

# 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. 48 people were present including 4 Panel Officers, 1 Area Delegate, 1 Alternate Delegate, 2 Past Delegate(s), 23 GSRs, 4 Alternate GSRs, 2 DCMs, 0 Alternate DCMs, 1 DCMC, 0 Alt. DCMC, 5 Area 55 Committee Chairs/Co-Chairs, 6 guest(s).

## MEETING MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 17, 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 Matt R, GSR, BG Tuesday Night; Lori C, GSR, Reno Beach Sobriety, read Tradition 12; Chris C, Chair of Group Services, read Concept 12. Panel 72 officers were introduced.

**New GSRs/Alternate GSRs:** Matt R, GSR, BG Tuesday Night; Vanessa S, Alt. GSR, Warm Heart Serenity; Vincent C, Alt. GSR, Warm Heart Serenity

**New DCMs/Alternate DCMs:** James B, DCM District 4; Chris J, DCM District 1

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

**Approval of November minutes:** Melanie R, Recording Secretary, presented the November 12, 2023 minutes.

Motion to accept: Vanessa S, Alt. GSR, Warm Heart Serenity; Seconded by Michael C, GSR, New Hope. 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 November Financial Report:** Larry B., Treasurer, presented the Financial Report for November 2023.

**Operating Account:** Beginning Balance 11/1/2023: \$8,982.87; Income: \$1,472.74; Expenses: \$1,501.13; Ending Balance 11/30/2023: \$8,954.48.

**Prudent Reserve:** Beginning Balance 11/1/2023: \$5,006.19; Interest: \$0.00; Ending Balance 11/30/2023: \$5,006.19.

**Area 55 Mini Conference:** Beginning Balance 11/1/2023: \$2,000.00 Income: \$0; Expenses: \$0. Ending Balance 11/30/2023: \$2,000.00.

**Group Contributions YTD for 2023:** \$17,364.07

**Total Income Received YTD for 2023:** \$22,268.54

**Total Expenses YTD for 2023:** \$17,013.83

**November Assembly Basket:** \$ 55.25

**November Group Contributions:** \$1,147.49

**November Individual Contributions:** \$15.00

Motion to accept: Michael C, GSR, New Hope; Seconded by: Kenney A, DCM. Motion moved.

Larry wanted to mention a couple of things. On the Group Contributions, we had a PayPal contribution of \$240.00 from Jennifer R. He has no idea of what type of contribution it is supposed to be. Also, New York is experiencing financial problems, primarily due to COVID. It is our responsibility to help. Early in the year we had Kevin B and Jackie B do an audit. They suggested we find ways to get income or cut expenses or do both. Larry presented the following suggestions for the new panel to review. First, the birthday contributions have been discussed, but nothing has become of it. That is a good idea to

increase income. Under expenses, you could discourage the use of PayPal, as they charge fees on every transaction. Revisit the mileage rate, \$0.55 is high. Consider emailing instead of using postal mail for information from General Service Assembly meetings. That would save thousands of dollars due to the cost of ink, paper, and postage.

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

Not present at assembly meeting, received report email.

The Archives committee did not meet on Monday, November 20, 2023, due to the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday. The current Area 55 archivist, Deborah A, has supported the committee over these 2 years, by meeting with the committee chair, facilitating our committee assignment at the Mini Conference, and attending committee meetings to assist as needed. We want to thank her for her service. All the Panel 72 committee members were provided with a copy of our Archives Manual to review briefly, especially referring to the instructions for interviewing. The past 2 years the focus was on filing donated materials, pursuing group histories, keeping all notebook binders current, attending AA celebrations within Area 55, and preparing for interviews with AA members with 30 plus years of sobriety. At each event, the Archives committee has actively continued to request that the group provide histories for our binder, and that existing histories be revised to explain group experiences during COVID. The Area 55 Delegate, Sherry S, provided a narrative explaining the Area's approach to the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Next meeting: January 22, 2024, 6:00 p.m. at Central Office, 6:00 p.m.**

**Area Archivist:** Deborah A

*The Archives Committee meets the 3rd Monday of each month, 6:00 p.m., at Central Office.*

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

Old business: We are again tabling the subject of possible zoom options for meetings. We will reevaluate it at our next meeting, December 20, 2023. Our committee has been given permission to use the wi-fi. Michelle contacted Sargent Martinez regarding visiting Bowling Green Wood County women's jail and found that District 10 is responsible for covering this facility. Michelle M will assign groups to the Drivers Intervention Program schedule 3 months in advance, but release to Michelle B one month at a time. Kellie S is "acting" chairperson until 12/31/23 at midnight. The new location for DIP is: Best Western, 6435 Kit Lane, Maumee, OH. Michelle M has assumed DIP responsibilities effective immediately.

New business: The reports from the Men CTF, Women CTF, Lucas County Jail, TCI: no issues, running smoothly. Need to vote on the new Co-Chairperson beginning January 1, 2024. There will be no DIP on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Florencia has stepped down from DIP and is going to be with James B at the jail. Tiffany continues to work on getting a PREA training schedule. Michelle looking alternative to "Excellence of Empowerment" due to the decline of service to customers at Harbor.

**Next meeting: December 20, 2023, 6:30 p.m. at Central Office**

*The Corrections 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)

Not present at assembly, received email report.

Reviewed previous minutes. Family Court, Domestic Relations Court, making contacts. Will continue to determine any need from area probation departments. No responses from various media outlets regarding PSA's. Reviewed new booklet- "AA for the Older Alcoholic - Never Too Late". MB sent an email to TPS/ProMedica PreMedical Health Sciences Academy regarding possible interest in learning about A.A., ongoing.

**Next meeting December 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 / [grapevine.chair@area55aa.org](mailto:grapevine.chair@area55aa.org)

Finance report: Beginning balance is \$198.14; Book orders \$112.00; Book sales \$33.98; Ending balance is \$120.12; Cash on hand \$121.96; Overage/short \$ +1.84. Motion to approve: Teri H, GSR, Sober Sisters; Seconded by: Karlotta H, Alt. GSR, Eastside 12x12.

Old Business: One commitment completed - Sober Sisters. Reviewed financial report. Reminded Scott L. pass of Grapevine.

New Business: One commitment Jan. 23, 2024, Warm Heart Serenity Anniversary.

**Next meeting: January 10, 2024, 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.*

**Group Services:** Chris C / [groupser.chair@area55aa.org](mailto:groupser.chair@area55aa.org)

Group Services met at 12:00 noon this afternoon at the Senior Center. In attendance were outgoing chair Chris C, incoming chair Dalan S, Ron C and Jim S. We met all commitments for November/December including Walbridge Park and Sober Sisters. We have upcoming commitments on January 1, 2024, for Amazing Grace anniversary and Open Minded on January 14, 2024. As a committee with the body's approval, we have purchased a new sound system with two wireless microphones and an internal battery power system for \$163.17. Submitted a reimbursement request per the body's approval for spending no more than \$250.00. I have under our \$100 a month allotment, submitted for reimbursement of \$15.35 for AA batteries. I want to thank the body for the opportunity to serve the last two years as Group Services Chair, it has been an enlightening and great experience within AA.

**Next meeting: January 21, 2024, 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)

12 in-person visits/meetings were taken to five AA members. 14 more scheduled between 11/15 and 12/31. We had a new referral from a social worker at Arbors of Sylvania. We scheduled a visit for 11/29 at 2:00 P.M. We signed cards for all on the list. Notes were put on the card to contact us. It was decided to bring little snack bags to those we visit for the holidays and some who have remained in contact. Committee members donated funds to cover the costs.

**Next meeting: December 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)

We discussed the need once again to have a solid Internet or Wi-Fi connection in the main Assembly meeting room for the possibility of a hybrid assembly in the future. The new web committee chair is going to review the current web committee guidelines to determine if any changes or updates need to be made. The new web committee chair will meet with the new webmaster to look over the current website to see if it needs to be updated or refreshed. The web committee chair along with the new webmaster will review the area guidelines for the webmaster position looking for any updates or changes that may need to be made. If your group has an event or anniversary that you'd like added to the calendar, please send an email.

**Next meeting: January 2, 2024, at 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. 595-694-351 password 800*

**Northwest Ohio/Southeast Michigan Intergroup Liaison:** Kellie S

Report given by Bev Z in the absence of the liaison. Operating balance, Children's Christmas Party balance suspended until January 2024. All committee reports were suspended due to the voting of officers, committee chairs and vice chairs.

David M, Chairperson; Bridget B, Vice Chairperson; Karen M, Treasurer; Cassandra K, Secretary; Chris L, Vice Chair Central Office; Lynn M, Chair Children's Christmas Party; Brad P, Vice Chair Children's Christmas Party; Tom F, Vice Chair Finance Committee; Al W, Vice Chair Hospital Committee; Steve D, Chair Newsletter.

**Next meeting of the Intergroup Association is January 27, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.**

**Newsletter Liaison:** No report

**OYPAA:** OYPAA met on November 12, 2023, for our final meeting. We voted to disburse the funds that we accrued from the conference to the entities that supported the committee throughout the year. This included \$600 from OYPAA XL to reimburse the Area 55 General Assembly for the 2022 International Conference of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous (ICYPQAA) in New Orleans as well as a \$700 general contribution for the Assembly's support of the host committee. We voted to disband the committee as Lake County won the bid to hold the conference in 2024. Elections will be held January 7, 2024 at 2 p.m. to reform the Northwest Ohio Committee for Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous (NOCYPAA) at Senior Center, Inc., 2308 Jefferson Ave., Toledo, OH 43604.

**MONCYPAA Liaison:** No report

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

**District Committee Member Chair:** Chrissy H / [dcmc@area55aa.org](mailto:dcmc@area55aa.org)

**Alternate District Committee Member Chair:** George C / [alt.dcmc@area55aa.org](mailto:alt.dcmc@area55aa.org)

**DCM Meeting:** There were a total of 10 people in attendance. 4 districts represented. **District 3** – No report. **District 4** – Visited 32 groups. Attendance was low at first, but lately has picked up. 12 current GSR’s, but no involvement at the meetings. \$25.00 in account. 5 active GSR’s attended the district meeting. **District 5** – No report. **District 10** – Alcathon at LACMTP building, 1440 W. Spring St., Lima, OH, Christmas Eve 6p.m. - 12 midnight Christmas Day, 30 hours of continuous meetings. New Year’s Eve 6 p.m. - 2 a.m. New Year’s Day 8 hours of continuous meetings. The Chair of Friendship Group brought up a phone he set up through Sidelines App that people in the group can text or call for help in recovery. Everyone with the App and phone number gets every message, call from everyone else. He expressed interest in making it the District 10 phone number. Discussion ensued on why we cannot do that.

**Old business** – District 5 New Year’s Day Open House 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Oregon Municipal Building, Oregon, OH.

GSR/DCM school to be rewritten as bullet points. Mainstream it for under an hour.

**New business:** Explaining duties of a DCM.

Kimbrough P, Alt. Delegate, encouraged members to come to the Mini-Conference Planning meetings, held at Central Office, at 11:00 a.m., Toledo, OH. The conference will be held on March 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 in Bowling Green , OH.

*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)

My two-year term as Delegate is at an end this month and on a personal note, I want to thank my husband Jim for his help. He came to our monthly assemblies nearly every month to help me set up for the Assembly. His support and love never faltered during my service to the fellowship. He didn’t come to New York with me during either conference, he stayed home, knowing the long hours involved in serving the Fellowship.

I also want to thank you for accepting the responsibility of attending these monthly meetings and taking information back to your groups. This is how our communication needs to flow. You have helped me and the Panel 72 members with your support and generosity both financially and with your time. My thanks also go to the committee chairs and committee members who maintained a standard of excellence through their service to our Area. Our DCM’s have worked hard to fan a flame of participation within their respective districts. It is working but we must continue to increase representation and participation. How fortunate I feel to have been a Delegate. It has been my privilege to serve Alcoholics Anonymous and this area. I have grown as a result of my experiences in this service position. As the Area 55 Delegate, I have always tried to serve our beloved fellowship to the best of my ability.

I placed a letter from the General Manager at the General Service Office of New York on the table. It is a reminder that Alcoholics Anonymous must remain self-supporting financially. Please take a copy back to your home groups and discuss how to best respond. There are flyers for the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual East Central Conference of Delegates Past and Present (CDPP). It will be held in Muncie, Indiana, Feb. 9-11<sup>th</sup>, 2024. There are flyers listing the Mini-Conference Planning meetings as well. Also, there are flyers for the Michigan State Convention combined with the East Central Regional Conference on the table. It will be held at Calvin University in Grand Rapids, IM, June 7-9<sup>th</sup>, 2024. There were 404 participants, with 263 participants attending for their first time at the East Central Regional Forum held in Cleveland. Going forward I trust that you and the GSR’s who follow as representatives of your home groups will continue with your support for our Area, for the services provided by New York and for the Panel 74 Officers. Thank you and may God bless us all as we trudge this happy road of destiny.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Collection:** There was \$74.00 collected for today’s Assembly basket.

Motion made to send money to New York General Service Office by Karen W, 12 Step Study West, seconded by: Joe Y, GSR, 12 Step Study West.

The tabled motion to appoint alternate officers was brought up. No one pursued taking that motion off the table; the motion is dead.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Jim S, Past Delegate, Area 55, Panel 70, indicated about 2 years ago we increased our prudent reserve. He suggested we

should increase it again by \$2,000.00. We would then have a 6-month prudent reserve. We have the available funds, it shows that if that really happens that we have financial responsibility.

Kimbrough P, Alt. Delegate, has stated that the motion has been moved that we increase our prudent reserve by \$2,000.00. Sherry S, Delegate, seconded. The floor was open for discussion.

Discussion-

Larry B, Treasurer, suggested maybe moving that to January, so we have the final year end budget completed. Maybe we can move forward then. Chris C, Past Treasurer, mentioned that the first quarter of the year is when most of our expenses are paid out. He indicated to look at this after the Mini Conference, at the April Assembly and consider it after the first quarter. Sherry S, Delegate, is in favor of this motion because we need money in our prudent reserve if our equipment fails, if our printers fail, if our expenses go up. The reality is that we have, with that \$1,300.00 check just given to us, puts us over \$10,000.00. We have a substantial amount of money to cover all those expenses between January through April that impact our budget. We have never once had to dip into our prudent reserve to pay for our bills or expenses and yet at the end of the year we end up with \$8,900.00. We need to think forward and put more money into the prudent reserve than \$5,000.00.

Bev Z, Accessibilities Chair, indicated that New York needs financial support and what the cost is to send our delegate to the conference. The cost for 1 delegate to attend the conference is \$14,000.00, we spent \$1,800.00. That burden goes onto New York General Service. We could contribute a couple thousand dollars to offset the cost of our delegate with this additional money that we have received.

The vote was taken. Henry C, Past Delegate, Area 55, Panel 64 called a Point of Order, roll call to be taken for voting members only. Votes were **20 for the motion, 16 against**. The count was not a 2/3 vote. Motion failed.

Minority opinion – Jim S, Past Delegate, Area 55, Panel 70: This money is in the General Fund right now and if it is moved to the prudent reserve, it will not be taking anything away from this body. Out of over 200 groups in our Area 55, only about 78 groups were contributing last year. If we need money for activities, sending the Delegate to New York, and other expenses, we need to reach out to the groups in our Area that are not contributing to support the 7<sup>th</sup> tradition. The groups are collecting the money but not contributing to the Area.

The vote did not change after the minority opinion. Motion fails.

Larry B, Treasurer, Area 55, Panel 72: There is a printer that Larry was using for the treasury position. It is very large and outdated. A motion was made by Larry B to dispose of the printer. Seconded by Chris C. Motion passes.

Melanie R, Recording Secretary, Area 55, Panel 72: Mentioned that she was willing to use her office equipment to fulfill the position of recording secretary. However not everyone who steps into this position will have equipment. Suggested that monies be budgeted to purchase said equipment for the panel future needs.

### **NEXT GENERAL SERVICE ASSEMBLY: January 21, 2024, 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 Vanessa S, Alt. GSR, Warm Heart Serenity

Tradition 1 will be read by Jim S, Past Delegate

Concept 1 will be read by Henry C, Past Delegate

Cleanup for the January meeting will be the responsibility of New Noon South group.

**Motion was made to adjourn the meeting.**

Closed with "The Responsibility Statement"

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie R

Recording Secretary, Area 55, Panel 72