

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

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**From the
Current
Delegate:**
by
Caroline
N.,
Delegate,
Panel 71

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

Dear fellow members,

Warm greetings, Area 59! I wish each of you a happy and healthy New Year, hoping that 2021 is indeed a happier and healthier year than 2020.

Welcome to Panel 71! We made history on November 14, 2020 when we held our elections on a digital platform, for the first time ever, at the annual Eastern Pennsylvania General Service Assembly and Convention. General Service Representatives, District Committee Members, Area Officers, and Past Delegates came together to elect the new panel of officers, with the wonderful support of the Virtual Elections Delegate's Advisory Team. It wasn't quite the same as gathering in person, but until it's safe to do so again, we're fortunate to be able to use remote meeting technology to conduct our business!

What's Happening at GSO?

From our Director of Staff Services:

"We are grateful to have considered a number of qualified applicants for the G.S.O. staff openings and are deeply appreciative to each member who applied. We are satisfied that Craig, Amy and James all met and exceeded the criteria for these positions, and we are certain that the Fellowship will benefit from the broad range of experience, strength and hope that they bring to the General Service Office."

Craig began work on November 16 2020 and was assigned the responsibility of Group Services.

Amy began work on December 14 2020 and was assigned the CPC/Treatment responsibilities.

James will be welcomed on board January 18 2021 and will report to the Regional Forums assignment.

There will be more details about the three new staff members in a future Box 4-5-9 article.

On behalf of your Panel 71 officers, thank you for the privilege and opportunity to serve you for the next two years, 2021 and 2022. My colleagues are Alternate Delegate Pete B. of West Chester; Area Chairperson Curt C. of Hershey; Area Secretary Sue M. of Williamsport; Area Treasurer Dan B. of Philadelphia; and Officer-at-Large and Area Registrar Alicia S. of Hershey. You can find our email addresses on the area website, www.area59aa.org. A special note that Past DCM, Nora J., was selected as our area's candidate for the Northeast Regional Trustee vacancy, a position to be filled in April at the 71st General Service Conference. We send best wishes to Nora and gratitude for her willingness to serve.

On December 12, the area officers hosted a Subcommittee Chair Orientation to introduce the incoming chairs to their area duties and help familiarize them with their new service responsibilities. Area 59 models our structure and processes after the General Service Conference. We use the "committee system" to research and deliberate actions before presenting them to the full Area Committee for approval. Each DCM is assigned to serve on a subcommittee, and we will hold a DCM Orientation on January 17.

The subcommittee chairs for Panel 71 are Archives – Anton D. (D55); Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) – Tim S. (D30); Corrections – Melissa M. (D51); Finance – Tara L. (D35); Grapevine – Vicki L. (D27); Public Information – Matt B. (D33); Structure – Bart T. (D48); Treatment and Accessibilities – Steve W. (D45); Literature – Katie D. (D36); Digital Communications – Claire B. (D44); and Technology – Chris R. (D64). You can find their contact emails on our website, www.area59aa.org.

I am also happy to announce the special servants for Panel 71: Archivist – Donald H.; Assistant Archivist – Jack C.; Web Servant – Greg G.; Tech Servant – Fred S. We also have a new Convention Committee Chairperson in Past Delegate Steve O. (Panel 63). Thank you to the Panel 69 Tech Servant Neill D. and Panel 69 Convention Committee Chairperson Paul M., Past Delegate (Panel 67), as well as all of the members of the Convention Committee, for your service.

On December 13, the new panel convened for the first time at the quarterly Area Committee meeting. Following inspirational shares by a number of Past Delegates, the Area Committee reviewed and approved a set of general Delegate's Recommendations and procedural actions from the Area Chairperson to keep the Area operating until our new Finance subcommittee and Treasurer prepare a budget to be presented at the March 2021 meeting. Each subcommittee also received a set of Delegate's Recommendations to guide their work. All of this information can be found on our website.

Please mark your calendars for the following upcoming service activities, all of which will be virtual (please see the Area Calendar on our website for details):

- January 17, 2021: DCM Orientation followed by the Mini-Assemblies/Delegate's Conference Reports Planning Session
- February 21, 2021: Southeastern Pennsylvania Intergroup Association and Eastern Pennsylvania General Service Assembly Share-A-Day
- February 26-28, 2021: Northeast Regional A.A. Service Assembly
- March 14, 2021: Quarterly Area Committee Meeting
- March 28, 2021: Pre-Conference Sharing Session

As we experience restrictions and isolation during the pandemic, I encourage you to stay connected with the Fellowship: your group, district, and Area 59. Your friends, sponsor, and service sponsor. We must help each other get through this challenging time, and hope that brighter days are ahead when we can once again meet together in person. How dark it is before the dawn, as we say!

I will be doing my best to communicate with the Area Committee frequently throughout the panel. One of my primary responsibilities is to prepare and attend then to report back to you about the proceedings of the General Service Conference. I will also pass along important information from the General Service Office and General Service Board, as well as communications from our Northeast Regional Trustee. Your DCM will likely be your main conduit for communications, but you can also sign up to receive this newsletter and other email blasts from the Area, if you'd like. Please visit the Member Services page of our website to do so.

At the November Board weekend, the General Service Board reviewed, discussed, and approved a recommendation from the trustees' General Service Conference committee, with 100% unanimity, that the 71st General Service Conference be conducted April 18-24, 2021 via remote meeting technology. With the Conference on the horizon, you'll be hearing from me often, and I hope to see you all at the Pre-Conference Sharing Session on March 28!

Thank you again for electing me your Delegate. I look forward to serving alongside you! If you are interested in volunteering for service, please reach out to me, and I'll find a job for you. We're in this together!

Caroline N.

Area 59 Panel 71 Delegate

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Service is A Key

By: J.Gary L.

I am sure that most of you have seen those buttons that say, “*Service Is the Key*”. I would be the first to endorse the sentiment that Service is important, and recognize that for many folks, their program would be incomplete without it. But I would also be the first to caution that Service – as important as it has been to my recovery and as vital as it is to the survival of the Fellowship – is not *the* one and only key to success in Alcoholics Anonymous. And it certainly is not a guarantee against a relapse.

Mathematicians talk about “necessary but not sufficient” conditions for something to happen or be true. For example, having gas in your car is a necessary but not sufficient condition for you to be able to drive it. It is certainly necessary; if you are out of gas, you are not going anywhere. But just because there is gas in the tank, you still need a functioning electrical system, air in the tires, a carburetor, spark plugs, battery, etc. So, gas may be necessary, but gas alone is not sufficient. You need all that other stuff as well.

In the same way, Service is a “necessary but not sufficient” condition for a well-balanced program. You cannot make it on Service alone, but without Service in your life, you are trying to sit on a two-legged stool. We have Three Legacies in Alcoholics Anonymous: Recovery, Unity, and Service. You can see them represented as the equal sides of the triangle in our Circle & Triangle logo. One of Area 59’s Past Delegates, Marcia G., gave a wonderful presentation at NERAASA some years ago entitled “*What Shape Is Your Triangle?*” The theme, of course, was that your engagement relative to the Three Legacies should be reasonably balanced in order to achieve a rich and rewarding program. That is why the Triangle is equilateral – three equal sides.

I have personal experience with this idea of balance. I was elected to my first Area 59 office – Area Treasurer – in Panel 49. At the first meeting of the Area officers, the newly elected Delegate (Gary C.) cautioned us that while Service at the Area level will be demanding and time consuming, we should not neglect our grass-roots recovery meetings or our working of the basic program. Since good advice (at least for me) has always been for other people, I allowed my “regular” meetings to slide.

After all, I was significantly engaged in Service work, and there were just so many hours in the day. I can sum up the consequences of having neglected the Delegate's sound advice by quoting my wife a couple of months into the Panel: "Just what *exactly* is wrong with you?" What was wrong with me – and blatantly obvious to even the most casual observer – was that I had permitted my Triangle to become seriously distorted. I had used Service as a substitute for Recovery.

I said earlier that Service was not a guarantee against a relapse. I offer as a tragic example of that thought the case of a Delegate from our Region who, shortly following rotation, went out and ultimately took his own life. I am in no position to comment fully on the circumstances that led to that tragedy, but I do remember the reaction of many of the people who received the news: "But he had been a Delegate!" As though Service at that level should have guaranteed immunity from this terrible disease.

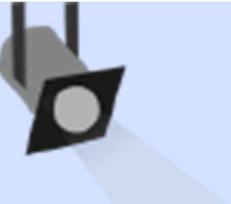
You may have noticed that I have talked mostly about Recovery vs. Service, and not much about Unity. That will have to be a discussion for another day. Suffice it to say that if we do not also give ample attention to our Legacy of Unity, in time, there will be no A.A. within which to recover or give Service.

So, I leave you to ponder the thought that Service – while vitally important to a well-rounded program and to the health of the Fellowship – is only one of three keys. And I ask you to think about the question, "What shape is your triangle?"

J. Gary L.

Past Delegate Panel 55

Past Northeast Regional Trustee



Spotlight on District 47

District 47 is an active district located in Upper Bucks County, Pennsylvania. District 47 is in Southeastern Pennsylvania, approximately 25-30 miles northwest of Philadelphia. This territory includes Sellersville, Perkasie, Point Pleasant, Upper Tinicum, and Montgomeryville. The district is made up of 43 home groups with 54 meetings weekly- an average of eight meetings are available daily. District 47 is part of SEPIA (South Eastern Pennsylvania Intergroup). The oldest meeting in the district is the Sellersville Group. The group was formed 19 May 1949, with their first GSR in 1950 and ten group members at the time.

According to district archives, District 47 was formed in 1981. Previously, the meetings and area were part of District 37. In 1982, the first District 47 DCM, Ray V, was elected. Since that time, there have been numerous willing trusted servants filling the district officer positions. District 47's district officers include a DCM, an ADCM, an OAL, a secretary, and a treasurer. District meetings are held monthly to discuss the business within the district, Area 59 and Alcoholic Anonymous to the groups. Initially, District meetings were held at St Michael's Church in Sellersville on the third Monday of the month. In 2019, the district meeting was moved to St Paul's UCC in Sellersville on the second Wednesday of the month. Due to COVID, the district meeting has been held on Zoom for most of 2020!

District 47 has a variety of subcommittees- Grapevine, Archives, Workshop, Literature, PI, Accessibilities, Finance, Structure and Institutions. The district maintains a hotline through a local answering service to help with twelve step call work. The average of calls per month averages about 40. Groups in District 47 share commitments to local institutions, bringing 4 meetings a week to two different facilities. The workshop subcommittee hosts a workshop each panel with varying themes for members of District 47 and beyond. Most recently, this panel put together an excellent workshop with participation from the Grapevine Subcommittee. District 47 also has had a meticulously maintained website, with thanks to some talented past and present trusted servants. In 2018, BUCKYPAA (Bucks County Bid Committee for PENNSCYPAA) was formed. Young and young at heart members in District 47 are part of this committee, as well as the other AA Districts that encompass Bucks County.

A few of the meetings in the district will meet outside in warmer weather, even prior to COVID. These groups include Feet First, A New Dawn, and Burning Desire Bonfire Meeting. District 47 does not have any clubhouses within its membership. Historically, District 47 has had very well attended fellowship picnics. Other past events in the district have included Founder's Day Bus Trips, Bus Trips to GSO, a New Year's Pork Meal, ODAAT's Thanksgiving Alcathon and Feels Like Home's Christmas Alcathon.

“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

AA in a Time of Change 2021 GSC Theme

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