

Meeting Minutes | EPGSA Panel 73

March 10, 2024

Area Quarterly Meeting, Q2

St. Rose Church

6 North Church St.

Carbondale, PA 18407



Meeting Opening:

Susan M., Chairperson Panel 73, opened the meeting with the Declaration of Unity and thanked the hosting District 39 and DCM Natalie. The breakfast was noteworthy.

Tara C., Area Treasurer read from Concept 9. The focus was on leadership, and no matter how good the structure, it depends on leadership of those in service to succeed. The importance of GSRs in carrying and forming the group conscience was highlighted, especially as they are the only ones who can elect Area Committee members and the Delegate. Great care must be taken to elect GSRs who will be qualified, and willing to put personal ambitions aside.

Acknowledged Guests:

Past Delegates: Pat F., Darren F.; special servants were noted.

Traditions and Concepts:

- Concept 1 – Pat D. (D38)
 - ☐ Pat read the first sentence of the Concept, and asked the question, why do we need the Concepts? He noted how Concept 1 relates to Tradition 1 and 2 – Bill W. explicitly handled over the responsibility of service to the Conference in the 1950s.
 - ☐ Bill W. was still fielding too many questions from groups, thus in 1962 the Concepts came out to state how the final responsibility, ultimate authority, and our overall service structure work more clearly.
 - ☐ The way our group conscience is carried out is of utmost importance.
- Concept 2 – Jessica T. (D58)
 - ☐ Jessica read the statement of Concept 2, which states how the effective voice and group conscience of our whole society is carried out through the General Service Conference.
 - ☐ Bill W. had to fight and work hard to get support for the Conference, which is the only way members and groups throughout all areas could effectively make decisions due to the large number of people.
 - ☐ Trust in the Conference to carry out its delegated authority is key.
- Concept 3 – Steve Z. (D64)
 - ☐ Read a short and long form of the Concept, which speaks of the right of decision.
 - ☐ This right should now be used as an excuse to make decisions without informing others.
 - ☐ We need to trust GSRs, DCMs, Delegates, and others to make decisions on our behalf without interference. An example would be changed opinions from last year's GSC about the Plain Language Big Book.

Volunteers were selected to present on the Concepts at the June Quarterly Meeting:

Concept 4: Mike R. D23 | Concept 5: Diane M., D25 | Concept 6: Jim K., D67

Roll Call | Secretary, Dan B.

- The Secretary conducted roll call. All 5 officers were present (Alt-Delegate resigned in January), and 38 Districts represented, for a total of 43 out of 53 eligible voting members. Please see the roll call tally attached at the end for details.

Acceptance of Minutes from Prior Quarterly Meeting | Chairperson, Susan M.

- Susan verified members has read the December draft minutes (sent a month prior), and if there were any corrections or changes before voting to approve. (There were no corrections.)

- *The D26 DCM made a motion to accept the minutes, which was seconded by the D24 DCM.*
- *The minutes were unanimously accepted, with none opposed.*

Convention Committee Report | CONVENTION CHAIRPERSON, PAT F.

- Pat announced the upcoming 67th annual convention. Attached to her report is a list of which Past Delegates are assigned to visit each District to talk about the convention.
- There is also a flyer you can share to announce the convention.
- Now is the time to budget and start saving so groups and Districts can send GSRs and DCMs.
- The Convention Treasurer Hugh H. is available for questions regarding the finances and the 2023 Budget vs. Actuals. The convention came in within \$34 of the budget.

Corrections Conference Report 2023 | P73 CORRECTIONS CHAIR/D32 DCM, JOE K. (ON BEHALF OF MELISSA M.)

- Melissa, who went to the conference, was unable to attend the meeting, so she sent her report to Joe.
- Susan wished to allow unanimous consent for Joe to speak at this time during the meeting, which was seconded by the D57 DCM Vicki M.
- Joe gave highlights from the report, including:
 - ☐ 6th Annual National Corrections Conference held in November, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The purpose of the meeting is for AA members interested to share experiences and share information among each other.
 - ☐ Words of wisdom heard: Think. Think. Think. The 1st thought gets you a misdemeanor...
 - ☐ We must learn to build relationships with people who work in these institutions and teach them about what we are and what we do so we can access the AA members inside it and carry the message to them.
 - ☐ Please see the report for more information.

Officer Reports:

OFFICER AT LARGE, CLAIRE B.

- Postcards pre-stamped and addressed for Pete at Conference, please give him encouragement, and mail them!
- Claire has enjoyed visiting Districts to help with Fellowship Connection. Please complete the Area Group Change from when there are any updates, so Claire can update them in the GSO database.
- She noted the flyers for PCCS and the two mini assemblies/Delegate Conference Reports in May and June. They are *your* chance to share your group's conscience and hear what happened at Conference!
- Subcommittees are recommended to bring their displays to these events; please really try to encourage attendance! It is also a great opportunity for members to get to know people who may stand for office this year.
- Claire remarked she is liaison to YPAA and D68 and highlighted the upcoming Hispanic Convention and several YPAA events.
- YPAA and A59 Share-a-Day will be Oct 6, 2024 in Harrisburg, PA; she thanked D36 for agreeing to host.

TREASURER, TARA C.

- Contributions 13% above budget; expenses at budget.
- Savings: \$29,322.07; Checking: \$13,288.70; provided FY to date P&L, as well as District contributions.
- 343 contributions; 73 online. Appreciates those who request e-mail thank yous!
- Archives storage paid through June; paid semi-annual sales taxes.
- Ordered literature for committee and events; worked with Districts for securing events and contracts.
- Non-profit and tax-exempt status extended through 2029.
- Received a new laptop and beginning effort to migrate to QuickBooks online – wish her luck!
- Encourage people to submit expense reports, even if they aren't sure if the Area covers it.
- Asked to communicate the new Treasurer address, since many are still coming to old treasurer.

- Encouraged Districts, alone/together, to ask the officers to come out for an informal breakfast, discussion, etc.
- Noted Area Day planning; reps from each subcommittee will meet at lunch.

SECRETARY, DAN B.

- Reminded all DCMs to make sure to send their District minutes to the Archivist and officers; we do split up responsibility for reading them!
- Also asked DCMs to submit their reports, even if brief; last quarterly we barely had half of DCMS submit reports.
- Encouraged people to use the Roster App for contact info as well as the service calendar.
- Dan explained the importance of getting volunteers for the upcoming November EPGSA Convention, especially for registration! There is a QR code and link on the back of the report for the nifty online form.

CHAIRPERSON, SUSAN M.

- Noted updated service calendar and informational sheet regarding the guest observer for our convention.
- Districts and groups are encouraged to add events using the form on the website or email them to the secretary.
- Susan thanked all the Districts who are hosting event this year; please reach out if you have any questions!
- Guest Observer for Convention: It's our custom to select a guest observer for our November convention. The informational packet explains the history and requirements to submit a nomination. Please submit your nominations by June so we can vote at the next quarterly meeting.
- Encouraged attendance at PCCS.
- Noted all motions are due prior to the officer meeting approximately four weeks before the quarterly.
- New! If you submit your subcommittee reports by the Pre-Area Officer meeting, Susan may be able to send them out with the agenda.

DELEGATE, PETE B.

- Pete exhorted everyone to not give in to “senioritis” at this point in the panel, and to stay involved instead.
- Included minutes from the most recent GSB quarterly meeting.
 - ☐ Board submitted the responses to 23 questions for an inventory, which will be reported on at the GSC.
- Plain Language Big Book – one out of three possible titles was selected and will appear on the draft presented at the GSC.
- Feedback for input regarding changes to our founders’ writings was not communicated well and appeared to be a survey. The questions from the Trustees Literature committee were not shared with the whole board; thus, they may not have been ideal questions.
 - ☐ Pete communicated to the GSB it was confusing and the questions seemed survey-like. The intentions was for it to spark discussion and to get the group conscience within areas and communicated through our normal Conference process.
 - ☐ The discussion really is meant to be about *policy* regarding any future changes. In addition, many sent responses back directly to GSO which caused confusion. Please share your input with Pete, so he can carry it to the GSC in April.
 - ☐ There will be an additional sharing session at Conference regarding this subject.
- A new slate of officers for the GSB has been presented, including a new chair.
- 2025 International Convention – please scan the QR code in the report for all of the flyers and information.
- GSB Financial Report
 - ☐ Board approved a new withdrawal from the reserve fund; half for cash liquidity requirements and half for GV 5-year plan. This was unexpected and Pete will work to gather clarity and more information.
 - ☐ Details on revenue, expenses, and net budget are in the report.
- Literature Committee at GSC:
 - ☐ Pete and other committee members will have 9 hours to review draft of plain language BB; they will decide afterwards whether to recommend to the full Conference for approval. Only then would the full Conference

vote, and 2/3 would be required for it to be published.

- ☐ Pete does not plan to sign “letter of understanding” regarding requirements to review the draft manuscript. The issue is it severely restricts discussion of the contents, so much so that he would not be able to properly keep the Area informed. He also feels it is not in the spirit of trust that has been emphasized recently as important.
- NERAASA 2024/2025:
 - ☐ NER 2024 was a resounding success! Over 1,300 in attendance, greeters were everywhere; hospitality provided over 400 PB&J sandwiches, over 1,000 cups of coffee etc.
 - ☐ NER 2025 will be virtual only due to DC host dropping out. Discussed forming a working group to design an advisory council to provide support and experience to future host committees.
- PCCS 2024
 - ☐ Pete may provide “office hours” weekly on Zoom where he’ll be reviewing the GSC background material and allow discussion together.
 - ☐ Sent out survey to assist in deciding which agenda items to cover.
 - ☐ Subcommittees this year will be putting together the presentations, to hopefully get a broader perspective and discussion, as well as more participation.
- Pete officially announced the resignation of our Alternate Delegate Curt and thanked him for his service to the Area in general, and at a personal level.
 - ☐ Pete noted that according to our structure manual, the Chairperson would assume all the duties of the Alternate Delegate. He’s seen that not work so well in the past.
 - ☐ Pete made the decision that it would best for the Area to split all the duties among the various officers and noted that Dan B. would be his backup in the event Pete could not attend Conference.
 - ☐ He then asked that if anyone felt there was a better way to divide responsibilities, or take another path, please speak up.
- Summary of Questions and Comments:
 - ☐ D48 DCM Liz F. wondered why we are “going against our group conscience” that is in the structure manual.
 - Answer: to support the best functioning of the Area, and effect operations for the 1,600 groups, he felt it was his right and the correct decision for the Area to not follow the structure manual and split the duties.
 - ☐ D49 Chris H. – should we vote on who should attend the Conference in Pete’s absence?
 - Note: This will be discussed in New Business. (See below.)
 - ☐ D45 Adam S. - NERAASA: feels that going virtual next year, could be an opportunity for more to be involved in service.

DCM Actions:

- D60 DCM, Ruth D.: Member wanted to speak at a meeting who was on methadone. How do we handle this and follow our principles?
 - ☐ D21, Devon C.: Medications someone is taking is none of our business. As long as they keep the discussion to alcohol, they belong.
 - ☐ D38, Pat D.: AA should be available to all who wish to recover. We would not turn someone away for taking insulin.
- D62 ADCM, Kim B.: Issue was neighboring D52 has gone dark, and wondering help we can support them. How can we come up with an action plan to get them reconnected?
 - ☐ D31 DCM Dave B.: His District started a visitation committee due to poor attendance, which has really helped.
 - ☐ D24 DCM, Lauen B.: Also has visitation committee, plus a flyer listing where they meet, why it’s important, etc. Will send informational sheet.
 - ☐ D58 DCM, Jessica T.: Currently do not have ADCM and concerned her District will go dark after this term. Sponsorship that discusses services, Traditions, and Concepts really helps. Holding a “stealth workshop”

about service with intent to have people attend, and sneak in discussion of service.

- ☐ Treasurer, Tara C.: The Area officers are always available to help – invite us!
- ☐ D62 ADCM: Really grateful for all the comments!

The chairperson then announced a break for lunch.

Subcommittee Reports:

ARCHIVES | JENN F., DCM D47

- Met in person and online and have attended several area events.
- Replaced history section in its entirety, to make it more about Area 59 and less AA in general. Cross checked with various archival documents for accuracy.

CPC | ALEX B., DCM D43

- Created and presented a CPC PowerPoint presentation that is available to other Districts.
- CPC will begin attending meeting of a PI/CPC Working Group that meets monthly over Zoom.
- Committee plans to continue working on and complete the remaining Delegate recommendations.
- Questions and Comments: D25 DCM, Diane M., wants information on the mentioned PI/CPC Working Group.

CORRECTIONS | JOE K., D32

- Ordered books for D50 corrections committee to bring to Huntingdon area prisons.
- Has assisted GSO with pre-release meetings from other Areas to Area 59.
- Assisted with getting literature to a prison after referral from GSO.
- Working with an intergroup to find a solution to getting literature into an institution in Camp Hill.
- Questions and comments:
 - ☐ GV Chair, Jessica T: Noted the Grapevine Carry the Message project can help get literature to those in need.

FINANCE | LAUREN B., D24

- Worked on motion regarding operating account.
- Prepared for NERAASA and provided literature.
- Helped with upcoming conversion of Area account software from QuickBooks desktop to QuickBooks online.
- Have 7T packets available but encourage use of digital ones.
- 2024 Budget: Allocated \$9,000 for Delegate to attend GSC, but actual cost was \$9,500. That has been corrected in the appropriate budget line-item.
- Questions and Comments:
 - ☐ D25 DCM, Diane M.: We approved the budget at one amount, so is it okay to increase the budget?
 - ☐ D24, Lauren B.: We felt since we have the funds due to no Alt-Del and the low amount it was fine to just “shift” the funds.
 - ☐ D25, Diane M.: Shouldn’t we have a say in that?
 - ☐ Treasurer, Tara C.: We can approve up to \$500 with the Delegate and not need to go back to the Area for approval.

GRAPEVINE / LA VIÑA | JESS T., DCM D58

- Meeting online and in-person; attending various events.
- Appreciates ability to provide GV literature at NERAASA, since that is carrying the message of recovery.
- \$3,943 was purchased; they sold ~ \$3,7000 in literature and several hundred books, so it was a success.
- Will participate in the Hispanic convention in May and help with BTG and other events.
- Working on remaining Delegate recommendations.

PUBLIC INFORMATION | DEB S., DCM D30

- Created digital binders with PI literature that were distributed to Intergroups (w/ assistance from Digital Comms.)
- Created QR to link to digital binder contents.
- Evaluating possible posting to PA 211 website with PI info.

STRUCTURE | ALEX N., DCM D51

- Bringing recommendation to combine PI/CPC.
- Helped wordsmith Finance recommendation.
- Did not feel it necessary to act on rewrite of history section presented by Archives.
- Updated current structure manual with last approved updates. Investigating an e-book version for usability.
- Commented on Pete's decision to split Alt-Del duties, and noted how it did not go so well on 2 different panels when the Chair assumed role of Alt-Del. We have the right to be practical, but if we wanted an official new process, it would require a structure change, which would be due soon, in order to present to Area committee.
- Questions/Comments: Diane M., doesn't feel it makes sense to have a structure manual if we don't follow it.

TREATMENT/ACCESSIBILITIES | DEVON C., DCM D21

- Assisting with BTG and supplied literature to treatment facilities.
- Chair has attended All Area Access Zoom meetings and shared with subcommittee.
- Ordering new shades and literature.
- Continuing to make connections with Spanish and ASL translators.
- Accessibilities support has been offered to PENNSCYPAA and is available for events in Area 59.
- Investigating accessibility concerns, suggests Area use more reader friendly fonts such as Calibri or Aptos.

AD-HOC DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS | TED C., DCM D27

- Digital Binders are now on our website; has QR codes and pictures of pamphlets, guidelines, etc. Links directly to AA website.
- Now is in an actual "binder" so people don't take it.
- Subcommittee sections on the website are missing for two subcommittees and will work them to add it.
- Working to create visually appealing kits or reference binders for things such as GSR kits and subcommittees. Please contact Ted if you are interested.
- WE newsletter will now be supported by Colleen M.

New Business:

DISTRICT 23 MOTION | MICHAEL R., DCM

"Area 59 should strive to offer all Pre-Conference Sharing Sessions (PCSS) and at least one annual Delegate's Conference Report (DCR) in either an online or hybrid format."

- Michael read the motion and explained that it's about gathering more participation.
- The group that originally brought the motion went from in-person to online after Covid-19; felt they could be more informed and participate better with virtual Area events.
- *A motion to suspend the rules was called for by the Chair to allow Fred S., Tech Servant, to speak about the challenges to the Area to support hybrid or online events. This was seconded by the D66 DCM.*
 - ☐ *A vote to suspend the rules was carried with 33 in favor.*
- Fred S. spoke about the challenges:
 - ☐ Large Hybrid meetings are difficult to support, and many who attend online feel like 2nd class citizens.
 - ☐ Quality wi-fi connections can be difficult to achieve, particularly through walls. Network equipment may not be able to handle the load.
 - ☐ A/V equipment is expensive, likely several thousand dollars.

- ☐ Difficult to find volunteers with the expertise to properly assist. Some Areas only have hybrid events in hotels where they can have the staff support it, which can be quite expensive.
Example: NERAASA big screen would have cost \$6,000; we used a smaller screen on a cart which was \$1,000.
- ☐ Areas are finding online attendance is going down; some considering votes to discontinue hybrid/online. That is partially due to the second-class experience online, as well as difficulty in finding support volunteers.
- ☐ Area has had occasions where existing events were supposed to have wi-fi, but it didn't work. How would we handle such a situation for hybrid meetings if unexpectedly people online couldn't participate?
- ☐ Area has done livestreams for events in the past. Users reported very bad connections online with lags, etc. At another event, the power kept going out, so the online stream was on and off.
- ☐ Northern NJ experimented with hybrid but did not like the experience and discontinued.
- ☐ Fred mentioned that not only would we need to budget for hybrid events, but he is not sure of his own expertise to handle it.
- Summary of Discussion:
 - ☐ *D66 DCM, John R., moved to amend the motion:
I move that Area 59 provide one online Delegate Conference report each year, after the General Service Conference, given by the current Area 59 Delegate; the D65 DCM seconded the amendment.*
 - D38 DCM: what problem are we solving and are we meeting the needs of only a small number.
 - D24 DCM: would an online-only option affect the attendance in-person.
 - D40 DCM: does not like that the amendment removes discussion of PCCS.
 - D66 DCM: clarified this is an additional Delegate Conference Report.
 - D36, DCM: in support of the amendment.
 - D66 DCM: Multiple avenues besides in person to get information for PCCS.
 - ☐ *The motion was read again and voted upon:*
 - *21 in favor, 13 opposed.*
 - Minority opinion from those *in favor* of the motion:
 - D60 DCM, in favor because this is only adding something and taking nothing away.
 - D66 DCM, at a loss for downside in this, especially because Pete went to so many districts to report back. It's a lost opportunity. Also provides full participation. Online groups can participate.
 - D62 ADCM reiterated how much time Pete spent to talk to Districts and how important this may be.
 - *Nobody wished to reconsider the motion, so debate went back to the original motion.*
- Discussion resumed on the original motion:
 - ☐ D51 DCM: asked if original group who brought the motion is still in existence. D21 DCM answered the original group disbanded due to lack of participation, particularly from newcomers. It could increase accessibility, but if it costs money and has limited potential reach, so is this a worthwhile endeavor.
 - ☐ D58 DCM: feels Pete provides a lot of online resources in reporting on Conference; hybrid is difficult. Plus, online would cover both events as covered in the motion.
 - ☐ D45 DCM: wonders what "strive" means – it was clarified it does indeed mean will we investigate and attempt to do it.
 - ☐ D60 DCM: Has a problem that "strive" isn't an action word.
 - ☐ D29 DCM: Feels the current motion is limiting, as was John's amendment.
 - ☐ D66 DCM: Feels the current motion is too vague. Hybrid is too difficult, and it would be simpler to just have an online event.
- *D51 DCM: Called the question. D62 ADCM seconded, and a vote was taken:*
 - ☐ *29 in favor, 0 opposed. Since that motion succeeded, the Area would immediately vote on the main motion.*
- *The original motion was voted upon:*
 - ☐ *6 in favor, 33 opposed.*
 - ☐ Minority opinion: Tara C., Treasurer: Online groups need to have a voice and be able to participate.

- ☐ *Nobody wished to reconsider the vote, so the motion failed.*

FINANCE MOTION | LAUREN B., FINANCE CHAIR

- *The Finance Subcommittee recommends a structure manual change that would add a “ceiling” to our operating account.*
 - ☐ The following would be added after the paragraph regarding the prudent reserve:
“Area 59 maintains a reasonable operating account, with the ideal amount suggested as 20% of the average annual expenses of a typical panel at the end of the fiscal year. The Finance Subcommittee will review the operating balance in consultation with the Area Treasurer and the entire Area Committee, and as needed make recommendations to the entire Area Committee. Each panel is free to make decisions based on the financial needs of the Area.”
- Lauren read the motion and explained its history. It came up in Panel 71 due to an excessive operating balance caused by the lack of in-person events. The Finance Committee spent a lot of time coming up with ways to disburse the extra funds. This motion will give more of a defined process if this occurs in the future.
- Summary of Discussion:
 - ☐ D48 DCM: Intent is to make sure we do something when this happens. (Answer, correct.)
 - ☐ D43 DCM: His District has been in favor of this for a while and it’s a great idea.
 - ☐ D66 DCM: Against motion, because groups give money to the Area to spend within the Area. If we have excess funds, groups have the power to simply not contribute as much.
 - ☐ D21 DCM: Relayed experience in her District; they spent it within the Area.
 - ☐ Finance Chair: clarified intention is to keep money within the Area, and ideas would be solicited within the Area of how to use.
- *The motion was read again and voted upon:*
 - ☐ *35 in favor; 2 opposed.*
 - ☐ Minority opinion:
 - D25 DCM: The experience of the prior panels was an extraordinary event, which was handled well. We need to continue to allow the Area officers to assist with such an issue in the future vs. putting it into our structure.
 - ☐ *Nobody wished to reconsider the vote; the motion carried with substantial unanimity.*

STRUCTURE MOTION | ALEX N., STRUCTURE CHAIR

- *The Structure Subcommittee for Area 59 unanimously recommends that the subcommittees of Public Information and Cooperation with the Professional Community, commonly known as P.I. and C.P.C., combine to a singular subcommittee serving both functions for the Area.*
 - ☐ The proposed update to the Structure Manual would replace the existing description of the PI and CPC subcommittees with a single section:
“Cooperation With The Professional Community and Public Information (CPC/PI)- assists the districts to inform the general public and the AA membership of ways to carry the message, such as workshops, literature kits, and radio and television announcements; studies ways to cooperate with professionals while keeping within AA traditions, cooperates with other area subcommittees when communication with professionals in specific subjects needs to be addressed, is responsible for communicating directly with professionals when required, and is responsible for staffing exhibit booths in certain circumstances.”
- Alex read the motion and explained how originally CPC was an offshoot from PI. Due to the current needs of the Area, he feels the Area would operate more effectively as a combined subcommittee.
- Both subcommittee chairs are on board and could decide to have a single chair or co-chairs.
- Summary of Discussion:
 - ☐ D24 DCM: Question about if workload would be too much for a combined subcommittee/chair.
 - ☐ Structure Chair: Existing subcommittees have vacancies, so by combining it would provide more resources

for the new subcommittee as well as more for other subcommittees in the future.

- ☐ D43 DCM: His District found that combining subcommittees was helpful to getting more participation.
- ☐ D45 DCM: As a PI subcommittee member, has noticed that PI has fewer responsibilities now that Digital Comm handles the newsletter and the website; PI would work well as combined.
- ☐ PI Chair: Feels subcommittee has not been able to accomplish as much as desired; combining would work better for the Area.
- ☐ D25 DCM: Asked question about why Alex D43 mentioned GSRs; he responded it was an analogy only.
- *The vote was taken:*
 - ☐ *39 in favor; 0 opposed*
 - ☐ *The motion carried unanimously.*

ARCHIVES MOTION | JENN F., ARCHIVES CHAIR

- *The Archives Subcommittee moves to implement the revised history section of the Structure Manual as submitted in its entirety.*
- Archives provided two attachments, one with just the new text, and one showing exactly what was changed.
- Jenn clarified they would want a full replacement of the history section based on their handouts.
- The section has not been revised comprehensively since items were added. Also, existing section has info about AA as a whole that really doesn't pertain to the Area. It includes the history of A59 from the website. They did due diligence and made minor grammatical changes.
- Summary of Discussion:
 - ☐ D51 DCM: Why are we updating this now, versus some other time.
 - ☐ D58 DCM: Why *not* now.
 - ☐ D36 DCM: Point of Information, asked if Archivist could provide background.
 - ☐ *Susan called for motion to suspend the rules to allow Archivist to speak. Second by D24 DCM.*
 - *All were unanimously in favor of having Donal H. speak.*
 - ☐ Archivist explained manual was written in 1986 and had never been updated; contained many inaccuracies.
- *A vote was taken:*
 - ☐ *37 were in favor, with none opposed.*
 - ☐ *Motion carried with substantial unanimity.*

PETE'S SPLIT OF DELEGATE DUTIES AMONG OFFICERS (DUE TO RESIGNATION OF ALTERNATE DELEGATE)

- Pete went to the mic and explained that now is the time to voice any concerns or discussion about his plan to divide the duties of the Delegate.
- D66 DCM: Was there discussion with the officers about this plan?
- Pete: Discussed in advance with Past Delegates and others. During meeting with officers to discuss the plan, there was an opportunity to change it – no one offered any changes.
- D48 DCM: Discussed history of our structure and how the process was already voted in by 2/3. The structure manual states that if the Alternate Delegate resigns, the Chairperson assumes the responsibilities.
 - ☐ *Liz F. made a motion to follow the structure manual with respect to the Alternate Delegate's ultimate responsibilities in the event of a resignation, until such time as it is changed.*
 - ☐ *D25 DCM: Seconded the motion.*
- Summary of Discussion:
 - ☐ D33 DCM: We need to assume there was a good reason for this delegation of responsibilities. Trust our Delegate.
 - ☐ D62 ADCM: Already got call about delegated work, and it is a lot to put on one person. It had to be dealt with.
 - ☐ D40 DCM: The structure manual seems clear but is there a reason behind not thinking one person could handle it.
 - ☐ D64 DCM: Read from Concept 3 about trust, and the Right of Decision.

- ☐ Pete: He said it was indeed way too much for a single person to handle. Pete also explained exactly how he delegated the various responsibilities, and how many individual responsibilities there are.
- ☐ D55 DCM: Agreed with the decision and the breakdown. But why did the Delegate feel he had the Right of Decision to not follow the structure manual?
- ☐ Pete: Reiterated it was way too much for one person and feels since he has the operational responsibility for the entire Area, it was the right decision. Also, the structure manual speaks to how we have done things, and not always how we must do things. Concept 10 speaks to how responsibility is balanced with authority, and he has the authority, and is responsible to the entire Area – that’s why we’re discussing it now.
- ☐ D60 DCM: This is a unique situation and seems unfair to give all of that work to one person.
- ☐ D24 DCM: Noted all the responsibilities that would need to be handled, and it’s absurd to think even a high achieving alcoholic would be able handle all of that.
- ☐ D66 DCM: Asked for input from the Chairperson, Susan.
- ☐ Chair, Susan: Thinks it did make sense to split up his duties. And Pete is the Delegate. She had nothing else to say.
- ☐ DCM D38: Were you explicitly offered the Alt-Delegate position? Pete: No, decided to split.
- ☐ DCM D51: Structure manual says Chairperson assumes responsibilities, not that they *become* Alt-Del.
- ☐ DCM D66: Thanked Pete for allowing time for the discussion.
- *The motion was read again and voted upon:*
 - ☐ *5 in favor, 30 opposed.*
 - ☐ *Minority opinion:*
 - D25 DCM: This is not about trust in the Delegate, but the way the decision was made.
 - D48 DCM: The list of Alt-Del duties in the structure manual does not mention most of the responsibilities mentioned earlier. She then read the specified duties. In particular, she did not like the decision about who would be the backup at Conference and that it violated the upside-down triangle.
 - ☐ *Nobody wished to reconsider the vote; thus, the motion failed.*

Announcements and Closing:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Pre-Conference Sharing Session - 4/6/2024.
- Mini I – Delegate Conference Report 5/11/2024.
- Mini II – Delegate Conference Report 6/8/2024.

CLOSING

- *The meeting was adjourned by voice vote, followed by the Responsibility Declaration, after a motion from the D22 DCM and seconded by the D49 DCM.*



Area 59 Roll Call

Date: March 10, 2024

Officer/ District	DCM/ADCM Other	Guests	DCM Report	Actions
OAL	1			
Treasurer	1			
Secretary	1			
21	1		ONL	
22	1		ONL	
23	1		TBD	
24	1		ONL	
25	1		ONL	
26	1	2	ONL	
27	1		TBD	
28	Absent			
29	1		TBD	
30	1	1	ONL	
31	1		TBD	
32	1		ONL	
33	1	1	ONL	
34	1		ONL	
35	Absent			
36	1		TBD	
37	Absent			
38	1	1	ONL	
39	1	5	ONL	
40	1		ONL	
41	1	1	ONL	
42	1		TBD	
43	1	1	ONL	
44	Absent			
TOTAL	23	12		

Officer/ District	DCM/ADCM Other	Guests	DCM Report	Actions
Chair	1			
Alt-Delegate				
Delegate	1			
45	1		TBD	
46	Absent			
47	1		ONL	
48	1	1	ONL	
49	1		ONL	
50	1	1	ONL	
51	1	4	ONL	
52	Absent	1		
53	1	5	TBD	
54	Absent			
55	Absent			
56	Absent			
57	1		ONL	
58	1		ONL	
59	Absent			
60	1		ONL	1
61	1		TBD	
62	ADCM	2	ONL	1
63	1		TBD	
64	1	1	ONL	
65	1		ONL	
66	1	2	TBD	
67	1	1	ONL	
68	1	1	TBD	
TOTAL	20	19		2

TOTAL VOTING	43
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DCM REPORTS LEGEND

- ONL = Online
- TBD = To Be Done Online
- ? = Unknown or No Report

Area 59 DCM Reports | Panel 73, AQ2. As of 3/24/2024



Dist	Date	District Report	Upcoming Events	Meeting Info	Groups / Attendees
21	3/9/2024	The district has been very invested in learning about General service process, especially since the infamous 5 questions from our trustees. DCM spent 2 meetings addressing these and similar agenda item concerns. The last meeting was more productive in terms of refocusing on the district.	A formal visitation committee has formed and are actively visiting unrepresented groups; Other members will form to start considering an annual workshop; Considering revising the structure manual; District officers are becoming more involved in tasks previously done by DCM.	2nd Thursday of the Month at 7 PM 877 Street Rd, Southampton, PA 18966	15 / 33
22	3/9/2024	Our district is doing pretty well we have started with our visits to the groups in the district to try and get more groups involved by electing GSRs to come to our district meetings. Our district meeting is getting bigger month by month but still missing a lot of groups. We plan on keeping up the outreach to our groups and hope we continue grow.	District 22 is having a workshop on 4/20/2024 its called Spring Into Service General Service Workshop from 10 to 12 the doors open at 9 at Wissinoming United Methodist Church 4419 Comly St. Phila, Pa 19135. We are hoping for a great turn out!	3/10/2024 7:20pm Mayfair Holmesburg Saints United Lutheran Church 3200 Ryan Ave. Phila, Pa. 19136	20 / 44
24	3/10/2024	The district is doing well and there are a lot of active GSRs willing to serve on ad Hoc subcommittees, including brand new GSRs. We have had 4 or 5 brand new GSRs in the last few months. The district is planning our next GSO bus trip, which will take place in June. The structure manual has been completed and will be voted on by the district in April. The district is also planning to have our district picnic. We have a website for the district and are looking to add more to it.	Gso bus trip - 6/19 - confirmed with GSO District Picnic - some time later this year.	First Wednesday at 7pm 654 Bethlehem Pike Flourtown PA 19031	15 / 40
25	3/9/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1/6/2024 Top of the Hill Anniversary; - DCM attend DCM Workshop "Burnout"; - Continue to update District 25 Structure Manual; - DCM attended NERAASA 2/23/24-2/25/2024; - Visits from the Area 59 Officer-at-Large & Area 59 Secretary; - ADCM resigned 2/2024. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Wister Group Anniversary 3/16/2024; -District 25 Host the Pre-conference Sharing Session 4/6/2024; -West Oak Lane Group Anniversary 4/26/2024. 	1st Tuesday of the month 7-9pm 6511 Lincoln Drive, Phila., PA 19119/virtual	8 / ?
26	3/10/2024	We have been meeting each month, we've had new GSRs come in the last few months. We've been trying to plan an in person workshop but having trouble getting a spot with the church we use.	potential workshop in April.	3rd Tues of the Month St Malachy Church 1429 N 11th St Phila PA 19123	20 / 45
30	3/3/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We seem to have an increase in the number of active GSR's! We had #25 in both January and February. We continue to offer a hybrid format. It takes a full 30 minutes to set up, but seems to be appreciated by the online participants. (About 1/3 of participants are online.) - We started a monthly GSR Orientation that takes place in a smaller room during the tradition/concept discussion; it has been very popular and helpful. - It is a struggle to get all business completed in 90 minutes; it often takes closer to two hours. We are adjusting the Agenda 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Workshops Committee: 2nd Annual District Picnic in June; bus trip to GSO also being investigated. - Archives/Outreach Committee: updating a list of D30 groups to visit - PI Committee: Investigating where to distribute "Yellow Cards" that were produced last year (Info, QR codes linked to PSA's 	First Tuesday at 7 pm Malvern Center, 225 Lancaster Av, Frazer, PA	20 / 36

Dist	Date	District Report	Upcoming Events	Meeting Info	Groups / Attendees
		to include a stated focus for each meeting, and to put the most important items earlier in the Agenda. Reports are all printed and can be read independently if we run out of time. - We have an active and engaged ADCM, who is attending Area events, and who will be excited if elected as DCM!	for younger audience) - Website Committee: Investigating costs and potential content for new District website.		
32	3/4/2024	We discussed NERAASA. We had Alex DCM for 51 come in to discuss the concept and tradition of the month and his roll as structure chair. The visitation committee did a crack up job on cleaning up inactive or unknown groups.	We are doing a joint workshop with d-31 on 4-14.	4th Wednesday at 7pm 933 Baltimore Pike Springfield Pa	12 / 35
33	3/9/2024	We have rescheduled the District inventory for April. The DCM, ADCM and several GSRs attended NERAASA. A group that has not been represented for many years bow has a GSR representing their group.		3rd Thursday of month 6:30pm 117 East Arch St, Fleetwood Pa	12 / 16
34	3/10/2024	Attendance has been steadily low. Undertaking another planning session to reach out to groups which ate not active within our district.	No events scheduled, planning a workshop for later this summer hopefully in the upcoming months.	2nd Thursday 630pm zoom	6 / 10
38	3/4/2024	- District Officers and GSR attendance has increased from 13 to 21 for current Quarter; - Visitation to District Groups continue to elicit support for GSR election and participation in District meeting - District was represented at Area Meeting, Share A Day and NERAASA; - Answering Service (SVAS) account closed 12/31/23 - Archives Display and Grapevine presented in Anniversary meetings; - District Committees filled: Grapevine, Intergroup Liaison, Archives (Area-DCM), Visitation, Website, Public Information, Workshops; - Delegate's Video shown at 2/27/24 meeting.	-Initial discussion of Workshop proposed for Fall, 2024.	Last Tuesday of the Month 7:00pm St. James UCC 321 S. Limerick Road, Limerick, Pa 19468	17 / 63
39	3/10/2024	Attendance has been steadily increasing. D39 is hosting quarterly workshops as an ongoing goal. We are also actively working to bring big books into the prisons and jails in our area.	Workshop on April 20th	3rd Sunday 4pm 205 Grant Street Olyphant Pa	20 / 35
40	3/10/2024	District 40 continues to grow in attendance and participation slow but steady. Our Archives, Alcathon, Activities and Workshop continue to be active. Grapevine is growing in enthusiasm and coming up with intuitive ideas. We have been in communication with Area CPC to come to an upcoming District Meeting. A member of committee attended another District Meetings event with Delegate regarding distributed questions from GSC. We have been continually sharing and discussing information on GSC from Delegate and excited about participation. DCM attended DCM sharing session and NERAASA. We hosted 2 Alcathons and are hosting an upcoming New Comer Workshop. We continue slowly updating roster information. We continue reading service literature to create an informed group Conscious 15 min at beginning of Meeting. 7th tradition contributions are increasing and we were able to send a substantial contribution to GSO outreach letter. District 40 has been working on securing	New Comers Workshop March 16, noon to 2pm.	First Friday Monthly 116 Hughes St, Kingston, PA 18704	17 / 22

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		location for Area Day and have found a location that we believe suits the needs of Area 59.			
41	3/11/2024	- District 41 remains healthy looking for more members to get involved at general Service level. - Not achieving our goals as far as getting topics done. We are constantly bogged down with intergroup issues.	April 20 2024 workshop 12 & 12.	First Tuesday of the month 7pm 83 East Cortland street East Stroudsburg Pa	6 / 25
43	3/10/2024	District 43 continues to do well with group participation, subcommittee work continues to be completed, and constructive conversations are occurring surrounding AA topics effecting district 43.		2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:45pm Meeting location varies; on district 43 website	30 / ?
47	3/10/2024	We are doing well. Subcommittees are active; attendance of new GSRs continues to increase.	Planning Bucks Unity workshop for June 2024.	Second Wednesday of each month 20 Dill Ave, Perkasio, PA 18944	18 / ?
48	3/10/2024	District 48 is fulfilling its primary purpose. In December the Weds Night Muncy group had its Annual Candlelight meeting, the Friday Night Group also held its annual candlelight meeting. The Monday and Thursday Night Duboistown Groups held a joint Christmas meeting. The Beacon group held a holiday pizza party. In February the YPAA service committee held a For Our Love of AA dinner/dance meeting. In March both A Common Solution Group and Free To Be Group held group anniversary meetings.	In April District 48 will be holding a Language Of the Heart workshop. In June the district will host the Area Quarterly meeting at the Old Lycoming Volunteer Fire Dept social hall.	2nd Wednesday, 7:00 PM 900 Elm St, Montoursville, PA 17754	20 / 36
49	3/10/2024	District inventory completed. Scheduling District 49 Unity Breakfast to be held April 27, 2024.	District Unity Breakfast - 4/27/2024.	3/10/2024 0800 Trinity UCC Church 22 Lafayette Street Tamaqua, PA 18250	7 / 20
50	3/13/2024	- Discussing price of our website & solutions - Hotline is working well. - Debit card for district.	- May 18th Workshop on Service Structure - Filling open ACDM position - Website? - Debit card?	Wednesday 6pm 17 E 3rd St Lewistown Pa	10- / 12
51	2/18/2024	District 51 meets in person only on the 3rd Thursday of the month. All are welcome to attend and observe. During the last quarter, we have discussed all updates from GSO, The Grapevine, and Area 59. After the financial hardship letter from GSO in November, we asked GSRs to invite their group's treasurers to the December business meeting. It was brought to their attention of the financial health of GSO and that the contribution split suggestion is SUGGESTIVE only. This was repeated at the February meeting by our speaker, the Area 59 Finance Subcommittee Chair. Also in December, the District Officers made a plea to the groups of District 51 about conducting a group inventory, especially if the group is struggling financially or more importantly, struggling to attract newcomers. Since then, to the DCM's knowledge, we have had 1 group close, 1 group change times and locations, and 2 groups attempt to merge to a singular group conscience.		3rd Thursday at 7pm 479 Stonybrook Dr, Levittown	35 / 85

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		We had a wonderful time hosting the DCM sharing session for Area 59 in January, are working on the upcoming Bucks Unity Event with D21, D23, D47, the Bucks County Zone for SEPIA, and the Liberty Bid for EACYPAA in June. District 51 has also begun planning our annual workshop titled AA Survival: Problems Other Than Alcohol and Spiritual Economics.			
57	1/25/2024	- Held a New Year's Day alcathon with 208 attendees. Was held from 9 AM to 9 PM. - Shop committee is discussing holding a workshop on emotional sobriety. Also voted and passed on holding a Fourth of July alcathon, which will be at the same location at the nurses quarters at the 17th and Chew Valley Hospital from 9 AM to 9 PM. Made arrangements to have Claire the officer at large attend our next meeting to get all new GSR's registered with GSO.		Wednesday 1-24-24 7 PM St Tlmothy's ott st Allentown PA	10 / 15
58	3/9/2024	December 2023- February 2024 * Average of 10 members attend district/ average of 5 GSRs * Donations received average \$60 a month * DCM reported on EPGSA and promoted NERAASA participation. * Business cards from the Area CPC subcommittee were distributed. * District 58 printed and laminated QR brochure placards and distributed to interested groups in District. * AA Digital Press kit was emailed to District members and web servant to be posted on Web site. * BTG is doing well in district, CPC PI is disseminating information and Grapevine continues to promote APP. Treatment commitments continue at various treatment facilities. District still has been unable to get into county jail. * DCM forwarded out agenda items as they became available along with background information. March District meeting will be dedicated to discussing agenda items as well as showing delegate video and discussion surrounding how we should treat Founder's writings. * DCM reviewed her 1st year goals and agenda and inventoried what was to still be accomplished. * DCM continues to invite all members and GSRs to all Area 59 events with , limited participation. * DCM has shared widely the Pre-Conference Day of Sharing and highly advocated members and GSRs to attend. * DCM has made herself available to Groups for discussion and issues as well as to share on agenda items. * District continues to have many vacant officers' positions and members are filling in as needed. THIS DISTRICT MAY GO DARK AT END OF DCM TERM AS THERE IS NO ADCM AND NO ONE HAS VERBALIZED INTEREST YET.	May - workshop date, place and time to be determined. Topics will be sponsorship, homegroup and service.	2nd Thursday of the month @ 6 pm Meeting ID: 974 2044 7747 Passcode: 5859	6 / 21
60	3/10/2024	Our district is slowly but surely recovering from the effects of the pandemic, with some new people coming into service and more GSRs attending the district meeting. One group that was on the verge of dying out is experiencing a gratifying rebound. We finally have a new secretary but we still need a new treasurer as our current treasurer has been doing the job for years and needs somebody to relieve her. We had a bit of controversy when a group rescinded a speaking invitation to a member when it was discovered that the person was on methadone maintenance. We discussed this issue during our last district meeting. I		3rd Sunday 1:00 pm St. Michael's, Trenton and Cumberland, Philadelphia, PA	15 / 29

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		reminded everyone that the 4th tradition allows each group to make its own decisions regarding such issues. We all agreed that people on such medications do not disqualify anybody from membership in AA but such people are not automatically entitled to sharing about it in meetings. We are also suspending our weekly tradition meeting at the Greater Northeast AA club and considering reducing its frequency to once a week due to nobody showing up.			
62	3/9/2024	Our district hosted our 2nd annual Christmas Alkathon on Christmas Day. It was successful in bringing food, fellowship and meetings to the community from 10 am-10 pm. 3 from our district attended Nerassa and found it to be very informative in aiding in the agenda items. We have had significant growth in our district as we have now included meetings (groups) from district 52 and an online group encompassing several states.	There is a need to update our structure manual as we move forward as a stronger , more involved district. The need for Nerassa is one that we were unaware of coming into this panel. Having now attended Albany and Hershey, Kim and I feel that this is a very informative tool in understanding and bringing information to the GSR's for the sake of the groups. There are other minor issues that need to be voted on to be in the manual as well.	3rd Monday of the month @ 5:45 PM Milford United Methodist Church, 206 E. Ann St., Milford, Pa.	14 / 16
64	3/9/2024	District is doing well. NERAASA had a very strong D64 GSR attendance since it was very close to home. There were about 10-12 GSR's and all but 1 of our district officers. We are looking into the groups in our district that do not have representation and have not contributed in over a year and planning on making visits. We are not going there asking for money but to let them know what the district can do for them and share information and literature with them of how contributions can be distributed to intergroup, district, area and GSO. We want to share with them the benefits of general service as well. We had over 20 in attendance at this weeks meeting in anticipation to discuss the agenda items and the questions about our founders writings. Due to time constraints that evening and very little time to discuss before pre conference sharing session, we have scheduled an ad-hoc meeting on March 28th to discuss these questions in greater detail.	No events currently scheduled but will most likely hold out workshop in October again.	1st Thursday 7:00pm St James Catholic Church, 505 Woodcrest Ave, Lititz, PA 17543	15 / 22
65	3/9/2024	We made a donation to NERAASA hospitality room as well as our quarterly donations to Area and GSO. Work is still being do on our website upgrades and well as a new CPC/PI pamphlet to be distributed to district professionals. Mercedes L. was appointed as our new H&I lead and is working to get that subcommittee reorganized with a renewed focus of trying to get back into the Lebanon County Correctional Facility. Groups are suggested to bring upcoming spring/summer events to District so coordination can be done in an attempt to avoid overlapping activities. GSO contribution envelopes have arrived and will be distrusted to interested groups at our next meeting. Higher Learners group	Annual Gratitude picnic at the Lebanon Fellowship Group will be held on the 2nd Saturday in August at the Lebanon Fellowship House.	3rd Thursday of the Month @ 5:30 PM 1800 Oak Street Lebanon PA 17042	10 / 24

Dist	Date	District Report	Upcoming Events	Meeting Info	Groups / Attendees
		meeting time and day has been updated from Sundays at 7 pm to Tuesdays at 5:45 pm, location shall remain the same.			
67	3/9/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DCM attended DCM planning session. District agreed to give presentation at Mini Assembly 2. - Boyertown Group had excellent and well attended Alcathon. - New officer at large/intergroup liaison has been elected. 6 members attended NERAASA. District structure manual revised and completed and passed unanimously. - Final GS conference agenda items and background information/links have been distributed to all GSRs. - Pete (Area 59 Delegate to General Service Conference) - Gave presentation on overview of the process for conducting business in AA. What are we voting on? Broad matters of policy. How do we vote? - RBI PI/CPC - Presented their outreach project for getting AA literature into local schools. GSRs received a list of school district/tech schools, and colleges in our district and proposed types of literature/costs of each. - Asking GSRs to discuss with their groups: District being asked to spend around \$280-300 for combined project with RBI. Committee members wanted from outside IG. GSRs agreed to take information back to home groups for informed group conscious. - I spoke with several DCMs about RBI proposal as well as our Delegate Pete. We met again without RBI present to discuss RBI proposal. Reviewed again information for GSRs not present at prior meeting. Had open discussion and also discussed concept 3/Right of Decision. Agreed to table vote until GSRs have more time to bring back information and opinions expressed to get updated informed group conscioues. Will revisit at next business meeting. - Hoping to get together online before pre conference sharing session to discuss agenda items of interest to GSRs/District. - Started discussion about presentation we will be giving as District at Mini Assembly 2. I also personally reached out to Delegate Pete for some suggestions. 	<p>Founders Day June 7-9 \$385 includes bus trip out and lodging: mail check to Erik Marchese, 30 Devon Drive, Reading, PA 19606</p> <p>Sober at 6:30 celebrating 16th Anniversary Thursday March 14th starting 6 PM</p>	<p>First Wed of Month 7 PM St Mark's Lutheran Church 5 Brooke Manor Birdsboro PA 19508</p>	11 / 18