

## Chairperson's Report – June 9, 2019

### Area Chairperson Folder:

1. Agenda. There is sign up form if you would like to opt out of receiving the Agenda for our Quarterly Area Meeting through the mail.
2. Area Events.
  - a. Thanks to District 36 for hosting the Pre-Conference Sharing Session.
  - b. Thanks to District 59 for hosting the Delegate Conference Report I.
  - c. Thanks to all Districts who are hosting Area Events this year. Please let me know of your progress and any need for assistance if you are hosting an event.
3. Guest Observer. The Area Committee will select a Guest Observer for our November convention at Lancaster. EPGSA has a custom of hosting a non-alcoholic who has little familiarity with our Fellowship and, because of her/his professional duties, has the opportunity to come into contact with current or potential members of our Fellowship. Our goal is to enhance their understanding of recovery from alcoholism in A.A. and to strengthen Area 59's ability to cooperate with the professional community in Eastern Pennsylvania. We strongly suggest that the nominee is a professional outside the addiction treatment or counseling field. For instance, past Guest Observers have included, professors of Family Medicine at a Philadelphia medical college, District Judges and Pastors, or social workers. The Area Committee pays the guest observer's and one of their guest's expenses for the convention.
4. Northeast Regional Forum (NERF). I would like to thank the Area for sending me to NERF. As always, it was very fun and informative. This is where we have the chance to get to know the people from our General Service Office. There was a lot of good information for people who are new to service. I also enjoyed the Delegate Reports. One of them had a good presentation on communication. Ken chaired a workshop where there was a lot of good discussion on anonymity. Caroline took the notes for the workshop. The Delegate presentations, the workshop notes and Past Trustees sharing will be included in a final report for NERF. This usually comes out in August. Regional Forum Reports can be found here:  
[https://www.aa.org/pages/en\\_US/regional-and-local-forums](https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/regional-and-local-forums).
5. 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

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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. 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

03/16/19	District 56 Workshop	Jennersville, PA
04/13/19	District 12, Area 12 Workshop (not paid by Area 59)	Wilmington, DE
04/27/19	District 40 Workshop	Kingston, PA
04/28/19	District 23 Workshop	Colmar, PA
05/04/19	Pre-Conference Sharing Session	Hershey, PA
05/18/19	District 46 Picnic	Wellsboro, PA
05/19/19	District 54 and 55 Workshop	Brookhaven, PA
05/25/19	District 41 and 61 Workshop	Tannersville, PA
05/31/19	Pre-Area Meeting	Tarrytown, NJ
5/31-6/2	Northeast Regional Forum (NERF)	Tarrytown, NJ
06/08/19	Delegate Conference Report I	Bloomsburg, PA
06/09/19	Area Meeting	Jefferson Township, PA

Thank you for the opportunity to be of service!

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve S  
Area 59, Panel 69 Chairperson