

The Northeast Ohio Recorder

January, February, March 2017

<http://www.area54.org>

Volume XXV, Issue 1

"Let us remember that great legion who still suffer from alcoholism and who are still without hope. Let us, at any cost or sacrifice, so improve our communication with all these that they may find what we have found - a new life of freedom under God."

A.A. Co-Founder, Bill W., February 1961, From: "The Shape of Things to Come", I Am Responsible: The Hand of A.A., © A. A. Grapevine, Reprinted with permission

A Word From Our Delegate

Happy New Year to all in Area 54:

I am so very grateful to Area 54 for electing me to serve as your Panel 67 Delegate. It has been an incredibly amazing journey and I am so very appreciative to all of you for the love, tolerance, and support expressed over the years. I have been given the opportunity to give back to Alcoholic Anonymous what it has so freely given to me. However, I am quickly learning that the opportunity has already begun. There is much to be done. January we must begin planning for our 42nd Mini-Conference, February starts off with the Conference of Delegates Past and Present, and then our GSR Workshop. The 53rd Women's International Convention is also being held in Cleveland in February.



I look forward to my upcoming journey knowing that My Higher Power will lead me down the path that guides me to perform this assignment to the best of my ability. I am confident it will be a sensational experience.

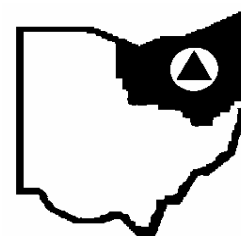
I believe I am actually growing up in Alcoholics Anonymous, learning how to accept my responsibilities. I have to focus on being a team player, which means I must accept the fact that people will have different ideas and beliefs. However, we are all on the same team. I must always remember the expression in AA that "We can agree to disagree".

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"We measure our progress in AA by two words, 'humility' and 'responsibility.' May I ever keep my eye on these yardsticks as I continue to seek only knowledge of His will for me."

Jamie B., Panel 67 Delegate
Area 54 – Northeast Ohio



GRATITUDE IN ACTION

In this issue of the *Northeast Ohio Recorder*, we focus on Gratitude for our recovery through unity and service. Our new delegate, Jamie B shares her gratitude for all the service opportunities and challenges to personal recovery the area service structure provides. Shyrl B., your alternate delegate, reflects on spiritual journey she has taken to this point.

Action is the key word in all of this. Page 14 of our Basic Text (*Alcoholics Anonymous*) reminds us,

...for if an alcoholic failed to perfect and enlarge his spiritual life through work and self-sacrifice for others, he could not survive the certain trials and low spots ahead.

Gratitude in A.A. is a noun AND a verb. The oldtimers taught me “Don’t just tell me about your gratitude, show me...” and “Your actions speak so loudly, I can’t hear what you’re saying.”

All groups have a right to a say in how A.A. operates. You express that right with the election and participation of a General Service Representative (GSR). But without that voice and vote, the A.A. group is powerless to participate in A.A. as a whole; “Every A.A. member has a right to be involved with how A.A. is run through the well-informed group conscience.”

Speaking of which, our area conscience is best informed when YOU participate in the structure of Northeast Ohio A.A. Before we know it, spring will be slowly pushing winter’s icy blast back from our doors and it will soon be time for the Area Mini-Conference.

WHY SHOULD I ATTEND THE NORTHEAST OHIO MINI-CONFERENCE?

Here are just a few good reasons why everyone, whether you are involved in General Service work or not, is encouraged to attend the Northeast Ohio Mini-Conference.

Exercise your voice and vote in A.A.-as-a-whole. Don’t let others make decisions for your group! Express your opinion on the items of business that will be discussed and voted on by your elected delegate at the General Service Conference in New York City at the end of April. The mini-conference provides a forum for understanding the issues concerning the future of A.A. that will be decided, on your behalf, whether you choose to participate in General Service or not.

Learn about service beyond the church basement steps.

Every service job in A.A. is important. Ranging all the way from the Twelfth Step itself to a phone call and a cup of coffee, and to A.A.’s General Service Office for national and international action. The sum total of all these services is our

Third Legacy of Service. An A.A. service is anything whatever that helps us to reach a fellow sufferer, whether sponsorship of a new member or sponsorship of A.A. in a new country just getting started.

Why can’t we just ‘keep it simple’? These services, whether performed by individuals, groups, areas, or A.A. as a whole, are utterly vital to our existence and growth. Concerning any given service, we ask one question: “Is this service really needed?” If it is, then maintain it we must, or fail in our mission to those who need and seek A.A. The most vital, yet least understood, group of services that A.A. has are those that enable us to function as a whole, namely: the General Service Office, A.A. World Services, Inc., The A.A. Grapevine, Inc., and our board of trustees, known legally as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous. Our worldwide unity and ... our growth since early times are directly traceable to this cluster of life-giving activities.

Meet your Regional Trustee and a staff member from your General Service Office in New York City. Oh, and your delegate will be there, too. She’d like to meet you and hear your views on the pressing agenda items of the day. She will carry your ideas and the conscience of the whole area to the General Service Conference.

Meet other A.A.’s who are interested in service beyond the group level. Having trouble at your home group? Other General Service Representatives (GSR) and District Committee Members (DCM) have already faced those same difficulty and have great ideas to share with you.

See how your generous contributions are being used to help carry the message. New literature has been released in recent months, new public service announcements and DVDs, too. These will be shown or will be available for sale.

Where else can you go for \$20 and get three days of sobriety, service and fellowship? Come find out what you’ve been missing.

~Your editor,
Jeff

We welcome your service-related contributions, comments and questions. Send topic ideas or complaints to: newsletter@area54.org



AREA OFFICER REPORTS

ALTERNATE DELEGATE'S REPORT

As 2016 fades and 2017 begins, I want to say thank you to all for allowing me to serve Area 54. When my service journey began in 2008, my goal was to learn more about general service and our fellowship. When Carrie R. contacted me about starting a district meeting in our district, I was on board, hesitantly. We began small and slowly, but we started. Afterwards, it was on to the Area Assembly, where we learned about service relating to Northeast Ohio. There were opportunities to attend conferences, local and statewide, where we connected with others members involved in general service. During this time, Carrie and I journeyed together learning about the business side of our fellowship. After a while, Carrie, who became my service sponsor, left service work at the district and area levels, but I stayed. In my recovery, I was always encouraged to keep a sponsor, so I asked Mary B., and she became my next service sponsor.

Mary B. stated that the most important thing about service is to speak from our literature and “not out the side of our necks”. As an organization, we have a wealth of recovery and service materials that addresses most of our group issues and concerns. So, when you talk with your group, use the material that is already available. Also, while journeying together, Mary also taught me to enjoy life along the way. We would have many conversations while we traveled, stopping along the way at one of her favorite places, Cracker Barrel. I'm so grateful for the times we spent together before her passing. She had a wealth of information about service at the Area and State levels, and she more than willing to share it, to help our Area.

At the Area level, there were opportunities to serve. My beginning occasions were functioning as DCM, and on the Finance Committee. As a DCM, the main job is to communicate information on a “two-way street”. That means to carry information that is happening in district back to the Area and carried back to district and groups information shared from the Area level. On the Finance Committee, the central responsibility is to promote AA's 7th Tradition of self-support by educating GSRs and DCMs. Self-support is the life support for our groups, so it is extremely important to get the message out about taking care of our fellowship FINANCIALLY. The next step to serving at the Area level for me was to stand as an area officer.

In Area 54, officers are considered to be “delegates in training”. In our Area guidelines, which can be found at <http://www.area54.org>, detailed descriptions of each position's duties and responsibilities are available. Time

and commitment are necessary to fulfill the duties, because traveling through the state and local areas will be a must. Over the last four years, I've held positions as Area Recording Secretary and Treasurer. To carry out my required duties, I relied on those who held the positions before me. “Each one, Teach One” was another motto that I found vital. My current service sponsor, Ola P., who also held several panel positions before serving as our Panel 63 Delegate, showed by example how we learn by working together. As panel members, we stand and work together for the good of Area 54. So once again, I express my thanks to you all for allowing me to serve as your Panel 67 Alternate Delegate. My journey is continuing and I ask each and every one of you to please come along with me, with the goal in mind to learn more general service and to grow in deep appreciation for our fellowship.

Shyrl B., Panel 67 Alternate Delegate

AREA CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The AA program saved my life and for that I am forever grateful. I show that gratitude now by giving back and by being of service to AA members and I do all that by sharing my service/recovery experience with others that they may gain something just as I have. I was introduced to service work early in my recovery and I believe that was an important aspect of my recovery and why I continue to grow. I've continued to grow because of the service work I'm involved in and by being a trusted servant. It has also helped my personal life. I have learned so much in the fellowship, the service structure of AA and how it works, our role in the fellowship, and how everything works together to keep our fellowship as it was meant to be. The opportunities I have because of service are just amazing, and I owe it all to my higher power for putting me in the right places to be chosen and for those individuals that saw something in me that I didn't. With the amount of personal growth that I have gained as area recording secretary, it can only be increased as the Area Chair. I am looking forward to learning so much with this position and about the use of Robert's Rules of Order. Gaining better insight of this can help me in all aspects of my life and to continue my growth and understanding of the Service Manual and within myself and my own recovery. I am so grateful for this opportunity that I have been given and I look forward to being your Area Chairperson and for being of service to you.

Love and Service, *Tina C., Area Chairperson*

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AREA OFFICER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

(Continued from page 3)

As 2017 begins, we are preparing for the GSR School Workshop, February 19th, 2017 at 2 pm at the 12 Step Recovery Club in Brunswick. It is a potluck day, so bring a dish to share. I have been part of several GSR Schools and I get more information and understanding every time. I encourage you to take the time to attend and strengthen your understanding of our General Service structure. Hope to see you there.

As Gratitude Sunday arrives, I am looking back at the past two years. I have learned a great deal from my mentors and past delegates and members of AA. I see GSR's becoming DCM's and Area Committee Chairs. I feel that general service work has strengthened my sobriety. I have also gained new friendships. Thank you for making me a better person. Thanks for allowing me to serve.

I will be serving you the next two years as the Area 54 Grapevine Chair. I hope each of you will think about how we can encourage groups to giveaway a Grapevine or to think about a special gift for speakers, etc. such as a subscription to the Grapevine. My home group gives a Grapevine away at two meetings a month. See you next year.

Susan R., outgoing Area Chairperson

What an awesome experience, not just to be a part of the third legacy procedure and vote but to actually be a candidate. Every position had well qualified and willing servants. When the treasurer position came up for vote, anxiety and self doubt crept in, but as I listened to the qualifications of the other candidates I felt humbled and honored to stand for treasurer with these special candidates. I felt this way because I have had the privilege to watch them step up to the plate at every Area Assembly and at every Conference.

I have heard it said many times since I've been sober that the A.A. Twelve Steps is a God-given program. I feel especially fortunate to be a part of general service, for many members of A.A. do not get to experience general service and the extension of the gift that God has bestowed to those who do recover. The third legacy can be a long tedious process when votes are cast and recast until there is a final selection. I would hope that all who stood for positions during elections felt the hand of God and know that His will was done by way of third legacy procedure. The third legacy procedure allows for all voices to be heard, ensures that those selected reflect the majority opinion and leaves us with a feeling of fairness.

I look forward to being your Area 54 Treasurer. In Love and Service,

Dawn J, Area 54 Treasurer

I would like to thank Area 54 for electing me Recording Secretary for Panel 67. I have been given the opportunity to represent my two home groups as the GSR and to represent my district as DCM.

During my ten years of sobriety, I have tried to stay active in service work because I enjoy it. I am grateful to have been chosen. I will do my best to complete any duties that are required. Yours in Love, Service and Gratitude,

Rea J. R., Recording Secretary Panel 67

It is hard to believe that two years is up. I would like to thank everyone for all the help. At the beginning, I didn't realize what challenges were facing me in dealing with the United States Post Office, the mail presort people, the printer, and all the processes that must come together to produce a mailing. I will be working with the new Mailing Secretary to make his transition as smooth as possible.

In January, I will be moving on to new challenges as Area 54 C.P.C. Chair. Love and service,

Ron O., Cooperation with the Professional Community Chair

I have contacted most of the TV stations in NE Ohio about airing our Public Service Announcements (PSAs). Any of you can view these at: http://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/videos-and-audios website pages. GSO informed me that the English translation of the Spanish PSA *Tengo Esperanza* in December and will join these.

If any of you have a close relationship with representatives at any of these target TV stations, please contact me at PI@area54.org as soon as possible.

Bob McK., Area Public Information Chair

“Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.” This means that I can't go to Kmart or Walmart and ask for a donation; we are fully self-supporting. Spirituality = practicing spiritual principles and

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AREA COMMITTEE REPORTS

beliefs. The Twelve Steps should be practical at the store, bank, at work, at home, everywhere, especially my home group.

As Bill W. put it in 1957, "Our spiritual way of life is safe for future generations if, as a Society, we resist the temptation to receive money from the outside world." Sobriety is Priceless. It is God's grace and mercy that allows me and countless others to be sober. How can I possibly say that there is something I wouldn't do for AA? What an honor to be a trusted servant. Where else can you have two lives in one? So, keep those contributions flowing, continue to work the Twelve Steps, Four Absolutes, and continue to listen to a God of your understanding. With Gratitude,

Beverly F., Finance Chair

Being part of the treatment committee has been a wonderful experience. But it can be a lot of work, setting up appointments with coordinators of treatment facilities, remembering that we are guests of that facility and to abide by their rules. Simultaneously, we can't bend or water down our Traditions. I made my way to Stella Maris, 2100, and Harbor Light to explain the part that Bridging the Gap plays between a treatment program and the AA program. This is designed to help the alcoholic in an alcoholism program into a smooth transition to AA. Some of us know the most dangerous time for that person is the period from the doors of the facility to the doors of a home group in AA. Setting up a temporary contact person in his/her home area is most important. Remember the Twelfth Step and how it felt to be a newcomer. Contact me and help carry that message. We need contacts for women. Thank you. In love and service,

Mike S., Treatment Chair

These last two years I have been given a lot of ideas and suggestions. I have reached out to different people for their help. I have started a program and have made big changes in people's lives and I will be following up on this program. Would like to thank the different people in letting me have this chance to do the Corrections. God Bless and Yours in service,

Marilyn H, Correctional Facilities Chair

Greetings to my friends in Area 54.

I thought I would let everyone know what is what in New Mexico Area 46. I have been here 3 years and after a year of just getting our office here in order I got back active in General Service. I found that they needed a newsletter editor and were having great issues finding someone and this stranger from a strange land dropped from the sky. Area 46 is the entire state, one of the smallest in population but the 5th largest in area. We have many members in remote areas and the newsletter is critical. I have had a great time doing the job, we have our own budget and fundraising. I expanded to 20 pages from 16 so as to be able fit all of the reports in. One thing I did import from Area 54 was mailing parties! I have been to 14 of the 17 physical districts and put over 3,000 miles on my car. It has given me a chance to explore my new home and meet hundreds of members.

Area 46 has an amazing dedication to service work. Not only does every District have a DCM, they almost all have Alt DCMs and committee chairs. We have three Assemblies a year that last from Friday night to Sunday at noon and the State Convention. The Assemblies move around the state and are hosted by Districts. Upwards of 200 – 250 are in attendance. And yes, we argue forever about money like all AA.

I will continue to serve here until I intend to retire in June 2018 and move to Phoenix to be near my sister. My health issues are stable, I am responding well to treatment and that is in my Higher Power's hands. When I retire I will invade Area 03 and see what they are up to. I love it out west, the weather is spectacular, but the only downside is I miss my friends in Ohio and Area 54. I hope to be able to keep coming back to Founders' Day each year to say hello! In Service,

Jay M., newsletter editor, Area 46

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 *NEOH 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 this issue of *NEOHR* is 9 pages packed with experience, strength, and hope.

Let Dustin 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

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.

Expanded Content (17 pages!) and a Color-Enhanced version of this newsletter is now online at <http://area54.org/NEOHRecorder.html>

Northeast Ohio-Area 54 Elects New Delegate and Area Officers

Area Election Results

The Panel 67 Delegate and Committee of officers for Area 54 was elected on October 16th, 2016 in Brunswick, OH. These officers will serve for a two-year term, beginning January 1, 2017. Congratulations to all! A heartfelt thanks to all who were willing to stand for office.

NAME and POSITION

Jamie B., Panel 67 Delegate Tina C., Area Chairperson Rea J.R., Recording Secretary
 Shyrl B., Alternate Delegate Dawn J., Area Treasurer Dustin S., Mailing Secretary

Vote Tally from the Third Legacy Procedure

Standing for Delegate

Ballot	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Jamie B.	28	33	33	33	HAT*
Ron O.	7	4	-		
Susan R.	28	26	30	30	

*if no candidate has 2/3 majority after 4 ballots, a motion for a fifth ballot vote is taken. If motion defeated, choice is by lot.

Alternate Delegate

Ballot	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Shyrl B.	28	28	35	35	HAT
Greg J.	21	23	27	27	
Ron O.	13	10	-		

Area Chairperson

Ballot	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Tina C.	24	27	27	26	HAT
Tim H.	26	29	31	30	
Ron O.	10	3	-		

Treasurer

Dawn J.	31				
Rea R.	19	withdrawn			

Recording Secretary

Marilyn H.	12			
Rea R.	38			

Mailing Secretary

Dustin S.	unopposed			
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UPCOMING DATES FOR THE AREA AND BEYOND

NOTE THE DATE

January 15, 2017 **GV Lit sales**
Area Assembly **2:00 pm**

January 22 and February 26
Mini Conference planning meetings
Holiday Inn Strongsville **2:00 pm**

February 10-12 — Toledo, OH
Conference of Delegates Past and Present

February 19
GSR School Workshop **2:00 pm**

March 3-5 — Perrysburg, OH
Area 55 NWOH Mini-Conference

March 10-12 — Mt. Sterling, OH
Area 53 CSEOH Mini-Conference

March 19
Area Assembly **2:00 pm**
(and MC planning snow date)

March 17-19 — Dayton, OH
Area 56 SWOH Mini-Conference

March 31-April 2 **GV Lit sales**
42nd NEOH Mini-Conference
Holiday Inn Strongsville

April 2—Holiday Inn Strongsville
Area Assembly **1:00 pm**

April 23-29 — New York, NY
67th General Service Conference

May 6—Columbus, OH **11:00 am**
Ohio State Convention Planning Meeting

May 21 **Lit sales**
Unity Day—Delegate’s Conf Report **2:00 pm**

June 9-11 **GV sales Saturday only**
Founders’ Day at Univ of Akron

June 25
Area Open House Picnic **TBA**

July 16 **GV Lit sales**
Area Assembly **2:00 pm**

July 21-23 – Merrillville, IN
East Central Regional Conference

July 28-30—Columbus, OH
61st Ohio State Convention

August 20
GSR/DCM Workshop **2:00 pm**



September 17
Area Assembly **2:00 pm**

October 15 **GV Lit sales**
Area Assembly **2:00 pm**

November 4 — Columbus, OH **11:00 am**
Ohio State Convention Planning Meeting

November 12 **GV Lit sales**
Gratitude Sunday **TBA**

November 17-19 —
East Central Regional Forum, hosted by GSO and
Area 21 (Springfield, IL)

Unless otherwise noted, Area Assemblies & Workshops are held at The 12 Step Recovery Club, 1480 Pearl Rd., Brunswick, OH (on  about 1/4 mile south of route  Phone: (330) 273-7216



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, expressed through 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, GSRs 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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Visit us at <http://www.area54.org>

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