

# WALKING WITH PURPOSE

aaarea56.org

Southwest Ohio General Service Area 56

P.O. Box 684 Dayton, OH 45401

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## Who Is Responsible?

### Who Is Responsible?

My first AA meeting was on Tuesday, June 14, 2005. Within a week I found a sponsor who asked me, "Are you willing to go to any length for this?" I said yes, but I wasn't sure what that really meant. Will I need to pass out pamphlets to strangers? Will I cease to be me? Somehow the pain I had gone through with my alcoholism gave me the submission to follow directions even if I had no idea why. What a gift that was!

My sponsor was active in service and sponsorship and she kept me hopping. She was attending the AA International Convention in Toronto, Canada so she put me in touch with another woman to help me while she was gone. However, before she left she told me the theme of the convention: "I Am Responsible." She did not leave me on my own because she felt responsible. Her other sponsee kept in touch with me because she felt responsible. I was never left to face this alone. The words, "I Am Responsible" have stayed with me to this day.

It is no longer my nature to be passive in my life in or out of the rooms. Without being "the AA police" I believe we should all be guardians of our steps, traditions and concepts. I've had some amazing experiences both as a home group member and as DCM for my district. I was encouraged to write about and submit some of this to the AA Grapevine but every time I began to write I saw myself pointing my finger at others and I didn't like that feeling. I now wish to humbly convey a couple experiences I've had through the years.

A few weeks ago we were studying Step 9 from the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. One member said people should "wait at least a year before making amends." Another member ex-

plained that people who make amends too early get drunk. I passionately shared that the steps are meant to be taken in order, hopefully with the help of a sponsor and that it states nowhere that we should wait. It does say that fear conspires with pride! I'm so glad no one told me to wait when I was working the steps. I love both of these members; they are my friends but I had to say something because there was a man there who was working on Step 9. I felt responsible to add what I was taught.

I became DCM for my district in 2015. I visited a group to see what was happening to cause complaints that members shared with me about it. This was in a small town where all the groups were operated by the same few members. This new group was started by a relative new member and at some point personalities came before principles. The court system was informed, personally, that this new group was not a real AA group so the court refused to accept court slips signed there. One of our district members called the probation department to verify their stance and to find out what could be done to reverse this decision. I wrote a letter to the court to let them know that this is a group I attended finding nothing that would disqualify it as an AA group. I let them know our district recognizes it and that no group has the power to delegitimize another. There were members who came only minutes away from being in contempt of court because their slips were signed by that group. The letter came just in time.

I never confronted the members about the Tradition 4 violation who were responsible for the chaos. I like them and I believe that they had AA's best interest in mind

but they must not have had a working knowledge of the Traditions. We can do such damage when we think we're doing the right thing without consulting what AA's experience reveals. Another example is from an email that was sent to me from an employer who wanted me to verify names on a slip an employee gave her as proof that he'd been attending meetings. I wrote her back gently explaining I can't confirm membership names.

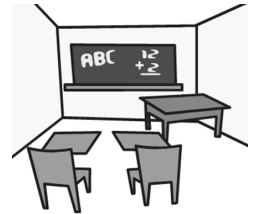
Last year we put on a workshop dealing with "Cooperation, Not Affiliation with the Courts" and "Where Money and Spirituality Mix." The district voted unanimously to do this. It took weeks to prepare for this. We ordered literature. I made BBQ, coleslaw and mountains of cookies. We made fun flyers and announced it everywhere. Then the bomb hit. Contempt prior to investigation was mixed with the 13th step, accusations and friendships shattered. Those who did make it to the workshop enjoyed it. We had guests, including our Delegate and PI/CPC Chair who were outstanding. Our district became bruised, battered and divided. My home group was said to be "all about money."

I know that as long as we hold steady with our singleness of purpose and continue studying our steps and traditions we will be fine. We intend to continue to be there for any alcoholic who wants to hear the message. Everything I have been through has taught me something of great and lasting value. I'm so grateful to Area 56 for giving me a place to go where people love service and love each other. I'm grateful for my friend who continues to keep the monthly 12 Concepts for World Services meeting open so I can understand the

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## 2017 Calendar of Events...

- April 23-29** General Service Conference
- April 30** Area Committee Meeting (12:00) Miamisburg
- May 6** Ohio State Planning Meeting
- May 20** Area Assembly/Unity Day (10:00)\*
- July 16** Area Committee Meeting (12:00)
- July 21-23** East Central Regional Conference
- July 28-30** Ohio State Convention (w/ Ohio State Planning meeting)
- Aug 19** Area Committee Meeting (12:00)
- Sept 16** Area Assembly (10:00)\*
- Sept 17** Area Committee Meeting (12:00)
- Oct 15** Area Committee Meeting (12:00)
- Nov 4** Ohio State Planning Meeting
- Nov 17-19** East Central Regional Forum



### 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.

\* GSR School & Literature Forum begin at 9:00 am !!!!

**I am responsible.  
When anyone, anywhere,  
Reaches out for help, I want  
The hand of AA always to be there.**

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service structure better. I'm so glad to know that I am not authorized by any means to dole out punishment to any member (Concept XII, Warranty 5) because I have moments where that might be tempting! I'm also so grateful to my husband who tells me that "God has all of this."

I've recently been blessed with a dilemma. A few new women have come into the program and asked me if I could help them with recovery. I didn't know how to juggle my time but I didn't want to turn my back so I was able to procure a

room at a church to work the steps with them. We use the Big Book and the 12x12. This is not a "women's meeting." We are working the steps together and it's a highlight in my life right now. My hope is to also have solid women members who know what AA is and what it is not. Chapter 7, page 89 in the Big Book says, "Practical experience shows that nothing will so much ensure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics. It works when other activities fail." This is AA at the most basic level and I believe God sent them at the same time for a reason.

When it seems easiest to stay neutral I will always have to ask myself, "Who is Responsible?" I pray I continue to say, "I am."  
*I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that I am responsible.*

© Andrea H., Communications



Alt Delegate & Area Chair: Ismenie N. opened meeting with Serenity Prayer.

**Readings:**

The preamble, declaration of unity, why do we need a conference and the 12 concepts were read. Thanks to Michael, Chuck, Sam, and Pat.

JorJann C. {Group services} Explained the service structure and outlined the upside triangle and how the groups and the G.S.R is our most important link.

**Past Delegate & Trustee Introduction:**

Dorothy M. East central region trustee from 2000 – 2005, Delegates: Alicia R. panel 60, Suzanne W. panel 58, Mark E. panel 60, Garwood F. panel 64 and Mary Y. panel 62.

New G.S.R Introductions: Welcoming the following....

Jeff (20 mile stand) Carl (welcome back step group) Kenny (reach out and touch someone) Ashley (Vandalia Fri night) Beth (hot stove group) Amber (Juggs.. Just us gals getting sober) Deb (all shades of bleak) Bill (Huber Heights Serenity) Michael (southern young people) Pat (St. Marks) Jim (Sydney Fri night) George (Sunday Big book) Mark (Wed Lebanon) Played A.A game "More will be revealed" and discussed the results... Thanks to everyone who helped make packets and pass out tickets.

**Old Business:**

Discussed the survey results asking how often assembly should meet and also briefly discussed the group inventory breakout session results.

**New Business:**

Ismenie: Steve B. chair of special needs committee has resigned. Asked for volunteers to stand for position. George "G.G" was unanimously accepted by acclamation. Thank you for your service!

**Proposed Motions:**

Purple sheet: Proposed motion that General Assembly meet 4 times a year rather than 3 times a year.

Pending approval of the general assembly, the assembly will meet quarterly rather than 3 times a year's previous. Motion was made by past delegate Garwood F seconded by Ron H and passed unanimously by the committee.

Background: During the last area 56 assembly Sept 24, 2016. A survey was passed out to attendees asking them to express what number of meetings they felt were a good number for our assembly to meet a year. The overwhelming majority expressed they would like to meet 4 times a year. Only 3 people expressed interest in meeting three times a year. Had much discussion and debate. Suzanne W. explained who gets a vote. Number of applicable voters were tabulated. Mark E explained substantial unanimity. Vote was taken motion fails. Minority opinion was heard. No one expressed interest in changing their vote after opinion was heard. Schedule will remain the same. Assembly will continue meet three times a year.

Next Assembly will be May 20th 2017 at church in Miamisburg.

Blue Sheet: Proposed motion to have the Alt: Delegate chair the Area Committee meeting.

Background: Alicia explained that the frequency of these meetings had changed over the years and that our Area delegate had always chaired those meetings until we changed to the new schedule. Then there was a discrepancy as to who was to chair meeting. So, clarification needed to be made as to who was to chair.

Pending approval of the Assembly the Area Alt Delegate/chair

will chair the committee meetings as well as general assemblies. With input from the Area delegate other officers, D.C. M's and chairs. Motion was submitted by Garwood F. and seconded by Jorjann C. it carried unanimously at the November 20th, 2016 meeting. Bullet points will be changed in the Area 56 service book under responsibilities. Vote was taken and passed by majority. No minority opinion was expressed.

A.A Birthdays: Mark E. 36yrs, Pat D. 30yrs, Ann H. 33yrs, Diana 23 yrs., Pat R. 46yrs, Elaine 13yrs, Kathy N. 13yrs, Suzanne W. 25 yrs., Kenny S. 11yrs, Alicia 25 yrs. Laura F 12 yrs., Gene L 36yrs, Amber 2yrs, Ashley 6yrs, Angie 15yrs. Congratulations guys!

For Area 56 announcements please visit website for current information and our newsletter walking with Purpose.

Ismenie: Explained the importance of the mini conference and what its purpose was. Gave a Conference committee report. Explained that they are held by teleconference and gave phone number and code for calling in. Said the first walk through of the hotel was done a week ago. She had met with their coordinator and that everyone should be very pleased with the accommodations. Also, that a certain number of meals and rooms need to be purchased to fulfill our contract agreement with the hotel. There will be two speakers from New York.

**Area Officer Reports:**

Secretary Laura F.

The last minutes were sent out electronically for review. They are not official until they are approved by assembly. They were also put into the newsletter. Reviewed minutes from the last Area meeting. No questions were asked. Motion was made to accept minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer Dave L.

All financial reports were sent electronically. Reports range from September through January. Those reports for 2016 were approved by the committee. Still need assembly approval. At the end of December, we had 14,256.56. Our group contributions were up in January 2017 over Jan of 2016. Our current balance of last night was 16,321.56. All reports were approved unanimously.

Registrar Jenny C.

Attendance today was 63 with 12 new G.S.R'S. We currently have 924 groups, 467 that are active, 393 inactive and 104 listed as other. Please register early for Mini Conference and remember the conference is free. Also, please keep the theme of our conference "Supporting our future". In your minds. Finally, please communicate with us. Please update me and Laura with your information so you can receive all e mails and mailings. Report was approved unanimously.

Area Delegate Laura G.

Agenda items presented to the assembly. Laura will be sitting on and chairing the literature committee this year in New York. Those items were emailed in a report from our delegate to everyone in our email list. Also individuals who came to assembly were also presented with copies of those items. She also explained that she takes your view with her to New York and does strongly consider your opinions when voting during the conference.

Report.....

Thanked everyone for participating today. The two items submitted by our area for the General Service Conference was not forwarded from trustee conference on the general service com-

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mittee to a conference committee and we received notification as to why. The first item we sent was, Any changes except for editorial changes to factual statistical, capitalization and spelling made to the A.A. service manual be approved by the general service conference. The trustee committee took no action on this item because that is already policy. The second item on agenda was that the service manual published electronically in all years including those in which it is not printed physically. The committee felt it was too soon to consider this item.

Reviewed safety in A.A material that was posted to A.A. website. File name SMF-209\_Eng.pdf. This is information that should be shared with your home groups.

Laura also shared about her experience in New York last year and explained how she will chairing the literature committee this year in New York. She explained the process and significance of this.

Conference of delegates past and present East central region was attended a few weeks ago which include Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois Wisconsin. We had a mock conference for the delegates. It was great practice and preparation for chairing this year's literature committee in New York.

Finally, the theme for the International convention in Detroit 2020 will be love and tolerance is our code.

#### Area Alternate Delegate and Chair Ismenie

Have attended 33 different group meetings spreading the word about mini conference and explaining the importance of attending Area meetings. Attended both Cincinnati and Dayton intergroup meetings. As well as the Dayton, intergroup breakfast and Cincinnati intergroup banquet. Also spoke with over 100 individual A.A. members about the importance of service and service opportunities.

#### D.C.M Reports

##### District 23 Karen:

New D.C.M for district 23. We have unfortunately lost a lot of representatives for our groups at District. Many of our newcomers do not know what Home groups are. So, at our last district meeting we discussed the importance of informing the newcomers about home groups and what is expected. Also to remind the Old timers how important a Home group is as well. Had a member show up at district with questions regarding Tradition 7 so we did our best to help her and guide her. All in all, District 23 is doing well.

##### District 28 Bob M:

The calendar has been published for the year. Our corrections committee is doing very well servicing Warren and Clermont counties. We have been receiving tremendous support from our G.S. R'S many of them here today. In April, we will be having our meeting at the Eastside center along with the Traditions play. Elections will be held in October so if G.S. R'S are interested in being our D.C.M please show up and get your name out there.

##### District 12/13 Diana:

Current D.C.M for district 12 we don't currently have one for 13. We recently had new officers elected in December. So, we are

all working on getting ourselves up to date.

##### District 21 Garwood F:

District 21 is well lit with approximately 75% of their groups active at districts. We have an active PI & Corrections committee. We have been distributing the "If you want to drink; that's your business, if you want to quit that's ours." Cards and they have been well received by the courts, jails and county prosecutor's office. Also, working to get radio time on local low powered stations within the cities of Piqua and Sidney. Meetings are still being brought into the Shelby county jail. Still working on getting them into the Miami county jail. District even will be May 13th at Fountain park in Piqua. The event will be a picnic with a New York conference report from our delegate Laura G plus more activities in the spirit of fun, food and fellowship.

##### District 19 Gene:

Gene spoke in absence of current D.C.M. Our district is alive and well. We have our meetings the third Monday of each month at the Anglican Evangelical Church in Xenia at 5:30pm.

##### District 11 Laura:

Unfortunately, our D.C.M Brian could not make it today. Just a quick reminder that District 11 meets the second Wednesday of every month at the Riverview Church in Middletown at 5:30pm. They are currently looking for volunteers to help with their group services.

##### Chuck B Dayton:

Intergroup continues to fire on all cylinders. We have an active small change for big change program giving literature to correctional facilities. Closing balance was 14,191.05. Big change for small change was 2,320.86 The bank C.D for Intergroup was 5,447.26. For the year 2016 literature sales were down 2.6% contributions were up 1.6%. Central office hours are 9-4 Monday through Friday, 9-Noon on Saturday. New meeting directories are out they are .35 cents. Unity newsletter is doing fine. Please send all contributions by the 15th of the month through the link at [aadaytononline.org](http://aadaytononline.org) or directly to [daytonunity@gmail.com](mailto:daytonunity@gmail.com). Unity currently has 46 paid subscriptions. Total distribution is 365 copies. Current Unity balance is 1,835.54. Bobby M. from Cleveland will be the speaker for the May 6,2017 Intergroup banquet at Sinclair College downtown Dayton. Intergroup corrections chair is open. We always meet the Second Tuesday of the month at the Liberty tower location 8pm in suite 614 good luck finding parking.

##### Jane M. Cincinnati:

Sandy presented report in Jane's absence. December, they held elections. New officers were elected. Vice chair Agnes, Treasurer Shaun, Secretary Kevin and Chair Ben. Treasurers report: They accounted for the 167,000 that was distributed to other causes that inherited money. A net revenue of 13,376.00 year to date that money is committed. Central office report: The move to the new location is complete. 2300 Florence Avenue is the new address which is the front door. The mailing address is Gilbert Ave. New Where & when should be coming out the first of March. There will be a slight price increase from 0.50 cents to 0.75 cents. Please make sure information on the website is correct because that is where they get the information for the Where & When. Please also inform Intergroup if you show for a meeting and the meeting is no longer there. Still need volunteers if interested please call John at Central Office. John also is willing to help groups make flyers. Also, still need Night Owl

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volunteers. Operating committee: discussed closing the old location. Embezzlement update: They have started receiving checks in the amount of 567.00 a month for repayment of funds stolen. Budget committee will be going on a quarterly basis they are currently projecting a 5,000.00 loss. Faithful fivers has dropped almost in half. That is a program where you pledge and donate 5.00 a month and get your name printed in footsteps. If 100 people would sign up for the fivers program it would completely cover their deficit. Group contributions are leveling. The by-laws are going through a second draft. Still looking for someone to take PICPC. Treatment and corrections headed by Angela need volunteers so if interested please call Intergroup. Always looking for writers for footsteps. Also will be looking for replacement for editor for Footsteps current editor will be stepping down soon.

Area Chair Reports:

Ron H. (finance)

Please chairs review your budget before you spend money. Other than that, we are doing great. In fact, so far, we are under budget.

Andrea H. (Communications)

Working on improving the website.

Brian H. (Corrections)

All positions on our committee have been filled. Other than a literature rep. We will be scheduling the rest of our meets for the year at our meeting at the Mini Conference. We will be having a workshop November 4 at East side center. Reviewed the correspondence procedures for writing an inmate. First annual national corrections workshop will be in St. Louis this year.

Sandy H. (Grapevine)

Quote of the day is available by email for free. It's a great way to come up with topics for meetings. Explained what the grapevine is. The grapevine is pour meeting in print. It's a monthly magazine available for subscription. You can try the grapevine for free for one week online. The great thing about an

online subscription is that you can read material going back to the 1940's. There are many material available including books, calendars and other things. Please groups get grapevine reps for groups. G.V. R'S are people who help answer questions about the Grapevine for groups. Grapevine is always looking for material so please write and send your stories and jokes to Grapevine.

Garwood F. (Archives)

Received collection of our archive material am hoping to have a display at Mini conference. In reviewing the material has noticed that we don't have much recent material in collection. So, I am working with past delegates and service reps to get that material recorded. Also, am trying to get a record of proposed agenda items presented by our area. The collection is available for viewing by appointment.

Jorjann C. & Polly S. (Group services)

We attended the area committee meeting January 15. Attended the district 28 meeting in January. Ordered 100 G.S.R hand-books. Ordered bulk service pamphlets via Dayton intergroup. Today we had 13 people in attendance at G.S.R school.

Ruby A. (Literature)

A.A has some amazing things available you can read for free online.

Bob M. (PI/CPC)

This year we were inspired by a story in Box 459 and we would like to hold open meetings at medical classes at colleges to help educate the medical professionals on A.A. Also, if your district doesn't have a PI/CPC person please get one. It will help your district in getting people involved so much.

Angie (hospitality)

Can always use assistance. If you are interested in helping serve please let me know. Thanks to everyone for bringing items.

Young People in A.A Southern Ohio: Brian

Bidding currently for the O.Y.P.A.A conference. Have a large number of people involved in Dayton and Cincinnati areas. Just held a Valentine's Day dance in February at St. Georges was successful. Will be having a fish fry at Alco aides. The O.Y.P.A.A conference this year will be held in Akron.



Dear Friends of Bill,

I just wanted to personally thank you all for a fantastic weekend. I was so moved by the passion and love we all have for this amazing program. The discussions were so great and the presentations were so warm and informative. I am beyond blessed to be a part of such a wonderful group of people. I am honored to serve you all as secretary. Thank you for giving me this opportunity. You have all helped me to grow and mature in ways I never thought were possible for me and have allowed me to find strengths and talents in myself I did not know were there.

Our committee chairs work so very hard for us all and I just want to remind you all that they each need support to make their committees effective. There are so many awesome ways to get involved in service. So please remind your homegroups and sponsees that the need is always there and they do not

have to be a G.S.R. to attend our Area assemblies, sit on committees, chair committees or serve on our panel of officers. Any member of our fellowship is more than welcomed to stand up and get involved!

There is much work to do and I personally feel more hopeful and inspired for our future than I have in a long time. If there are any questions you may have about opportunities or structure please feel free to reach out to me anytime. I may not know the answer but I will do my best to find someone who does! We may not have it all together but together we have it all! I look forward to seeing you all on Unity Day May the 20th at the Church. I will have a schedule of remaining meetings and hopefully a Unity Day flyer attached in the minutes which I will have to all soon.

Warm regards,

Laura F

COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE  CPC A. **Consider retiring the pamphlet "Three Talks to Medical Societies by Bill W."** Recommendation to retire the pamphlet "Three Talks to Medical Societies by Bill W." VOTE COUNT (if any): 6 For 1 Against        Abstain MINI-CONF VOTE (if any) : 47 For 2 Against        Abstain MOTION CARRIES.  Additional recommendation . **Recommendation that GSO Archives department develop and distribute a list of all retired literature.** VOTE COUNT (if any): 7 For 0 Against        Abstain MINI-CONF VOTE (if any) : 50 For 2 Against        Abstain MOTION CARRIES.  CPC B. **Consider adding a footnote to the pamphlet "Problems Other Than Alcohol."** Recommendation to add a footnote to the pamphlet "Problems Other Than Alcohol." VOTE COUNT (if any): 7 For 0 Against        Abstain MINI-CONF VOTE (if any) : 52 For 0 Against        Abstain MOTION CARRIES.  CPC C. **Consider development of a LinkedIn page for CPC Committees. Recommendation to develop a LinkedIn page for CPC Committees.** This was a result of a recommendation after hearing minority opinion. 3 3 1 (first vote) VOTE COUNT (if any): 7 For 0 Against        Abstain MINI-CONF VOTE (if any) : 37 For 4 Against        Abstain MOTION CARRIES.  CPC D. **Consider request that the title of the pamphlet "Is There an Alcoholic in the Workplace?" be changed to "Is There a Problem Drinker in the Workplace?"** Recommendation to change the title of the pamphlet "Is There an Alcoholic in the Workplace?" to "Is There a Problem Drinker in the Workplace?" VOTE COUNT (if any): 6 For 1 Against        Abstain MINI-CONF VOTE (if any) : 47 For 6 Against        Abstain MOTION CARRIES. FINANCE / POLICY & ADMISSIONS / CORRECTIONS  Finance D. **Consider request to add text to the pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix" indicating there is no dollar limit to the amount of money a group may contribute.** Recommendation to add text to the pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix" indicating there is no dollar limit to the amount of money a group may contribute. VOTE COUNT (if any): 12 For 0 Against        Abstain MINI-CONF VOTE (if any) : 45 For 0 Against        Abstain MOTION CARRIES.  Policy & Admissions D. **Consider request that an anonymity-protected digital Final Conference Report be published, starting with the 67th General Service Conference.** Recommendation that an anonymity-protected digital Final Conference Report be pub-

lished, starting with the 67th General Service Conference. VOTE COUNT (if any): 13 For 0 Against        Abstain MINI-CONF VOTE (if any) : 50 For 0 Against        Abstain MOTION CARRIES.  Policy & Admissions J. **Consider a request to add a "YPAA Subcommittee" to the service structure.** Recommendation that the Trustees review and consider other ways of integrating YPAA at the Area level. VOTE COUNT (if any): 11 For 0 Against        Abstain MINI-CONF VOTE (if any) : 16 For 36 Against        Abstain MOTION FAILS.  Corrections A. **Discuss the Corrections Correspondence Service (CCS) in the US and Canada.** Recommendation that the background material submitted to this Committee be used in making service material, in particular the flyer "Before You Sit Down and Write." VOTE COUNT (if any): 10 For 0 Against 1 Abstain Committee withdrew the motion.  Corrections D. **Review Corrections Kit and Workbook.** Recommendation that the flyer "Before You Sit Down and Write" be added to the Corrections Kit. VOTE COUNT (if any): 11 For 0 Against        Abstain MINI-CONF VOTE (if any) : 49 For 0 Against        Abstain MOTION CARRIES. **Recommendation that "A New Freedom" DVD be added to the Corrections Kit.** VOTE COUNT (if any): 10 For 0 Against 1 Abstain MINI-CONF VOTE (if any) : 49 For 0 Against        Abstain Vote to reconsider Final vote after reconsideration 48 For 4 Against MOTION CARRIES. **Recommendation that the flyer F73 become a jail and prison distributional piece.** VOTE COUNT (if any): 11 For 0 Against        Abstain Committee withdrew the motion. GRAPEVINE COMMITTEE  Grapevine A. **Discuss the spiritual value of Grapevine and La Viña in carrying the message of Alcoholics Anonymous.** Discussed – no action taken.  Grapevine B. **Reconsider the 2010 Advisory Action regarding La Viña.** We support the 2010 Advisory Action and recommend that content and substance be of primary importance, at the discretion of the La Viña editorial board VOTE COUNT (if any): 8 For 1 Against        Abstain MINI-CONF VOTE (if any) : 43 For 1 Against        Abstain MOTION CARRIES.  Grapevine C. **Reconsider the 2004 Conference Advisory Action on outside sales.** Recommendation that Grapevine/La Viña explore outside sales and report back at the next Conference. VOTE

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COUNT (if any): 8 For 0 Against 1 Abstain MINI-CONF VOTE (if any) : 47 For 1 Against Abstain MOTION CARRIES. ☐ Grapevine E. **Discuss AA Grapevine, Inc.'s continued exploration of a Facebook page.** Recommendation that Grapevine develop a Facebook page. VOTE COUNT (if any): 7 For 1 Against Abstain MINI-CONF VOTE (if any) : 18 For 27 Against Abstain Vote to reconsider fails. MOTION FAILS. **Recommendation that Grapevine develop other uses of electronic media.** VOTE COUNT (if any): 7 For 1 Against Abstain MINI-CONF VOTE (if any) : 26 For 9 Against Abstain MOTION CARRIES.

LITERATURE COMMITTEE ☐ Literature A. **Consider request for revisions to the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship."** Recommendation to revise the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" with revisions to be decided at a later date. VOTE COUNT (if any): 8 For 1 Against Abstain MINI-CONF VOTE (if any) : 25 For 1 Against Abstain MOTION CARRIES. ☐ Literature B. **Consider request to retire the pamphlet "Too Young."** Recommendation to revise the pamphlet "Too Young." VOTE COUNT (if any): 7 For 2 Against Abstain MINI-CONF VOTE (if any) : 35 For 3 Against Abstain MOTION CARRIES. ☐ Literature D. 1. **Pamphlet "Young People and A.A." - Review progress report on the update of the pamphlet.** Reviewed – no action taken. ☐ Literature D. 2. **Pamphlet "Young People and A.A." - Review draft language about young people's conferences, for inclusion in the pamphlet.** Recommendation to add the paragraph suggested to the pamphlet "Young People and A.A." VOTE COUNT (if any): 9 For 0 Against Abstain MINI-CONF VOTE (if any) : 21 For 2 Against Abstain MOTION CARRIES. ☐ Literature G. **Review progress report on the development of literature for alcoholics with mental health issues and those who sponsor them.** Additional considerations. The committee would like to treat the pamphlet in the same way as "The AA Member – Mediation and Other Drugs" – 1) no introduction from medical professional; 2) reviewed by a panel of medical professionals; and 3) include a section with a note to medical professionals. This was a discussion with no vote taken.

☐ Literature J. **Consider requests for literature and/or language regarding safety.** Recommendation that language regarding safety be added or changed as necessary in existing AA literature.

VOTE COUNT (if any): 7 For 2 Against Abstain MINI-CONF VOTE (if any) : 36 For 3 Against Abstain MOTION CARRIES. PUBLIC INFORMATION / TREATMENT AND ACCESSIBILITIES COMMITTEE ☐ Public Information E. **Review report from the trustees' Public Information Committee on the Implementation of a Google for Nonprofits account.** Reviewed – no action taken. ☐ Public Information F. **Review report from the trustees' Public Information Committee on the Implementation of a Twitter account.** Recommendation to continue review process to assure that all points of the minority report be further addressed. VOTE COUNT (if any): 8 For 0 Against Abstain MINI-CONF VOTE (if any) : 18 For 2 Against Abstain Vote to reconsider Final vote after reconsideration 6 For 19 Against MOTION FAILS. ☐ Public Information H. **Review revised text for inclusion in the pamphlet "Speaking at Non-AA Meetings."** Recommendation to accept revised text for inclusion in the pamphlet "Speaking at Non-AA Meetings." VOTE COUNT (if any): 8 For 4 Against 1 Abstain MINI-CONF VOTE (if any) : 16 For 5 Against Abstain MOTION CARRIES.

☐ Treatment and Accessibilities B. **Discuss the accessibility of the AA message for Armed Service veterans.** Recommendation to expedite the establishment of an armed services staff position at GSO. VOTE COUNT (if any): 7 For 1 Against Abstain MINI-CONF VOTE (if any) : 13 For 13 Against Abstain MOTION FAILS. REPORT AND CHARTER / AGENDA / ARCHIVES COMMITTEE ☐ Report and Charter B. 3. **The AA Service Manual/ Twelve Concepts for World Service, 2018-2020 – Review request to add the bylaws of AA World Services, Inc. and AA Grapevine, Inc. as appendices.** Recommendation to add the bylaws of AA World Services, Inc. and AA Grapevine, Inc. as appendices. VOTE COUNT (if any): 8 For 1 Against 1 Abstain MINI-CONF VOTE (if any) : 20 For 2 Against Abstain MOTION CARRIES. ☐ Report and Charter C. **Consider request that changes made to The AA Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service be made available to the Fellowship in years that a revised edition is not published.** Recommendation that the list of the changes made to The AA Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service be made available to the Fellowship in years that a revised edition is not published. VOTE COUNT (if any): 6 For 2 Against 2 Abstain MINI-CONF VOTE (if

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### Area 56 Group Services Committee Report...

High lights from --Southwest Ohio General Service "Supporting Our Future" Mini-Conference 2017

We did it; Mini-Conference 2017 is in the history books!

There were 96 officially registered with numerous new members at their first Mini-Conference. Seven Area 56 past Delegates and current Delegates and Alternate Delegates from Areas 53, 54, 55 were in attendance.

Inspiring speakers Friday and Saturday nights from General Service Office, and our East Central Region Trustee, and a Trustee-at-Large U.S., inspired all of us as they shared their personal stories as well as their decades of A.A. service experience, strength and hope with the Mini-Conference attendees.

Many consider the Mini-Conference to be one of the single most important Area activity each year, with the agenda items to shape the Group Conscience for the Delegate to take to the General Service Conference in April 2017.

Saturday morning breakout sessions engaged us in robust conversations during committee voting on the various Mini-Conference agenda items. Following the breakout sessions we gathered as a Full Assembly and floor votes were taken on the Conference agenda items. Yes, there was spirited debate with considerations to revote as well as the minority opinion being given proper procedural voice.

Area 56 Corrections Committee meeting was held Saturday afternoon, between the breakout sessions and Full Floor Assembly.

I personally want to thank all of The Mini-Conference committee members and Area 56 Officers and Committee Chairs, guest speakers, Areas 53,54,55 Delegates and Alternates and all members who helped to make Mini-Conference 2107 a great success! There are currently 861 groups in Ohio's Area 56 with 468 listed as active and 393 inactive, we welcome all members of Area 56 to join us at all Area Assembly meetings.

The next Area 56 Assembly

**UNITY DAY**

**MAY 20, 2017**

All members of Area 56 are invited to attend!

AT St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church at

470 South Gebhart Church Road, Miamisburg, OH 45342

With GSR SCHOOL AND LITERATURE FORUM at 9:00am

Full Assembly at 10:00

See [aaarea56.org](http://aaarea56.org) events for more information

Submitted In humble service,

Jorjann C

Group Services Committee co-chair

### Area 56 Grapevine Committee Report...

What is the Grapevine you ask?

1. It is your meeting in print.
2. It is a place that you can share your experience, strength and hope by submitting your stories, photos, and more.
3. It is place that you can learn about upcoming events or share an event
4. It is available both in print and as a subscription APP.
5. The APP is now available for Android, iPhone and iPad.

6. Visit [aagrapevine.org](http://aagrapevine.org) and
  - Try a 7 day free trial
  - Take an I-Poll
  - Try out the sobriety calculator
  - Sign up for the Grapevine Quote of the day
  - And if you are looking for a service opportunity – sign up to be a Grapevine Representative

Sandra H.

### Area 56 Literature Committee Report...

Happy Spring from the Literature Committee!

We had a display at the Area 56 Mini-Conference March 17-19. I also facilitated the literature committee breakout session where we discussed and voted on agenda items to be brought to the assembly.

One of the agenda item topics concerned Safety in AA.

AA World Services (A.A.W.S.) has just published service material which addresses this very issue entitled Safety in A.A.: Our Common Welfare. This 3-page piece is downloadable as SMF-209 from website AA.org.

You are cordially invited to the Literature Forum 9AM on May 20, Area 56 Unity Day; we will be discussing the Safety in AA service material. Hope to see you there!

Ruby A.



**Area 56 Panel 66**

<b>Delegate:</b> Laura G. delegate@aaarea56.org (937) 405-5241	<b>Treasurer:</b> David L. treasurer@aaarea56.org Cell: (937) 572-9139	<b>Recording Secretary:</b> Laura F. secretary@aaarea56.org (513) 649-3560
<b>Area Chair/Alternate Del.:</b> areachair@aaarea56.org (000) 000-0000	<b>Registrar/Corresp. Secretary:</b> Jenny C. registrar@aaarea56.org (513) 289-7657	

**Area 56 Committee Members**

<b>Archives/Archivist:</b> Garwood F. archives@aaarea56.org (937) 216-9442	<b>Finance:</b> Ron H. finance@aaarea56.org (513) 291-5361	<b>Mini-Conference:</b> miniconference@aaarea56.org
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<b>Corrections:</b> Brian H. corrections@aaarea56.org Cell: (937) 781-6770	<b>Literature:</b> Ruby A. literature@aaarea56.org (937) 260-1708	<b>Treatment Facilities/Special Needs:</b> George T. tfsn@aaarea56.org (937) 313-1520

**Area 56 District Committee Members (DCM's)**

<b>District 11:</b> Brian S. D11DCM@aaarea56.org (803) 629-5481	<b>District 19:</b> Cindy H. D19DCM@aaarea56.org (937) 215-7565	<b>District 23:</b> D23DCM@aaarea56.org
<b>District 12:</b> Ron H. D12DCM@aaarea56.org (513) 291-5361	<b>District 21:</b> Garwood F. D21DCM@aaarea56.org (937) 216-9442	
<b>District 13:</b> Lynn I. D13DCM@aaarea56.org Cell: (513) 889-3681	<b>District 28:</b> Bob M. D28DCM@aaarea56.org (513) 773-5771	



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any) : \_\_\_\_21\_\_\_\_ For \_\_\_\_1\_\_\_\_ Against \_\_\_\_ Ab-  
stain MOTION CARRIES. ☑ Agenda G. **Consider request to add  
text to the committee's Composition, Scope and Procedure  
regarding the option to meet by conference call prior to the  
Annual Meetings of the General Service Conference.** No recom-  
mendation – no action taken.

☑ Archives A. **Consider proposal for a new publication, Unity in  
Action: Bill W.'s General Service Conference Talks, 1951-1970  
(working title).** Recommendation to publish Unity in Action: Bill  
W.'s General Service Conference Talks, 1951-1970 (working ti-

**Greetings from District 28!**

We have scheduled to have our next District 28 Committee  
Meeting at the East Side Center, April 15th. Along with the  
committee meeting, we will have a panel discussion on “The  
Home Group”, then the 112 Players will provide entertain-  
ment with the Traditions Play! The 112 Players are from the  
112 Big Book Study Group in Landen and have been rehears-  
ing every week We look forward to their debut! Everything  
kicks off at 2 PM!

The area mini-conference is scheduled for the weekend of  
March 18-19, and the DCM urged all GSR's to attend. Briefly  
the DCM reviewed the agenda for the two days with the Dis-  
trict members. The group discussed the possibility of each  
group paying for their GSR's expenses (Service Manual pg  
S26). It was moved, seconded that the local groups be encour-  
aged to pay conference expenses for their respective

tle). Additional consideration: To be published in print and elec-  
tronically. VOTE COUNT (if any): \_\_\_\_7\_\_\_\_ For  
\_\_\_\_3\_\_\_\_ Against \_\_\_\_ Abstain MINI-CONF VOTE (if  
any) : \_\_\_\_25\_\_\_\_ For \_\_\_\_3\_\_\_\_ Against \_\_\_\_ Ab-  
stain MOTION CARRIES. **FLOOR ACTIONS Recommendation that  
AAWS not implement a Twitter account.** MINI-CONF VOTE (if  
any): \_\_\_\_25\_\_\_\_ For \_\_\_\_2\_\_\_\_ Against \_\_\_\_ Abstain  
MOTION CARRIES. **That AAWS publish “A New Freedom” video  
on a thumb drive in addition to the DVD.** MINI-CONF VOTE (if  
any): \_\_\_\_1\_\_\_\_ For \_\_\_\_20\_\_\_\_ Against \_\_\_\_ Abstain  
MOTION FAILS.

GSRs. Motion passed unanimously. GSR's should take this  
recommendation from district to their group, along with urg-  
ing those who are interested to attend the conference.

PI/PC: Jack H. reported that the committee needs help  
from groups to update the calendar and schedule of meet-  
ings. Note that 12 step calls are being worked through groups  
by Zip Code.

GSR reports: Noted that Saturday 112 Big Book Group will  
have its 1 year anniversary to be held tentatively on February  
28. Flyers for the Tremendous Fact Noon Group were distrib-  
uted. As well as flyers for the Mini-Conference.

In Love and Service

Bob Mc

DCM District 28 Area 56 SW Ohio