



Fall Newsletter 2023 Ohio Valley Intergroup



Editor's Corner

Here we are one more time. Fall is in the air while the leaves change colors on the trees and the delight of lower humidity surrounds us. Perhaps some of us have scraped frost off our car's windshield for the first time.

So, what do we have in store for you as the leaves are falling? This time, we start with a short blurb

regarding Lifeline Partners since it is so important as a financial “lifeblood” for our leadership in Houston.

Next, the results of voting on four business motions at the 2023 ISO Conference last month are posted. Along with the voting results, a few noteworthy highlights are listed as recorded by our Area 14 Delegate, Mark R.

Next, we are proud to mention the upcoming 2024 Convention in Columbus Ohio! As we say in the blurb below, please, please consider attending. This is OUR Convention in OUR backyard!

Next up is a full notice for the OVIG Fall Retreat that is right around the corner.

Lastly, join us as we complete the lengthy tale of the Green Book in “The Green Book: One Recovering Sex Addict's Journey - Part II.”

Read on!
(The OVIG Newsletter Team)

Important Messages from the ISO:

Ever considered donating to the ISO in a manner that not only makes things easier for you but easier for them as well? Please consider joining the **Lifeline Partners** as a way of regularly making an automated donation, no matter how little or how large to the ISO. As you will see in the article below about the 2023 Annual Conference results, that general donations to the ISO were down from the preceding Conference. Funds from Lifeline Partners helped to offset that deficit.

For those of you who are already Lifeline Partners, please consider increasing your monthly donation. Also, thank you for being a Lifeline Partner!

For those of you who have considered joining LP but have not done so yet, what are you waiting for?

To learn more about Lifeline Partners, go to the website below:

[SAA — 7th Tradition | Lifeline \(saa-store.org\)](http://SAA — 7th Tradition | Lifeline (saa-store.org))

To participate, please follow instructions for donating as an individual or as a group.

Important Fellowship Items



ISO Delegate Conference Houston, Texas | October 7-8, 2023

The ISO Delegate Conference in Houston, Texas was held back on October 7th and 8th. Mark R, the Area 14 GSR from Marietta attended as our Delegate and sent a report to those who are GSRs for their local group. The Business Motions voted on are listed below along with the voting results.

2023-D001

This motion was for approving seven pamphlets formerly approved by the Literature Committee. Result: Passed with 41 for and 6 against

2023-D002

This motion was for Conference approval of four PI/CPC related pamphlets. Result: Passed with 42 for and 5 against

2023-D003

This motion was for the dissolution of the Area Coordinating Committee (ACC) at the end of the 2023 Business Conference. Result: Passed with 39 for and 11 against

2022-D007

This was the second-year vote (ratification) of last year's motion whereby literature must have a 2/3 vote at Conference to receive Conference approval and that only Literature Committee can submit literature to the Conference for approval. Result: Passed with 46 for and 1 against

A few other important details were found in the report:

- More than 100 new SAA meetings have started since the 2022 Conference with 41 of them inside prisons.
- Of 87 total Areas, 60 are assembled with 33 having registered Delegates (55% registered representation.)

- General donations are down while Lifeline Partners have increased with the current \$15,000 match being about 70% satisfied.
- Extensive new literature is being completed and being granted Literature Committee approval.

Please note that the report here is an abbreviated version of Mark's document. If you wish to view the entire document, please contact the Newsletter Editor Chris J. at the email address below and he will send you a copy. Also, if you are interested in learning more about representing your group as a Group Service Representative (GSR), we urge you to visit the GSR website listed below.

Chris J Newsletter Editor:
Crispyj4@gmail.com

GSR Website
<https://saa-iso.org/mbrs/gsr/>
ID: path
PW: freedom

Keep Coming Back in 2024!



Columbus 2024

Once again, we remind everyone of the upcoming 2024 ISO Convention at the Hyatt Regency in Columbus, Ohio USA on May 31st, June 1st, and June 2nd, 2024. Please mention this to your groups! We want to have a great turnout from Ohio!

So, remember, this is your Convention since it is close to your home. So, let's have a great Ohio turnout and... **Keep Coming Back** in 2024! (More information and instructions for registering will be forthcoming.)



OVIG SAA FALL RETREAT

**November 11th, 2023
8:30 am - 2:00 pm**

**Church of the Master UMC
24 North Grove St
Westerville, Oh, 43081**

We're getting close to the OVIG SAA Fall Retreat on November 11th at Church of the Master United Methodist in Westerville. If you haven't registered yet, consider doing so. There will be seven workshops, breakfast, lunch, and plenty of time to chat. There is still time to register before the event for \$10.00. The donation is \$15.00 for "walk ins" the day of the event.

An outline of the Retreat is below:

Registration and Fellowship	(8:30 A.M. to 9:00 A.M.)
"New Technologies: Same Solution"	(9:10 A.M. to 10:00 A.M.)
"Relapse Analysis"	(9:10 A.M. to 10:00 A.M.)
"The Traditions: Saving Us from Ourselves"	(10:10 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.)
"Step Four: More than a Grocery List"	(10:10 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.)
"Living in the Messy Zone"	(11:10 A.M. to Noon)
"Art and the Outer Circle"	(1:00 P.M. to 1:50 P.M.)
"Living in the Present through Mindfulness Meditation"	(1:00 P.M. to 1:50 P.M.)

To Register, click on the "Register – Tap Here" button on the form you may have received via email. Should you not have a form available, contact the OVIG at the website below.

www.ohiovalleysaa.org

The Green Book: One Recovering Sex Addict's Story – Part II

Last quarter, I left off where I had received my very first copy of the Green Book for free at the May 2005 Convention/Conference in New Orleans. This occurred about nine years after I first heard that the fellowship would be working on a book and a call went out for those with experience, strength, and hope to write their

story. That was the first nine years of the two decades that would pass before it was all over. The dated sections below outline my continued experiences.

August 2005

The first Literature Committee teleconference after the Conference was both a buzz of productivity and creative conversations regarding remaining and upcoming projects. I recall that the notes we inserted into the books asking the reader for feedback had snagged the first few hits with readers as some feedback began to trickle in. There was also some beginning talk of having a Green Book in Spanish and I recall the idea of creating a Group Guide being knocked back and forth like a ping-pong ball. With the massive work of the Green Book mostly in the rear-view mirror, or so it seemed, there could now be energy and creativity focused on other things. However, the remaining afterglow from the festivities surrounding the book's introduction was short lived. Only days after the August 2005 LitCom meeting, the place where the Green Book was first distributed and sold, the place where I was given my copy with all the signatures, New Orleans, was devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

August 2005 to May 2007

During this time range, many things happened to the Green Book, some I knew about at the time and some I would find out about later.

First, as a former member of Literature Committee I can say that every time a new piece of literature is given Literature Committee approval, there is a two-year mandatory period for the collection of feedback from the fellowship before placing that piece of literature before the ISO Conference Delegates for an approval vote. Another thing I can also say from experience is that feedback from the fellowship doesn't exactly arrive in droves. It tends to trickle in. However, LitCom and other trusted servants continued to work on items that needed to be changed based on feedback. During this time, a second edition was approved by the Literature Committee just before the 2007 Conference/Convention in Minnesota.

May 2007

Ah, Minnesota! I attended the Conference as a voting Delegate for my SAA group in Yellow Springs, Ohio. I had looked forward to casting my vote on the Green Book just as much as visiting the place where the SAA fellowship was born. Also at this Conference, the former Northeast LitCom Rep, Tom K, would be "rolling off" from Literature Committee and I would be taking that over the role of a voting Rep. It was a role I would have for the next six years.

At that time, I was also staring into the steely face of unemployment, but a new opportunity had popped up and I had an interview in my schedule. Life was filled with possibilities, and I recall having a lot on my mind. I also recall that there was a full slate of business motions. Of the motions I supported, the Green Book approval was at the top of my list as well as item "A" as I will call it.

Later, when the motion before item "A" was being considered, my cell phone, which was in silent mode, began to buzz. I answered it as I exited the conference hall, and it turned out to be the manager for the potential new job calling me. Now? Really?

I recall that the interview seemed to drag on longer than I would have liked. However, the result was that I was asked when I could start. Wow! They made me an offer after a single telephone interview.

I closed the phone and began to walk back toward the doors to the convention hall. When I was about 20 feet from the doors, they burst open. I found myself face-to-face with a crowd heading in the opposite direction. I also saw Gary, another Delegate from Dayton Ohio, walking toward me. The brief conversation that ensued I consider to be an all-time classic in my personal bag of "life on life's terms" items:

Me: So, did they vote on item "A" already?

Gary: Yes. That vote passed.

Me: Oh, good! So, do we vote on the Green Book after lunch?

Gary: We already voted on the Green Book.

Me: (after a moment of silence) That was sooner than I thought. So, how did it go?

Gary: (after his own moment of silence) The vote was a tie! The book failed.

I had no quick words. Some may find this hard to believe but I was speechless, simply gob smacked. As a recovering sex addict with a long history of lies, acting out in my addiction, and causing general mayhem, I was no stranger to guilt. The guilt that hit me at that moment, however, was an all-new kind.

May 2008

Justin, a professional proofreader and member of SAA, sent a lengthy list of edits needed in the second edition of the Green Book. I received and still have a copy of this list that I find to be very detailed. I had also heard that one of the stories in the early editions and printings, story #36, was considered as not having enough “experience, strength, and hope” and that it was replaced with a different story. Despite my involvement with changes to the Green Book being minor, I still felt that my Higher Power wanted me to continue to be involved.

March 2010

Ken S, one of the three Indiana folks who brought the Green Book draft to Ohio as I described in Part 1, had sent a lengthy, heartfelt, letter regarding how the editing of the Green Book was being handled and how he disagreed with some opinions that the book didn't get approval in 2007 because it was deeply flawed. I remember reading that letter and I could only agree, especially when it presented the need for a documented and clear process for reviewing, making changes, and preparing the book for approval. I felt the letter called for the process to “mature” and to improve. In roughly this same time range, Ken had also worked to move the Conference Charter Committee from the ISO Board of Trustees over to the Conference. I began to see some of that work ultimately allowing for the Delegates to travel a clearer path in decision making.

July 2010 (Approximate)

I had heard from Morris in Indiana that he and another group member had gone to the home of Ken S. and found him after he had passed away, possibly from a heart attack. Since Ken lived alone, they only knew something was wrong when he didn't show up for a meeting. As with many other people in the fellowship, I was devastated.

Ken's work with the Conference Charter Committee and his strong feelings about shortcomings in the process for working with the book would prove helpful in the long run. If only he could have lived long enough to see how things would unfold.

October 2010

This year, the Literature Committee chose to have a productive retreat at Camp PYOCA in Brownstown Indiana just before the Indiana Intergroup held their annual retreat at the same camp.

I also liked the fact that many members of LitCom stayed after the literature retreat was done, to enjoy the Indiana retreat. I will never forget the Saturday evening of the Indiana retreat when several former and current members of the Literature Committee sat at the same round table and talked about past challenges.

Inevitably, the Green Book and its infamous story came up and both Chris D of Arizona and Elizabeth S. of Indiana spent time describing their experiences which I can only label with the word “harrowing.” They were both in the position of performing what I might call a massive editing, rewriting the book and then taking it around for feedback from different groups as I described in Part 1 of this story.

At one point, Elizabeth mentioned that the book had failed to get Conference approval by literally one vote a few years earlier. I think my face turned red at that point. I decided to “fess up” to what had happened. When I did, Elizabeth looked at me with a stern expression and simply said, “You!!” For a moment I wanted to hide under the table but then she smiled and explained that, in fact, there were several individuals who supported the book but missed the vote. As an example, one of the others got sick and had to leave early. I felt that I had been forgiven at that point by hardworking members of our fellowship whose big thinking was only outmatched by their big hearts.

May 2012

The first truly “international” Conference and Convention was held in Vancouver, British Columbia that year. I marveled at how the streets of Vancouver were so clean and organized, food at the restaurants was great, and how warm the reception from our recovering friends in Canada was. Also, some things that occurred at this Conference/Convention were memorable. First, the 2012 Northeast Caucus voted in a new Alternate Rep for the Northeast Region, Kashi, to vote in my place should I not be present at a Literature Committee meeting.

Next? I found that not all positive changes to methods for evaluating literature came accompanied by trumpets and drums, so to speak. Some occurred silently and in the background. Business motion 2012-D005 was an example. The author of the motion called for a stronger 2/3 vote by “certified” delegates to give Conference approval. The term “certified delegates” used in the motion seemed to call for the participation of those with a higher level of recovery maturity. It dawned on me that ideas such as this could lead to better informed and thought-out decisions regarding literature including a future attempt to get Conference approval for the Green Book.

Lastly, the Literature Committee Chair that year asked me if I would be willing to take over his last year as the Chair. For a moment, some negative thoughts struck me such as, “Can a schmuck like me actually do this job?” I had to quiet those negative thoughts that harkened back to my addiction. I agreed and said that I would do it. I considered it an honor that he would ask me.

May 2013

The Conference/Convention this year was in Summerlin Nevada. I had somehow been hoping the Green Book would come up for an approval vote but found that many of the business motions were focused on Bylaws updates regarding the Conference and related committees. I had reached the end of my time as a Literature Committee member and still the book had not found approval. At that time, my interests found other paths. I was still a member of the Authors Group and the Meditation Book Subcommittee, so I poured more of my efforts and spiritual energy into those.

May 2014

The 2014 Conference/Convention was in Los Angeles at a hotel inside the massive LAX airport. I do remember Business Motion 2014-D0001 presented by Elizabeth S. to ask the Conference for approval of the Conference Charter Committee that Ken S. had worked to transfer from the Board of Trustees to the Conference years earlier. I personally felt that the motion being presented by Elizabeth S. had more impact, as she along with Ken were two of the three individuals who visited Ohio with the Green Book “raggedy” draft many years earlier. The motion for adoption of the Conference Charter passed by a vote of 139 for and only 1 against. I was practically in tears.

May 2016

I will always remember travelling to the Windy City to attend the 2016 Conference/Convention. As much as I love deep-dish Chicago pizza, there were more pressing matters I was looking forward to. Number one among them was Business Motion 2016-D0001 for the Conference approval of the Green Book. One among many changes made to the Third Edition of the Green Book that proved helpful was the addition of a Forward. Also, this edition of the book had the benefit of nine years of editing after the book’s failure to receive Conference approval in 2007.

The Delegates at the Chicago Conference voted to approve the Third Edition of the Green Book, with 136 for and only 7 against. I felt amazing relief. From the time I first heard about the request for personal stories from the fellowship to Conference approval being given to the Green Book tallied up twenty years. I’m sure that anyone who was involved in the development of our Green Book will likely not forget their experiences.

I feel that the path the Green Book traveled was the best example of an old quote from a former member of Literature Committee when he said that “Literature just doesn’t pop out of rocks.” Given the Green Book’s lengthy journey of twenty years, I simply can’t disagree.

Chris J.

OVIG Highlights

The Ohio Valley Intergroup (OVIG) remains a cohesive unit of single SAA groups in both Ohio and West Virginia. As with most intergroups, the OVIG was formed to share resources, supply service talent, and offer activities that single groups may not have the wherewithal to provide.

As such, there are a good number of notable accomplishments the OVIG has achieved over the last several months. Below is a list of these accomplishments so everyone can know that we all remain busy.

- Note! The OVIG Fall 2023 retreat is almost here. Plan to be there on November 11th.
- The Venmo account for OVIG continues to be a convenient way to make donations to the intergroup. The account for donations is now @Mark.Laughlin13@venmo.
- Funds continue to be collected from groups to be used for professional outreach purposes.
- A plan is in place for the Ohio Valley Intergroup website to be updated. Help is needed for this!
- When possible, the intergroup continues to aid the Area 14 Assembly in recruiting and registering new Group Service Representatives (GSRs).
- Please note that the intergroup continues to keep a supply of literature and display organizers for outreach purposes.
- The ISO Board of Trustees has approved the Hyatt Regency as the hotel for the 2024 Convention in Columbus. We are going to do this! Interested in helping? Please contact Mark R at
- Please note that the OVIG will soon be looking for new talent to roll into officer positions and other service opportunities within the intergroup. Please consider helping your recovery by helping us!

It’s easy to see from the above bullet list the many ways that OVIG serves the groups, the fellowship, and the still-suffering sex addict.

(The OVIG Newsletter Team)