



WE

newsletter

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Panel 75 *What is it, and what will it do?*

As we begin 2025 with renewed hope for our continued sobriety, Area 59 is ushering in a new Panel.

You may ask, what is a “Panel”? These are the folks who have service positions at the Area level and graciously dedicate their time to ensuring Alcoholics Anonymous will be here for the next sick and suffering alcoholic. Area 59—Eastern Pennsylvania is up to Panel 75, with a new group of officers/District Committee Members (DCMs) and appointed special servants.

I had the opportunity to play “chauffeur” for a Subcommittee Chairperson Orientation session held on January 5th at The Malvern Center. This event taught me what Panel 75 is about, who the officers/special servants/subcommittee chairs are, and what we might expect from them.

This article intends to pass on what I got from the Subcommittee Chairperson Orientation session.

Enjoy this article, continued on Page 4

Ted C., Philadelphia

Upcoming Area Events

Pre-Conference Sharing Session

April 12, 2025 8:00am–5:00pm
St Paul’s United Church of Christ
1799 Weavertown Road
Douglassville, PA 19518

Mini Assembly I — Delegate Conference Report

May 17th, 2025 8:00am–5:00pm
Location TBD

Mini Assembly II — Delegate Conference Report

June 7th, 2025 8:00am–5:00pm
Location TBD

[Calendar of Events](#)

NERAASA 2025 is virtual this year!

February 21, 22, 23

Hosted by Area 25
Southern New Jersey



[Details on Page 2](#)



2025 VIRTUAL

Northeast Regional A.A. Service Assembly



HOSTED BY



FEBRUARY

21 - 22 - 23

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Northeast Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (NERAASA) is for GSRs, DCMs, Area Committee Members and Intergroup/Central Office Representatives of the Northeast Region to:

- discuss General Service Conference issues/concerns.
- address Recovery, Unity and Service in the NE Region.

PROGRAM

- **Panel Presentations** on current A.A. issues.
- **Floor Discussions:** including the Northeast Regional Trustee's report
- **Roundtable Sharing Sessions** Topics include:

Accessibilities /Remote Communities, Archives, Area Chairs / Alternate Area Chairs, Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC), Corrections, Area Delegates/Alternate Area Delegates, District Committee Members (DCMs) / Alternate DCMs/District Committee Member Chairs (DCMCs) / Alternate DCMCs, General Service Representatives (GSRs) / Alternate GSRs, Grapevine/La Viña, Intergroups/Central Offices, Literature, Public Information (PI), Registrars, Secretaries, Treasurers, Treatment, Websites/Technology, Young People, Español



\$35

TO ATTEND BY
PHONE, TABLET
OR COMPUTER.

Register Now



Click to Register >

WWW.NERAASA.ORG

Falling in Love with NERAASA:

A Journey of Service and Connection



“To watch people recover,
to see them help others,
to watch loneliness vanish,
to see a fellowship grow up about
you, to have a host of friends –
this is an experience you must
not miss. We know you will
not want to miss it.”

Alcoholics Anonymous, Page 89

NERAASA might be one of my favorite events of the year. Since I was an ADCM, I made it a point to block out the last weekend of February every year to attend this regional gathering. Per the NERAASA Guidelines, “The purpose of the Northeast Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (NERAASA) is for GSRs, DCMs, Area Committee Members and Intergroup and Central Office Representatives of the Northeast Region to discuss General Service Conference related issues and concerns affecting AA as a whole, as well as pertinent aspects of recovery, unity, and service common to the Areas of the Northeast Region.”

It’s a tremendous opportunity to connect with other people in service around the Northeast Region from Maine to Washington D.C. Area 59 hosted the largest NERAASA ever in 2024, cracking over 1,000 registrants. The overwhelming sense of belonging with like-minded AAs who want to be of service to the Fellowship is overwhelming. Discuss hot topics with love, provide guidance from experience, and ask for help and ideas for hurdles we may face in our service journey locally; these are all incredible opportunities to discuss and enhance our sobriety at NERAASA.

I have had times in my service journey as GSR, District Treasurer, ADCM, DCM, Structure Subcommittee Chair, and even now as Alternate Delegate, where I may not be sure what to do, what path to take, or who to ask for practical experience. The prayers have been prayed, the mediations serene, yet I cannot seem to get an answer to some quasi-service doom. My recovery sponsor calls it “spiritual termites,” the angst and mental anguish I put on myself to make the right decision even if I have no context to draw from. Conversely, my service sponsor calls it “divine circuitry.”

Significant service events like NERAASA provided my first real sense of divine circuitry. To be in a space and connect with recovering drunks from 18 Areas across the Northeast Region, my service catastrophes suddenly don’t seem so bad. I am not only able to pull from the eons of experience in Eastern Pennsylvania, but my circuit board opens up to 17 other Areas like New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Delaware, and Vermont. I can call on the Chairperson of a 12-Step Committee in Western PA for experience, guidance on a local issue by talking to a DCMC that’s experienced something similar from South Eastern New York, or even schedule a virtual meeting with a Past Delegate from Northern New Jersey.

Our breadth and depth of the Fellowship are spiritual in nature, as it knows no bounds. Attending NERAASA, virtually or in person, provides ideas not of our own making to experience the infinite pleasure of helping the alcoholic who still suffers. It smacks me with the truth of what I can do to help the alcoholic that I cannot see. It liberates me from the idea that I must go through a decision-making process alone. It allows me to serve in a capacity that helps others to be anonymous by drawing from my experience. It makes me a student among peers at a round table rather than a leader among committees.

I hope you can set aside some time on Friday, February 21st, through Sunday, February 23rd, to attend this year’s virtual NERAASA hosted by Area 45, Southern New Jersey. They have been working tirelessly to provide a program that is deliberately unifying and intentionally filled with the shared love of AA. For more information and to register, please see page 2 of this newsletter.

Alex N.
Area 59 Alternate Delegate, Panel 75

Panel 75 *What is it, and what will it do?*

(Continued from Page 1)

General Overview

The General Service Conference (GSC), Area 59 conducts its business through a “committee system.” The combined Area subcommittees (eight for Panel 75) and the Convention Committee form the Area Committee. Subcommittees are comprised of DCMs (standing subcommittees), an Area Officer advisor, and sometimes special servant(s) (for example, the Archivist is a member of the Archives subcommittee). Alternate District Committee Members (ADCMs) are given an opportunity to serve on ad-hoc subcommittees, with Digital Communications falling into that category.

The Delegate appoints Subcommittee chairs and DCM members. Consideration is given to the District’s geographic location so that each subcommittee has DCMs from over a wide area. Chairpersons are also somewhat geographically dispersed, keeping with the notion of “share the wealth!” Officer advisors are assigned to subcommittees by the Delegate, with advisors assigned to subcommittees who best match the advisor’s skill set.

The Delegate appoints the Area’s special servants. Many of these folks served in the same position during Panel 73. There was one vacancy when this article was written: the Assistant Archivist position. The Delegate is working on filling that position. The special servants for Panel 75 include Archivist – Donald H, Web Servant – Scott F., Assistant Web Servant – Lenny T., Tech Servant – Fred S., Assistant Tech Servant – Nick P., Bridging The Gap (BTG) Coordinator – Jim L.

Area 59 Officers

A breakdown of the officer positions, the person filling the position, and general duties are summarized as follows:

Delegate: Dan B from District 27 is a Delegate for Panel 75. Dan’s primary function is to attend the General Service Conference (GSC) by carrying Area 59 collective informed Group conscience to the GSC. Our Delegate reports after the GSC on what happened and how they voted on agenda items “making it to the floor.” The Delegate will give three report-back sessions this year, officially called Delegate’s

Conference Reports (DCRs). Two DCRs will be in-person, while the third will be virtual. Check our Area calendar for the dates, times, and locations of the DCRs. ([Click here](#))

Alternate Delegate: Alex N from District 51 is the Alternate Delegate for Panel 75. Alex is tasked to serve as the Delegate’s backup by staying informed on GSC/ Area 59 activities. Alex assumes any Delegate’s duties in their absence. Other Alternate Delegate duties include serving as liaison to Intergroups/Central Offices in Eastern Pennsylvania, Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous (YPAA) bid/host committees, and our Spanish-speaking linguistic District 68.

Chairperson: Tara C from District 35 is the Chairperson for Panel 75. Tara chairs most Area events, most notably the Area quarterly business meetings. Tara is the person who decides where quarterly events are held, striving to distribute locations throughout the whole of Eastern Pennsylvania. The Area calendar of events is another important Chairperson duty, which is done cooperatively with the area secretary. ([Click here](#))

Secretary: Lauren B. from District 24 is the Secretary for Panel 75. The Secretary’s primary duty is to take minutes at most Area events and distribute them once completed. All Area officers, DCMs, and Area archivists will receive a copy of the Secretary’s completed minutes. The Secretary ensures that all Panel 75 members stay informed on when meetings will take place, providing for full participation to all members. Lastly, the Secretary is the Area library custodian, and the library is comprised of many audio/ visual items. Library items are available to any AA in Area 59 for loan (remember to return them eventually).

Treasurer: Jen F for District 47 is Treasurer for Panel 75. The Treasurer is the “money person,” recording and acknowledging Group contributions, maintaining the Area’s bank accounts, paying all bills, providing quarterly financial statements, and complying with State/Federal tax laws. From second-hand experience, I saw how much work it takes to be the Treasurer. I go to the mailbox, get those Seventh Tradition checks, cash them, send out a “thank you” letter, update the accounting system, and repeat. If you are a procrastinator (I know sometimes I am...), the Area Treasurer position is something you probably wouldn’t want to do.

Officer-At-Large: Neill D from District 36 is the Officer-At-Large (OAL) for Panel 75. The OAL fills in for the Secretary, Chairperson, or Treasurer at events/functions when they are absent. The OAL also serves as the Area Registrar and is responsible for keeping the Alcoholics Anonymous database Fellowship Connection up to date with Area 59 group statistics.

Subcommittees

Panel 75 will include all the Area 59 standing subcommittees (seven total) and one ad-hoc subcommittee. Per the current Area Structure Manual, standing subcommittees only have DCMs serving on them, while ADCMs can serve on any ad-hoc subcommittees.

Standing subcommittees for Panel 75 include:

Archives: Colleen M. from District 30 serves as Chair for Archives, with Lauren B. as their advisor.

Cooperation w/ Professional Community – Public Information (CPC – PI): Mark B. from District 27 serves as Chairperson, with Alex N as the advisor.

Corrections: Matt C. from District 45 serves as Chair, while Jen F. serves as their advisor.

Finance: Andrew D. from District 66 is the Chairperson for Finance, with Lauren B. serving as the advisor.

Grapevine/La Vina: Erin R. from District 40 is the Grapevine/La Vina Chair, with Jen F. as advisor.

Structure: Anna A. from District 48 is the Structure Chairperson, while Tara C. is the advisor.

Treatment/Accessibilities: Tom W. from District 67 is the Chairperson for Treatment/Accessibilities, with Tara C. as advisor.

There is one ad-hoc subcommittee for Panel 75:

Ad-hoc Digital Communications: Nick M. from District 56 is the Chairperson for Digital Communications, with Neill D. being their advisor.

Our Delegate provided each subcommittee with a set of recommendations for items to consider implementing for their effective function. Recommendations are based on input the Delegate received from the outgoing chairs of each subcommittee. The Delegate stressed that recommendations are simply recommendations and not directives.

Subcommittees will be given a budget for them to operate. Budget proposals are developed by subcommittee chairs working with someone from the Finance subcommittee. The Finance subcommittee will present the 2025 Area 59 operating budget proposal at the March 2025 Quarterly Business meeting for discussion and vote by the Area committee.

Area subcommittees are encouraged to attend local A.A. workshops/events with their displays and literature racks. Literature is provided free of charge at these events since it is purchased through group Seventh Tradition contributions. Subcommittee attendance at workshops/events is essential for the Area to connect with our fellowship, keeping them updated on what's happening beyond the group level.

Conclusion:

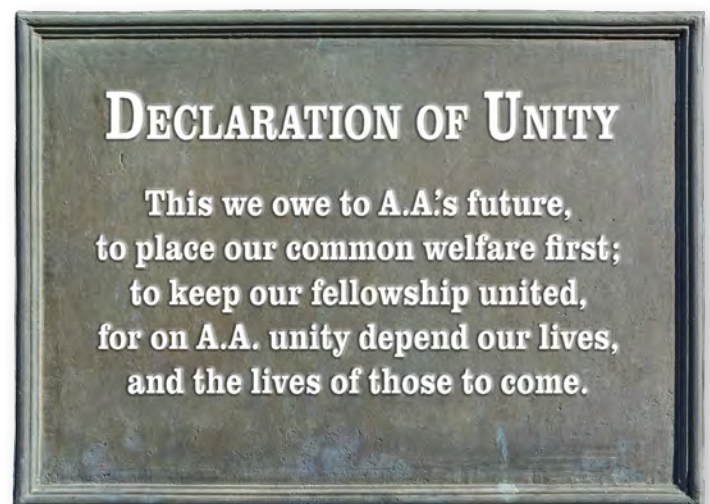
I wanted to conclude with a quote presented at the Subcommittee Orientation Session, which is taken from the AA Service Manual:

“Perhaps more than any other group of people in A.A., the Area committee is responsible for the health of the Conference structure and thus the growth and harmony in the A.A. Fellowship.”

I am looking forward to playing “chauffeur” for upcoming Panel 75 events, and who knows, maybe another article on “Adventures in Service!”

Ted C.

Philadelphia





Things are happening
in Area 59 Districts

District Spotlight

31 and 44

DISTRICT 31

Building Connections and Strengthening Service

District 31, spanning Montgomery County and Delaware County, fosters an engaged and informed service community! Our monthly meetings go beyond standard business—we focus on equipping General Service Representatives (GSRs) with the tools and guidance they need to support their home groups effectively. We review the A.A. Service Manual each week, ensuring that all members stay informed about the principles and structures that guide our service work.

Supporting new GSRs is a priority for us. We're actively working on getting GSR kits into the hands of those who need them, helping newcomers confidently step into their roles.

We're also excited about upcoming events to strengthen our connections within A.A. Service. NERAASA, happening virtually from February 21-25, will be a fantastic opportunity to learn, grow, and connect with members from across the region. Additionally, we encourage our GSRs to attend Quarterly Meetings to provide another excellent space for discussion, learning, and fellowship.

District 31 is always looking for new GSR members to get involved! Opportunities are open for those interested in serving as a Visitation Chair or stepping into other service roles. Whether you're new to general service or a long-time member, we welcome you to join us in strengthening our district and carrying the message forward.

The Area 31 District Meeting is held on the third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM at the Bryn Mawr Community Center in Bryn Mawr, PA.

DISTRICT 44

Takes a Trip to GSO: A Day of Inspiration and Service

In an exciting move to strengthen our commitment to service and fellowship, District 44 recently allocated funds to educate General Service Representatives (GSRs) about the vital role of General Service and the General Service Office (GSO). This initiative culminated in a memorable trip to the GSO in New York, where approximately 30 members had the opportunity to experience the operations of the General Service Office.

The day began with a bus ride funded by the district, ensuring that members could travel together and share in the excitement of the journey. Upon arrival, the group was treated to a guided tour of the GSO, where they had the chance to speak with some of the dedicated special workers. These conversations provided invaluable insights into the worldwide behind-the-scenes efforts that support AA groups.

One of the trip's highlights was attending the AA World Meeting, held every Friday at the GSO. This unique experience allowed members to witness the global reach of AA and the collective spirit of service that unites us all. The meeting inspired and energized attendees, with a renewed sense of purpose and connection to the broader AA community.

The group also explored the GSO's incredible archives, which house a treasure trove of AA history. From early manuscripts to historic artifacts, the archives offered a fascinating glimpse into the origins and evolution of our program. Members were particularly moved by the stories behind these items, which underscored the enduring legacy of AA's founding principles.

By the end of the day, the trip had accomplished its goal: members were fired up about AA service and the importance of the GSO. The experience not only deepened their understanding of General Service but also strengthened their commitment to carrying the message of recovery.

Given the overwhelming success of this event, District 44 is now considering making it a regular occurrence in every panel. This would ensure that more members have the opportunity to visit GSO, learn about AA's rich history, and get involved in General Service.

A Reflection on the 67th EPGSA – Why It Inspired Me

The Eastern Pennsylvania General Service Assembly (EPGSA) took place over the weekend of November 8th—10th. It was my first time attending the conference in person during a voting year, and I couldn't have enjoyed the weekend more. It was a far cry from the days when I first stumbled into Alcoholics Anonymous. I often heard AAs mention weekends like this, and I could not imagine I would want to be stuck with you people for an entire weekend. Not in a million years, I thought.

I came to Alcoholics Anonymous reluctantly. I got into service reluctantly. I took my first coffee commitment so I could avoid talking to anybody. I agreed to be 'not a GSR' but would go to the district meetings during COVID when I realized I could go on Zoom without being around anybody.

It just happened that EPGSA was happening a week or so later, and I figured I'd see what it was all about since I didn't have to go anywhere or be around you people. This began my journey into General Service. I was blown away by the level of patience and tolerance the tech support servants exhibited, and I was blown away by the speakers that Friday night. Shortly thereafter, I got involved with the CPC committee.

The voting process baffled me. Where were the bios of the candidates? How could I possibly vote for any of them? Why hadn't I gotten involved sooner so I knew who they were?

There was round after round of voting. It seemed to make no sense, and suddenly, they were pulling a name out of a hat after a painfully slow process. What in the name of God was going on here?

This year, I observed the process again. This time as a non-voting member. It's a beautiful thing to watch and experience.

I worked a shift at registration. I had so much fun! I particularly love the last-minute influx of registrants who showed up right before the cut-off time to be in your seat to vote. Alcoholics, always the resisters, defiant ones, and the special snowflakes. Once an alcoholic, always an alcoholic!

As with so much in Alcoholics Anonymous, nothing seems to make sense at first, and then you watch things reveal themselves. As you watch the rounds and rounds of voting, you begin to understand what's happening, but then suddenly, they go to the hat. Something very special is happening here. This feeling of trust in the process sometimes felt chaotic, and nothing made sense. How could you vote for somebody you know nothing about?

I will say I have caught the bug. I want to be more informed and have started attending more events. When the trustee, Ken T., spoke on things, what became very clear to me was that if things are working well at the group level, it transfers up (or down, you can say) to GSO. Your delegates are coming out of the Area. Those DCMs are coming out of the districts, and those GSRs are from the groups. I, for one, will have a little more respect when my group is electing officers this year. I will try to convey the importance of electing a GSR representing the group's will. The GSRs the group elects influence these elections. If the elected GSRs represent the groups well, these area officers will represent the area well.

On Saturday night, after the speaker, there was a sobriety countdown. I heard quite a few people say the countdown was their favorite weekend part. The gratitude was palpable, as each person jumped to their feet when their number of years was announced. It was pretty amazing to feel the joy in that room and remember that every person there probably felt just as desperate as me the first day they stepped into Alcoholics Anonymous.

One of the most moving members for me was when the Panel 73 committee members were introduced and lined up together. It was lovely to see them all and to thank them for their service over the last two years. I was surprised at how much it touched me. For some reason, it brought the meaning of Tradition Three to life. Then, they all got a bucket and ran around collecting the 7th tradition. It was very joyful.

On Sunday morning, you could speak to the microphone about your favorite moments and things that inspired you over the weekend. One of my favorites was a guy who talked about it being his first time at EPGSA and ended up having dinner with the trustee. What an experience that was.

Later on Sunday morning, there was the God, as I understand him, meeting to close the assembly. This stood out to me the first time I attended EPGSA on Zoom. In early sobriety, it was an eye-opening experience and one of those moments when I became a little bit more open in this program. It was again extraordinary this weekend to hear twelve people try to explain the impossible; it was so lovely.

What a weekend! Once upon a time, I heard an ex-delegate say that the only way to learn about the traditions was to serve in Alcoholics Anonymous. This weekend, I experienced the Traditions come to life.

Jodi M.
Philadelphia, PA

Area 59 Archives

Area 59 Archives Walking Tour

Introduction

Join Area Archivist Donald H. on an informative walk through the Area 59 Archives Display Room.

Check to see if your group has a history on file by emailing: archivist@area59aa.org.

Area 59 Archives



In this first segment, we are introduced to the center of the room which contains (48) District binders that contain the Group histories, in alphabetical order, that have been submitted to our Archivist over the years.

Area 59 Calendar of Events

Calendar of Events



In this section of the Area 59 website you will find a comprehensive chronological list of events occurring within Area 59 and our larger A.A. fellowship.

We also show you how you can add your local A.A. event to Area 59's Calendar of Events.

Get in Service!

Bridging the Gap



Our fellowship offers a program designed to assist new members after their release from treatment and correctional facilities, this program is called **Bridging the Gap**.

Visit our webpage for more information and to get involved!

Bridging the Gap

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we newsletter is published by Area 59 to enhance Unity. Please let us know what you think. We welcome your suggestions for making this a more useful publication.

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Area 59

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