

# SEEDS OF SERVICE



## What Is Area 60?

According to the AA Service Manual:

An area may be part of a state or all of it, depending on the size and needs of the A.A. population. The area holds an important middle position in the Conference Structure—through the elected delegate, it participates in A.A. worldwide, while through the D.C.M.s and G.S.R.s, it is close to the local scene.



Area 60, Western PA is geographically made up of 27 counties bordered to the east by Bedford, Blair, Clearfield, Cameron and Potter Counties, north to New York State, west to Ohio and south to West Virginia and Maryland. There is an Area Map illustrating this in our Area 60 Guidelines.

Area 60 has 45 Districts and according to the Conference Report, 886 groups and 12,128 members. According to that same report, 44.6% of our groups contribute to the General Service Office with our average contribution per member \$4.78.

From the By-Laws:

The purpose of Area 60 is to be

a body of trusted servants to serve the needs of the AA groups within its geographical area and to function as a constituent part of the annual General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous. We are an organization formed exclusively for the charitable and educational purpose of furthering knowledge and access to the Twelve Step Program of recovery of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is our aim to maintain services and activities for those who seek, through Alcoholics Anonymous, the means of arresting the disease of alcoholism through the application to their own lives, in whole or in part, of the Twelve Step Recovery Program as well as to other interested parties who desire educational information about AA. Our primary purpose is to carry the message.

Area 60 is made up of trusted servants elected by the AA groups in the area, who are to be ever mindful of the ideals expressed in the Twelve Traditions, the Twelve Concepts and the AA Service Manual. Area 60 encourages AA groups to participate in and support its efforts to be the voice and

group conscience of WPA AA. It supports and assists the elected Area 60 Delegate in the course of the duties of the office.

The voting members of the Area Committee are: the DCMs, the elected Area Officers, the appointed officers and service coordinators and the Past Area 60 Delegates. The Area Committee meets quarterly and those meetings are open to all AA members and GSRs are especially welcome. Area 60 also holds up to four Area Assemblies per year where the voting members include the GSRs in addition to the Area Committee.

The elected officers of Area 60 are the Delegate, the Alternate Delegate, the Chairperson, Alternate Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer. The appointed officers are the Archivist, Alternate Treasurer, Recording Secretary and Registrar. Appointed Service Coordinators are Archives, CPC/PI, Corrections, Grapevine, Literature, Newsletter, Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities and Web Site.

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# Fall



**Donations to Area 60 are always welcome and appreciated**

Make check payable to...

Area 60 Treasurer, P.O. Box 392, McKees Rocks, PA 15136

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## I Surrender

When I was a kid playing with my younger twin brothers, I seemed to always wind up on the ground in a choke hold or some other equally vulnerable position, to which I would promptly cry "UNCLE!" Man, I wasn't into pain and if I gave in they'd let me go and I wouldn't hurt anymore. That same concept did NOT apply to my battle with alcohol. No, it seemed I would defend, nearly to death, my right to drink how I wanted...no, needed. Even when I recognized, during a brief moment of clarity, that I was drinking because I had to and not because I wanted to I had no

power to do anything else.

While sitting angrily on the edge of my bed in a detox unit, because it was suggested that I go to an in-patient rehab, something came over me. I didn't want to quit drinking, I didn't want help. I wanted to be left alone to continue on in my insanity, though I didn't know it. I never prayed the Foxhole Prayer, I never said "God help me." I simply got up, went to the nurse's station and said "I surrender."

It has occurred to me that God, my Higher Power, has been in control of my life without my

knowledge or my consent. My surrender signified the first time I was willing to do things differently. Suddenly my will took a back seat to someone and something else's and I was set free from the bondage that alcohol had on me for so many years. Yes, God is in charge of my life without my knowledge or my consent...the difference is that today I'm ok with that.

Yvette N.  
Area 60 Member



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## Hello Area 60

This quarter's topic of anonymity provides us with a deeper understanding of our program. Anonymity is half our name. It is the reminder to place principles before personalities. I have learned that anonymity is trilateral. First, based on the individual. It's not unusual for a newcomer to pronounce his or her happiness, energy and sobriety. People notice the change. We are willing to explain this change to those around us like family and friends. When the opportunity presents itself, we are willing to talk about A.A. to help the next person. Word of mouth is one of our most important communications.

Second, on a group level. Bill W. confirms that there is no objection to groups who wish to remain strictly anonymous. This is our forum in which to express our changes and how we progressed. It is our forum to welcome the newcomer. Most people find that anonymity to this degree is not necessary or even desirable provided that they do not break our anonymity on the public level and thus compromise our whole society.

Third, as a community or A.A. as a whole. Bill W. writes that we need to be still on better terms with medi-

cine, religion, employers, governments, courts, prisons, mental hospitals and all enterprises in the alcoholism field. We need the good will of editors, writers, TV and radio channels. There is a very fine line here though. This view is favored providing that anonymity is respected in these public areas or at the top levels only with the representation that we ask nothing of ourselves except understanding.

Bobby G.  
State Correctional Institute  
Greene

## Surrender

I can remember at a meeting as a newcomer, when I was still struggling with whether or not I was an alcoholic, a fellow member said to me after the meeting while we were standing around talking to each other, I was trying to explain to him about what I was saying in the meeting as he just listened. Taking a long drag on his cigarette, he stopped and turned to me, looking me directly in the eye. I'll never forget to this day the exact words he then uttered to me. He said: "You just have to surrender." Being someone I would have considered to be more of an 'old-timer/ he was too wise, or, at least had been around long enough to know and to recognize someone who hadn't 'surrendered' to the program yet. Or, let's just say he could spot someone who was still 'questioning' things and somewhat belligerent. Part of my problem was-that I didn't really *want* to be an alcoholic at first. So, of course, that *alone* stood in the way. So just what did it mean to *surrender*? I didn't bother to find out, or even look it up because I thought I had a hunch I knew. At that time in my recovery I pretty much came to terms with the fact that I had a problem. In fact, I already knew - after a couple months of sobriety- that I had gotten the first step. Remembering now that it was a twelve and twelve meeting, I think that it was all too apparent that when we happened to be discussing the 3<sup>rd</sup> step that night, that not only was I was clueless

about it, I was not about to just take all this hard earned sobriety, (I had about 2 months at that point) and simply just surrender to everything else and turn it all over to God. So, I suppose in that sense, I didn't really *know* just what it took to surrender.

I know sometimes you'll be watching the news, and everyday it shows someone 'surrendering' themselves' over to some position of authority- usually the police. As you watch this though, you know that they're doing it because they have no other choice - not due to any free choice or willingness of their own, it's because they have to. We are faced with choices everyday of our lives. Like when we have to make conscious choices in the grocery store- or any store- as to what we are going to choose from; what we want for ourselves. Usually there are too many choices or things to choose from. But ultimately, we are faced to make a decision so we 'pull closer' or 'surrender' to something, or we'd be standing there forever trying to make up our minds. There are probably all kinds of examples I could use here, but I am just making a point or draw some comparisons. No one wants to surrender to being sick, or say, having surgery- it sucks. But when there is nothing we can do within our power to control getting sick, well then we just surrender to it. There are certain types of surrender that we accept more or less with ease, or more grudgingly than others. So I was

thinking- well, I am maintaining sobriety here, showing up for meetings, and talking to a sponsor almost every day- so I *am* surrendering, aren't I? I think just by getting serious about getting sober, and by doing all the work that went into it, I was starting to finally 'chip' away at a lot of the denial that was initially such a roadblock for me in the beginning. But was I fully surrendering? My old stubbornness and trying to fight everything was still very much intact. That is what that fellow member sensed in me that night at the meeting. I guess it takes one to know one. The questioning, the debating, the overall anger and confusion about being an alcoholic were obviously showing through in what I was saying. I had my foot all the way in the door now and more open to suggestion, but another part of me still had the boxing gloves on, and was reluctant and apprehensive. There was definitely a push/pull thing going on in me. Being naturally resistant to change, I couldn't conceive of just being willing to 'turn it over to god' without wanting some answer or 'guarantee' that came with my doing that. Sometimes I have to admit, I am still like that. My sponsor is always saying 'God's will, not mine.' And I think to myself, '*God, how can she be so full of faith and humility, like that?*' It pisses me off sometimes too. I hate to admit that- because she is wonderful - but that is a perfect example of what I

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Concept Ten

Concept Ten states that: Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined.

This concept is the principle that underlies some of the earlier concepts relating to the groups having the ultimate authority but then having that authority being delegated ultimately to the Conference and then to the Trustees, but with the delegation of authority always being accompanied by a clear statement of the scope of authority and responsibility.

Concept X explains that the group conscience is the ultimate authority; the trusted servant is the delegated authority. The Concept goes on to say that one cannot function without the other.

If you are studying the Concepts you will notice right from the first Concept that the word "authority" appears early and often. In Concept I it is "ultimate authority." Lois C. (our past Delegate, panel 43) once did a report on Concept X ; she stated that authority appears 152 times in all Twelve Concepts. In addition to ultimate authority, there are such descriptions as Final authority, operational authority, delegated authority, service authority, and legal authority, as well as active, full, practical, higher, clearly-defined, administrative, functional, discretionary, and

executive authorities.

In Concept X, "authority" is mentioned 58 times. Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority—the scope of such authority to be always well defined whether by tradition, by resolution, by specific job description or by appropriate charters and bylaws.

Two actual events were passed on by Lois concerning Concept X. Back in 1993 Western PA Area 60 had a problem related to Concept X. We had no guidelines that defined the scope of our area officers and service coordinators responsibilities. Lois remembered when our Panel 35 delegate suggested area guidelines. Like most at the time Lois said "We don't need them - we've got the Service Manual. Let's not get too organized." She changed her tune! At that time, they were relying on tradition - particularly past motions of the area committee but had only meeting minutes going back ten years to 1983.

Being more specific: In 1985 we created the position of Area Librarian, whose job it was - according to the minutes - to acquire "AA literature, films, film strips and tapes that the whole Area could benefit from the year round." In time, the Librarian (by resolution/ motion of the area committee) the added responsibility of ordering and displaying a supply of

AA literature for area events some of which was sold at cost. In 1993. the Librarian was re-named Literature Coordinator and proceeded to provide an additional area service — that of ordering AA literature for our more rural groups and districts that do not have access to a central office supply. This produced some controversy - the scope and responsibilities of the Area Literature Coordinator were changing.

The Area Treasurer objected because a lot of area was tied up in A.A. inventory of couldn't be used to pay expenses. The delegated responsibilities and authorities of the Area Treasurer the Area Literature Coordinator were in conflict.

Which brings us to another part of Concept X: "In all matters of joint or conflicting authority, a senior jurisdiction must be established. But it should always be clear where the point of final decision is located." The area committee decided the matter.

Concept X also warns: "Ultimate authority cannot be used indiscriminately. Indeed ultimate authority should practically never be used in full, except in an emergency. That emergency usually arises when delegated authority: a) has gone wrong; b) must be reorganized because it is ineffective; and, or c) constantly exceeds its defined scope and purpose."

*(Continued on page 7)*



## What Is A PSA?

What is a PSA, we have all heard people mention this word around Alcoholics Anonymous. It means Public Service Announcement, this announcement is seen on television or heard on the radio, It does not cost Alcoholics Anonymous any money. This is just like a commercial and it is either 15, 30, or 45 seconds long. The television or radio station places these PSA's in advertisement time slots that they cannot sell. Usually these PSA's will run early in the morning and every once in a while during the day. GSO spends about \$40,000 dollars distributing the PSA's to television and radio stations. I know that some of the Districts and MEETINGS IN Area 60 have bought PSA's from GSO's literature and gave them to television and radio stations.

The video PSA's use actors to portray the alcoholics because their faces will be shown. These PSA's are on the website ([www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)) at GSO. There are six video PSA's and fifteen audio PSA's. Friendly support and cooperation from the media has made it possible for Alcohol-

ics Anonymous to carry its message of hope in the U.S. and Canada and far beyond these borders. We know that A.A. would not have reached many thousands of men and women without this assistance. On the Website you will find information referring to our Tradition of Anonymity at the level of the media, press releases concerning events in Alcoholics Anonymous, public service announcements (P.S.A.s), and estimates of A.A. membership. Two years ago the Delegate and I were asked to attend a group conscious because one of the members thought PSA's were breaking the Tradition of anonymity. A few days before the group conscious he was talking to one of the members he sponsored and mentioned they were having a group conscious on PSA's. The sponsee who was from Greenville said that he was drunk at about 3:00 am in the morning and the television was on. He saw a PSA and he decided to check AA out and he has been sober for eight years. This was about contempt prior to investigation. His thinking about PSA's was changed.

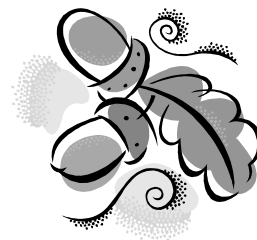
How would we get the message out about AA if there was no press, radio and television. Will it become a secret society and how will the newcomer find out about AA.

Bill W. talked about reaching the 25 million Alcoholic's in concept 11. He felt it was important to be in good standing with the public about AA. He also said that we need increasing good will of editors, writers, television and radio channels. These publicity outlets local, national, and international should be opened wider and wider, always forgoing, however, high pressure promotion tactics. It is to, and through, all these resources that we must try to carry A.A.'s message to those who suffer alcoholism and its consequences.

Information was from GSO and the 11<sup>th</sup> Concept in the Service Manual.

Yours in Service,

Richard S.  
Alternate Delegate



## Surrender

The pathway to clean and sober living begins with taking the first step: I, Kevin, am the first to admit that I am powerless over alcohol, that my life had become unmanageable. Because I have a history of criminal thinking and criminal behavior, often alcohol and other drug abuse plays a significant role in illegal behavior. When I address my powerlessness and unmanageability over my addiction I am taking a major first step toward honesty and responsibility in my behavior in all aspects of my life. In fact it is impossible to take a thorough first step without addressing my relationship with criminal behavior.

I surrendered five years and five months ago. On April 12, 2006 when I was captured from my destructive relapsing for about

one month that took my freedom, my children, mom, sister, brother, nieces, nephews, cat, job, car, sobriety, self-worth, money and everything else that was obtained from the graces of God. One drink took all this! One day at a time my nightmare of drinking and drugging is over. The bottle and I hit bottom in the pit and it's now commitment and dedication to sobriety. I surrender my will over to God and A.A.'s 12 steps to guide me to meetings for the rest of my entire life. I may live with this disease but I will not suffer in it's addiction and misery. I never cared who I hurt in the process of it's darkness. In A.A. I learned that by surrendering to the God of my understanding in humility allows my cares to be taken care of by a power greater than myself.

Because He is all powerful and I am weak. I give up and allow A.A. steps to take over to shape my new habits that come from my Higher Power's way of thinking soberly, taking suggestions from those who are successful, sharing at meetings and defining my destination.

It is a journey. Give in to the power that created the universe. He is able to birth the world into existence and new life through us all, by accepting this gift of freedom from bondage of the bottle and let go of fleshly nature and be spiritual.

Kevin P.  
State Correctional Institute  
Greene



## Surrender (Cont'd.)

*(Continued from page 3)*

would call full-fledged 'surrender;' not only to being an alcoholic, but something that goes further beyond that horizon, and into an abyss, that you cannot see or even venture to know how or what the outcome may be. That requires a lot of commitment and acceptance. God, not to mention courage, as well! It is *not* in our hands anymore. Or something that we feel we have to manage ourselves, or have control over. That's not something that comes

real naturally to me either. I think that it takes a great deal of surrender to fully throw all of your self-heart and soul- into a program of uncertainty, and God entirely. As Bill Wilson stresses in the Big Book- the number one characteristic and defining quality of every alcoholic is DEFIANCE. I think that it is the rare one that comes in, and throws their hands up in the air, all defenses down, and declares- 'O.K. I give up! I am in this for life!' Even if we *do* know we're alcoholic, and are trying to do something about it, I think most

of us exist very much in the 'problem' before we ever get into the 'solution.' Maybe part of figuring out just some of what the solution is to the problem- is by surrendering. Even if is just little by little every day. I don't think 'Surrender' means giving up, or throwing in the towel, so to speak. I think it means giving up the tug- of- war we have going on within ourselves.

Dianne D.  
Area 60 member

## Concept Ten (Cont'd.)

(Continued from page 4)

Lois remembered another specific incident in Area 60 where this Concept may have saved us a lot of grief. The Concept was used all right, but out of context, by a "reluctant-to-rotate" service coordinator who assumed more authority than the operational responsibilities of the job. This was clearly the area's neither the responsibilities nor the corresponding authority were clearly defined by tradition, resolution, specific job description or appropriate guidelines.

Bill W, winds this Concept up with: "let us always be sure that there is an abundance of final or ultimate authority to correct or to reorganize; but let us be equally sure that all of our trusted servants have a clearly defined and adequate authority to do their daily work and discharge their clear responsibilities.

"All of this is fully implied in AA's Tradition Two. Here we see the "group conscience" as the ultimate authority and the "trusted servant" as the delegated authority. One cannot function without the other. We well know that only by means of careful definitions and mutual respect can we constantly maintain a right and harmoni-

ous working balance.\*

### Thoughts:

Isn't this a principle that we could use in our lives outside A.A.?

If we're going to hold someone responsible for producing certain results, shouldn't we give them the authority needed to make those things happen?

At the same time, don't we need to sharply define what that authority is, for their protection and our protection?

### Concepts Checklist :

Describe the authority delegated to the Conference. Do I feel that too much authority is to the Conference?

At my home group, does this Concept mean that the chair may bar "undesirables" from attending meetings?

Does my group elect an ad hoc committee, with full operational authority, but at the next business meeting challenge the way that committee is proceeding? Does the group try to tell the committee how to do its job?

Is my group G.S.R required to consult with the group before voting in an area assembly on what might be viewed as issues

of particular importance? -

G.S.O. staff and other special workers are paid to act responsibly in their jobs. Should they also have "an equal service authority?"

What is my group's role in defining "the scope of such authority?"

Do I ever stop to think about the relation between the several service jobs in my group? Are the jobs spelled out clearly so that incoming officers understand both their responsibilities and their authority?

Do we understand "authority" and "responsibility" as they relate to group conscience decisions by GSRs, DCMs and our area delegates?

Why is delegation of "authority" so important to the overall effectiveness of A.A.? Do we use this concept to define the scope of "authority?"

Respectfully submitted,

Vaughn H.,  
Past Delegate, Panel 51  
\* (taken from Lois' notes on  
Concept 10 - 10/21/93)



## Surrender

Being an addict for many, many years I could never comprehend the word surrender. My disease had such a tight grip on me that giving up my way of life which I had become accustomed to was out of the question. Rationalizing and justifying my way of life, became a way of life.

Then it happened. My rock bottom. Living the life I was living just wasn't hard enough. Until everything was taken away including my life. I almost died and by all means I should have. But I didn't. After a lengthy rehabilitation I realized

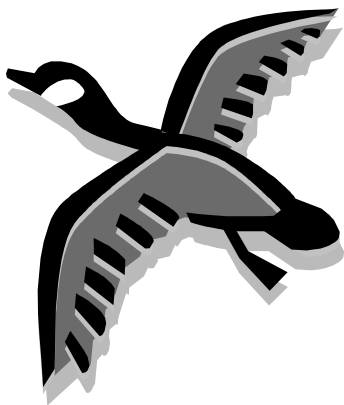
just how lucky I was to be given a second chance at life. I made a decision to make the best of it.

Good bye old life. I will never go back to my old ways, the drinking and using all the time. How I used to feel, how I used to live and lived to use. I have completely given myself to the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions of the fellowship. These spiritual principles have changed my life.

I have surrendered to a new way of life. I have surrendered my life, my will, my thoughts, my desires and my ambitions into God's hands. Since I have

been able to do that my life had gotten so much better in all aspects and continues to get better to this day. An extreme blessing from adversity. The biggest step I ever took in my recovery was Step 1. From that point on, let me just say "life is good". Today God is doing for me what I could never do for myself because I have surrendered my life to his will.

Joseph C.  
State Correctional Institute  
Fayette



## Surrender

Surrender: To give (oneself) over, as to an emotion: yield. The act of surrendering.

My "self" gets in the way and I end up feeling lousy until I surrender and return to the world of the spirit. At this point in my journey this is the reality I find myself struggling with. Bill W. wrote that when his own time for open-mindedness and surrender came, that new world of spirit burst upon him in a flash of overwhelming conviction and power. That conviction spoken of I can feel for periods of time and everything is so right with me in knowing where I fit in the universe, I love the power of the spirit filling me - my mind is opened wide. But, being the alcoholic, I am not always there. Sometimes I am detached from the spiritual realm and I

feel fearful of the insanity that is working its way back into me - the "self" has reared it's ugly head and is blocking the spirit that is in me from it's Creator. Thankfully I have faith in A.A. and that faith keeps me coming to meetings where I hear your words and I read the literature where you also speak to me. My Higher Power uses you to save me from myself and to instruct me in what to do. To pray, to meditate, to surrender my will and my life, to clean house and to seek to do his will with my life. There is a character defect that I, at one time, asked him to remove and have been very impatient about the fact that this defect still plagues me from time to time. I forgot that I still had a desire for drink when I entered into this A.A. world

and that I did as suggested in working the steps and hanging around the people in the program and going to meetings and being available to others and then realized that I no longer had the desire to drink, that promise had become a fact of my life. I have to stop trying to be the Director! I must abide in the "sweet surrender" and just simply be ready to have God do his will and know that I trust in him who has performed so many miracles in my life and has given me a front row seat to the show of so many miracles in the lives of others. Alcoholics saving each others lives it's the Most Wonderful Show on Earth - the Realm of the Spirit, HA!

John McA.  
State Correctional Institute  
Fayette

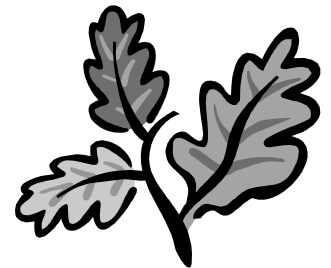
## Alcoholics Anonymous

Each Sunday morning at the close of our meeting here in the Penitentiary we stand in a circle holding one another's hand and recite the Serenity Prayer. Our sister A.A. volunteer included in this circle of what might be described as hardened convicts. We are humbled by what we have heard throughout the meeting and at this moment as we join hands to ask God to continue to help us all. We are here because other alcoholics have quietly demonstrated in their daily sacrifice that one human being helping another is such a beautifully spiritual act. I understand the pain of a man who has lost all of what ever had meaning in his life - any of the spiritual principles he may have tasted as a child. I understand the utter loneliness found drunken and dirty in an alleyway and in the dark of night in a

prison cell; and I know what it felt like to walk into my first A.A. meeting in prison. I waited to hear something that could touch my soul or rattle my brain and I heard it and knew that I had found what I guess you might call salvation. I thank another old con for putting it in my mind to walk into that meeting. He wasn't someone who acted like he knew it all, he was a humble man who knew he was dying in prison and had found love again in the rooms. His life had meaning and value and he was going about his last days quietly bringing hope and faith to us in the form of the principles that guide all of us A.A.'s to step onto that broad highway walking hand in hand with the spirit of the universe. No, we are not a religion, but we do recognize that we have something to be cher-

ished, to be taken care of. We have all known the pain of the still suffering and I, for one, do not want to experience that pain again. I want A.A. to be there for anyone else who is today experiencing that pain and for those who may experience it in the future. I thank my higher power for the wisdom of those before me who were in the presence of him as they wrote the words that guide us and I pray to never bring harm to this thing of ours. I also want to thank that now deceased convict for anonymously saving my life, thank you Tommy W. I love you brother. I thank A.A. for bringing love back into my life in the form of other alcoholics.

John M.  
State Correctional Institute  
Fayette



## Heard At A Meeting

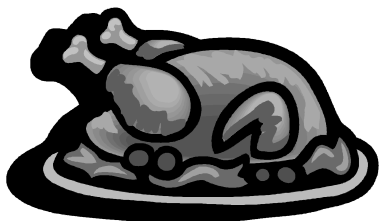
- ◆ GSR: Grand Sultan of Recovery
- ◆ When you're home by yourself you're behind enemy lines.
- ◆ If you share your pain you cut it in half, if you don't you double it.
- ◆ If you don't want what we have, go back out to what you had."
- ◆ There's no elevator, you have to take the steps.
- ◆ AA is not for people who need it, it's for people who want it.
- ◆ The quality of your recovery is proportional to the quality of your surrender.
- ◆ AA is not a program to get sober...it's a program to live your life successfully and to be happy once you get sober.
- ◆ The shortest sentence in the Big Book is, "It Works.
- ◆ The power behind me is greater than the problem in front of me.

## What Is Area 60? (Cont'd.)

(Continued from page 1)

Descriptions of these positions are available in the Area 60 Guidelines that can be downloaded from our Web Site, [www.wpaarea60.org](http://www.wpaarea60.org).

Activities at Area 60 meetings include reports from the appointed service coordinators and the DCMs as well as informative workshops. Displays of Grapevine material and AAWS literature are available and may be purchased and Officers and Coordinators are available for discussion. Area 60 is proud of our Archives, which detail, in part, the history of Area 60. The Area publishes a newsletter, Seeds Of Service, four times per year, concurrent with the Quarterly meetings and all area members are encouraged to contribute to and support our publication. The Area also maintains a Web Site, [www.wpaarea60.org](http://www.wpaarea60.org), where meeting lists and other information about Area events is available, and links to Officers and Coordinators are also offered. Other services provided on our Web Site is information about other AA related activities, and service related information, such as the Area Guidelines and the GSR and DCM Handbooks. You will also find General Service information—the AA Guidelines, World Service Forms and other information that comes out from time to time. Area trusted servants are available to visit districts upon request and based



upon availability. Area 60 Coordinators offer assistance to districts with their Treatment, Corrections and Public Information outreach among other things.

Other activities that the Area sponsors are the Annual Get Away Weekend and Days of Sharing hosted by one or more districts working together, both held for fellowship and education.

The Area is available to assist with local Tradition and Anonymity breaks.

### FAQs:

What can the Area do for the Districts and what can it not do?

- The Area offers guidance, direction and education.
- The Area does not tell the districts what to do.

How does the General Service Conference relate to what the Districts and Area do?

- The General Service Conference addresses issues that concern AA as a whole as well as pertinent aspects of recovery, unity and service common to all alcoholics.

Why donate to GSO and the Area; what do they do with the money?

- The Seventh Tradition charges us with self-support and asks that groups, when able, contribute to our service

structure to continue our primary purpose, to carry the message, on the local, state and national level. More information can be found in the AA Guideline on Finance.

These are some of the services that Area 60 provides for our members in Western Pennsylvania; what can the members in WPA do to help us to provide these services?

First of all, participate; Area 60 is the members of AA in WPA and your attendance is critical to our success.

Second, support us financially; our Seventh Tradition charges us with Self-Support; the pamphlet “Self-Support Where Money and Spirituality Mix” suggests that groups, after meeting their own expenses, further carry the message by contributing to the support of our AA service entities, our District, Area, Central Office and General Service Office.

Thank you for your service and for giving me the opportunity to serve.

Jean M.  
Delegate, Panel 61

*Resources: The AA Service Manual, Area 60 Guidelines, DCM Handbook, GSR Handbook, The AA Guidelines, The Conference Approved Literature Catalog, The Annual Conference Report, Shared Experience. Web Sites: aa.org, wpaarea60.org, aagrapevine.org, pghaa.org.*

**20th ANNUAL  
AREA 60 GET AWAY WEEKEND  
MINI CONFERENCE  
MARCH 30 - APRIL 01, 2012**



**“ANONYMITY: OUR SPIRITUAL RESPONSIBILITY IN THE DIGITAL AGE”**

**Purpose:**

The purpose of the Get Away Weekend is for GSRs, DCMs, Area Officers and Coordinators and A.A. Members of Area 60 Western Pennsylvania to discuss General Service Conference related issues and concerns affecting A.A. as a whole as well as pertinent aspects of Recovery, Unity and Service.

**Highlights**

- Service Workshops & Presentations
- Conference Agenda Committee Meetings
- Saturday Night Banquet & Speaker Meeting
- Red Ball Alkathon Meetings

**Location**

Comfort Inn  
699 Rodi Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15235  
412-244-1600

**Onsite Registration & Hospitality Room**

Opens @ 3:00PM Friday, March 30, 2012

Please call the hotel to make reservations by March 10th, 2012

(Mention Area 60 Get Away Weekend)

**Kickoff**

Begins @ 4:00PM Friday, March 30, 2012

**Room Rates**

\$78.50 + \$10.50 tax = \$89.00 per night

*Includes:* Complimentary Breakfast Buffet (limit two per room), use of indoor pool, hot tub and exercise facility.

**Contact Information**

Any questions please contact...

Rich S. 412-833-4049  
Yvette N. 814-558-3919  
Spencer A. 412-301-0624  
E-mail [gaw@wpaarea60.org](mailto:gaw@wpaarea60.org)

\*Restaurants are available locally if you prefer not to purchase your meals through the conference.

Please Print Clearly or use address label

District:

Name _____	Registration	\$20.00
Address _____	Friday Dinner	\$18.00
City, State, Zip _____	Saturday Lunch	\$10.00
Phone _____	Saturday Banquet	\$25.00
E-mail _____	Total Enclosed	\$ _____

Service Position:

Return by March 30, 2012

I would like to volunteer

Please feel free to make copies

Make check payable to: Area 60 Treasurer PO Box 392 McKees Rocks, Pa. 15136 (Write GAW on the memo line of check)

Donations of food or money to the Hospitality Room are appreciated!

Flyers for the Days of Sharing, the full calendar for 2011 and much more information (including pamphlets, flyers and service documentation) is available on the Area 60 website at **www.wpaarea60.org**

Calendar of Events		
DATE	TIME	EVENT
Dec. 11	9:00 AM	Officers & Coordinators GAW Planning
Jan. 15	9:00 AM	GAW Planning
Jan. 29	8:30 AM - Registration 9:00 AM - Workshop 10:15 AM - Area Assembly	1st Quarterly Meeting
Feb. 19	9:00 AM	Officers & Coordinators GAW Planning
March 2-4		NERASSA
March 16-18		NERDS
March 30 - April 1		Getaway Weekend
April 1	9:00 AM - Registration 10:15 AM - Area Assembly	Pre Conference Assembly
April 15	9:00 AM	Officers & Coordinators
June 3	8:30 AM - Registration 9:00 AM - Workshop 10:15 AM - Area Assembly	2nd Quarterly Meeting
June 24		Officers & Coordinators Getaway Wrap-up



The deadline for submission of articles for the Winter Edition of the newsletter is Friday, January 20th, 2012. Please have your articles in before that date. Articles may be sent to [newsletter@wpaarea60.org](mailto:newsletter@wpaarea60.org)

**The theme for the Winter Edition is "Gratitude"**