



Delegate Annual Report
E.P.G.S.A. Area 59 Panel 73
Year 1 – 2023

Eastern Pennsylvania is home to approximately 33,000 A.A. members in more than 1,600 groups. Participation in general service has continued to flourish in Area 59 and I am excited for the work that we have done this year and the work that lies ahead.

For the first time in many years, we tried a new format for Area 59's Pre-Conference Sharing Session. The feedback that I received was very positive. I have already started considering how to further improve on this session for 2024. Mark your calendars and join us April 6th, 2024.

I attended the 73rd General Service Conference in New York, where your voices were part of my thinking on Conference agenda items. As a member of the Conference Committee on Literature, I had the opportunity to read and discuss a draft of the plain language translation of our 4th edition Big Book, review progress on the collection of stories for the development of a 5th edition Big Book and 4th edition Spanish Big Book, among many other exciting projects.

I am grateful for the opportunity to provide 19 separate reports of the 73rd General Service Conference at various locations around Eastern Pennsylvania. Thank you so much for these invitations to give my report. If you were not able to attend one of these sessions, my slide show, along with the final Conference report, can be found on area59aa.org.

Area 59 will host the Northeast Regional A.A. Service Assembly (NERAASA) February 23-25, 2024, in Hershey, PA. Please consider attending and volunteering to make this a wonderful event!

As we approach the 74th General Service Conference, please stay connected by regular attendance at your local district meeting. Keep an eye out for updates on a preliminary 74th Conference agenda this month, a final agenda in early February, and background information February 16-23, 2024. I will make all these items available to the DCMs as soon as I have them.

Last November, Area 59 elected me to serve as our Panel 73 delegate to the General Service Conference. I only thought I knew what that might look like. On my 29th day as delegate, there was a resignation from the Chair of the General Service Board. We had little information, and the information that came from the former Chair's perspective did not paint a pleasant picture at all. This grew darker as a second Trustee resigned from the Board a few weeks later. I found myself between growing concerns of the groups that I serve, and a General Service Board bound by confidentiality. I attended several virtual sessions on the topic with the entire General Service Conference membership. We held sharing sessions for Area 59 to discuss the information and provide thoughts. This carried on for months. When I absolutely couldn't stand to think or talk about the topic anymore, I arrived at the General Service Conference where we talked about it for an approximate eternity. And then something happened. Something that makes me grateful for the entire process. I witnessed the collective voice of Alcoholics Anonymous emerge. I watched "us and them" (the delegates and the Board), become we. I saw constructive, collaborative action push through frustration and fear. I am not suggesting that there is not still work to be done. The General Service Board will hold an inventory of itself in January and report its findings to the 74th GSC. What I am saying is that I've never trusted our Conference process more. Trust doesn't mean that we shouldn't ask questions, that's part of the process after all. It does mean that the Board has my support, as the General Service structure navigates forward from a difficult chapter. I thank you for your trust in me, and for the honor of serving as your delegate.

Respectfully,

Pete B.

Delegate, Area 59 Panel 73