



VOL. XXXI, Issue 3  
Summer 2017

## Seeds of Service

The WPA Area 60 newsletter is published quarterly by the Area Committee. It is for AA members only. The opinions expressed are those of the contributors and not necessarily that of the Area Committee or Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole.

We hope *Seeds of Service* will be a useful reference for GSR reports.

### Distribution

Paper copies are distributed to DCMs at each quarterly meeting for redistribution to AA groups through their GSRs. A PDF copy of the newsletter is available at [www.wpaarea60.org](http://www.wpaarea60.org). It can also be sent electronically to DCMs and GSRs, if the Area Registrar has a correct email address.

### Write for SoS

The 2017 theme for the General Service Conference is "Supporting Our Future."

*Fall 2017 (deadline 11/18)*

"Self-Support & the Future of AA"

The 2018 theme for the General Service Conference is "AA – A Solution for All Generations."

*Winter 2018 (deadline 12/31)*

"Today's Alcoholic: Inclusion, Not Exclusion"

*Spring 2018 (deadline 3/1)*

"Participation in All of AA – Is My Triangle Balanced?"

### Submission Guidelines

Suggested length is **150 to 300 words**. Material should be generally relevant to the theme, and may be edited for clarity and length. All material submitted on time is reviewed, selected by topic, and may appear, based on available space. The newsletter does not publish song lyrics, tributes to individuals, prayers, plays, or anything unrelated to AA or that violates the principles of AA.

Please include your first name and last initial, district, and home group.

Submissions may be emailed to [newsletter@wpaarea60.org](mailto:newsletter@wpaarea60.org).

# I AM RESPONSIBLE

## Last Year, The General Service Office of AA...

Responded to more than **90,000 emails and letters** from AA members, suffering alcoholics, distraught family members, professionals, students, the press and others interested in AA



### CONTRIBUTIONS

Received over **73,000 pieces**

[AA received ~8,000 contribution letters in the month of December alone]



### NEW GROUPS

A total of **1,020 new A.A. groups** in the U.S. and Canada were listed at G.S.O. last year.



### CORRECTIONS

Corrections answers over **6,400 letters annually**; that's more than **17 letters per day**, every day



### ARCHIVES

Received **1,450 requests** for information and research



### SHIPPING

Distributed **7.6 million** books, pamphlets & audio materials

Updated April 2017

Alcoholics Anonymous

## Are You Able to Respond?

*Meredith D, District 20/22, New Beginnings Big Book*

*"Our very lives, as ex-problem drinkers, depend upon our thought of others and how we may help meet their needs." The Big Book, p. 20*

In July of 1965, Bill W, our co-founder, introduced the convention theme at the International Convention in Toronto as "AA's Responsibility." Celebrating AA's 30<sup>th</sup> year were 35,000 alcoholics who had found the solution and were truly grateful for a program that had shown them the way. The ultimate expression of gratitude was to carry the message to others. That was their responsibility.



Getting started on the journey to sobriety is seldom a smooth and clear path. For me, it was fear that kept me from seeking help. At one of the first meetings I attended in a city I had recently moved to, I spoke to a woman after the meeting to tell her I liked what she said. She responded with warmth and cheerfulness, as though I had known her for a long time. For a moment, my fear ran out the door and my desperation went into hiding. Without knowing it, I had timidly reached out; to my surprise, the loving hand of AA was there. It was a wonderful feeling.

We say "Gratitude is an action word." I am responsible to the next person who walks through the door, frightened and desperate. I am the sober sister ready to offer a caring heart to someone still suffering who wants to stop drinking but doesn't think they can.

***Because of the love and acceptance so freely given to me through my Higher Power and Alcoholics Anonymous, I am able to respond as "the hand of AA always to be there."***

## The Hand of AA

*Chad U, Area 60 Newsletter Editor*

A meditation one day on the Responsibility Statement led me to a useful perspective on balancing my responsibilities. I am responsible for the hand of AA being there when anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help... but that doesn't mean I should to walk around like a running back throwing a stiff-arm. That could hyper-extend my "spiritual elbow" as I bang into people with too much force. (And holding a hand straight out like that all the time is *exhausting!*)

Additionally, I can't walk around with the Hand of AA tucked safely in my pocket, for fear of germs or papercuts or actually being asked to use it or something.

Today, I keep the Hands of AA in an "arms akimbo" stance, on my hips, elbows out, ready for action when needed. (People at area assemblies have commented that I actually do this in real life; it also makes me look like a fat, bearded Peter Pan.)

Lastly: here's an interesting and relevant connection with the word "akimbo" on Wikipedia...

*The ancient "bakhimba" society of the Kongo people are the guards who supposedly watch their posts with their hands on their hips in "akimbo" pose.*

***Responsibly standing, watching, and ready  
for someone who needs help?  
Works for me!***

## Oh Yes

*Akai, SCI Fayette*

Oh yes, I am responsible, not only for my actions, but also for that first drink that led me downward in life. I am responsible for drinking and driving, as I took that life without a care. I am responsible for not just destroying one, but countless, lives.

Oh yes, I am responsible for the denial that left me hiding in a dark corner with a bottle, caught in a chokehold of my own tears. I am responsible for walking around, lying when I said I didn't have a problem. I am responsible for all the pain I've caused in those around me.

But no one is responsible for my fall. No one is responsible for me as I live in despair.

Oh yes, I am responsible for my own recovery. I am responsible for taking the Steps, applying them to this life against the sickness that has consumed it. I am scared, like so many. I am responsible for taking back my life.

***Oh yes, I am responsible for me and  
those around me.***

Does your group or district have a newsletter?  
Let the Seeds of Service Editor know!

Has your district considered a "Grapevine swap day" between themselves, perhaps at a district meeting?

What about with an neighboring district?

## Hope\*

*Jeanne R, District 25, Saturday Morning Survivors*

(\* This poem was written in 1986 when the poet was 3 years sober; it appears here in a modified version.)

Hope is such a simple word, yet I knew not what it meant  
When I was one of the walking dead: physically, mentally,  
spiritually spent.

And then I crawled into these rooms; I wanted what you had.  
You told me that I was oh so sick - just sick and not so bad.

Anguish, pain, and remorse! You understood, you said;  
It will get better, trust in us - it's worse inside your head!

Prison, dead, insane, or lost - these things could come to pass,  
Unless I work to change the girl who's staring from the glass.

Now I need not beat myself up; you told me I was sick,  
And if I did the things I should, this illness we could lick!

I listened to the trust and hope spilling from your hearts,  
You told me I could have it too - just listen and take part.

You said it was so simple - but it was oh so hard to do.  
Though confused, I began to search to find a me that's new.

The Steps appeared and aimed me at a newer way to live -  
They would work to set me free, but first I had to give.

My old ideas would ebb away, if I would just allow;  
"Keep coming back, heed our words, and we will tell you how."

Serenity, freedom from self - so many gifts for me -  
A faith in God, respect, and trust: the Steps have set me free!

And so I tend to first things first, and set priorities.  
No question of just what's in front: it's my sobriety.

For with it, I can have it all; without it, nothing's left.  
Trying daily to do my best is woven in my weft.

I go to several meetings, and do what I am asked.  
The joy I reap is beyond compare - I've let go of my past!

The hope I found here in these rooms is far beyond belief.  
God feeds my soul, so when I'm pained, provides me some relief.

I work the Steps --all to the best of my ability,  
And out of that comes happiness, created just for me.

How to keep it? Give it back. I know now that's the key.  
It's simple: I just give my all, and it gets sent back to me.

## Safety in Our Rooms

*April 5, District 28, Bethel Saturday Night*

Our primary purpose is to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. We can't carry the message to people who leave and never come back because they feel uncomfortable or unsafe at meetings.

It is a real problem – as one woman said to me after my panel presentation on this subject at a local Day of Sharing – “I’ve been in AA for 30 years and I have **never** heard this discussed. It is about time.”

Unfortunately, I have more than one personal example since I have come into AA. One involved a man with a lot of time who got my number from a phone list the women passed around. He called me at 2 in the morning one night when I was a newcomer and exclaimed “If loving you is wrong, I don’t want to be right.” That was the beginning of *years* of harassment and unwelcome sexual advances that made me extremely uncomfortable. A dear friend was stalked at a local recovery club. A quick search of “safety in AA” on the internet and you can find countless examples. There was even a film made in 2016, “The 13th Step” (the trailer is on YouTube); it is entirely about vulnerable people being preyed upon in AA.

What can we do? Because AA, as such, ought never be organized (Tradition Nine), it is *individual members* and *groups* who ensure that all members feel as safe as possible in AA. What can **you** do? What can **your group** do in your group conscience? Keep in mind, our Third Tradition states that the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking.

***Please discuss this important topic with your groups and sponsees.***

*[See also the new Yellow Card on p. 8. — Ed.]*

## Seemingly Responsible

*Sean R, SCI Fayette*

I was wrong. Period. I cannot justify it, nor dare I rationalize it. I could use softer words to describe it, but then I wouldn't be true to myself, my Higher Power, or what He is doing in my life today. My understanding of what responsibility is has been flawed for most of my life. Through attending AA and working the Steps, I have been blessed with a moment of clarity.

I was the firstborn of two, and my younger sister was my charge. My mother was young, only 17, and my dad was murdered before I was born. My sister's father didn't want anything to do with her or my mom, so my mother struggled to survive and provide for us. All the while, she was going back to school to become a nurse. We were the only Blacks in a town of 3500 people, and my mom always seemed to impress upon me the importance of being responsible. To help my mom out, I was “the man of the house,” even though I was very young. At ten years old, I could cook, clean, sew, take care of my sister, do my schoolwork... all with very little input from my mother. It seemed like the older I got, the more I got made responsible for. Although I was a good kid and not ever in much trouble, being so responsible left me longing to just *be* a kid. I grew up way too fast, though I shunned alcohol and drugs, even cigarettes.

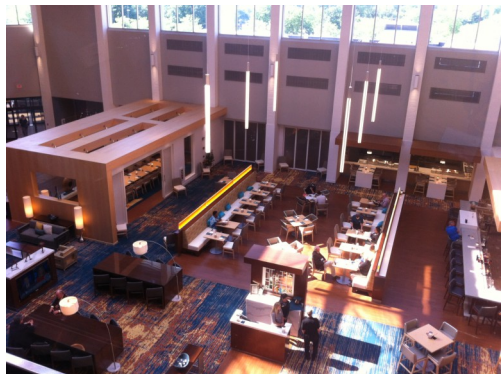
That is, until I moved out on my own at the age of 16. Being very independent and thinking I was grown, I wanted to do what grown people did – drink! It was glamorized in the media and society, and I couldn't wait.

Somewhere, my drinking became an obsession, and this once seemingly responsible young man turned into someone I didn't like. But I didn't know how to change back, and was powerless to do so. I played the blame game, held on to resentments, and just made a mess of my life.

I'm in my forties now, and after two long prison terms, I'm just now beginning to understand what it means to be truly responsible. People have tried to get me sober to no avail; when I first got to the rooms, I thought just being there would clean me up. I thank the God of my understanding for enlightening me. Today, I see that my most important responsibility is working the Steps, and allowing my God to do for me what I couldn't do for myself.

***No one else can keep me sober.***

## NERF Report 2017



Held from 6/2 to 6/4 in Mars, PA, the **North East Regional Forum (NERF)** was the first regional forum for the year, and the first for new General Service Board (GSB) chair, Michele Grinberg. Her opening statements talked about *inclusiveness*: “AA is open to all who are alcoholic, no matter what their other problems are.”

Over 411 people attended, with more than 280 first-timers (including several members of Area 60). The hospitality room collected over \$530 to offset expenses, people said things like “best hospitality room ever” – and this is from folks who’ve been to dozens of NER events. Our yellow t-shirts were a hit: every one of them is gone, with a net expense of about \$50.

Attendees heard presentations from the GSB, the corporate board of AAWS, some Delegates, the *Grapevine*, *La Viña* our Trustees, and GSO staff. There were several sharing sessions, Q&As, and workshops which were all “standing room only” and really informative. Hearing the experience, strength, and hope of AAs from all over the northeast – the similarities and the differences – in these venues was incredible and amazing.

Our own Ed S (District 23 DCM), during one sharing session, gave a précis of his presentation from this year’s GAW, asking what GSO is doing to encourage diversity in the rooms, especially of African-Americans. Former Trustee Arnold R from Baltimore, MD, came up to the mike and said directly to Ed, “Yes, what are **you** doing? I am offering to help you with your presentation.” It was a very powerful moment, reflecting back and modeling that **we** are AA, and **we** create the changes we want to see.

Here are some other quick bullet-points of things overheard at NERF 2017:

- Gossip about “the yellow card” was a big topic (see p. 8).
- “The Hospitality Committee really mirrored the hospitality shown in our meetings here in Area 60!” – Margie S, Area 6- Alt Delegate
- Many people talking about their **Service Manual** discussion groups and 12 Concepts meetings.
- Heard sharing about *bookies* (for speaker meetings, a service position at the district and group levels, especially in NYC) and *road shows* (where a whole home group takes a “field trip” to another group’s meeting; this was commoner in early days of AA when there were fewer groups).
- “When things get easy, I get lazy.” – Scott J, Trustee-at-Large, Canada.
- A discussion from the floor talked about sacrificing something of value (a bit of time, a little money) to gain something of greater value (sobriety, serenity). “It’s got to be time or money I wanted to spend on something I wanted, otherwise it’s not a sacrifice.”
- “The love for AA and each other was so evident among the staff, delegates, and trustees that it was contagious!” – Becky C, Area 60 Literature Coordinator
- How to keep service work interesting: people said they stuck around because they were involved and engaged (part-of) right away. We shouldn’t be “herding cats” but “opening a can of tuna” – drunks don’t take orders, but they’ll seek out stuff they find interesting.
- “I wasn’t doing so well physically, and even said to my husband that it was a bad idea that I came. But

I stopped and prayed, and amazing things happened. I got to have conversations with people, many of whom gave me a gift of service by refilling my coffee, giving me a comfortable chair, or offering a prayer. That's humbling, and this alcoholic needs humbling on a regular basis. There wasn't a part of my body that didn't hurt, and it was still the greatest experience I've had at a NE Regional event. The Great Spirit was powerful in and through us that weekend." – Jody K, Area 60 Chair

- "The GSO staff and Trustees were really down to earth and wonderful. They seemed like any of us, and showed that if we are willing, we could be where they are one day." – Jon C, Area 60 Alt Chair

Bring yourself to your service work.

Bring your joy to your service work.

Bring a friend to your service work.

## Who's Responsible?

*Johnny V, SCI Fayette*

My stepfather tossed me into a street life at age 14. Due to her guilt of not protecting me, my mother paid my way out of every skirmish with the law late into my 20s. Needless to say, that taught me no responsibility. State to state, jail to jail, I was never responsible for my actions. It was their fault I grew up angry and hateful.

At age 30, I was blessed with a daughter, joined AA, and got my 90 day token – only to find when I got home, my girl and my daughter were gone. She called my mom and said I was more fun when I drank. I lost that daughter for 16 years. I went back to drinking and a brutal life of crime and revenge. It was all my daughter's mom's fault. I

ended up back in prison for a violent crime, and I blamed everyone, everyone but myself.

Today, I'm back in prison for 6 months for violating parole for a DUI. I'm sick of that life. I joined AA once again in here. I'm 48 years old and finally sober enough to see that I'm the only one to blame. I am responsible for this DUI. I am responsible for *all* my life's choices. And now I'm healing, I have a good woman I'm going to marry, and my daughter is back in my life.

***The difference this time around is I am the only one responsible for my life and sobriety.***

## Responsibility to Others

*Charles G, SCI Greene*

I am responsible to my fellow AA members behind these walls and in the community, to assist them in any way I can in their struggles against alcoholism. No matter how bad their day is going or the condition of their life, I am there for them to lean on and to make sure they never give up their fight. And for when I am not there, making sure they have faith in their Higher Power – He will assist you, whatever you may be facing or experiencing.

I am encouraging you to go through it and not give up. Positive minds produce positive lives: positive thoughts are always full of faith and hope, and that is what we need in our addiction.

***It is my responsibility to make sure I let a fellow AA member know  
there is always someone standing next to them.***



# What's Love Got to Do with It?

*John K, Area 60 Panel 67 Delegate*

(Edited selections of full report delivered to the body of Area 60 at the Post Conference Assembly, June 25, 2017)



I was told to enjoy every moment of the 67<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference. Starting a week before getting in my truck, my emotions started to heighten. I was excited to take up the business of AA as a whole.

I arrived early on Saturday in Rye, NY, to attend the 1728 Meeting (12x12x12), which is for class A Trustees to get them familiar with our 12 Steps, 12 Traditions, and 12 Concepts.

On Saturday night, the 93 Delegates from the US and Canada come together to meet, get to know each other, and receive useful tidbits of information from Panel 66 Delegates. The average age of Delegates was 59, with the oldest being 75 and the youngest being 37. The average length of sobriety was 23 years, with the longest being 51 years and the shortest being 10 years.

On Sunday morning, the conference room in the Westchester Hilton became quiet and still, and then the Conference came to order. When my name was called on the roll, I announced with tears in my eyes that Western PA Area 60 was present. There is no knowledge that can prepare a person for that feeling.

Class A Trustee and General Service Board Chair Terry B said, "And so, as we begin our work, let us reaffirm our commitment to carrying AA's lifesaving message. The General Service Conference is a gift passed on to us, and each of us has an obligation to keep the doors of AA open to those who so desperately need it – now and in the future – no matter who or where they are or what their background is. Our resolve to communicate effectively with each other and to bring forward what is best for the future of AA should be our guidepost and a measure of our success this week."

The Committee process is the backbone for the entire Conference. With 93 agenda items this year, there would be no way to give each agenda item the time it deserves without committees. Starting at 9 AM Monday, the Conference Committees started working, scheduled to meet two times for six hours over the next two days. This does not always work out that way: for example, the Conference Literature Committee met a total of 9½ hours between 9 AM Monday and midnight Tuesday. I'm glad not to be on that committee.



The 2017 Conference Committee on Agenda

(Anonymity Protected)

My committee, the Agenda Committee, met both Monday and Tuesday for three hours. The primary stated goal of the committee was to continue the momentum that had been created in the Fellowship in the last year. Each of the 8 members of the committee (three Panel 66s and five Panel 67s) were fully involved in the discussion of each of the items on our agenda and the decision-making process. Through respectful deliberations, each decision was eventually made with at least 7 of 8 members voting in agreement. We Agenda Committee members started out as strangers, and ended as friends for a lifetime.

Tuesday evening was the defining moment of the Conference for me. This was the night of the Delegates Only dinner. There was a joy, humor, and togetherness I am not sure that I have ever felt inside or out of Alcoholics Anonymous. It was like best friends coming together to achieve a lifelong goal... and we continued to that way all the way until we adjourned on Friday.

Out of the 67<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference, decisions were made to take action on several items: literature and pamphlet changes (edits, additions, retiring) across various committees, financial adjustments (level of area contributions for delegates, bequests to GSO, and maximum annual contribution from an AA member), implementation of electronic voting for delegates, committee workload redistribution, development of a new public service announcement (PSA), creating a Google for Nonprofits account for AAWS, and elections and appointments of the upcoming slates of trustees and officers of the various boards and committees. In one of the major floor actions, it was recommended that in the spirit of unity and inclusiveness, GSO should strive to provide Conference background materials in English by February 15, and Spanish and French by the first week in March, beginning with the 68th General Service Conference. It was a very emotional – and positive – vote.

Another awesome experience was to witness and participate in the election of two Regional Trustees and the election of the new Trustee-at-Large US. You would then think that having one of the three elections “going the hat” would be tense enough, but all three newly elected Trustees came from the hat!

In conclusion, my experience at the 67<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference has shown me it’s all about love. Love should manifest in three ways:

1. **Trust:** We should trust each other, because that is what people who love each other do.
2. **Unity:** We should always do things that build unity, because that is what people who love each other do.
3. **Diversity:** We should always embrace our shared uniqueness and love each other, because God loves us equally... so who am I to do anything different?

(If you have any questions or want more details on the 2017 General Service Conference, please contact John by email or phone. A fully detailed written report and presentation is available. Also, he could come to your district.)

# The grapevine app

- A digital copy of GV Magazine for mobile devices
- A copy of your entire subscription in your pocket
- A lower subscription price while still supporting the creation of the content Grapevine produces.
- Ongoing development and additional of features expanding into audio and video



## A Service Fire's Been Lit

*Helen H, District 12, Waterworks Sunday Morning*

How easy it is to believe in my own justifications! In my first years of sobriety, I served my home group by setting up, making coffee, keeping the literature inventory, and greeting the newcomer. When I accumulated a little time, I further served my home group in the elected positions of Secretary, Treasurer, and GSR.

As my sobriety progressed, I thought I was being responsible by stepping aside and letting newer members take over the meeting and service positions. I'd occasionally pick up donuts, set up, and clean up. I justified not consistently serving because my sobriety had given me a wonderful life and I was living it.

Oh, the arrogance of it! In March, an active service member in my home group invited me to join her at an Area 60 quarterly meeting. I quietly followed her for a short time before it dawned on me – there is an entire arena of opportunities for service outside our regular “close to home” meetings! An AA service fire was lit that day under my sober, lazy feet. For myself, I stood for and am excited to have been appointed to the CPC/PI Coordinator position.

As the coordinator for “Cooperation with the Professional Community/Public Information,” my first job was to reach out to the area DCMs. Of the 44 Districts, only 34 have a DCM identified. Of the emails I sent, I received four responses. Of the four, one was to inform me she had stepped down due to work commitments. Therefore, to the three responses I received, I shout “**thank you** for being an active connection between your home group, district, and Area 60!”

I hope (if not before) we'll meet at the **Recovery Walk, September 16<sup>th</sup> in Pittsburgh**. Stop by our AA booth to introduce yourself –

***Or, better yet, volunteer with me that day to carry our message to anyone who might want to share a smile or story, or is reaching out for help!***

## The New Safety (Yellow) Card:

Safety in the Rooms of A.A.

HOT OFF THE PRESSES

### SAFETY CARD FOR A.A. GROUPS

#### Suggested Statement on Safety

Our group endeavors to provide a safe meeting place for all attendees and encourages each person here to contribute to fostering a secure and welcoming environment in which our meetings can take place. As our Traditions remind us, the formation and operation of an A.A. group resides with the group conscience. Therefore, it is our individual and collective responsibility to maintain the welfare of the group, and we request that members and others refrain from any behavior which might compromise another person's safety. Also, please take the precautions you feel are necessary to ensure your own personal safety, for example, walking to your car in a group after a meeting. If a situation should arise where someone feels their safety is in jeopardy, or the situation breaches the law, the individuals involved should take appropriate action. Calling the proper authorities does not go against any A.A. Traditions and is recommended when someone may have broken the law or endangered the safety of another person. The Tradition of Anonymity is not a shield to conceal wrongdoing and A.A. membership does not grant immunity from applicable laws.

Service Material from the General Service Office



# The Twelve Concepts for World Service

*Jean M, Past Delegate Area 60 Panel 61*

The **Twelve Concepts** define working relations and serve as a working guide for the whole service structure—from groups at the top to the Conference and Board of Trustees at the bottom. The Concepts were written by co-founder Bill W in 1962 and can be used to good effect throughout our entire structure. The short form of the Concepts was approved by the 1971 Conference.

The 12 Concepts can be broken down into 3 sections: the first five helping to guide the fellowship; the next six to guide the Conference with respect to New York State law; and the final Concept is a promise the Conference members make to keep the Fellowship going. Together with the 12 Steps and the 12 Traditions, we have 36 points to better life.

**CONCEPT ONE: Final responsibility and ultimate authority for AA world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.**

The ultimate authority for AA belongs to the AA Groups. (2<sup>nd</sup> Tradition) General Services do what individual members in groups cannot do by themselves.

**CONCEPT TWO: The General Service Conference of AA has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole Society in its world affairs.**

AA Groups entrust the day-to-day operations to their Conference and its service arms.

**CONCEPT THREE: To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of AA - the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staff, committees, and executives - with a traditional "Right of Decision."**

The "Right of Decision" makes effective leadership in a timely manner possible.

**CONCEPT FOUR: Throughout our conference structure, we ought to maintain at all responsible levels a traditional "Right of Participation," taking care that each classification or group of our world servants shall be allowed a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.**

Participation is the key to harmony; all AA groups have the Right of Participation.

**CONCEPT FIVE: Throughout our world service structure a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, thus assuring us that minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances will be carefully considered.**

The Rights of Appeal & Petition protects the minority voice and ensures that it be heard.

**CONCEPT SIX: On behalf of AA as a whole, our General Service Conference has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the conference also recognizes that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters should be exercised primarily by the trustee members of the Conference when they act among themselves as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.**

The Conference acknowledges the primary administrative responsibility of the Trustees.

**CONCEPT SEVEN: The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the AA purse for final effectiveness.**

Legal rights relate to traditional rights and the Conference relies on the force of tradition and the power of the AA purse for effectiveness.



**CONCEPT EIGHT: The trustees are the principal planners and administrators of overall policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, exercising this through their ability to elect all the directors of these entities.**

The trustees plan, manage and execute over-all policy and finance of our separately incorporated services.

**CONCEPT NINE: Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. The trustees must necessarily assume primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders.**

Good personal leadership at all levels is absolutely necessary. The GSR's name Committee Members and finally name the Delegates; emphasize the importance of good service leaders and sound methods of choosing them.

**CONCEPT TEN: Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined.**

Service authority should equal service responsibility, which should be well-defined by tradition, resolution, by specific job description or by appropriate charters and bylaws.

**CONCEPT ELEVEN: The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.**

AA should always have the assistance of the best possible people—therefore composition and selection of committees and service people will always be matters for serious care and concern.

**CONCEPT TWELVE: The General Warranties of the Conference:**

The six warranties expressed in Article 12 of the Conference Charter; cannot be changed without written consent of  $\frac{3}{4}$  of all AA groups listed in the directories.

**1. The Conference shall observe the spirit of AA tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power;**

We lead by example. We refuse outside contributions and limit individual members gifts to a modest amount; our Traditions and Concepts constitute a check on the rise of too much personal authority.

**2. That sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle;**

Funds are owned by AA itself; the reserve fund derives from literature sales and is to not exceed 12 months expenses.

**3. That it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others;**

No conference member ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority; reinforces Concepts Four and Five.

**4. That it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote and whenever possible, by substantial unanimity;**

That all important decisions be reached by discussion and vote ( $\frac{2}{3}$  majority).

**5. That its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy;**

That no punitive (punishing) actions be made or public controversy entered; we exercise self-restraint.

**6. That it never perform acts of government, and that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.**

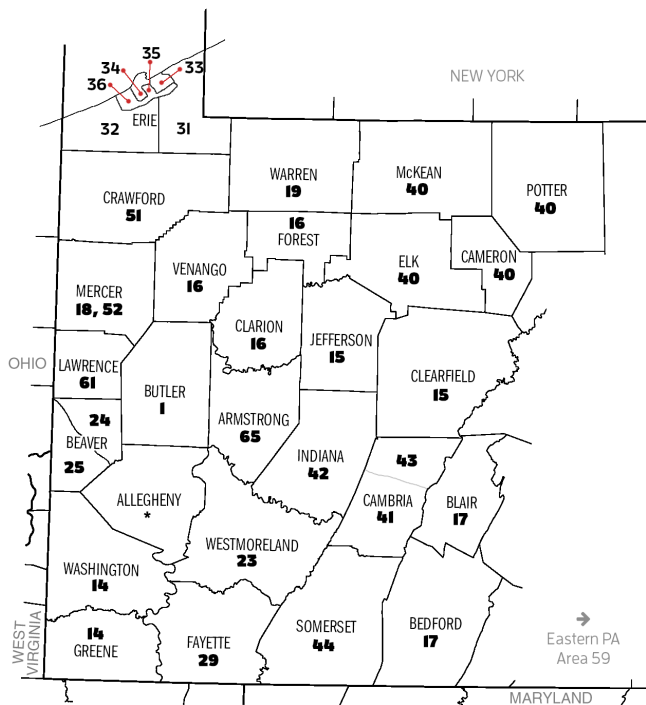
That AA always remains democratic in thought and action; mutual trust should prevail; no action ought to be taken in anger, haste or recklessness; care will be observed to respect and protect all minorities; no action should ever be personally punitive; important actions will be taken in substantial unanimity; we should always be prudently on guard against tyrannies; the sum of these attitudes and practices is the very essence of democracy—in action and spirit.



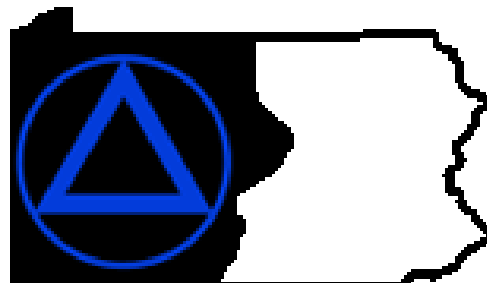


## *Getaway Weekend Name That Service Weekend!!!*

An annual service workshop held in the spring to discuss General Service Conference-related Issues and concerns affecting AA as a whole, as well as pertinent aspects of our **Three Legacies (Recovery, Unity, Service)**.



\* Allegheny County: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 70, 71



### New Area 60 Web Calendar

Our updated website has an updated online calendar, which lists service events (General Service Conference, **Get-Away Weekend**, assemblies, etc.) in **green**; Area 60-sponsored events (quarterly meetings, Days of Sharing, etc.) in **blue**, and other events of interest to AAs (district-level events, recovery community events, etc.) in **red**.

Check it out at:

<https://www.wpaarea60.org/calendar/>

### Two Types of Area Meetings

1. **Quarterly Meeting:** Decides area business. DCMs, Area Officers & Coordinators, past Delegates vote.
2. **Area Assembly:** Elects officers, provides pre-Conference group conscience, hears the Delegate's post-Conference report. GSRs, DCMs, Area Officers & Coordinators, past Delegates vote.

### Rules of Order at Area 60 Meetings

- Items for consideration are put on the agenda.
- Items are posed to the meeting in the form of a motion.
- All motions require a second.
- Motions can be amended, tabled, or moved to a vote.
- A vote is taken and the results are announced. The minority vote is allowed to voice its opinion.
- If a member of the majority (those who "won") wishes to change his or her vote, a second vote is held on the motion.
- The result of the second vote stands and the meeting moves to the next item for consideration.

#### *What's the Point of Order?*

- ◆ To ensure that all voices that wish to be heard are heard.
- ◆ To ensure that no one voice dominates all others.
- ◆ To ensure that everyone gets to speak once before another speaks twice.
- ◆ To ensure that everyone understands the content of the vote.
- ◆ To ensure that it is clear what actions were taken.
- ◆ To ensure a thorough record of the actions taken.

Motions requiring substantial unanimity of the meeting require a two-third majority for approval. In some cases, the minority opinion (the people who "lost" the vote) may be larger than 50% of the vote.

**ALL** members of the Fellowship are welcome at meetings and assemblies. GSRs are especially encouraged to attend even when they do not have a vote. **Every GSR is potentially a future DCM.**

# 2017-8 Calendar of Events

Unless otherwise noted, Area 60 meetings are held at the Comfort Inn, 699 Rodi Road, Penn Hills, PA

DATE	TIME	EVENT
<b>Sunday, Aug 13</b>	8:30 am Registration 9 am Workshop 10:15 am Meeting	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Quarterly Meeting</b> <b>GREENSBURG, Ramada Inn,</b> <b>100 Ramada Drive</b>
Sunday, Sept 17	9 am	Officers/Coordinators Meeting
Saturday, Sept 23	9 am—3 pm	Day of Sharing: Mount Lebanon Our Lady of Grace Church School - Conroy Hall, 1734 Bower Hill Road
Saturday, Oct 14	9 am	Day of Sharing: Clarion Church of the Nazarene, 202 Mayfield Road
<b>Sunday, Oct 15</b>	8:30 am Registration 9 am Workshop 10:15 am Meeting	<b>Fall Assembly</b>
Sunday, Nov 12	9 am	Officers/Coordinators Meeting <b>GAW(?)</b> Planning Meeting
<b>Sunday, Dec 10</b>	8:30 am Registration 9 am Workshop 10:15 am Meeting	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Meeting</b>
Sunday, Dec 17	9 am	Officers/Coordinators Meeting
<b>2018</b>		
Sunday, Jan 7	9 am	<b>GAW(?)</b> Planning Meeting
<b>Sunday, Jan 21</b>	8:30 am Registration 9 am Workshop 10:15 am Meeting	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Quarterly Meeting</b>
Sunday, Feb 11	9 am	Officers/Coordinators Meeting <b>GAW(?)</b> Planning Meeting
<b>Feb 23-25</b>	<b>All Weekend</b>	<b>NERAASA</b> Cromwell, CT
Sunday, Mar 4	9 am	<b>GAW(?)</b> Planning Meeting

## WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA AREA 60

### ELECTED OFFICERS:

*Delegate:* John K                      delegate@wpaarea60.org  
*Alt Delegate:* Margie S                altdelegate@wpaarea60.org  
*Chairperson:* Jody K                    chairperson@wpaarea60.org  
*Alt Chair:* Jon C                        altchairperson@wpaarea60.org  
*Secretary:* Jane R                      secretary@wpaarea60.org  
*Treasurer:* Shelley S                 treasurer@wpaarea60.org

### APPOINTED OFFICERS:

*Alt. Treasurer:* Mario D'A            treasurer@wpaarea60.org  
*Archivist:* Al C                         archivist@wpaarea60.org  
*Registrar:* Walter G                  registrar@wpaarea60.org  
*Recording Secretary:* Christa F    recsec@wpaarea60.org  
*Newsletter Editor:* Chad U         newsletter@wpaarea60.org  
*Alt. Newsletter:* \_\_\_\_\_         newsletter@wpaarea60.org

### COORDINATORS:

*Archives:* Hubert H                    archives@wpaarea60.org  
*Corrections:* Wayne S                corrections@wpaarea60.org  
*Alt. Corrections:* \_\_\_\_\_        corrections@wpaarea60.org  
*CPC/PI:* Helen H                        pi@wpaarea60.org  
*Alt. CPC/PI:* \_\_\_\_\_                pi@wpaarea60.org  
*Grapevine:* Jordon W                 grapevine@wpaarea60.org  
*Alt. Grapevine:* \_\_\_\_\_         grapevine@wpaarea60.org  
*Literature:* Becky C                    literature@wpaarea60.org  
*Alt. Literature:* Susan G                literature@wpaarea60.org  
*Treatment/SN:* Maresa S             treatment@wpaarea60.org  
*Alt. Treatment/SN:* \_\_\_\_\_        treatment@wpaarea60.org  
*Website:* Jon M                         website@wpaarea60.org  
*Alt. Website:* \_\_\_\_\_                website@wpaarea60.org

### AREA 60 WEBSITE

There are many resources on the Area 60 website, including: back issues of the newsletter, flyers for Days of Sharing, the Area 60 calendar, Area 60 Guidelines, pamphlets, service documentation, and more. Direct questions or suggestions to the Website Coordinator at [website@wpaarea60.org](mailto:website@wpaarea60.org).

### DONATIONS TO AREA 60

Support from groups and individuals is always welcome and appreciated! Make checks payable to:

**Area 60 Treasurer**  
 P.O. Box 1496  
 Washington, PA 15301

**See Those \_\_\_\_\_s Above?**

*Volunteer to be an Alt, and learn about Area service!*