

Advisory Committee Minutes

March 27, 2025 at 7:00 pm In-Person and Zoom

1. Welcome
 - The Chairperson Charley C. welcomes the Advisory Committee and starts the meeting with the Serenity Prayer.
2. Roll Call
 - Charley C. started introductions. Rick (Area 1), Dennis (Area 2), Al (Area 3), Karin (Area 4), Scott (Area 5), Marcus (Area 6), Jennifer (Area 7), Tim (Area 8), Tammy (Area 9), Kimberly (Area 10), Charles P. (Area 11).
 - Jason introduced himself, then office staff.
3. Minutes
 - Charley C. asked if there was a quorum. Ralph said with 16 present there is not.
 - Charley C. asked to approve Advisory Minutes from the October 28, 2024. Motion made by Karin, seconded by Al, motion passed.
 - Charley C. asked to approve Advisory Minutes from January 29, 2025 meeting at this time. Motion made by Jennifer, seconded by Charles P., motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

4. Chairperson asked for Committee Reports - Charley C.
 - Activities
 - Al reported that the recent Secretary's Workshop was a success, with 30 attendees in addition to staff and two guest contributors.
 - He also noted that tickets for the Guardians game on Sunday, June 29th, are now available.
 - Archives and Constitution
 - No report.
 - Communications
 - Al gave a reminder that the Mini Conference for Area 54 is this weekend in Strongsville at the Best Western.
 - Corrections & Outreach
 - Scott announced that Joanne, Chairperson of the Corrections Committee, is stepping down. A new chairperson has been appointed to take her place. The committee meets on the first Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the office.
 - Outreach
 - Tracy introduced herself and shared that she has been actively learning the responsibilities of her new role and is enthusiastic about getting started.
 - Tracy reviewed the March Outreach Overview, highlighting the details of each initiative and outlining plans for future efforts.
 - Finance

- Charles P. reported that the office voted last month to contribute \$6,000 to the General Service Office and \$6,000 to the Akron Intergroup Office, which is currently in need of repairs.
 - Fund Drive
 - Jason reported that the March Fund Drive is well underway. Fund Drive packets have been sent to all groups. He noted a slight increase in online donations, which may be attributed to the addition of a QR code on all pledge forms. He added that it has never been easier to contribute and that the office expects to share meaningful donation figures next month.
- 5. Old Business
 - No report.
- 6. New Business
 - A member introduced herself and said she has a problem getting literature at her meeting.
 - Charley C. said the committee needs to vote in new Operating Committee Members for Areas 9, 10, and 11.
 - Area 9 – Emilie replaced by Tammy. Home group is Garfield Heights Tuesday
 - Area 10 – Charley C. replaced by Kimberly. Home group is Short-n-Sweet
 - Area 11 – Charles P. replaced by Bruce. Home group is Friday Morning Wakeup
 - Charley C. asked if there was a motion to approve the new members. Al made the motion, Rick seconded, motion passed.
 - Jason presented a Certificate of Appreciation to each of the three members who rolled off.
- 7. History Presentation
 - Bob M. shared the history of the Twenty-Four Hour a Day book. He explained that the book originated as a Christian-based text. Richmond Walker, who got sober in 1942, began writing daily meditations and eventually published a pamphlet titled For Drunks Only. He self-published the book in 1948. In 1954, he offered it to Alcoholics Anonymous, but it was declined due to its religious overtones. He later presented it to Hazelden, which accepted and published it.
- 8. Open Forum
 - Jason shared that several technical updates have been made to the aacle.org website, including a new feature that allows online meeting information to be added to local group records, making it easier for members to attend local meetings virtually.
 - A member expressed appreciation to the outgoing members of the Operating Committee for their service and suggested offering a presentation on the Seventh Tradition. He also inquired about the prudent reserve balance, and Charley C. responded that it currently covers 18 months of operating expenses.
 - Another member suggested that, following the March Fund Drive, it would be helpful to provide an update on how contributions were used so donors can better understand the impact of their support. Jason confirmed that the office can provide and publish those figures.

- Jennifer commended the office for doing an excellent job modernizing and updating its systems.
- Charles P. asked whether all contributors receive an acknowledgment letter by mail. Jason confirmed that as long as the office has accurate contact information, donors receive a hard-copy letter.
- Charles P. also inquired about the status of the annual audit. Jason said it is currently underway, and the accountant has requested several items, which the office is gathering to complete the year-end reporting.
- Al raised concern about low attendance at Advisory Committee meetings and suggested exploring ways to improve participation.
- A member commented that AA is a program of attraction, not promotion, and that people will come in their own time.
- Jennifer added that while members can be invited to attend Advisory meetings, engagement is unlikely to improve unless the focus shifts away from financial matters.
- Dean noted that at one of the larger meetings he attends, access to literature is easier and more consistent.
- Bobbi acknowledged the dedication of the office staff and voiced concern about one individual monopolizing the Advisory Committee meetings, noting that others should also have a chance to speak.
- Connie remarked that even if people were told where the money was, they might not understand it, and cautioned against challenging staff in a way that could drive them away.
- A member recommended having the office audited by a nonprofit accounting firm. Charley C. responded that the office is audited annually by a long-standing CPA familiar with the organization's operations.

9. Close Meeting

- Charles P. asks for Motion to Adjourn, a second and meeting ends with the Lord's Prayer.