



Area 59

EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA  
GENERAL SERVICE ASSEMBLY

[area59aa.org](http://area59aa.org)

Delegate Report  
E.P.G.S.A. Area 59 Panel 73  
March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Area Quarterly Meeting 2Q24



### General Service Board 1<sup>st</sup> Quarterly Meeting 2024

- Trustees' General Service Conference Committee
  - The committee received and reviewed the final report from the sub-committee on Inventory and forwarded the portion pertaining to the General Service Board Inventory.
  - 23 questions were put forward by the working group for the GSB inventory. Members of the board were given the opportunity to formulate responses to the questions ahead of time, and then to discuss their responses at the January Board weekend.
  - A report regarding the GSB inventory will be presented to the 2024 General Service Conference.
- Trustees' Literature Committee
  - The Committee discussed three suggested titles for the Plain Language Big Book and agreed upon one title that will appear on the draft manuscript presented at the General Service Conference.
  - Fellowship input regarding changes to co-founders' writings: The staff secretary provided an update to the committee. As of January 25, a total of 1,171 responses have been received via online and postal mail at the General Service Office.
  - GSO staff separated the letters by region, then by area. The letters were anonymity protected and then mailed to the appropriate delegate.
  - The full General Service Conference membership will hold a virtual sharing session, prior to Conference week, to discuss the input received from the fellowship on the topic of our founder's writings.
- Trustees' Nominating Committee
  - The Committee reviewed and recommended a slate of officers of the General Service Board, including Chairperson, Scott H., past Trustee-at-Large Canada.
- 2025 International Convention
  - The Committee discussed increasing registration fees to cover a deficit budget for the event.
    - Projected Registration (at this time).
      - Pre-Registration - \$160 per attendee
      - Regular Registration - \$185 per attendee
  - A consultant provided a report on the development of a video product, anonymity-protected, encrypted, digital access of the three Big Meetings. The product is planned to initially be available to purchase by members through the Convention registration process.
  - Area 59 will participate in the 2025 International by hosting a Hospitality Suite.
  - Save the date posters are available by scanning the QR code on this report. Please share them in your District.
- Alcoholics Anonymous World Services
  - The Board reviewed and approved the business travel and expense policy, demonstrating a commitment to transparency and responsible financial management.

- Grapevine, Inc
  - AAGrapevine & La Viña editorial teams are working on upcoming magazine issues and new products for the 2025 International Convention.
  - Announcement of a new Controller on February 5, 2024, with plans for a successful transition and onboarding.
  - Plans underway for the celebration of the 2025 International Convention and the 80th anniversary of Grapevine.

### GSB Financial Report

- Withdrawal from the Reserve Fund
  - Board approved a recommendation from the trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee to authorize the withdrawal of \$1,064,652 from the Reserve Fund.
  - Allocation breakdown
    - \$500,000 to the General Service Board for liquidity requirements in Q2 2024, addressing a cash on hand deficiency carried over since the end of 2022.
    - \$564,652 to Grapevine for year three of the Grapevine 5-year plan, covering January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2026.
    - These transactions reduced the reserve coverage to 6.27 months.
    - Rebuilding of the reserve fund could begin as early as the fourth quarter of 2024.
  - 2024 AAWS/GSB Budget Approval
    - The Board approved the 2024 AAWS/GSB Budget with the following key figures.
      - Contributions Revenue: \$10,500,000
      - Gross Margin on Literature Sales: \$9,142,359
      - Operating Expenses: \$19,025,113
      - Support for La Viña: \$569,512
      - Net income before depreciation: \$47,734
      - Net budgeted deficit for 2024: \$1,002,266 (after deducting depreciation of \$1,020,000 and the budgeted distribution from the International Literature Fund of \$30,000).

### Conference Committee on Literature

- As a member of the Committee, I will be attending the Conference one day early to review the Plain Language Big Book in committee. We have been allotted an eight-hour session to read and discuss the draft manuscript. We are being asked to sign a "letter of understanding" prior to review of the draft. This is an unprecedented requirement for Conference review of a piece of literature. The letter can be seen in the Literature Committee's Background Information.
- Our committee will report our conscience to the full General Service Conference later in the Conference week. Should the committee agree to make a recommendation for the Conference to approve the draft manuscript, the full Conference will discuss and vote on such a recommendation. If 2/3 of the Conference approves, only then would the book be published and available for distribution. If the Conference Committee on Literature does not make a recommendation to the full Conference, the process of drafting will continue with review at the 2025 General Service Conference.
- The Committee has met via zoom to welcome the Panel 74 delegates, and to address housekeeping items. We will also meet with the Trustees' Literature Committee prior to the General Service Conference to discuss their reports.

#### NERAASA 2024

- Thank you for supporting my attendance to the Northeast Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly in Hershey, PA.
- Area 59 hosted an incredibly successful event, and I am beyond grateful to serve in an Area with such fantastic participation.
  - There were over 1300 in attendance, a record for NERAASA.
  - Hospitality provided over 400 PB&J sandwiches and roughly 1,000 cups of coffee.
  - The first timer orientation table had hundreds of opportunities to welcome and let people know what to expect.
  - Greeters were everywhere, toting brilliant hats, welcoming, and spreading enthusiasm.
  - Accessibilities provided Spanish translation and various requests, including scheduled shifts to escort a blind member throughout the weekend.
  - Our Treasurer led a financially responsible event and will produce a final report soon.
- Thank you all so much for your attendance, participation, and the wonderful host committee that we assembled. I have heard excellent reviews from all over the Northeast Region.
- NERAASA 2025 will be virtual, hosted by Southern New Jersey.
  - Delegate's Roundtable at NERAASA:
    - The Panel 73 delegates offered advice to the Panel 74's regarding preparation for attending the General Service Conference.
    - We also discussed forming a working group to design an advisory council to provide support and experience to future, slated NERAASA host committees.

#### NERD 2024

- Thank you for supporting my attendance to the Northeast Regional Delegate's Reunion in Albany, NY.
- There is a wealth of experience among the past delegates of the Northeast Region. The event provides an opportunity for current delegates to tap into that experience and be better prepared, and effectively participate in the General Service Conference.
- David S., General Service Trustee, joined us on Saturday night as the keynote speaker.
- There was only one Area that placed a bid for NERD 2026.

#### Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session

- We will meet on April 6<sup>th</sup> so that Area 59 can help prepare my attendance at the General Service Conference. The flyer can be found at [area59aa.org](http://area59aa.org) as well as the QR code on this report. Please speak enthusiastically about participation in this event.
- Thank you for those who responded to the survey that was shared to select items from the Conference Agenda for the Area to discuss at the event.
- I am calling on the Area 59 Subcommittees to help with the presentation of Agenda Items at the event this year. Thank you in advance for helping to make this a great event. I strongly suggest communication with our past delegates in forming presentations. You can call on me, as you see fit, also.



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## Travel and Activity

12/10/23	Area 59 Quarterly Committee Meeting	York, PA
12/17/23	NERD Delegates & Alts & Trustee Meeting	Virtual
12/21/23	District 44 Business Meeting	Virtual
01/04/24	D53 & D40 Presentation on Founders Writings Topic	Tunkhannock, PA
01/06/24	DCM Sharing Session	Levittown, PA
01/07/24	Area 59/SEPIA Share-a-day Planning	Virtual
01/12/24	District 49 Presentation on GSC Agenda Items	Tamaqua, PA
01/17/24	NERAASA Inventory Committee	Virtual
01/19/24	GSC Committee Chair Orientation	Virtual
01/20/24	Chester County PENNSCYPAA Event	Kennett Square, PA
01/21/24	NERD Delegates & Alts & Trustee Meeting	Virtual
01/22/24	Conference Committee on Literature	Virtual
02/07/24	District 67 Business Meeting	Birdsboro, PA
02/10/24	Area 59/SEPIA Share-a-day	Springfield, PA
02/15/24	GSC Delegate's Meeting	Virtual
02/17/24	Pre-Area Officers Meeting	Virtual
02/18/24	NERD Delegates & Alts & Trustee Meeting	Virtual
02/21/24	NERAASA Inventory Committee	Virtual
02/22-25/24	NERAASA	Hershey, PA
02/27/24	74 <sup>th</sup> GSC Sharing Session	Virtual
03/03/24	Area 59 Convention Committee	Virtual
03/05/24	Conference Committee on Literature	Virtual
03/08-10/24	NE Regional Delegate's Reunion	Albany, NY

Respectfully Submitted,

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