



**Area Chairperson’s Report: Quarterly Business Meeting**

**Dec. 11, 2016**

Thank you for your commitment to service. It is a privilege to serve the Eastern Pennsylvania General Service Assembly. I look forward to fulfilling the duties of Chairperson for Panel 67 and am deeply grateful to the group conscience of Area 59 to have this opportunity.

Some key points:

1. Included in your folder from the Chairperson is a 2017 Service Calendar. Please note the dates.
  - a. Note whether your District is scheduled to host an Area Event next year. I will be contacting all DCM’s where districts will be hosting Area Events and will work closely with you to ensure we have suitable venues for our service meetings.
  - b. Recent Area budgets have allocated about \$1,500 per Area event. But, I have asked for \$1,600 per event in the 2017 budget because rents for facilities have been rising.
  - c. Detailed announcements of events will be posted at [www.area59aa.org](http://www.area59aa.org). Please learn to use our Area web site for important information like reports, calendars, flyers and directions to events.
2. Included in your folder is a letter entitled “Important Communication Request” please read it and give a copy to your District Secretary.
  - a. Please request that your district secretary send an email with your District Business Meeting each month after your District has approved them.
  - b. Send copies to all Area Officers and the Area Archivist.

Key travels during the past quarter:

Oct. 14	Chesco PENSCYPAA Bid Committee Workshop “Working Committees in AA – Group Decision-Making”	Kennett Square, PA
Nov. 3 – 6	E.P.G.S.A. Convention	Gettysburg, PA
Nov. 13	Panel 65 & 67 Pre-Area Officers’ Meeting	New Holland, PA
Nov. 21	Officiated District 56 General Service Election	Kennett Square, PA
Dec. 4	Panel 67 Subcommittee Chairperson Orientation	Unionville, PA
Dec. 11	Quarterly Area Business Meeting	Bristol, PA

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend our DCM Orientation and Mini-Assembly Planning Session on Jan. 22, 2017 in Bryn Mawr, PA hosted by District 29 lead by Jon H.

A note about committee decision making in our Fellowship: A.A. General Service has followed a decision-making process with some modifications of *Robert's Rules of Order*. This parliamentary process has served well for decades. We have followed this process for many years in Area 59.

You have the modifications of *Robert's Rules of Order* that is used by General Service. There is a sheet in your folder defining these modifications. Please read them and try to understand them as they are used. It's common to actually experience these in our decision-making process in order to really get a feel for how they work. There are many versions of rules of order and you can take courses from simple to very complex; so, please keep in mind that not all versions of rules are the same nor even use the same definition for the identical type of motion.

One of my duties while presiding over our business meetings is to guide the democratic process. I promise to do my very best to help keep the process fair and within the guidance of our Traditions and Concepts. Here are some tips that may help us:

1. We use the committee-process to get work done – it's best that all major proposals (motions) get researched and reviewed by the proper subcommittee(s) before bringing to the entire Area Committee for consideration. If you have a question, ask the Chairperson about it.
2. The Chairman of the business meeting will remain neutral and impartial in conduct. I will refrain from voting unless there is a tie. In some cases that may mean putting a vote over the 2/3<sup>rd</sup>'s level.
3. Only one person is recognized at a time (usually you must be at the microphone to be recognized) and all questions and discussion goes to the Chairman. Speak either for or against a motion and give reasons for your position. Please do not make comments to or about other members during debate or discussion.
4. If you disagree with the Chairman's parliamentary decision, or need clarification to understand what is going on, call for a "point of order." You do not have to go to the microphone nor be recognized to do this. This is either to challenge the decision or clarify it. Right or wrong, the Chairman's decision is followed, unless the entire Area Committee votes to overturn it.
5. In the interest of everybody's time and clear decision-making:

Don't wait for minority opinion to make your point.

Don't use minority opinion to repeat the discussion that has already been made.

Be brief and avoid brainstorming at the microphone. Make your point in 2 minutes or less

The Chairman does not have to recognize you once you have spoken unless all other Committee Members who want to, has spoken. We do not use filibuster.

6. Most proposals will not be emergencies. If the Chairman gets the sense that members of the Area Committee would like to take it back to their Districts for discussion, he may call for a motion to schedule the proposal to a different (future) time.

Please keep in mind that our once a democratic decision has been made, our Unity gives our actions and service the spiritual power to be effective. Let us strive together to do what's best for A.A.

In Fellowship & Service,

Ken D

Area Chairperson, Panel 67