



**Delegate Report**  
**E.P.G.S.A. Area 59 Panel 71**  
**March 13, 2022**  
**Area Quarterly Meeting, 2Q22 (Leesport, PA)**

Greetings Area 59! It's been a busy few months since we met in December, with more and more A.A. gatherings returning in-person. These included our DCM Sharing Session (State College) in January, our annual Share-A-Day with SEPIA (Philadelphia) as well as NERAASA (Pittsburgh) in February, and NERD (Sturbridge, MA) in March. NERAASA had 717 attendees and NERD had 62 past and current delegates and alternates. Meanwhile, my Conference Committee meetings along with a number of other A.A. activities continue to take place on a virtual platform. As of February, on the first Sunday of each month, I am offering an hour-long virtual meeting (except for March when Pete thankfully stepped in) to share more about the Conference process and answer questions from DCMs and ADCMs in a casual forum. We're fortunate to have both in-person and virtual options available, as we (hopefully) emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic!

**January Board Weekend Summary**

- Conference Committee Chairs are invited to participate at the January General Service Board Weekend, then report back to their respective Conference Committee. As the Chair of the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions, I had the privilege of attending January 28-31.
- Beginning in the 1980s, this practice began, and in 1992 an Advisory Action was passed by the Conference to formally extend an annual invitation to the delegates who serve as Conference Committee Chairs (an Advisory Action is a recommendation or motion that is passed with substantial unanimity of 2/3 majority then ratified by the Board).
- The purpose of including the Committee Chairs is to inform us and expose us to Trustees, Non-Trustee Directors, Appointed Committee Members, and Staff from GSO and Grapevine. When we are at Conference and conducting committee business, we may need information from departments and various resources; thus, knowing these resources in advance is extremely helpful. We only get 8 days at Conference and while that may seem like a long time, it must be carried out very efficiently to get through all of the business of A.A. as a whole.
- I actively participated in the meeting of the Trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference, with a seat at the table and a voice in the proceedings, and attended the following meetings as an observer: Trustees' Committee on Literature, Trustees' Committee on International Conventions and Regional Forums, Trustees' Committee on Finance and Budgetary, and the General Service Board itself.
- As you may know, the Trustees' Committees take on the actual work of making Advisory Actions a reality throughout the year in between each annual General Service Conference. It was clear that everyone in attendance was passionate, dedicated, and knowledgeable, each bringing unique skills, experiences, and perspectives to the table to make business decisions for A.A. as a whole. The Trustees were loving, welcoming, inclusive, and generous with us delegate chairs, treated us equally, listened closely to our sharing, and ensured that we felt a sense of belonging.

**72nd General Service Conference (April 23-30, 2022) Preparation**

- The final list of Conference Agenda Items includes 82 items. You can find this list and associated background information on Google Drive, and you are invited to share your perspectives on the

Google Group (which currently has 136 members) and/or attend our annual Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session on March 19. DCMs, please share and reshare the links with your districts. Reminders are always helpful!

#### **Pre-Conference Sharing Session, March 19, 2022**

- We will have an opportunity to review 28 agenda items (selected by DCMs and others in attendance at the January 23 DCM Sharing Session) at our Pre-Conference Sharing Session hosted by District 44 at West Chester University.
- Please continue to announce the event, and prepare for by reading the background information assigned to your subcommittee.
- I appreciate your help informing me of our Area's conscience as I prepare for the Conference!

#### **Delegate's Conference Reports, May 22 and June 11, 2022**

- Please plan to attend one or both, and invite all members to come, as I'll be reporting on the outcomes of the 72nd General Service Conference.
- Thank you to our Officer-at-Large for leading the planning of these events.

#### **EPGSA Annual Assembly and Convention, November 11-13, 2022**

- As this is an election year, I ask that all DCMs and GSRs communicate the request to your districts and home groups to support your participation.
- Elections will be held for all six officer positions: Delegate, Alternate Delegate, Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Officer-at-Large. We will also select our candidate for Northeast Regional Trustee, if anyone is interested in standing. The Regional Trustee Resume Sheet is available and is due to the General Service Office by January 1, 2023, to be submitted by the Panel 73 Delegate. The actual election for our next Northeast Regional Trustee will take place at the 73rd General Service Conference in 2023.
- The Delegate is responsible for the EPGSA program, and it's a work in progress.
  - Bob W., GSO General Manager, has agreed to serve as our Election Chairperson. Michelle Mirza, GSO Archivist, will be one of our guest speakers, with additional speakers and presenters to be confirmed.
  - Subcommittees will prepare workshop presentations, and I'll be requesting your topics this summer.
- We will select a Guest Observer at our June quarterly meeting, so please consider your district's candidate.

#### **NERAASA 2022, 2023, 2024**

- NERAASA 2022 was held February 25-27, 2022 in Pittsburgh, PA, hosted by Area 60
  - 717 attendees
  - Per the business meeting: Motion to establish NERAASA Archivist, "The Northeast Regional Trustee create an ad hoc Archives committee to address specific needs, but not necessarily limited to organizing, maintaining, and selecting archival items to be included in the NERAASA archives, plus explore the value of creating the position of a Northeast Regional Archivist and the term and responsibilities of that position, including length of service and budget."
- NERAASA 2023 will be hosted by Area 48 in Albany, NY (the contract with Lake George fizzled out as a consequence of the pandemic).
- Area 59 (Eastern Pennsylvania) will host NERAASA 2024, **February 22–25, 2024**, in Hershey, PA. Our first planning meeting will be held on **May 7, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. at the Hershey Lodge**. Please take flyers back to your districts and groups, and help us make announcements.

## General Service Updates

- Alcoholics Anonymous has a new website as of December 20! Please visit [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org) to check it out, and you can click on Inside A.A. then select “What’s New” tab to read news and announcements from G.S.O.
- Applications are being sought for a G.S.O. Staff Member. G.S.O. Staff are members of A.A. who rotate through the various assignments such as Corrections, Public Information, Cooperation with the Professional Community, Literature, Conference, etc. Fluency in French and/or Spanish (written and verbal) is preferred. A minimum of six years sobriety is required. Applications are welcome up to April 30, 2022.
- As is customary this time of year, the annual audits of the General Service Board, Inc., A.A. Grapevine, Inc., and A.A. World Services, Inc. are currently in process. I am pleased to share the following update on 2021 with unaudited financial information:
  - 2021 voluntary contributions reached an all-time high of \$10,782,983, surpassing 2020’s record total of \$10,256,687.
  - Gross literature sales for 2021 were \$11,712,193, which amounts to \$2,550,785 more than last year.
  - Total operating expenses in 2021 were \$15,673,896 which was 99% of budget; of this total, payroll and benefits are \$9,289,184 (approximately 60%). We currently have 89 employees, down from 93 pre-pandemic.
  - As of December 31, 2021, our Reserve Fund balance approximates \$12,822,286 which represents 8.49 months of GSO + Grapevine expenses.
- International Convention 2025 (Vancouver, BC) planning is well underway. Items of interest include downtown hotels, RV sites, Airbnb, currency exchange, and issues with border crossings.

## Service Activity Log

December 12	1Q22 December Area Quarterly Meeting
December 19	Monthly NERDs + Alternates + NERT Meeting
January 3	Delegate Chairs Meeting
January 5	Policy/Admissions Conference Committee Meeting
January 16	Monthly NERDs + Alternates + NERT Meeting
January 17	District 56 Monthly Meeting
January 19	Meeting with Conference Buddy (Area 63 Panel 72 Delegate, South Dakota)
January 21	Delegate Chair Orientation
January 23	DCM Sharing Session
January 23	International Conventions & Regional Forums Meeting
January 25	Policy/Admissions Conference Committee Meeting
January 27	Digital Communications Ad Hoc Subcommittee Meeting
January 28-31	January General Service Board Weekend
February 6	Area 59 Delegate/DCMs/ADCMs Meeting
February 7	Policy/Admissions Conference Committee Meeting
February 8	GSC Delegates Introductions Meeting, Part 1
February 9	GSC Delegates Introductions Meeting, Part 2
February 10	Pre-Conference Sharing Session Planning Meeting
February 12	Conduct District 56 Inventory
February 15	Background material for 72nd General Service Conference received, create Google Drive
February 19	Create Google Group for sharing on agenda items
February 20	EPGSA + SEPIA Share-A-Day
February 20	Monthly NERDs + Alternates + NERT Meeting
February 21	Speak at District 56 Monthly Meeting

February 25	Pre-Area Officers Meeting
February 25-27	NERAASA (Pittsburgh, PA)
March 1	Speak at District 25 Monthly Meeting
March 5	Speak at District 51 Workshop
March 6	Monthly NERDs + Alternates + NERT Meeting
March 11-13	NERD (Sturbridge, MA)

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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