

WALKING WITH PURPOSE

aaarea56.org

Southwest Ohio General Service Area 56

P.O. Box 684 Dayton, OH 45401

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Dark Districts Revisited

Greetings friends,

I've been asked to share and somewhat revisit an article I wrote in 2006 about 'Dark Districts in both Southwest Ohio Area 56 & A.A.'. So, ten years have passed and I would like to share again my experience with you, the member and guardian of A.A. and its future.

The term, Dark District, comes in part from a lengthy article published in Box 459, (Vol 52, No 1 Feb/Mar 06) http://www.aa.org/newsletters/en_US/en_box459_febmar06.pdf by your General Service Office.

I pause here, to ponder the fact of Districts either being indeed a vital link in the Fellowship's service structure or not. Upon searching and reviewing the A.A. Service Manual, along with the revised Circles of Love and Service pamphlet, and with the additional service piece titled 'Your D.C.M.', I've concluded and offer to you a strong affirmative voice that - Districts are, in fact, an essential link, indeed to all of the 93 Areas in the U.S. & Canada, in the structure of our Legacy of Service.

One of the concerns in Southwest Ohio Area 56 back then,

along with today, and with the theme of the Box 459 article is, with this increase in the number of Districts going dark, has the integrity of our communicating the Group's voice to A.A. as a whole and to the General Service Conference weaken, especially at this upcoming pre-conference activity? So let's maybe observe now what the old railroad crossing sign stated: Stop, Look & Listen!

Let me please share now 'what it was like' for Area 56 Districts in early 1980. From the Oct 12th, 1980 archive minutes of the Southwest Ohio and Northern Kentucky Area General Service Meeting, held then at the Congress Inn in Monroe, Oh, reports, that Chairman Ralph H. asked the G.S.R.s to caucus for the elections of Committeeman. The minutes further shows that all 17 Area Districts, of which four were sub-divided into two multi districts, elected not only a new Committeeman to serve for a two year term, each District also elected a new Alternate Committeeman that day. Folks that is 100% participation and commitment! I myself, am just blown away by that track record of dedication and energy committed to their sobriety first, and then to the fellowship that our predecessors entrusted to us. Talk about Trusted Servants!

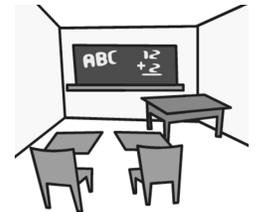
Secondly now, 'what happened' for Area 56 Districts. Just ten years later, reported in the January 21st, 1990 Southwest Ohio Area 56 Committee meeting held at VFW Hall, Middletown, OH, archive minutes, revealed that out of the Area's 30 Districts, a total of sixteen D.C.M.s gave reports. This 53-1/2% of the total possible reports should have sounded a red flag concern for an Area Inventory. The results from a negative action expressing concern, either by an oversight, apathy, complacency, or even the then current influx of one month only new GSR attendees, that external bridge from the Group to Conference, has weaken and is so weaken as to cause a possible collapse. But wait, there's more! 'What it's like' for the Area 56 Districts was that, that conduit to the Conference became horrifically feeble, that the Southwest Ohio Assembly, December 11, 2005, at the Otterbein Church Dayton, OH, minutes listed only a dismal two of the now twenty-nine Districts with reports. That's 1% and very disappointing, disturbing and painful to me and should be to you also, as a member of Alcoholics Anonymous. All indications are: that the District heartbeat of our Third Legacy is nearing ex-

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2017 Calendar of Events...

- Jan 15** Area Committee Meeting (12:00) Miamisburg
- Feb 10-12** Conference of Delegates Past & Present (w/ Ohio State Planning Meeting)
- Feb 18** Area Assembly (10:00) *
- Feb 19** Area Committee Meeting (12:00) Miamisburg
- March 3-5** Area 55 Mini-Conference
- Mar 10-11** Area 53 Mini-Conference
- Mar 17-19** Area 56 Mini-Conference
- Mar 31-2** Area 54 Mini-Conference
- April 23-29** General Service Conference
- April 30** Area Committee Meeting (12:00) Miamisburg
- May 6** Ohio State Planning Meeting
- May 20** Area Assembly/Unity Day (10:00)*
- July 16** Area Committee Meeting (12:00)
- July 21-23** East Central Regional Conference
- July 28-30** Ohio State Convention (w/ Ohio State Planning meeting)
- Aug 19** Area Assembly? (10:00)* (if there will be four assemblies)
- Sept 16** Area Assembly? (10:00)* (if there will be only three assemblies)
- Sept 17** Area Committee Meeting (12:00)
- Oct 15** Area Committee Meeting (12:00)
- Nov 4** Ohio State Planning Meeting
- Nov 11** Area Assembly? (10:00)* (if there will be four assemblies)
- Nov 17-19** East Central Regional Forum



Statement of Purpose

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

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

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

Area Delegate Laura G:

Asked the panel to approve 289.36 for O.Y.P.P.A costs. She was invited to speak at panel in Sandusky. That was approved. Brought up Roger's resignation and asked Ismenie if she will be fulfilling that position. Ismenie said she would like to pray and speak with her sponsor, before taking on the responsibility. However she would handle chairing and making copies for the area meeting. Mini conference committee needs to start planning. It will be easier to get that going once alternate position is filled. Laura also brought up discussion for topics to be discussed at the assembly for the area inventory discussions. Topics decided were {area website: how can we make the website more user friendly} {how do we better communicate service opportunities} {mail verses snail mail} {frequency of assembly and also maybe different locations} {mini inference registration fees} Bill M. also said he would be more than happy to help with developing a better website. Laura also stated she would like to get the first three newsletters emailed to all the area G.S.R Laura also submitted a proposal she would like to submit to assembly about how changes to the service manual are handled by G.S.O. that was approved. Laura also passed out annual G.S.O reports with a reminder that those are confidential. Also we need to get Roger removed from bank accounts. Laura also thanked Dave, Mark, Jenny and Laura F for their involvement in the Ohio state convention. Laura G also participated in speaking on panel at convention.

Area Alternate Delegate Vacant:

Ismenie is considering if she will take on role as area alternate chair.

Area Treasurer Dave L:

Passed out his report. Area had a closing cash balance of 6,6577.57 as of July 1 2016. And a closing prudent reserve of 5,612.56. See his report for more detailed description of cash received and paid. Also passed out group contribution reports and comparison budgets. Asked for review and requested comments.

Secretary Laura F:

Reviewed minutes from the committee assembly. Those were approved. Discussed the need to work with Jenny to get email lists and concordance. Will try to meet with Laura G, Ismenie and Jenny to get better acquainted with secretary duties.

Registrar/CS Jenny C:

Currently 459 active groups 393 inactive groups and 123 other. Biggest problem is groups' not updating information. Asked that members please relay information to groups that we need a current contact for every group.

Chair Reports:

Communications (Andrea H) did get in contact with Roger and was able to get information needed to complete newsletter. All three newsletters are currently on the website under announcements. Most recent newsletter featuring articles by Alicia and JorJann. Discussion was held on costs to print newsletter {Laura G found printer who can print 500 copies for 260.00.

Corrections (Brian H)

G.S.O updated video for corrections it is a 30 min video is available on website. Has forwarded that information to correction facilities. Opened a P.O Box for correspondence. Also received literature from G.S.O to distribute. Next committee meeting will also be elections for committee on Sept 18th.

Archives (Ismenie H)

Archives workshop will be October 15th 2016 at Unity center in Dayton from 10am to 3pm. All are welcomed and encouraged to attend. Also extended an invitation to other chairs to have presentations at workshop. Will bring flyers to assembly.

Finance (Ron H)

Submitted proposed budget to present to assembly. Budgets are for two years. The proposal passed.

Literature (Ruby A)

Reminded everyone that there will be a literature forum one hour prior to assembly.

Group Services (Jorjann C & Polly)

JorJann visited and presented information in many areas in southern Ohio. Polly and Jorjann did make some changes in the G.S.R school format. G.S.R school is at 9am before every general assembly meeting. Also are still working on cleaning up G.S.R workbooks.

Grapevine (Sandy H)

Grapevine app is available for download. No android version yet. You can subscribe to the grapevine online for free for one week trial. Also explained the importance of groups having a grapevine rep for home groups.

PI/CPC (Bob M)

Was involved with events with the NAACP, Tri County Center and Prospect House. Tri County had exhibits with 30 volunteers and Prospect house event had 17,000 visitors. Distributed literature that was received by G.S.O also will be having a workshop at Eastside center July 16th.

No Reports: Treatment/Special needs (Steve B) Website (Holly R)

DCM Reports:

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

Readings:

The preamble, declaration of unity, why do we need a conference and the 12 concepts were read. Thanks to Holly, Carl, Ray and L.P for their help.

Past Delegate Introduction:

Suzanne W, Hank S, Garwood F, Mark E

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

Rick from Sunday night solutions, Mike from Acceptance in the heights, David representing New town big book in Cincinnati, John representing Nickel group Tri-County, Angie from Trotwood group of Dayton. *Thank you for your service work* Big Book Throw down with Gary L. "Had some friendly A.A competition with trivia"

Old Business:

Addressed hospitality chair vacancy. Angie volunteered and was unanimously elected. Congratulations Angie and Thank you!

New Business:

Ron: Introduced the new budget for the next two years. Motion was made and budget passed unanimously.

Mark E. Talked to assembly regarding his willingness to send his resume for East Regional Trustee. Also answered questions regarding his experience and the job itself. Motion was made and passed.

Suzanne W. Spoke to assembly about her willingness to stand for trustee at large. After questions about the position and her experience motion was made and passed.

Ismenie. There is a current vacancy in the archives chair seat. Garwood F. volunteered and was unanimously confirmed.

Proposed Motions:

Mark E. Brought following motion:

[Proposed agenda item to assure that The A. A. Service Manual Combined with The Twelve Concepts for World Service by Bill W. truly be a Conference Approved item.

Any changes, except for editorial changes to factual, statistical, capitalization, punctuation and spelling to The A. A. Service Manual Combined with The Twelve Concepts for World Service by Bill W. be approved by the General Service Conference. This proposal will then assure that The A. A. Service Manual Combined with The Twelve Concepts for World Service by Bill W. would then become, in fact, Conference Approved Literature.

In 2009, the Conference Committee on Report and Charter proposed and the 59th General Service Conference approved the following.. "The General Service Board, the AAW.S. Board and the AA Grapevine Board annually review The AA Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service and forward necessary updates to the Conference Committee on Report and Charter."

In 2010, the changes suggested by the General Service Board, the AAWS Board and the AA Grapevine Board were reviewed by the Conference Committee on Report and Charter and the resulting statement were reported to the Conference as Additional Considerations. "In keeping with the 2009 Advisory Action that the AA Grapevine Board annually review The A.A. Service Manual and The action is therefore in direct conflict with our twelfth concept. Similar actions have occurred in the 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th and 66th General Service Conferences by the Conference Committee on Report and Charter.

Following procedures, the background material submitted to the delegates prior to the General Service Conference does not include any of the proposed revisions offered, but rather includes the following disclaimer "Note: The background documents attached were mailed to committee only and not for duplication or distribution beyond the committee".

Much the same procedure is followed, up to this point, by all other Conference Committees considering revisions to Conference approved literature. The difference is that once any Conference Committee, except for the Conference Committee on Report and Charter, decides on any wording to be added or changed to any literature, the resulting suggestions are always presented to the General Service Conference for approval, modification or rejection and then reported as Advisory Actions. Our Service Manual deserves the same respect and consideration.] *After questions motion was made and this item passed unanimously.

Bob M. Brought a motion from district 28 and a consideration written by member David B.:

[Request to have, from A.A. approved pamphlet: The A.A group...where it all begins. Page 13, sub-heading "The difference between open and closed meetings, third paragraph second sentence "Non-alcoholics may attend open meetings as observers". Appended to A.A service piece F-17 "The Blue Card". *After much discussion this motion failed. Minority opinion also failed, District 28 still maintains right to send this measure on if so desired.

Laura G. Brought the following motion to be considered:

[Southwest Ohio area 56 proposes the following as an item for the 57th annual general service conference. The A.A service manual combined with the twelve concepts by Bill W. will be published electronically in all years including the years it is not published physically. These electronic additions will be made available to the fellowship through all relative distribution systems including the A.A. website.] *After brief discussion motion passed unanimously.

A.A ANNAVERSARIES: Chuck 26 yrs. Laura 34yrs. Ruby 31 yrs. Karen 3 yrs. David 9yrs. Paul 25yrs. Congratulations guys! We then broke for lunch followed by the Area Inventory session. Results from those sessions will be available in separate report.

For Area 56 announcements please visit website for current information!

Area Officer Reports:

Secretary Laura F.

Reviewed minutes from the last Area meeting. No questions were asked. Motion was made to accept minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer Dave L.

May, June, July and August financial reports need to be voted on. Copies were made and sent out via email. Questions were asked and answered. Motion was made to accept. Reports passed unanimously.

7,917.00 Balance as of this week. We elected to approve all financial reports with one vote that motion passed unanimously. Registrar Jenny C.

Explained some of the reasoning for their being lapses in correspondence from Area to groups. We are no longer meeting every month so minutes are not going to be as frequent. Explained

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the Fellowship New Vision program that keeps groups listed and updated. Expressed the great need for groups to update their information. It is essential that we have an accurate contact for each group. We welcomed 7 new G.S.R today congratulations to them. There are currently 884 total groups currently in Area 56, only 458 of those groups are currently active, 294 are inactive and 32 others that we have names for but no other information. So we need to keep reaching out to groups and trying to make sure our email lists and mailing list are as up to date as possible. Motion was made to accept report. Unanimously passed.

Area Delegate Laura G.

Thank you to Ismenie for taking on the responsibility of being alternate chair and for already putting in so much work in such a short time. Also our friend and former recording secretary Mark P. passed away Sept 2 so please keep him and his family in your prayers. He will be missed. Had the opportunity to attend the State convention in Westlake and spoke on a panel, thanked Jenny, Dave and Laura for also participating. The next day went to Area 53 in Grove City and helped with their election.

F.Y.I.....

Our 2017 Area Mini-Conference will be held March 17-19 at the Marriott in Dayton again. This year we will have a staff member from the General Service Office as a guest, Jeff W., who serves on the Corrections desk. He will give a staff report on what's going on at the General Service Office, and give his lead. Our other guest will be Bob W., who serves as the US Trustee-at-Large. In that capacity, he represents the General Service Board at AA gatherings around the world and serves as our Delegate to the World Service Meeting. He has some amazing stories about what he's seen and experienced and will give a report on AA around the world. We'll also get him to give his lead, too. I have a set of the reports on group contributions to the General Service Board, through May 31 this year. I haven't gotten the most recent report yet but I expect it soon. The percentage of groups contributing in Area 56 by the end of May was 32.68%, up from last year, which was 29.44%.

There is currently an opening for a staff member at the General Service Office. The application deadline is November 15, with a start date in January 2017. If you are interested or know anyone whom you think would be a good candidate, let me know and I can get you or them the application material.

I have copies of the 2016 Final Report of the Conference. Please share these with your groups, keeping in mind that they are confidential documents for AA members only. Full names are used throughout, so please don't just leave them lying around. Finally, what's been going on since the General Service Conference in April?

From AA World Services -

Sales through the end of June are up. Gross sales are 5.4% over what was budgeted. And seventh tradition contributions are up as well. When you add the contributions to the gross profit from literature, AAWS is 8% ahead of budget. They had projected a loss of over \$890,000 by the end of June and instead were at a net profit of \$305,900. In addition, expenses are 7.4% under budget. Grapevine is also doing better than projected – the YTD sales as of the end of June are \$295,000 ahead of what was planned. La Viña has a small shortfall at the same point, a little

over \$5,000. So financially, we are doing better than had been projected. I just want to remind everyone that Grapevine made a \$260,000 transfer to the Reserve Fund in March this year, too. The AAWS Board approved two pieces of business which I think may be of interest to people in Area 56. First: They are proposing the development of a new book from AAWS. The working title is Unity in Action: Bill W.'s General Service Conference Talks, 1951-1970. This has been forwarded to the Trustees Committee on Archives, which will get more background and discuss it at the next Board meeting before deciding what to do.

Second: The AAWS Board forwarded to the General Service Board a recommendation regarding the "enforcement strategy" of the "blue people" logo. The General Service Board approved the proposal, which includes AAWS applying for both copyright and trademark registration and then adopting and publishing a clear policy for the care and use of its logos to include registration, authorized parties and enforcement." So the blue people on the aa.org website will soon be trademarked and copyrighted.

There are already three Literature items set for the 2017 Agenda:

- A request to revise the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship"
- A request to develop a pamphlet reflecting the recovery experience of deaf alcoholics. This is coming from the Trustees Committee to the Conference Committee with a suggestion that we expand the discussion to include all methods of communication (including literature, video, whatever we can come up with). I will be seeking guidance and input from the Area on that.
- And finally, a request to retire the pamphlet "Too Young?" Report was unanimously passed.

Alternate Delegate and Area Chair Ismenie N:

Thanked for the opportunity to serve. Gave away index cards and asked for people to answer the following: how often would you like the assembly to meet? Also if you would be interested in serving on the mini conference committee with contact info if are interested. Expressed thanks to the new G.S.R'S. Gave away literature to the newest member and also the person for attending area meetings the longest. Congratulations Carla and Ron. Report was accepted unanimously.

D.C.M Reports

District 23 Andrea H:

Last area assembly as D.C.M. We will be holding our elections before the next area meeting. Our district meetings are held in Celina. Please pray for our district participation is low and we need more support.

District 28 Bob M:

For our August meeting we invited a former delegate and another D.C.M to attend our meeting. We asked them to perform an inventory and let us know what we were doing right and what we needed to fix.. Fourteen G.S.R'S were in attendance. Participation has continued to increase at district meetings. We discussed the motion expressed earlier pertaining to the blue card. It was decided that we should pass the motion onto area for more input. District 28 is working with intergroup 12 step call list and are trying to get other groups involved. We have redesigned our district website you can visit us at www.d28AA56.org

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District 12/13 Ron H:

Looking forward to share day! Spoke of some of the different things that will be on topic for the day. Also passed out flyers for events. We will hold elections before next Area meeting.

District 21 Garwood F:

District 21 meets at 7:00 PM on the first Tuesday of each month in Sidney OH. at the Presbyterian Church on the corner of North & Miami St.

District 21 held its annual Wilson – Smith Family Reunion picnic on September 10th at Fountain Park in Piqua. With over one hundred people in attendance on an overcast and rainy day the event was considered a success not only by the attendance, but by the comments of both local folks and those who traveled a good distance.

Initial planning for the district holiday events will be the main focus of our October meeting. Watch the area website, Central Office and local meeting for flyers announcing whatever holiday event District 21 plans for.

INTERGROUP Reports:

Chuck B Dayton:

Intergroup and central office continue to function well ending treasury balance was 13,970.00. Candidates were interviewed for the central office manager's position. Please report defunct meetings to central office so we can keep the schedule updated. Central office hours are Mon-Fri 9am -4pm and Saturday 9am to noon. The phone number is 222-2211. The new electronic billboard is up, little feedback has been received. Unity letter is doing well. Please send all contributions by the 15th of the month through the link at aadaytononline.org or directly to daytonunity@gmail.com we currently have subscriptions for 455 each month. Gary M. was elected to fill the vacant corrections chair.

Jane M. Cincinnati:

Finances are completely on quick books. Central office is moving to 2245 Gilbert Ave (suite 304) taking occupancy on Oct 1st. you can enter from 2300 Florence Ave. There is off street parking if need be and also building does have an elevator. The remaining money from the 167k donation was distributed to 6 organizations that they had already inherited money from the donor. All 6 checks were cashed and we received 3 thankyou letters. AA exhibited at the NAACP national convention at the duke energy center in July we had 30 volunteers over 4 days. Attendance at convention was over 17,000 people. Our radio show airs every Monday 3-5 pm at www.waif883.org you can also listen at 88.3 fm. Justice Center downtown is need of women for meeting wed and sat. Wed and Thurs Talbert house need men to help chair meetings. Also Droege house in Dayton KY. Also need men to help chair. ARC ladies treatment center in Goshen also need female support. Need a volunteer to chair the women's bridge the gap. Please don't forget to check news on area56 and Cincyintergroup websites for news on Alcathon!

Area Chair Reports:

Andrea H. (Communications)

Third walking with purpose is out and is on website and props to holly for being so diligent in helping me with newsletter. The newsletter also includes minutes from committee meetings and area meetings. Calendar of events and contact information is

also available in the newsletter.

Brian H. (Corrections)

Had elections and have formed a committee. So now there are people in place to serve. Home groups can sponsor grapevine subscription for jails. We need to get meeting schedules available for people being released and also big books. We now have a PO BOX so any inmate now has an address that they can write to. We are still in need of men to participate in the inmate writing program. Also need leads and chair people to help with jail and prison meetings. So if you're interested in serving in that capacity men and women please let me know. Area 53 also is in need for help with carrying the message into prisons.

Sandy H. (Grapevine)

New book from grapevine "our 12 traditions" price is 10.99.

LaVina is 20 yrs. old so happy birthday! There is also a special collection of La Vina stories that can be purchased for 10.99.

The October is featuring agnostic and atheist member. The grapevine is always looking for stories, photos, jokes, artwork, cartoons etc. submission guidelines are available on website. Finally does your group have a grapevine rep? I need members to help with encouraging groups to elect G.V.R's. So if you're interested in being on the grapevine committee please let me know.

Ismenie N. (Archives)

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to attend the 20th annual nation A.A archives workshop. Over 300 people attended all areas of Ohio was represented. It was a wonderful learning opportunity. There were workshops on how to restore old documents also learned how to take oral histories so am looking forward to working with Garwood to put on an archives workshop for Area 56. I did purchase all sorts of materials that were available so I look forward to sharing that with all of you.

Jorjann C. & Polly S. (Group services)

I cannot express enough the importance of the G.S.R. We had 11 people this morning at G.S.R school. How exciting! Please take home flyers for G.S.R school and pass them out to your local groups. We are still working on updating the area school book. Especially addresses need updating. We need group information so we can help you! Also Box 459 is available for free by email. Thank you to everyone for the opportunity to serve. If you would like us to set up our display at your district meeting or group meetings please let us know. Also threw out a 100 G.S.R throw down challenge for the 2017 mini-conference. On a personal note if it's not fun I'm not doing it!!!

Ruby A. (Literature)

A.A has some amazing things available you can read for free online. Especially Markings. If you have the chance to check that out please do. I'm happy to bring the literature display to any events you may have. Thank you.

Bob M. (PI/CPC)

Participated in the NAACP event. Was overwhelmed by the support that I received for this event. 40 people for 4 days Prospect house helped so much. 17,000 people attended event. The power of God runs deep. Jack H was instrumental in getting some information on local access television. We will also be sharing at Share day and the committee is more than happy to visit your groups or events and share with you. Thank you.

Young People in A.A: Josh (Dayton)

Did put bid in to get 2017 conference lost to Akron we will be putting a committee together to make a bid for the following year. We have been working on trying to get more involvement.

Votes

Pending approval of the Assembly, motion made that the Alternate Delegate/Area Chair chair the Area Committee meetings with input from the Delegate and other Committee Chairs.

Garwood made motion, Jorjann seconded, carried unanimously.

Pending approval of the Assembly, motion made for Area 56 to move from three meetings a year to quarterly meetings.

Garwood made motion, Ron seconded, carried unanimously.

Vote for Quarterly Meeting months:

Feb, May, Aug, Nov – 7 in favor

Feb, May, Sept, Nov – 2 in favor

The first option carried, no minority opinion given.

Motion made to allow the Delegate to select Agenda items for the 2017 Mini-Conference.

Garwood made motion, Sandy seconded, carried unanimously.

Motion made to approve an expenditure for 10 DVDs of “A New Freedom” for Corrections Committee at \$10 apiece.

Motion made by Brian, seconded by Sandy, approved unanimously.

District Reports...

District 19...

Area 56, District 19, having been “dark” for some time, now meets the 3rd Monday of each month from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the First Evangelical Lutheran Church, 287 W. Main Street, Xenia, Ohio. Support and visitors welcome!

Gene L.

District 28...

District 28 Corrections put on the Correctionsfest at the East Side Center along with hosting Area 56 Corrections Committee meeting. We had speakers from both mens and womens institutions. We started at 2 PM until 6 PM. We had an attendance of over 70 people and was well received. District 28 has agreed to do this again next year except one week earlier due to the thanksgiving banquet by Cincinnati intergroup being the same week this year.

Group Services and Area 56 PI/CPC attended and displayed at the function as well. District 28 next meeting is December 17th at 2 PM. At this time we will be setting our calendar for 2017.

In Love and Service,

Bob Mc

DCM District 28 Area 56

District 21...

District 21 continues to meet at 7 PM on the first Tuesday of the month at the Presbyterian Church on the Connor of North and Miami St. In Sidney.

We have active PI / CPC and Corrections committees.

We will be holding the annual Holiday Open-house from 7pm Christmas Eve till 7 am Christmas Day. The intent of this event is to foster fellowship between our groups and members over the holidays and more importantly provide a safe place for the

newly recovering alcoholics or those with time who may be struggling over the Christmas holiday.

The Open-house will be at Trinity Episcopal Church 60 S. Dorset St. In Troy.

Thank you

Garwood

District 23...

District 23 held its election on October 2nd. Only six people attended the meeting but we had a successful election. As of January 1st Karen H. from Celina will be our new DCM. Karen originally wanted to be the new secretary but we had a discussion about our district going “dark” if no one stepped up. She and Kara B. (now our new secretary) put their names in the hat and Karen was chosen. What a great outcome!

It has been an honor serving as DCM for District 23. One of the saddest aspects though was dealing with a great deal of apathy and “contempt prior to investigation.” Serving AA is just

that; service...not ruling! One of our greatest spiritual principles is “the spirit of rotation.” I look forward to serving District 23 as our PI Chair and will help where needed but it is a relief to step away as DCM.

Our new schedules for 2017 are out. We continue to maintain our phone service for those looking for information about meetings (419-378-4962) and a website (aaoio-triarea.org).

Andrea H.

DCM District 23

Area 56 Group Services Committee Report...

As reported to Area on 11/20 for Group Services Committee.	GSR flyers were made available at Cincinnati Intergroup Thanksgiving Banquet.
Group Services Committee Co-Chairs attended Share-A-Day, October 2016	Updated GSR handbook is ready for printing-Thanks to Sandy H., and Roger C., for helping to edit/review handbook.
Group Services displays and GSR information were available at Corrections Fest 2016.	Report made at Area Committee meeting 11/20/2016. Jorjann Group Services Committee co-chair

Area 56 Grapevine Committee Report...

<p>Grapevine Report December 2016 There are some great items available through the Grapevine On-line Store www.aagrapevine.org In addition to being able to order the Grapevine in Print or Online for yourself or as a gift – here are some of the items that are available: 2017 One Day At A Time Calendar 2017 One Day At A Time Pocket Planner Forming True Partnerships: How AA members use the program to improve relationships Our Twelve Traditions: AA members share their own stories of experience Un Día A La Vez: Nuestras historias de esperanza y recuperación publicadas en La Viña The Language of the Heart: Bill W.'s Grapevine Writings Sober & Out: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender AA</p>	<p>Members Share Their Experience, Strength and Hope One On One: AA Sponsorship in Action Young & Sober: Stories from AA Grapevine Beginners' Book: Getting and Staying Sober in AA Grapevine Daily Quote Book CDs, Artwork, Commemorative Special Editions of Grapevine and much more Now is the perfect time to order a gift and something for yourself, the cost of shipping is "FREE"* through 12/31/16, To receive FREE SHIPPING* just type the code GRAPE in the "Enter Coupon Code" box in the shopping cart. Sandra F. Grapevine Chair</p>
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Area 56 Literature Committee Report...

<p>The winter issue of Box 459 includes a quote from Bill W. written in 1955. "Each of us in AA has received the gift of sobriety. All of us have found a new usefulness and most of us have found great happiness. This adds up to the gift of life itself- A new life of Wondrous Possibility." Wow! We sure have lots to be grateful for this season, and all year, for that matter. November 4-6 Buckeye Roundup had a literature display complete with blinky lights.</p>	<p>Pamphlets were available and many were picked up, so it was a success for the committee. I would like to thank everyone who contribute to funds for literature for incarcerated people. Don't want to step on Corrections toes; since I volunteer at DCI women's prison, I see first-hand the eagerness of the inmates to receive AA literature. I am grateful for sobriety, the ability to read and to serve our miraculous AA society. Ruby A. Literature Chair</p>
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District 28 (BOB M) Submitted proposal from his district concerning changes to blue card. Was much discussion committee did not approve action however Bob has the right to present to assembly. Announced event for Eastside center July 16th. District sponsored a workshop also and provided lunch.

District 23 (Andrea)

Her district had no meetings for July or Sept. October meeting will be on the 2nd rather than 9th. District 23 will be holding elections in October and Andrea will be rotating out of D.C.M position.

District 12&13 (Ron)

Share day will be Oct 8th starting at 10 am. All Area Committees are encouraged to bring displays. Will bring flyers to area assembly.

Area 56 Panel 66

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tion.

'What it's like today 2016' encouragingly is that at least seven Districts now are lit out of 29 in Area 56!

I have a belief, that, is not so much as how the car got in the ditch, but how are we the members, going to get it out? What is the solution? Let's examine the damage, repair it to the best condition possible, and learn from the circumstances!

I've heard in discussions that apathy, ("if it doesn't bother my coffee cup") along with selfishness, two of my own character defects, is running rampant within today's fellowship.

With that said, I ask myself these questions about what can I

(you) do?

How can I help communicate this serious service concern message to the Area's General Service Representatives to fulfill their job responsibilities, along with the groups that will not or won't elect a GSR, the benefits of a Bright District?

Do I belong to a group that has an active General Service Representative (GSR)?

Do I support that GSR (listening to their reports) by encouraging them?

Is my Home Group located in a Dark, Dim, or Bright District?

Am I only concerned about my own sobriety?

Do I share my AA experience with others only when it's convenient for selfish me?

I believe also, that awareness, acceptance, and action are key words for me to gratefully meditate and pray concerning this

point of history for AA as a whole, key words also for all general service servants, and most certainly key words for you the guardian members!

Bill W. and ALL the early friends and members, gave us three (3) Legacies in developing our fellowship so we could live a life without alcohol! Right? Then, I'm so confused as to why today's sober members don't support and participate in all Three Legacies.

In service; Rick S. Panel 48
Area 56 Past Delegate

