

Chairperson's Report – March 8, 2020

Area Chairperson:

1. Agenda.
2. Area Events.
 - a. Thank you to District 64 for hosting our DCM Sharing Session and to the Structure Subcommittee for planning it.
3. Northeast Regional AA Service Assembly (NERAASA). I would like to thank the Area for sending me to this. It was possibly the most informative NERAASA that I have been to. There were some really good presentations and discussions on some of the agenda items for the General Service Conference in April.
4. Big Book Recommendation. At our December meeting a recommendation for the Big Book was postponed until this meeting. In the meantime, District 55 submitted that same motion to our General Service Office and it was subsequently added to the Agenda Items for this year's General Service Conference. I have not included it as part of our agenda today because the issue has effectively become moot for our Area Committee.
5. Area Forums. At our December meeting we voted to add two Area Forums to our 2020 budget. As of today, two groups of Districts that have signed up for dates. Two other groups of Districts have also expressed interest. We will discuss the possibility of increasing our budget to pay for two additional Forums in new business.
6. How the Conference Operates. The decision-making process is very important to the Unity of Alcoholics Anonymous. The General Service Conference has successfully used a modified version of Robert's Rules of Order for many years. "How the Conference Operates" summarizes how the Conference uses Robert's Rules of Order. Please become familiar with this as we will use it for our deliberations in upcoming meetings.
 - a. Area 59 uses the committee system for most of its work. Major proposals (motions) should be reviewed by the appropriate Subcommittee before being brought before the full Area Committee (48 DCMs and 6 Area Officers). The ultimate goal is to have an informed group conscience. Please ask the Chairperson if you have any questions about how to go about putting a motion before the Area.
 - b. The Chairperson 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 level needed for substantial unanimity.
 - c. Only one person is recognized at a time. Usually you must go to microphone to be recognized. Only DCMs, or people representing their District, and Area officers may participate in the discussion. All questions and discussion should be directed to the Chairman. Say if you are for or against a motion and give reasons. Please limit the discussion to what is being voted on and do not make comments to or about other members during discussion or debate.
 - d. If you disagree with a parliamentary decision made by the Chairperson, or need clarification to understand what is going on, call for a "point of order". You do not have to go to the microphone or be recognized to do this. This would be done to either challenge a decision or ask for clarification of it.



Area 59

EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA
GENERAL SERVICE ASSEMBLY

www.area59aa.org

Chairperson's Report – March 8, 2020

Right or wrong, the Chairperson's decision is followed, unless the entire Area Committee votes to overturn it.

- e. In the interest of everyone's time and clear decision making:
 - i. Don't wait for minority opinion to make your point.
 - ii. Don't use minority opinion to repeat discussion that has already been made.
 - iii. Be brief and avoid brainstorming at the microphone. Make your point in two minutes or less.
 - iv. The Chairperson does not have to recognize you once you have spoken unless all Committee Members who want to, have spoken. We do not use filibuster.
- f. Most proposals will not be emergencies. If the Chairperson gets the sense that the 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 future date.

Please keep in mind that once a democratic decision has been made, our Unity depends upon our actions and service for the spiritual power to be effective. Let's try to work together to do what is best for AA.

Travel Log

12/15/19	District 26 Workshop	Philadelphia, PA
12/19/19	District 28 Meeting	Philadelphia, PA
01/05/20	Planning meeting for Share-A-Day with SEPIA	Philadelphia, PA
01/10/20	Walk through for Share-A-Day with SEPIA	Philadelphia, PA
01/18/20	District 66 Inventory	Reading, PA
01/19/20	DCM Sharing	Lancaster, PA
01/25/20	District 51 Grapevine Workshop	Levittown, PA
02/15/20	Pre-Area Meeting	Glenolden, PA
02/16/20	Share-A-Day with Southeast PA Intergroup Association (SEPIA)	Philadelphia, PA
02/21 to		
02/23/20	Northeast Regional AA Service Assembly (NERAASA)	Nashua, NH
02/25/20	District 27 Meeting	Philadelphia, PA
02/26/20	District 32 Meeting	Springfield, PA
03/08/20	Area Meeting	Quakertown, PA

Thank you for the opportunity to be of service!

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve S

Area 59, Panel 69 Chairperson