

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

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From the Current Delegate

by Ken D., Delegate, Panel 69

"Happy New Year! It is a wonderful time of year for gratitude, togetherness and reflection."

It is a transition time of year for General Service Servants. On the first week of November 2018 GSR's, District Committee Members, Area Officers and Past Delegates assembled in Gettysburg to conduct our General Service elections for Panel 69 (2019 – 2020.) On behalf of all Panel 69 area officers, please accept our gratitude for the privilege of serving you for the next two years. My colleagues are: Alternate Delegate - Caroline N. of Philadelphia; Area Chairperson - Steve S. of Glenolden; Area Secretary - Curt C. of Hershey; Treasurer – Sue M. of Williamsport and Officer-at-Large- Pete B. of West Chester. I am thrilled to serve with each of them. A special note that Past Delegate, Hugh H. was elected Northeast Regional Trustee Nominee. The ultimate election of Northeast Regional Trustee will occur in 2019, and we send best wishes to Hugh and gratitude for his availability to serve if elected.

On Saturday, December 8th we hosted the Area subcommittee Chairpersons' Orientation. Area officers and special servants shared information to assist our subcommittee chairpersons in the conduct of their area duties. Area 59 models our structure and processes after the General Service Conference. We use the "committee system" to research and deliberate actions before presenting them to the area committee for approval. This spreads the work across all DCMs because they are each assigned to a serve on an area subcommittee. The subcommittee chairpersons for Panel 69 are: Archives – Ed M.; Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) – Ron P.; Corrections – Jason W.; Finance – Dan B.; Grapevine – Nora A.; Public Information – David M.; Treatment/Accessibilities – Tom S.; Structure – Alicia S.; Literature – Sara R. You can find their contact emails on our web site: www.area59aa.org.

What's Happening at the General Service Office?

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The General Service Office is immersed in an exciting major project that will modernize all of their business systems, impacting nearly all of their business functions as they move them to a single platform. They are taking these measures with the goals of providing increased efficiencies, security, and the enhanced overall support of the A.A. community. Please note that, as of now, there will be changes affecting literature ordering and fulfillment; how contributions are processed; and how A.A. service records are maintained.

Important: The General Service Office literature ordering and Contributions systems will be shut down during the change-over period from Wed. Jan. 23- Mon. Feb. 4, 2019

For more info go to www.aa.org

On Sunday, December 9th, the first Quarterly Area Committee meeting was held and the transition became official. Wonderful inspirational shares by several Past Delegates of Area 59 welcomed the new Area Committee: Paul M., Pat. F., Hugh H., Steve O., Pat F., Marty S., Lowell L., Sheila D., Gary L., and Marcia G. Marcia wrapped up the sharing with a marvelous, witty limerick she had composed for the event. We are blessed to have strong support from our past delegates. I felt a strong emotional inspiration during the sharing as I felt the Legacies being passed to a new panel of area servants.

The Area Committee got right down to work passing several needed recommendations and procedural actions to keep the area committee operating until our new Finance subcommittee and Treasurer prepare a budget to be presented at the March 2019 meeting. Importantly, several “special servants” to the Area Committee were nominated by the delegate and confirmed. These servants are skilled in certain critical duties the area needs to conduct our service. I am happy to announce the following special servants for Panel 69: Archivist – Donald H.; Assistant Archivist – Jack C.; Web Servant – Greg G.; Tech Servant – Neil D. Our immediate Past Delegate (Panel 67), Paul M. was confirmed to serve as Convention Committee Chairperson.

Outgoing Convention Committee Chairperson, Hugh H. passed to me that the 2019 E.P.G.S.A. Convention will be held in Lancaster, PA. At the Lancaster Host Resort on November 1st – 3rd. We’ll have registration information later in 2019.

Plans are underway for our next area event: DCM Orientation and Mini-Assembly Planning. These are both held on the same day at the same place (see the area web site for details.) It will take place in Lebanon at St. Cecilia Church Hall on January 13, 2019. Our Alternate Delegate, Caroline, has been designing the program and our Area Chair, Steve, is coordinating with DCM – Leah, in District 65 to host the event. The program looks great and we encourage ADCMs to attend the Orientation session.

As we move into 2019, I’ll be receiving more communications regarding preparation for the 2019 General Service Conference. This is the core of my duties: to prepare and attend; then to report back to you about the proceedings of the General Service Conference. I humbly request your prayers and support that I may perform my duties in a manner that reflects the best for A.A. as a whole. It is an honor to serve as your delegate. Please feel free to communicate with me and I look forward to meeting you as we trudge this road of happy destiny.

In Fellowship & Service,

Ken D.

Delegate

Area 59, Panel 69

From the Past Delegate

by Paul M., Past Delegate, Panel 67

Delegate to Past Delegate

What a journey it was to serve as Delegate for Panel 67 in Area 59. I thank the members of Area 59 for your trust in me over the past two years as a trusted servant to the General Service Conference. And allowing me to be just a small part of a greater whole in A. A.

Now for the "Spirit of Rotation", which is such a vital part of being in service, not an easy thing for some of us to do but a necessary thing that must take place.

Here is Area 59 the new panel doesn't just put the Past Delegate out to pasture, which we Past Delegates are so grateful for, they take the opportunity to tap in the resources of the wellspring of information that is available to them through Past Delegates, by using them in service events such as DCM orientation, workshops, Area Day, and many other event for presentations throughout the Panel. For more detail on events see: www.area59aa.org

It has been past practice of Area 59 for the newly elected incoming Delegate to offer the position of Convention Committee Chairperson to the immediate Past Delegate (outgoing). Our Delegate Ken D. has offered me this position and I have accepted and also have been affirmed by the Area 59 Committee (P-69)

I am so much looking forward to chairing the Convention Committee and staying involved in being of service.

I'd also like say thank you to Glenn S. for the amazing job he and the Ad Hoc Literature Committee did with the "We..." newsletter during panel 67.

What a wonderful journey the past 14 years has been in General Service, I am forever grateful.

Remember: "A journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step"

Spotlight: District 37

by Alexander W., Past DCM Panel 67

District 37 is comprised of 41 registered AA groups in Lehigh and Northampton counties that are located on the east side of the Lehigh River. District 37 is part of the ABE (Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton) Intergroup along with District 57, which split from District 37 in the 1990s.

AA in the Lehigh Valley dates to June of 1945, when a young Naval lieutenant named Yev G. relocated to Allentown from Philadelphia. Yev first met Julius P., the son of a prominent family in Allentown who opened their home for AA meetings. He later met another active AA member, a prominent Bethlehem Steel executive known as “the Colonel”.

The Colonel opened his home in 1946 for AA meetings. This developed into the Bethlehem Group, one of the Lehigh Valley’s most successful early groups. It recently celebrated its 72nd anniversary. Another longstanding group is The Easton Group, which dates to July 28, 1947, according to GSO records.

District 37 is active at the District and Area level. It consistently fills all District Officer positions, and it has a regular attendance of 15 to 20 groups at District

Meetings. District 37 DCMs are active at the Area level and have served as Area Officers and beyond, including former Northeast Regional Trustee J. Gary L. and past Area 59 Officer-at-Large Eileen C. District 37 also sent a Guest Observer to the 2017 EPGSA.

Each fall, District 37 partners with District 57 and the ABE Intergroup to present a joint workshop. Past events have included a successful 4th Step workshop in 2017, which drew over 200 participants. This past year, a Step 6 & 7 workshop had over 100 attendees. A similar event is planned for 2019.

The 2017 Pennsylvania conference for young people in AA (PENNSYPAA) was held in Bethlehem. For the past 4 years, Bethlehem has also hosted a weekend Big Book workshop featuring out-of-town speakers titled “The Big Book Comes Alive.” This event draws hundreds of attendees and is a powerful dose of AA recovery.

Since its inception, District 37 has been an active and valuable part of Area 59. God willing, District 37 will remain an integral part of General Service in Eastern Pennsylvania for years to come.

Announcing the 31st Annual Share-A-Day with EPGSA & Sepia February 10, 2019

by Caroline N., Alternate Delegate, Panel 69

What is Share-A-Day? It's a day of sharing, of course! But what does that mean exactly?

Every year for 30 years (this year will be #31), AA members from all around the Southeastern corner of Pennsylvania have gathered together to share their experience with service and to learn from one another in a day-long event. The idea originated in New York and has since been replicated in Eastern Pennsylvania and elsewhere.

If you've been wondering how to strengthen your practice of Step 12, come join us at the 31st annual EPGSA/SEPIA Share-A-Day, on February 10, 2019 in Philadelphia (details below). You'll be treated to a day of sharing (and a free lunch!) with members from both EPGSA, the Eastern Pennsylvania General Service Assembly also known as Area 59, as well as SEPIA, the Southeastern Pennsylvania Intergroup Association, which serves the fellowship in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia Counties.

Perhaps you've thought about taking a prison commitment, and you don't know where to begin. Perhaps you've heard your group's General Service Representative (GSR) give a report, and you're wondering what they're talking about, especially when they say things like "voting year," "district," "delegate," or "Area 59." Or perhaps you're a seasoned trusted servant, and you're looking for new ways to collaborate with other members as you carry the message. All of you are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Our Area Archivist, Donald H., provided me with a brief history about the development of the 1st annual Share-A-Day, co-hosted by what was then called Philadelphia Area Intergroup (now SEPIA) and members of EPGSA districts from the five counties, in February 1989. The joint workshop was intended to get the newcomer involved in service, while also promoting unity between Area and Intergroup.

A Statement of Purpose was developed: "This event will be designed to inform the fellowship in the Philadelphia five-county area of the Twelfth Step opportunities available so that we may better do our common job of reaching the alcoholic who still suffers."

I admit, I did not attend my first Share-A-Day until I was already involved in service as a GSR for my home group, Center City Young People, at the time. That was in 2011, during Panel 63. Then, three years later, as the District 27 ADCM and a member of the Bid Committee for ICYPAA, I helped organize the 1st Annual Share-A-Day with Area 59 and Young People in AA Committees. That was held in Bethlehem in October 2014, and I spearheaded the planning along with then-Delegate Steve O. Share-A-Days always

open my eyes to all of the wonderful service that happens around us, day in and day out, and I always leave feeling grateful for this life-saving fellowship.

Do you remember when you realized that AA was much, much bigger than your home group and your regular meetings? Many newcomers have been introduced to service and AA as a whole thanks to Share-A-Days. Remember, Share-A-Days are open to all members, not just GSRs, DCMs, or those involved already. The goal is to get even more people interested in service, after all!

On February 10, you'll hear from speakers who do active Twelfth Step work as well as those who have served as Intergroup Representatives and General Service Representatives. They'll share their service experience and give you tips to help you get more involved.

This year's theme will be *Area and SEPIA: The Dynamic Duo*, and the program will include presentations from our service committees, offering attendees a greater understanding of how EPGSA and SEPIA cooperate, as well as how they differ. After lunch, workshops will further explore how our Three Legacies of Recovery, Unity, and Service are practiced through both General Service and intergroup service.

We hope you will find that there are benefits to attending as many EPGSA and intergroup events as possible throughout the year. Whether it's a workshop, a picnic, a speaker jam, a round-up, or any other kind of AA event, these gatherings inform each of us about AA as a whole. You get to meet people in the program outside of your home group and the usual meetings you attend. Everyone in AA is welcome, not just those already involved in service, so if you're reading this, please invite a sponsee or a newcomer to come with you!

Additionally, as I mentioned above, EPGSA partners with other service entities throughout the year to hold other Share-A-Days. Look for these, with additional intergroups across Eastern Pennsylvania, as well as the one with Young People in AA committees, on our Area Calendar of Events online at www.area59aa.org. We hope you'll plan to attend more than one in 2019! And in the meantime, please raise your hand during your home group's call for announcements and spread the word about February 10.

The 31st Annual Share-A-Day with EPGSA and SEPIA will be held on February 10, 2019 at the University of the Sciences, McNeil Science and Technology Center, 723 S 43rd St, Philadelphia, PA 19104. The program is from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., with lunch served around noon. Doors open at 9:00 a.m., registration will begin at 9:30 a.m.

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

OUR BIG BOOK-80 YEARS, 71 LANGUAGES

2019 G.S.C. THEME