

**Area 59 Quarterly Area Meeting
March 14, 2021 2nd Qtr. Meeting Panel 71
Virtual Platform**

Chairperson, Curt C. opened the meeting with a Moment of Silence for Reflection, the Declaration of Unity followed by a reading from Area 59 Structure Manual Page 1; followed by housekeeping rules.

Acknowledged Guests – thank you to all Past Delegates in attendance, as well as our Appointed Servants. Special thanks to our Virtual Assistance Team who make this all happen: Fred S, Hugh H, Nick P, Ira M & Michael S. In addition to, our Spanish interpreter Evelyn D.

Traditions and Concepts – DCM Volunteers were asked to present readings on Traditions 1 thru 3. Tradition 1 - Melissa A D37; Tradition 2 – Vicki L. D27, and Tradition 3 – Judy D58. Next Area Meeting DCM Volunteers – Tradition 4 – Claire D44, Tradition 5 – Ian D61, and Tradition 6 Alena – D22.

Roll Call - Area Secretary conducted the roll call with 6 Officers present and 44 Districts represented for a total of 50 voting members. Any Summaries, please send emails to Area Secretary with your announcements. Any Actions with issues will be covered. Previous Quarterly Minutes were approved with 2 corrections by the floor with unanimous consent.

Archivist Comments – Donald H. – Presented a nine minute video on how Area 59 came to the General Service Conference. The Archivist also, wanted response to forms on how Covid and the Pandemic effected your meeting, and updated History of your groups.

Convention Report – Steve O. – Held two meeting since the beginning of the Panel. The committee would like to welcome three (3) past DCM along with The Delegate which makes 11 members of the convention committee. They hope to provide an in-person event this year subject to CDC guidelines with the hotel, in addition to, making plans for a virtual convention if necessary. Their finances are in good shape. Members of the committee have renegotiated some terms of the contract with the hotel that will reduce expenses. The convention committee is happy to come to your Districts to speak about the event; also, thank you for the invitation we have already received.

Officers Reports:

Officer-At-Large Report - Alicia S. – Happy to report that Fellowship Connection, GSO NetSuite database is now available to all DCMs with “read only” access; you should have received an email as to how to access the database. If you have not received an email, please contact Officer-at-large and I will make GSO aware. I have noticed that the database is not 100% totally accurate; however, we will continue to work together on correcting migration issues. Please access our website [www.area59aa.org/service resources](http://www.area59aa.org/service_resources). Currently there are 1,659 active groups in Area 59, with 83 unknown groups listed which is a little concerning due to having no GSR or no contact person listed.

We have met with DCMs in planning the mini assemblies. The mini assemblies will be a little different the year due to the pandemic. We are hoping this year to make it a little fun with skits, plus it is a great way to network with one another.

I also had the privilege of attending the Registrars Round Table at NERAASA this year, which was very informative to me.

Treasurer – Dan B. – The first quarter I focused on ensuring everything being in order operationally. The transition from the previous treasurer was not painful due to things being set up in advance. So far I have obtained access to the area bank accounts, upgrading our accounting software becoming familiar with it being information on other areas accounts, linking all your expenses to an area debit card, as well as setting up billing emails go to the Treasurer account. Also, extended the Area Storage Unit for six months; confirmed the Area's Liability Insurance dates, and verified the due dates for the tax filing.

I was contacted in reference to financial information about Area 59 finances, which are transparent and available to member's questions; so feel free to contact the Area Treasurer about finances in general. Collaborated with the finance subcommittee on the Area budget.

The Area finances are in really good shape, with the ample amount in our Prudent Reserve, in line with our Structure Manual. The Area's excess operational funds need to be addressed at some point, as to how to handle the excess with some sort of plan for the usage of the funds. The Area Officers have discussed this topic, with possibly purchases of technology upgrades of hardware or software, laptops or the re-designing of the Area 59 Website to name a few. DCMs please feel free to take this topic back to your groups for discussion and contact us with your ideas. In addition, DCMs should look forward to receiving an email with your District's contribution for the quarter from the Area Treasurer. Please remember the Area does accept "online contributions" thru PayPal; go to www.area59aa.org/contributions. We are also currently working on re-occurring contributions.

Secretary's Report – Susan M. - When you send your reports, please send your District minutes or reports to each of the Area Officers, and the Area Archivist, via email. These minutes are a vital way for the Officers to keep up with what's happening in your District. I have also emailed the Area Roster with corrections & updates that I was given, to all listed on the roster.

If you have any summaries, which are the announcements, please send them to the Area Secretary. Actually you can go to Area 59 website www.area59aa.org/calendar request link where you may submit your event request for what you Districts is doing; workshops or whatever. We will post them on our website once we get your information and scrub it for any anonymity breaks. DCM reports can also be submitted online <https://area59aa.org/service-resources/> DCM Reports. Remember the Area does have a lending library, just let me know if you would like to borrow one of the CDs.

The Area secretary is the liaison to the PA State Convention, which will be held virtual this year, is August 6 & 7th 2021. The Committee is looking for volunteers and they can be contacted on their site www.aapastateconvention.com.

Chairperson's – Curt C – All Area events will be virtual, including June's Quarterly Meeting. Also, if any DCM would like printed copies of various reports, please let me know well in advance to the Quarterly meeting. In reference to the non-alcoholic guest observer for the EPGSA convention in November, nominations are to be submitted by the next Quarterly Meeting to be voted on by the floor. Scheduled for today's meeting are the Finance Subcommittee motions in addition to, the Delegate's Recommendations motions. Anything else please feel free to contact me chairperson@area59aa.org.

Alt-Delegate's Report – Pete B. – The DCM Orientation is on the website with an alternate approach of pre-recorded presentations that can be watched at your leisure. Thanks to all who submitted presentations; just added BTG presentation, so please check it out. Digital DCM kits with workbooks are also available on the website under the Literature Tab. We received 26 questions thru the website Q & A form; glad members are using it as it was intended to be use.

As liaison to our intergroup, the Alt-Delegate co-planned & co-hosted Share-a-Day with Sepia. Thank you to all members, volunteers and committees who assisted in that well attended event.

Also, liaison for Spanish Convention, District 68; which will be a 4-hour, 4-speaker virtual event, to be held May 16th. As YPAA liaison for Area 59, there is monthly meeting, hosted by the Advisory Council. The first Monday of the month. Everyone is invited to attend, more information is available at <http://www.pennscypaa.org>. This year's PENNSCYPAA will be **in-person** and held at Spooky Nook, Manheim, on August 20th – 22nd. The 62nd ICYPAA will be held in New Orleans LA, August 26th – 29th. Beginning to communicate with YPAAs around Area 59 to explore interest a Share-a-Day.

Attended NERAASA and wanted to thanks the Groups in Area 59 for supporting my attendance. I have been invited by our NE Regional Trustee to serve on the NERAASA Inventory, which is exciting. Committee. I also, do attend regular bi-weekly meetings with NE Regional Alt-Delegates, and monthly meeting with NE Regional Delegates, in addition to the North American Alt-Delegates monthly meeting; and I am learning a lot from the shared experiences. I will be sending out postcards for members to mail in & encourage our Delegate, Caroline while attending the General Service Conference.

Delegate Report – Caroline N. – We have been really busy since the start of Panel 71. As liaison to the General Service Structure, I have attached in my report the 2020 unaudited Financial updates, as the General Service Board is currently going through the auditing process. Last year's contribution to the GS Board reached an all-time high of over \$10 million dollars, of which 21% was online contributions. The primary source of that revenue was literature sales and contributions, due to how the Fellowship responded to the call in the past year to support GSO efforts. The majority of GSO's expenses were paid out in payroll and benefits to our paid servants and staff. Since the 2020 International Detroit Convention was cancelled, the GS Board received \$1.2 million from events amended insurance settlement; it was not yet decided what to do with those funds.

The General Service Conference takes place April 18th – 24th; in addition, all Delegates are assigned to a Conference Committee. I serve on the Policy and Admissions and International Conventions Regional Forums Committees. I have met with those committees several times.

The entire Conference has now been given the opportunity to vote on Conference business using the polling system that Conference Members use in between the Annual Meeting. A recommendation was made to invite the General Secretary of India's Conference Structure to observe this year's conference, which passed unanimously out of Caroline's committee and forwarded to the full conference for a vote, which also passed. There was also a vote to invite the appointed committee members from Trustees Committees attend the GSC this current year, on a trial basis as non-conference members so they can share points of information. This also came out of my committee with substantial unanimity.

My major focus is to prepare, and read the background information. This year we have approx. 1,370 pages of background material to review. All of you are invited and encouraged to attend the March 28th pre-conference sharing session. Please continue to announce that the agenda items and background information are available with your members. And please prepare for the event. It's always a more robust discussion, if you have prepared and taking the time to read the background information, assigned to your subcommittee in advance. I've selected 22 items; 2 per subcommittee and to be discussed in the morning, as well as 5 additional items from my two conference committees if time permits. Our Google drive has this information both in English and Spanish. The Delegate will be presenting to members at the Mini Assemblies her report from the Conference (May 23rd & June 12th).

The Area Web Servant, Greg is stepping down due to health reasons. Greg has had that commitment since 1995 and we thank him for his dedication & service. Until we appoint and fulfil that commitment, Fred, Hugh & Ira will be covering web duties in the interim.

The Structure Committee will research on how to involve Past Delegates in service that relocate to a new area. Caroline would like the structure committee to do some research and report their findings to us so that we can better understand how other areas do this and their practices or in their service structure.

The first virtual NERASAA had 1,649 registrations. We don't have a number for the gallons of coffee consumed; however it was a great turnout. Caroline participated in the Delegate's round tables and the flag ceremony; as well as attending other sessions during the weekend. The next NERESAA 2022 will be February 25th – 27th in Pittsburgh PA. Area 59 will host this event in 2024 at Hershey Lodge.

Sub-Committee Reports – (in alphabetical order)

Archives – Anton – Due to Covid, we can't meet inside the facility to do the work of scanning or sorting, however we are moving along. We have met several times and have also done a virtual GSO meeting in New York which was very informative.

CPC – Tim S. - I'd like to thank the CPC panel members. So far, we have met virtually and appointed a secretary. We have decided to have monthly meetings to review the Delegate's Recommendations. We are planning on having virtual presentations; one workshop for Members and one designated for the Professional Community. Panel 69 passed down some fantastic PowerPoints that we will utilize. We have also split the Area coverage into zones that each subcommittee members will cover; and will be contacting DCMS to see if they will have a need for a CPC presentation in their District. We have set up Google Drive folders to house our information & members will have access with "read or write" permission to share.

Corrections – Melissa – We have met a couple of times and have had an orientation with Ralph O – BTG, Treatment & Accessibilities; as this was one of our Delegate's Recommendations. Sad to say, a couple of our members have "Ghosted" the committee; however, the committee will keep it moving. We have a volunteer to act as a temporary secretary. We also have created our budget by adding a 10% increase from previous years. If anybody is having an upcoming workshops & would like corrections to do a presentation, please let us know.

Finance – Tara – Finance subcommittee gave a PowerPoint Presentation on the budget, in addition to, using the Area Budget as a guideline tool to see what revenues are coming in and what expenses are going out. Finance looked at last's year's & prior years budgeted amounts; also how the pandemic effected their decision making process. They also did a budget analysis to review the trends. There are so many unknowns whether in-person or virtual events that causes the amounts to fluctuate, therefore they use best estimates in this process. The Area does have an excess of funds currently in their accounts.

2021 Budget Motions (voted on after budget presentation):

Both motions were voted on and passed unanimously by the Finance Subcommittee to bring to the entire Area Floor.

Motion was made to accept the budget as proposed & presented by the finance committee, also to include the amendment sent out by email the morning of the Area Quarterly Meeting. (The amount for the costs of the virtual Mini Events at \$450 per Assembly and the Digital Communication Committee expense was budgeted at \$2,500 is increased to \$4,800.)

Motion one was seconded and voted on by the floor to accept the budget as presented; with 50 in favor and zero opposed.

1. Motion was made Area 59 contribute \$400 to the General Service Office in addition to the Delegate's minimum General Service Conference fee of \$1,800. (The fully incurred cost for a Delegate to attend the 2021 GSC will be \$2,200, with a minimum fee of \$1,800. The additional \$400 is to cover the balance of the full cost, a long-standing practice of Area 59 that demonstrates the Area's commitment to honor the 7th Tradition of self-support)

Motion two was voted on by the Area floor to contribute the \$400 to GSO; with 50 in favor and zero opposed.

Grapevine – Vicki – Thank you to all the Grapevine subcommittee members. We have had several meetings to cover the delegate's recommendation for this committee. The committee is in the process of creating new display shades both in English and in Spanish for when we begin in-person workshops & virtual presentations. We are also creating a master database list for the Grapevine and LaVina Reps in the Area. We will be completing the Grapevine Project from Panel 69 and will be disbursing the "Carry the Message" Subscriptions to various members, Districts & Area Events to use the certificate as they choose. We also have a Google Drive for members to share information & materials. Chair, Vicki also participated in a virtual workshop in Area 16, which is located in Georgia and was very informative. In addition, Area 48 host monthly Grapevine reading and discussion groups.

The Grapevine subcommittee is trying to locate two prior raffle winners who never claimed their prize; Peggy? And Abby from District 26.

Public Information Matt – Thanks to my subcommittee members for their service; and we meet virtually monthly. The PI Subcommittee has voted on a secretary; Candy S from D25 and we are becoming acquainted with each other. We have reviewed the Delegate's Recommendations, and we have split the Area coverage between members. The PI subcommittee submitted our budget to the Finance subcommittee. Our PI inventory will be held virtually on September 18th @ 9 am; we have invited the Past PI Chair, Mike L to conduct the inventory. We are also working on getting the PI digital displays completed; also, we are trying to put audio to our digital displays. If any Districts would like the PI subcommittee to give a presentation, please let us know.

Structure – Bart – Thanks for the opportunity to serve and welcome the structure team members. We have elected Julie D26 as our secretary, and we are working on the delegate's recommendations. We have held virtual meetings & phone calls to introduce subcommittee team members to each other. Each of us agreed on Area coverages to be able to attend events as needed. Held a discussion on getting information from previous subcommittee members; materials, display screens, etc. Currently we are working thru the framework of distributing the 2021 Structure Manuals, in hard & digital copies.

We are also researching an inquiry of a Past Delegate who served in Northern New Jersey and how this Delegate can be of service to others in Area 59. We will be contacting Past Delegates and a few different Areas for feedback in our research; keeping in mind that this might change the Convention Committee Charter.

Treatment/Accessibilities – Steve – Thank you for the opportunity to serve, and thanks to the T/A team members. Taking in consideration the Delegate’s Recommendations for our Subcommittee, we began our focus on Bridging the Gap related item from the prior Panels. Our Committee has met several times via Zoom, communicated by email and phone. We met with the Corrections Subcommittee and the Bridging the Gap Coordinator and plan on working together in the near future. We have received digital BTG workbooks to familiarize ourselves with the expectations of the BTG program. T/A subcommittee will collaborate with BTG and Corrections Committee for a combined Workshop in May 2021; this will be to inform Districts and Intergroups how to participate in Twelve Step work of our committees. Today the BTG Coordinator has prepared a brief slideshow to inform members about the BTG program.

Ad-Hoc Committees Reports:

Digital Communications Committee – Claire – The committee has been busy learning the MailChimp program, which is how the “WE” Newsletter and the Area eBlast are sent out. There are 1,709 recipients at the present time; you do need to opt-in this program. Member services on the Area website and submit your email to enroll.

Literature Committee – Katie - A special thanks to ADCM’s serving on the Literature subcommittee. The Literature committee have met several times & we have elected our Secretary and a Graphic formatting member. The committee sent out the “WE” newsletter and are planning to reach out to all the other committees to have them submit an article describing what they do. We are reviewing the Delegate’s Recommendations and are planning a workshop to be held in the future.

Technology Committee – Chris – We have met several times and have elected our secretary for the tech committee. We are researching other Areas & Intergroups websites as we are getting ideas for Area 59 website upgrades. Technology Subcommittee presentation is in the works both virtual and in-person in the future. We are researching email addresses for each DCM using a standardized naming system thru the Area’s Google account in collaboration with the Digital Communications Committee.

Recommendations 25 –31 are being presented for approval of the Area Committee

General Recommendations of the Delegate for Panel 71:

The Delegate respectfully recommends that EPGSA:

25. Fund the Area Officers, Web Servant, Assistant Web Servant, Archivist, Assistant Archivist, and Tech Servant to attend the annual EPGSA Convention each year.
26. Continue to fund the Delegate, or designated Area Officer, to attend the PA State Convention each year of the Panel. (See also Delegate’s Recommendation 17.)
27. Continue to fund the Delegate, or designated Area Officer, and the Area YPAA Liaison to attend PENNSCYPAA each year of the Panel.
28. Fund the Archivist and the Assistant Archivist to attend the National A.A. Archives Workshop (NAAAW) each year of the Panel.
29. Fund the Web Servant, the Assistant Web Servant, and the Tech Servant to attend the National A.A. Technology Workshop (NAATW) each year of the Panel.
30. Continue to fund a member of Eastern PA to the National Corrections Conference each year of the Panel. In the case that an Area Corrections subcommittee member cannot attend (possibly due to conflict with EPGSA Convention) the Delegate will select a member with solid Corrections service experience to attend and report back to the Area Committee.
31. Support the formation of a NERAASA 2024 Host Committee, with elections to be held in the first quarter of 2022. (NERAASA 2024 will be held at the Hershey Lodge in Hershey, PA, February 22-25, 2024.)

The vote was to adopt Delegate’s recommendations 25 – 31 by unanimous consent - 100%.

Motion was then made to adjourn the meeting – **We Closed with Responsibility Pledge**



Area 59

EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA
GENERAL SERVICE ASSEMBLY
WWW.AREA59AA.ORG

Area Officers	District	DCM/ADCM Other Position	Guests	Summaries - Announcements	Actions - Questions	District	DCM/ADCM Other Position	Guests	Summaries - Announcements	Actions - Questions
(Officers All Present)	21	1				45	1			
Officer-at-Large	22	1		1		46	1		1	
Alicia	23	1				47	1	2		
	24	1				48	1			
	25	1	1			49	1			
Treasurer	26	1	2			50	absent			
Dan	27	1	3			51	1	1		
	28	1	1			52	absent			
	29	1				53	absent			
Secretary	30	1	1		2	54		1		
Susan	31	1	2			55	1			
	32	1	1	1		56	1	1		
	33	1				57	1			
Chairperson	34	1				58	1			1
Curt	35	1	1			59	1	2		
	36	1	1			60	1			
	37	1				61	1			
Alt-Delegate	38	1				62	1	1		
Pete	39	1	1			63	1		1	
	40	absent				64	1	1		
	41	1				65	1			
Delegate	42	1				66	1	2		
Caroline	43	1	1			67	1			
	44	1				68	1			