

Chairperson's Report – September 8, 2019

Area Chairperson Folder:

1. Agenda.
2. Area Events.
 - a. Thanks to District 26 for hosting the Delegate Conference Report II.
 - b. Area 59 will take its inventory on October 20. District 67 will be the host.
3. Structure Motion – Convention Committee. At our June Quarterly meeting the Structure Subcommittee made a recommendation to revise our Eastern Pennsylvania General Service Assembly Structure Manual. In accordance with pager 15 of our Structure Manual, the Area Committee voted with substantial unanimity (two-thirds vote) to consider the amendment. The groups' opinions on the recommendation were heard at the District meetings. We will be voting on that later during this meeting under Unfinished Business. If there is a two-thirds vote in favor of the recommendation the amendment will have been adopted and be included in the next printing of the Structure Manual in November 2020.
4. 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 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



Chairperson's Report – September 8, 2019

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

06/16/19	District 39 GSR Orientation	Scranton, PA
06/29/19	Philadelphia Grapevine Workshop	Philadelphia, PA
06/30/19	Delegate Conference Report II	Philadelphia, PA
07/13/19	Pennsylvania State Conference of Young People in AA	West Chester, PA
07/20/19	District 41 and 61 Grapevine Picnic	Canadensis, PA
07/27/19	District 48 Workshop	Williamsport, PA
08/06/19	District 29 Meeting	Berwyn, PA
08/18/19	Pre-Area Meeting	Williamsport, PA
08/28/19	District 32 Meeting	Springfield, PA
09/07/19	District 53 Workshop	Nicholson, PA
08/08/19	Area Meeting	Refton, PA

Thank you for the opportunity to be of service!

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve S
Area 59, Panel 69 Chairperson