

THE 23 INFORMER

Issue #263 SWPA District 23

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<http://www.aa-swestpa-dist23.org>

PA Area 60, District 23
P.O. Box 1698
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 **24-Hour Hotline 1-866-851-8459**

A Letter from Our DCM

As the First Tradition states "Our common welfare should come first: personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity."

As some of you have heard me say, A.A. has made history! Never before in A.A. have alcoholics been through this type of situation. We have definitely made many precedence and many firsts! Zoom meetings, outside meetings, and small informal gatherings have gone on to continue to carry the message to many alcoholics! We have all come together and adapted to the situations of the past year, and I commend every single one of you. When the tough get going, we can do anything together in unity!

I want to thank all of you for placing me in this trusted position. Please remember that my phone is always answered for any one of you that need assistance. Welcome to all that have started new positions in the district. Hopefully we all can continue to make a difference in "the greatest show on earth".

In Love and Service,

Marcia W., DCM

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The Fantastic Year of 2020: A Newly Sober AA's Perspective

"The only thing everyone seemed to agree on in 2020 was that they couldn't wait for it to end. From COVID-19 to Carol Baskin, there certainly was a lot of complaining. For me though, the year 2020 will forever be held in a different light. 2020 was the best year of my life. It was the year I got sober."

My name is Stephanie and I am an alcoholic. My sobriety date is February 10, 2020. After years of half-efforts availing nothing, I finally conceded that I cannot conquer alcohol on my own. I begrudgingly crawled back to a meeting. I got a sponsor. I got a homegroup. I had a Big Book and started using it. I was ready to do anything it took. Then, the pandemic came.

The last in person meeting I attended was *Ligonier Wednesday Night*. The topic, not coincidentally, was fear. Someone sharing said "am I going to lean into fear, or am I going to lean into faith". Those words resonated within me when our country went on lockdown.

In a few short weeks, online meetings were up and running all over our district. I was grateful to see the familiar faces from the rooms on my computer screen. For this alcoholic, very early in sobriety, it was miraculous; it was essential; it was lifesaving. I remember many people sharing in the early days of the quarantine, how hard they thought it would be to be for the newcomer during that time. I just kept thinking in horror, "What if I was still out there!?" How would my disease have surfaced when I was forced into isolation? Thanks to the miracles of this program, I didn't have to find out. I continued going to AA meetings on Zoom. I even found myself right at home at meetings I would never have attended otherwise. I went to meetings while I was at work, alone in my car, and in the comfort of my own home. This became my new program.

I was given opportunities not otherwise available. The countless leads online being the most impactful. Many of the women in our district told of her experience, strength and hope at the 3 o'clock hand of AA meeting. My sponsor, grand sponsor, great grand sponsor, and great-great grand sponsor all gave their leads on Zoom. It was truly surreal. I attended a lead from *Crossing the River of Denial* and was inspired on a level that was unknown to me before. I learned so much. Even more importantly, I took advantage of these opportunities for fellowship in my fragile early days of recovery.

My AA world became so much bigger and brighter than I ever could have imagined. I owe my life today to Alcoholics Anonymous. I owe my sobriety and my peace of mind to those virtual meetings. It has been rightly declared "If only our forefathers could only see us now!" So far, our Fellowship has shown that there is a way to carry the message no matter what the circumstances. AA went to any length to reach the still sick and suffering alcoholic. For that, I am eternally grateful. Especially in the year 2020.

-Stephanie K.

Thank you for sharing your experience, strength and hope!

HAVE AN IDEA OR STORY TO SHARE? A CELEBRATION? NEWS OF EVENTS? EMAIL IT TO: editor@aa-swestpa-dist23.org

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NERAASA 2021

February 26, 27 & 28, 2021

The virtual experience, a NERAASA like no other!

Register Here!

Join the many who will make history at the first virtual
Northeast Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly.

- ◆ Round Tables ◆ Panels ◆
- ◆ Northeast Regional Trustee Presentation ◆ Delegates' Highlights ◆
- ◆ Fun & Fellowship ◆

NERAASA 2021 will offer participation in English, Spanish, A.S.L. & C.C.

\$21.00

'21 NERAASA weekend!

All A.A. members are both welcome and encouraged to attend!

We are making history!



Questions: info@nerassa.org
Visit the NERAASA website [HERE](#)

Register Now!

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**29th Annual Area 60
Pre-Conference Assembly Weekend**
Formerly known as Getaway Weekend
March 19th and 20th, 2021

“2021: AA in a Time of Change”

Statement of Purpose:

The purpose of the Pre-Conference Assembly 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. (The Pre-Conference Assembly will open Sunday at 10:15 am; there is no fee to attend any of the weekends events, but contributions are welcome.)

Highlights

- Committee Workshops & Presentations
- Panel Presentations
- Saturday Night Speaker Meeting
- Early Bird & Night Owl Meetings

Program begins Friday Evening 3/19/21

Contact Information

Any questions please contact: Jon C. 724/986-4314

or

Email: altdelegate@wpaarea60.org

treasurer@wpaarea60.org

Accessibility issues please contact Treatment Coordinator for help or information at treatment@wpaarea60.org

Have your voice heard!!!

**This is the group conscience of Area 60,
and we would love to hear from you!**



Location:

Wherever you are. This year will be a virtual event on Zoom.

Cost:

This year will be a free event!!!

Q: If it is free, why do I have to register?

A: One, it gives us a better idea of how many people will be attending the event. Two, when you register you will get the meeting id/password, and access to the background material.

Q: Can I attend if I do not register?

A: Yes, the event is open to all AA members of Area 60. Outsiders may come as observers. But if you do not register beforehand, you will not receive any of the background material.

Q: What kind of Service Opportunities will there be?

A: Even though it is virtual, there will be greeter positions available. Also, moderators, timers, and virtual meeting assistants (help with mute, watch chat, etc..)

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY (or use address label)

Register by mail no later than March 5 or online at wpaarea60.org by March 18th.

NAME:

ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE:

ZIP

PHONE:

EMAIL

Your District: _____

Your Service Position: _____

I would like to volunteer: yes no

I would like the background material mailed to me (material will be available on the area website): yes no

CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE MADE TO:

Area 60 Treasurer, P.O. Box 3314 McKeesport, PA 15134

(Write **Pre-Conference Assembly Weekend** on the memo line of the check)

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