

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

1/15/17

[Edition 1, Volume 1]

From the Current Delegate

by Paul M., Delegate

"Connecting with our Fellowship As A Whole."

Greetings and Happy New Year! Welcome to Panel 67. I am glad to have this opportunity to share information from around our Fellowship including national and world services news.

On January 28 the General Service Board (GSB) will meet for a board meeting and a few items that will be discussed and decided will be the selection of the final Agenda items to be added for consideration at the 2017 General Service

"G.S.O. reports that contributions have increased over the past year."

News from G.S.O.

Our General Service Office (G.S.O.) reports that contributions have increased over the past year. They send gratitude for the Fellowship's support! I've included a link to the [flier](#)¹ that shows twelve ways that the Seventh Tradition is used to carry the message at the General Service Office.

Conference (GSC). Also, there will be a selection for the final nominees for Trustee -At-Large U.S. We wish our Area 59 Nominee Steve O. the very best!

February 15, 2017 is the projected date for Agenda items and background information to be made available to the Fellowship.

Each year the Conference chooses a theme to guide discussions about our Fellowship's condition and future. Our 2017 theme is

Welcome to "We..."

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Thanks for reading our first edition of "We..." This is a test to try an added communication tool during Panel 67. Our plan is to publish in months we have no business meeting or convention. Our mission is to enhance the sense of Unity in Area 59. The current Delegate will publish updates about key events and issues affecting our whole Fellowship. We will also provide an essay on General Service by an Area Officer or Past Delegate. The "Spotlight" column will help us get to know different parts of Area 59 including a district or a service entity (Inter-Group, YPAA Committee). Finally, we will have an open topic column to feature an Archives article or highlight our web site, etc. Let us know what you think. We welcome ideas for making this a useful communication.

¹ http://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/f-203_en_seventhtraditionsfactsheet.pdf

“Supporting Our Future.” The items for discussion are: a. Growth - including safety, diversity and communication; b. “Participation:” 1. Fellowship versus Membership, 2. Leadership, “I am Responsible” and c. “Is your voice heard?”

The next item is Contributions including, a. spirituality and money; b. Fully self-supporting and 3. “Apathy and the power of the purse.”

I look forward to discussions with you as I make my travels around Eastern Pennsylvania.

Happening in Area 59

As your Delegate, I am already beginning to prepare for the GSC to be held this April 23-29, 2017.

I have been assigned to serve on the Grapevine Committee at the GSC.

Please get the word out about our **Pre-Conference Sharing Session** to be held April 2, 2017. This is the most IMPORTANT event of the service year. It affords the members of A. A. voice and conscience to be heard at the GSC through me as your elected Delegate.

Also, many districts are planning General Service Representative (GSR) Orientation events. Districts 30, 32, 34, 38, 44, 52, 54, 63, and 64 have scheduled GSR orientation workshops. And many others are making arrangements to follow suit.

I thank you for the opportunity and support to serve as your Delegate! I look forward to seeing you along the journey.

Paul M.
Area 59 Delegate

“Supporting Our Future”

2017 G.S.C. Theme

Living The Legacies – A Life of Permanent Purpose *by Melanie M., Alternate Delegate*

We all have so much to be grateful for in this life! We were once utterly beaten down & lost. Now we have found a new freedom and are able to live a life with permanent purpose. We have all walked through the darkness of addiction.....the loss, the despair, the pain, the hopelessness of a life full of regret. Having traveled down this dark road and then finding the salvation of Alcoholics Anonymous, we have a debt to repay. You may ask yourself, how do we

repay this debt? We repay this debt by getting out of ourselves by living a life of permanent purpose. I always say that I am so actively involved in service to AA because simply put it is the rent I pay to have the life I live today! To live a life of permanent purpose we do not just follow the steps of the program, we ought to live the legacies of our program. We have three sets of guiding principles which are referred to as our Three Legacies. These Legacies include:

Recovery through the 12 Steps, **Unity** through the 12 Traditions, and **Service** through the 12 Concepts. *The Three Legacies of AA - recovery, unity and service - in a sense represent **three** impossibilities, impossibilities that we know became possible, and possibilities that have now borne unbelievable fruit.*

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women united against a common fatal disease. Each one of our lives is linked to every other, much

like the survivors on a life raft at sea. If we all work together, we can get safely to shore. This is a WE program!

The essence of our fellowship began with two men- who got out of themselves and into action. You are no less an example of the essence of our program than our founding fathers. Everything you do matters. Every move you make, every action you take matters. Everything you do matters to all of us forever. Dr. Bob & Bill W.'s action with a couple of hopeless alcoholics ended up saving countless lives which were otherwise considered lost. I believe the number is somewhere along the lines of billions of people today. How far back should we go? How many lives would we need to examine in order to determine who it really was whose action saved billions of people? Actually it is a number that continues to increase every single minute of every day! How far forward would we need to go in your life to show the difference you make? There are generations yet unborn whose lives will be shifted and shaped by the moves you make and the actions you take today, tomorrow and the next day. Every single thing you do matters. You have been created in order to make a

difference in this life. You have within you the power to change the world. Know that your actions cannot be hoarded or saved for later. By your action(s) millions quite possibly billions of lives will be altered by the chain of events begun by you this day. The very beating of your heart has meaning and purpose. Your actions have value greater than gold. Your life and what you do with it today will matter forever. One day at a time by getting into action we help better each day for those who are still sick and suffering. In all of our affairs, whether it is in facing difficult situations or bettering our fellowship, more is continually revealed. This revelation is how we apply these specific principles. A.A.'s Twelve Steps are principles for personal *recovery and the how to's of retaining grace*. The Twelve Traditions ensure the *unity* of the Fellowship. In order to become fundamental to our unity, these principles needed to be spelled out as they applied to the most prominent and the most grievous of our problems. Written by co-founder Bill W. in 1962, the *Twelve Concepts for World Service* provide a group of related principles to help ensure that various elements of A.A.'s service structure remain responsive and

responsible to those they serve.

In closing, here are a few more questions to ask yourself. How significant is my own life? Do I make a difference? When I *move*... when I *act*....when I *do something*.... Does the universe notice? Do I really matter? With a little perspective, you can live a *life of permanent purpose*. Do you sometimes find yourself unconsciously judging your actions by level of importance? When you *know* that everything matters – that *every move* counts as much as any other – you begin living a life of permanent purpose. A life of permanent purpose will make you a better parent, spouse, valuable friend and human being. Simply put, when we understand that every action matters, every result of our actions immediately improves! Every move we make and every action we take, matters not just for us, but for all of us... *and for all time*.

Catch the moments of your life. Don't hoard your fruits! Put your authentic fruits into action.

The fruit of Silence is Prayer.
The fruit of Prayer is Faith.
The fruit of Faith is Love.
The fruit of Love is Service.
The fruit of Service is Peace.

What is Area 59?

by Steve S., Area Secretary

Area 59 is one of 93 Delegate Areas, in the United States and Canada. It was created so that we could elect a Delegate to represent us at the General Service Conference (GSC). The GSC meets once a year for a week to discuss, and vote on, matters that affect AA as a whole. It is made up of 93 Delegates, 21 Trustees, some staff members from our General Service Office (GSO) in NYC and non-trustee directors. After the Conference, the 21 Trustees (14 alcoholic and 7 nonalcoholic) give our GSO direction on how to accomplish what was decided at the Conference. Our GSO is responsible for publishing uniform literature, implementing AA's public relations policy and providing services to groups to help them carry the message to the alcoholic who still doesn't know there is a solution.

There are approximately 1600 groups in Area 59 that are signed up with our General

Service Office (GSO). Each group belongs to one of the 47 geographic Districts in our Area. There is also a Linguistic District that covers our whole Area and is comprised of about 19 Spanish-speaking groups. The General Service Representative (GSR) is the link between the groups and the Conference. Groups with active GSRs have a voice in what is decided at the Conference. The GSRs for each District elect a District Committee Member (DCM) who carries the District conscience to Area meetings. Each DCM is a member of an Area Subcommittee that helps to educate our membership on different ways to carry the message (Public Information, Cooperation With the Professional Community, Corrections, Accessibilities, etc.) beyond the group level.

Area 59 holds quarterly meetings in various locations throughout Eastern Pennsylvania to conduct the

business of sharing information from our GSO with the groups and getting a sense of what the groups need. We hold a Pre-Conference Sharing Session to discuss agenda items for the upcoming Conference every year. After the Conference, there are two Delegate Conference Reports to explain to our membership what happened at the Conference and how it will affect AA as a whole. All members are encouraged to attend any of these events. Area Officers and DCMs travel to District meetings, District workshops, etc. to educate our membership on World Service affairs and help with any concerns.

Our Delegate and anyone from the Area 59 Committee is happy to help with any group or individual concerns. Contact information is on our web site along with other information to help you learn more and carry the message beyond your group.

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

Spotlight: District 42

by David D., DCM

Greetings and Happy New Year from District 42.

Introducing ourselves first geographically, we are located 1 hour east of State College (District 43), 45 minutes west of Bloomsburg (District 59), 45 minutes south of Williamsport (District 48), 1 hour north of Harrisburg (District 36) and 3 hours from Philadelphia. If you were to drop a pencil in the middle of the state of Pennsylvania, that would be the simplest way to describe our location.

The golden thread of AA began in District 42 in 1941 with The Sunbury Group, which still meets to this day. In 1969, within close proximity of each other, were Sunbury (District 42), Mt. Carmel, Lewistown, Harrisburg, Williamsport and Lock Haven. In early June of 1972 The Sobriety First Group of Lewisburg was formed because there was no meeting in the town. This group still meets every Monday. Today our district has 45 Groups/Meetings throughout the week serving

Northumberland, Snyder and Union counties.

The last District 42 GSR panel focused on multiple levels of service including; Public Information which reaches out the hand of AA to get meeting information published in the local newspapers, making sure there is now AA literature (Alcoholics Anonymous and Twelve and Twelve) in all local libraries, and getting the AA public service announcements on the radio airwaves. Institutions also were reached out to, to host meetings in several jails and institutions in our district every week. The District 42 web site and hotline have both been successful in providing information to those wanting assistance.

As District 42 begins 2017 with the "spirit of rotation" new GSRs have all been provided Group/Meeting information from Area to make necessary changes as well as get them their new GSR packets. The new district panel has also rotated in and

will be getting a chance to show their enthusiasm and excitement towards the District and AA's primary purpose. I look forward to the next two years being the communication link from our district GSR's down to Area 59.

That Name...

The name of our newsletter – "We..." was picked out of thin air just to get started. Well, perhaps it refers to the Unity that comes from our common welfare that is so important to effective Service. But, if you would like to submit a different name, we're open to that. Just send your feedback to chairperson@area59aa.org

"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 chairperson@area59aa.org.