

# ***Walking With Purpose***

Newsletter of Southwest Ohio General Service Area 56

aaarea56.org

Vol. 3. Issue 2 March 2020

## **Leadership in A.A.:** ***Concept 9 in Action***

### **Dear Members of Area 56,**

**What** characteristics make a good AA leader? Join us at the Area 56 Mini-Conference in Dayton on Sunday March 22. We will talk about what makes a good trusted AA servant.

On Sunday morning, the entire Conference will have an open mic discussion about Leadership in A.A.: Concept 9 in Action. Our Sunday Morning Conversation will take place immediately following the Sunday morning voting session, if it is needed. It will be followed by the “Ask It Basket” and the Mini-Conference Wrap up. Please join us.

I have been assigned to the Conference Committee on Trustees. The largest part of my Committee work will be discussing the resumés and applications of the candidates for West Central Regional Trustee and Western Canada Regional Trustee and the candidates for AA World Service Board of Directors and AA Grapevine Board of Directors. Much of my committee background is confidential and I cannot share it with you. I am part of the process of choosing leaders for AA. I'd like your input on what you believe are important elements that a good AA leader needs.

You will find the pamphlet: “The Twelve Concepts Illustrated,” in the packet you receive when you arrive. Concept 9 talks about leadership in AA. It outlines the importance of Leadership in AA and defines certain characteristics of a good AA leader. Please read it in preparation for the Sunday Morning Conversation. If you have a service manual,

Bill W.'s essay “Leadership in AA: Ever a Vital Need,” will be enormously helpful to read as well. It is found in the explanation of Concept 9.

### ***Concept IX***

***Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety. The primary world service leadership once exercised by the founders of A.A. must necessarily be assumed by the Trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.***

I hope to have an informative discussion. Leaders in AA, from Group Chairpersons and General Service Representative to our Directors and Trustees, all ensure that the doors of AA will remain open for the next generation of alcoholics desperate for the solution. I look forward to hearing what you have to share.

With Gratitude and Love,

Nancy F., Delegate

## **Area 56 Mission Statement**

Southwest Ohio Area 56 is a spiritual entity with a threefold mission in support of AA's primary purpose:

- To nurture communication among and foster participation within all elements of the General Service structure, thereby ensuring the formation of an informed group conscience,
- To facilitate Twelfth Step work within Southwest Ohio as guided by the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts for World Service, and
- To assist Groups, Districts and Intergroups in their service to the suffering alcoholic by sharing information, experience and resources.

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*Walking with Purpose* is a newsletter designed to foster unity within Area 56. Excerpts from AA 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.

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***The area assembly is the mainspring of the Conference structure – the democratic voice of the movement expressing itself.***

Reprinted from (The A.A. Service Manual 2018-2020, page S41, with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.)



## **The First Area Assembly of 2020**

**Andrea H.**

**Our** first Area 56 Assembly took place Saturday, February 22. This was my first Area Assembly as your Area Chair. There were several new GSRs in attendance, including my home group's new GSR, so several of us had new experiences that day.

In addition to our regular business we conducted an election for unfilled officer positions. Our Delegate, Nancy F. gave a presentation on "How to Give a GSR Report." Our committees gave reports on their activities and DCMs from our districts gave reports on what their districts are doing. At the end of the day we had a breakout session in which each group chose one person to make displays for the various committees to take to the Mini-Conference.

We were also fortunate to have our East Central Regional Trustee, Mark E. in attendance. He gave a report on the status of many issues throughout the General Service Office, the General Service Board, AAWS and Grapevine. I know I'm speaking for all of us who were so happy to have him there.

It would be impossible to have a successful Assembly without the efforts of some of our trusted servants. Yvonne B., our Hospitality Chair, organized and provided the food for the day. Gary K. took care of the sound system. Courtney V., our Corrections Chair manned the registration table. Laura G., Past Delegate took care of all the printing...and there was a lot! Thank you to everyone who participated!

I hope to see all of you at the Mini-Conference. This is my favorite activity in A.A. Every member of our fellowship in Area 56 has a voice and a vote at the Mini-Conference. Join us March 20-22 at the Marriott, 1414 S Patterson Boulevard in Dayton.

I look forward to continuing the next two years as your Alternate Delegate/Area Chair and hope to meet you all. 🍷

# What to Expect at the Mini-Conference

## A Friendly User's Guide

**The** idea of coming to the Mini-Conference might be intimidating if you have never been before. That's understandable! You will meet new people and be introduced to many aspects of Alcoholics Anonymous that you might not even have realized exist.

### **Q: What happens when I get to the hotel?**

A: There will be signs and greeters to point you in the direction of the registration desk. When you check in and get your name badge, you will be given a folder with information about the breakout discussion group you are assigned to. There are six breakout groups discussing four or five agenda items each (see pages 3-5 for more detail). Assignments are random – that means you will have a chance to be in a group with AA members from all over southwest Ohio.

### **Q: When should I plan on showing up?**

A: If you can come Friday evening, you will have more time to read the material in your packet ahead of time. You will get to hear a report from a person who works at the General Service Office in New York, and to meet a member of the General Service Board—our East Central Regional Trustee. Many people are only able to come on Saturday and that is fine, too. Sunday morning is a time when Area 56 traditionally hosts open mic discussion about whatever is on your mind. And this year, we are going to have an open discussion about Leadership in AA – Concept 9 in Action.

### **Q: What does it cost?**

A: There is no cost to attend. You do not have to stay at the hotel to participate. We have a fabulous hospitality room where you will be able to get a meal if you don't have a lot of cash for restaurants. The Area 56 Mini-Conference is funded by the AA groups of Southwest Ohio. Walk-ins are welcome!



## Program Highlights

### **Friday March 20**

- 3:00 Registration opens
- 4:00 Hospitality Room Open
- 4:00 A.A. Meeting for Early Arrivals
- 7:00 Conference Opening  
Report from the General Service Office:  
Diana L., GSO Staff  
Report from the Trustee:  
Mark E., ECR Trustee
- 8:30 Open Lead: Mark E., ECR Trustee
- 11:00 Hospitality Room closes

### **Saturday March 21**

- 7:00 Hospitality Room Open
- 7:00 Early bird A.A. meeting
- 8:00 Registration opens
- 9:00 Introduction and Summary of Agenda Items
- 10:00 Committee Sessions:  
Breakout discussion groups
- 12:30 Lunch (on your own)
- 1:45 First-timer Orientation
- 2:00 Conference Assembly:  
Discussion of committee results and voting

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(continued on page 7)

**2020 Area 56 Mini-Conference**  
**“2020: A Clear Vision for You”**  
**Agenda Items**

**C.P.C./Literature/P.I./Trustees**

Cooperation with the Professional Community B. Consider a request to create a pamphlet for mental health professionals.

Literature T. Consider revising the pamphlet “Questions & Answers on Sponsorship”:

1. Change the suggestion that sponsor and newcomer be of the same sex.
2. Expand the section on “Service Sponsorship” and retitle the pamphlet to include service sponsorship.

Public Information D. Review the 2019 trustees’ Public Information Committee progress report on the use of Google AdWords/Grants to carry the A.A. message.

Public Information E. Discuss a request to adjust all A.A.W.S. video titles for search engine optimization (SEO).

Trustees E. Consider the revised “Procedures for a Partial or Complete Reorganization of the General Service Board, the A.A.W.S. or AA Grapevine Boards.”

**Agenda/ Corrections/ Grapevine/ Literature/P.I.**

Agenda F. Discuss report on the Conference Agenda Process from the trustees’ Committee on the General Service Conference.

Corrections A. Review contents of Corrections Kit and Workbook.

Grapevine H. Consider a request for AA Grapevine, Inc. to establish an Instagram account in line with the Twelve Traditions.

Literature M. Consider proposals related to possible Fifth Edition of the book Alcoholics Anonymous:

1. Develop a Fifth Edition.
2. Develop a Fifth Edition of the book Alcoholics Anonymous with updated stories and revisions to Appendices III and V.
3. Add a proposed addendum to a Fifth Edition foreword of the book Alcoholics Anonymous at the time it is published.

## **Agenda/ Corrections/ Grapevine/ Literature/P.I. (continued)**

Public Information C. Review the 2019 trustees' Public Information Committee progress report on the usefulness and effectiveness of the A.A.W.S. YouTube account.

### **Literature**

Literature I. "The Twelve Traditions Illustrated" pamphlet:

1. Discuss draft update of the pamphlet "The Twelve Traditions Illustrated."
2. Consider not retiring the existing version of the pamphlet "The Twelve Traditions Illustrated."

Literature K. Consider if proposed agenda items for plain language, simplified language, accessible translations and large print versions of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*, as well as workbooks to help study the program of Alcoholics Anonymous, can be addressed with a common solution.

Literature N. Consider development of a draft Fourth Edition of the book *Alcohólicos Anónimos*.

Literature U. Consider request to include a G.S.R. preamble in the pamphlet "G.S.R.: Your Group's Link to A.A. as a Whole."

### **C.P.C./Literature/Treatment & Accessibilities/Archives**

Cooperation with the Professional Community C. Discuss progress report on LinkedIn page implementation.

Literature L. Consider requests to revise the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*:

1. Add pages 3 through 41 of the pamphlet "The A.A. Group" as an appendix in the next printing.
2. Revise the first 164 pages.

Treatment and Accessibilities B. Consider request to develop a Bridging the Gap Workbook.

Archives A. Consider requests to develop a book on A.A. history from 1955 through the present.

### **Finance/ Grapevine/P.I./ Literature/ Report and Charter**

Finance A. Review the pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix."

1. Consider a request to revise the pie chart percentages on page 12.

## **Finance/ Grapevine/P.I./ Literature/ Report and Charter (continued)**

Finance A. Review the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix.”

2. Consider a request regarding contribution percentages to service entities.
3. Consider draft language related to the “virtual basket.”

Grapevine E. Consider a request to change the language of the first sentence of the A.A. Preamble as follows: "Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people who share..."

## **Finance/ Grapevine/P.I./ Literature/ Report and Charter (continued)**

Public Information I. Discuss a request “to create a new form of communication” to address anonymity on social media.

Literature R. Consider requests to revise text related to open meetings in the pamphlet “The A.A. Group.”

Report and Charter D. Consider amending a sentence in Article 4 of the current Conference Charter.

## **Grapevine/ Literature/ Report and Charter/Int’l Conventions & Forums**

Grapevine D. Consider revising the A.A. Preamble to use gender neutral pronouns.

For example, "Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people who share their experience, strength and hope with each other..."

Grapevine G. Consider a request to change the name of the General Service Conference Committee on Grapevine to the Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña.

Literature P. Consider requests to revise the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions:

1. To remove the phrase “opposite sex” from paragraph two on page 117 in the chapter “Step Twelve.”
2. To reconsider use of the phrase “lustful enough to rape” in paragraph one on page 66 in the chapter “Step Six.”

Report and Charter C. Consider restoring the two paragraphs and the accompanying footnote in the Concept Eleven essay of The Twelve Concepts for World Service that were removed by an advisory action of the 66th General Service Conference.

International Conventions/Regional Forums C. Discuss ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and attract first-time attendees.

## **Mini-Conference User's Guide**

(continued from page 3)

### **Q: So what's the basic idea?**

On Saturday morning, you will meet in your breakout group. The chair or that group will direct you through a series of discussions about each item on your list. Your group will be asked to make recommendations about each item. After lunch, the entire conference body comes together. Each committee will give a report on the results of the breakout. For each recommendation made, there will be a chance for discussion. And then there is a vote to determine the final decision of the conference as a whole.

**Mini-Conference walk-ins  
are always welcome!  
Come join us!**

### **Q: Isn't it just politics?**

A: This is the story you might have heard, but it isn't true. Just because there's voting involved, doesn't mean it's politics. The process at the Mini-Conference is really about the formation of an informed group conscience. Every AA member in Area 56 has a voice and a vote at the Mini-Conference, which means you have the right to make your opinion known on a wide variety of topics. This Area group conscience is what informs the Delegate when she travels to the General Service Conference to create a group conscience for AA as a whole. All members of AA have a stake in the way the Fellowship makes decisions about our needs and priorities.

Come on out and join us the weekend of March 20-22 in Dayton! Details about the hotel are on the back cover of this newsletter. Remember: everyone in the room was a newbie in service at one time or another, so they have been in the same shoes as you. Don't be afraid to ask questions! We are waiting to have a chance to say hello and welcome you to this part of Alcoholics Anonymous. 

## **District and Committee News**

### **District 23 March 1, 2020**

11 present 7 GSRs present

We now have pamphlets for new GSRs and development of a welcome for new GSRs as they come into District meeting. Previously discussed was the wait for the packet from GSO.

Discussion of a Corrections A.A. event including Area Corrections Chair. Working on the date for that. Will get flyer out as soon as date is set.

### **Districts 12 & 13 March 2, 2020**

District Corrections Facility Chair Dave B. serves as the Butler County Jail Liaison. Volunteers are needed to help with the meeting on Tuesday Night. He can be reached by email at [dbbarnes02@gmail.com](mailto:dbbarnes02@gmail.com). He has the forms to be submitted for clearance. Requirements are three years since being inmate and two years sobriety. There continues to be a need for women to carry meetings in.



## **Program Highlights**

### **Saturday March 21 (continued)**

6:00 Banquet

7:30 Evening meeting

Area 56 District Highlights

Ohio Area Highlights

8:30 Open Lead: Speaker: Diana L., GSO Staff

10:00 Ice Cream Social: Hosted by District 23

11:00 Hospitality Room closes

### **Sunday March 22**

7:00 Hospitality Room Open

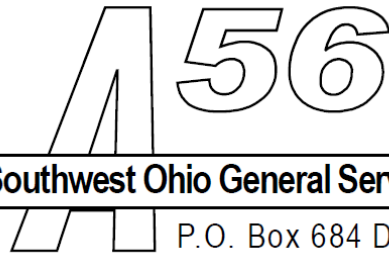
7:00 Early Bird AA Meeting

9:00 Conference Assembly: Complete any remaining Committee discussion/voting

Leadership in A.A.: Concept 9 in Action

Open microphone and ask-it-basket

11:00 Conference Summary/Closing



**Southwest Ohio General Service Area 56**

P.O. Box 684 Dayton, OH 45401

# “2020: A Clear Vision for You”

**Southwest Ohio General Service Area 56**

**37th Annual**

**Mini-Conference**

**March 20, 21 & 22, 2020**



**Marriott at the University of Dayton**

**1414 South Patterson Boulevard**

**Dayton, Ohio 45409**

## Southwest Ohio Area 56 2020 Calendar

January 12	Area Committee Meeting (12:00 – 2:00)*	<b>July 2-5</b>	<b>International Convention</b>
February 9	Area Committee Meeting (12:00 – 2:00)*		<b>“Love and Tolerance is Our Code”</b>
<b>February 22</b>	<b>Area Assembly (10:00 – 4:00)*</b>		Detroit, MI
	<b>Mini-Conference Preparation</b>	July 12	Area Committee Meeting (12:00 – 2:00)*
<b>March 20-22</b>	<b>Area 56 Mini-Conference</b>	August 9	Committee Meeting (12:00 – 2:00)*
	<b>“2020: A Clear Vision for You”</b>	August 21-23	<b>Ohio State Convention</b>
	Marriott at the University of Dayton		<b>“The Gift of Service”</b>
April 5	Area Committee Meeting (12:00 – 2:00)*	September 13	Area Committee Meeting (12:00 – 2:00)
	Mini Conference Wrap-Up (2:00 – 4:00)*	<b>September 19</b>	<b>Area Assembly (10:00 – 4:00)*</b>
<b>April 19-25</b>	<b>General Service Conference</b>		<b>Area Inventory</b>
May 2	Ohio State Convention Planning Meeting	October 11	Area Committee Meeting (12:00 – 2:00)*
May 3	Area Committee Meeting (12:00 – 2:00)*	November 7	Ohio State Convention Planning Meeting
<b>May 16</b>	<b>Area Assembly (10:00 – 4:00)*</b>	November 8	Area Committee Meeting (12:00 – 2:00)*
	<b>UNITY DAY</b>	December 13	Area Committee Meeting (12:00 – 2:00)*
June 14	Area Committee Meeting (12:00 – 2:00)*		

\*St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church  
470 South Gebhart Church Rd.  
Miamisburg OH 45342