



Delegate Report
E.P.G.S.A. Area 59 Panel 71
September 12, 2021
Area Quarterly Meeting, 4Q21 (Duboisstown, PA)

Panel 71 is meeting in person today for the first time. The last in-person quarterly meeting was in March 2020, less than two weeks before Pennsylvania's "Stay at Home" order went into effect at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. So much has happened in the 18 months since, in Alcoholics Anonymous and around the world. I am grateful that our meeting today can be held in accordance with local, state, and CDC guidelines. I hope that we will stay safe and begin to reverse some of the apathy and isolation we've experienced.

At our June 2021 quarterly meeting, I made a motion to resume Area meetings and events in person beginning with today's quarterly meeting as long as all safety and health requirements are met. The motion was seconded and 88.9% voted in favor (40 yes, 5 no). Despite our group conscience, there has been vocal opposition to that decision in recent weeks, which leads me to request that the Structure Subcommittee please work to develop a process for polling Area Committee members in between quarterly meetings, and please bring a progress report or a recommendation to the December quarterly meeting.

September 15, 2021 Deadline for Proposed Agenda Items

- The deadline to submit proposed agenda items for the 72nd General Service Conference in 2022 is **September 15, 2021** (the annual deadline was formerly December 15).
- The new standardized Proposed Agenda Item Submission Form, which I have emailed to those on our Area roster, is to be completed for all proposed agenda items.
- All submissions must be sent to conference@aa.org by the deadline; anything received after September 15 will be forwarded to the 73rd General Service Conference in 2023.

Digital Final Report of the 71st General Service Conference

- The anonymity-protected, digital versions of the 71st General Service Conference Final Reports are available in English and Spanish on the Area's website, www.area59aa.org.
- Delivery of the print versions is delayed, but I ordered copies in English and Spanish for our Area and will distribute them at either the October Area Inventory or EPGSA in November, depending on when they arrive.

Preparations for 2021 EPGSA Convention, November 12-14, 2021

- The Delegate is responsible for the program, and it's a work in progress.
 - I have enclosed a draft copy of the program behind this report.
 - While this is not an election year, we ask that all DCMs and GSRs be seated in the Assembly by 8:45 a.m. sharp on Saturday morning, November 13; please communicate this request at your district meetings and encourage prompt arrivals to the Showroom.
 - All DCMs will participate in the scheduled subcommittee workshops on Saturday afternoon; please continue to work together in your subcommittee to develop these and remember it is always helpful to have an outline or a script to help you present.

- Please talk with your subcommittee chairperson or officer advisor if you have any questions.
- Annual reports:
 - All officers and subcommittee chairpersons, please send me your annual reports in English and Spanish by **October 31, 2021**.
 - Your reports should be limited to one page in English and one page in Spanish as I will print double-sided.
 - The compilation of reports will be distributed during the Assembly and you will be expected to deliver the report at the microphone on Saturday morning.
- During the convention weekend, please take some time to welcome our Guest Observer Kevin Nichols (bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem, PA) and guest speakers, Steve S. (GSO Staff), Linda Chezem (Class A Trustee and General Service Board Chair), and John W. (Non-Trustee Director and Past Delegate, Area 49 Southeastern New York).

General Service Updates

- Please visit www.aa.org and click on the “What’s New” tab to read news and announcements from G.S.O. including open service positions.
 - The Board of AA Grapevine, Inc. announced that Chris C. has accepted the role of Publisher at AA Grapevine, Inc. effective August 15, 2021.
 - The Trustees’ Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities is seeking two consultants, one from the U.S. and one from Canada with relevant military experience to help fulfill the conference committee consideration as related to audio interviews with A.A. members who are in the Armed Forces. The consultant will serve on a specific project for a one-year term with the option to serve an additional year. The deadline is **September 15, 2021** to submit resumes to access@aa.org.
 - An opening is available for a G.S.O. Staff Member. Fluency in French and/or Spanish (written and verbal) is preferred. A minimum of six years sobriety is required. Applications are being reviewed on a rolling basis until **September 30, 2021**.
- The Group Services desk has received a high volume of communication regarding the 2021 Advisory Action pertaining to online groups. There are many concerns with the practicality of how listing will work both at the Office and locally with registrars. Group Services is part of the G.S.O. working group, which meets monthly and includes the Online Intergroup of A.A. <https://aa-intergroup.org>. Most of the established groups in OIAA that participate in the joint meeting prefer a “virtual area” or “virtual district” and feel constrained by the current Advisory Action. They also seem to feel that a virtual DCM and/or delegate vs. a brick-and-mortar representative may better understand them. Some OIAA members have never been to an in-person meeting. Other inputs are from HAM radio operators and “phone” groups.
- The General Service Board approved a transfer of \$250,000 to the Reserve Fund on August 2, 2021. Our prudent reserve ratio is now 8.57 months.
- Financial updates:
 - Literature sales: Gross literature sales for the first six months of 2021 were \$5,735,705 which is 65% of the 2021 budget of \$8,865,000. The increase was attributed primarily to safe reopening of Groups, Intergroups, and Central Offices.
 - Voluntary contributions: For the first six months of the year, 7th Tradition contributions were \$4,976,316, which is 51% of the 2021 budget of \$9,725,000. Remarkably, the Fellowship rally continues.
 - Operating expenses: For the period ending June 30, 2021, operating expenses were \$7,611,401 which is 53% of the budget amount of \$14,479,506.

NERAASA 2022, 2023, 2024

- Area 59 (Eastern Pennsylvania) will host **February 22–25, 2024** at the Hershey Lodge, and we will hold elections in the spring of 2022 (date and location TBD).
- As a reminder, the next NERAASA will be held February 25-27, 2022 in Pittsburgh, PA, hosted by Area 60 and Area 48 (Northeastern New York, formerly called Hudson, Mohawk, Berkshire) will host in Lake George, NY, in 2023.

International Convention: Vancouver, BC, Canada, July 3-6, 2025

- The Trustees' Committee on International Conventions & Regional Forums met with Talley Management at the July Board weekend to consider how best to create an engaging and accessible event. Discussion points included: collaborating with the Canadian government to facilitate border crossing, as well as evaluating the logistics associated with a hybrid component, including but not limited to the Flag Ceremony.

Service Activity Log

June 13	3Q21 June Area Quarterly Meeting
June 20	Monthly NERDs + Alternates + NERT Meeting
June 22	Speak at District 55 Monthly Meeting
July 7	Speak at District 67 Monthly Meeting
July 9	Policy/Admissions Chair and Trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference Chair Meeting prior to July Board weekend
July 18	Monthly NERDs + Alternates + NERT Meeting
July 28	Speak at District 32 Monthly Meeting
July 31	Speak at District 26 Workshop
August 1	Convention Committee Meeting
August 6	Pennsylvania State Convention
August 10	Speak at District 63 Monthly Meeting
August 12	Speak at District 66 Monthly Meeting
August 15	Monthly NERDs + Alternates + NERT Meeting
August 21	Speak at PENNSCYPAA
August 22	Pre-Area Officers Meeting
September 1	Speak at District 24 Monthly Meeting
September 2	Speak at District 61 Monthly Meeting
September 7	Speak at District 29 Monthly Meeting
September 9	Policy/Admissions Chair and Trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference Chair Meeting following the July Board weekend and August session of TCGSC

With gratitude,



Caroline N., Area 59 Panel 71 Delegate
Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions Chair
Conference Committee on International Conventions & Regional Forums Member
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