

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

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<https://area59aa.org/services-resources/>

In Memoriam: Ken D., Area 59 Panel 69 Delegate (1949-2020)

Those of us in Eastern Pennsylvania Area 59 — one of the 93 Delegate areas across the United States and Canada — who knew Ken D. (1949-2020), the elected Panel 69 Delegate to the General Service Conference, are grieving the loss of this great trusted servant, who passed away on July 24 following a massive heart attack. Alcoholics Anonymous lost an exemplary service leader and a wonderful, kind, and humble member. His impact as a mentor, sponsor, and friend lives on through his legacy of service and all of the lives he touched, not only in Eastern Pennsylvania, but around the world, as he carried the message. The loss was sudden and profound.

Ken was 70 years old, and died with 15 years sober. He was fond of saying the name of his home group, Midday Miracles in Kennett Square, each time he introduced himself when speaking at meetings and workshops, which he did often and with great enthusiasm! Ken was a native of Ohio and served in the Vietnam War before becoming the first member of his family to graduate from college. He went on to work in the pharmaceutical industry in the vaccines field, settling with his family in Chester County. In his retirement, he devoted himself not only to his

[What's Happening at GSO?](#)

Gratitude from our General Manager:

"We're trying. You are supporting us. It is working." North American A.A. groups continue to support the General Service Office, through direct communication and the 7th Tradition, in our unified mission to carry the message to the still sick and suffering alcoholic. Please click here to watch our Love and Service Video

<https://vimeopro.com/user112910871/love-and-service>

The 2020 budget has been redone, cutting expenses and reflecting the decline in literature revenue. Providing maximum services, with expense reductions of operations costs not services, is the goal.

[en GMGSOlettertoConfMembers.pdf](#)

New aa.org webstore - check out the new and improved design featuring: • webstore site navigation • search and sort by item number, format, categories and language • "Quick Order" • easier to navigate shopping cart • highlighting of new items of literature • special offers! • and more

<https://onlineliterature.aa.org/>

wife of 47 years, but to his four children, three grandchildren, and of course, to Alcoholics Anonymous. He became an accredited parliamentarian, learning Robert's Rules of Order inside and out, and generously shared his experience with our Three Legacies throughout the Fellowship. He was also an accomplished musician and marathon runner, and loved fishing, hiking, and the great outdoors.

To read some of Ken's own words about his experience in A.A., you can turn to page 24 of the July 2020 issue of the Grapevine and find his article, called "A Worldwide Connection," about his international service contributions in Latvia. His wife wrote an open letter that accompanied his obituary, in which she shared, "We treasure the memories and hope for all to find serenity in knowing that Ken lived life to the fullest every day. He would want you to know that on his last day he ran his last mile in 8 minutes and 41 seconds. He couldn't have been more happy, joyous, and free." Please join us as we remember Ken at the annual Eastern Pennsylvania General Service Assembly and Convention, to be held virtually on Zoom this year, November 13–15, 2020, at the Saturday night meeting, which begins at 7:00 p.m. More information will be posted on the Area 59 website, www.area59aa.org, in the coming weeks, so please check there for details.

May Ken's soul rest in peace and may we reflect in gratitude for his service. — By Caroline N.

2nd Prudent Reserve Drawdown authorized- \$1.5 million to cover the 4th quarter of 2020. This leaves a balance of approximately \$13.1 million/ 7.8 months of office operating expenses.

https://aa.org/assets/en_US/en_LettertoGeneralServiceConference_oct2020.pdf

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By: Sarah R.

First Ever Virtual EPGSA Assembly and Convention November 13th through November 15th

Attention GSRs- We are “counting” on you!

By Fred S., VEDAT Chair

Have you ever heard someone say “I was at the very first one” and felt left out because you weren’t there? Well, here is your chance to say “I was at the very first Virtual EPGSA”. There are many great advantages to a Virtual EPGSA. For one thing the registration fee is \$0.00. Yes, it is free! The commute will be much shorter! Lines to the bathroom will be shorter. The coffee will be just the way you like it, since you will be the one making your coffee, though I must admit that this morning, I made coffee. My wife poured herself a cup and took a sip, spit it out and said “This tastes like mud”and I said “What do you expect? It was fresh ground this morning!”

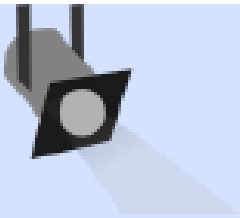
Adding to the excitement of being the First Virtual EPGSA is that this year is a voting year! Every 2 years, Area 59 holds elections. The voting members come together to perform this very important task. As stated above: GSRs---we are “counting” on you to vote! We will be electing The Area Panel which consists of the Delegate, Alternate Delegate, Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, and Officer At Large. Obviously, the world is currently a very different place and this year has been filled with many changes and new opportunities to reach out to the alcoholic who still suffers. Our new panel will continue to face unprecedented challenges and opportunities as they work with us to continue to find new ways and modify existing ways to carry the message. Being part of the process to elect this new panel is a very important responsibility. Who are the voting members? They are the GSRs (or, if the GSR cannot attend the Alternate GSR or other designated representative of the home group), the current DCMs (or if the DCM cannot attend the Alternate DCM or other designated representative of the district), the current Area Officers and Past Delegates of Area 59. An important note for all voting members – you **must** register via www.area59aa.org by Monday 11/9 11:59 PM. If you are not a voting member, you do not need to register, and you are welcome and encouraged to come and watch the process. The election will take place Saturday Morning.

One of the big changes for the Assembly this year will be how the election is held. In the past, we would have had all the voters sit in one room and they would write their votes on pieces of paper, which were collected and then counted. Since we are virtual this year, this procedure will need to change. Back in March, Ken D. saw the potential of our having a virtual election, and he put together VEDAT. VEDAT is the Virtual Election Delegate’s Advisory Team. VEDAT’s original roster includes Claire B. (current ADCM), Greg G. (Area Web Servant and past DCM), Hugh H. (Past Delegate), Ira M. (Past DCM), Caroline N. (Alternate Delegate), Ken D. (Delegate) and myself Fred S. (Past DCM). With Ken’s very sad and most unexpected passing, Caroline N. is now serving out the rest of the year as Delegate and Steve S. has joined VEDAT as the current Alternate Delegate. VEDAT has worked to find a way to have an online election that is as close as possible to our traditional face to face elections. We have attended mock and real elections that were held in different Areas. We have participated in a series of sharing sessions with multiple Areas to discuss different ideas on the election. We have also spoken with members of the team who provided the technical support for the General Service Conference this year, along with multiple companies that provide support for online elections and online conferences. VEDAT’s recommendation to the

Delegate was to hire an outside company to help run the election, and the Convention Committee contracted with that outside company. Note that on the day of the election, Caroline, Steve and the rest of the current Area officers will not be part of running the election and will have no contact with the 3rd party company, since they will be standing for office. While the voting is taking place online, we will still be following the Third Legacy Procedure, which you can find in the Area Structure manual or the Service Manual. Since the election this year is online, our expectation is that we will have more voters than we did in our most recent face to face election, which had over 500 voting members! How many voters will we have?

In addition to the election, there are many other meetings that will be occurring throughout the weekend. EPGSA will start early Friday afternoon, and the last meeting starts late Sunday morning. There will be some speaker meetings and many great workshops. The entire weekend, including the election, is open to all A.A. members to attend.

The VEDAT is grateful for the opportunity to serve, and looks forward to enjoying a great weekend with all of you. We look forward to seeing you (online) there!



Spotlight on District 38

District 38 has a newly compiled history of the district which includes a record of each of 36 different groups. [2020phamphlet%20\(2\).docx](#)

How We Began: District 38 was founded in 1976 and created out of a split with the Lehigh Penn District. The Lehigh Penn District was the old number 10B District which served the Allentown-Emmaus area. This district included Pottstown before the 1976 split. The first District Committee Member (D.C.M.) for District 38 was Rosie H. from Pottstown, and there were ten groups represented by ten General Service Representatives (G.S.R.) at that time. The present Schuylkill Valley A.A. telephone answering service was then in the home of Bill J. of Royersford – (Bill was Rosie’s sponsor). That year was also an election year for the Area Delegates and we had all ten groups represented. Since then, we have grown to forty-two groups.

All Members of Alcoholics Anonymous are welcome to attend District 38 Business Meetings. The meetings are held the last Tuesday of the Month at 7:00 PM at St. James United Church of Christ on South Limerick Road, Limerick PA.

"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

A Clear Vision for You 2020 GSC Theme

Graphic Formatting by Katherine D