

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

7/15/19

Edition 2, Volume 2

From the Current Delegate *by Ken D., Delegate, Panel 69*

It seems that my reflections on communicating about service inevitably boil down to a sense of gratitude. I am grateful for the excellent start that the Area 59 Committee Members have made for Panel 69. Our subcommittees are hard at work helping carry the message; educating members about service and discussing ways to make our Area operations more effective and efficient.

In the meantime, I was preparing for participation in the General Service Conference (G.S.C.). It was held May 19th – 25th in New York City. It was my first (of two) Conferences to attend on behalf of Eastern PA. The common advice to rookie Delegates is to report what we "**saw, felt and heard**" at the Conference.

Well, I *saw* lots of people and made many new friends, all with a common, powerful passion for serving A.A. I saw Conference members that had a wide variety of backgrounds – from bartenders to federal judges.

I *heard* "bunches and bunches and bunches" of ideas, reports and deliberation. It was passionate, thought provoking, and targeted toward inclusivity and open-mindedness. I heard a strong, loving and informed group conscience at work.

What's Happening at GSO?

Preparations are underway for the 2020 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous which will be held in Detroit, Michigan July 2-5, 2020 with the theme "Love and Tolerance Is Our Code." Come join an estimated 50,000 A.A.s as we celebrate the 85th birthday of Alcoholics Anonymous.

New Book: *Our Great Responsibility: A Selection of Bill W's General Service Conference Talks, 1951-1970* is the first original title from Alcoholics Anonymous since *Daily Reflections*. A beautifully transcribed and edited collection of inspiration, concerns and thoughts as expressed by our co-founder, with over 60 archival images. Available for order <https://b2c.aaws.org/p-1045-our-great-responsibility.aspx>

Area 59 website

<https://area59aa.org/>

I *felt* deep gratitude for the preparation that members of Eastern Pennsylvania helped me with. I felt humility in the face of our message – as carried for 80 years and now 71 languages, with a firm foundation of trust that can survive controversies.

The Delegate's Conference Reports and Mini-Assemblies were held June 8th in Bloomsburg and June 30th at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia. I hope that you were able to join us for one of these events. There will also be a detailed written report of the important issues and proceedings of the 69th General Service Conference: in short, where our Fellowship is headed and what is being done to carry the message – on a worldwide basis. Please visit our web site: www.area59aa.org for more details.

The A.A. World Services Board has a vacancy for Non-Trustee Director and the A.A. Grapevine Board has a vacancy for a Non-Trustee Director. If you are interested and have questions, please feel free to contact me; or, visit www.aa.org.

On August 8th please support the 7th Tradition Members' Challenge Day by making a contribution of \$8.06 per member (in mail or online at www.aa.org). The purpose is to help the Fellowship become fully self-supporting through our contributions. Contributions currently cover less than three-fourths of our budget. Literature profits cover the remainder. Contact your DCM for more information and look for a flyer on our area web site: www.area59aa.org.

Last, but not least, I want to draw your attention to another article in this edition of the newsletter about the E.P.G.S.A. Convention, by Sharon C., Convention Committee Treasurer. It's a great article and worth sharing in your home groups. Ask your home group to set aside some funds now to support your GSR to attend the Convention in 2019. It will be held in the newly renovated (and beautiful) Wyndham Resort in Lancaster, PA on November 1 – 3, 2019. Registrations are available now. Help connect to the Fellowship as a whole – after all - this is a "We..." program

With Love & Service, Your Panel 69 Delegate, Ken D.

Announcing the E.P.G.S.A. 62nd Annual Convention & Assembly

November 1-3, 2019

**By: Sharon C. (on behalf of the
Convention Committee)**

Want to meet people excited about carrying the A.A. message? Looking to feel more a "part of" A.A.? Thinking about getting involved in service

to A.A. "beyond the homegroup"? Want to know more about what's going on with A.A. as a whole and within our Area? Interested in sharing challenges and solutions you have in carrying our message to alcoholics who are still suffering?

We have just the event for you! The Convention Committee would like to invite ALL interested A.A. members (not just GSR's) to attend the upcoming 62nd EPGSA Convention & Assembly. This year we are back in picturesque Lancaster at the newly renovated Wyndham Lancaster Resort and Convention Center.

Since 1958, when less than 100 people attended the convention, EPGSA has been holding an annual convention and assembly. Throughout the weekend there are meetings, panel discussions, workshops and speakers. There will also be dancing, food and fellowship. Saturday morning is the Area 59 Assembly during which Area Committee Chairpersons and Officers will provide a report of their efforts to support and carry the message within our Area. There will also be a speaker on the convention theme "Our Big Book – 80 years, 71 Languages." This event provides a unique opportunity to learn about A.A., yourself, and to meet and share experiences with a diverse group of members.

As a newcomer, in a wheelchair and with only a few months sober, I attended the annual convention and assembly several years ago. Admittedly, I was a bit overwhelmed by it all and didn't understand what was going on half the time. But, I was put at the registration table

and experienced the value of service. I attended the workshops and learned that A.A. is so much bigger than my homegroup. I met people who had so much energy and enthusiasm for A.A. that it was contagious. I caught the service bug. In the years since, I have gotten to participate in the voting process for election of Area Officers, speak on the God of my Understanding panel and bring sponsees and friends to their first convention. Each year the event renews my energy and gratitude for the program and fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous.

This is one of those things you do not want to miss! So, plan ahead and register NOW! Registration forms are available through your District DCM, Area Officers, Convention Committee Members or online under events on the Area website <https://area59aa.org/>. Join us for the weekend or just for the day. Carpool with your sponsees, family and friends. We look forward to seeing you there

Our Great Responsibility:

A Selection of Bill W.'s General Service Talks 1951-1970

by Sarah R.

A.A.'s first new book in over 30 years, *Our Great Responsibility*, is a collection of 16 of Bill W.'s talks at the General Service Conferences from 1951 to 1970. The original tapes from the conferences have been painstakingly transcribed and carefully formed into a narrative which not only gives us great insight into our history, and that of the Conference, but it also allows us to get a real sense of Bill W. as a person.

This volume contains some never before published archival images and photos, more than 60 in total, including some from our early Conferences. I love seeing pictures of Bill and Lois, Sister Ignatia and other friends of Alcoholics Anonymous, as well as images of some of our early literature. Also included are 3 Conference talks by non-alcoholics; Bill's wife, Lois, and two of our Class A Trustees, Bernard Smith and Dr. John Norris.

Bill's great love of Alcoholics Anonymous, and his desire to leave our Fellowship with a solid structure that would facilitate communication between its members and the G.S.O. and Trustees are evident throughout this book. The origins of our General Service Conference come to life as we hear, first hand, about its trials and successes. Bill's comments on communication, cooperating with professionals, and the need to get more people involved in service are thoughtful and timely.

Bill W.'s messages to the General Service Conference still speak to the needs of our Fellowship today: "The essence of all growth is willingness to change for the better and then an unremitting willingness to shoulder whatever the responsibility, at whatever price. ... As we look toward the future, we clearly see that an ever-greater willingness will surely be the key to that progress which God intends for us as we move toward His appointed destiny."



Spotlight on District 36

By: Katherine D.

In August of 1940 the first efforts were made by Roger B. from Philadelphia to bring the A.A. message to Harrisburg. Roger's initial efforts were unsuccessful. However, on March 3, 1941 Roger was transferred by his company to Harrisburg and on June 18, 1941, along with five other recovering alcoholics, he started a meeting at his sister's home. On August 16, 1941, the meeting had to move, due to its growth to nine members. In years following, Area 59 was formed, starting with 12 districts in 1977, and growing into our area and districts as we know them today.

District 36 is a very large district in comparison to other district sizes. There is currently a large part of our district that is inactive. Our district includes Harrisburg, Hershey, Middletown, Linglestown, Dillsburg, Lemoyne, New Cumberland, Camp Hill, Carlisle, and many other towns. Harrisburg has been the capital of Pennsylvania since 1812. Harrisburg is known for the building of the Pennsylvania Canal and later the Pennsylvania Railroad. In recent years Harrisburg is known for the Pennsylvania Farm Show, the largest free indoor agriculture exposition in the United States and the best milkshakes you will ever taste! Hershey is known as "the Sweetest Place on Earth" as it is home to a large number of chocolate making companies. Carlisle is host to Dickinson College, Penn State Dickinson School of Law, and the U.S. Army War College. The Carlisle Barracks prepare high-level military personnel and civilians for strategic leadership responsibilities.

District 36 is home to 71 registered groups. You can find a meeting to attend morning, afternoon, and night -we have no shortage of meetings in District 36! We have two intergroups in District 36, the Harrisburg Area Intergroup (HAI) and the Cumberland Valley Intergroup (CVI). Currently, Harrisburg Area Intergroup provides active communication to District 36. Harrisburg Intergroup is responsible for the A.A. hotline, PI, CPC, and literature sales. HAI's most recent addition is the Accessibilities Committee which is responsible for insuring that A.A. is accessible to all members in our local area. Our district also has a strong and long running young people's presence. Beginning in 1993, the 5th annual PENNSCYPAA was held in Harrisburg, then again in 2001, 2008, and most recently 2013. Cumberland Valley hosted PENNSCYPAA in 2018. Harrisburg has an active PA ICYPAA Bid Committee. The Young People's Group Meeting Group is one of the largest meetings in our district with 80 plus people.

District 36 has 4 subcommittees and an ad-hoc subcommittee: Workshop, Finance, Archives, Structure, and District-Split. Our district meeting is held on the second Monday of every month from 6:30 pm to 8 pm at the 19th Street Clubhouse in Harrisburg. We have participation from 25 GSR's. At our monthly meeting we receive reports from: DCM, ADCM, Treasurer, all subcommittees, Harrisburg Area Intergroup, and ICYPAA Bid Committee. We have a presentation on a Concept at the beginning of each meeting and at the end of the meeting there is a Tradition presentation.

"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