

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

1/15/18

[Edition 1, Volume 6]

From the Current Delegate

by Paul M., Delegate

WHAT'S UP IN AREA 59?

As the New Year comes in, we are excited with all that is going to be coming up with Area events this winter. Details are available online by

"I would like to wish Area 59, Panel 67 and the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous a very Happy New Year."

visiting the Area 59 Calendar on our website.

- January 21, 2018 DCM Sharing Session/Delegate Conference Report Planning meeting.
- February 11, 2018 Eastern Pennsylvania General Service Assembly and Southeastern Pennsylvania Intergroup Association (EPGSA/SEPIA) Share A Day.
- March 11, 2018 Area Quarterly meeting.

I would also like to invite all members of the Fellowship to come out to the 2018 **Pre-Conference Sharing Session (PCSS)** that will be held on April 8, 2018. This event is the most important one to help inform me as your Area Delegate with the Area 59 conscience on agenda items that will be presented at the 68th GSC. Please take the time to share this information with everyone you come in contact with in AA. In particular, GSRs and DCMs are strongly encouraged to attend. We want your group's voice and your district's voice to be heard. The General Service Conference will be held in New York, April 22-28, 2018.

What's Happening at the General Service Office?

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The opening for a Non-Trustee Appointed Committee Member for the Trustees' Committee on Literature has been filled. Thank you to everyone who showed interest and applied for this position.

The deadline for submitting General Service Conference agenda items was December 15, 2017. As of January 7, 2018, there were 60 proposed agenda items to be reviewed by the Trustees Committees. These are not the final agenda items for the 68th GSC, as the final list of Conference Committee agenda items will become available in early February 2018, following the General Service Board meeting. We will make them available through the DCMs and Area Committee at that time.

A very BIG thank you to all the volunteers, Past Delegates, and everyone who participated in our 60th Annual EPGSA Convention and Assembly on November 3-5, 2017. We enjoyed a weekend of some very exciting and excellent speakers, as well as 9 amazing workshop presentations by the Area subcommittees, also a fun "Funshop." Kudos to the subcommittees for all their hard work.

Area 59 conducted an Inventory for the subcommittees, and the Area Committee for Panel 67 on October 15, 2017 at the Reading-Hampton Heights Seventh Day Adventist Church in Temple, PA. There were over 100 people in attendance, that came out to participate in the Inventory. The results have been posted on our website.

The Area 59 Panel 67 Committee met for its first quarterly meeting of year 2 of the panel on December 10, 2017 in Lansdale, PA. Our subcommittees and Officers have continued to work very hard to help carry the message to the suffering alcoholic. At that meeting, we passed a new annual budget for 2018; all this information is available on our website.

The P.I Committee along with much help from the Finance Committee has launched online contributions for Area 59. Please take the time to visit the Area 59 website: area59aa.org and check it out. We are also in the process of revising our website to allow for a more user-friendly interface as well as more information to be made available. Stay tuned.

The Area Committee has also elected to hold up to as many as 6 Forums throughout Area 59 in 2018 with the participation of several districts combining together for each Forum, with a focus on General Service. There has been an overwhelming interest thus far with the very first one already scheduled to be held on March 31, 2018 with approximately 10 or more districts joining in. See the Area Calendar online for more information.

Northeast Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (NERAASA) will be held February 23-25, 2018 at the Radisson Hotel, 100 Berlin Road, Cromwell, CT 06416. All members are encouraged and welcome to attend.

Outside of Area 59 Event:

Thank you for the pleasure to serve as Delegate for Area 59 and A.A. as a whole. Best wishes for a happy and healthy 2018.

Paul M.

Area 59 Delegate

From the Past Delegate *by Lowell L., Past Delegate, Panel 59*

Greetings Members of Eastern Pennsylvania! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and you all have a Blessed year. I was asked by the committee to write an article. I am not a writer, but I was told by my sponsor when asked to do something in AA, don't say no. I decided to write about Service. When I first got sober my sponsor said to get a commitment and keep one, and I have, from that first coffee commitment in 1994 to today serving on the Area 59 Convention Committee. I always wanted to travel and I must say getting involved had me traveling throughout Eastern PA, visiting group meetings or attending Northeast Region states Conventions or Forums. I have met a lot of members and enjoyed ever place I have gone.

A.A. Service Manual states on a pg. S1

“Our Twelfth Step- carrying the message- is the basic service that the A.A. fellowship gives; this is our principal theme and the main reason for our existence. Therefore, A.A. is more than a set of principles; it is a society of alcoholics in action. We must carry the message, else we ourselves can wither and those who haven't been giving the truth may die.

Hence, an A.A. service is anything whatever that helps us to reach a fellow suffering -

ranging all the way from the Twelfth Step itself to a ten-cent phone and a cup of coffee, and to A.A.'s General Service Office for national and international action. The sum total of all these services is our Third Legacy of Service.

Services include meeting places, hospitals cooperation, and intergroup offices; they mean Pamphlets, books and good publicity of almost every description. They call for committees, delegates, trustees, and conferences. And, not to be forgotten, they need voluntary money contributions from within the Fellowship.”

I lot of members have said to me, they do not want to get involved in General Service because of its politics and they'd rather stay involved within their group. Whatever your niche is that's fine but I encourage all to read page S23 and S51 of AA Service Manual. I remember when I first got involved I heard something like 10% of the people in A.A. do all the work but we all reap the rewards. I picked this paper up during a district workshop or district visit. Its title “**That's not my Job**”.

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done

and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up in that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have. (I believe this was an article in the grapevine I'm not sure.)

The Area Committee of Eastern PA has a number of events planned for this year. I am hoping all who are reading this will pass this message and Area Calendar Events on to others and come out to support the Area, as well as District's Workshops. Some years ago someone gave me a button that said, Service is the Key. I always remembered Dr. Bob's story at the end on page 180. “I spent a great deal of time passing on what I've have learned to others who want and need it badly. I do it for four reasons:

1. Sense of duty
2. It is a pleasure
3. Because in doing so I am paying my debt to the man who took time to pass it on to me

4. Because every time I do it I take out a little more insurance for myself against the possible slip”

In closing I would like to encourage everyone to continue to carry the message and join us as we trudged the road of happy destiny may God bless you and keep you.

Yours in Service,

Lowell L.

Spotlight: District 39 *by Mike L., DCM*

Nestled in the northeastern tier of the Wyoming Valley, District 39 is most notably associated with the city of Scranton and surrounding areas. Our geographic region was previously affiliated with a much broader District 11 (locally known as “Honesdale to Hazleton” or “H2H”) up until the current mapping and districting structure were formed in 1981.

Six years later, District 39 would assume it’s current suggested boundary lines when it “split into three districts adding 52 and 53 to the area” – (see Area Structure Manual page 9). District 39 is also a member of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Intergroup Association (NEPIA) – formed slightly thereafter in the late 1980’s – along with six other districts.

With 47 registered groups, District 39 and the Scranton region have a robust history including two past Delegates – Joe Q. (Panel 45) and Gary C. (Panel 49). One of the first known Scranton meetings started back in the mid 1940’s with a Tuesday night meeting at the home of George L. on Madison Avenue. Also, Scranton was the host site for the 2014 PENNSCYPAA Convention.

At monthly district meetings, we generally see 15-20 G.S.R.’s and are hopeful that number increases. Meetings are held monthly at 3:00pm on the third Sunday at the Asbury United Methodist Church. You are invited to attend. Active committees include Visitation, Workshop, Grapevine, Structure, and CPC (ad hoc).

Our goal is to educate and carry the message “*on the inside*” utilizing multiple workshops per year, G.S.R. Orientation (held each May), encouraging attendance at Area events, and regular discussions of the Tradition and Concepts of the month to name a few. We will also fill any gaps not already addressed through Intergroup.

Typically, ADCM’s from the northeast act as liaisons to Intergroup where the cooperation of districts carries the message “*on the outside*” via Corrections, Institutions, Public Information, Hotline, Website, and Central Office (literature and meeting lists). This cooperation strategy has worked out well over the last several years.

Over the last year, event highlights include District 39 hosting Mini Assembly 1/DCR in June, we had the Area Delegate as keynote speaker at our Safety Workshop in September, and the Area Treasurer delivered tenured closing remarks at our G.S.R. Orientation in May. We very much appreciate the support of other Panel members at our events as well and look forward to an equally productive second year of Panel 67. May your 2018 be overflowing in serenity and filled with many blessings. Thank you for the opportunity to share about our wonderful District. Happy New Year!

Spirituality and Money?

by Sabrina F., Treasurer District 33

Spirituality and money, there is a link between the two concepts. Self-supporting, how does one achieve this? The answer is money and how to utilize what we have efficiently. Passing the basket, tossing a dollar (or more as is suggested these days) in the basket at your homegroups is more than just paying for rent and coffee. Yes, rent is a necessary expense and all homegroups should be paying for the space they occupy. The coffee is a staple at many meetings and has also been set into some homegroups budgets. There are many other areas in which money is used on a spiritual basis. Do you ever think, who gets this buck? I have! I've also watched where and how my homegroup allocates their money. There is district, which relies on homegroups contributions to pass information to Area and GSRs. Area, which is made of districts (and the homegroups in those districts) who brings information to and from General Service (which is made up of Areas, which contain the districts whom home groups are the most influential part) to be able to pass information between. So, what I'm getting at here is our spiritual journey does begin with being a responsible member.

Responsibility falls on each A.A. member. My contribution to any meeting I go to is going to

benefit the newcomer. My contribution goes to the military A.A. member who is suffering across the seas that needs literature. My contribution to the basket pays the secretary at the GSO. My contribution pays to cross the language barriers that we have, by having the Big Book translated into many languages, so that no one should have to suffer without hope. Our contributions pay this, not just mine. I learned this by being an active member in a homegroup that has a GSR, who attends district meetings, a DCM who attends Area meetings, a homegroup that sends our GSR to service conventions, so that our homegroup is aware of what is going on in A.A. So, now I know where my contribution is going.

So, inevitably money is a necessity for our 12th step work. Not all AA's have money, I personally have struggled with my finances but I am sure to contribute to my homegroup on a regular basis. Now that I know where my contribution goes, I can see how important and lifesaving this contribution can be. Our literature explains all the struggles A.A. as a whole has gone through when it concerns money, but it falls on me to do my part for the person who still needs hope. Personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity, am I doing my part?

2018 E.P.G.S.A Convention a Success!

A hearty and empathic “Thank You” to all District Committee Members, Volunteer Area 59 Servants and the Convention Committee for a successful 2017 Convention and Assembly! The subcommittee workshops were outstanding, enthusiastic and allowed for excellent participation. The Unity exhibited by all General Service Reps and attendees was awesome and noted by several long-time servants and Past Delegates. The participation of our Guest Observers demonstrated a robust cooperation with professionals. Of course, we are blessed to have constructive support of Past Area 59 Delegates, guest from A.A. World Services, the General Service Board, non-alcoholic Guest Observers and officers from neighboring Areas.

The Convention Chair report about the convention feedback at the December Quarterly Area Meeting was encouraging; of course, including some things that can be improved. Both Paul M. and Ken D. were blessed with opportunities to attend and speak at other Area and State conventions this past year. And, while we are not in competition to compare “ours with theirs”, they both observed that we are grateful for an effective convention system that is well supported here in our area. We are also grateful for the wonderful Archives exhibit at the E.P.G.S.A.. We ask that all Area 59 Committee Members make a vigorous effort to improve the attendance and support of all groups in Eastern PA in 2018.

Our 2017 convention had 577 registered attendees, 332 banquet attendees and consumed 151 gallons of convention-sponsored hotel coffee (that does not include the Hospitality Suite coffee). That comes to about 1,208 cups- to which 48 quarts of cream were added! And the Hospitality Suite provided plenty of goodies, including the ever-popular ice cream.

The convention volunteers were terrific in their service. We had 101 volunteers who served- many were GSRs and District Officers who had other duties and contributions. Our personal gratitude goes out to each volunteer for your help. You all greeted, registered and made our convention hospitable! In any endeavor this large, there are problems and challenges. Who would’ve thought that a hurricane would affect our registration system? It did; but our Convention Committee and registration volunteers did a great job addressing the issue. We thank all attendees for their patience.

All said, our area officer consensus is that we have many blessings in Eastern PA-Area 59- to be grateful for and opportunities to improve. Please help us inspire more support and attendance in 2018. We are inspired to serve with you and the convention is truly a “We...” event!

Happy New Year! Your Area 59, Panel 67 Officers

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

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

A.A- SOLUTION FOR ALL GENERATIONS

2018 G.S.C. THEME