

# The Northeast Ohio Recorder

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<http://www.area54.org>

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"A vast communications net now covers the earth, even to its remotest reaches ... Nothing can matter more to the future welfare of AA than the manner in which we use this colossus of communication. Used unselfishly and well, the results can surpass our present imagination. Should we handle this great instrument badly, we shall be shattered by the ego demands of our own people -- often with the best of intention on their part."

AA Co-Founder, Bill W., November 1960. From: "Freedom Under God: The Choice Is Ours". *The Language of the Heart*. Reprinted with permission.

## A Word From Our Delegate

**As** this will be my last article serving as your Panel 63

Delegate, I want to thank all of you for your wonderful service, support and love. It has truly been my honor and pleasure to serve as a trusted servant over the past eight years. I am so forever grateful to be a part of the most loving and committed group on earth - you, the service members of Area 54 Northeast Ohio General Service.

It has been said that rotation is the heartbeat of A.A. because A.A. is made from love, and where love is you can always feel the heart. It means we are really alive. I have come to know that it is the "spirit of rotation" that not only keeps our fellowship alive, but it is also the main method we have to prevent power, prestige and personal ambition from distorting our very best intentions. Because it limits the length of individual service, it encourages the newcomer to get involved in the service structure. The spirit of rotation does not put a servant out of a job; rather it frees the servant to serve elsewhere as needed. It also ensures that the selfish ones do not hold on, and all have an opportunity to serve. Yet, there may be times when servants rotate out of office, they are honoring the principle of rotation, but not the spirit, if they still try to run the show, be it overtly or covertly.

One of the most repetitive problems that I have heard from the groups during my term has been that of servants in their home groups who seem to have an inability to let go of an office. I remember reading somewhere that this "inability to let go" can become something close to an illness. While that may or may not be true, certainly letting go (rotating), would be in the best interest of all concerned, even the reluctant servant as both the spirit and the principle of rotation will be honored. Then too, there are many servants who continue beyond the two year limit in an office because no one else will



take responsibility. So, rather than abandon these vital positions, we remain. We remain because we have made a commitment to do our best to carry our message of recovery to the yet sick and suffering alcoholic. "I am responsible when anyone anywhere reaches out for help; I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that I am responsible. Although the Responsibility Statement was not written until 1965 by former A.A. Trustee Al S. for the International Convention, may we never ever forget that in spite of the very devastating and heartbreaking news about Dr. Bob, the first thought of our co-founders was the future of the Fellowship of

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# A Guide to Rotation

We'll be electing our new Area officers at the October 19th assembly. In our Area, each voting position only gets one vote, but we encourage the newly elected to attend and participate.

### Appointing v. electing

At the Area, we elect a Delegate and Alternate, a Chairperson, a Recording Secretary, a Mailing Secretary, and a Treasurer. We do not elect the numerous committee chairs; they are appointed by the new officers acting as a Panel. In many cases, their decision is guided by the outgoing committee chairs, who are asked to recommend their own replacements. In some areas, committee chairs are elected rather than appointed.

### What do you stand for?

Some say the decision comes down to just one question: Are you qualified? Others make it more complicated, considering their schedule, health, finances, transportation, and factors like "Which job would I prefer?" or "Who would I be standing against?" Many of us have found ourselves asking these questions right up until the last second. And in the excitement of an election, people have been known to overcommit. So it's good to give it some thought in advance. The qualifications for most jobs are in the AA Service Manual, the Area Guidelines, or the AA Group pamphlet. There are exceptions to every rule; for instance, we've seen some good GSR's who had less than the recommended sobriety time. But we've also seen people hurt by jobs they weren't ready for. So you may want to talk with past officeholders, and discuss possible commitments with your service sponsor. Family members should also be involved in your decision. Remember that the point all along is to stay sober and help others, and we can do this in almost any AA job. So, many people simply stand for whatever they are qualified for, and let the group conscience work out the details.

### Wearing more than one hat

Debate goes back and forth as to whether a person should hold more than one job in AA. Nearly all would agree that it's okay to have a voting job at the District or Area level and also make coffee or fold chairs. Many would approve of being a GSR while also doing committee work, such as speaking at a PI presentation or attending an institutional meeting. But almost no one would approve of holding two voting positions at the same time, for obvious reasons. One possible guideline: "Keep the job you committed to first."

Speaking of hats—Before you attend an election at the District or Area level, be sure to read the "Third Legacy Proce-

dure" for elections, up to and including the part where we sometimes pull a name out of a hat. You can find it in the index of your Service Manual. Elections carried out in this manner are among the most enjoyable experiences in AA service work.

### Who to vote for

It can be tough to decide who to vote for, especially if you don't know all the candidates personally. Prayer may help, as well as knowing the qualifications and duties of the job (ask if you don't know). Candidates typically announce their qualifications for the job, usually including their service history (other AA jobs they've performed in the past). Bear in mind that you're electing a "trusted servant", and elect someone you can trust.

### Leaving a legacy

In AA we'll sometimes hear of outgoing service workers who hand their successor a grocery bag of "files" and disappear. That's not rotation, it's going AWOL. Much better to pass them your notes (including contacts, service volunteers, procedures, decisions you've made, etc.), and any actual files in a filebox. Then, "stick around but let go" – be available to help without trying to run the show. It can be harder than it sounds. This is your chance to practice being an elder statesman.

### Rotating out v. rotating on

It's often said around the Area that we rotate out of a given job or service project, but we never rotate out of service. Why would we stop doing what works? "If you keep on doing what you're doing, you'll keep on getting what you're getting." If you don't have time to chair a committee or attend assemblies, maybe you can occasionally volunteer as a speaker for PI or CPC... or make one of your weekly meetings an institutional meeting. And then from time to time drop in on the district meeting, just to see how things are going, and possibly to be of service to the new kids on the block. *(adapted with permission of Area 38 Gazette, Summer 2002)*

~Your editor, Jeff

**We welcome your service-related contributions, comments and questions. Send topic ideas or complaints to:**  
[newsletter@area54.org](mailto:newsletter@area54.org)



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Alcoholics Anonymous:

*"We must remember that A.A. will continue strong only so long as each of us freely and happily gives it away to another person, only as each of us takes our fair share of responsibility for sponsorship of those who still suffer, for the growth and integrity of our Group, for our Intergroup, activities and A.A. as a whole. It is in taking responsibility that real freedom and the enduring satisfactions of life are found. A.A. has given us the power to choose – to drink or not to drink – and in doing so has given us the freedom to be responsible for ourselves. As we become responsible for ourselves, we are free to be responsible for our share in A.A., and unless we happily accept this responsibility we lose A.A. Strange isn't it?"*

Dr. Jack Norris – 1965 International Convention Souvenir Book

It has been my experience that "accountability" is key to the position of delegate. Willingness, commitment, and acceptance are also very necessary. A college degree is not a requirement as each of us has already earned our Ph.D. (pretty helpless drunk). Like all service positions, the training is "hands on" and by the time you have it down to a science, it's time to rotate. However, *"Real Trusted Servants* don't rotate out, they rotate on." So, as I prepare to become "the wreckage of the past", it is my prayer that God finds me worthy to become a truly humble elder statesman, and that He will continue to use me where I may be of maximum service to Him, to others and to myself.

My love and eternal gratitude to you all, for this most awesome and amazing **spiritual journey**.

In Loving Service,  
Ola P., Delegate, Panel 63  
Area 54 Northeast Ohio



## An Opportunity to Serve

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Panel 63 Alternate Delegate for Area 54. It has been an awesome experience. Being a part of the Assemblies, Workshops, GSR School, Unity Day, DCM College and Gratitude Sunday was truly a learning experience. Traveling to the other Areas and participating in their Mini Conferences to obtain their conscience on the General Service Conference's agenda items. Attending our own Area 54 Mini Conference to participate in the discussions and voting on agenda items to obtain our own conscience. Our Delegate was truly prepared to go to the General Service Conference.

There were many miles covered as I traveled the highways with our Delegate to conferences and conventions all over the East Central Region. On occasion I was asked to speak on a topic and would have to do research to be prepared to make the presentation. What a benefit to me! I learned so much about the General Service Conference process and the need for all to be informed not only about the whole Conference process (Jan.-Dec.) but also the results of the General Service Conference.

A friend of mine in the Fellowship always says that "We live in the kindness of others". Thank you for your kindness. Thank you for the opportunity to serve. Thank you for showing up at the assemblies and other events. There would be no assembly and there would be no events without you. Only you can do what you do. Once again, I thank you all.

Love and Service,  
Calvin L.  
Alternate Delegate



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## AREA OFFICER REPORTS

### Opportunity

The Random House Webster's College Dictionary defines the word "Opportunity" as the following:

1. An appropriate or favorable time or occasion.
2. A situation or condition favorable for attainment of a goal.
3. A good chance or prospect, as for success.

Looking back on these past two years, I can honestly say that I have learned a little more about myself and life. Because of my involvement in Alcoholics Anonymous I can accept what I have realized. I am able to tolerate a little better where some people are in their life I now understand the term "it's ok to agree to disagree." In addition to that, I'm beginning to comprehend that it is also okay for things/situations not to proceed as planned. I am becoming more aware of this due to my participation at the service level of Alcoholics Anonymous. I am also beginning to realize that acceptance does not mean understanding the situation. Slowly I have begun to grasp the fact that things change for a reason. I am beginning to comprehend the saying that "some people come into your life for a reason for a season." For me this means that some friendships may end or just change the way they were. Perhaps that person or situation was placed in my path to help me grow to another level in life and once I have reached that particular level, it or they will change. I realize too that some people and or situations will be placed in my path for a lifetime.

I don't want to become so comfortable with

things as they are, that when they begin to change I become disappointed or distressed about it. I want and need to remain teachable. I have faith that when these situations do occur, that my higher power will place new people in my path and open new doors so that I may continue grow and learn more about myself, life, and others.

For me this is where I can relate to the promises, #9 - Our whole attitude and outlook upon life will change. My attitude and the way I can accept life on its terms has certainly changed. #11 - We will intuitively know how to handle situations which used to baffle us. Because I can understand a little more now why certain things happen or change helps me not be confused as to why it occurred. Now comes the end part which states "Are these extravagant promises? We think not. They are being fulfilled among us, sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly. They will always materialize if we work for them." I realize that I must actively work for these things. For me, that means being actively involved in service (which I believe is the secret) helps me continue to grow and learn more about Alcoholics Anonymous, people, and most of all myself.

I know that there will be more challenges, more changes and, that I may lose and/or gain more friends. There will be situations that will not go as planned, but I believe I will be able to truly accept these things, and understand a little more of living life on life's terms.

For me, being a part of Alcoholics Anonymous has awarded me this great opportunity. I LOVE ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS!

Yours in Love, Service & Gratitude

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## Let's Go Green!

Area 54 General Service is inviting you to Go Green! Get your Area flyers, information, and an EXPANDED web-only version of the *Northeast Ohio Recorder*. All the information that comes to your USPS mailbox now can come to your inbox.

The *NE OH Recorder* you're reading now is 8 pages long—that's the page limit to keep postage weight within our budget and so that it can be folded to fit in an envelop. But we have so much more Area 54 news for you! The web version of the last issue of *NEOHR* was 14 pages packed with experience, strength, and hope.

Let Jim S., your Area 54 Mailing Secretary, know that you would like to save a tree or three (and save the area some \$Green\$) with a message at [mailingsecretary@area54.org](mailto:mailingsecretary@area54.org)

Please note: if you do nothing, you will still get your Area mail by USPS and by email (if we have your email address) as you always have.

Jamie B., Area 54 Chairperson

### **The year(s) in the life of the Recording Secretary of Panel 63.**

My My, times sure does fly when you are having fun! This statement really does apply to the last few years for me as your trusted servant for Area 54. There have been several eye-opening and thought-provoking occurrences that took place. During the first year, the main things that stood out were the opportunity to connect with our Area throughout the state and the region. As a panel member, you are required to attend state functions. These functions provided the opportunity to connect with other service workers or people who are interested in service. Outside of Area 54 and the East Central Region there were a lot of folks who attended service events who weren't service members but interested AA members.

Another thing that stood out was the overwhelming importance of reading AA approved literature. My service sponsor assigned the book, "AA comes of Age". This book discusses three legacies of AA, Unity, Recovery, and Service. Another book that I had to get to know was the service manual, which addresses the Twelve Concepts and the different service positions throughout the service structure. There are a lot service pamphlets and books available for interested members that can be found at the Central Office, the Area, and online. During this final year of Panel 63, the learning is continuing.

During this last year of panel 63, the fellow panel members has been helpful in guiding me through what's needed to be an efficient service worker. This guidance didn't just come from our Area guidelines and service materials, but from their experience. A plus that occurred were the mini-meetings that happen when we are traveling together. We are not a glum lot and we have fun and laugh a lot! What I realize is that service can be fun. Yes, it can be a lot work with a wealth of fact-finding information, but is well worth it. Why? The things I am learning have strengthened my recovery and the desire to keep the rooms of AA functioning according to our service structure.

So, I will end with a very familiar saying, "Come join us as we trudge the road to happy destiny" and include general service work as a part of your recovery.

In Love and Service,

Shyrl B., Panel 63 Area 54 Recording Secretary

Hi everyone, my name is Danny F. and I am an alcoholic. The Grace of God has kept me sober since April 4, 1990. My Home Group is the Serenity Big Book Study Group located in Akron, Ohio. I am now an Area 54 Past Delegate and I served our Area as your Delegate in 2009 and 2010. I want to thank Kelly for asking me to be a part of this sharing session this afternoon. I don't do this so often anymore so I hope I don't bore anyone to tears or put anyone ahead of their afternoon nap.

Well, Kelly let me tweak my topic and I am grateful for that. The topic we came up with is, "How did your Pre-Conference/Mini-Conference experience make you a better Delegate when you went to the World Service Conference?" When sitting down to write this report I first went to Chapter Six in the A.A. Service Manual. The very first sentence reads, "The Delegate has a demanding job, not only because a large amount of time and work are involved, but because it is the Delegate's responsibility to serve the U.S./Canada as a whole." That statement told me that now my whole focus was going to change. For the next two years everything I was going to learn about this Service position and everything I voted for at the Conference will affect all of our membership in the U.S. and Canada.

The first Pre-Conference Assemblies I began attending were in western Pennsylvania, Area 60. In the late 1990's their discussion on the agenda items that were to be voted on at the General Service Conference in late April in New York became a whole weekend of sharing sessions. They called the event a Getaway Weekend. They would move the Getaway weekends around the Area to stimulate local participation but they usually ended up in Butler or Dubois, places where you packed your snow shovel with your suitcase. The Planning Committees assisted the Delegate in choosing which agenda items would be discussed. On Saturday evening there would be a Banquet and an Open Speaker meeting which usually had a Staffer from the General Service Office. Then the fun would really begin! The Delegate and Alternate Delegate would come to the podium and then select each

# AREA COMMITTEE and DCM REPORTS

## Area 54 Assembly Minutes April 6, 2014

### Opening:

**Jamie B.** - opened the Assembly with the Serenity Prayer. Gus E. read the 12 Traditions. Dave I. read the Preamble and Michael A. read the 12 Concepts. Tradition Nine was read and discussed by Marilyn H. Concept Nine was read and discussed by Quinsetta M.

### Recording Secretary

**Shyrl B.** - recording secretary explained the sign-in procedure for all DCM's, GSR's, Area Committee Chairs and past Delegates to establish eligibility for standing for office in our next election. Remember there is a 2-minute time limit for giving reports. March 16<sup>th</sup> minutes were reviewed. Genny M. stated a correction on Corrections Workshop held. Tina C. made a motion to accept minutes with corrections and Wellington R. seconded the motion. Minutes were accepted.

### Area Treasurer:

**Susan R.** - reviewed the Operating Surplus /Loss vs. Full Budget for Area 54 year to date. We are right on target with our contributions. We thank the groups who have made donations. We encourage those groups who have not done so yet, please consider sending in a donation. Treasurer's report was accepted. Joyce L. made motion for report to be accepted. Robert A. seconds the motion. Minutes were approved and accepted.

### Mailing Secretary:

**Jim S.** -Next mailing party is on April 19 at the Sahara Club in Warren, OH on route 422 @ 1pm. April 11 is the deadline for flyers, finance letters or anything else to be in the April's mailing. In the next issue of the Recorder, the voting results from our Area 54 Mini- Conference will be printed. The online version of the Recorder will have a lot more information in it, because we do not have to put it in the mail. Finally, I have talked with Nancy M. delegate from area 55 and she going to send flyers for the state convention to go into the next mailing.

### Registrar:

**Patti R.** (Absent) **Jamie B** -Please continue to return updated information to the registrar. Patti can be contacted by phone, online or e-mail if anyone needs any assistance.

**7<sup>th</sup> Tradition-** Terry H. passed the baskets.

**Introduction of New GSRs-Three**  
**Introduction of New DCMs -None**

**AA Anniversaries recognized**

## Area Officer and Function Reports:

**Jamie B. (Unity Day)** - Jamie will be having a meeting with all committee chairs to discuss their presentation for Unity Day.

**Gene A. (Open House Picnic)** - ECR Trustee Bill F., will be our lead at the picnic. Everything is in place for our event. It will be held at VFW Post 4358 picnic area. The address is 29412 White Rd. in Willoughby Hills Ohio.

**Danny F. (August Workshop)**-On August 17, 2014 we will be holding our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Area 54 DCM College. If you missed the GSR school, you have been granted a GED, so no excuses! It is a potluck dinner so bring a dish (with something delicious in it).

**Genny M. -Area 55 Mini-Conference-** None of my traveling friends were able to attend, I rode down to the conference with Ola and Calvin. Once I checked and received my folder for the conference, I went to the Hospitality suite to meet my "new friends". Kudos to Area 55 hospitality committee, it receives two-thumbs up! The conference started at 7pm, with Nancy M making introductions, followed by a moving talk from Bob S, immediate past delegate (area55). Afterwards, Mary C., from GSO and Bill F., ECR Trustee gave their reports. The evening ended with Bill F. giving his lead, followed by an ice cream social. Saturday morning started with a panel on "Communicating Our Legacies", followed by two hours in conference committee sessions. In the afternoon, we spent majority of the time in the voting session. That evening, we had dinner, a skit and a speaker meeting. Mary C., from GSO was the speaker. The evening ended with another ice cream social. On Sunday morning, our Ola was the AA speaker and Nancy M., followed with closing remarks. I had a great time and I am looking forward to attending the State convention here there in July.

**Calvin L. Area 56 Mini-Conference** - Ola P., Jamie B. and I attended the Area 56, 30<sup>th</sup> annual Mini Conference. The conference was held at the Drury Inn and Suites North in Sharonville, Ohio. Nancy M., area 56 registrar opened the proceedings. Garwood F., Area 56 delegate, gave a summary of the agenda items that would be reviewed in the committee sessions. Clay R., GSO staffer gave his report. He talked about the various desk activities and emphasize the "spirit of rotation" that occurs every two years at GSO, with staffers receiving new assignments. It was interesting to learn that the assistant to the staff person remains at the desk. This gives stability and continuity to the desk. Saturday morning started with an Early Bird meeting at 7:00am. Laura G. Area 55 alternate delegate chaired the morning proceedings. Nancy F. spoke on "What we are here for & what is your job" and Jenny C. spoke on "Conference Procedures. Afterwards we broke up into committee sessions. In the afternoon, the committee reports and Area 56 voting took place. The banquet followed at 6:00 pm . After that, Nancy M. and Garwood F. gave first-year delegates highlights. Dave C. and Ola P. followed next with giving second-

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# AREA COMMITTEE and DCM REPORTS

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year delegate highlights. Sunday festivities included an Ask-it Basket session, concluding with a general sharing session.

## Area Committee Reports

**Jerry P. -Literature-** As presented in the treasurer's report, the Literature committee had sales of \$119.25 in the first quarter of 2014. At this weekend's 2014 mini-conference, the committee had sales of \$108. If the commemorative edition of the first Big Book was received, sales may have been greater. An order for 50 books is expected later on this month, April 2014.

**Wellington R. -Hispanic Liaison-** We are updating the Spanish-speaking groups' information. Group memberships have been dwindling because of outside inferences. An evaluation of Spanish-speaking members is ongoing to find possible individuals to take on leadership roles within the AA community. Finally, there is historical documentation on the first sober Hispanic Ricardo P. whose sobriety date goes back to 1946, serviced the Cleveland area, and was very important to alcoholics during the early days.

**Gary C. -Treatment -**We have had 193 people from the Bridging the Gap program so far this year, Additionally, there is a new treatment center that has come on board since the beginning of the new year.

**Mary Ann K. -CPC-** This weekend was my first opportunity to represent the CPC committee with much encouraging help from Danny F. A lively discussion was had by all, especially about changing wording on who should sign attendance papers at the meetings. I am grateful to everyone who gave me encouraging words and support and I am looking forward to next month's Unity Day.

**Bob D. -Grapevine -** The Grapevine is turning 70 this year and GSO will have a presentation at this year Founder's Day, June 6 and 7 (Friday and Saturday). Presentations will occur at the university and Dr Bob's house. This weekend we have about \$100 worth of sales of Grapevine materials and we thank you.

**Tina C. -Corrections -** I and two other corrections members travel from Youngtown to attend the Akron district correction workshop held on March 29, 2014. We heard a lot of good information from all the other County corrections volunteers. Our new volunteer @ TCC, spoke at the event and shared because of her long standing connection with TCC, she landed a summer internship with the Northeast Regional Director of the Ohio department of Rehabilitation and Corrections, and will be able to assist the committee with AA being available inside the walls.

**Tim H. -Archives-** Our archives display was set up at the mini-conference by James T. and it will be returned to Akron. We will be holding an archives workshop-planning meeting May 25

at the Cleveland Central Office at 1pm. Please plan on attending, if you would like to participate in the national workshop that will be held here in September 2015.

## DCM Reports

**David W. - #10-** Our regular district meeting is held on the second Monday of every month at the Trinity United Church of Christ, in Wooster, Oh. Our annual district picnic will be on August 10 at the Christmas Run Park, in Wooster, Oh, starting at 12noon. Calvin L. Area 54 alternate delegate will be our guest speaker at 2:30pm. Flyers will be available soon. Please join us for a day of fun, food and fellowship.

**Gary C. - #13-** We have been busy with creating the Mini-Conference report and setting up mailing for the district on self-support. There are five new treatment centers in district 13. We are looking forward to a good year.

**Michael R. - #45-** I am still sharing information with groups in district 45. I am also asking groups to elect a GSR for their group. Finally, I am still looking for an alternate DCM for the district. There are no new changes.

**Jim S. (alternate DCM) - #8-** Thomas M., DCM has updated all 29 groups in the district! Thomas was grateful to be able to attend this year's mini-conference. He has all of the updated materials ready to give to our Area registrar.

**James A - #38-** Now that the climate conditions are becoming favorable, the goal is to contact as many groups in the district for updates. In addition, there is a plan to hold an official district meeting in September of this year. More information to follow about the exact date and time.

**Callie T. - #43 in LSMD-** My first DCM report. We are working on the annual picnic for LSMD. Currently, I am working with OYPAA committee. I would like to talk with the mailing secretary about how to get OYPAA's information into the mailings. I am also looking forward to updating all of the group's information in my district.

## Intergroup Liaison Reports:

**Genny M. -Cleveland Central Office-** We had the intergroup meeting on March 27, ending with an oral presentation given by Bob McK, area and central office archivist, on Roland H. Our corrections workshop had a visitor from Lodi, inquiring about a database on the correction "Bridging the Gap" program.

**Tim H. -Ashtabula Intergroup-** We provide conference-approved

**Want more? An Expanded, Color-enhanced version of this newsletter is now online at <http://area54.org/>**

## RECOVERY, UNITY AND SERVICE

These are the Three Legacies of our A.A. 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.

### Confidential Contact List

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