



we newsletter

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Unity in A.A. – Why is it Important?

The meaning of unity in Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.) is the idea that the fellowship is open to anyone who has a desire to stop drinking, regardless of their history or background. Unity does not mean uniformity, but rather a common purpose of helping each other to achieve sobriety.

Unity is not based on any religious doctrine or dogma, but rather on a spiritual principle of finding a power greater than oneself that can help with recovery from alcoholism. This power can be anything that works for each individual, such as a God, nature, the fellowship itself, or any other concept that makes sense to them. As stated in the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*, “The central fact of our lives today is the absolute certainty that our Creator has entered into our hearts and lives in a way which is indeed miraculous. He has commenced to accomplish those things for us which we could never do by ourselves.”

Unity is also one of the Twelve Traditions of A.A., which are the guiding principles for how the fellowship operates and relates to the world. The First Tradition states:

“Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.”

This means that A.A. members should put aside their personal opinions and differences for the sake of preserving the unity of the group and the fellowship as a whole.

EPGSA (Eastern Pennsylvania General Service Assembly) participates with many other Service entities within our region to support and embrace A.A. unity. Along with annual Area 59/SEPIA (SouthEast Pennsylvania Intergroup Association) Share-a-Day event held early in the year, other workshop/events have included local service entities this year.

At a workshop held in Dallas, PA during this spring, District 40/NEPA AA (North East Pennsylvania Area Intergroup), aintergrouppnepa.org co-hosted “Spring into Service”, where District, Intergroup, and Area subcommittee members gave

presentations on numerous aspects of their A.A. service work. For me personally (Ted C, District 27 DCM (District Committee Member), Center City Philadelphia), it was nice to see what types of important service work done and types of committees NEPA AA has, being only familiar with SEPIA prior to this event. It was very impressive to see A.A. thriving in Northeast Pennsylvania thanks to NEPA AA and District 40.

For a recent Unity event held in Bucks County this past June, Alex N District 51 DCM and Area 59 Structure subcommittee chair writes:

“Tradition One: A spiritual principal of unity. A fellowship with a legacy of unity. This is the very essence of the Bucks Unity Event. General Service, Intergroup, and YPAA all have the primary purpose of carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. All legs of service have independently worked and executed their work well, but what if we all got together on a local level? What if we were able to bounce ideas off one another, to rely on the experience of past and present servants, to see what has proven effective and what has simply been a learning exercise?”

(continued on page 3)



You won't want to miss the

66th annual

**Eastern Pennsylvania General Service
Convention & Assembly**

Nov. 10–12, 2023

Wyndham Lancaster Resort & Convention Center

2300 Lincoln Highway East • Lancaster, PA 17602

Who attends the Convention/Assembly?

- All Area Officers, DCMs, GSRs, and interested A.A. members.
- The Home Group should financially support its GSR in attending the Convention/Assembly.

What happens in the Convention/Assembly?

- In even-numbered years we have elections for the Delegate and Area Officers.
- In odd-numbered years we gather for an Assembly where the Area Officers and Area Committees report on their work to the Assembly.
- Each year we have workshops, discussion panels and meetings where the voices of the entire area are shared, offering each of us a wider and varied experience of what we could get ourselves to do with the work of the 12th step and about service.

What can I get out of this experience?

- A renewed sense of purpose and energy to carry A.A.'s message.
- A greater understanding of the issues involved and solutions to the problems we face when we are trying to carry the message to suffering alcoholics.
- A sense of being a part of Area 59 and A.A. as a whole; sharing in the ongoing efforts to protect our Fellowship and carry our message.

What do I do afterwards?

- GSRs should consider giving a report to their group.
- Members can and should share their experience at meetings and among friends.

Why is it important?

- This is the only time each year when we gather, speak and vote as an Area. The Delegate may take this opportunity to seek guidance from the Assembly on matters concerning the Area or the Conference.
- At these Area gatherings we have a rare opportunity to share our concerns and solutions to problems we face in carrying A.A.'s message with a diverse group who can inform us of their experience.



**Scan to
register
online**



Area 59

**EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA
GENERAL SERVICE ASSEMBLY**

area59aa.org

Unity in A.A. *(continued)*



What if we collectively showed the newcomer that AA in Bucks County was a lot wider than they originally thought?"

Alex continues with: *"Having four general service districts active in Bucks County, a Bucks County Zone for SEPIA, and the Bucks County Host Committee for PENNSCYPAA 34, this was a perfect opportunity for unity. The perfect opportunity for cross pollination of service beyond the home group in our corner of the world. The perfect opportunity to discuss how we can create a three-pronged approach to a program with three legacies."*

In closing, Alex quotes:

"This we owe to AA's future; to place our common welfare first, to keep our fellowship united. For on AA unity depend our lives and the lives of those to come."

Unity in A.A. is a vital aspect of the program that helps members stay sober and support each other. It is based on mutual respect, tolerance, and love for all who suffer from alcoholism.



Volunteers are needed at EPGSA

We need your help to make this year's Eastern PA General Service Assembly a fun and rewarding time for all. Give us an hour of your time as a greeter, registration aid or hospitality helper. Be a vital part in our service assembly at the Lancaster Wyndham. Let us know if you are available Friday or Saturday, November 10 and 11 by contacting our Alternate Delegate at:



alt-delegate@area59aa.org

Officer Contacts

Delegate – Pete B.
delegate@area59aa.org

Alternate Delegate – Curt C.
alt-delegate@area59aa.org

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chairperson@area59aa.org

Officer at Large – Claire B.
officer-at-large@area59aa.org

Secretary – Dan B.
secretary@area59aa.org

Treasurer – Tara L.
treasurer@area59aa.org



NOMINATIONS

for EPGSA 2023 Convention
Guest Observer draw near . . .

EPGSA (Eastern Pennsylvania General Service Assembly) has a custom of hosting a non-alcoholic at our annual convention who has little familiarity with our Fellowship and, because of her/his professional duties, has the opportunity to come into contact with current or potential members of our Fellowship.

Our goal is to enhance their understanding of recovery from alcoholism in A.A. and to strengthen Area 59's ability to cooperate with the professional community in Eastern Pennsylvania.

Nominees are suggested to be from professions outside the addiction treatment or counseling field. For instance, past Guest Observers have included, College Professors, District Judges, Clergies, and Social Workers. The Area Committee pays the Guest Observer's and one of their guest's expenses for the EPGSA convention on November 10th through 12th 2023.

We are asking all interested members of Alcoholics Anonymous in Area 59/Eastern Pennsylvania to consult with your DCM (District Committee Member), GSR (General Service Representative), and group(s) for nominees as Guest Observer.

At the September 10, 2023 Quarterly Area Business Meeting, DCMs can put forth one nominee from your District (that your District agrees upon) for consideration by our entire Area Committee.

In order for your nominee to be considered, your DCM should bring 56 copies (English)/two copies (Spanish) of a brief resume, one for each DCM, Area Officer, Archivist & Interpreter. Each nominating DCM will get 2 minutes to present their candidate prior to the election. We will follow the Third Legacy Procedure for choosing the Guest Observer.

**If you have any questions or need guidance,
please contact the Area 59 Chairperson at:**
chairperson@area59aa.org

Time for a Little Bit of History



About the EPGSA Guest Observer

At the 2017 Area 59 Q2 meeting, Donald H, Area 59 Archivist, shared what he found in the Area 59 Archives regarding our EPGSA (Eastern Pennsylvania General Service Assembly) guest observer.

At this time the earliest written reference to the Guest Observer is found in the minutes from the quarterly meeting of the “State Committee” held December 12th 1976 at Chit Chat Farms. At that meeting the Convention Chair – Joe de B. “Joe said he’d like to see the number of guest observers reduced in the future” and goes on to explain why.”

In 1981, the last year before the “areas” were renumbered and became districts, there were 8 nominees. The 4 candidates who received votes were sent a letter to select an observer.

Since that time the number of candidates per panel has varied – as have their occupations. In 1987 there were 4 candidates – a Detox Doctor was selected. In 1996 there were 9 nominees – a judge was selected. In 1997 the selection came from the hat.

Our nominees have come from all professions: Parole Agents, Ministers and other clergy, Police Officers, Doctors and Nurses, High School Teachers, Magistrates and Judges, Family Service Directors, Detox Managers, Penitentiary Management, Human Resource Managers. In 1998 the Guest Observer was a radio talk show host!

The reactions of the Guest Observer deserve mention. At times they have been asked to say a few words at the Sat. night meeting. One law enforcement officer broke down when speaking at the podium. Another year a woman stood at the mike and said:

“When I arrived on Friday I was confident I knew all about AA. Ten minutes later my jaw was on the floor and I had realized I knew next to nothing about AA.”

The Guest Observer in 1986 wrote a short article for a newsletter in which he stated “They didn’t look like alcoholics”.

Over the years the majority of our Districts have put forward nominees and have played the host for guiding them through the weekend with many positive results.



Area 59 Subcommittee Spotlight:

Ad Hoc Digital Communications

Background

“An ad hoc Digital Communications subcommittee has been formed this panel (Panel 73) at the discretion of our current Delegate Pete B. As stated in the Eastern Pennsylvania General Service Assembly Structure Manual 2023 Edition, “The Area Committee may form “ad hoc” committees, responsible to the area, to address specific concerns on an as needed basis.”

Thus, Digital Communications has been tasked this panel to address any Area 59 needs that are website, technology or literature related. The Area 59 service structure allows for ad hoc committees to be comprised of both District Committee Members (DCMs) as well as Alternate District Committee Members (ADCMs), while all standing subcommittees are comprised of DCMs only.”

Overview

The Panel 73 ad hoc Digital Communications committee members include one DCM (Ted C, D27) and seven ADCMs (Victoria B, D27; Colleen M, D30; Steve P, D33; Jessica S, D51; Mark M, D57; Kim B, D62; Jim K, D67).

Responsibilities and duties of the Digital Communications committee include:



1. Maintenance and content of the Area 59 website area59aa.org, with the assistance of the Area 59 Webservant/Assistant Webservant.
2. Maintenance and support of the Area 59 G-Suite/email accounts, with the assistance of the Area 59 Techservant/Assistant Techservant.
3. Construction and publication of the Area 59 newsletter “We,” with a new look and feel!
4. Performing any other duties previously done by the ad hoc Literature and ad hoc Technology committees.

Special Literature Projects

One thing which occasionally comes up at Area events is the lack of the ad hoc Literature committee this panel. Because of this, all tangible functions done by ad hoc Literature in previous panels are now being done by ad hoc Digital Communications. Two examples of such functions are two special projects directly related to A.A. literature.

The Digital Binder

Our subcommittee has developed and continues to work upon what we are calling the “digital binder”. Steve P, ADCM D33, has developed a four-page document containing all current A.A. pamphlet cover photos, QR codes to access pamphlets on the AAWS (Alcoholics Anonymous World Services) website, and catalog number/pamphlet title information. English pamphlets have been completed thus far, with Spanish (ES) currently being worked upon. Plans are to develop A.A. Guidelines and Service Materials “digital binders” as well, making these AAWS materials easily accessible in “digital” format!

Pamphlet	QR Code	Title
		P-1 This is A.A. - An Introduction to the AA Recovery Program

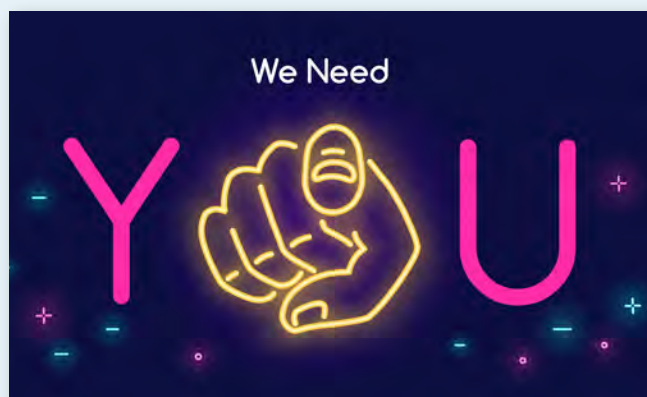
The Digital Pamphlet

Additionally, we are designing and will be producing what we call the A.A. “digital pamphlet”. Kim B ADCM D62 has developed prototypes in English (EN) and will be working on Spanish (ES) equivalents in the near term. The “digital pamphlet” is an A.A. pamphlet sized placard, 9” X 4”, that can be placed in a standard A.A. pamphlet display rack. The design is elegant but simple, with the pamphlet catalog number and QR code appearing in the top section, and the pamphlet cover photo appearing below. We expect the “digital pamphlet” will be appearing soon in literature racks within Area 59!

Summary

The Digital Communications subcommittee is glad to serve the Area 59 A.A. community. Feel free to reach out to us at: digitalcomm@area59aa.org or any subcommittee member directly with your A.A. digital communication needs.

Join the 2024 Northeast Regional A.A. Service Assembly (NERAASA) Planning Committee!



In 2024, Area 59 will be hosting
NERAASA in Hershey, PA
and *we need your help!*

For more information,
email Steve O.

neraasa2024chair@area59aa.org

News from the General Service Office

Find out what's new with GSO!

More
Information

Literature price increase
effective April 3, 2023

More
Information

Box 4-5-9, the quarterly
newsletter from the U.S. and
Canada General Service Office

More
Information

**2025 Alcoholics Anonymous
International Convention**

PLEASE NOTE THE CURRENT ADDRESS
FOR MAILING CONTRIBUTIONS

If you want to send a contribution by check,
mail to:

General Service Office
PO Box 2407
James A. Farley Station
New York, NY 10116-2407

Your local Intergroup Office can provide service opportunities in your area.

ABE Intergroup (Allentown/Bethlehem/Easton)
www.aalv.org

Hanover Area Intergroup
www.hanoverintergroup.org

Harrisburg Area Intergroup
www.aaharrisburg.org

Lancaster Area Intergroup
www.lancasteraa.org

Lebanon County Intergroup
www.lebanonpaaa.org

Pocono Mountain Area Intergroup
www.poconointergroupaa.org

Reading Area Intergroup
www.readingberksintergroup.org

Scranton/Wilkes-Barre, Northeastern PA Intergroup
www.aaintergroupnepa.org

Southeastern PA Intergroup
www.aasepia.org

York Area Intergroup
www.york-pa-aa.org

Area 59 Archives

Area 59 Archives Walking Tour

Introduction

Join Area Archivist Donald H. on an informative walk through the Area 59 Archives Display Room.

Check to see if your group has a history on file by emailing: archivist@area59aa.org.

Area 59 Archives



In this first segment, we are introduced to the center of the room which contains (48) District binders that contain the Group histories, in alphabetical order, that have been submitted to our Archivist over the years.

Area 59 Calendar of Events

Calendar of Events



In this section of the Area 59 website you will find a comprehensive chronological list of events occurring within Area 59 and our larger A.A. fellowship.

We also show you how you can add your local A.A. event to Area 59's Calendar of Events.

Get in Service!

Bridging the Gap



Our fellowship offers a program designed to assist new members after their release from treatment and correctional facilities, this program is called **Bridging the Gap**.

Visit our webpage for more information and to get involved!

Bridging the Gap

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Area 59

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we newsletter