

**AREA 50, WESTERN NEW YORK**

Area Officers & Chairs: Delegate: Frank M., (674-4041); Chair: Sally Ann C. (884-0962); Co- chair: Sue L., (863-1874); Treasurer: Gerry S., (662-2013); Secretary: Helene C., (812-5657); Registrar: Mike D., Archives: Lila M., (716-292-9759); CPC Chair: James C., (587-2903); PIC Chair: vacant; TFC chair: Gene P., (713-5889); Corrections Chair: Vacant; Grapevine chair: Morgan M., Special Needs chair: Paul G., Website chair: Tim W., (418-4407)

Please note: If you should not be receiving these minutes, please contact the Area Secretary at [secretary@area50wny.org](mailto:secretary@area50wny.org) and we will remove your name from the mailing list.

GSA Area 50  
Post Conference Meeting  
June 7, 2015  
Hamburg Town Hall, Hamburg, NY  
12:00 P.M.

Attending: See sign in sheets

Call to Order

Sally Ann C., chair

Sally Ann C., chair, called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

Serenity Prayer

Concept 7 - Deferred

New General Service Representatives and District Committee Members

Sally Ann C.

New GSR's: Allen G, Questions & Answers, Alt. GSR, David C., Orchard Park Step Group, Steve T., Beginners, N.F., Liz W., GSR from Saturday Night Alive. There were no new DCM's.

Introductions

Attendees introduced themselves. Darlene L. from the Acceptance Group mentioned that her Home Group offers babysitting during their meetings.

Officer Reports

▪ Secretary's Report

Helene C., secretary

The cost of copies and postage totaled \$88.55. Approximately 30 copies of the minutes were mailed. There were many emailed minutes returned as undeliverable. Please print legibly when signing in and giving your email address. It has been very difficult to read the sign in sheets because of poor handwriting. Attendees must sign in so they can be recognized as attending the meeting. Don't forget to let the secretary know if you have a change of address or email. Also, if committee chairs can email their reports to the secretary that would be appreciated.

Without an emailed copy, the secretary has to type them rather than just cut and paste. Thank you for your consideration.

Approval of Minutes

Sally Ann C., chair, asked for a motion to waive the reading of the minutes, subject to correction. The motion was made, seconded and approved without objection or abstention.

▪ Treasurer's Report

Gerry S., treasurer

WNY GSA

Treasurer's Report  
3-31-15 to 5-31-15

Beginning Balance at 3/31/2015				13,653.77
<u>April/May Expenses</u>				
Ck # 108	Helene (Secretary)	Stamps/copies	(94.76)	
Ck # 109	Sally Ann (chair)	Prepay NERF (Hotel Only) 5/29-5/31	(271.32)	
				<hr/>
				(366.08)
<u>April/May Deposits</u>				
Group Contributions - April			690.09	
Group Contributions - May			1,063.72	
7th Tradition			121.16	
Other	NERAASA Overpay (Chair)		124.00	
Other	NERD Overpay (Chair)		<u>218.86</u>	
				2,217.83
Ending Balance at 5/31/15				<hr/> <u>15,505.52</u>

65<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference

**April 19-25, 2015**

Crowne Plaza Times Square Hotel  
1605 Broadway at 49<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10019

I landed in New York at JFK on Saturday morning April 18 the day before the Conference. At approximately 12:00pm after registering and finding my room, I was able to make the 1:00-3:00pm Conference Members Hospitality Room Meeting. This gives second-year delegates an opportunity to meet and greet new panel delegates, and opportunity for new panel delegates to meet staff and board members. Some delegates will plan to meet there Conference buddies here. Each second year delegate is asked to "buddy" a first-year delegate and encouraged to reach out and welcome the new panel delegate so that they feel a part of the General Service Conference. My "buddy" was Christopher Stoppler area 91 Saskatchewan Canada.

From 3:00-4:15 pm was the 1728 Meeting. While not part of the Conference, the 1728 Group was formed to help Class A trustees (non-alcoholic) and other interested non-alcoholics learn more about the Alcoholics Anonymous program of recovery from alcoholism. The group meets during the quarterly General Service Board weekends and the annual General Service Conference. The Group was named by taking the 12 steps, traditions, and concepts and multiplying them  $12^3$  ( $12 \times 12 \times 12$ ) = 1728.

From 4:30-6:00pm was the Remote Communities Meeting I did not attend.

From 7:30-9:30 pm, I attended the Delegates Only Meeting, which gave us an opportunity to meet and get ourselves familiar with the conference process by reviewing some very helpful topics.

On Sunday April 19 from 9:00 – 9:45 am was Registration and at 10:00am the opening Session of the Conference.

That afternoon I moderated a Presentation/Discussion: Our Common Welfare through Gratitude in Action.

1. Diversity in A.A.-Our Heritage of Inclusion-Cesar Flores, Mid-Southern California
2. Safety and Respect-Practicing the Principles Begins in Our Home Group-Pat Latimer, Hudson/Mohawk/Berkshire New York
3. Safeguarding Our Traditions Through the Evolution of Technology-Jim Wilson, Western Ontario
4. Inventory-Looking Back to Move Ahead – Cathi Clark, Southern Indiana

Next were the Conference Committee Meetings. The Committee I sat on Policy/Admissions met.

From 6:00pm – 9:00pm was the opening dinner and A.A. meeting.

On Tuesday afternoon, we had the opportunity to visit the General Service Office on Riverside Dr. in New York City. Traveling by subway in a group from the hotel to the office and back was quite an experience. After my arrival, it was quite gratifying to see how hard working and dedicated the office staff really is. Most impressive to me is the Archive area it is more than one room and offices and the displays are

impressive. I called Wally E. our Archivist from my cell phone with excitement to tell him how wonderful this display is.

Wednesday afternoon were the Trustees elections and first up was our Northeast Region. There are 18 Area's in the Northeast Region and only 17 Area's submitted candidates (Delaware did not submit a candidate) all candidates are listed on a tally board. Immediately preceding the election, Delegates have the opportunity to give a two-minute nominating speech on behalf of their candidate and voting members may ask questions of that candidate. I gave a nominating speech for Area 50 Bruce A. (no questions were ask of any candidate).

After the first round of votes most candidates were eliminated .The, second round had four standing. The next round had two candidates with 18 votes each, Richard P. of Area 43 New Hampshire and Debra D. of Area 48 H/M/B New York. The next round was the same as the last round 18 to18. According to our Third Legacy, method of election both names went into the hat and Richard P. of Area 43 New Hampshire name was drawn from the hat making him our current Northeast Regional Trustee.

I congratulate Richard P. On his election as Regional Trustee and wish him well.

I would like to thank J. Gary L. as he rotates out as Northeast Regional Trustee (NERT) I enjoyed working with him and respect his outstanding service to the Region and A.A. Thank you for tolerating us NERD'S.

On April 24 Friday late afternoon farewells were given by rotating panel 64 Delegates, I cannot remember what I said but it was a thank you that came from the heart.

With the closing of that meeting, I listened to the Serenity Prayer in English French and Spanish.

At the Saturday morning session, I listen to farewell talks by the rotating trustees: Frances B., Corliss B., Nancy H., J. Gary L., and Clayton V.

- Post Conference Report Frank M., delegate

Frank M, delegate for Area 50 GSA, read the post conference report from New York, in its entirety; as requested by a majority vote. There were some comments and questions and anyone wanting more information on the post-conference report should contact Frank directly. A full report on the 65<sup>th</sup> General Service conference will be available for everyone this fall. Next year's conference is April 23 - 29, 2016.

- Chairperson's Report Sally Ann C.  
Since our last Assembly, John and I attended the North East Regional Forum (NERF), May 28-30 at the Albany Marriott, hosted by the General Service Office. It consists of:
  - ✚ General Sharing Sessions with open microphones for anyone to ask questions, make comments, and share experience.
  - ✚ The famous Ask-It-Basket, which is an alternative to raising a question at a microphone, and for those who would rather write a question on a slip of paper which can then be answered during a General Sharing Session.

- ✚ Presentations by General Service Board members, current Delegates of the Northeast Region, GSO and Grapevine/La Viña staff.
- ✚ Workshops on specific topics where attendees are encouraged to share experience.

It was very interesting and educational and quite busy, and I was privileged to moderate one of the presentations on behalf of our Delegate, Frank M., who was, unfortunately, not able to attend.

I cannot emphasize enough that we and those who come after us cannot benefit from our experience, strength, and hope if our only record in the minutes is “verbal report”; we need documentation to know and record what is going on in our Area. To that end, I attempted - unsuccessfully - to send an email to Committee Chairs on Friday reminding you that GSA Needs Written Reports. Regrettably, some kind of conspiracy was afoot, so although I made sure that the relevant email addresses were correct, I received the message that you did not receive the message. I hope you remembered anyway. General Service Representatives and District Committee Members: the same exhortation applies to you.

You will notice that one part of the “Important Dates” is in red. This is actually not my way of endorsing the Women’s Fall Spiritual Weekend (although I would like to) it is just that the Pat, the Chair, and her committee, were kind enough to rearrange the schedule when the traditional date of the Weekend was appropriated by the Buffalo Fall Convention. So, as a result of their altruism, some of us will be able to attend both events after all.

Perk and Puff – Williamsville Group

Committee Chair Reports

- Finance

The Finance Committee met on April 26 and took the following actions:

The Finance Committee will take four specific actions in addition to preparing and presenting the 2016 Budget. The purpose of these actions is to increase awareness in the AA community of General Service opportunities with the goal of increasing participation in GSA at the Group, Intergroup and DCM levels.

These are the 2015 actions that will be taken:

1. Contact all GSA committee chairs to determine the 2016 wants and needs for each committee; Dave R.
2. Draft an insert for distribution through the New Frontiers publication and posting on GSA and Intergroup websites to educate AA Groups about Finances and the importance of participation in GSA. A copy of last year's flyer is attached. Lior W.
3. Pamphlets Where Money and Spirituality Mix and others germane to finances will be obtained and made available to GSR's and Groups. Gerry S.
4. 4. Workshop - The Finance Committee will host a workshop on Saturday November 14 on Turning the Lights on in Area 50. Possible topics - the importance of service, service

opportunities, highlights of service, an Old Timer's panel, outside speaker - either a trustee or past delegate or chair from another area. We discussed the possibility of combining the workshop with regularly scheduled GSA meeting currently scheduled for November 15. Workshop would go from 10:00 am to 1:45 pm with lunch and the GSA business meeting would follow. Whole Committee.

5. Location of workshop - James C. is looking into availability of Hope Center; other possible sites are Deerhurst Presbyterian Church, Cleveland Heights Church, Infant of Prague, Sober Train church.

Chuck B. provided copies of the GSA Area 50 Committee Budget Workshop form. Committee chairs are asked to fill this out and return it to Dave R. or Chuck B. – their email addresses and phone numbers are on the forms.

- Archives Report Lila M., archives chair

We thank you for the honor and privilege of serving you this past month.

We have attended and/or reported to all 4 intergroups within Area 50. We had weekly work nights on Wednesdays. We participated in the 18<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Breakfast for Blvd Helping Hands in Wheatfield NY with over 200 attendees.

At our May meeting we went over lessons learned for the breakfast and discussed efforts to date regarding next year's speaker Gail L. from Akron. Costs and the associated issues for electronically being able to work with her were mentioned, to be more thoroughly discussed at later date.

Please note we show a power point presentation of area 50 home group pictures. If your group is not included, please drop off some pictures or send them digitally to [archives@area50wny.org](mailto:archives@area50wny.org).

We'll be displaying at the Main and High Day of Sharing on July 11, 2015 & Oct 2-4 Buffalo Fall Convention.

We had donations in May from Iron Horse, Caz Manor & Thurs. Night Men's Discussion. We are a financially autonomous committee. Our resources come from group contributions and special events. We receive NO funding from ANY unorganized part of AA for ANYTHING. We rely upon your group and/or individual support to fund our archival work, pay rent for the repository, and participate in archival activities. Note that no funds are used to get members to events or service meetings and each member pays their own way into events except out of area issues – donations are used ONLY for rent and archival efforts as approved by the entire committee and are protected by the standard AA method of a multi-signature checking account.

Please send any contributions to: Area 50 Archives Committee, c/o Buffalo Central Office, 681 Seneca Street, Buffalo, NY 14210. We thank you for your continuing support.

We welcome your invitation for an archives display for your group anniversary or special event with a suggested 30 day minimum advanced notification. Sharing the historical items donated regarding the area AA activities is crucial and may tag the interest of our primary purpose at YOUR MEETING. And please get this reminder to all groups in these 8 counties of Western New York – throw NOTHING group-related away without considering your archives committee and the unborn alcoholics to come.

- Registrar's Report Mike D., registrar

This is my first report as Registrar. First, thanks to my predecessor, Jim, for his efforts. Without much support, he did an admirable job maintaining the area records. The job is made more difficult because we have very few DCMs. In most areas, the District Committee Members collect the information at District meetings and carry it on to the Registrar.

Our local structure is missing this vital link and we suffer from the lack. Communication among the groups, Area and GSO is very poor as the result.

I am acclimating to the Fellowship New Vision (FNV) database and can perform most of the changes from my tablet or my home computer now. I cherry-picked the easiest fixes on the lists of bad addresses and unknown groups and made a substantial reduction in the numbers in both categories.

I have been in contact with one of the committee chairs and we are going to make the rounds of the intergroup meetings. Hopefully, I can gather more info at these meetings and make some more headway on reducing the numbers of groups out of touch with the General Service Office. There is room in the car if any would like to join us.

I have modified the Group Information Change form from GSO so that the changes can come directly to the area mailbox or to the registrar's email. See me if you need a copy. I also sent copies to the Web chair for inclusion on the area50wny.org website. I have hard copies of each group's information as it is reflected in the FNV database with me and any of you can check your home group's sheet for correctness; see me at the break.

The Executive Secretary at the Buffalo Central Office made an Excel file for me with their contact info for the groups in that schedule, so I will be able to cross-reference data and maybe fill in a few blanks in FNV or register some groups that are in the Buffalo schedule but not registered with GSO. This was outside of her duties and I appreciate the time and effort she put into it.

- 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition: Ask Geri
- Cooperation with Professional Community James C., chair  
Verbal report. Presenting at Lawyers Helping Lawyers. Always looking for people to join this committee.
- Treatment Facilities Report Gene P., chair  
Verbal Report
- Special Needs Report- absent Paul G., chair

- Public Information Committee – vacant

- Corrections Committee David N., chair

I am the chairman of the corrections committee. This is my first report to the meeting. I regret that I cannot attend the 7/18/15 meeting. I must be out of town on the 18<sup>th</sup>. I have written to NYC GSO for their input as to how best to serve in this capacity as corrections chair. I have accessed the Area 50 guidelines for corrections chair and will review them.

I am beginning to form a committee. I intend to attend the 7/19/15 meeting of the corrections committee in Buffalo. Hopefully, my next report will be more substantive, and will be delivered in person.

- Website Tim W, chair

The current website is not built around an established industry standard Content Management System. An attempt was made to transfer the current Area 50 website over to the built in website creator supplied by 1&1 who hosts the site. The current account only allows for 10 pages of content and must be upgraded to correct the deficiency. The site will be upgraded at minimal cost to continue with the development and the cost will be communicated via email with the treasurer.

Karen S. has been appointed Web Master. She and I have been working together in person and by phone to establish a technical platform that will service the current and future needs for the website. We are currently reviewing other area websites to determine best practices and standards moving forward.

Priority areas as expressed by the group:

- Email communications
- Calendar updates
- Flyer Posting
- Training/Informational Workshop

Payment for the website is in name of Mike D. through a personal PayPal account. I facilitated the account transfer of the Genesee/Wyoming Intergroup 1&1 account while serving as Web Master. I've obtained the proper account change request form and I will send the information to the treasurer for review.

- Grapevine - Absent Morgan M., chair

#### Recap of Chair Reports

- Chair's Report – Question – do we include non-area sponsored events in the list of upcoming events? Answer, yes, both area and regional as long as the event is sponsored by a group. Karen

S. asked if she could put these on the website. Sally Ann will find out. The Women's Spiritual Weekend is sponsored by a group.

- Finance Chair – time of November workshop TBD. Tim W. asked about getting funds for something he needs for the website. Chuck told him that he has \$100 to spend and he can buy what is needed and be reimbursed. Attend Informational Workshop.
- Archives – Joanne has been working on archives. At Central Office she found a book with dittoed, carboned paper from 1945 that had been at Central Office since 1940's. It contained a letter from Bill's secretary, Founders of Groups, final reports (conf. reports), 2 New York State delegates, the 2<sup>nd</sup> conf. report is missing. Sally Ann said that she sent information on past delegates to Lila.
- Registrar – no recap
- Cooperation w/Professional Community – no recap
- Public Information Committee - vacant
- Treatment Facilities Committee - Gene P. will provide a phone number for the TFC. Call him if interested in attending a committee meeting or having him come and speak at a group's business meeting.
- Corrections – vacant
- Grapevine – absent
- Special Needs – absent
- Website – Reiterated that all Area 50 chairs have email addresses for corresponding with one another. PowerPoint on website might be a good idea and registrar's docs – looking into it but need to watch out for anonymity. Gene asked if committee chairs can link into area email using area website. Tim said to use 1and1mail exchange server – login and password. He will send an email out w/addresses and link to go to 1 and 1 email exchange to chairs. James suggested holding a workshop to eliminate confusion about accessing the website. Lisa M. mentioned spam problems with 1email and Sally Ann had difficulty sending an email to chairs. Karen S., web master, offered to sit with anyone having problems as this is her area of expertise

#### District Reports – DCM's

- Steve G. – District 3, Day of Learning is Saturday, September 26, 2015 from 12 pm to 4 pm. 8210 Buffalo Avenue, Niagara Falls, NY. Archives will be present.
- David D. – verbal report

#### General Service Representatives – GSR's

- Darlene L. – Home Group, Acceptance & Welcome, meets Tuesdays and Fridays at Colvin and Sheridan at 10 a.m. There is babysitting available for free. Also, this group takes a meeting into Stutzman the 1<sup>st</sup> Wed. of the month at 1 p.m. I need speakers; anyone interested please see me. Also, we do 2 beginner's tables, 1 discussion, Steps, Big Book and Traditions. Our group is interested in hosting a GSA meeting.
- Pat M. – Thruway Group is still meeting (during the construction on the Cleveland Drive bridge) at the Infant of Prague Church, Monday and Friday mornings and Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.
- David C. – alt. GSR, no report
- Beth S. – no report
- Karen S. – Group picnic will be held July 12<sup>th</sup> at noon at Hamburg Fair Grounds, Quimby Entrance. Open to all. Hamburgers/hotdogs. Picnic food will be provided. Spread the word.

- Phil T. – verbal report
- Frederick T. – Buffalo Creek which meets at 1862 Seneca Street, Thursdays at 1 p.m. No changes at this time.

### Courtesy Reports

- Zach F., Buffalo - The Intergroup needs zone representatives for Zones 1, 4 & 7. East, side, west side and southeast. The treatment committee and corrections committee needs groups to have commitments to local treatment centers and jails and prisons. The 2016 fall convention still needs a co-chair from Zone 4. If no one from Zone 4 stands, it will move to Zone 5. The committee unanimously voted to send our offices secretary to a conference in Florida to learn more about Central Officer's and Intergroups.
- New York Penn – no report
- Genesee Wyoming – no report
- Brenda N. - My name is Brenda, I am the liaison between Area 50 General Service and Niagara Intergroup in Niagara Falls NY. Our meetings in the last couple months have been about the phone system we've implemented this year so AA members actually answer the phone calls to the hotline. The June 13th picnic was discussed, as well as the enormous changes happening to how our TFC committee performs their service work within our area treatment facilities. Thank you for your attention.

### Old Business

GSA Area 50 Inventory Plan – John C., past delegate. The Group Inventory will be held at the Hope Center, 781 Maple Rd., Amherst on John 18, 2015 from 12 p.m. until 5 p.m. Please spread the word and all are encouraged to attend. A host is needed for the food.

GSR Ad Hoc Committee – doing great work. What are the other areas doing to educate new GSR's? Will come up with a proposal and have a full report at the August meeting on the "new GSR school".

Amendments to Guidelines – Helene C. has the disc and amendments to the Guidelines will be made as needed. Sue L., co-chair, will assist with this task.

Informational Workshop is August 14-16 at the Storm King School in Cornwall on the Hudson, NY. Chairs need to be contacted – Wally E. suggested that fliers be mailed to the chairs to find out who is attending. Chuck B. said that Sue L. will be following up with the chairs about the Workshop.

### New Business

There are two chair positions that need filling: PIC and Corrections. Sally Ann appointed David Nelson, Alt. GSR, as chair of the Corrections Committee. She asked that members go back to their home groups and ask if anyone had an interest in chairing the PIC committee.

Motion – Mike D., made a motion that Area 50 only publish announcements of events that are sponsored by the Area GSO, District or Area 50 Committee. James C. seconded the motion.

Discussion ensued with the following comments: Sally Ann said that the current policy/criteria is the same as Central Office's. If it is an AA event with a speaker, it goes on the list. Picnics and dances are not included on the list. This was recorded previously in GSA meeting minutes to prevent conflicts. The chair puts together an agenda, out of courtesy. **Post only events related to GSA. We don't want hostility.** Central Office publishes events for the GSA. Need parameters and clarification, not separation.

A vote on the motion was taken with 8 in favor and 9 against. Dan, alt. GSR said he counted 9 in favor – one GSR vote was missed. The result was a tie.

#### Adjournment

Don H. moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:40 p.m. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously without objection or abstention.

Reminder: Important date: GSA Area 50 Inventory, July 18<sup>th</sup> at 12:10 p.m. at the Hope Center on Maple Rd. Keith G. will be the facilitator. There will be 18 questions and 4 tables. Please make every effort to attend. It's been over 12 years since the last area 50 inventory.

Respectfully submitted,

Helene C.  
Area 50 Secretary