



Information related to COVID-19 And the Area 59 Committee

Friends and trusted servants in the Fellowship. There is a lot of concern and questions regarding recovery and service-related meetings in light of the COVID 19 pandemic. As our traditions state, each group is autonomous and should decide for themselves and their members for appropriate precautions for personal safety.

Please understand that the information we share is not intended to give any advice contrary to your local and state public health departments or federal advisories. Current situations are fluid and can be highly specific based on your county location. We intend only to be helpful by sharing the best information we have.

Eastern PA General Service will try to share the most up-to-date information we have with regard to resources and best practices as we go through this difficult time period. We will continue to plan Area 59 events with Public Health advisories in and and will update our calendar and communicate to the Area 59 Committee Servants as things change.

First, here is some suggested guidance for meetings from our Regional Trustee:

As follow-up on a request to outline the precautions that Areas, Conference, and Conventions are implementing to address COVID-19 concerns, short of cancelling, follow:

- Understand and follow Department of Health/CDC recommendations (i.e. suggestions regarding gatherings, personal hygiene practices like hand washing, using tissues, hand sanitizer, disposable wipes, etc.),
- Ask members to refrain from attending if they have a cough, or exhibit flu-like symptoms,

- Keep communication lines open regarding public health, or GSO updates,
- Avoid contact with people who are ill (for their safety as well as your own),
- Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds – if soap and water are not readily available, use hand sanitizer,
- Be careful to not touch your eyes, mouth, and nose, especially with unwashed hands, and
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or use the inside of your elbow.
- Use large, well ventilated halls that offer more personal space,
- Suspend or limit food hospitality for the time being,
- Ensure hospitality tables, if used, are sanitary (i.e., clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces, particularly after coming in from outside),
- Provide bottled water at gatherings and meetings
- Avoid shaking hands, hugging even at meetings, refrain from holding hands during the closing of your choice (I know this is tough).
- Avoid crowded public places, should the virus become more common in one's Area, follow state public health advice.
- Consider utilizing Zoom (or other tech-communication tool) for Service meetings,
- If you are susceptible, inform others that you must take extra steps to prevent infection, and
- Our most vulnerable (i.e., people with weakened immune systems and long-term conditions such as cancer, diabetes, heart disease, COPD, and organ transplantation, etc.) are encouraged to stay home as much as possible.
- Every member is encouraged to be aware of issues impacting their personal health and to consult with your personal physician with regard to your situation and actions.

Please know that the above list is neither intended to be all-inclusive nor a substitute for specific medical advice based on a competent authority. Rather, it is a compilation of actions – gathered from recent experience – for your consideration.

Area 59 General Service is evaluating the need to meet and how that

will impact our events and preparing our Delegate for the General Service Conference.

The following is what we know:

General Service Conference – Canceled (Virtual alternatives are being planned)

Pre-Conference Sharing Session – Canceled An Area Committee virtual conference will be held in its place April 5th. Details to come via email to Area Committee Members

District Meetings – Reach out to your DCM

Workshops – Check the Area 59 calendar for updates (please keep our area secretary (secretary@area59aa.org) informed of your posted calendar changes.

Local Meeting lists/Intergroups We also encourage groups to stay in touch with their local intergroups to update meeting formation.

The General Service Office, New York also has additional information here:

https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/update-on-covid-19-coronavirus

There is a variety of online A.A. meetings and virtual tools such as Zoom and Skype, which you can find via Google.

Your Area 59 trusted servants are standing by to help and answer questions, please see the contact page to reach any one of our officers or committee chairs via email.