

The Northeast Ohio Recorder

July, August, September 2004

<http://www.aaneoh.org>

Volume XVII, Issue 7

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 18 - DCM Workshop

July 23-25
48th Ohio State Convention
Hudson Holiday Inn

August 22 - GSR Workshop

September 10-12
Bridge The Gap Workshop
Holiday Inn, Sandusky, OH

September 18 - Area Assembly

October 17 - Area Assembly
Panel 55 Delegate &
Area Officer Election

November 21—Gratitude Sunday

*Unless otherwise noted, Area
Assemblies & Workshops are
held at:*

*The 12 Step Recovery Club
1480 Pearl Rd., Brunswick, OH
(on US Route 42 about 1/4 mile
south of State Route 303)*



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from the Delegate:

Greetings NE Ohio,

It is with great pleasure that I can report that the 54th General Service Conference was exciting and successful in bringing together the views, thoughts and opinions of the 93 Delegate Areas in the US and Canada, the Trustees and directors of AA World Services and the AA Grapevine, and our General Service Office. For those that don't already know, the General Service Conference is the means of replacing our co-founders, early members, and friends of AA who were constantly looked to for answers to the growing pains of our fellowship. It is my experience that the General Service Conference continues to serve the basic purpose of replacing our co-founders with the group conscious of the AA groups as represented through their Delegate as AA continues to evolve and grow.

Our co-founder Bill W. emphasized that AA's future survival was dependent on listening to our collective group conscience when he stated, *"Hence it is with a sense of great security that we old-timers have now fully vested in AA's General Service Conference the authority for giving shape – through the labors of its chosen Delegates, Trustees and service workers – to the destiny that we trust God in his wisdom is holding in store for all of us."* (AA Service Manual, p.9)

The theme of the 54th General

Service Conference was "Our Singleness of Purpose - The Cornerstone of AA". As I listened to AA members thought the Area, and the entire state of Ohio, what first appeared to me to be a one-sided issue, has turned out to be a hot topic. The theme was addressed at the Conference through discussions and speakers with equal passion. I come away from these sharing sessions more enlightened.

Our singleness of purpose means that we address the problem of alcohol. You may recall the phrase "Jack of all trade and master of none". Through the singleness of purpose we attempt to do one thing well. This single focus has allowed many to have identification through a common bond and is an important tradition contributing to AA's survival.

We should not forget that our primary purpose is to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic. In recalling our own experience before we were ready to accept that we had an alcohol problem and that there was a solution, we need to remember the cost and pain it took to arrive at that decision. That cost can be measured in wasted time, lost jobs, ruined relationships, legal trouble and health issues. And even at these costs we continued down this destructive path.

There may be many among us that just don't know, or have not accepted the solution. As AA members it is our responsibility to patiently continue to carry the message and remember that this

will happen in our higher powers' time, not ours. Our co-founder Dr. Bob was always quick to remind early members that love and tolerance is our code.

I attempt to be grateful for the message that was carried to me in the manner it was delivered to me - freely and with love - by a group of people that didn't even know who I was. The best way for me to demonstrate this gratitude is to continue to work the principles in my own life so that I have a message to carry, to reach out my hand to the person that is still sick, and to share the miracle of this life saving program with such passion that that person will follow me back to a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous, where together, you and I, will make the first promise of our basic text—there is a solution - come true.

During the Conference there were reports by all the trustees' committees, the General Service Board, the AA Grapevine, updates on current Archival projects and the 2005 International Convention. During the 2003 financial report it was noted that contributions fell short of services provided to members and groups by nearly 2 million dollars.

The update on the 2005 International Convention provided further information to people traveling to Canada and a review of the planned activities at the convention. The event will be kicked off with a "party in the park" behind the convention center and opens with a flag ceremony at the Skydome Friday evening. There will be an old-timers meeting at the stadium Saturday with participants drawn from the hat and allowing a little more time for each participant to share. The weekend concludes with a three speaker meeting Sunday.

Beginning in late August, groups will be notified through their GSR's about registration. Pre-registration cost is \$85, \$95 on-site. Anyone interested in attending should register as soon as possible so they can move to the second step of housing. As in recent past, housing will be assigned by a drawing to be held in November with the best housing choices drawn first. For further information on travel to Canada visit the website <http://aa.org>.

The bulk of the General Service Conference dealt with the work of Committees discussing issues brought before the Delegates from AA members. After discussing these issues the committees' recommendations were discussed before the entire Conference body before coming to a final group conscience. The results of this work will be reported in a final report that will be due out in the fall. Some of the work has already been reported in the June-July issue of Box 459. This is available read online.

Being a member of the Conference Literature Committee I was humbled. The committee members were all well prepared on the agenda laid before us. It was obvious that each had gone to great lengths to share and listen to AA members in their respective Areas. I am proud to have worked with this group of grateful members.

Just as last year, I am willing to visit your group, district or Intergroup to give a full Conference report. Last years' experience allowed me to meet many members in NE Ohio. Please contact me if you wish to hear the report.

**In fellowship,
Dan M., Panel 53 Delegate**

Hello Area 54 Northeast Ohio

We have had a really great year to date thanks to you. It is so important that we represent our Home Groups and they get to be heard you are all on the frontline. Those who attended the Mini-Conference and shared in that experience of Unity really are the representatives of AA as a whole, even though attendance was down by at least 40 people we learned a lot and did our job which was to give our Delegate Dan M. an informed Group Conscience.

Once again the Committee Workshop in April was well attended and the Committees really did a great job with the displays they had set up. The information that was shared fully explained their respective committees and hopefully some of us signed on to help do this important work. The Open House was fun, food, fellowship and a great speaker

Joe H. our Area 54 Treasurer.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the upcoming DCM workshop July 18th and GSR workshop August 22nd. These events give all of us a chance to become better informed to meet and know each other. And of course the pot-lucks at all of these give us the opportunity to share our favorite dishes and we love to eat today. Once again I am reminded how much you keep teaching and showing me day by day, and how blessed to be allowed to serve Northeast Ohio Area 54.

Yours in Service
Alice R. H.
Alternate Delegate

In Passing

It is with great sadness that I inform you of the passing of John B. John was a member of the Kaiser East Group in Cleveland. John was a dear member of A.A. and a greater support of Area 54 General Service. He was active in A.A. until the end. He served on the group level as GSR. On the district level as DCM of District 29, he was instrumental in bringing the Area Gratitude Sunday to District 29. John was an original contributor of the organizing of the Cleveland Multi-District. On the Area level he served phenomenally as our Grapevine Chairperson. He sponsored men into A.A. and into General Service. He was not personally anonymous, but he would stand his ground when it came to the anonymity of Alcoholics Anonymous. It was only fitting that he would pass away on Founders' Day Weekend. What a tribute to A.A.

He will be greatly missed.

May we all pause and pray the Serenity Prayer in memory of John. And may we be there for his wife and children that he leaves behind.

I love you John but God loved you more.

It is with great sadness that I inform you of the passing of John Corley. John was an active member of Alcoholics Anonymous and loved being an active member of Area 54 General Service. John was GSR of several groups and past DCM of District 36. He was a member of many groups and was active them all including Wednesday Night Unity. John carried the message of A.A. everywhere that he went. He loved A.A. and its members with all his heart.

We all were affectionately called his "A.A. babies". John will be greatly missed by all that knew him.

It is with great sadness that I inform you of the passing of Emanuel Porter. "Porter" was a long time member of the Mustard Seed Group in Cleveland. He was known to attend our Mini-Conferences and State Conventions for years. He warmly accepted Service into his group when General Service panels were present.

Porter will be missed by all.

Announcements

Opening for an A.A.W.S. Non-Trustee Director

A.A. World Services, Inc. has begun a search to fill a vacancy for a non-trustee director with the term beginning after the 2005 General Service Conference. Interested AA members are encouraged to submit their resume to the AAWS Secretary by August 13, 2004. Basic qualifications include: seven years of continuous sobriety; a sound business or professional background in area that include finance, management, publishing, legal, or information technology; the ability to work with others; availability to attend eight regular monthly meetings of the AAWS Board, three weekend meetings and the Conference for one week in April—all in New York City. In addition, directors may be called on to attend subcommittee or other meetings to represent AAWS.

Opening for a Grapevine Non-trustee Director

The AA Grapevine Board has begun a search to fill a vacancy for a non-trustee director with the term beginning after the 2005 General Service Conference. Interested AA members are encouraged to submit their intent to the Area 54 Delegate at the contact address listed on the rear of this announcement. Some qualities that are most desirable for this position include: sound business or professional background in such areas as finance, management or communications; leadership qualities and the ability to work with others in a group conscience setting; activity in AA service; a minimum of seven years continuous sobriety in AA; availability to attend up to eight regular meetings of the Board per year, quarterly meetings of the trustees', and the Conference for one week in April—all in New York City. Additionally, directors may be called on to attend interim subcommittee meetings and occasionally to represent the Grapevine at other AA functions.

Opening for a Class A (non-alcoholic) Trustee

There will be an opening for a Class A Trustee following the 2005 General Service Conference, at which time Elaine McDowell, Ph. D., chair of the General Service Board will be rotating after 13 years of dedicated and loving service to the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. Amazing, especially when remembering that Elaine is **NOT** an alcoholic.

Class A Trustees are chosen from a variety of professional backgrounds that include doctors, lawyers, clergy, social work and education. The candidate should realize that this is not a seat on a board, but requires a commitment of time and talent to assist in the continued growth and operation of the fellowship. Anyone wishing to submit a candidate should contact the Area 54 Delegate listed on the rear of this announcement by July 15, 2004. Any late submissions will still be considered for future openings on the Board.

RECOVERY, UNITY AND SERVICE

These are the Three Legacies of our AA experience. Our leaders are but trusted servants, they do not govern. God, as He may speak in our group conscience, is our sole Authority. World Service is the heart of our Third Legacy. Our meetings are informative and educational. They are held so that the Committee Members, GSR's and all interested members may be better equipped to carry the message of World Service back to their home groups and individual members, thus giving a better understanding to our purpose, our hopes and our work.

Your Trusted Servants Committee 53

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Visit the NE Ohio Area 54 Internet Website at



<http://www.aaneoh.org>