



SEEDS OF SERVICE



VOL. XXXIII, Issue 3
Summer 2023

USING AA'S LITERATURE IN CARRYING THE MESSAGE

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. It can also be sent electronically to DCMs and GSRs, if the Area Registrar has a correct email address.

Write for SoS

The 2023 theme for the General Service Conference is "A.A.'s Three Legacies— Our Common Solution"

- ◆ Winter Topic: "General Service – Our Mighty Purpose and Rhythm"
- ◆ Spring Topic: "Our Common Perils and Common Solution"
- ◆ Summer Topic: "Using A.A.'s Literature in Carrying the Message"
- ◆ Fall Topic: "Fostering a Thriving Three Legacy Culture"

(deadline 10/15/2023)

Submission Guidelines

Suggested text length is 150 to 300 words. Artwork should be b&w, less than half a page (3"x5"), and 300 dpi. 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

Should I Go to AA?

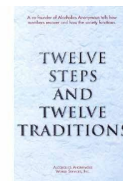
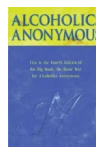
Brittany S.

When I started to see a problem with my drinking, one of my favorite things to google was "Should you go to AA?" In all of my searches, I found conflicting information because I didn't know what exactly what I was looking for.

Truthfully, at that point, I was looking for something to tell me that I wasn't an alcoholic, so those were the websites I visited and I looked for how I didn't belong.

Until one day, I walked into my first meeting. I was told there was free literature on the back table and if I was a newcomer, I shouldn't leave the meeting without a Big Book. I started to look at all the pamphlets. There were so many that I related to: "Do You Think You're Different?" "Is A.A. For Me?" "Young People and A.A." – The pamphlets were so easy to read and helped me to not feel so alone. As I started working with my sponsor, I bought the 12&12 to help deepen my understanding of step work. I later found Daily Reflections, which helped me jump start my day with recovery.

When I was two years sober, I was struggling badly with my mental health. I went into my first appointment with a psychiatrist and was completely honest about everything going on in my head and how important my sobriety was to me. Shortly after my mental health diagnosis, I found a new pamphlet "A.A. for Alcoholics with Mental Health Issues – and their Sponsors". It was so important to have AA-approved literature in my hands (and the hands of many others) to further spread the correct message. Had I only relied on my earlier google searches, I would still be out there praying for the life I have today.



Bill Wilson wrote: "Sobriety—freedom from alcohol—through the teaching and practice of the Twelve Steps, is the sole purpose of an A.A. group." [F-8, Problems Other than Alcohol].





Heartbeat of Service

John D, Area 60 Alternate Newsletter Editor

My name is John D. and I am the new Alt. Newsletter Editor for Area 60. It is my privilege to be able to serve the area in this capacity.

A little about me: I was born in Kansas City, MO and lived there until 2001. I decided to move away, and in true alcoholic fashion, continuously moved around until 2005. Seattle, California and any other place in between. I moved back to KC and decided I needed help and stability. My brother was in and out of AA during those years and suggested that I go to his group and check it out.

I went that March of 2005 and felt so welcomed and loved by the group. I stayed, did my 30/60/90, got a sponsor and received my 90-day chip. All the while, I was listening and learning to the group and my sponsor. I found that I missed Seattle and decided to move back.

I returned to Seattle in November of 2005, found a group and a sponsor and stayed for 15 years. Oh, I also got married! We lived there for 15 years and moved to Pittsburgh in November 2020.

It has been a glorious struggle in sobriety, but with the grace of my Higher Power and the help from you, I have been sober for over 18 years.

In my many, many jobs throughout the years, I have been everything from a dishwasher to an executive assistant to a Vice President. But the one I've enjoyed the most is copy editor. I hope to be able to share the joy of service with you as your Alt Newsletter Editor.

“It Works– It Really Does!”

The Pages that Bind Us

Meagan C., Area 60 Newsletter Editor

Is it OK to use non-conference approved literature in meetings?

In 1978 the AA General Service Office described what “Conference Approved” means in their Box 4 -5-9 newsletter (Volume 23, No 4). Here the General Service Office said:

“It (Conference Approved) does not mean the Conference disapproves of any other publications. Many local A.A. central offices publish their own meeting lists. A.A. as a whole does not oppose these, any more than A.A. disapproves of the Bible or any other publications from any source that A.A.’s find useful.

What this means to me is that each group is autonomous to use whatever literature they feel most useful to their group. In AA, each group is the highest authority in AA!

Conference approved literature is what represents the **common message** of our program of recovery. I am so grateful that most of the meetings I’ve attended shared the same message, used the same language, and through repetition of the steps and traditions, paved a way out of darkness into the light for so many of us to be happy, joyous and free!

How is my group using Conference-Approved literature to carry the message of AA?



Fellow Mavericks

Bob H., D23, GSR

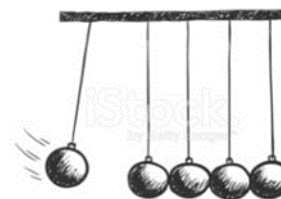
Outlaws, rebels, and fiercely independent challengers of the status quo, I salute you! In our journey through sobriety, these very traits can become our allies when we approach Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) literature with a discerning mind. Why conform to the masses by embracing popular religious or recovery literature? Be unique and break away from the norm by choosing a different path.

Declare your autonomy and explore AA's Conference literature instead!

Embrace our freedom to explore any literature – external works, personal accounts, or conference-approved materials. AA has no opinion and never has expressed public disapproval. Before the Big Book and Grapevine, there were no AA written works. Everything lacked Conference approval due to the absence of a conference.

But our Conference-approved works are like buried treasures. They are the collective toil of years and the best efforts of thousands. Few attempts to dominate another life or restrict spiritual growth get by our substantial unanimity or rights of appeal. Imperfections and attempts to dominate our lives are minimal.

These unique attributes grant us more freedom to become what or whomever we are meant to become.



Like the swinging orbs of Newton's Cradle, the collective energy of AA thrives when aligned and guided by carefully refined publications. Our pamphlets are even more current and alive with potential energy; they are the best example of decades of refinement, but, they must be set in motion. Subtle choices in wording protect our possibilities and spiritual liberties. Straying too far from this sort of guidance with newcomers risks diminishing the transformative power or even pushing people away from the AA message. When meeting new people, who often aren't seen again, a pamphlet might be their first and last chance to learn accurately about AA. So, it's important for sharing precisely what AA is about. We can avoid reinventing the wheel each time, erase misconceptions and unload some of the burdens of their successes or failures off of our shoulders and onto the fellowships. Embracing this shared approach is indeed an easier, softer way.

In conclusion, embracing the importance of AA literature and unity empowers individuals to create meaningful lives in sobriety while maintaining their independent spirits. The collective wisdom of the AA community is an invaluable resource that can guide us on our journey to recovery.

So, fellow mavericks, sons and daughters of rebellion, and outlaw safe crackers, saddle up and mask up; we've got nuggets of newfound freedom and happiness to uncover and revisions to plunder!



Send your AA questions to our **Virtual Ask-It Basket** at newsletter@wpaarea60.org or from the Area 60 website Newsletter page at <https://www.wpaarea60.org/newsletters/>.



GSC (2023) Items

The 73th General Service Conference (GSC)
 “AA’s Three Legacies— Our Common Solution”

Committee Recommendations that pass the whole Conference with a 2/3 vote become ADVISORY ACTIONS.

Data on Delegates

Average Age: 57

Oldest: 76

Youngest: 35

Average Sobriety: 22

Newest: 7

Most: 49

Average Service: 17

Newest: 7

Most: 46



Agenda Committee

Theme of 74th GSC: “Connecting with Love, Unity and Service.”

Archives Committee

No recommendations *Members serve on this committee as a secondary committee assignment.

Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC)

It was recommended that:

The pamphlet “A.A. in Your Community” be approved with minor editorial changes

Corrections Committee

The committee recommended that item #5 in the Procedures of the Conference Committee on Corrections be revised to read: “To maintain communication with committee secretary and other committee members during the year.”

The following section be added to the pamphlet “A.A. in Correctional Facilities” on page 12:

Sponsorship “Like all A.A. members, persons in custody can benefit from sponsorship. For more information, please refer to the Corrections Kit and Workbook or contact your local Corrections committee.

Literature Committee

It was recommended that: The revised draft of the existing version of the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated” be approved.

The print version of the pamphlet “Too Young” be retired and the content be repurposed as an animation video at an estimated cost no higher than \$70,000. The committee requested that a progress report or a rough cut of the video be brought back to the 2024 Conference Committee on Literature

Literature Committee (Contd.)

The work on the draft pamphlet based on A.A.'s Three Legacies be ceased. The committee notes that the material gathered would be most useful as service material.

Finance Committee

It was recommended that:

The materials produced and maintained by A.A. World Services, AA Grapevine, La Viña, and the General Service Office (GSO), clarify that the General Service Board is the entity which receives all voluntary A.A. contributions and that GSO performs contribution processing. Any text changes should be implemented when each item comes up for reprint or revision.

The suggested area contribution for delegate expense for the Conference be increased from \$1,800 to \$2,200.

The Trustees Finance and Budgetary Committee develop additional ways to report quarterly the fiscal performance of the AAWS, GSB and GV Boards throughout the year to the members of the General Service Conference for the purposes of transparency and assisting in the reporting to the A.A. Fellowship.

Grapevine Committee

No recommendations.

International Conventions/Regional Forums Committee

It was recommended that:

The following three cities be considered as possible sites for the International Convention in 2035:

***Phoenix, Arizona**

***Indianapolis, Indiana**

***New Orleans, Louisiana**

The committee recommended that up to 21 non-A.A. speakers be invited to attend the 2025 International Convention at A.A.'s expense.

Public Information (PI) Committee

It was recommended that:

The Membership Survey pamphlet be updated to reflect the findings from the 2022 Alcoholics Anonymous Membership Survey, with minor editorial changes.

The AAWS Board prepare sufficient periodic analytics reporting on our current and the Conference Committee on Public Information.

Report & Charter Committee

It was recommended that:

The A.A. Service Manual not be printed in 2023 and that a new edition be published biennially (i.e., every two years), beginning in 2024.

A full rewrite be conducted of chapters 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 to correct inaccuracies and to better clarify the

Report & Charter Committee

It was recommended that:

The A.A. Service Manual not be printed in 2023 and that a new edition be published biennially (i.e., every two years), beginning in 2024.

A full rewrite be conducted of chapters 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 to correct inaccuracies and to better clarify the roles, responsibilities and relationships between the General Service Office, AA Grapevine, and A.A. World Services, Inc. in The A.A. Service Manual and to the 2024 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.

Anonymity-protected Conference Final Reports be posted annually on aa.org beginning with the 2023 General Service Conference.

Treatment & Accessibilities

It was recommended that:

The revised pamphlet "A.A. for the Older Alcoholic– Never Too Late" be approved with minor edits in a format that does not require folding.

The 22 interviews recorded to date as part of the Military Audio project be approved, giving the General Service Office (GSO) the latitude to distribute the audio interviews in various formats and on various platforms, and that an update report be provided to the 2024 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities.

Trustees

It was recommended that:

The new slate of trustees of the General Service Board be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board on April 29, 2023, following presentation at the 2023 General Service Conference for disapproval if any.

Please see full conference report for full list of names.



Thank you

Jon C. for representing Area 60 at the 73rd General Service Conference!

AA's program of recovery is spiritual, but the hands-on action of two drunks – one sober, the other new or returning from a slip – helping each other is what glues it together, as our co-founders quickly found out. Looking back on their relationship some years later, Bill W observed, "Dr. Bob did not need me for his spiritual instruction... What he did need, when we first met, was the deflation at depth and the understanding that only one drunk can give to another. What I needed was the humility of self-forgetfulness and the kinship with another human being of my own kind." (*As Bill Sees It*, p. 212)

– "Sponsorship Goes Two Ways," *Box 4-5-9* (April-May 1998)

Get to Know Area 60!



Two Types of Area Meetings

1. **Quarterly Meeting:** Decides area business. DCMs, Area Officers and 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 and Coordinators, past Delegates 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.

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 their 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?"

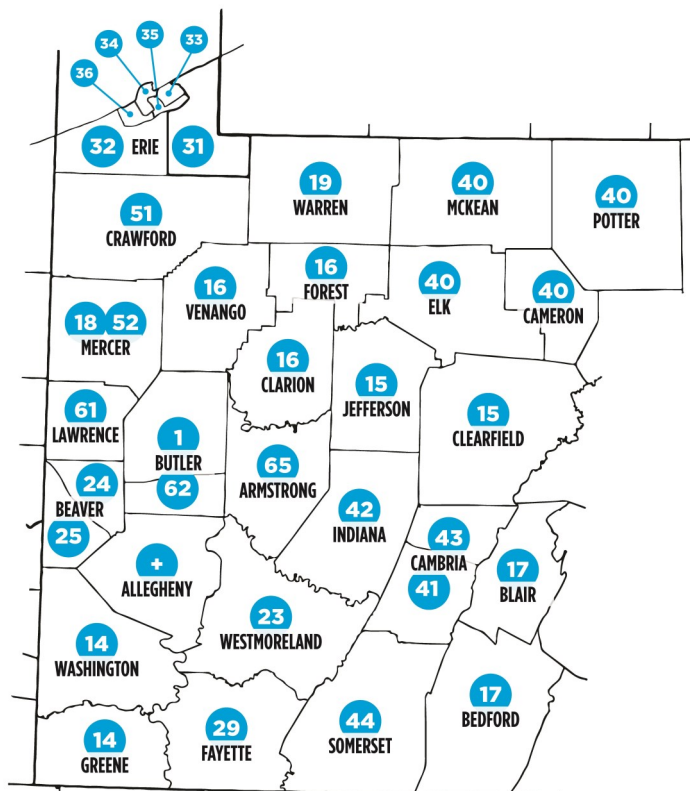
- ◆ To ensure that all voices that wish to be heard are heard.
- ◆ To ensure that no one voice dominates all others.
- ◆ To ensure that everyone gets to speak **once** before another speaks **twice**.
- ◆ To ensure that everyone understands the content of the vote.
- ◆ To ensure that it is clear what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

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

Area 60 Web Calendar

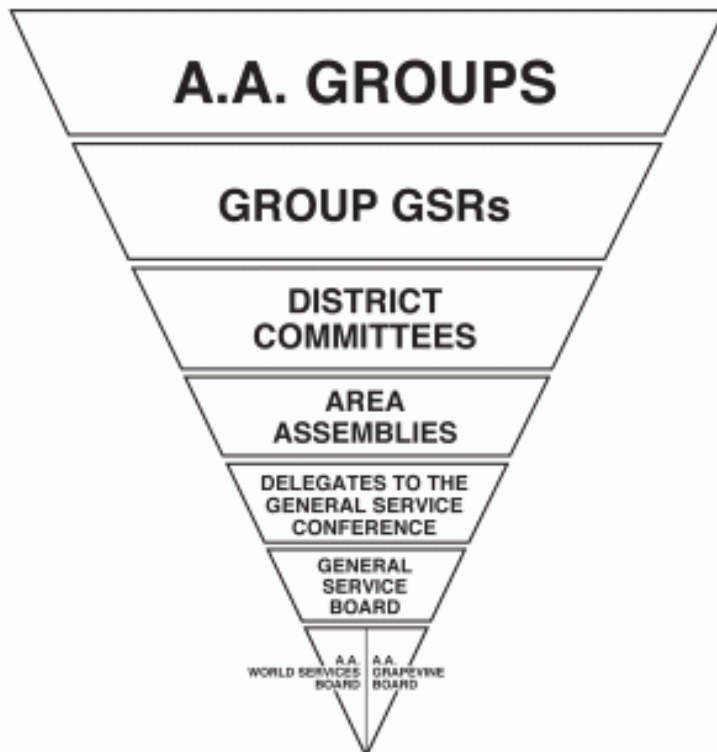
<https://www.wpaarea60.org/calendar/>

Our website has an updated online calendar, which lists service events (Pre-Conference Assembly Weekend, the General Service Conference, 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**.



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

STRUCTURE OF THE CONFERENCE (U.S. and Canada)



2023 Calendar of Events

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

DATE	TIME	EVENT
October 15, 2023	8:30 am Registration	Fall Assembly
	9 am Workshop	
	10:15 am Meeting	
November 5, 2023	9 am Place: TBD	Officers/Coordinators Meeting PCA Planning Meeting
December 3, 2023	8:30 am Registration	4th Quarterly Meeting
	9 am Workshop	
	10:15 am Meeting	
December 10, 2023	9 am Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center	Officers/Coordinators Meeting PCA Planning Meeting
2024 Area 60 Calendar		
January 21, 2024	Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center	1st Quarterly Meeting/ 2023 Finance Committee Audit
February 18, 2024	9 am-- Zoom	Officers/Coordinators Meeting PCA Planning Meeting
February 24-26, 2024	All Weekend Hershey, PA Area 59	NERAASA
March 3, 2024	9 am--Zoom	PCAW Planning Meeting
March 8-10, 2024	All Weekend	NERD
March 15-16, 2024	Friday/Saturday DoubleTree Cranberry	PCAW Weekend
March 17, 2024	8:30 am Registration	Pre-Conference Assembly
	9 am Workshop	
	10:15 am Meeting	

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA AREA 60

ELECTED OFFICERS:

Delegate: Jon C. delegate@wpaarea60.org
 Alt Delegate: Walter G. altdelegate@wpaarea60.org
 Chairperson: Dani M. chairperson@wpaarea60.org
 Alt Chair: Sherri Lynn D. altchairperson@wpaarea60.org
 Secretary: Scott Mc. secretary@wpaarea60.org
 Treasurer: Greg K. treasurer@wpaarea60.org

APPOINTED OFFICERS:

Archivist: Nancy H. archivist@wpaarea60.org
 Registrar: Chad U. registrar@wpaarea60.org
 Recording Secretary: Desiree A. recsec@wpaarea60.org
 Newsletter Editor: Meagan C. newsletter@wpaarea60.org
 Alt. Newsletter Editor: John D. altnewsletter@wpaarea60.org
 Finance Committee
 Chair: Ben P. financecommitteechair@wpaarea60.org

COORDINATORS:

Archives: **YOU!** archives@wpaarea60.org
 Alt. Archives: _____ archives@wpaarea60.org
 Corrections: Deanna K. corrections@wpaarea60.org
 Alt. Corrections: Leslie N. corrections@wpaarea60.org
 CPC/PI: Tami D. pi@wpaarea60.org
 Alt. CPC/PI: Jon A. pi@wpaarea60.org
 Grapevine: Linette R. grapevine@wpaarea60.org
 Alt. Grapevine: Becky C. grapevine@wpaarea60.org
 Literature: Marcia W. literature@wpaarea60.org
 Alt. Literature: Don F. literature@wpaarea60.org
 Treatment/SN: Natalie O. treatment@wpaarea60.org
 Alt. Treatment/SN: _____ treatment@wpaarea60.org
 Website: Dave K. website@wpaarea60.org
 Alt. Website: _____ website@wpaarea60.org
 Tech Coordinator: Adam G. tech!@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.

DONATIONS TO AREA 60

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

Area 60 Treasurer
 P.O. Box 386
 Canonsburg, PA. 15317

See All Those ___s to the Right?

Several service opportunities are available throughout Western PA Area 60. When by devoted service to family, friends, business, or community we attract widespread affection and are sometimes singled out for posts of greater responsibility and trust, we try to be humbly grateful and exert ourselves the more in a spirit of love and service. - 12th Step Twelve, p.124