



## **62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Eastern PA General Service Assembly Meeting Minutes**

Lancaster, PA November 2, 2019

### **Call to order:**

Steve S., Panel 69 Chairperson, called to order the regular meeting of the Eastern PA General Service Assembly at 9:00AM on November 2, 2019 at the Lancaster Wyndham. The meeting began with the Responsibility Declaration followed by Steve S. reading from the General Service Representative pamphlet.

Steve made general announcements and then thanked participants, volunteers and special guests. He gave a special thanks to our guest observer, Reverend Dr. David A. Zwifka, Rector of St. Like's Episcopal Church in Lebanon, PA. Steve welcomed our Friday night speakers, Jeffrey F., the PA State Al-Anon Delegate; Bill F., past East Central Regional Class B Trustee of the General Service Board and Rod B., a past Pacific Regional Trustee who will be speaking Saturday night.

### **Roll call:**

Curt C., Panel 69 Secretary, conducted the roll call of all available votes. The official roll call tally was 359 which included all Officers, past Delegates, DCM's, GSR's, and members representing groups present.

### **Subcommittee Annual Reports:**

The following Subcommittee Chairpersons read their annual reports; Archives, Andy B.; CPC, Ron P.; Corrections, Steve N.; Finance, Dan B.; Grapevine, Nora A.; Public Information, David M.; Structure, Alicia S.; Treatment/ Accessibilities, Samantha L.; Ad hoc Literature, Sarah R.

### **Officer Reports:**

The following Officers read their annual reports; Officer at Large, Pete B.; Treasurer, Sue M.; Secretary, Curt C.; Chairperson, Steve S.; Alternate Delegate, Caroline N.; Delegate, Ken D.

All reports are available in English and Spanish at [www.area59aa.org](http://www.area59aa.org)



## Assembly Speakers:

### Donald H. "Our Big Book-80 Years, 71 Languages"

1938 - March/ April, writing of Big Book begins at business office of Honor Dealers, 17 William St., Newark, NJ. Bill wrote draft outlines and dictated to Secretary Ruth Hock.

1938 - June, Bill wrote to Doctor Bob: "I have... dictated... two chapters of the proposed book... An introduction (There Is A Solution) and my own story (Bill's Story) together with the rough outline of the contents of the other chapters...use this...for discussion of what you folks out there believe the book ought to contain...the completed book should represent the work of many people particularly the individual stories... They will naturally be the heart of the book.... My feeling is that Anne should do the one portraying the wife of an alcoholic." As we know Anne declined. There is indication in the Akron archives that Marie Bray (An Alcoholic's Wife) may have written the first draft of "To Wives" which Bill then edited.

1938 - July 18, After having received and read the two proposed chapters Dr. Esther L. Richards of Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore wrote a letter to Bill stating: *"I think you should get an A No.1 physician who has a wide knowledge of the alcoholic's medical and social problem to write an introduction."*

1938 - July 27, Dr. William D Silkworth wrote a letter of support for use in fundraising for the book. It was later incorporated into the chapter "The Doctors Opinion" together with extracts from a paper later published in the Lancet Medical Journal in July 1939 Doctor Silkworths name did not appear in the "Doctor's Opinion" until publication of the second edition in 1955.

1938 - December (early), "How It Works" written.

1939 - January 4, Bill writes a letter to Frank Amos that the book "One Hundred Men" is nearly complete but considerable editorial work may be necessary.

1939 - January, Tom Uzell, a friend of Hank P., and editor at Colliers and NYU faculty member reads manuscript and begins editing material to create a prepublication manuscript.

1939 - January, prior to completion of the prepublication manuscript, Jim B. (still in NY) suggests the phrases "God as we understand him" and "power greater than ourselves" be added to the steps and basic text. (Moved to Philadelphia, February 1940 and started AA there).

1939 - February, prepublication completed by Tom Uzell and photo-litho copies of the book are printed and sent out for review.

1939 – March, manuscript copies returned. The original text made frequent use of the words “you”, “your” and “you must”. A Montclair, NJ psychiatrist named Doctor Howard, (a possible pseudonym), suggested toning down the words to “we” and “we ought” or “we should”. Drs. Silkworth and Tiebot offered similar advice.

1939 – April, Ray C. (whose Big Book story “An Artist Concept”) designed the books “circus color” dust jacket for which he was paid four shares of Works Publishing stock. His story begins with a quote attributed to Herbert Spencer.

1939 – April 10, Big Book is published.

1940 – October, Bill went to Philadelphia to speak to Judge Curtis Bok, one of the owners of the Saturday Evening Post (the largest US general circulation magazine with the readership of 3 million). Bok had become interested in AA, through his friend Dr. A. Weise Hammer of Philadelphia. In December, Jack Alexander (a feature writer for the Post) was assigned to do it. Alexander’s initial skepticism prior to meeting Bill W. quickly evolved into a solid admiration of AA and a lifelong friendship with Bill. Alexander later served as a class A Trustee from 1951 to 1956.

The article was published on March 1, 1941. Its impact on AA was enormous. During 1941, AA membership surged from around 2,000 to over 8,000. Over 6000 inquiries were sent to the New York office during 1941 because of the article.

### **Big Book printings**

First Edition, 16 printings, 1939 to 1955.

Second Edition, 16 printings, 1955 to 1974.

Third Edition, 74 printings, 1976 to 2001.

Fourth Edition, new and revised 2001. First printing, October 2001. 39<sup>th</sup> printing, October 2017.

### **Stories in the First Edition**

Akron produced 18 stories thanks to the efforts of Jim S. whose Big Book story is “The News Hawk”. He interviewed the Akron members and wrote their stories (Dr. Bob wrote his own). Two of those stories came from Cleveland and one from non-alcoholic Marie B.

New York members contributed 10 stories that were edited by Bill W. and Hank P. over the contributors protests.

The story section was complete by late January 1939.

There was a last-minute story from California – “The Lone Endeavor” which was

ghostwritten by Ruth Hock.

The manuscript story - "Ace Full-Seven Eleven" of Akron member Del T. was dropped because he "thought the book was a racket" to make money for a person we shall not name.

### **Changes in First Edition.**

Wording of step 12:

Manuscript, "Having had a spiritual experience as the result of this horse of action..."

First printing - 1939, "Having had a spiritual experience as the result of these steps..."

No appendix on spirituality.

Second printing - 1941, "Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of those steps..." Appendix on spirituality added in this printing.

Second Edition second printing - 1955, "Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps..."

11 printing first edition - 1947, the term "ex-alcoholic" was replaced by the terms "ex-problem drinker" or "non-drinker".

### **Jane D., "Student of Life - The Story of My Story"**

Jane's sobriety date is December 3, 1991. Her home group is Women's Honesty in Feasterville PA.

In 1997 the Grapevine published directions on how to write your story for publication in the Fourth Edition of the Big Book. February 8, 1998 she submitted her story and in 2000 hers was one of the stories in the final selection process. May 7, 2001 she received a letter from GSO asking for her permission to use her story in the Fourth Edition - they changed the title.

Jane commented how strange it is to hear groups reading her story in Big Book meetings. At times when she shares her story in meetings some people may think she plagiarized her story based on what they read in the Big Book not knowing that she was the author.

### **Assembly Discussion, Communication and Our Clarity of Purpose.**

Steve S., Area 59 Chairperson, mentioned the "We" newsletter published by Panel 69 DCM's and it's availability as an email to anyone who wishes to sign up to receive it. A sign up request is on our Area website, [www.area59aa.org](http://www.area59aa.org). He then mentioned the "A.A. Internal/External Communications Audit" which was completed and presented



to the General Service Board in 2018 and then shared with the Panel 69 DCM's and Officers. The report was basically an inventory on how we communicate our message of recovery. Any voting member present was then invited to open discussion on the topic of communication. Some comments follow:

Sometimes breaking anonymity in the workplace is helpful.

Bridging The Gap is a great opportunity we should further develop.

The opioid epidemic is straining A.A. and our 5<sup>th</sup> Tradition.

We need to work more with mental health professionals.

We need to reach out to underage drinkers through schools and adolescent activities.

We should improve on carrying the message to bi-lingual communities.

No other organization puts so much effort into translation into so many languages.

As to the 5<sup>th</sup> Tradition, you can't go wrong with love and tolerance.

Thanks for having a fellowship that gives a drunk like me a place to belong.

**At 12:00PM the 2019 EPGSA Assembly was closed with the Serenity Prayer.**



Area 59

EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA  
GENERAL SERVICE ASSEMBLY  
[WWW.AREA59AA.ORG](http://WWW.AREA59AA.ORG)

EPGSA ROLL CALL		DATE: Nov. 2, 2019		PLACE: Lancaster, PA		TIME: 9:00 AM		SECRETARY: Curt C.	
	PRESENT (Y/N)	GSR's	TOTAL VOTING		PRESENT (Y/N)	GSR's	TOTAL VOTING		TOTAL VOTING
OAL	y		1	D49	dcm		4		5
Treasurer	y		1	D50	absent				
Secretary	y		1	D51	dcm		7		8
Chairperson	y		1	D52	absent				
Alt-Delegate	y		1	D53	adcm		2		3
Delegate	y		1	D54	dcm		7		8
				D55	dcm		6		7
Districts				D56	dcm		10		11
D21	dcm	5	6	D57	dcm		5		6
D22	dcm	5	6	D58	dcm		5		6
D23	dcm	11	12	D59	dcm		1		2
D24	dcm	6	7	D60	dcm		4		5
D25	dcm	10	11	D61	dcm		3		4
D26	dcm	6	7	D62	adcm				1
D27	dcm	8	9	D63	dcm		9		10
D28	dcm	4	5	D64	dcm		13		14
D29	dcm	8	9	D65	dcm		3		4
D30	dcm	13	14	D66	dcm		6		7
D31	dcm	4	5	D67	dcm		9		10
D32	dcm	12	13	D68	member		1		2
D33	dcm	4	5						
D34	dcm	3	4	PD (67): Paul M.	y				1
D35	dcm	1	2	PD (65): Pat F.	y				1
D36	dcm	14	15	PD (63): Steve O.	y				1
D37	dcm	7	8	PD (61): Hugh H.	y				1
D38	dcm	13	14	PD (59): Lowell L.	y				1
D39	dcm	6	7	PD (57): Sheila D.	y				1
D40	dcm	11	12	PD (55): J. Gary L.					
D41	dcm	1	2	PD (51): Marty S.	y				1
D42	gsr	2	3	PD (49): Gary C.					
D43	dcm	9	10	PD (47): Clay R.					
D44	dcm	2	3	PD (45): Joe Q.					
D45	dcm	9	10	PD (41): Marcia G.	y				1
D46	dcm	1	2						
D47	dcm	16	17	Subtotal					121
D48	dcm	13	14						
Subtotal			238	Total Voting					359