



Area **59** EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA
GENERAL SERVICE ASSEMBLY
www.area59aa.org

Delegate's Quarterly Report

June 14, 2020

Ken D., Panel 69

Thank you for your dedication to service during this historic COVID-19 pandemic. Let us always remember those who suffer - especially during the crisis, and those of our membership who have succumbed to the infection. Also, let us express gratitude to those of our membership who serve on front-line medical and first-responder work. Words cannot fully describe their courage.

My last trip for Area 59 was to NERAASA Feb. 21 – 23rd in Nashua, NH. After that, the Northeast Regional Delegates' (NERD) meeting, that was to be held in Sturbridge, MA, was cancelled due to public health restrictions issued across NE states. It will be held in Sturbridge next year and no penalties were incurred.

As the pandemic spread ruthlessly across the densely populated regions of Southern New York, New York city, Connecticut and Northern New Jersey, it became clear to our General Service Board that the 70th (2020) General Service Conference could not be held in Rye, NY. It is said that the Board considered having no Conference this year, but there are several legal requirements that had to be met. So, a Conference was built for an on-line format using Zoom. Many of the originally accepted Agenda Items had to be forwarded to the 2021 Conference. Then the G.S.C. was built to last over a few weeks of "pre-Conference" events. These events included "advanced" Zoom training, on-line board reports and Conference/Trustee Committees meetings.

Then for four days from May 16th – 19th, the formal General Service Conference proceeded using a Zoom platform and some special process rules. All essential work was conducted. All delegates reported many mixed emotions. But, at the least, the Conference was historic because the successful use of hosting an on-line event across North America. That's not to say that the on-line deliberation process was ideal – I felt that it wasn't. But it *was* successful. I am grateful for the opportunities that Area 59 has provided for me to serve.

The slides from my Conference report (approximately 198 attendees from over the world attended. Hat's off to my colleagues for planning and executing a good event. If you want more details or a copy set of the slides, you will find them posted at www.area59aa.org. Or, you can contact me at delegate@area59aa.org.

Key highlights this past quarter:

- Area officers also planned the Pre-Conference Sessions that were very helpful in my preparation. These were on-line events.
- We recruited a Virtual Election Delegate Advisory Team to help plan for an on-line election in November in case we need it. It's called VEDAT and the members were

chosen for their expertise in Service and the application of on-line technology: Ira M., Claire B., Hugh H., Greg G. and the leader is Fred S. Their work has helped with other Area 59 on-line events – especially the June Quarterly meeting.

- Area Officers have kept an eye on the situation and helped by sharing information regarding the use of on-line meeting practices and digital platforms for 7th Tradition continuance. Please keep GSO in mind as literature sales that support a good portion of our services. They have added PayPal and Venmo to receive member and group contributions. We made the decision to purchase a subscription to Zoom. The costs are easily covered by the reduction in rents and food for normal, in-person gatherings hosted by Area 59.
- Area Officers will be posting (www.area59aa.org) and sharing information sources and shared experience as Area 59 Groups and meetings begin to re-start in-person recovery meetings. Please remember that this is county-by-county and it is important to refer to PA public health authorities for specific guidance.
- Area 59 events will be on-line until, at least, October 31st. This decision was made to ensure that Members who are at high risk are not excluded from their current service commitments. We will continue to keep you informed through email and MailChimp blasts.
- The Convention Committee continues to plan for our EPGSA Convention. They will be looking at three alternatives in case there are continued pandemic issues: 1) a regular, in-person gathering; 2) an on-line election and convention; and 3) a “hybrid” with an on-line and in-gathering voting session for the election of Panel 71 Area Officers and live and streamed speakers. Stay tuned. Live on-line registration will begin on Monday, June 14th after our Quarterly meeting at www.area59aa.org. Registrations will also be blasted to all Members in our Area 59 email database.
- Please send me your recommendations for workshops at our 2020 EPGSA Convention to assist in designing our program.

Service Activities:

March 8	Quarterly Area 59 Meeting, Quakertown, PA
March 13	NERD Conference Call
March 22	NERD Zoom
March 26	Pre-Conference Session Planning Google Hangout
March 28	Service Presentation with Russian AA Members Zoom
March 29	Convention Committee Mtg. Zoom
March 29	NERD Zoom – Update on GSC
April 2	VEDAT meeting Zoom
April 3	Share on Traditions – Zoom
April 5	Pre-Conference Sharing Session I – Google Hangout
April 7	VEDAT Zoom
April 11	NERD Conference Call
April 12	NERD Zoom
April 18	NERD Zoom
April 19	Pre-Conference Sharing Session II Zoom
April 21	VEDAT Zoom
April 25	Service presentation with Latvian World Service Rep. Uldis D. Zoom
April 26	Convention Committee meeting Zoom
April 26	NERD Zoom
April 27	G.S.C./ Zoom training Session for Delegates

Service Activities, cont'd:

April 29	G.S.C. Pre-Conference Sessions begin – Zoom
April 30	G.S.C. Pre-Conference Committee Zoom
May 1	G.S.C. Pre-Conference sessions
May 2	Area 59 Finance & PI Workshop Zoom
May 3	NERD Zoom
May 4	G.S.C. Pre-Conference: joint GSC & Trustees Corrections
May 7	Area Officers Zoom
May 9	Area Zoom meeting
May 14-15	G.S.C. Reports Zoom
May 16 – 19	General Service Conference (all day) Zoom
May 21	VEDAT Zoom
May 27	Delegate's on-line tour of Stepping Stones Zoom
May 31	Pre-Area Officers' Meeting Zoom
May 31	Panel 68/69 NERDS Zoom
June 3	Past Delegate/Area Officer Delegate Conference Rpt practice Zoo
June 5	Present Tradition 6 – Zoom
June 7	Area 59 Delegate's Report Zoom
June 11	VEDAT Zoom
June 14	Quarterly Area 59 Committee Meeting Zoom

Thank you for the privilege to serve our Fellowship. Please feel free to contact me as you need.

In Fellowship & Service,

Ken D.

Delegate, Area 59, Panel 69

Alt-Chairperson, 70th Conference Committee on Corrections