



WWE

newsletter

In this issue we discover how your voice shapes AA's future, what's happening at the 2025 International Convention, and why this year's service events are igniting a renewed fire in our Fellowship.

What the Pre-Conference Sharing Session Means to Our Fellowship: A Chairperson's Perspective

By Tara C., Chairperson, Area 59 – Panel 75

Early in my sobriety, a group I attended had a traditions meeting as part of their monthly scheduled meetings. The traditions really didn't make sense to me and I couldn't understand how they would connect me to AA as a whole, how they were guidelines for our groups. The more I got involved in my homegroup and in committees, I could see the traditions working within our group and I began to feel a small part of a great whole. I started becoming more involved with service and attending service events, such as EPGSA. A lot of what I heard, didn't really make much sense. There was a lot of talk about the General Service Conference and our Delegate bringing back news of what happened there.

I didn't understand the connection between the Delegate and the groups, but I listened and I asked questions. I was able to attend these service events with members who had more time and more experience in service than myself. They answered my questions and soon the structure of Alcoholics Anonymous and the upside down triangle started to become more clear. The more I learned about the structure of AA, the more I fell in love with the way in which the communication flows from the Groups to the Conference; how the Delegate carries the conscience of the groups to the Conference, and how the Groups elect their Delegate to represent them.

The first time I really got a feeling for this sense of flow, was attending a Delegate's Report Back. The Delegate at the time, reported on what happened at the General Service Conference; the things they saw, the discussions they had, and the decisions they made on behalf of the Fellowship. Again, I didn't fully understand the information being presented, but I had members who helped me understand and were patient with my questions. The more I understood and began to connect to service structure, the more the fire of AA was lit for me.

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Upcoming Area Events

**Mini Assembly I —
Delegate Conference Report**
May 17th, 2025

8:00 am – 3:00 pm
Valley Point Church
209 Bethel Rd.
Glen Mills, PA 19342

**Mini Assembly II —
Delegate Conference Report**
June 7th, 2025

8:00 am – 3:00 pm
First United Church of Christ
110 Route 61 South
Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

[Complete Calendar of Events](#)

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

Mini-Assemblies & The General Service Conference:

Working Together, Increasing Trust



This year's General Service Conference took place from April 27-May 3 in New York, where trusted servants from all over the U.S. and Canada came together to discuss and vote on agenda items that directly impact how AA carries the message to the still-suffering alcoholic. Now that the conference has wrapped up, we now have the opportunity to hear from our delegate, Dan B, and learn about the decisions made in the spirit of this year's Conference theme "*working together, increasing trust.*"

The Mini-Assemblies offer us an essential chance to engage with these outcomes, ask questions, and understand how the decisions made at the GSC will impact our local groups and our collective efforts.

What is a Mini-Assembly?

A Mini-Assembly is a unique opportunity for all AA members - not just GSRs or DCMs - to hear a detailed report from our delegate who attended the General Service Conference and to learn about the key agenda items that were discussed and voted on. It provides space for us to receive a thorough summary of the conference agenda items and engage in open discussions about the direction of our Fellowship.

The purpose of these events is not just to inform, but to reinforce the collective responsibility we all share in ensuring AA remains relevant, transparent, and true to its purpose. This is where we come together in the spirit of unity and service to reflect on the work done and plan the next steps for our Fellowship.

What to Expect

At this year's Mini-Assembly, our delegate will go over agenda items that will have long-term effects on our service structure, literature, and outreach efforts. Here are some of the key items that were voted on and discussed at the Conference:

Protect Founders' Writings: *A proposal that any changes to AA's Founders' writings, including key texts like the Big Book, require a supermajority (75%) approval from the General Service Conference.*

Eliminate Gendered Language: *A proposal to remove the word "woman" from Concept IV to ensure equal participation in decision-making within AA's service structure, fostering inclusivity for all.*

Modify Founders' Literature Policies: *A proposal to ensure that worldwide AA groups must consent to any changes made to the Founders' Literature, reflecting the need for a broad consensus within the Fellowship.*

Living Sober Update: *A proposal to overhaul the "Living Sober" booklet to reflect the evolving nature of AA, addressing modern experiences such as online interactions and the challenges faced by members in a post-pandemic world.*

Continued on following page

Why This Matters

The General Service Conference is one of the most important expressions of AA's principles of unity, service, and trust in action. It is a time for trusted servants to come together and make decisions that will impact our Fellowship's future. But it is equally important that we, as members, are kept informed and involved in the process.

Attending the Mini-Assemblies gives us a chance to not only hear the outcome of the GSC, but to foster greater trust and understanding within our Fellowship. These assemblies allow us to reflect on the decisions made and how they align with our collective vision for AA's future.

Even if you are not a GSR or actively involved in general service, attending a Mini-Assembly can deepen your connection to AA's service structure. It's a unique opportunity to learn how decisions are made at the General Service Conference and how we, as a Fellowship, can continue to evolve while remaining true to our core principles.

Get Involved

With two opportunities to attend, you don't want to miss it! For both assemblies, doors open at 8:00 AM, with registration starting at 9:00 AM. The program will run from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, and a light breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Mini Assembly I:

Held on Saturday, May 17th
Valley Point Church,
209 Bethel Rd, Glen Mills, PA 19342

Mini Assembly II:

Held on Saturday, June 7th
First United Church of Christ
110 Route 61 South, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

Talk to your GSR, check our Area 59 website, or reach out to a trusted service sponsor to learn more. We encourage all AA members to attend and be part of this important conversation.

See you at the Mini-Assembly!

Editor, Area 59 *WE* Newsletter

**Working Together
Increasing Trust**

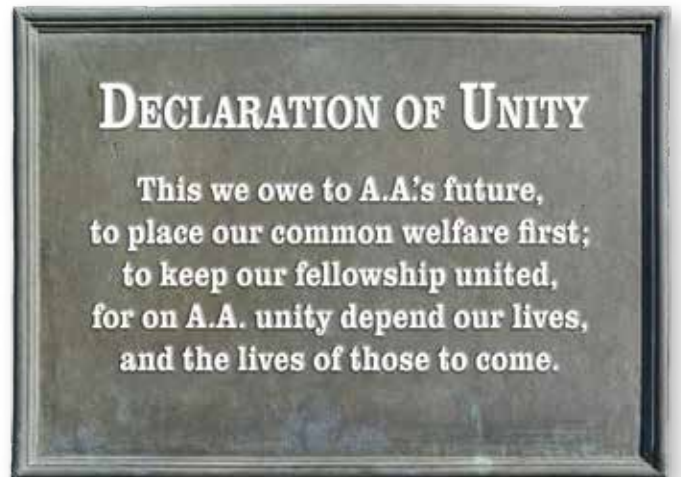
**Mini-Assembly 1
and Delegate's
Conference Report**

Saturday, May 17th 2025

The doors open at 8am, registration at 9am
Program starts at 10am - 3pm

Light Breakfast and Lunch included

Valley Point Church • 209 Bethel Rd • Glen Mills, PA 19342



What the Pre-Conference Sharing Session Means to Our Fellowship:

A Chairperson's Perspective

Continued from page 1

For a few years, I didn't know there was an event that allowed my group to share its conscience with the Delegate. I knew that the Delegate would carry the conscience, but how did this happen? It turns out that Area 59 hosts an event called the Pre-Conference Sharing Session (PCSS). This event allows the Fellowship to share their conscience on Agenda items with our Delegate before they attend the General Service Conference (GSC).

The PCSS is held each year before the GSC. The Delegate selects agenda items, on which the Fellowship can share, that will be discussed and voted upon. The first time I attended, I was blown away – so much information was shared and discussed, so many different opinions and thoughts! One thing I was sure of as

One thing I was sure of as I left that event, is that these people were on fire for AA . . . and I was too!

I left that event, is that these people were on fire for AA... and I was too; I had found my tribe for sure. I attended more General Service events, asked more questions, and really dug in. I became really passionate about the structure of Alcoholics Anonymous and saw how it really worked.

Since becoming involved in Area service, the service structure has really taken on new meaning for me.

I am humbled and in awe of the trust the Fellowship has in allowing me to serve. I always look forward to Area events, but the time surrounding the GSC is exceptionally special to me. I love hearing the thoughts and opinions of the groups within Area 59; I love to have my viewpoints challenged by hearing another's point of view that really makes me reconsider what I think and why I think that way. I love to be a small part of the great whole and just immerse myself in that energy.

I believe in the power of the structure of Alcoholics Anonymous and being part of the sharing of the conscience of the Fellowship is an amazing experience, and all I do is try to create an inclusive and welcoming environment, one where any group feels as though their conscience can and will be heard by the Delegate and carried on to the GSC. The power in being heard is an incredible feeling, and being part of the Fellowship in Area 59, really affirms that power. I hope that those attending PCSS this year, will also attend the Delegate's Report Back and see how they are really heard, that their conscience has been carried in love and care by our Delegate. I hope that those who may have just had their first experience learning about the structure of Alcoholics Anonymous grow to love it as much as I have. I hope that those who attend will feel welcomed and included and safe to their group's conscience, though they may be the minority. And, lastly, I hope this helps to light a fire for AA for those whose spark may need a little kindling.

Tara C., Chairperson, Area 59 – Panel 75



Spotlight on District 49

Our District covers parts of Carbon, Luzerne, and Schuylkill counties and extends from Jim Thorpe/Lehigh/Bowmanstown in the southeast to White Haven in the northwest, across to Conyngham in the West, and down to Mahanoy City in the southwest. We have 19 AA member groups, including several in Tamaqua and Hazelton.

District 49 is an active district with considerable sobriety that, after some contraction during Covid, is starting to grow again. The district added 1 group and an additional meeting since the beginning of the year.

Our district truly embodies the word "fellowship". The annual Unity Breakfast at the beginning of April had over 100 people present and raised nearly \$1,700 for the district. But the laughter and fun that was had was the actual achievement! In Dist 49, meetings typically celebrate anniversaries on the last meeting day of the month, and, in the last week of the month, it is often possible to attend a celebration (and eat some cake) every day of the week!

Wherever you go in the district, you meet old and new friends. Members are used to driving some distance to attend meetings, and winter in the Poconos can sometimes be challenging – the hardy folk of coal country are used to challenges.

The district meeting is held on the second Friday of each month at 7 p.m. at Trinity United Church of Christ, 22 Lafayette St, Tamaqua, PA 18252

All are welcome!

James R., DCM

2025 A.A. INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION & PENNSYLVANIA HOSPITALITY SUITE

My first International Convention was in Atlanta in 2015. I was happily a few months pregnant with my only child at the age of 42. I was filled with so much joy and connection, and absolute gratitude for my sobriety and AA. While there, I vowed to myself that I would never miss another Convention if I could help it. Here we are ten years later, and I have a wonderful daughter who has never experienced a drunk mom. I look back at the panoramic photo from the Atlanta arena of all of us in the big meeting, and smile, knowing I am there with new life in my belly and the potential of stopping the cycle in my family. I bring even more gratitude and love to Vancouver!

The 90th anniversary of Alcoholics Anonymous will be celebrated at the [2025 International Convention](#) in Vancouver, BC, Canada, from Thursday, July 3rd to Sunday, July 6th, 2025. The International Convention is held every five years and brings together tens of thousands of AA members from around the world. It marks the anniversary of Bill W.'s first meeting with Dr. Bob and the birth of Alcoholics Anonymous in 1935. There is still time to register, attend, and volunteer. An advanced [program](#) is now available.

Whether this is your first convention or you are a seasoned veteran, be ready to feel inspired, humbled, energized, and possibly overwhelmed in the best possible way. You will see the diversity and universality of recovery through people of all ages, backgrounds, and cultures who have found a solution in AA and share their journey. Many attendees describe it as life-changing or “the feeling of being truly at home.” It is a deeply affirming and moving experience.

What can you expect at the International Convention?

- There will be big (and I mean BIG!) stadium meetings on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, with speakers and a powerful message of unity.
- The Parade of Flags where it is moving to see how global AA has become.
- Workshops, topic-specific sessions, speaker panels, and marathon meetings in different languages and formats.
- Sobriety countdown on a grand scale.
- Al-Anon and Alateen have their own program track, so there is a family recovery element too.
- Opportunities to meet people from all over the world. You may make lifelong friends or find unexpected connections.

There will be 26 hospitality suites hosted by various states, regions, countries and other AA entities. Some examples of suite hosts: Irish, Indigenous Community, Deaf AA, International Doctors, Lawyers, Police Officers/Firefighters/First Responders, Technology in AA, Online Intergroup, Australia/New Zealand, and many more. A fun tradition is to visit these rooms and collect small pins and mementos.

Area 59 is joining forces with Area 60 to host one of these suites! This is a place to welcome new and old friends, and to provide a space to gather for Fellowship. Please stop by and spread the word:

Pennsylvania Hospitality Suite Hyatt Regency Vancouver Tennyson Room - 4th floor

We welcome contributions to help support this endeavor. We hope to supply traditional small souvenir pins and a large archival scrapbook for visitors to sign. Based on past experience, we could have 4-5,000 AAs from around the world pass through during the Convention! If you plan to be in Vancouver, please also consider serving a shift as a volunteer greeter.

To make a hospitality suite contribution and/or to volunteer, you can click [HERE](#).

Can't make it to Vancouver in person? You can host a Watch Party and join virtually! The General Service Board approved a tiered pricing registration option that is now being added for Groups and Informal Gathering Watch parties. Intergroups/Central offices, districts, areas, and local AA groups have requested this option. For more information, you can click [HERE](#).

Please let me know if you have any questions related to the International Convention or the Pennsylvania Hospitality Suite. I hope to see you in Vancouver!

Claire B, Coordinator

Pennsylvania Hospitality Suite
2025 A.A. International Convention

ichosp2025@area59aa.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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we newsletter is published by Area 59 to enhance Unity. Please let us know what you think. We welcome your suggestions for making this a more useful publication.

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