

"We..." E.P.G.S.A. Newsletter

10/15/17

[Edition 1, Volume 5]

From the Current Delegate

by Paul M., Delegate

"EPGSA Convention 2017"

Can you believe it?

The first year of

Panel 67 is already winding down. The Eastern Pennsylvania General Service Assembly & Convention is just around the corner, it will be held November 03 – 05, 2017 at the Wyndham Hotel in Gettysburg, Pa.

"This event is open to all members of the fellowship and we encourage everyone to attend"

This event isn't just for GSR's and DCM's. It's for all A. A. members. This is a non-voting year so there are going to be ten different workshops, guest speakers Friday and Saturday nights, one of whom will be our General Service Office, General Manager, Greg T. There will be time for service, and time for fellowship. Please spread the word so that all may have a chance to enjoy this good time together. You may find the registration forms on our Area 59 website at area59aa.org.

WHAT'S UP IN AREA 59?

The Area 59

Committee met on

September 10, 2017 in Tunkhannock, Pa. Our Subcommittees and Officers, have all been very busy over the past three months working on the Delegate's recommendations. We have new projects that will be launched in the very near future. One of the most exciting is the online 7th Tradition contributions option soon to be offered through the Area 59 website: area59aa.org - stay tuned.

Area 59 will conduct an Inventory for the sub committees and the Area on October 15, 2017 at the Reading-Hampton Heights

What's Happening at the General Service Office?

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There is an opening for a Non-Trustee Appointed Committee Member for the Trustee's Committee on Literature. All interested parties should read the announcement or inquire via email to: literature@aa.org Attn: Sandra W. Secretary. Deadline for this service position is October 27, 2017.

The Trustee's and Committees are working hard on and have completed some of the many Advisory Actions that came about as a result of the 67th GSC in April 2017. One of which was a long time in coming, the digital version of the Final GSC Report in three languages. which are available on the aa.org website and also on Area 59 website area59aa.org. There are also still hard copies available to the fellowship contact your [Delegate at Delegate@area59aa.org](mailto:Delegate@area59aa.org).

Seventh Day Adventist Church, Temple, Pa. 19560. Doors open at 8:00am., event start time will be 9:00am for the subcommittees inventory, and the Area Inventory will follow completion of the subcommittees' inventory. This event is open to all members of the fellowship and we encourage everyone to attend. There will be an open mic for the afternoon session.

How Does Safety Support Our Future?

by Corrine O., DCM

When I came to Alcoholics Anonymous I was so grateful to have found "my people" and feel a sense of belonging. I was eager to be a part of the fellowship and share what was on my mind. My sponsor taught me what was appropriate to share at group level and what should be shared just between us. She also warned me of unwanted attention from male members, talked with me about what is acceptable attire to wear at a meeting, and suggested I "stick with the women."

At first, I didn't understand, isn't this a fellowship of men AND women? But I did as she said and I started to recognize that there are people with boundary issues and problems other than alcohol; not everyone has our best interests at heart. She taught me how to handle certain situations that made me feel uncomfortable. I am grateful my sponsor cared

enough to share these tools with me. If she hadn't, I may have found myself in sobriety-threatening situations.

I have also witnessed an individual who was disruptive and aggressive during meetings. His behavior made many people very uneasy. After a meeting that man physically assaulted another man who was telling him that his behavior was not welcomed or appropriate. The police were called and the person was banned from all meetings at that location.

I felt a sense of relief that the groups united for our common welfare to maintain a safe environment where everyone can focus on our primary purpose - to stay sober and help another alcoholic achieve sobriety. As the General Service Office has stated "... A.A. members are also "citizens of the world,"

and as citizens we are not above the law" and that *"Anonymity is not a cloak protecting criminal or inappropriate behavior."*

At our April district meeting we read and discussed the Service Material from G.S.O. "Safety & A.A.: Our Common Welfare." There was a lot of great conversation and experiences shared. Since then, many GSRs have told me their home groups talked about this topic and started implementing their own procedures. The long form of Tradition One states: "Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward." By showing the newcomer that we are practicing our principles through action, they are more likely to feel

safe enough to keep coming back.

Spotlight: District 66

by Charles B., DCM

I want to thank the Area 59 Officers for the opportunity to provide some highlights about District 66. We currently have 34 groups and have attendance of 18 to 22 GSR's at our monthly District Business meeting. About 4 months ago we started a visitation committee to visit the groups that don't normally attend the district meeting. Previously, we had used a "District Night Out" event to encourage District Officers to attend meetings that had little or no representation at the district level. It's still a little too early to tell which method will prove more effective.

District 66 is located in the southern and western parts of Berks County, about 1 ½ hours, by car, north and west of Philadelphia. It's a beautiful mixture of small towns surrounded by suburban and rural landscapes. I personally own a motorcycle and it is a wonderful place to ride. District 66 was formed about 20 years ago when District 33 was split into 3 districts, 33, 66 and 67.

We meet on a monthly basis at St. Peter's UCC Church in West Lawn, PA, on the second Thursday of each month at 7PM. All are welcome to come by and attend one of our meetings. We start each meeting with the Serenity Prayer (I know I need that sometimes); a random reading from as "As Bill Sees it"; and then we recite the GSR Preamble reminding each of us why we are there. One other thing we do is read and discuss the Tradition of the month and the Concept of the month, followed by a short discussion. This has been an important part of educating GSR's on the service structure of AA. The rest of our meeting follows the model of the Area 59 business meetings quite closely, with officer's reports, subcommittee reports, summaries and actions and new business.

Currently our subcommittees consist of: CPC/PI, Grapevine, Visitation, and a subcommittee to plan and organize the Area 59 Inventory, to be held on 10/15/17, in our district.

We are part of Berks-Reading Intergroup, along with Districts 33 and 67. Our Officer-At-Large attends the Intergroup business meetings as our district liaison. We try to collaborate with Intergroup whenever we can to avoid duplication of efforts. We don't have our own website so we rely on the Intergroup website for posting information at readingberksintergroup.org.

I hope that if you're ever in the area on the 2nd Thursday of the month, that you'll stop by and see us in action.

Keep up to date with General Service in Eastern PA by visiting our web site: www.area59aa.org.

The Importance of A.A. Literature

by Glenn S., DCM District 60, Area 59 AD Hoc Literature Subcommittee Chair

In order to write about the importance of A.A. literature today, we need to look at our past. Bill W. writes in *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age*, page 144-145. "When Dr. Bob and I realized on that fall day in 1937 that some two-score of us had recovered from alcoholism, we at once asked ourselves, "How can this experience be shared? How can the word be spread?" Word-of-mouth communication with the few alcoholics we could contact by our then-current methods would not only be slow but dangerous; dangerous because the recovery message in which we now had such high confidence might soon be garbled and twisted beyond recognition. Clearly our budding society would have to be publicized. A book of experience could carry our message to distant places we could never visit ourselves. Moreover, such a book could prevent the otherwise inevitable garble and distortion that would start as soon as publicity came. It would not only guide alcoholics to recovery, but also become the basis for telling our story to the world and therefore a guide to our public relations as well." When the book "Alcoholics Anonymous" was published it became the blueprint for recovery from alcoholism that has been followed successfully for more than 78 years.

The "Big Book" was just the start of A.A. publications, as the program grew so did our

literature. In June of 1944 our meeting in print, *The Grapevine* was established, and in June of 1953 the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* was published. Over the years various pamphlets and guidelines have been published and revised to keep A.A. current with the times and with the growing diversity of our membership.

Why is it so important to read A.A. literature? As the book *Living Sober* says on page 73 "Human beings, we are told, learn many things best by seeing and touching as well as hearing them; and reading about them reinforces the strength of such learning even further. Even drinkers who have never been much for reading spend hours poring over A.A. material. It is undoubtedly the best way to grasp a broad, firsthand consensus of all A.A. wisdom, instead of just the hearsay of one time and place."

A.A. literature is a message of hope that is true wherever you are in the world. In the May 1964 *Grapevine*, Bill W. wrote, "...in 1939 the publication of the Big Book became our first world service. From that time on, it became perfectly clear what A.A. is, what it believes, and how it works. Millions of our pamphlets and hundreds of thousands of our books are today in circulation. A.A. message can never be garbled; anyone at all can find out about us with ease. What the dividends of this single project in world

communication have been, only God himself knows." Our literature is published by us for us, it is the shared collective experience of recovering

alcoholics today and those who came before us. Any question you may have about recovery, unity or service can be answered by A.A. literature.

"We..." In Transition

Happy October in Eastern Pennsylvania! It's been a labor of love to help get the Area 59 newsletter "We..." launched this year. And, this month it is a joy to receive the work of our Literature subcommittee as they take responsibility for this communication tool. This October edition is their first time publishing the newsletter. We are grateful for your good teamwork. The teamwork we apply can yield tremendous results as we carry the message.



That said, it has been a joy to work with our area officers of Panel 67 and, especially Caroline N., our Registrar and Officer-At-Large, to get the project off the ground and now, to get the service support of our Literature subcommittee to help it fly! Our appreciation goes out to the Area 59 Literature team: Glenn S. (DCM-60) Chairperson; Pete B. (ADCM-44); Victoria C. (ADCM-51); Adrian L. (ADCM-61); Bob W. (ADCM43); Alicia S. (ADCM-36); Jason W.(ADCM-39) and Gary G.(ADCM-59) Thanks!

Caroline N. & Ken D. (Grateful Editors in Rotation)

"We..." is a newsletter for members the Area 59 (E.P.G.S.A.) General Service Committee, Service Volunteers and interested Fellowship members. For information contact literature@area59aa.org

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