



Area 59

EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA  
GENERAL SERVICE ASSEMBLY

[www.area59ga.org](http://www.area59ga.org)

## The History of Mini - Assemblies

Information about the beginnings of this event is sketchy at best. We do know that in 1971 "rap sessions" as they were called were being held. Their purpose was to hear the Delegates conference report, followed by a question and answer period. They were a day-long event with donated food.

Panel 35 Delegate Bob N. said in 1973 they were called "caucuses" and were attended by 50 - 60 people.

Under the tenure of Panel 27 Delegate Lenore J. they were renamed. She felt that the term "caucuses" sounded too political and changed them to "mini - assemblies".

During the next two panels, 29 and 31, the Area was divided into 4 sections and a mini was held in each one. The Delegate from Panel 31 Lee B. told me that this was an attempt to unify the Area because of the prevalent "Phila. vs the rest" attitude then.

Formats have changed over the years as attempts were made to attract more of the fellowship. In 2001 it was called "Luncheon with the Delegate". It consisted of the Delegates report, a catered lunch and a question and answer period.

In the mid 80's through the 90's a registration fee of \$10 to \$15 was charged to cover the rising cost of the meal. The feeling at that time was "if people pay they will pay attention".

Attendance at these events has varied from almost 1200 attendees at the 4 minis in 1990 - that year 504 attended the mini held in Phila. - to the more recent 50 - 60 people. Through the 80's and 90's average attendance for 4 minis was around 650.

The number of mini-assemblies being held rotated between 3 and 4 with 4 being more prevalent. Recently in 2010 it was reduced to 2, then in 2011 to 1. After some discussion the number was raised back to 2 or 3.