



WWE newsletter

IN THIS ISSUE

Pre-Conference Sharing Session

Area 59 Subcommittee Spotlight:
Finance

**More About Area 59's
Pre-Conference Sharing Session**

NERAASA 2024 – It's a Wrap!

Pre-Conference Sharing Session

Saturday, April 6th, 2024
10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Hosted by District 25

*Join the
Journey of
Recovery
and Unity!*

Why Attend?

- **Engage** with fellow members in meaningful discussions about the future of our fellowship.
- **Share** your experience, strength, and hope, and listen to the stories of others.
- **Learn** about the latest developments and how you can play a part in the decision-making process.
- **Enjoy** a day filled with unity, service, and fellowship, complete with fellowship and lunch provided by the gracious hosts of District 25.

Don't Miss Out!

This is your invitation to be part of something bigger than yourself. The Pre-Conference Sharing Session is not just an event; it's a milestone in our collective journey. Come and be a part of the dialogue that shapes our path forward.

Join us, share your voice, and let's pave the way to a brighter future for all!

Philadelphia, PA – Get ready to be part of a transformative experience that will ignite your spirit and strengthen your journey in sobriety! *The Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session* is just around the corner, and it promises to be an event like no other.

When and Where?

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, April 6, 2024**, and join us from **10 AM to 4 PM** at the Reformation Lutheran Church, nestled in the heart of Philadelphia. This is more than just a meeting; it's a gathering of hearts and minds united by the shared goal of recovery and service.

What to Expect?

The Pre-Conference Sharing Session is a beacon of hope and collaboration, offering a unique opportunity to explore agenda items and topics that will be presented at the 74th General Service Conference later this month. It's a chance to have your voice heard, to contribute to the collective wisdom of the group, and to be informed about the critical issues facing our community.

For more details, visit the [Area 59 website](#) or check out the [event page](#).

Mini-Assembly I
and Delegate's
Conference Report
May 11th

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

May 11th, 2024

10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Registration @ 9:00 a.m.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

132 E. Valley Forge Road

King of Prussia, PA 19406



Area 59 Subcommittee Spotlight: FINANCE

While attending NERAASA 2024, I had the opportunity to learn about Area 59's finance subcommittee from its current chair, Lauren B. (DCM District 24). Lauren is pretty easy to pick out of the crowd at Area events. She seems to have a condition that presents with symptoms of continuous smiling and abnormally high levels of energy!

I, myself, start to get a little sleepy when there is talk of budgeting and expense reports. Thankfully, Area 59 has a whole team of volunteers who take on the challenge of Area 59's finances. Along with Lauren, there are 6 other DCMs from Area 59 who work with Tara (Area Treasurer), the subcommittee's advisor.

When I asked Lauren about what the finance subcommittee does, she informed me that their main challenge is setting the annual budget for the area. This requires communication with each officer and subcommittee as they will each have to submit a budget request. The finance team then compares previous years' income and expenses to approve or modify budget requests. The amount of expense items to consider, as well as the details of the cash flow estimate that I looked at, was a bit overwhelming. But for our Area to function, it seems obvious

that we need money, and that the use of said money requires much thought and preparation.

I asked Lauren how she ever wound up chairing this particular committee. She said that each delegate is responsible for selecting subcommittee chairs. She said that our current delegate, Pete B., gave her some options if she wanted to chair a subcommittee. As Lauren has a finance background, she thought that the finance subcommittee would make sense as a good use of her talents.

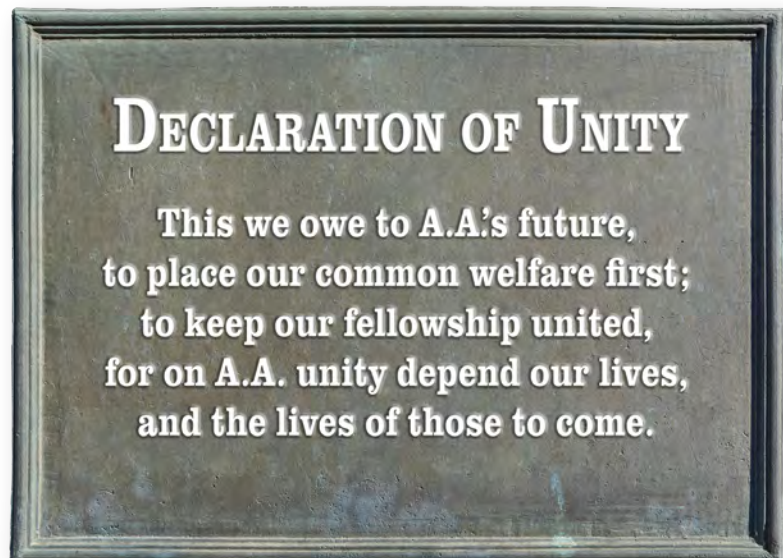
I asked Lauren if anything surprised her about the finance subcommittee.

She said that she didn't realize how little there would be to do after completing the budget. To stay active in service, she and the other DCMs, including the structure subcommittee, will be putting on a workshop (districts 24 and 51) on finance and structure. Lauren stressed that the committee is always available to help home groups and districts understand finances in AA: How to use funds? Different ways to use money at the group level; how to decide upon a prudent reserve? How to set up an EIN? I know my district could use help with several of these issues, so Lauren has agreed to come speak at one of our district meetings in May. Perhaps your group or district needs help too! They are here to help!

Lauren's first service position was chairing a meeting a few months after her sobriety date, January 16, 2014. She has been involved in Area and district for the past 9 years. When I asked her what the most important thing she's learned during her service career, she said: "I've learned the real value of listening . . . so that I don't have to know everything."

The finance subcommittee meets every 3rd Tuesday at 7:00pm and anyone is welcome to attend.

Tom W., District 67 ADCM



A Legacy of Service and Unity:

More about Area 59's Pre-Conference Sharing Session

The Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session is not just an annual event; it's a cherished tradition that dates back years, serving as a vital link between the individual members and the larger General Service Conference. Over the years, it has evolved into a pivotal platform for collective decision-making and representation.

Why Is It Important?

The Pre-Conference Sharing Session is the embodiment of the democratic process within the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. It's where the voices of members from across Area 59 are heard, and their experiences and insights contribute to the group conscience. This session ensures that the Delegate gets the pulse of the group conscience and carries a true reflection of the Area's sentiments to the General Service Conference.

The Process of Participation

During these sessions, members engage in discussions, share insights, and have their voice heard regarding agenda items that will be presented at the General Service Conference. This process is not only about reaching decisions, but also about fostering a sense of community and shared purpose. It's a testament to the principles of love, unity, and service that are the cornerstones of our fellowship.

The Impact

Over the years, the Pre-Conference Sharing Session has played a crucial role in shaping the policies and future of Alcoholics Anonymous. It's a forum where every member can have a voice and influence the direction of AA, ensuring that it remains responsive to the needs of those it serves.

I attended my first Pre-Conference as a GSR in 2016, and it was one of the first times everything "clicked" about how we made decisions in A.A, and it fostered trust and understanding in

the committee structure. That year there was an earlier agenda item for a Plain Language Big Book – the discussions and deliberations really helped sparked a fire for general service that burns brightly to this day!

By participating in the Pre-Conference Sharing Session, members are not only upholding a legacy of service but also reinforcing the very foundations of unity that make the fellowship so strong.

Dan B., Area 59 Panel 73 Secretary

History of the Pre-Conference Sharing Session

In 1999, Panel 49 delegate Gary C. attended the annual General Service Conference in New York. While he discussed various agenda items with fellow delegates from Delaware and New Jersey, he learned of their experiences with a "preconference" event they held in their areas.

Gary took this idea to the June 1999 Area 59 meeting and proposed to the Area Committee that a Pre-Conference Workshop be held and that its mission would be;

To provide the Delegate with the conscience of Area 59 on selected issues to be discussed at the upcoming General Service Conference in New York.

Gary told the Area Committee, "If you decide, I expect to see all of you there."

The motion was made and passed. Marty S. was assigned to organize it, Gay R. was to chair it, and the format and responsibilities were established.

As reported by the Area Secretary: "Despite Mother Nature's surprise 3 1/2 inch snowfall, the first Pre-Conference Workshop in Eastern Pennsylvania General Service Area 59, Panel 49, was held on April 9, 2000, at the I.B.E.W. Hall in Collegeville, Pa."

The format of committee meetings in the morning and reportbacks, voting, and general participation in the afternoon has continued in much the same fashion ever since. Some Delegates have "tweaked" it a bit since that first session, but it remains pretty much the same.

Donald H., Area 59 Archivist

The NorthEast Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly NERAASA 2024

It's a Wrap!



It's hard to believe that just a short time ago, Area 59 hosted one of the most (if not the most!) successful NERAASA (NorthEast Regional A.A. ever to be held. The Hershey Lodge was certainly the place to be for us A.A. service fanatics and plain old A.A.s the end of February 2024. Like in the graphic in a recent We Newsletter article (Edition 6, Volume 1, January 2024), it was "NERAASA or Bust!" for us A.A.s wanting to be "rocketed to the fourth dimension!" (Click [EN/ES](#) to view January 2024 edition of *We*).

Many folks involved in planning for NERAASA 2024 got together on March 16th virtually to share on their experiences, successes, and learnings at Hershey. This meeting was a "debriefing session," led by Steve O, Area 59 Past Delegate, Panel 63 and NERAASA 2024 Chairperson. Subcommittees present for this meeting were given the floor to disseminate any information of importance they wished to share.

Deb S, Area 59 Panel 73 District 30 DCM (District Committee Member), Public Information (P.I.) subcommittee Chair, and Outreach subcommittee Chair, was first to speak. The Outreach subcommittee remit was to contact all Areas in the Northeast Region of the United States, making them aware Area 59 was hosting NERAASA 2024. Deb's enthusiasm for A.A. General Service and love for the A.A. program of recovery is a great way to start off any service meeting. The most interesting fact about Outreach is it was the only planning subcommittee to operate with a net surplus of funds (\$ 300+) due to their successful campaign at selling NERAASA 2024 t-shirts. Additionally, Outreach produced an interesting video all about NERAASA, which can be viewed [here](#).

Vicki L, Accessibilities subcommittee Chair, had the task of accommodating all special needs requests at NERAASA. These included Spanish translations (four interpreters were at the event) and providing special seating for hearing/sight impaired members. Accessibilities was willing to go to any lengths, as far as to provide a sight escort for a visually impaired member for a good part of the assembly. Vicki was happy to report that hearing

impaired members commented they were able to finally hear an entire NERAASA, something plenty of us take for granted. Appreciation was given to Area 11/Connecticut at providing translation equipment for Spanish members. This is a true example on how A.A. can come together in times of need.

Registration, as represented by Fred S, Area 59 Tech Servant, and Registration subcommittee Chair, had to daunting task to manage everything registration related. Activities included managing on-line/walk-in registrations and preparing NERAASA printed material packets. Fred reported there were 1312 attendees at NERAASA 2024, a truly impressive number! Fred S, Nick P, and the entire Registration team were able to assist all walk-ins during NERAASA and distribute packet materials in an efficient and timely manner. The only regret Registration had was not ordering enough lanyards to go around. No previous NERAASA ever had anywhere near 1300+ attendees. Perhaps Area 59 should order 1600 lanyards for the next NERAASA we host, probably in ten years or so.

What can we say about the Greeters subcommittee, with Neil M as subcommittee Chair. Their "unique" getup of homemade "Ask Me" headgear (patent pending...) and orange "caution" vest, were both inexpensive (our NERAASA Treasurer Michael S like that) and effective. It was quite easy to pick out Greeters in those NERAASA crowds, enabling them to answer general questions, and steer folks in the right direction. Through the efforts of Neil M, Glenn S, Carolyn R and Joe R, the greeters were well staffed, organized, and able to cover the entire Hershey

Lodge assembly space. There was just one Greeters regret, which came up after the event. Having more bilingual greeters would have helped in assisting non-English speaking members, something to think about when planning any future NERAASAs.

Digital Communications, chaired by Claire B, Area 59 Panel 73 Officer At Large (OAL), had several high impact members, besides Claire who had to unenviable task of sending out NERAASA 2024 eblasts to thousands and thousands of A.A.s in the Northeast. Digital Communications team members included Dan B, Area 59 Panel 73 Secretary, Alex N, Area 59 Panel 73 District 51 DCM and Structure subcommittee Chair, and Scott F, Area 59 Web Servant. Will we ever forget the theme Alex produced for NERAASA 2024, “The Sweetest NERAASA in History”, just pure genius. Dan’s efforts on the NERAASA digital app were stellar, with over 700 members scanning the app QR code for download/use at the assembly. The NERAASA 2024 signage, as designed by Scott F, was eye catching and effective. Steve O, NERAASA 2024 Chairperson, was impressed by the professional look of Scotts’ signage design, commenting: “The signage look liked something you would see at an International A.A. Convention”.

The Program subcommittee, with Caroline N, Area 59 Past Delegate, Panel 71, as Chair, put together a comprehensive program on many topics pertinent to A.A. members. Comments received about the program generally conveyed the same thing: “NERAASA 2024 program was good regarding the detail and the quality of the presentations”. Although there was the inevitable small group of tardy presenters not submitting their presentations two weeks in advance for review, Caroline N and Program subcommittee members were able to stay on top of the situation and ensure that an excellent NERAASA 2024 program was presented.

The Hospitality Suite, put together by the Hospitality Chair Sunny O and her team, was certainly one for the ages. Not just the typical coffee and donuts, Hospitality turned it up a few notches and provided novel food and beverage items including premade PB&J sandwiches (they were up until 2 AM Friday making these), a ramen noodle bar, gourmet cheese, pizza on Friday evening, and chili. As Vicki L put it during our Wrap-Up meeting: “Sunny, you (and your Hospitality team) knocked it out of the park!”

Given the large number of folks who attended NERAASA 2024, some of you might be wondering “How did we do financially?”. Michael S, NERAASA 2024 Treasurer has happy news to report. By having mostly local A.A.s providing approximately \$ 7000 in 7th Tradition/direct Hospitality contributions, all that wonderful food and beverages we had at NERAASA 2024 Hospitality was



fully self-supporting. We A.A.s like it when we are fully self-supporting. Michael S also reported that all financial obligations to the Hershey Lodge have been fulfilled, and we are expecting to have excessive funds when all is said and done. The NERAASA Guidelines provide a clear path for the disbursement of any excess funds, so maybe Area 59 will be sending a nice sized 7th Tradition check to G.S.O. (General Service Office) sometime soon.

In closing, Marcia G, Area 59 Past Delegate, Panel 41, did a wonderful job at expressing her (and all our) heartfelt gratitude to Steve O, Area 59 Past Delegate Panel 63 and NERAASA 2024 Chair. In essence, “Steve’s hard work, dedication, and efforts enabled Area 59 to host a successful NERAASA event, one that will be hard to top.”

Ted C., NERAASA 2024 Planning Secretary.

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

April 2024

Edition 6, Volume 2

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.

Articles & Content:
digitalcomm@area59aa.org

Design & Production:
webservant@area59aa.org



Area 59

EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA
GENERAL SERVICE ASSEMBLY
area59aa.org

we newsletter