

WALKING WITH PURPOSE

aaarea56.org

Southwest Ohio General Service Area 56

P.O. Box 684 Dayton, OH 45401

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As I am writing this, I have a little over three weeks in my service rotation as Area 56 Delegate. I am very grateful for the opportunity I have been given to serve the Area and I have learned so much in the past two years. I hope I have achieved some measure of spiritual growth as well, but I am not always in the best position to determine that.

First and foremost, on behalf of Area 56, I need to offer my amends to the groups and the GSRs of Area 56. During the rotation before this one (2014-2015), we reorganized the structure of the Area, and reduced the number of Assemblies held each year. At the time, we recognized that communication would be a crucial element in the success of the new structure, and yet, we did not do a good job these past two years in reaching out to the groups through the GSRs to keep communication going. The Area Committee has learned that we have to do a better job, or else the service structure in Area 56 as a whole suffers. So, as I say, I am offering an amend which will include a commitment to maintain better contact with the groups in the coming two years. The Area needs to rely on the groups, too. We need your GSRs and we need their input to understand what the group conscience of Area 56 truly is.

Here are some highlights and information I want to share with you. At our September 2017 Assembly, we held our elections for the panel serving for 2018-2019. Jenny C., from Middletown, has been elected our Delegate to the General Service Conference. The other officers are: Dave L., Yellow Springs, Alternate Delegate/Area Chair; Andrea H., Montezuma, Registrar/Corresponding Secretary; Bob McM., Mason, Treasurer; and Sandy H., Cincinnati, Recording Secretary. We are finishing up the process of appointing Standing Committee Chairs and you should hear more about that soon.

At the same Assembly, I reported on the litigation pursued by AA World Services, Inc. and the General Service Board to claim the original printer's copy of the manuscript of the Big Book, which is currently privately owned. The manuscript was headed for public auction and AAWS filed a restraining order to prevent that while ownership of the manuscript was established. AAWS felt that it had evidence which showed that we are the actual owners of the manuscript, based on some correspondence in the Archives, even though we have never had possession of it. The latest news is that AAWS has filed a motion to dismiss the lawsuit. The hearing for this motion will not be held until February 2018. All court filings for the lawsuit are public documents. If you want to read them for yourself, go to iapps.courts.state.ny.us/iscroll/. Enter the string of characters shown on the right side of the screen to show the site you are not a robot. The case number to enter in the box "index number search" is 652676-2017. The documents are all downloadable.

Plans and preparations are already underway for our next Area Mini-Conference. This is the annual event where we review and discuss items which will be under consideration at the annual General Service Conference in New York in April. The 2018 Mini-Conference will be held March 16-18 at the Marriott in Dayton, where it has been held the past several years. More information about this will be forthcoming; a registration flyer is included with this newsletter. Any member of AA is welcome to attend and participate; this is not restricted to GSRs. There is no cost to register. We need to hear your thoughts and ideas! Our new Delegate will need to know what the Area thinks about a variety of issues, so please show up and let her know. As always, we will have a fabulous hospitality room, as well as a guest from the General Service Office. Our East Central Regional Trustee, Mark E., formerly of Lebanon, OH, will also be in attendance.

The schedule of Assemblies for 2018 is as follows:

Mini-Conference Preparation. Saturday, February 17, 10:00-4:00. This will be when items for discussion at the Mini-Conference will be introduced. There are important agenda items already set which have followed on the Fellowship's reaction to AAWS initiating legal action without consulting the General Service Conference.

Unity Day. Saturday, May 19, 10:00-4:00. This day is when we celebrate our unity as a fellowship in Area 56. We typically include participation with both the Cincinnati and Dayton Intergroups. Service in all forms is a way to strengthen unity and to carry the message to the still-suffering alcoholic. The Delegate will give her report on the Conference at this event.

Area Inventory. Saturday September 15, 10:00-4:00. This will be an important meeting, where we will get a sense of whether the Area is getting back on track after this rotation or not. We conduct an inventory every other year and rely on our GSRs to tell us what we are doing right and what we are doing wrong.

The most important thing I hope you take away from all this is that we need you at Area 56. We need participation from the groups and we need to hear what you are thinking. Please elect your GSRs, send them to the Area Assemblies, and listen to their reports back to your group. AA as a whole depends on the informed group conscience which is generated in the groups, communicated to the Delegate at the Area and then expressed at the General Service Conference. The only way to get that group conscience is for as many people as possible to participate in the conversation.

One thing I heard at my first Conference is this: I can pretend to care, but I can't pretend to show up. For me, learning to show up for AA service -- first in my home group, then to outside service commitments -- has shaped my ability to show up for the rest of my life, whether I want to or not. I have had so many amazing (and some not-so-amazing) experiences in the nine years I have been in service at the Area level that I couldn't begin to list them all. I started as a GSR and took the time to learn what it was all about. I continue to learn as I go. Now it is time to rotate out, and I am grateful for that, too. I will continue to show up, but in a different role. And I am grateful for that, too. Thank you all for the opportunity to be of service, for saving my life, and for giving me a life worth living. See you at the Mini-Conference, if not before!

Laura G. Panel 66 Delegate Area 56 SW Ohio

2018 Calendar of Events...

- Jan 21 Area Committee Meeting (12:00-2:00)
- Feb 9-11 Conference of Delegates Past & Present/Ohio State Planning Meeting Indianapolis
- Feb 17 Area Assembly & Mini-Conference Preparation (10:00-4:00) Miamisburg
- Feb 18 Area Committee Meeting (12:00-2:00)
- March 2-4 Area 55 Mini-Conference (Toledo)
- March 9-11 Area 53 Mini-Conference (Columbus)
- March 6-18 Area 56 Mini-Conference (Dayton)
- March 23-25 Area 54 Mini-Conference (Cleveland)
- April 8 Mini-Conference Wrap-up
- April 15 Area Committee Meeting (12:00-2:00)
- April 22-28 **General Service Conference (New York)**
- May 5 Ohio State Convention Planning Meeting
- May 19 Area Assembly/Unity Day (10:00-4:00)
- May 20 Area Committee Meeting (12:00-2:00)
- June 17 Area Committee Meeting (12:00-2:00)
- July 15 Area Committee Meeting (12:00-2:00)
- July 27-29 Ohio State Convention Perrysburg
- Aug 19 Area Committee Meeting (12:00-2:00) Inventory discussion
- Aug 24-26 East Central Regional Conference Kalamazoo
- Sept 15 Area Assembly/Inventory (10:00-4:00)
- Sept 16 Area Committee Meeting (12:00-2:00)
- Oct 21 Area Committee Meeting (12:00-2:00)
- Nov 3 Ohio State Convention Planning Meeting
- Nov 18 Area Committee Meeting (12:00-2:00)
- Dec 16 Area Committee Meeting (12:00-2:00)

Statement of Purpose

Walking With Purpose is a newsletter designed to foster unity within Area 56. Excerpts from A.A. conference approved literature are reprinted with permission. Opinions are strictly those of the author and any content should not be implied as endorsements by Alcoholics Anonymous.

Area 56 Panel 66

Delegate: Jenny C. delegat@aaarea56.org (513) 289-7657	Treasurer: Bob Mc. treasurer@aaarea56.org (513) 733-5771	Recording Secretary: Sandra H. secretary@aaarea56.org (513) 374-1402
Area Chair/Alternate Del.: David L. areachair@aaarea56.org (937) 572-9139	Registrar/Corresp. Secretary: Andrea H. registrar@aaarea56.org (567) 279-4146	

Area 56 Committee Chairs

Archives/Archivist: Garwood F. archives@aaarea56.org (937) 216-9442	Finance: TBA finance@aaarea56.org (000) 000-0000	Mini-Conference: miniconference@aaarea56.org Laura G. miniconference@aaarea56.org (937) 405-5241
Group Services: Annette S. group.servies@aaarea56.org (937) 903-0937	Grapevine: Laura F. grapevine@aaarea56.org (513) 649-3560	PI/CPC: Tracy Y. pi.cpc@aaarea56.org (000) 000-0000
Communications: Charles B. communications@aaarea56.org Cell: (937) 570-6024	Hospitality: Angie J. hospitality@aaarea56.org (937) 718-0492	Treatment Facilities/Special Needs: TBA tfsn@aaarea56.org (000) 000-0000
Corrections: Mark B. corrections@aaarea56.org Cell: (513) 267-7440	Literature: Barbetta Mc. literature@aaarea56.org (513) 333-5771	Outreach: TBA

Area 56 District Committee Members (DCMs*)

***some of these will be updated later in 2018**

District 11: Brian S. D11DCM@aaarea56.org (803) 629-5481	District 19: Cindy H. D19DCM@aaarea56.org (937) 215-7565	District 23: Nacho M. D23DCM@aaarea56.org (419) 778-9684
District 12: Ron H. D12DCM@aaarea56.org (513) 291-5361	District 21: D21DCM@aaarea56.org (000) 000-0000	
District 13: Lynn I. D13DCM@aaarea56.org Cell: (513) 889-3681	District 28: TBA D28DCM@aaarea56.org (000) 000-0000	

