

**Meeting Minutes | EPGSA Panel 75**  
**68<sup>th</sup> Annual EPGSA Convention & Assembly**  
**November 15, 2025**

Wyndham Lancaster Resort and Convention Center  
2300 Lincoln Hwy E  
Lancaster, PA 17602



**Meeting Opening:**

Tara C., Chairperson Panel 75, opened the assembly at 8:45 AM with the Declaration of Unity. She then read a section from Appendix A – AA’s Legacy of Service from the AA Service Manual.

**Acknowledged Guests, Housekeeping, Remarks:**

Tara C. noted various “housekeeping” items, noted, thanked the Spanish interpreter Evelyn D. and Sandra P., Nancy for ASL Interpretation, and encouraged everyone to visit the Archives display which has a wealth of information from the Area Archivist and the Hospitality Suite. Finally, she thanked DCMs and GSRs for attending and fulfilling their service responsibilities.

**Introduction of Guest Observer:**

Tara explained the history of the guest observer: Each year, Eastern Pennsylvania General Service Assembly invites a Guest Observer to our convention. The guest observer is defined as: "A person, not in the Fellowship, and with limited access to members of the Fellowship, who has intimate, on-going contact with alcoholics in the workplace, and whose job activities would be enriched by attending our convention/assembly." EPGSA welcomes the Honorable to our 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention and Assembly. The Honorable Robert Repard is a member of the Special Court Judges’ Association of Pennsylvania, currently serving as director for District 3, as well as sitting on several community boards. He currently instructs Defensive Tactics and Court Facility Security for the Sheriff and Deputy Sheriffs Education and Training Program at Penn State University’s Justice and Safety Institute. He served 26 years as Probation Officer with the Tioga County Probation Department before retiring from supervisor in 2011. During his time as a probation officer, he helped develop and implement court facility security measures and office safety protocols, and served as a two term Commissioner to the County Probation and Parole Officers Firearm Education and Training Commission. Judge Repard was named “Outstanding Law Enforcement Officer” Tara welcomed Judge Repard and noted appreciation for him taking the time to get to know us better.

**Roll Call:**

Area Secretary, Lauren B. then explained who was considered a voting member, the roll call procedure, and then conducted the roll call. There were a total of 326 voting member, with details noted below:



**Area 59 EPGSA  
Convention Roll Call**

**Date: November 15, 2025**

District	DCM	GSRs/Reps	Total
21	1	10	11
22	1	9	10
23	1	9	10
24	1	4	5
25	1	9	10
26	1	6	7
27	1	10	11
28	1	3	4
29	1	1	2
30	1	10	11
31	1	7	8
32	1	8	9
33	1	5	6
34	1	1	2
35	1	4	5
36	1	8	9
37	1	7	8
38	1	11	12
39	1	8	9
40	1	5	6
41	0	3	3
42	1	0	1
43	0	1	1
44	1	2	3
Subtotal	22	141	163

Total DCMs	43
GSRs/Group Reps	270
Area Officers	5
Past Delegates	8

Total
313

District	DCM	GSRs/Reps	Total
45	1	6	7
46	0	1	1
47	1	15	16
48	1	20	21
49	1	1	2
50	1	0	1
51	1	14	15
52	0	0	
53	1	8	9
54	1	8	9
55	1	5	6
56	1	8	9
57	1	3	4
58	1	3	4
59	0	0	
60	1	5	6
61	1	1	2
62	1	2	3
63	1	3	4
64	1	10	11
65	1	3	4
66	1	6	7
67	1	5	6
68	1	2	3
Subtotal	21	129	150

TOTAL VOTING	326	of Total
	2/3	218
	1/3	109
	1/5	66



**Area 59 EPGSA  
Convention Roll Call**

**Date: November 15, 2025**

Past Delegates	Panel	Present		Area Officers	Position	Present	
Marcia G.	41			Dan B.	Delegate	1	
Clay R.	47	1		Alex N.	Alt. Delegate	1	
Gary C.	49			Tara C.	Chairperson	1	
J. Gary L.	55	1		Lauren B.	Secretary	1	
Shelia D.	57			Jen F.	Treasurer	1	
Lowell L.	59			Neill D.	Officer At Large		
Hugh H.	61	1			Subtotal	5	
Steve O.	63	1					
Patricia F.	65	1					
Paul M.	67	1					
Caroline N.	71	1					
Pete B.	73	1					
Subtotal		8					

**Subcommittee Annual Reports:**

Subcommittee chairpersons or their alternates presented their annual reports to the assembly; reports are posted on the Area website, [area59aa.org](http://area59aa.org).

- Archives, Colleen M.
- Cooperation with the Professional Community / Public Information, Mark B.
- Corrections, Matt C.
- Finance, Andrew D.
- Grapevine/LaViña, Erin R.
- Structure, Anna A.
- Treatment/Accessibility, Tom W.
- Ad Hoc Digital Communications, Nick M.

**Officer Annual Reports:**

Area Officers presented their annual reports to the assembly; reports are posted on the Area website, [area59aa.org](http://area59aa.org).

- Officer at Large – Please see report in the report package. Report was not read at the Assembly.
- Treasurer, Jen F.
- Secretary, Lauren B.
- Chairperson, Tara C.
- Alternate Delegate, Alex N.
- Delegate, Dan B.

## **Assembly Sharing**

Tara then invited assembly members to share their opinions on two pre-selected topics. Each topic will be noted below, followed by the various comments expressed at the mic. Dan provided additional background on the topics being discussed.

1. *Founders' Literature: What general process should we use to classify writings as Recovery, Service, or Archival/Historical? Who should determine the classification?*
2. *Founders' Literature: What literature do you consider to be in each category of Recovery, Service, or Archival/Historical?*
3. *What's On Your Mind?*
  - D38: For categorization, Big Book and 12x12 should not be changed and considered Archival. For voting on how to categorize it, 2/3rds majority agree with that.
  - D49: Some confusion about what was being asked and took some time. Consensus was in order to characterize it, have a librarian or someone with specialized knowledge would be helpful. Groups would like feedback after the professional categorizes it. They want it to be very open and transparent. Be included in the process. In favor of the process.
  - D25: Similar consensus that it was confusing because no one looks at designation. Guiding principle to have literature accessible and inclusive. Designation felt lofty and librarian better qualified. Unity, accessibility, inclusion.
  - D65: Need to better define categories. Need detailed framework, which should be decided at the group level. Provide a definition of what each category is and the groups should be able to vote on that first. Should be done for individual literature one at a time. Go slow to get it right the first time. Should fall on the delegate who make the ultimate call after the process is worked out.
  - D?: Flow chart would be a good place to start. Organize literature into a Venn diagram because they can overlap. Recovery – Are there suggestions? Actionable steps? Other stories? Provided different examples of what could be considered in each category of Recovery, Service, and Historical / Archival.
  - D?: Homegroup was completely confused and found this to be a waste of time.
  - D36: Group is in support of preserving founders' writings and requesting more specifics. Some thought that it was already categorized. Wondering how is it categorized now?
  - D56: Group was confused and wondered why we were doing this. For Big Book, some is historical, some is recovery, some is service. How would that work? If it is categorized as archival, to get something from Archives it takes a while and they may or may not grant the request. Will it change Archives process?
  - D37: Feels academic. AA has formally trained archivists and it exists in our history on how to classify things. Will take a long time to do. Need to educate the groups because it is an academic procedures and it will go very slow.
  - D67: Why do we need to categorize it? Rules may be different like Service and Structure Manual. We update that all the time and no one gets upset. They just want 2 or 3 books to not get touched. Can scratch the Founders' writing issue and just not change those 2 or 3 books.
  - D27: Got some interesting feedback. Vast majority of members are still wrapping their heads around this. Continue to spark and go deeper. Complex issue. Use different channels to communicate and continue the conversation. Still early on.
  - Past Delegate: How can anyone say the Big Book is not all 3? It doesn't make sense to do the classification. This is a step down the road to changing the Founders' literature. There have been changes in the Big Book, 12X12, and AA Comes of Age over time. Which one would we preserve?

- D27: General process will be really complicated and there is no simple way. The literature overlaps the various categories. Who should determine the classification? Combination of Conference and Trustee Committees on Literature and Archives and brought to the groups. Should be very transparent.
- D56: Struggled and wanted more clarity on the questions. Bill & Bob writing should be preserved and considered historical. Lot of this came about after the literature not being current and Grapevine and other literature provided current info.
- D27: If we protect the Founders' literature, are we going to reverse the 12x12 changes or keep it the same it is now? For classification, Archives and long timers should give input.
- D63: Group categorized the literature. Big Book and Came to Believe is recovery based. Service Manual is service. 12X12 can be recovery and service. Archival is AA Comes of Age. Have an Ad Hoc Committee with Trustees from Archives and Literature and possibly have Historians come in to categorize the literature.
- D27: Need more clarity. May make it difficult to make more edits in the future if considered Archival. Trying to emphasize inclusivity and that could jeopardize it.
- D?: Why? Why is this coming up? Most would consider AA Comes of Age as historical. All of our literature is spiritual in nature. Are we putting our hands too much into these things? What is the deserved outcome? Any decision should be decided by the groups.
- D?: Why fix it if it ain't broke? Brought up in the preface that sweeping changes are in society and not in the literature. Should follow traditions and not bring in any outside issues. Should not make any changes. Group not fond of changes made during COVID.
- D46: Bill wrote all the Concepts and thank God some of his writings on the Concepts changed. Changes is important because we are not the same as we were in the past.
- D40: Do we really need to do this? Seems like a lot of time to classify, analyze, bring in historian, when there are a lot of alcoholics that are dying and needing us. Unless it is the Service Manual, don't change it. People don't change historical books.
- Past Delegate: Utilize, don't analyze. Dealt with this issue throughout our history without any great distress. To change conference approved literature takes conference action (2/3rds). This will not help a still suffering alcoholic.
- D37: What literature are we analyzing? Big Book, Pamphlets, Stories in Big Book, etc. Some can meet multiple categories. Need someone with knowledge of history of AA and people schooled in primary & secondary sources. Can't just put one big piece of literature in one category. Long difficult task.
- D68: All groups are really confused, and they don't know what to do. Need more clarity. Hope there is no major changes to what we already have.
- D48: Doesn't think we should change anything. Has worked and helped alcoholics. If something needs to be added, make an addendum or another book. Categorization – we have an archivist and historians. If this is something we want to do, let them categorize it and bring back to the groups for approval.
- D53: Conversation reminds her of a Hershey Bar. The candy bar has changed over time. No one wants change. If she could buy the original version, it is comforting. Making call early documents the originals. The change will keep our newcomers interested.
- D51: Remember what Doctor Bob's last words to Bill W were "Let's not louse this up and keep it simple." Important to never lose touch with our Founders. Honor our history and Founders and what was laid before us.
- D53: There shouldn't be anything different in the Big Book. It should stay the same. Worked for her and her sponsor and everyone before them. Root of the problem is alcoholism. Worked then.
- D45: DCM explained it well to GSRs. Home group members asked why and where is God in this? Seems like one side wants changes and one side doesn't. This doesn't help those alcoholics who are dying. Where is God in the middle of this?
- D25: At first meeting, someone gave her a Big Book. Had no idea how her life would change. Loves the Big Book and everything everyone said.

- D47: Thought the first 164 should never be changed. Isn't that already a thing? What is the point of this? Are we deciding on categories or what to change and what not to change? Changes to Advertisements and pamphlets, no big deal.
- D48: Look at the Bible, there are so many versions of it. We are alcoholics, don't need something else to argue about.
- D67: No cellphones when she came in. Now there are phones, apps, online, etc. Loves that that is available for others. Keep original literature the way it is. Make modern copies. Tons of PLBBs. Reads it side by side with original. Loves it. Can buy new, buy original, buy both.
- D?: We don't have a way to do this proposal. We are getting worried about changes but this isn't about proposing changes. This is to soften how to make changes and we need to know how to classify to do that. This is preemptive.
- D45: Changing literature, how did we get to changing the 12X12 and Big Book in this conversation? Would like to see how Districts can support others.
- D47: History teacher. There are 2 different resources: primary & secondary. Primary are original documents like the Big Book. Are they going to put the original in a glass case? No but we need to protect it with the way it is written. Is there really a need to categorize and separate it? There are 2 – Primary & Secondary.
- D27: Came to AA feeling like she didn't belong. Lot of white men here. Pamphlet so you think you're different. A lot of qualifications and asterisks to help her relate to it. She is trans, young, and wants a future in AA. Who will be here in the next 30 years?
- D66: Good to think of the process and things happen very slowly. Have time to have this conversation and discuss with our groups. Hot topic, growing issue. Read the Final Conference report to prepare for next year's Conference. They want our opinion on the process and to get us thinking about it. Becoming more aware of the issue and will have time to prepare for Conference in April.
- D23: Changing "As Bill Sees It" stuck her heart. She is not a fan of it but don't change it! Bill wrote it. Went to GSR workshop years ago and they said it takes 2 years to go from idea to published pamphlet. How long will this whole thing take?
- D64: What is the general process? Is there already something in place? Big help to have in order to discuss this further. For the classes, anything that was printed once would be Archival. Anything that we don't use any more is Historical. Lunch is on his mind.
- D30: What is the purpose of the classification? How does it help us or help us reach the next alcoholic?
- Past Delegate: Served on Policy & Admissions in 2021 & 2022. Proud of the changes made to 12X12 and Preamble. Only 2 people in the room who served at that Conference. Changed men and women to "people" in Preamble and revised the "7 deadly sins" and "partner of the opposite sex" in 12x12. Is this a roundabout way to reverse changes made? They were made to be more inclusive. Big Book has been translated into 73 languages. How would that affect the translations? Needs to be taken into account. Changes have ripple effects. What side of history do we want to be on?
- D60: Even our Big Book is not the original text. It is a modification and was already altered. Very hard to classify it.
- Dan B., Delegate thanked everyone for the feedback. Clarified why he was asking the questions. There is an Advisory Action at the Conference on classification of the literature. Would be surprised if classification will be done by Conference. Was passed to add extra protections in response to the changes made.

## **Closing**

The Chairperson, Tara C., closed the assembly with the Responsibility Declaration at approximately 11:00 AM.