



Area **59**

EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA
GENERAL SERVICE ASSEMBLY

www.area59aa.org

To: **The Area Committee**

From: **The Structure Committee**

Date: 09-11-2016

Doris A., Kenny R., David H.,

Reference: **September Quarterly Report**

Ira M., David D. & Evelyn D.

We met twice since the Area meeting via phone conference. In addition we have made many phone calls and have written a lot of e-mails in an effort to understand the series of events that took place prior to and at the June Area meeting. We had hoped to request a Suspension of the Rules and ask you to adopt our proposed changes. However research completed by a Structure Committee member via a Past Delegate indicated that "Rule 22 (Suspension of the Rules) in Robert's Rules of Order Revised, cannot be used to suspend any part of a Constitution, By-Laws or "the fundamental principles of parliamentary law," even by a vote of a total 100% unanimity. In the Past Delegate's opinion, the same would be true of our Area Structure. It was further recommend having a vote at the September Area Committee meeting on sending the proposed changes back to the groups for consideration. The DCM's of panel 65 and or 67 can then, take it up at their District meetings and will be informed by the consciences of their District's groups as to the adoption of the proposal or not.

Even though Alcoholics Anonymous only informally follows Roberts Rules of Order the Structure Subcommittee has unanimously decided to place the Unity of Area 59 as a whole ahead of our individual subcommittee agenda. Thus we move to plant the seed and if need be allow the next panel to feed and water according to their conscience. This experience has strength us as individuals and as a committee and has allowed us to come to a consensus as to how we will move forward. The following proposed amendments will be considered by the DCM of panel 65 and if not adopted in December they will be recommended to the Panel 67 Area Committee for their adoption. These revisions would take place between pages 16-26 and thus "require a 2/3 vote of the area committee to qualify the proposed amendment to be considered". If the Area Committee votes at the September Area Committee meeting on sending any or all of the proposed changes back to the groups for consideration, the DCM'S can then, take it up with their groups at their District meeting and thus develop an informed conscience and be prepared to address their adoption at a subsequent quarterly meeting.

Structure Subcommittee Proposals to the Area Committee:

1. Update Finance Subcommittee description on pg 20 to state:

- a. "Finance assists the Area Committee, Districts, and Groups on matter of finance, shares on the principals of the Seventh Tradition, and may assist the Area Treasurer in preparing the annual budget proposal."
2. Update Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities on pg 20 to:
 - a. Change the name of the subcommittee to "Treatment and Accessibilities" in accordance with the recent change that occurred at the 2016 General Service Conference.
3. Update the section of Area Resources/Assets on pg 16 to create a new section called "Area Resources/Assets" with subsections stating:
 - a. "**Past Delegates** are voting members only at the election assembly (or if they are members of the convention committee, they may vote within that committee); however, we seek their wisdom and experience on many occasions. For more information on the composition and scope of the Convention Committee, refer to the section on General Service Assembly Convention beginning on pg 22."
 - b. "**Archivist and Assistant Archivist** receive, assimilate, and maintain records of information about Eastern Pennsylvania's Groups, Districts, and the Area. Upon approval of each panel the Area retains the voluntary services of the Archivist and Assistant Archivist. To provide continuity and security to this valuable resource, these positions are non-rotating."
 - c. "**Web-servant** works in unity with the Public Information Subcommittee to maintain and update the Area website, www.Area59AA.org."
 - d. "**Interpreters/Translators** for both Spanish and American Sign Language (ASL) may be utilized as special workers as needed for all Area events."
 - e. "Area Resources/Assets are non-voting members of the Area Committee."

We continue to work on writing a Panel 65 history to be included in the historical section of the manual. We also continue to develop a list of recommendations for the panel 67 Area committee. Most recently our Structure Committee Display was at the Area 59/Lancaster Intergroup Share A Day

Spelling and omission corrections to the Area 59 Structure Manual have been addressed and are just about completed. Munro Printing & Graphic Design has been hired to print our area map and our structure manuals. Presently we have a hard copy proof of the area map and will submit a PDF of our English and Spanish structure manual shortly after our September area meeting. The proofreading of our Spanish Structure manual is in progress and being done by Connecticut Past Delegate Amalia C. A \$500.00 stipend to do the proofreading was extended and accepted.

During our future meetings we hope to finish and insert the panel's history, complete a final check of our English Structure Manual and prepare to send to the printer.

The Structure Subcommittee is grateful for the opportunity to service Area 59. Thank you DCM'S, Sub-Committees, and Officers for your advice and support over the last quarter.