradition 11 will be read by Bill G., DCM – District 7.

Concept 11 will be read by Mandy F., GSR – Raising The Bottom.

Kimbrough P., DCMC – Area 55, moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Joe D., GSR – Brothers & Sisters in Sobriety. The motion carried unanimously, and the Assembly adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

George C.

Recording Secretary

Panel 70, Area 55 - Northwest Ohio & Southeast Michigan