

# WALKING WITH PURPOSE

aaarea56.org

Southwest Ohio General Service Area 56

P.O. Box 684 Dayton, OH 45401

Volume 1, Issue 1

February 2016

## From Our Delegate...

### Walking With Purpose

I want to say hello to everyone reading this inaugural issue of the new Area 56 newsletter, "Walking with Purpose." New beginnings and new projects can seem overwhelming at times, and we are at the start of an exciting new phase of action in Area 56, with many changes finally arriving. New service opportunities, new chances to join in and expand your horizons, to grow in fellowship and service... we've got it all!

On a more personal level, I am finding it challenging to know what more to say here. Sometimes the hardest words to write are the first ones, just as the hardest step to take can be the First Step. I would like to say something inspiring enough that everyone reading this would get involved in AA service, but that is completely unrealistic and quite possibly insane (ego much?).

What I can do is what AA has taught me to do: share my experience, strength and hope. My experience is that participating in the Area 56 General Service structure has completely reordered my life. Not overnight, and not all at once. But one day at a time, one

step at a time, service has become a part of me.

In AA service, I learned to walk with purpose, a day at a time, doing the work in front of me, even when I would have preferred not to. For a long time in recovery, I was service-averse, which is to say, I was lazy and self-involved. Eventually my own hypocrisy began to disgust me and I started to show up, first at a group level, then as GSR, then as Area Literature Committee Chair, then as an Area Officer, and now finally as Delegate (or, as I prefer to think of it, Future Past Delegate).

One step led to the next, in the same way that the Twelve Steps lead from one to another, a chain reaction of amazing growth and healing. When I work all Steps to the best of my ability, I create a framework for successful living which cannot be shaken. Much to my surprise, part of that framework is a desire and ability to be of service to others.

Service in Area 56 has forced me to grow and taught me to rely on a higher power in ways I never needed to before. It has taught me that wisdom and strength reside in an

informed group conscience, and that that big brain of the group is way smarter than I am. It has taught me that we are stronger and more effective together than we ever could be apart.

AA relies on all of us to participate: in our own lives, in our Groups, in AA as a whole. Participation makes me more fully human and alive, which isn't something I ever thought I could have, let alone want. I was the person devoted to drinking myself to death, and look where AA has brought me!

The General Service structure is crucial to the continuing stability and strength of Alcoholics Anonymous. I would invite you to get involved, and stay involved. Walk with purpose through a service commitment, whatever it may be, and it may change your life. It changed mine.

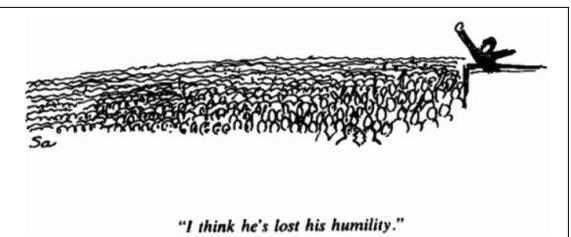
**Laura G.,  
Panel 66 Delegate  
Area 56 SW Ohio**

## From Your Editor, Andrea H.

Why the name "Walking With Purpose?" About ten years ago when my now husband and I decided that it was "much more than a hunch" that we were to be together we named ourselves "Team Happy Destiny." Not long after that we were sitting in a meeting as the discussion was about the difficulty in trudging the Road of Happy Destiny. A gentleman told us about his sponsor's definition of trudging...walking with purpose. That moment changed the direction of my path in sobriety.

There are days when I wish I could come to my meetings and sit on the sidelines. I wish

the district would run itself without me. At times I wish I didn't have a phone to answer the A.A.'s calling me or my husband. I wish I didn't have any opinion on our Singleness of Purpose. I wish I could be neutral and tell myself that Area 56 doesn't need someone like me. I have grandchildren, a husband, two part-time jobs. I have interests and hobbies and a DVR filled with my favorite programs. Maybe I would have more friends if I didn't voice my opinions about the world and the happenings in A.A. But



*"I think he's lost his humility."*

there is that one pesky problem...I made a decision to turn my will and my life over to the care of God as I understand him.

I have not been the author of my life since God relieved me of the obsession to drink. He held my hand and led me to where I am

*(Continued on page 2)*

## 2016 Calendar of Events

Feb. 27	Area 56 Assembly	Miamisburg	10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Mar. 4-6	Area 55 Mini-Conference	Perrysburg, OH	
Mar. 11-13	Area 53 Mini-Conference	Mt. Sterling, OH	
Mar. 18-20	Area 56 Mini-Conference	Dayton	
Apr. 1-3	Area 54 Mini-Conference	Independence, OH	
Apr. 17	Standing Committee Meetings	Miamisburg	
Apr. 17-23	General Service Conference	New York, NY	
May 7	Ohio State Convention Planning Meeting	Columbus	
May 15	Area Committee Meeting/Standing Committee Meetings	Miamisburg	12:00 pm
May 1	Unity Day and Area 56 Assembly	Miamisburg	10:00 am - 4:00pm
June 19	Standing Committee Meetings	Miamisburg	
July 17	Area Committee Meeting/Standing Committee Meetings	Miamisburg	12:00 pm
Aug. 12-14	East Central Regional Conference	St. Charles, IL	
Aug. 19-21	60th Ohio State Convention	Westlake, OH	
Aug. 21	Standing Committee Meetings	Miamisburg	
Aug. 28	Area Committee Meeting/Standing Committee Meetings	Miamisburg	12:00 pm
Sept. 24	Area 56 Inventory and Assembly	Miamisburg	10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Oct. 16	Standing Committee Meetings	Miamisburg	
Nov. 5	Ohio State Convention Planning Meeting	Columbus	
Nov. 20	Area Committee Meeting/Standing Committee Meetings	Miamisburg	12:00 pm
Dec. 18	Standing Committee Meetings	Miamisburg	

### 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 Alco-

(Continued from page 1)

today. I see that as long as I am willing to show up when He leads me I'm doing His will. The vision I have Walking With Purpose is that of a hiker with walking boots, a walking stick, a backpack with supplies and a hat. The direction is clear and straight ahead. Every step is taken with purpose whether on hard ground or tromping through mud. There are sweat and tears at times and thoughts may wander but I was told that this is the path and I try not to wander too far.

I was asked to chair the new communications committee and to

develop a newsletter as a better way for Area 56 to communicate with our fellow AA's. (*First thought, "Oh Crap," second thought, "I'm not worthy," "I'm already DCM for District 23," "Why me?".... ad infinitum.*) Every job I've had since being sober I've had to wade through without training and I realize my greatest skills are troubleshooting and persistence. I love Alcoholics Anonymous and I love serving and I'm very excited about this opportunity even as the selfish child in me is crying out "nooo!" So I ask that you "walk with me with purpose" and we shall surely meet in Miamisburg, Mercer County, and hopefully the Mini-Conference!

**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.**

Laura G. Delegate Area 56 Panel 66 opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer.

Introduction of the new area officers and committee chairs.

Orientation – Understanding that all of the area officers and committee chairs are in agreement with the goal of carrying the message of recovery.

#### Mini-Conference Preparation

Roger C. – Mini-Conference report – Preparation for the 2016 Mini-Conference is proceeding in a satisfactory manner.

Laura G. – Committee Chair preparation – The new committee chairs will receive a block of instruction during February assembly.

#### AREA COMMITTEE NEW BUSINESS

##### Procedures:

Voting, reporting, and provisional approval: Importance of accurately recording the vote and having an accurate report for the break-out sessions at the mini-conference in March. Provisional approval is subject to the vote of the assembly at the mini-conference

December 2015 Treasure's report accepted without comment.

December 2015 Assembly minutes accepted without comment.

Communications Committee newsletter – This is a new committee for our area. Andrea H.(DCM District 23) is the committee chair. The goal is to publish an area newsletter to compliment the newsletters published by the Cincinnati and Dayton inter-groups.

Area sound system – After some discussion of the feasibility of upgrading or replacing our current sound system Sandra H. was designated to investigate the different prices and systems available to us. This information should be available for the February committee meeting.

##### Travel to Ohio Mini-Conferences:

Laura G. and Roger C. will attend all 4 Ohio Mini-Conferences.

Mark P. will attend the Area 53 Mini-Conference.

David L. will attend Area 54 Mini-Conference.

Jenny C. will attend the Area 55 Mini-Conference.

##### Items for Agenda for February Committee meeting (February 21):

Preparation for the Area 56 Mini-Conference, report on sound system options from Sandra H., report from Andrea H. on the area newsletter.

##### Agenda for February Assembly (February 27)

Literature forum, GSR school, preparation for the mini-conference, training for the committee chairs for the mini-conference.

GSC theme: "Our Spiritual Way of Life: Steps, Traditions, Concepts"

##### GSC presentation/discussion topics:

Connecting with the Newcomer

Connecting with Each Other

Connecting with AA as a Whole

Closed the meeting with the Responsibility Statement

Area Committee meeting notes

February 21 2016

12:00 – 2:20 pm (or so)

Followed by training session for Mini-Conference breakout Committee chairs

2:30 – 3:00 pm (or so)

Combined notes from Laura G. and Jorjann C.

In attendance: Ron H. DCM 12 (New Finance Chair), Andrea H. DCM 23 Communications Chair, Sandra H. Grapevine Chair, Ruby A. Literature Chair, Bob M. DCM 28 PI/CPC Chair, Polly H. and Jorjann C. Group Services Co-Chairs, Roger C. Area Chair/Alt. Delegate, Laura G. Delegate, Jenny C. Registrar, Garwood F. DCM 21 Past Delegate, Judson W. Hospitality, Tonya C. Hospitality, Jack H. PI/CPC Committee member, Dave L. Treasurer, Chuck C., Dave (Yellow Springs No Name Group), Brian H. Corrections (from a list supplied by Jenny)

Opened with Serenity Prayer

Roundtable Reports

Garwood F. – DCM District 21

Wilson/Smith Family Reunion will be coming back as a spring event, bigger and better

The District is re-looking at developing a mission statement and guidelines

Jenny C. – Registrar

Wanted to make sure that everyone got the mailing that went out – if you serve multiple roles at the Area (e.g. DCM and Committee Chair, you will get a mailing for each role so that the information can be shared in the respective places

Judson W.

Working with Tonya on Hospitality

Tonya C. – Hospitality

The Area will be providing 2 Deli trays for lunch at the Assembly on Feb 27, bring covered dishes to share

Ron H. – DCM District 12 & Finance Committee Chair

District 12

All committee positions are filled

Men and women needed for Butler County jail meeting

There is a pod with Spanish-speaking inmates, need Spanish speakers to go in

Working on plans for District picnic

Finance

Just volunteered to serve as the new Finance Chair for Area 56

Dave – AA member, Yellow Springs No-name Group

Member-at-large (GSR?), may help a committee

Andrea H. – DCM District 23 & Communications Committee Chairperson

District 23

Issues with court slips: some meeting places have been damaged, large numbers of people show up to have slips signed, but don't put anything in the basket, one local member had spoken with the probation officer who wanted certain things that AA doesn't do. They need a CPC Committee in the District.

Communications

Introduced first draft of the newsletter "Walking with Purpose" to wide acclaim and approval. Sought feedback and heard from the Committee about a few things like not using last names of Area Committee members (last initials only); how to distribute the newsletter (mail vs e-mail vs web); whether to include minutes and in what form.

Committee Chairs and Officers are to get some reports to her by Tuesday, so she can email the first issue to Roger on Wednes

day for printing for the Assembly

This is a work-in-progress but really great progress!

Jorjann C. and Polly S.-H. – Group Services co-chairs

Met on Jan 27 to plan upcoming GSR school at first Assembly

Discussed how to be of better service to the Area and get the word out

Will be using the information they got from Sandy and the GSR workbook

Updated edition of Area 56 Handbook will be available for the first GSR School

Polly purchased a large writing pad with markers for GSR School

Jack H. – District 28 PI/CPC Chairperson

Updated us on District PI/CPC activity

District 28 schedules have been updated – divided into North and South and include some meetings from District 30, which is not lit

Sent meeting schedules to the executive secretary of the county bar association for distribution to attorneys

Local phone directories don't have AA phone numbers so he is working on a project to get numbers into the ones that don't

Bob M. – DCM District 28 & PI/CPC Chairperson

District 28

Working hard and getting out to the groups in the District (of which there are 54) – taking pamphlets and talking with people to get the groups to send GSRs, first to the District meetings, then to the Area Assembly

Moved the District meeting to the thirds Saturday of the month, except for the months when there is an Assembly, so that the GSRs get used to service meetings on that day

All the Committee positions at the District are filled except for Group Services

PI/CPC

TV and radio spots have been placed with the Cincinnati Reds and they are working on other media outlets

Cincinnati Intergroup to help with the upcoming NAACP conference July 16-20

Continue to review literature and manuals

Brian H. – Corrections Chairperson

Met with Dayton Intergroup Corrections Chair

Finding a starting point for his Committee work – he compiled a list of the Correctional institutions in Area 56, state prisons, community based correctional facilities, halfway houses and county jails, and is working to fill in the blanks of people who are taking AA meetings in to them.

Roger C. – Area Chairperson

Area 56 has had a new sound system donated and it will be available in time for the Mini-Conference, but not the first Assembly.

Dave L. – Treasurer

Eleven Mini-Conference registrations so far

Sandy H. – Grapevine Committee Chairperson

Reviewing Grapevine website and resources

Ruby A. – Literature Chairperson

Has a display ready to go for the Assembly and other functions

9:00 a.m. Literature Forum at the Assembly – first piece discussed will be Many Paths to Spirituality

Laura – Delegate

Quick overview of Delegate's report for Assembly

Highlights of General Service Board weekend (Jan 28-Feb 1) (still waiting for a complete set) / Grapevine minutes (Jan 28)

AA General Service Conference Inventory

2016 and 2017 Conventions/Conferences:

Lawsuit in California

Report on the International Hospitality Room

Fiscal loss to AAWS – International Convention

Self-support policy of the World Services of Alcoholics Anonymous

Change to GSC agenda and inclusion of Feasibility study/brainstorming item

Appointed Committee member for Trustee's Committee on Public Information

Asked for feedback on how best to notify Area 56 Fellowship about items like Appointed Committee member for Trustee's Committee on Public Information, when there is a short deadline and waiting for Assembly does not leave much (or any) time for the Fellowship to respond.

#### Mini-Conference Committee Report

Mailing of 503 pieces went out from Central Office with MC flyers and the new Assembly schedule

Approximately 1000 flyers out

The speakers will be Bill F (ECR Trustee), Michele Grinberg (Class A Trustee – nonalcoholic) and Sharon F. (Past Delegate, Area 53)

There will be a 4:00 Friday Meet & Greet session

#### New business

#### January Treasurer's Report

Submitted for provisional approval

Motion by Ruby to accept, second by Sandy

Unanimously approved

No January Area Committee minutes presented for approval, Recording Secretary unable to attend meeting

Changes made to calendar of Area Committee meetings to allow more lead time before Assemblies. No vote taken, just general agreement to do this.

The May 15 Area Committee meeting has been rescheduled for May 1 at noon. The church will still be available for standing committees on May 15.

The September 18 Area Committee meeting has been rescheduled for August 28 at noon. The church will still be available for standing committees on Sept. 18.

## Area 56 Hospitality Committee Report

Hello, Everyone! The Mini Conference is weeks away...and Judson and I are busy ramping up to provide everyone a place to relax and have a snack or a meal in the comfortable Hospitality Suite.

The Hospitality Committee is looking for volunteers to work a few hour shifts during the conference: serving food, replenishing snacks, greeting guests, and the most important job....keeping the coffee flowing!

The Hospitality Suite is closed during all Mini Conference sessions so volunteering will not overlap with the Conference.

If you are interested please contact either myself or Judson at the numbers (on the contact page) or email me at [hospitality@aaarea56.org](mailto:hospitality@aaarea56.org)

Look for updates from the Hospitality Committee in the next issue of the Newsletter.

In Love and Service

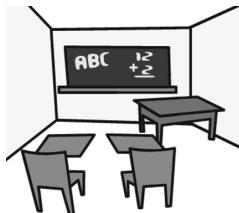
Tonya Cornelison

2/22/16



## Area 56 Group Services Committee Report

Polly S. and Jorjann C., co-chairs, met January 27, 2016 to discuss upcoming Area and G.S.R. School issues. Materials were purchased to help facilitate the Area G.S.R. School. Our discussion covered the way we will condense and present the Area Handbook and G.S.R. Handbooks to new G.S.R.'s at the Area G.S.R. School.



G.S.R. School flyers have been distributed and posted on [aaarea56.org](http://aaarea56.org) for G.S.R. School on February 27, 2016.

## Area 56 Communications Committee Report

This is the new Area 56 committee "under construction" so there is yet to be a committee meeting of more than one person, me. After the newsletter takes off the next destination will be looking at improving the area website. With all the upcoming challenges I look forward to any help you can offer. Please let me know what you think of the new newsletter [Walking With Purpose](#).

Andrea H. [communications@aaarea56.org](mailto:communications@aaarea56.org)

(567) 279-4146



## Area 56 Archives Committee Report

### Why Does an Anonymous Program Need Archives?

By Ismenie N., Area 56 Archives Committee Chair & Archivist

From our co-founder Bill W. idea for organizing an historical collection of the fellowship's records in the early 1950s to the formal ribbon-cutting on the archives room at Alcoholics Anonymous' (AA) General Service Office (GSO) in November 1975, records of our society's growth and development as shown in the history of various groups, districts, and areas as it relates to recovery provide material for the message of hope that we carry in 12th Step work. The message that one can regain health, sanity, and serenity from "a seemingly hopeless state of mind and body" is the well-spring from which AA has grown from a meeting of two men in 1935 to a worldwide fellowship of approximately two (2) million members in 2016. It is through the systematic maintenance of our written, permanent historical record that we can prevent distortion and remember where we can from as a society. To that end, we invite your assistance and participation.

AA's Archives consist of any historical collection at the level of the group, district, area, intergroup/central office, region, or General Service Office. As Nell Wing (nonalcoholic), GSO's first archivist, put it, "The knowledge, understanding and enthusiasm of the old-timers gave us the momentum. With Bill and his AA co-

founder Dr. Bob (who died in November 1950) both gone, it (establishing archives) was an idea whose time had come."

AA Archives collections may vary, but generally consist of all kinds of written and audiovisual material deemed to be historically valuable such as: administrative reports and minutes, personal correspondence, newsletters, books, photographs and sound recordings, and more. To help enhance Area 56's archives, we invite you to write and submit a history of your home group. The target date for completion is April 30, 2016. Long time group members or, "old-timers" as they are affectionately called, may be especially helpful in collecting a group's history. Here are some typical questions to guide your research.

Who were the founding members of the group?

Where and when was the first meeting held? In date order, list where later meetings have been held. Include city, state, building, residence, church, clubhouse, etc.

Did the group list with the General Service Office at the time the members first met?

What is the group's name? Have there been any changes to

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### **District 28**

It saddened me to see that the Multi-District 1-10 is no longer active. After two years and poor if no support by the GSR's (General Service Representative) in the area a decision was made to allow it to go dark. As the new DCM (District Committee Member) of District 28 I personally know the struggle it is to get participation. This seems to be a unique problem to Area 56.

I got sober in Area 1, Alabama and Northwest Florida and enjoyed healthy District and Area support by the GSR's. In fact, the district I was a member of, which included Birmingham, Alabama regularly had 60 percent support from the GSR's and alternates. I've talked with many trusted servants across the Midwest and the Northeast and find that they have strong support at the district level. I've visited Area 53, which includes Columbus and have been most impressed with the participation and dedication to service.

It is an honor and a privilege to be elected a GSR and with it comes responsibilities to the Group, District and to Area.

"The GSR has the job of linking his or her group with Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole. They represent the Group conscience, reporting the group's thoughts to the DCM and the Area Delegate who passes them on to the Conference. This communication is a two-way street, making the GSR responsible to bring back to the group Con-

### **Districts 12 & 13**

Web site: [aadistrict12and13.org](http://aadistrict12and13.org)

24 hour answering service: 1-800-509-8536

Over twenty years ago District 12 and 13 decided to meet together so more service work could be provided then if the Districts tried to provide the service on their own. It has worked outstandingly well.

At the last Districts meeting the voting members approved a budget for 2016. Districts 12 and 13 finance the meetings that are held in the Butler County Jail. At this time we are looking men, women, and members who can speak Spanish. Reaching the Spanish speaking population in the jail is a new outreach we are going to try to provide. The districts will be providing Spanish Books and literature for use in the Jail. As D C M of District 12, I am very excited

### **District 23**

District 23 met Sunday, February 7. Nine groups were represented that day from the four counties; Darke, Mercer, Auglaize, and Van Wert. Never a dull moment in District 23, some of the groups are struggling to deal with issues arising from the influx of attendees needing court slips. The district meeting is a good place for groups to get input about any issue they are experiencing.

ference actions that affect A.A. unity, health, and growth. Only when a GSR keeps the group informed, and communicates the group conscience, can the Conference truly act for A.A. as a whole."

The first Duty listed for the GSR is Attend District Meetings. This allows you to inform your group of any actions, activities, changes in the Area as well as World Services. It allows the GSR's to get their members active in Public Information, General Service, Treatment Facilities and Jails, Bridging the Gap, Cooperation with the Professional Community.

Additionally, Area 56 has changed their structure whereas General Assembly will be meeting three times a year rather than every month beginning January 2016. This frees up time specifically allowing the GSR to get involved on the district level.

Bill Wilson, Dr. Bob Smith and a hand full of other drunks have given us a lifesaving inheritance, let's not squander it away.

Bob Mc.

DCM - District 28

about this new service we are going to provide. If you would like to help carry the message into the Butler County Jail please contact Roger C at

(513) 551-8204.

Districts 12 and 13 hold their meeting on first Monday of the month at 8:00 PM. If this Monday is a Holiday it is held on the second Monday. The meetings are held at:

Trinity Episcopal Church

6<sup>th</sup> and Butler

Hamilton, OH 45011

RON H, DCM 12, [rhampe1220@gmail.com](mailto:rhampe1220@gmail.com), 513-291-5362

Monthly meetings are held the 1st Sunday of each month except July and September at 127 E. Fulton Street in Celina. Our 24 hour phone# is (419) 378-4962. We can be found at: [www.aaohio-triarea.org](http://www.aaohio-triarea.org).

Andrea H., DCM [D23DCM@aaarea56.org](mailto:D23DCM@aaarea56.org)

## Confidential Area Contacts

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**Southwest Ohio General Service Area 56**

**PO Box 684**

**Dayton, OH 45401**

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the group's name over the years?

What initiated the meeting: was it the offshoot of a parent group; was there a split due to disagreements; did a few AAs simply decide to start a group, etc.?

How did the founding members let the community know that a new AA meeting was forming?

How many members attended the group's first meeting?

Describe member composition, for example, men only, women only, young people, etc.?

How did the group experience growth over the years?

Are group inventories conducted regularly and have they been helpful?

Who were the early group officers? List, for example, GSR, Group Contact, Chair, Group Secretary.

Have any group members participated in District, Area or other service to the fellowship?

How often were meetings held and has that changed over the years?

What meeting formats have been used – closed, open, dis-

cussion, etc.

Describe the group's growing pains or controversies.

How does the group celebrate group member's anniversaries of sobriety?

How has the group celebrated the anniversary of its' founding?

Describe how the group has cooperated with professional agencies (by signing court slips, supporting a meeting in an institutional setting, etc.)

Has the group participated in special local or regional AA functions, such as conventions, conferences, round-ups, forums or workshops?

Carl Sandburg, an American writer and poet, answered the question of "why" posed in the title of this article very well. "Whenever a society or a civilization perishes, there is always one factor present: they forgot where they came from." Lest we forget, we look forward to working with you to collect and preserve Area 56's history as lived through individual groups. Please contact me at [Area56Archives@gmail.com](mailto:Area56Archives@gmail.com) with any questions you may have.

Yours in service,

Ismenie N., Area 56 Archives Committee Chair & Archivist