

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

9/4/2022

Newsletter Edition 4, Volume 3

For Subscriptions to our newsletter,
click or scan here:



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

From our Area 59 Secretary: Sue M.

Never say No to Service....

It has been a joy and an exciting learning experience to have been an Area 59 Officer for the past four years in my service journey. It has exposed me to a whole new level of service. The gratitude I feel is sometimes overwhelming for me.

I was told when I first started in the Program of Alcoholics Anonymous; that you never say "No" to any service you are asked to perform; because you can never repay all of the blessings this Program has given to you.

I remember when I was first introduced to the Program of Alcoholics Anonymous in 1987, sitting in the back of the meeting rooms feeling broken, hopeless and full of fear. I was told by "seasoned members" to move to the front of the room; and begin to get involved into the service part of the Program of Alcoholics Anonymous. Service will force you to get out of yourself and into helping something else greater than yourself. To this day my homegroup is The Tuesday Night Williamsport Group; where I

What's Happening at GSO?

News Release AA Grapevine Inc.

Added August 2022

AA Grapevine Inc., announces a Price Increase on books & other content-related items.

Learn more

here: www.aagrapevine.org/news-release

Update on Printing Delays and Backorders

Added August 2022

[Click here for an update on supply chain disruptions and their impacts on A.A.W.S. literature](#), as well as estimated in-stock dates for our most popular back-ordered items.

Call for Stories - "A.A. for the Older Alcoholic - Never Too Late"

Added August 2022

Please click the following highlighted link to read the [latest activity update from the Treatment and Accessibilities assignment](#).

began to get involved in service. I was asked to be a “greeter”; which I really didn’t like, because I didn’t like members hugging me. I was asked to make coffee; which I don’t drink. I was asked to be secretary & chair the meeting; I didn’t want to because I had a fear of speaking in front of people. I was asked to be treasurer; but I knew I had an issue with other people’s money. But I was always told.... never say No to a service commitment. So, I took suggestions and did what I was told to do. Service commitments have made me dependable and consistent in my recovery. Service commitments also have taken me out of my comfort zone, by not allowing the fear to overtake me when I am placed in front of people to speak. However, I still get the jitters sometimes. Service has provided me the opportunity to become the Treasurer and then the Secretary of Area 59. My service journey has taken me to conferences, conventions and due to the pandemic, to zoom meeting rooms around the world. Today, I have a Service Sponsor, who still pushes me to take service commitments when I don’t want to. I have a 12 step Sponsor, who I still meet with weekly to make sure, I am staying on the path. I have Sponsees who know I will add their names on any volunteer event or newcomer phone list before they even have a chance to sign up for themselves. I tell them like my Sponsor tells me, we need to stay in the middle of this thing so we don’t fall off the edge, as we navigate the service journey of sobriety and recovery.

So, remember when asked to do something that is service related...never say No to Service. It could be the most rewarding experience of your life; and as for me, I could never repay what the Program of Alcoholics Anonymous has given me; by not saying No to Service!

Yours in Service,

Susan Martin Area 59 Secretary Panel 71

From Laura R.

Box 4-5-9 Summer 2022

Added August 2022

[This issue](#) highlights Grapevine's podcast and a summary of the happenings at the 72nd General Service Conference, including advisory actions. Also featured: work begins on an updated pamphlet for African Americans in A.A.; FAQs on the 2025 International Convention; the Corrections Correspondence Service (CCS) in Canada; and the launch of two new PSAs.

2025 International Convention – Member Engagement Survey

Added August 2022

[Survey to help us to better plan for the International Convention](#)

Update: F.A.Q. - 2025 International Convention

Added July 2022

[Frequently Asked](#)

[Questions](#) about the 2025 International Convention & Travel to Canada

Updated 2023 General Service Conference (G.S.C.) Proposed Agenda Item (PAI) Submission Form

Added July 2022

[The 2023 form includes “return to” information and updates to references from The A.A. Service Manual. The annual deadline for](#)

Alcoholics Anonymous Area 59 Grapevine Sub-Committee

I am an alcoholic and my name is Laura R. It is my honor and privilege to serve as DCM of District 63 and to serve on the A.A. Area 59 Grapevine Sub-Committee. I serve with our Chairperson, Vicki L. (D27), and our other members, Karen O. (D47), Ascension L and Rosendo R. (D68), and our advisor, Sue (A59 Secretary) and Evelyn D (our A59 Language Interpreter).

This is my first experience serving on an Area Sub-Committee and I did not have any idea what to expect. I have had Grapevine subscriptions on and off during the course of my sobriety and have enjoyed some of the compilation books, but that was about it. I knew nothing about LaVina other than it existed. At one of the first meetings, I realized how little I knew about our meeting in print and how much could be done regarding outreach using the Grapevine. I had to catch up! Our chairperson gave me and the other members links to Grapevine resources. There is a wealth of information available at www.aagrapevine.org. It is just a starting point. From there I've found many ways to use our meeting in print to help the hand of A.A. always to be there.

As a member of the committee, we are all invited to attend events and workshops given by Area 59 and the Districts within Area 59. With each new experience in these events, I am given questions I don't know the answers to and I'm grateful to have the opportunity to learn more. Each time I can answer a question it is because I couldn't answer it at some time before. Thank God for service opportunities to reinforce to me that the learning never ends!

One of the experiences I've enjoyed the most is being part of a bi-lingual sub-committee. It makes me choose my words more carefully, helps me to be

[PAI submissions is September 15*](#)

Notice of a printing error in English-language editions of Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions

Added July 2022

Please see the attached ["Notice of a printing error in English-language editions of Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions."](#)

Pacific Regional Forum Flyer

Added July 2022

We hope you can join us for the upcoming Pacific Regional Forum! [Click this link to find the event Flyer.](#)

Press Release: July 2022

Added July 2022

[LGBTQ+ individuals find help and hope in Alcoholics Anonymous.](#)

mindful and gives me the gift of patience as I listen to Evelyn bridge the language barrier. It slows our meetings down to a pace where nothing is lost in translation! I've had the opportunity to learn more about LaVina because it is an equal partner in our meetings.

Our committee is launching a new outreach project this year. We will be making our Grapevine and LaVina compilation publications available to various organizations throughout Eastern Pennsylvania in hopes to reach alcoholics who have not yet found their way to our rooms. This literature campaign begins soon. Please contact us at grapevine@area59aa.org if you have an organization in your district that could benefit from receiving 3 Grapevine and 3 LaVina books!

From the Ad hoc Digital Communications Subcommittee

Our New Area 59 Website

Claire B., Chair

Ad hoc Digital Communications Subcommittee

"Therefore, nothing can matter more to the future welfare of AA than the manner in which we use this colossus of communication. Used unselfishly and well, the results can surpass our present imagination."

-- Bill W., The
Language of the Heart, p. 358.

The inaugural Ad hoc Digital Communications Subcommittee commenced with Panel 71, born from an emerging need to utilize electronic means to unify the Fellowship and facilitate the work of general service in eastern Pennsylvania. The committee

currently has 4 DCMs as voting members: Jonathan K. D34, Lauren R. D57, Joe L. D49, and Claire B. D44.

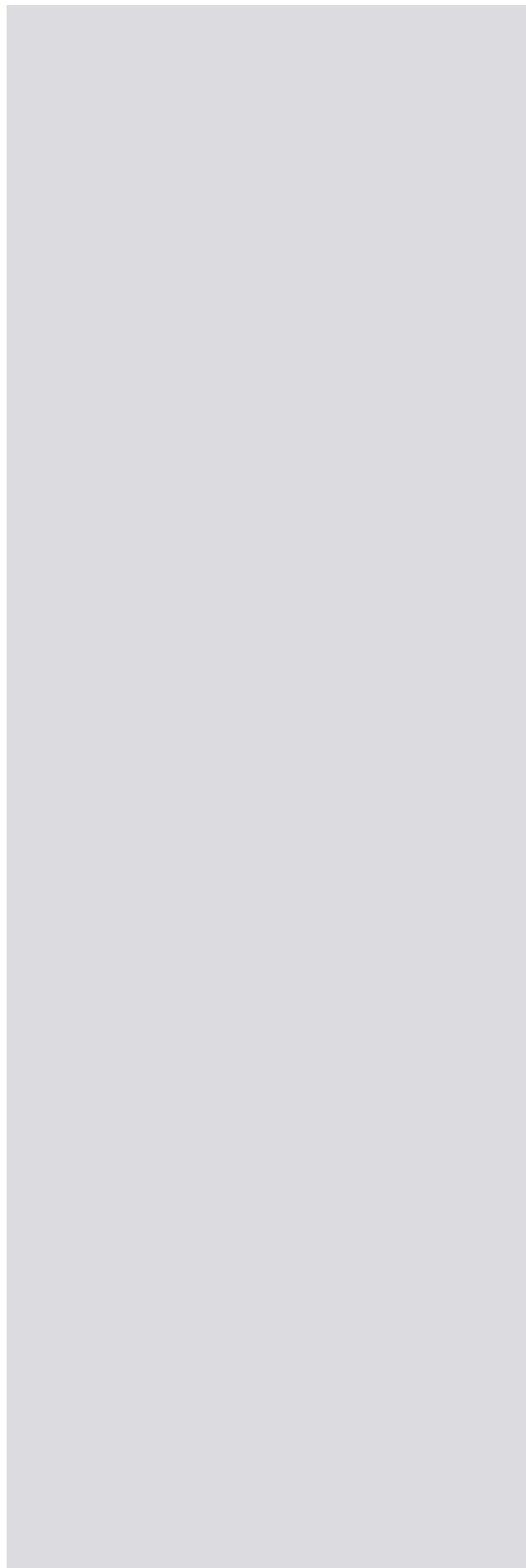
Our main goal for this panel was to redesign and oversee the Area website, area59aa.org. Early in 2021 we had the great fortune of enlisting two highly skilled colleagues and immediately set to work. Our new Web Servant, Scott F., is a professional web designer with previous experience creating the website for ABE Intergroup in Bethlehem, PA. Our new Assistant Web Servant, Lenny T., comes to us with expertise he gained managing District 25's website. The fact that we were joined by these proficient and motivated members means that we were able to custom-design, build, and maintain the website "in-house" without having to outsource any work.

We had some challenges ironing out exactly how to organize the tremendous amount of content in a way that would best serve our Area. Some of the website development meetings involved welcome input from the Technology Committee, and we were always superbly supported by us Tech Servant, Fred S., and our Area Advisor, Alicia S., who serves as Officer-at-Large. We do hope that we have made decisions which increase access to the information you seek. Our website remains a living organism in the sense that it is continually nurtured, enhanced, and improved. On a regular basis you will find fresh items and up-to-the-minute information, so visit often!

Some brief highlights:

- HOME. Here you will find a rotating main event or highlight along with 4 boxes that mimic info in the header bar. Bridging the Gap lives in the 5th box, and the 6th box previews the next main event or highlight. In this way we always have some fresh content for upcoming events, and we always have some content that remains constant and reliable.

- ABOUT AA. Although our website is primarily used to aid communication within the Fellowship, what if a newcomer lands on our page? We feel it is critical that we remain "the hand of AA." We provide



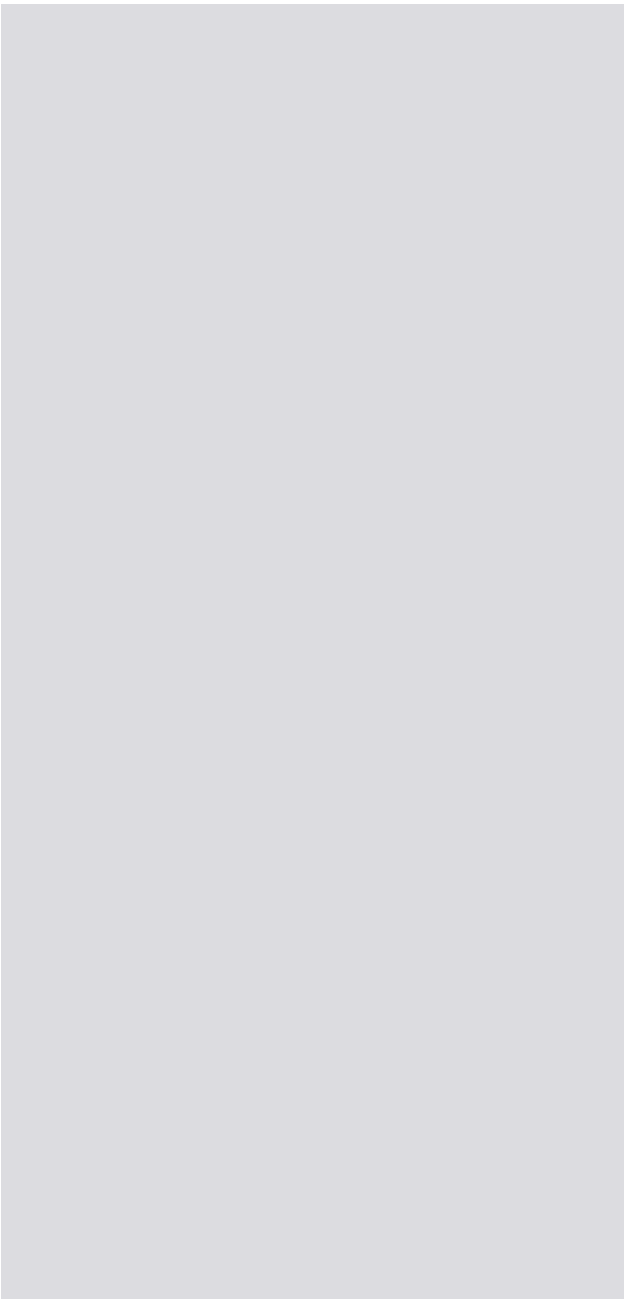
a “Need Help Now” button with links to our local hotlines and info at AA.org.

- **FIND A MEETING.** According to website user data that we continually monitor, the vast majority of traffic to our website is for meeting information. Our website’s listing of meetings are now the most complete it has ever been with 12 different Intergroups and Districts participating! This means that we now list all the meetings and groups in Area 59 with the exception of District 46, in which case we provide a link to their website. There has been a lot of activity on the “back end” as we sort out technical issues getting all of the meeting lists to feed properly into ours without errors. These feeds are regularly refreshed to be sure the most current, up-to-date meeting information is synched with our list.

- **CALENDAR.** Find out what’s happening and submit your event!

- **AREA 59 BUSINESS.** Everything you need is right here. We have newly enhanced forms, committee info and reports, contacts, service resources, district info, and so much more. Be sure to visit the Archives which lives in the “About Area 59” section!

The gratitude I feel for our committee members and special servants is enormous. Great thanks to our Area Officers for entrusting us with this important mission.



Area 59 Library Inventory:

NERAASA:

NERAASA 2001 – Hartford, CT. Cassette Tape 1

NERAASA 2002 – Pittsburgh, PA. Cassette Tape 1

NERAASA 2003 – Albany, NY. Cassette Tape 1

NERAASA 2004 – Nashua, NH. Cassette Tape 1

NERAASA 2005 – Newton, MA. Cassette Tape 1
NERAASA 2006 – Burlington, VT. CD 1
NERAASA 2007 - Hunt Valley, MD. CD 1
NERAASA 2009 – Portland, ME. CD 1
NERAASA 2010 - Niagara Falls, NY. CD 1
NERAASA 2011 – Tarrytown, NY. CD 1
NERAASA 2012 – Albany, NY. CD 1
NERAASA 2013 – Lancaster, PA. CD 2
NERAASA 2016 – Springfield, MA. CD 2
NERAASA 2017 – Framingham, MA. CD 1
NERAASA 2018 - Cromwell CT CD 1
NERAASA 2019 - Hunt Valley MD CD 1
NERAASA 2022 - Pittsburgh PA Thumb Drive 1

Spanish Inventory:

AA for the Alcoholic with Special Needs-Spanish: 2013 CD 1
Despertares Espirituales-Spiritual Awakening- Grapevine Stories-Volume II: 2008 CD 1
Doce Pasos Y Doce Tradiciones: 2006 CD 1
El Grupo Base: corazon de AA-Volume I & Volume II: 2010 CD 1
LA Historia de AA: 2007 CD 1
Las Doce Tradiciones-Volume 1: 2009 CD 1
Lo Mejor De Bill: 2012 CD 1
The History of La Vina-Volumes I+II+III (Set 3 CD): 2004 CD 1

All other Area 59 Inventory:

"Doors" HD PSA: 2015 DATA DVD2
12 Steps and 12 Traditions - (Braille): 2006 CD 1
12 Steps and 12 Traditions - American Sign Language: 2009 DVD 2
A New Freedom - French & Spanish Subtitles: 2016 DVD 2
AA Cooperation with the Professional Community: 2009 DVD 2
AA for the Alcoholic with Special Needs: 2013 CD 1

AA in Correctional Facilities: 2010 DVD 2

AA World Service - GSO Today: VHS 1

AA World Service - PSA Compilation Video - French-English Spanish: 2012 DVD 1

AA World Service - PSA Compilation Video - French-English Spanish: 2014 DVD 1

Alcoholics Anonymous - 3rd Edition of Big Book - American Sign Language: 2009 DVD 2

Alcoholics Anonymous - 4th Edition of Big Book: CD 1

Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age: 2008 CD 1

Bill Discusses the 12 Traditions: 2007 DVD 1

Carrying the Message Behind These Walls: 1998 DVD 2

Hope: Alcoholic Anonymous: 2009 DVD 2

It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell: 1987 DVD 2

Living Sober: 1998 CD 1

Marking on the Journey - GSO Achieves: 2014 DVD 3

Pioneers of AA - (very first stories): 1998 CD 1

Radio Public Service Announcement for Alcoholic Anonymous: 2009 CD 2

Southeast PA Intergroup Assoc - Ocean City NJ: 2001 Cassette Tapes 1

The Best of Bill: 2007 CD 1

The Big Book in Navajo: 2018 CD 1

The Home Group - Heartbeat of AA - Volume II: 2010 CD 1

Three Legacies by Bill: 2008 CD 1

Voices of our Co-Founders: 1963 CD 1

Young People and AA: VHS 2

Young People's Animation Video: 2010 DVD 5

Young People's Videos: 2009-2010 DVD 3

Young People's Videos: 2009 DVD 1

Your AA GSO The Grapevine & The General Service Structure: 1992 DVD 2

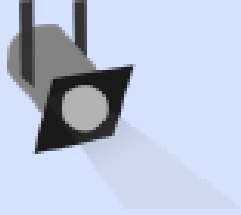
*If anyone is interested in any of the items above feel free to contact either our Literature and or Treatment and Accessibilities subcommittees.

literature@area59aa.org

tf@area59aa.org

Link to AA's online bookstore:

<https://onlineliterature.aa.org>



Spotlight on District 43

Greetings from District 43! We're somewhat on the outskirts of Area 59 so many people aren't very familiar with the happenings up here. We have a strong recovery community! Our members are enthusiastic about our recovery, welcoming new members into AA, and sharing the solution that we've found. We frequently attract students into the rooms as they grapple with their disease and determine if AA is right for them.

District 43 is located on the western edge of Area 59. The district serves Centre and Clinton Counties which encapsulate the area in and around State College, Bellefonte, Lock Haven, Penn's Valley, Howard and Renovo. Much of the district activity is centered in State College and Bellefonte. While the size of our district is large; the actual population is relatively sparse outside of the latter two towns. We have about 40 groups in the district that hold around 6 to 8 meetings daily. While meeting attendance fell during the height of the Covid pandemic, it has been slowly rebounding this year. Roughly 30% of our district's groups have a GSR representing them at our monthly district meetings. This percentage is currently at a low point – this can partially be attributed to Covid as the district meeting attendance has mirrored regular meeting attendance. At our district level we have several standing subcommittees doing service. These are Corrections, Archives, CPC, Structure, Visitation, PI, and Website. As previously mentioned, our lower than historical participation at district meetings has unfortunately left some vacancies on these committees.

Anyone familiar with District 43 knows about our quarterly Medallion Night. Every 3 months one of our local groups hosts a Friday night event dedicated to celebrating sober anniversaries. At Medallion Night, anyone that had an anniversary, (whether days, months, or years) in the prior 3 months, is invited to share on their recovery journey. It's our sober pep rally! We tally up all of the

anniversaries which often surpasses 400 years of sober time between all who shared.

The ins and outs of our district will likely sound familiar to anyone who has spent some time in AA. We are a microcosm of AA as a whole. We are regular people in a small community who have found a solution to their drinking problem. We are eager to share the common solution and the joy that it brings. If your travels happen to bring you up to the State College area, stop into a meeting and see us. You'll be sure to make some fast friends!

Andrew C. DCM D43

“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.A Comes of Age 2.0; Unified in Love and
Service

2022 G.S.C Theme

Graphic Formatting by Rob C.