



WWE newsletter

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A Look Back at the 76th General Service Conference

By Dan B., Delegate, Area 59 – Panel 76

I'm still catching my breath. The 76th General Service Conference (April 26–May 2 in New York City) was one of the most consequential weeks I've experienced in this Fellowship, and I can't wait to bring the full story home to you.

The headline most of you will want to hear: the Fifth Edition of the Big Book was approved, with new personal stories that reflect a much wider cross-section of who actually walks through our doors. The body felt it strongly, which was reflected in the large number who voted in favor. There's a real sense that this book will speak to the still-suffering alcoholic who hasn't yet seen themselves in our pages.

It was a week of big, honest conversations. Some of the most meaningful discussions ran for hours and asked the Conference to weigh our history against our responsibility to the alcoholic who hasn't found us yet. A few of those decisions were genuinely difficult, for me personally as much as anyone, and they deserve more than a paragraph in a

newsletter. I look forward to walking you through them, and through my own thinking, when we're together.

It wasn't all weighty matters. The Conference approved a 2027 theme - "Honoring Our Past, Embracing Our Future" - which feels about right for where we are. There was healthy debate about money and self-support, the future of the Equitable Distribution of Workload process, a pilot membership survey to help us count groups we've been missing, and proposed animated videos of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.

AAWS also announced it has acquired the "Everything AA" app, which is a potentially huge new way to carry the message.

Every one of these votes had real discussion behind it, real disagreement, and real group conscience at work. That's the part I most want to share with you. A summary in a newsletter can only do so much. The heart of it is in the room, in the back-and-forth, in watching 130-some Delegates and trustees and staff wrestle toward a decision together.

So, consider this your invitation. Come to the Delegate's Conference Report. Bring your questions. I'll bring everything I've got.



The Joy of Being a Part of Area 59's Pre-Conference Sharing Session

By Ella D., *Take Action Group GSR – District 56*

While the format and process of our Pre-Conference Sharing Sessions (PCSS) have changed over the years, the purpose, the importance, and the absolute joy and spiritual experience of a Pre-Conference Sharing Session have not!

When I was 7 years sober, and serving as District 56 Treasurer (for the first time), my DCM, John B. “suggested” that I attend the Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session with him and our ADCM, Chris G. I didn’t know what Pre-Conference Sharing Session (PCSS) was. John explained that this was an annual area event to prepare our Delegate for the General Service Conference (GSC) in April. The Delegate would carry the informed group conscience of the area home groups, through their District Committee Members (DCMs) to the General Service Conference (GSC).

Pre-Conference Sharing Session

Saturday – April 11, 2026
9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Since then, I have attended several Pre-Conference Sharing Sessions. Each one may have been slightly different in format or set-up but there is one thing that is always the same—the joy we experience when we come together for the good of A.A. in Area 59. Over the years, even when we disagree on a specific point, I have seen that underlying love of A.A. and one another that we feel. Where else would you find that but in A.A.?

In 2026, I volunteered to be one of the presenters for the Pre-Conference Sharing Session. Delegate Dan divided up the agenda items, with each presenter assigned an item and whether they were For or Against it. We prepared 5-minute presentations, followed by discussions by all the attendees. It was a day full of “aha, lightbulb” moments. I love hearing someone else’s perspective on these Conference agenda items. I have come to realize that I don’t know everything, and my higher power can be found in a truly informed group conscience.

When I attend PCSS, I am surrounded by members who are there joyfully doing the work of A.A. in Area 59. I have come to know some of these trusted servants and eagerly look forward to seeing them each year. We enjoy food, fun, and fellowship and learn new ways to “carry the message”.

I don’t have enough words to express the honor, the gratitude, the appreciation of this gift each time I am involved in service. It is truly a privilege and a joy. If you don’t know what I’m talking about—get involved! Our Pre-Conference Sharing Session is your opportunity to tell your Delegate how your home group feels about Conference Agenda Items. A.A. gave you a voice and a vote—use it! I can never completely give back what has been so freely given to me, but getting involved in the Pre-Conference Sharing Session is a great place to start.

DECLARATION OF UNITY

This we owe to A.A.’s future,
to place our common welfare first;
to keep our fellowship united,
for on A.A. unity depend our lives,
and the lives of those to come.

All Intergroup Day

Collaboration in Action Across Area 59

There are moments in service that remind us exactly why we do what we do, and this year's **All Intergroup Day** was one of them.

With approximately 150 trusted servants in attendance from Intergroups and General Service across Eastern Pennsylvania, the room was filled with energy, experience, and a shared commitment to carrying the message. It was powerful to see such a strong turnout, but even more powerful to witness what happened when we all came together with a common purpose.


At its core, Area 59 serves as a clearing house of information, helping to develop and share the tools that support our primary purpose. Intergroups are often where those tools are put into action on a daily basis. **All Intergroup Day** created a unique space where those two worlds could connect in a meaningful way. Ideas weren't just discussed, but exchanged, challenged, and strengthened through real experience.

The level of collaboration throughout the day was incredible. This wasn't just a workshop; it was an opportunity for those actively engaged in 12-step work to network, swap ideas, and learn from one another. Conversations naturally evolved into problem-solving sessions. Challenges that once felt isolated quickly revealed themselves to be shared experiences. And in those moments, something important happened... solutions began to emerge.

Whether it was discussing volunteer engagement, communication strategies, insurance woes, or ways to better reach the still-suffering alcoholic, the willingness in the room was undeniable. People showed up ready to listen, to contribute, and to take something valuable back to their service entity. That's how we grow! Not in silos, but together.


AREA 59 PRESENTS

ALL INTERGROUP DAY




Join Us To Listen, Learn, and Share:

- Roundtables
- Panel Discussions
- Open Sharing
- Unity In Action



All Intergroup Day is a collaborative gathering where Intergroups, Central Offices, and Districts By Committee come together to share experience, strengthen unity, and celebrate the vital hand-in-hand work that connects the still-suffering alcoholic to our Fellowship.

Where and When?
March 28th, 2026
Easy Does It Inc.
1300 Hilltop Rd
Leesport, PA 19533
Doors Open at 10am
Program from 11am-3pm
Continental Breakfast and Lunch will be provided



Get Out Your Head- Do Service Instead!

For More Information, Email:
alt-delegate@area59aa.org
www.area59aa.org

A special thank you goes out to our incredible roundtable facilitators—Tate S., Dale S., Mark P., and Lowell L.—who helped guide meaningful discussions and create space for everyone to be heard. Your service made the conversations productive and impactful. We're equally grateful to our dedicated recorders—Deb S., Debbie B., Debbie B., and Jodi M.—for capturing the spirit and substance of each session. And of course, thank you to District 66 for hosting and helping make this event possible. Your hospitality and service did not go unnoticed.

All Intergroup Day was a reminder that when we come together with open minds and a willingness to serve, incredible things can happen. The connections made, the ideas shared, and the solutions explored will continue to ripple outward—strengthening how we carry the message across Area 59.

This is what unity in action looks like.

With Gratitude,

Alex N.

Alternate Delegate, Area 59 Panel 75

Scooby Doo Van goes to Portland, Maine

I was able to attend **NERAASA in Portland, Maine** in February, and it was a great experience. This was my 2nd NERAASA and I can't wait to go next year.

On 02/19/2026 Me and five other friends from Area 59 drove up to Portland, Maine which we dubbed the Scooby Doo Van. It took us 6+ hours one way, but it did not feel like six hours since we had great conversations, jokes and naps the whole way.

I was able to attend the Red Ball (instead of a red ball they used a red lobster) meeting that occurs on Thursday night, before the Conference starts. And that was a great ice breaker and reminder of the primary purpose before we had a weekend of workshops and roundtables.

Friday 02/20/2026 me and the other Area 59 Officers met for our Pre-Area Officers meeting. Before that meeting, I was able to take a walk downtown Portland, and check out the local coffee shops and see the waterfront and all the fishing boats. After our Officer's meeting me and Lauren ran to check out a local (very small) lighthouse. It was not what we were expecting but being near the water is always calming to me, so it was very peaceful.

There were a number of great workshops and panels during the weekend. One moderator, Matt K. stated that "I am not speaking, you are because it is a workshop." What is nice about the workshops at NERAASA is there are three speakers, a moderator and a timer, all participants in the workshop are involved in their local Area in the North East Region.

One of the workshops was "*Navigating the A.A. Information Highway*" Matt K. had us researching up the first ever pamphlet survey on www.aa.org, as a way to show us that aa.org, along with AA Service Manual and Language of the Heart are great tools when needing A.A. information. What I heard during this workshop was:

Our biggest resource in A.A. is using other alcoholics; time management skills are great to have while in General Service; each person learns differently and they could learn by audio, seeing or doing; we should remember that "motion to postpone" and "motion to table" need to be used correctly, along with other great reminders.

I was able to attend the NERAASA business meeting, where anyone attending the business meeting can vote. Attendees can discuss the motions presented prior to the business meeting. This business meeting happens only once a year during NERAASA, so if any motions are not talked about or voted on, they are put on the agenda for next NERAASA, in Feb 2027. This is one of the few times when Call to Question has been used effectively, attendees would motion Call to Question when it felt the same point was being made over and over again. Call to Question is used to see if the attendees wanted to vote or continue discussing. Because of this motion we were able to get through all of the motions in the 1.5 hour business meeting.

I was able to attend one of the Registrar's Roundtables where I could hear other experiences, questions, and learn from other Registrars in the North East region. What was different this year was they combined the service positions roundtables so Registrar's were with GSRs and I got to hear their questions and suggestions. It was also stated during the Roundtable that Registrars can support the GSRs by getting them registered in the Fellowship Connections network, so that they are connected to GSO and get their GSR kit timely.

Unfortunately, due to the snow we had to leave Saturday night to get home before the snow hit home in Philly. I was able to see some of Portland's attractions and eat a lobster roll. I was also able to have conversations with other alcoholics all over the North East region, and it was a great, cold and snowy weekend. And I would go again even if I knew I had to leave early for a potential snow storm.

By Katie M.
Officer at Large, Area 59 Panel 75



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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Area 59

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GENERAL SERVICE ASSEMBLY
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