

## April 2024 DCM Report

Communication from the Delegate:

- None this month- April is GSC month and he is currently at the conference.

DCM report:

- I was not able to attend the Pre Conference sharing session on 4/6/24- My dog needed to have an urgent vet appointment.
- **Finance subcommittee has made a motion that needs to be taken back to your groups- I will give you the motion and the background info for the motion so you can discuss it with your groups. *We will address questions in April and vote on this as a District in May.***
- **The Structure Subcommittee has made a motion that needs to be taken back to your groups- I will give you the motion and the background info for the motion so you can discuss it with your groups. *We will address questions in April and vote on this as a District in May.***
- Friendly reminder- we will be voting on the 2 above mentioned motions at the May District meeting for the June quarterly meeting.
- 67th EPGSA - 2024 is November 8-10 in Lancaster
  - It's not too early to volunteer for the convention- there is an online form for sign up [go.area59aa.org/epgsavol](http://go.area59aa.org/epgsavol)
  - Accepting applications for guest observers for EPGSA- see explanation sheet

Upcoming Events:

04/14/2024-04/20/2024 General Service Conference New York Marriott Brooklyn Bridge, Brooklyn, NY

05/11/2024- [Mini Assembly I and Delegate's Conference Report](#) 10:00 AM - 2:30 PM

[Good Shepherd Lutheran Church-King of Prussia](#), 132 E Valley Forge Road King of Prussia, PA 19406 United States

06/08/2024- [Mini Assembly II and Delegate's Conference Report](#) 10:00 AM - 2:30 PM

[Milton First Presbyterian Church](#), 47 Walnut Street

Milton, PA 17847 United States

06/09/2024 3rd Quarterly meeting TBD (D48?)

09/08/2024 4th Quarterly meeting

[4th Quarterly Area Meeting 2024](#)

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

[Neshaminy Mall](#), 707 Neshaminy Mall,

Bensalem, PA 19020 United States

10/06/24 [SHARE-A-DAY with YPAA & District 68](#) All day

[Grace United Methodist Church – Harrisburg](#), 216 State Street

Harrisburg, PA 17101 United States

10/12/24 [Area Day](#) 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM [TBD](#),

12/08/24 [1st Quarterly Area Meeting](#) 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM

~BTG holds their monthly forum the 4th Thursday of every month- all are welcome to attend.

~Accessibility Topics and Solutions for our AA Members who cannot find our rooms due to an Accessibility or Remote challenge Every 2nd Monday of the month on Zoom 7:00 pm - info on Area59.org

Check area59.org for many more events!!

*Finance Subcommittee Motion- The Finance Subcommittee recommends a structure manual change that would add a "ceiling" to our operating account.*

The following is what our Structure Manual currently reads and what we are proposing to add.

The Structure Manual currently reads:

Area 59 Maintains a Prudent Reserve. Expenditures from the Prudent Reserve are limited to expenses necessary to the continued operation of the area. The delegate and treasurer consent to any expenditure from the Prudent Reserve. If this occurs, action should be taken to replenish funds available to the area. Ideally, the target amount of the Prudent Reserve will be 30% of the average annual expenses of the prior Panel.

*This paragraph would be added:*

*"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."*

## Background

In the previous panels (Panel 69 and 71), there was an excessive accumulation of funds in the Area operating account due to the inability to hold in-person events during the COVID-19 pandemic. Panel 71 addressed the issue by disbursing the additional funds to allow for special projects to be done in FY22. The special projects helped the Area with our primary purpose, to carry the message to the still sick and suffering alcoholic and helped us be more aligned with Tradition 7. Currently, there is no process or procedure to address when the Area has accumulated excessive funds in the checking account.

In Panel 57 (2008), the Treasurer made a motion to contribute \$5,000 to GSO due to there being excess funds in the Area Operating Account. It was passed by the Area at the time. There was no formal process or procedure to address the accumulated excessive funds at this time. This shows that the Area has experienced an accumulation of excess funds prior to the Covid-19 pandemic.

## Intent

The intent behind this motion is to put in place a procedure which will facilitate Area 59 in more closely following tradition 7.

AA's 7th Tradition long form states: "Then too, we view with much concern those A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A.A. purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority." The recommended addition to our structure manual will provide stated purposes for our funds. Tradition 7 emphasizes "corporate poverty" which can be described as operating with the least possible funds along with an ample (prudent) reserve. Experience shows that an accumulation of AA funds for unspecified purposes beyond a prudent level may divert a group's attention from carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. The adoption of this motion will provide a procedure to follow that will aid in giving stated purposes to area funds that otherwise do not have one.

The Finance Subcommittee would like to prevent the accumulation of funds by creating flexible criteria that would allow for action to be taken to disperse the excess funds. An example of the flexible criteria could be if the Checking Account balance exceeded 20% of the Area's annual expenses in a typical panel, the amount in excess could be voted on by the Area Committee to be used for 12 step work at an Area Quarterly Meeting. The Finance Subcommittee, in consultation with the Area Treasurer, would evaluate whether the criteria had been met to determine if there are excess funds in the Operating Account. If the criteria has been met and there are excess funds in the Operating Account, the Treasurer or Finance Subcommittee Chair will notify and solicit ideas from the Special Servants, Area Officers, and Subcommittee Chairs for ways to effectively use the additional funds in the Area, possibly through the ways of email solicitations or Google Docs/Google Group Forums. Then the Subcommittee would compile all the ideas and bring them to the Area Committee to vote on for disbursement of the funds. Examples of dispersing the funds would include, but is not limited to, special projects, like those undertaken in Panel 71 by Grapevine/La Vina and Public Information, literature to places that are in need where there is no Intergroup presence, allowing increased participation by subcommittee members at events relevant to carrying the message, Area technology needs, contributions to GSO, or special workshops for subcommittees.

Structure Subcommittee Motion

Panel 73

3/10/24

A59-Q2

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 is as follows:

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.

For background:

Per the guidelines from GSO on P.I., in 1956, Public information became a committee within the general service office and parlayed into a conference committee in 1961. Per the guidelines from GSO on C.P.C., "By action of the General Service Board, January 1970, the trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community (C.P.C.) — a spin-off from the Public Information Committee — was developed". While individually these subcommittees have executed very different roles and have very different responsibilities, we believe, in an effort to be more effective as an area and utilizing our limited resources of finances and active DCMs, a joint subcommittee is warranted.

This is not the first time 2 subcommittees have joined together to be more effective. In Area 59, we have a Treatment and Accessibilities subcommittee that used to be two separate subcommittees. Now, they execute two different roles and responsibilities within a singular subcommittee.

Both the chairperson of PI and the chairperson of CPC are on board to join forces in an effort to pool area resources and are able to serve as co-chairs or elect a person to chair for the rest of Panel 73 if the subcommittee chooses to do so.

Respectfully Submitted by The Structure Subcommittee

For any questions, please email us at [structure@area59aa.org](mailto:structure@area59aa.org)