

WALKING WITH PURPOSE

aaarea56.org

Southwest Ohio General Service Area 56

P.O. Box 684 Dayton, OH 45401

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A Life Beyond My Wildest Dreams

I was in my 20s when I got sober. I joined AA with the notion that 'I guess I'll learn how to have fun without drinking'. Little did I know that my whole attitude and outlook on life would change, I would have a plethora of friends, even outside my own country, and I would live a life beyond my wildest dreams. What an incredible adventure my life in Alcoholics Anonymous has been!

Being involved with General Service work is a huge contributing factor for my plethora of friends. I participate in Facebook and recently posted pictures from my vacation in Colorado. A delegate I served with from North Carolina emailed me saying she was at a professional conference in Denver and we made arrangements to spend the afternoon together. It was so wonderful to share lunch with her and discuss how we handled our rotations, the gifts being in General Service has bestowed on our professional, as well as our personal, lives, and the spiritual journey

we continue to discover as we maintain active our membership in Alcoholics Anonymous.

When I was 20, I didn't realize that one of the gifts of sobriety is that I would have deep, personal connections with people that would transcend time. This woman impacted my first General Service Conference because she shared that the group conscience we formed at the conference was practicing Step 11 together. She called me when she heard about my mother's death and when she learned of my husband's brain surgery, again offering to be of service, as she is also a neurological psychologist professionally.

But this is just one example of many. Whenever I attend an AA International Convention, I almost always find myself talking to a complete stranger and sharing a spiritual connection. I don't remember their names but it doesn't make the experience any less magical. Just this morning as I was running to catch the bus

to take me to the airport and I sat next to a woman I met at a Colorado AA meeting four nights earlier. She got sober in California and recently relocated. We discussed our journeys and I sincerely hope I'll get to meet her again the next time I visit Colorado.

The other day I giggled when I realized I have four times as many mutual Facebook friends with my sponsor than I do with my husband. When he suffered a stroke last year, he was amazed at all the people in AA who stepped up and offered to help us during his recovery. I wasn't surprised at all. This is truly a 'we' program. I learn how to live my life based on spiritual principles because I learn it from you. Now that we are sober, we have a new purpose – to be of maximum service to HP and each other. I get to practice that ideal daily, as well as reciprocate your extended hand of help. Thank you!

Alicia R.

Selflessness in Service- We must give it away to keep it!

Remember early on in sobriety when getting to meetings, and just not drinking was a full time job?

To me The Twelve Steps of A.A. were a foreign language, never mind those The Twelve A.A. Traditions.

The old-timers did not understand that as a single mom, and working a full-time job and trying to get and stay sober, being of Service was the last thing on my mind.

I took for granted there was a place to have an A.A. meeting. I took it for granted someone had done the Service work to set up the meeting room, make coffee and that there was A.A. literature on hand to read and to share. Not realizing the beacon of hope called "Service" found in Alcoholics Anonymous, was helping me stay sober one day at a time.

Months sober, my sponsor showed me how to chair meetings but trust me, I did my share of complaining about coffee making and coffee cup washing and ash tray cleaning.

Growing up in a small A.A. community, I began to be grateful to be a part of something greater than myself. Being able to give back to A.A. through Service work. I believe if I had not been shown selfless acts of service, I would have missed the challenges of serving in and for our beloved A.A. Fellowship.

In 2005, moving to Cincinnati from a small rural town in Kansas, I was amazed and overwhelmed at the hundreds of meetings each week and year around A.A. events.

Bill W., had some of the very same obstacles we do today getting members active in Alcoholics Anonymous Service work.

Here's a snippet of Bill's message about Service from The A.A. Service Manual, pg. S1:

"Our Twelfth Step--carrying the message...is the basic service that the A.A. Fellowship gives; this is our principal aim and the main reason for our existence. Hence, an

(Continued on page 2)

2016 Calendar of Events...

Aug. 19-21	60th Ohio State Convention Westlake, OH
Aug. 21	Standing Committee Meetings (2:00) Miamisburg
Aug. 28	Area Committee Meeting (noon) Miamisburg
Sept. 18	Standing Committee Meetings (2:00) Miamisburg
Sept. 24	Area 56 Inventory and Assembly Miamisburg* (10:00 – 4:00 w/ 9:00 GSR School and Literature Forum)
Oct. 16	Standing Committee Meetings (2:00) Miamisburg
Nov. 5	Ohio State Convention Planning Meeting (11:00) Columbus
Nov. 20	Area Committee Meeting (noon)/Standing Committee Meetings (2:00) Miamisburg
Dec. 18	Standing Committee Meetings (2:00) Miamisburg

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

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A.A. service is anything whatever that helps us to reach the a fellow sufferer - ...ranging from the Twelfth Step itself to a ten-cent phone call and a cup of coffee... The sum total of all these services is our Third Legacy of Service."

Strange as a ten-cent phone call sounds, when I pull into a parking lot at an A.A. Service meeting here in Southwest Ohio General Area 56: whether it be at the group, Inter-group, District or Area level, I can usually and easily find a parking spot.

I would love to have to hunt for a parking space at groups, Intergroups, Districts and Area Service meetings, like I do at the 'fun' events like The

Cincinnati Annual Gratitude Breakfast or A.A. campouts. Have I lit the fire in your Service Beacon yet?

What if that still suffering Alcoholic were you? What if there was no A.A. meeting, no one making coffee, no one procuring A.A. literature, or performing necessary Service work to carry Alcoholics Anonymous message? Where would you be?

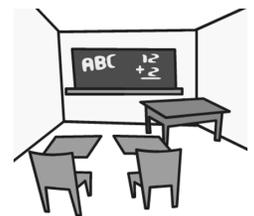
So, perhaps my whole take on Service work is a bit bent. I'm currently serving with your Southwest Ohio General Area 56, Group Services Committee, learning and growing and staying sober! I invite YOU to give back through Service work in Alcoholics Anonymous. We would be happy to hear from you and your

groups. Email us at Area 56 Group Services Committee for your opportunities at:

group.services@aaarea56.org

In closing my prayer is: We relight the Service beacon here in Southwest Ohio Area 56, through you and your groups, Intergroups and Districts. I invite all A.A. members to join us as we trudge the road to happy destiny as selfless Service workers.

Jorjann C.



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.

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.

Housekeeping Reminders

We opened with The Serenity Prayer

Roger C. , Alternate Delegate and Area Chair presided

Steve B. read our Mission Statement

Ismenie N. read the AA Preamble

Jason read the 12 Traditions of AA

Bob H. read the short version of the 12 Concepts of AA which he introduced as an "interpretation of AA World Service Structure" as Bill W. presented them to The World Service Organization of Alcoholics Anonymous

Sally L. read "Why We Need A Conference"

Past Delegate Introductions: Alicia R.-Panel 60/ Garwood F.-Panel 64/

Hank S. -Panel 54/ Mark E.-Panel 62/ Suzanne W.- Panel 58

Introduction of Area 56/ Panel-66 Officers and Standing Committee

Chairs: Registrar/Coresponding Secretary- Jenny C.

Treasurer – David L.

Alternate Delegate/Area Chair-Roger C.

Delegate-Laura G.

Introduction of Standing Committee Chairs:

Jorjann C. & Polly H. co-chairing Group Services

Brian H. –Corrections

Andrea H.-Communications and publisher of our new newsletter: "Walking With Purpose"

Archives- Ismenie N.

Finance- Ron H.

Grapevine- Sandy H.

PI/CPC – Bob M.

Literature- Ruby A.

Treatment Facilities/Special Needs- Steve B.

Hospitality-Tonya C.

Overview of Assembly Agenda-Roger C.-Alternate Delegate

AA Related Announcements: 45th Anniversary Celebration/ Grosbeck Discussion Group – Sunday June 26th at St. Ann's Church -2900 West Galbraith Rd. Cinti. OH 45239 /Lead by Ed. S. Eat at 6:30pm Lead at 8pm (one block East of Colerain Ave.)

2016 Illinois State Conference & East Central Regional Conference- August 12-14th in St. Charles, Illinois at Pheasant Run Resort

60th Ohio State Convention hosted by Area 54/ "Working With Others Through Sponsorship-August 19, 20 and 21st at the Double Tree by Hilton in Westlake, OH 44145

Intergroup Reports:

Dayton Intergroup Report meeting 2nd Thursday of the month in suite 614 in the Liberty Bank Tower, 120 W. 2nd St. Current treasury balance is \$23,283; while contributions are down 6%, literature sales are up 4%. We would like to thank Steve B. for his many years of service. Currently we are searching for a new Central Office Manager. Dayton Archivist, Tom, is collecting group histories or obituaries and had a display at the recent Banquet., which was

attended by 313 people. Unity Newsletter is published monthly and is seeking contributions of articles, poems, cartoons, artwork due by the 15th of the month. Unity Newsletter now has a new subscription manager. PI/CPC has been active with OYPAA (Ohio Young People of Alcoholics Anonymous) Still looking to move answering service to Cincinnati. Corrections is looking for AA's to do Spanish-speaking meetings in the Butler County Jail and getting Big Books for the Lebanon Corrections meeting. A commitment was made to spend \$300 per month on an electronic billboard which reads: "If drinking is getting the best of you...Alcoholics Anonymous 222-2211." Submitted by Chuck B. Dayton Intergroup Liason

Currently conducting interviews to fill Office Manager and Treasurer who submitted his resignation but will stay on to help until position is secured. Intergroup Chair met with the Cincinnati Police and City Prosecutor office and determined that "we are obligated by law to prosecute because it is a fiduciary duty to our membership." Should there be any publicity about this matter then the media will refer to Intergroup of Cincinnati and NOT AA. Jay is making payments back in the meantime. Currently the balance is \$4,900 after expenses. Turning Point Recovery Program needs volunteers. Ladies needed for Loveland/Goshen meetings. Spring Fling made a profit and money went to The Easy Does Radio Show on 88.3FM (airing on Mondays from 3-5pm). The newsletter, Footsteps, will publish guidelines for Archives. Status of large donation still unresolved. Submitted by Jane M., Cincinnati Intergroup Liason

YPAA-

Brian spoke for Dayton and announced Ohio Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous Conference will be held in Sandusky, OH the 2nd Weekend in Sept. The International Conference of Young People in AA will be held in Nashville, TN over Labor Day Weekend.

Standing Committee Reports:

Archives- Ismenie surveyed materials and updated the collection which includes material from 1957. She has developed a form for members to submit Group Archives/History. She is looking to hold an Archives Workshop in the future. She concluded her report with Bill W.'s words on the importance of Archives: "we are trying to build up extensive records which will be of value to the historian" actually making AA history.

Communications- Andrea announced The Lunch and Cookie Workshop. The Communications Committee is still under construction and the brand new newsletter: "Walking With Purpose" is now available on Area 56 Website. The newsletter is designed to foster unity and seeking articles from the Fellowship. The current issue features articles from Laura on the General Service Conference and Roger on Service Work.

Finance- Ron H. Districts 12 & 13 are still looking to move our answering service to the Cincinnati Intergroup. Looking for members to sign up to answer phones and participate in this 12 Step work. Still looking for members who speak Spanish to help bring the message into the Butler County Jails. Annual 12&13 Picnic is on June 12 at Joyce Park, Shelter 22, in Hamilton/Fairfield, OH off of River Road. Picnic starts at 12:30pm with hot dogs and hamburg-

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ers at 1:00 and lead at 2:00, followed by games. Everyone welcome-
bring the family and spend the day in Fellowship.

Group Services- Jorjann and Polly announced 13 in attend-
ance at the GSR School including 9 new GSRs 1 alternate GSR and
3 returning GSRs. Most of the group flyers for the various group
events are available on area 56 website (WWW.AREA 56.ORG) and
can be printed off from there. They attended Cincinnati Intergroup
and the Dayton Women's Workshop and other meetings as well.

Corrections- Brian- Warren Correctional needs Meeting
Schedules. We still need to fill out forms to register AA Jail Meet-
ings. Area 56 Corrections Facility Committee is holding a "Meet and
Greet" pizza party for those currently serving or would like to bring
AA to correctional facilities and share experience, strength and hope.
Meeting will be Sunday, July 17th at 2pm at the St. John's Lutheran
Church, 470 Gebhart Church Road in Miamisburg, OH.

Grapevine- Sandy H. said, "The Grapevine" has tradition-
ally been our meeting in print but now we also have a wonderful
website packed with great information. Samples available for people
to take and share with others as well as order forms for subscriptions
and catalogues for other related materials. New items include but not
limited to : 2017 Calendar, various books (such as Came To Believe,
Grapevine anthologies, As Bill Sees It, etc.) Grapevine now offers a
free Grapevine Quote of the Day-just go to AAGRAPEVINE.ORG.
Sandy conveyed that this is a great service opportunity and is fun and
comes once a month. Suzanne W. who is currently serving as the
Grapevine Representative for The Fox Hall Group in Cincinnati
gave a sample presentation of how a Grapevine Rep. conveys the
importance of our publication and how to subscribe. Sandy is seek-
ing Committee Members and trying to get to Grapevine Reps. to
promote our "voice of Alcoholics Anonymous" as Bill W. called The
Grapevine.

PI/CPC- Bob -Warren Correctional needs meeting sched-
ules to distribute for those getting out. Also, we need to fill out forms
to register AA Jail Meetings.

Literature- Ruby said that the Literature Committee con-
ducts a Literature Forum 1 hour prior to each Area Assembly meeting
and ALL are welcome. At the May 21 Literature Forum they dis-
cussed the archive paper "markings" about Dr. Tiebout and the pam-
phlet, Circles of Love and Service. The Literature Display was at our
Area 56 Mini-Conference and is available for any AA event in Area
56.

Treatment Facilities/Special Needs- Steve said that there are
more than 40 treatment facilities and many are new and/or not well
established. The Treatment Facilities Committee met on May 15th
and was attended by Steve M., Jason G., Roger and Tonya C. After
identifying the facilities, the next step is to contact these treatment
centers and ask what we can do to help carry the AA message.
"Rather than be overwhelmed by the size of the task, we have agreed
to remember any small measure of help we provide will be an im-
provement to the larger picture." The next Committee Meeting will
be on June 19th at St. John's Lutheran Church at 470 Gebhart
Church Road in Miamisburg, OH, 45342 at 2pm.

Roger C. presented the minutes from February 27 Area
Assembly meeting for approval and Sandy H. made a motion to ap-
prove and was seconded. All approved.

Laura G. gave the Delegate Presentation on the General
Service Conference in New York which was entitled: Our Spiritual
Way of Life: Steps, Traditions, Concepts. She gave a fascinating re-
port on her experience as our Area 56/Panel66 Delegate and reflect-
ed on her work with The Literature Committee which she will be
Chairing at the 2017 General Service Conference in New York. She
also gave us handouts with a detailed financial report. (FOR A FULL
REPORT GO TO AREA 56.ORG)

Area 56 Officer Reports:

We would like to thank Tonya for doing an outstanding job
as the Hospitality Chair especially at The Mini Conference. Now she
is retiring from that position and it is now open for a happy and will-
ing volunteer.

David submitted Treasurer's Report and it was approved by
the Assembly.

Jenny announced that there were 52 in attendance today at
our Assembly. Currently, there are 968 registered AA Groups ; 407
are actively contributing to Area 56. She is generating a more com-
prehensive listing utilizing a digital-program from NY for Group
Information entitled Fellowship New Vision.

Roger explained that Mark is unable to stay in the Area Secretary
position. Laura F. volunteered to take that position. Thank you,
Laura, for stepping up to serve!

Roger has been preparing minutes, agenda items, reports,
etc. and attending active districts to put a "face to the name" reach-
ing out to the area groups.

Laura G. told us that the GSO responds to about 3,000
members a month with 6,500 letters from Corrections alone. She
announced vacancies for The Non-Trustee Director for AAWS
Board and Class A Trustee for The AA Grapevine Board. There is
also an opening for Director of Publishing for AA World Services.
Currently, GSO is accepting electronic contributions (as well as
mailed contributions) as a one-time contribution, as a once-month
recurrent contribution or quarterly.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ron H. submitted a motion from the Finance Committee which was
approved for a new agenda item on April 17, 2016. Today he pro-
posed it to the Area Assembly to discuss and vote on it: that, "A
two year Budget shall be compiled and prepared in non-election years
by The Finance Committee in conjunction with the Area Chair/
Alternate Delegate and Area Treasurer." Before we voted on it, the
motion was amended to include consideration from all committee
chairs. The Assembly reviewed the background material handout and
discussed the advantages to planning a 2-yr budget which can also be
amended and/or approved by the Area Assembly. The Assembly
voted 35 to 4 to approve the 2-yr plan.
The Motion passed.

Ismenie requested \$925.52 to attend a National Archives Workshop
in CA from 9/8-9/11/16 which covers travel and lodging for her.

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There was much discussion and the call for vote was 24 in favor/14 against. After Minority opinion spoke, Ron said he was changing his vote. We revoted with 30 in favor/10 against. The Motion passed. No one stepped forward to Chair The Hospitality Committee.

Thank you for your service. These minutes were submitted without benefit of an audio recording so I apologize if I missed something which needed to be included; and, at next Assembly on Sept. 24, you can submit an amendment to these minutes.

Remember, you can prepare to share but you cannot share your work unless you Show Up! **Gratefully submitted by Kathy N., GSR/ Tues. How It Works Women's Big Book Meeting.**

Area Committee Meeting July 17, 2016



Area Delegate Laura G:

Advised panel that the East Central Regional Forum will be held in July of 2019. Also booked two speakers for the 2017 Mini-Conference so we will need to purchase airfare for two guests.

12 Traditions, a new Grapevine collection will be available for purchase in November. Also Grapevine app is available at Apple store no Android version yet. Also read off proposed agenda items for 2017. Laura also voiced concern in notifications could be made in regards to changes in the Service Manual. {Manuals will be printed every other year} Talk of a PDF being made and sent out was discussed. Laura is planning on bringing this discussion to the assembly.

Area Alternate Delegate Roger C:

Has been trying to reach out to districts and inter-groups. Has visited districts #11, 12, 13, 21, 23&28. Cincinnati inter-group seems to be doing better after some turmoil. Will also work on producing a calendar for the 2017 year.

Area Treasurer Dave L:

Passed out his report. We have a closing cash balance of 6,577.57 and closing prudent reserve of 5,612.56. Roger asked if a proof budget is in the works. Dave answered no however one will be working soon.

Secretary Laura F:

No report available from last meeting. Thanked everyone for this opportunity to serve. Did meet with Roger and received the voice recorder and materials for position.

Registrar/CS Jenny C:

No report.

Chair Reports:

Communications (Andrea H)

Had Roger discuss the problems with getting newsletter. Group had much discussion on how to handle distribution of minutes and newsletter. Different mailing options and emailing was discussed. The current cost to have Walking with Purpose printed by intergroup would be 600.00. Discussion arose also about forming together mailing parties to get the newsletter distributed. Laura will be checking into the costs at U.P.S store. More discussion to be had at next assembly.

Roger and Andrea will also be working on a plan for how to present this all to assembly.

Corrections (Brian H)

Still meeting at Warren on Tues. Waiting on permission from Lebanon. Went to D.C.I had a great time. Should have more after commit-

tee meeting later today. Could definitely use more female support. Trying to get a name and phone number list of volunteers to give to facilities.

Archives (Ismenie H)

Working on putting together a workshop. Also added that if you have any ideas for her on helping groups to individually preserve their history, that it would be very welcomed. Also is looking forward to giving a report to Assembly after her workshop in California.

Finance (Ron H)

Sent out a Self-Support flyer as a template for anyone to use. Also discussed the upcoming deadlines for chairs to submit their proposed budgets for the next two years. Asked that it be kept in mind that you are making a budget for you and the person who comes after you. He added that your budget may be submitted by email, however please do not send as an attachment. Deadline for submitting budget is August 28, 2016.

Literature (Ruby A)

Will be presenting display at Buckeye Round-up. Will discuss with Sandy the possibility of joining her.

Group Services (Jorjann C & Polly) Report was submitted by email:

G.S.R flyers have been distributed to Dry-dock, Tri County Center, 1213 Club, Eastside Center and many other meetings in the area. Including picnics and other functions. Service pamphlets and AAWS were received. Email will be sent out to groups asking if they need any services with contact information. Updating the area 56 handbook has started.

No Reports: PI/CPC (Bob M) Treatment/Special needs (Steve B) Website (Holly R)

Other Business:

Mark E. Submitted his resume for Regional Trustee. Group reviewed material and voted in favor of him submitting this too assembly. Also Mark opened some discussion on his plans to present material on changing the protocol for changes made in World Service Manual. In regards to it being presented as "conference approved literature".

Roger H. Made suggestion that Area sell the old sound system and it was passed that system be sold.

Next Meeting

8/28/2016 12:00 PM, Area Committee at church in Miamisburg Meeting ended with Responsibility Statement at 2:00pm.

Laura F., Recording Secretary

In Attendance: Ruby A., Ron H., Jorjann C., David L., Mark P., Tonya C., Roger C., Jenny C., Laura G., and Nancy F.

What was Good?

Our Delegate was well informed.

The Sharing Session was important to the Delegate for providing opinion for issues not on the Agenda.

The Big Book Throwdown was a lot of fun. It is becoming a part of the event.

The Hotel food and the facilities were great. We had good breakout rooms.

The Desk staff was good and professional. The hotel staff was amazing to work with.

We had great displays and a great place to set them up.

Saturday was the best day. We fulfilled our duty and purpose.

We did what we were supposed to do.

Everyone had a chance to speak.

People got to see the Third Legacy in action.

First timers felt like they had a voice in AA at the mike and at the committee session; they felt a part of the program.

Good attendance.

We had 50% (49 people) walk-ins.

Breakout sessions were great with all the new chairpeople.

Committee Chair Training materials were helpful.

The face-to face training was awesome.

We had awesome Greeters and Registration table workers.

Committee Chairs were engaged, prepared, and had good energy.

They helped the Conference go smoothly.

Co-Chairs helped share things at the sessions.

The input from other Areas' Delegates at the Committee Sessions really helped.

The routine we are using is providing good preparation for the chair people.

The preparation was good.

The Conference had a good overall attitude, with lots of acceptance and tolerance. People felt heard.

Michelle G. represented NY. She brought a good attitude and story.

Other Areas' Delegates were involved.

People stayed and listened to the Speakers.

The Marriott is the best hotel we have ever had for the MC.

The area around the hotel was a plus.

Our Hospitality room was great. People enjoyed themselves and relaxed. There was good flow.

We had more Young People and First Timers.

District Committee Member sharing was good.

What needs to be improved? What can we do better?

We could use a new process for registering walk-ins. Maybe we could print out name tags to make them feel more welcome.

Registration Desk was not open on Friday at the dinner break (6:00). We need people there all the time for Registration and to give information and directions.

There were delays in collection data from the Committee Sessions. We were not ready for the voting session. We could get more people involved to help.

New Area Officers received no training and did not know what to expect.

The Hospitality Room was too far from the Main Room.

The Hospitality Room had no phone, which was needed. The hotel fixed it right away.

Electrical connections were discussed with the hotel and they did

send someone to make sure we had outlets and extension cords.

We had a last minute change in assigned room for the breakfast. Management hadn't cleared things with the Restaurant.

Our Window shades did not get hung.

The Transition with the new rotation was difficult. The Mini-Conference Plan wasn't used as well as it could have been. Communication was worse this year. We did not pay as close attention to the details and as a result we had a lot of lost minute fires to put out. The MC Committee could take an Inventory on how to function better in the Transition year.

Flyers were not as effective as we thought. We need more outreach. We need to spread out more of the responsibility.

Having the Agenda items out was helpful in getting people interested.

The appeal at Intergroup helped.

Personal invitation by the Committee chair brought people.

Reporting out from the Committee Sessions was a problem. We need better training on the Concise Report, defining what it is and what it is not. They are not supposed to be minutes. Often, Reports don't get to the heart of the issue; they are too long and too detailed. Some people don't know how to nutshell.

Reporting out from the Committee Sessions needs to be streamlined. Report need to be produced quicker.

Packet needs to include a page that explains the voting procedure. It needs to be read and explained at the podium. Explaining it again at the Committee Session takes up time.

Newcomers don't understand the Minority Opinion procedure at the vote.

Banquet food was bad. The fish was freezer burned. The pork chops were tough. The chicken was good.

The hotel ran a Welcome AA banner on their video system. They removed it as soon as we asked.

If the Hospitality Room was on the first floor, it could be used for a breakout session.

We could have special badges for the Delegate, Area Officers, and Committee Chairs so people will know who is in charge and who can answer their questions.

Planning the Conference is a Year Long process.

We should follow up on First Timers.

Personal outreach helps, but it can't be just one person (the Delegate).

We need more help with Finance, with hotel checking in.

People don't have the time to look at the Packet and absorb the information.

At the Saturday morning Breakfast, the staff didn't know about our tickets. They tried to charge more.

The room was not set aside for the Saturday morning Breakfast.

We were not pleased with the Hotel planning and organization. The on-site staff was on top of things and corrected the problems quickly. The head of planning was not.

We received better service last year. There was a different feel with management. The person at the top was less attentive. Often the person was unavailable, often out of the office working on a bigger event. We did not have early meetings as we had the year before. Roger let them know this in the online survey.

We could look for a new venue.

What do we want in the Future?

To see the materials in the Packets get to the Committee Chairs faster.

Create a window shade of the voting rules.

Have a good, central location.

We need people to circulate around the Registration Desk.

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Have people who circulate through the Conference, providing information and answering questions. They could have noticeable, attractive nametags and wear fuzzy tiaras, tutus and leis.

Make service work sexy. Promote the mental illness that causes people to volunteer for service.

Give out trinkets, door prizes, and freebies. It may help attendance on Friday and Sunday.

Put the MC on the Area Inventory.

Put the idea of charging a Registration fee on the Area Inventory.

Set Goals for the next conference on how we can improve. How can we bring more enthusiasm and more passion? How can we attract more people?

Call attention to the theme with a banner.

Develop better communication on the MC committee, especially during the transition year.

Increase Word-of-Mouth to increase attendance.

Low Attendance is a problem everywhere.

Part of better communication within the MC Committee includes talking about the MC Reference Guide. We can have training sessions for the MC Committee on the MC Reference Guide on the work and the job responsibilities.

We need to be more creative with outreach. It is all our jobs, not just one person's job. Knowing the Speakers and Agenda items ahead of time brings people in. Promote fun and fellowship. We can create T-shirt ads, like OYPAA did.

People in the groups don't really understand what the MC is about. Participation is a struggle because so many people don't think they need to participate. They don't think they need a GSR.

People do not understand the flow of information from the

groups, to the GSR, then the DCM, to the Delegate and through the General Service Conference. We need to explain this in announcements. It does not come across from flyers.

Have the Trustee deliver their report on Saturday night.

Have the last Delegate give their Delegate's Report at the MC.

Pages 9 & 10 in the Training guide are confusing and need to be rewritten. When reporting back, the Chairperson compiles the numbers first and gives them to the voting chairperson, and then finish the rest of the report.

We need to watch out for burnout. Service martyrs are not attractive or good.

We need more people to spread out the jobs.

The Mini-Conference Committee needs to be bigger. We need more people than just the Panel. We need GSRs too. It strengthens the MC Committee. When people rotate out they are tired. The MC Committee has to have its own Mission and Vision. The Committee can take its own Inventory and Revisit the MC Reference Guide document.

Make the MC Committee self-sustaining. We need to understand the principles of the process. We need to be inclusive when forming group conscience. We need to be deliberate about the transition following the rotation.

We lose pieces when we rely on oral tradition. Writing it down (MC Reference Guide Document), keeps stuff from falling through the cracks.

We need to place Principles before Personalities. A good MC means we are doing something right. We need to build on it.

Nancy F.

District Reports...

District 28...

District 28 Area 56 put together a Working with others the Home Group at the East Side Center For the District meeting for July. The District 28 PI/CPC Chair, Jack H. discussed the need for Public Information on the group level and the importance of Cooperation with the Professional Community.

There was an issue brought up regarding our singleness of purpose and how best to address this in Open Meetings and Closed meetings. The Panel discussed the pamphlet "Problems other than Alcohol" as

well as reading from the "Blue Card". This discussion has been of great importance lately in the district and a motion has been made to take this to Area 56 and have a change to the blue card on open meetings. Our next District meeting will be August 20th at 2PM.

In Love and Service,

Bob Mc

DCM District 28 Area 56

District 23...

District 23 held the Lunch and Cookies workshop on Saturday, June 4th. The themes were: Where Money and Spirituality Mix and Cooperating (not affiliating) With the Courts. Turn out wasn't great but those who didn't make it missed out on two awesome guests from Area 56. Bob M., Area 56 PI/CPC Chair and District 28's DCM gave a presentation with his personal thoughts and experiences. Our surprise guest speaker was Laura G, Delegate Area 56 who gave a presentation on AA Self Support. This was presented in a relaxed open discussion....no lectures! We served homemade BBQ sandwiches and coleslaw and MOUNTAINS of the best homemade cookies on earth!

Our June 5 District meeting had low attendance and there was no meeting in July. During this time I lost contact with our treasurer and

the member who was in charge of the phone. It felt like the district was self-destructing but it all got resolved by our August 7th meeting. We had 10 groups represented and our replacement secretary was approved. Elections will be held in October for 2017-2018 officers. I encouraged people to step up and assured the group they would have the support of past officers. Roger C. introduced himself to District 23 and offered his help in any way needed. Our next meeting will be Sunday, October 2 at 1:15. There is a 12 Concepts Meeting preceding each of the district meetings at 12:00. We meet at 127 E. Fulton Street in Celina.

Andrea H., DCM District 23

Area 56 PI/CPC Committee Report...

<p>This year's NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) held their national convention in Cincinnati. The projected attendance was expected to be around 9,000. Alcoholics Anonymous was honored to be an exhibitor at the convention and was well received by the attendees. Area 56 PI/CPC along with Cincinnati Intergroup PI/CPC was able to staff the booth with a total of 30 members over a four day period. Tom C served as the Co-Chair and did a remarkable job of pulling everything together. A very special thanks goes out to the men of the Prospect house, Karen N and</p>	<p>Carol M of Cincinnati Intergroup, Brian S. the DCM of Area 11, David B and Jack H of District 28 for all of their efforts. It is truly remarkable to see the program in action. Also a special thanks for all of the people that carried the message of Recovery manning the booth.</p> <p>In Love and Service Bob M. PI/CPC Chair - Area 56</p>
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Area 56 Group Services Committee Report...

<p>Area 56 Group Services Committee co- chairs Polly S.H. and Jorjann C. May 21st 2016 GSR school 13 attended 9 New GSRs 1 Alt GSR Total year to date 12 new GSRs Announced the half slips with your information need to be turned into Jenny, Registrar before leaving Assembly. Group Services Committee went to various meetings and club-</p>	<p>houses since Feb 21, posting and announcing Unity Day and GSR school. Announced meeting changes and changes to GSR contacts need to be recorded with the Area and via AA in NY, via snail mail, fax or email. Restated the website for Area 56 aaarea56.org needs to be corrected in GSR handbook. Group Services Committee co-chairs to work on recommendations re: updating and correcting The GSR Handbook and working on a possible GSR PowerPoint</p>
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Area 56 Grapevine Committee Report...

<p>September issue features articles focusing on "Young & Sober" NEW - AA Grapevine Introduces the GV Subscription App Now You Can: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subscribe through the app • Access the magazine on your tablet or smartphone monthly • Download your issue for offline viewing • Archive past issues • Get a sample audio story and a selected video • Email articles to friends <p>\$23.99 for a 12-month subscription of the app – order through the</p> </p>	<p>app on your I-Phone or I-pad. You can also sign up on-line for a 7-day free trial. You can order Print, on-line or Grapevine complete if you want both at www.aagrapevine.org. Looking for a service position? Be the voice of the grapevine and become a GV Representative. It's easy to get started – Simply let your homegroup know you are interested and register on-line to receive a complete information kit from the Grapevine office.</p> <p>Sandra H.</p>
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Area 56 Literature Committee Report...

<p>Did You Know.....the Big Book is available in 69 languages, with 17 languages in process of translation? The most recently completed translation, in 2015, is Twi (Ghana). which took 3 translators 8 years to complete. During the final book-binding stage, members got together to bind the Big Book by hand. Imagine, literally stitching by hand the Big Book! Talk about going to any lengths to be of service! The Literature committee is again hosting the Literature Forum at 9:00 on Sep 24 before Assembly, where we read and discuss AA litera-</p>	<p>ture which may or may not be familiar. We will have a display at the Buckeye Roundup Holiday Inn Eastgate in Cincinnati on Nov 4-6. If you would like a literature display at your event, please let me know.</p> <p>Thank you. Ruby A., Literature Chair</p>
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Area 56 Panel 66

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Area 56 Corrections Committee Report...

Area 56 Corrections Committee had a great first meeting. We have our next meeting on September 18th at 2pm and will be electing chairs for the committee. Patty B is our Correspondence Chair. We have a P.O Box now and will be making an effort to support correspondence and pre release contacts in Area 56. A.A.W.S has a link on their website for a "New Freedom" it's a 30 min video about our fellowship in prison. Look forward to our Sept 18th

meeting and elections. I will also forward you our flyer and the link to the video.

Brian H

Area 56 Communications Committee Report...

I'd like to thank everyone who contributed to this third issue of Walking With Purpose. This has been a challenging year for Area 56. With a booming start to the year the momentum has slowed this summer. Some members have had major health issues and others have resigned their positions. I like to remember that we're all doing the best we can with what has been given us. As I've grown in this program I have come to believe the greatest asset is "willingness."

Thank you for all your support!
Andrea H., Communications Chair

