

"We..." E.P.G.S.A. Newsletter

7/15/17

[Edition 1, Volume 4]

From the Current Delegate

by Paul M., Delegate

"What I saw, heard and felt at the General Service Conference"

Hello to the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. I am grateful to everyone in Area 59 for the opportunity to serve at the 67th General Service Conference. I have had a chance to deliver my reports to Area 59 in the Scranton, Pa.

Alcoholics, 93 of whom are Delegates who love this fellowship. They are dedicated men and women from all over the United States and Canada who came together to help improve policy and make available the tools needed

"Attending the 2017 G.S.C. was a marvelous and spirit ually uplifting experience."

Area for Mini Assembly I / DCR and also Mini Assembly II /DCR in Kennett Square, Pa. covering the Northern and Southern parts of Area 59. My key duty as the Delegate is to report back to the fellowship: what I saw, what I heard, and what I felt at the Conference.

What I saw was the process of how the Service Structure (The inverted Triangle) works from the top "The Groups" - to the bottom, with 132 other

for us to help carry the message to the alcoholic who still stumbles in the dark just a few blocks from us.

What I Heard was 132 men and women - some alcoholic's and a few nonalcoholic (Class A members) come together to discuss agenda items. Our task takes a full week. Theses items had been discussed within the Areas prior to the GSC, to help

Welcome to "We..."

...

Happy Summer! This is the workshop season. Please visit our Area 59 website: www.area59aa.org for the calendar of events. You will find a wonderful array of workshops and service events to keep informed about our Fellowship in Eastern PA. Details about our 2017 E.P.G.S.A. Convention can now be found on the web site. It's not too early to register. Please note there are some important changes to the registration and meal plans for this year. Our subcommittees are busy planning some terrific workshops. Please joins us for this important service event.

Please note that the new Safety Card (aka "Yellow Card") has been published by G.S.O. You can find out more details at www.aa.org.

the Delegates get the feel of how their area conscience was regarding the agenda items. I heard a lot of heart-felt compassion, and several times some very vigorous debate and discussion that eventually lead to a decision that was best for Alcoholic's Anonymous as a Whole.

What I Felt was a warm sense of a deeper love for the fellowship of A.A. This was truly a life altering experience that I will be ever so grateful for. On Thursday of the week

of the GSC I realized later in the day that it was actually my 14th anniversary in the program of A.A. A sense of overwhelming peace and gratitude came over me causing tears to roll from my eyes, here I was representing Eastern Pennsylvania Area 59, 1632 Groups and approximately 32,000 members, and just 14 years prior people avoided me, I had cried out for help because I had hit my bottom, and there it was - the Hand of A.A.

- right there for me with no axes to grind, and no fees to pay, and there I set with a true understanding of what the "I am Responsible" Declaration really means. Only by a God of my understanding and Alcoholic Anonymous is something like this possible. Thank You.

"Supporting Our Future"

2017 G.S.C. Theme

The E.P.G.S.A. Annual Convention Supports Our Future

by Marty S., Past Delegate, Panel 51

Our Convention/Assembly is fast approaching.

The Convention Committee is hard at work on the 2017 event and beyond.

There are major changes to the Hotel and Convention forms this year.

Please read them carefully. We hope that the new way in pricing will help the Members and Groups.

If a District would like a member of the Committee to visit their District you only need to ask a Committee Member and we will do our best to visit that District.

The Convention can only happen with the help of a lot of volunteers.

Please speak to your DCM, Area Officer or Convention Committee Member about volunteering

Remember that the only way we know that the changes we make are good

is by you letting us know what you think. You can reach us at the Area web site

www.area59aa.org or by phone. The phone numbers of Committee Members are in the Area rooster.

Help make this the BEST CONVENTION/ASSEMBLY ever. Don't wait to be "voluntold" – VOLUNTEER!

When Home Groups Support Our Convention & Area Events, They Support Our Future

by Ken D., Alt-Delegate & Area Chairperson, Panel 67

The General Service Conference theme for 2017 is "Supporting Our Future." If you have been reading our Area 59 newsletter, "We..." you may have noticed that theme. We have purposefully looked for opportunities to weave in this common thread. The one key word that comes to me about my own recovery and service is, "participation."

The Twelve Steps provide a framework that requires my participation to reach the spiritual awakening of recovery. And, in the Twelfth Step, the foundation "bricks" of how to participate are right up front: "a spiritual awakening" - Recovery, "carry this message" - Service, and "practice these principles in all my affairs" - Unity. Right there I am handed three Legacies - practices handed down over 82 years and millions of recovering members. Our Legacies all require participation. It will not merely be the words and literature that we pass on, it will be the sum total of our actions and decisions that will be passed on. And, passing along the Legacies requires all our participation. Therefore, the structure of our Spiritual Fellowship is based on "action and more action."

"Action" is a participation kind of word. My experience is that the fundamental unit for action is the Home Group. A healthy home group requires active participation. People working consistently to carry the message, recover and connect with the worldwide Fellowship to reach potential members wherever they may be. That takes a participating General Service Representative (GSR), as well as all other home group, district, area and G.S.O. participants providing services.

An active GSR connects the group to the world of A.A. through her/his participation at the District, Area events and assemblies and other regional and international conventions. A really effective GSR, in my opinion, inspires others in her/his group & on the district committees where she/he participates with enthusiasm, education and shared experience. Not just perspiration; but inspiration!

A healthy home group supports their GSR to attend events, like our Eastern PA General Service Assembly and Convention. By doing this and supporting their participation in other key events, like the Pre-Conference Sharing Session, the home group infuses unity and an informed conscience for all of A.A.

Home groups also support the financial strength of our Fellowship through regular contributions to their inter-groups, districts, areas and the General Service Office for world service. This is the financial equivalent of responsibility and support. Really, without it, the structure would be of little value. It is estimated that if every member gave once a year a direct birthday contribution to the General Service Office, the amount of \$1 – one dollar per each year of continuous sobriety - the G.S.O. budget would not need to be supported by literature sales at all. Sharing financial support is participation. Just like Bill W.'s participation in his own recovery when he put a nickel into the pay phone for the call that put him in

touch with Dr. Bob. They started groups and those groups' participation and unity gave rise to our recovery today!

So, first I send a greeting of gratitude to all the registered 1,663 home groups that carry the message in Eastern PA. And, I send a big "Thanks!" to all the GSRs and their groups support. And "thank you" to all members who support us! Your service is vital and your participation is critical to support our future. Please support your GSR to the 2017 EPGSA Convention, November 3-5, 2017, at the Wyndham Gettysburg/Courtyard Gettysburg hotels. Go to our web site: www.area59aa.org or contact convention@area59aa.org, or your DCM or area officer for more details. Your support is an investment in supporting our future. Thanks for your participation!

Keep up to date with General Service in Eastern PA by visiting our web site: www.area59aa.org.

Spotlight: District 43 - At The Heart of Eastern Pennsylvania Service

by Carrie S., DCM

District 43 is located at the geographic center of Pennsylvania; most of our district is within the aptly-named Centre County. Centre County is an interesting mix of academia, agriculture, industry, and high-tech. It's home to Pennsylvania State University, so we have many young members. Because of the area's rich and long history, we also have many long-tenured members. This makes for a diverse, ever-evolving, inclusive, and active recovery community.

District 43 Panel 67 also reflects this diversity. We have many young or new-to-service GSR's and a few long-tenured reps, too. It's a vibrant blend of passion and

wisdom. We spent the first few months getting everyone up-to-speed – and also letting our bank account fill. We have two major projects started: 1) Corrections is updating qualification, applications, contact info, and representation at all our of institution meetings, and 2) CPC is set to send contact info, meeting lists, and brochures to schools, doctors, and lawyers in the area.

I have been lucky to witness love in action through service since day 1. I started making coffee and chairing meetings in my first 90 days, simply because I was asked. At first I didn't see what it was doing for me, but those that had what I wanted were elbow-deep in service at all levels. I

started to feel more connected, more useful, and more sober. I have had such great examples of humble service from past District panel officers and DCMs, that I felt prepared for my role as DCM if I simply followed their lead. Area meetings and functions amplify it; I'm constantly empowered and educated by my interactions with the other DCMs and Area officers. The passion, devotion, and grace is obvious.

My goal is to emulate what I see in my fellow DCMs and the Area officers in District 43, so that the legacy of AA thrives in my community long after my service is complete. Thank you for helping me to do that.

Utilizing Technology To Carry The Message – How It Supports Our Future

by Greg G., Area
59 Web Servant,
Leesport Group of
AA

There is no stopping the technology explosion that we are currently living through, and as the old saying goes, “if you can’t beat them, join them”.

AA has slowly, but surely, taken advantage of the benefits of technology and has a keen eye on its drawbacks. Utilizing this power, many Districts, Inter-groups and Areas have launched websites to better inform the public, as well as provided needed information to our membership. Meeting schedules have been in the forefront of this trend. Trying to provide accurate meeting information to our

members and those seeking us out has been a priority. Websites have been the primary tool for informing the membership of meetings, announcement etc.

A very good example of the most recent use of technology to reach interested parties is the advent of the meeting app “Meeting Guide” (You can download the free meeting guide app for your smart phone at



<https://meetingguide.org/>
The app is free and was created and is maintained by AA members. With the app, you can find meetings wherever you are, based on your current GPS location. You can select several options for finding meetings based on day, time, type of meeting etc. as well. The

data is based on the actual current meeting lists on Intergroup and District websites so it is as up-to-date as the individual Inter-groups etc. keep them. From the app, you can email or text live links to other members that will take them directly to the meeting utilizing the GPS in their smart phone. Currently in Area 59 and the surrounding area, SEPIA, Reading Berks Intergroup, ABE Intergroup, District 43 (State College), Harrisburg Intergroup, and Northern Delaware Intergroup are active. More Inter-groups and Districts are in the works. For questions and additional information on the process, you can contact info@area59aa.org.

Another area in which technology is being used is for monetary contributions. The GSO website (aa.org) was the first to employ this technology and many Areas, Districts and Inter-groups have followed suit.

Area 59 is in the process of completing their own Contribution Button on Area59aa.org. You can see a current version on the SEPIA website (aasepia.org) homepage.

With the ever-increasing use of smart phones in place of computers, existing websites are going thru a transformation to a more adaptive website style that easily expands or contracts depending on the device being used for viewing.

The Public Information Sub-committee of Area 59 is considering the idea of

converting our website to this more adaptive format utilizing Word Press as a possible content management system.

In the reorganization of the Area 59 website, to expand its usefulness, a multidirectional approach is being explored. Instead of the primary focus of the site being for members, plans are to expand this usefulness to professionals and those seeking help and more information. AA.org is designed for all three, the professional seeking more info, the individual who may have a problem or is

seeking information for another and finally, for the membership.

Stay tuned for more changes to come, the technology is not slowing down, and neither should we.

Please visit www.aa.org to get information about the new “yellow card” – Safety In A.A. It’s now available for order.

“We...” is a newsletter for members the Area 59 (E.P.G.S.A.) General Service Committee, Service Volunteers and interested Fellowship members. For information contact chairperson@area59aa.org

Ken Dennison