

February 2012



Bulletin Board

Monthly Newsletter, Hudson-Mohawk-Berkshire Area 48, District 4

AA General Service Office - GSO

Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163

HMB Area 48

Area Chair: Pat L.
Box 114, Route 30
118 Polar Plaza
Amsterdam, NY 12010

District 4

PMB 159
61 Elmwood Avenue
Gloversville, NY 12078

Trusted Servants:

DCM	Debbie W.
District 4	518/883-4614
Alt DCM	William R.
District 4	518/879-5332
Secretary	Aggie R.
District 4	518/883-2988
Treasurer	Dave C.
District 4	518/842-6848
Grapevine & Literature	Doreen A.
Newsletter	518/221-7334
Editor	Bob B.
	518/842-1657
Corrections	OPEN
Facility Visits	(See Kirsten P)
Bridging the Gap	Marianne B.
	518/863-3122
Special Needs	Steve S.
	(518) xxx-xxxx
Answering Service	Marianne B.
	(518) xxx-xxxx
Archives & History	Eric S.
	(518) 725-1881
Functions	OPEN
Records Keeper	William R.
	518/879-5332

NERAASA — What the heck is that?

The Northeast Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Services Assembly, (NERASSA) is a conference of AA Trusted Servants representing AA from 10 North Eastern States and Washington D.C. An estimated 500 attendees will meet to discuss matters related to Conference Services and issues affecting AA as a whole. The event will be held in Albany March 2-4.



Crown Plaza Albany
State & Lodge Streets
Downtown Albany
(800) 992-2694

With its conference theme of "Anonymity: Our Spiritual Responsibility in the Digital Age, the event will be held at the Crowne Plaza, Albany City Center, 40 Lodge Street, Albany, NY 12207. The deadline for pre-registration is Friday, February 17, 2012.

To register or get additional information, go to <http://www.neraasa2012.org>. Registration fees for each Committee Position are \$20.00 and are eligible for reimbursement to District 4 representatives through each Group's District 4 Budget.

We are fortunate to have this MAJOR EVENT taking place in our own backyard. Plan to carpool.. Plan to attend.

Key areas of focus:

- Archives/Historians
- Area Chairs and Alternates
- Bridging the Gap
- Cooperation with Professionals
- Delegate & Alternates
- DCMs and Alternates
- Grapevine/LaVina & Literature
- GSR's and Alternates
- Newsletters
- Secretaries



One of the many meeting rooms to be used for Focus group discussions and exchange of ideas.

- Treasurers, Special Needs
- Treatment

Young People In AA to Host Major Regional Conference in Saratoga Springs.

The Holiday Inn in Saratoga Springs will serve as the busy hub of the 10th Annual Eastern Area Convention of Young People in AA (EACYPAA) March 30-April 1.

"The Spiritual Life is not a theory, we have to live it" (BB, Pg 83) is the theme of this year's Conference which is expected to attract 800 recovering young people from 28 Eastern States, the Bahamas, Antigua, Virgin Islands and Puerto Rica to our Area.

Key note speakers, break-out discussion sessions, and evening entertainment promise to fill the schedules of all attendees.

Recovering people in District 4 are fortunate to have an event of this magnitude within easy carpooling. Rooms can be booked on-line @spa-hi.com. The group code is "EAC". Register or get additional information at www.eacypaax.org.

People of all ages are welcome.

The Helping Hands of AA in District 4

Your Service Committees Working for You:

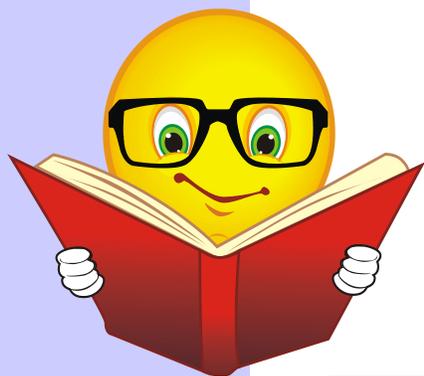
Bridging the Gap—This Program is designed to assist persons immediately coming from being incarcerated, in a 28-day rehab, or living in a halfway house. When they have first moved into their own housing, an AA member takes them to their first AA meeting and introduces them to recovery. During January, District 4 Bridging the Gap persons assisted ___ people in this fashion. **MaryAnne B.** is the Chairperson for this Committee.

Telephone Answering Service—AA's District 4 maintains a 24-hour/day Telephone Answering Service. Callers leave a message and within a few hours an AA volunteer contacts that person and provides the information requested. **MaryAnne B.** is the Chairperson for this Committee.

Correction Facilities—Each week during January persons from District 4 AA Groups conducted AA meetings for inmates in Fulton and Montgomery County Jails. Usually the meetings are attended by 8-12 inmates. It's a rewarding experience because many of those attending are coming to their first AA meeting. While the position of Corrections Facilities Chair Person is officially open, several people have continued to volunteer their time to this worthwhile cause. The list includes **Kirsten, Ron C., Frank M.**

Records—This Committee Maintains and updates all District records. **William R.**, who also serves as Alternate DCM is Chairperson.

Make the Big Book "Bigger"



Have over-the-counter reading glasses for people at your meeting.

Idea submitted by **Steve S.**, the District 4 Special Needs Committee Chairperson.

Spiritual Breakfast Draws Crowd of 247

Snowy weather and icy roads did not deter 247 wide-eyed, recovering enthusiasts from attending District 4's 5th Annual Spiritual Breakfast. The event took place Saturday, January 21 in Johnstown, NY.

Internationally acclaimed **Scott T.**, the event's main speaker drew a standing ovation for his inspirational talk and flawless presentation which included a message to welcome with open arms those persons returning to the Program of Alcoholics Anonymous and its Fellowship.

As has become tradition following the main speaker, "**Blind Jerry**" from St. Johnsville recited "The Old Violin" and other of his poems and witticisms. He, too, drew an enthusiastic standing ovation from attendees.

Kudos are well deserved for **Dan D.** and **Christy S.** who flawlessly coordinated the event and the numerous others who tirelessly performed the various tasks required to make this event so successful.

District 4 Treasurer's Report

Balance Forward 11/2011 \$2,373.57

Income

District Meeting Collection, Dec. 2011	\$8.00
Fri Nite Johnstown Group	75.00
Johnstown Discussion Group	50.00
Open Arms Group	25.00
Ladies Night Out	20.00
Annivrsary Donations: Congratulations	
John N., 11 Yrs; Donna D., 4 Yrs;	
Don, 4 Yrs, Cindy 2 Yrs, Dave C.	10.00
TOTAL INCOME	188.00
TOTAL CASH	\$2,561.57

Expenses

Rent - St. Mary's, Dec 2011	\$10.00
Frontier Telephone, Dec, 2011	25.51
Fellowship Day Exp (Reimb to Less B.)	39.00
Archives Display Case (Reimb to Eric S)	20.00
Newsletter (Reimb to Mary M.)	65.21
	159.72

Balance Dec., 2011	2,401.85
Prudent Reserve	500.00
TOTAL AVAILABLE CASH 12/2011	\$1,901.85

A Message from Your DCM — Debbie W.

“We have made it past the first month in the New Year and things in the District are progressing nicely.”

The Spiritual Breakfast was a great success and for me it was an honor to be the master of ceremonies. Maybe some of you could tell that I was just a bit nervous, but our speaker Scott T. was a great as a speaker and a powerful example of a person in recovery. Anyone one of us can have recovery if we want it.

The District still has five chair positions open that really need to be filled in order for things to run best. If you know of a person who has a talent for a specific job or is showing an interest, please invite him or her to the District Business Meeting Monday night.

The open positions are: 1) *Corrections*; 2) *Public Information (PI)*; 3) *Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC)*; 4) *Functions and* 5) *Phone Service*

Corrections is responsible for making

contact with the correction facilities in our area and scheduling meeting on a regular basis to bring the AA message behind closed doors. *PI* is responsible for making the community aware of what AA is and what is not. *CPC* is contact person between AA and the professional community. *Functions* is responsible for coordinating of the various activities of the District to keep the unity and fellowship alive. *Phone Service* is responsible for keeping an open line of communication for people who are looking for information or reaching out for help.

I look forward to seeing everyone Feb 13, 2012 at 7:00pm. Remember the commercial where you tell two friends and they tell two friends? Lets see how far we can by telling two friends and so on. We might need to get another meeting place because we have so many people involved.

Yours in Service,
Debbie W., DCM

Anniversary Angels

Aggie R. and Bev D. work hard to track the Anniversary Dates of Members of AA Groups in District 4. Its difficult however to cover all 37 Groups.



If we have missed persons in your Home Group, please call Bob B. (518) 842-1657. We will appreciate your help with names and, perhaps you may also want to become an “Anniversary Angel” yourself.

District 4 Seeking Historical AA Relics

There are many reasons for preserving our history. Eric S., District 4’s Chair Person for AA History & Archives explains, “If we forget our past, we are doomed to repeat it.”

If we fail to appreciate, retain, organize, and preserve the surviving artifacts still around, they will eventually be lost forever.



Eric recalls several times in the past when “old timers” promised that one day their 1st edition Big Book or other AA memorabilia would find its way back to AA. Later Eric would learn that the person’s heirs, unaware of the significance of those things, had discarded them as “Grandpa’s useless old clutter.”

Let’s not repeat these scenarios. If you have AA historical items of potential interest, please contact Eric now so that they might be preserved for the greater good of all AA.

No time will ever be better than today and... your heirs will thank you for leaving the attic “free of old clutter!” Contact Eric at 725-1881. Thank you.

A Message from Your Area Chair — Pat L.

“Welcome to all new service workers in District 4!”

January is always an exciting time as we start a new year of service, remembering that everything we do in service helps to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. New GSRs sometimes ask what their responsibilities are.

If you are a new GSR your responsibility is to represent your group at district and area meetings. You then bring information back to your group about what is going on in the district, area and the General Service Conference. You should plan to attend district meetings (once a month in District 4). To make sure your group’s voice is heard, plan to attend Area voting assemblies, Inventory Day, and Delegate’s Day. This year Delegates Day will be March 24 and will be held in Saugerties NY. At this event we will hear about issues that our Delegate

will be voting on at the General Service Conference in April.

You as your group’s elected representative will have the same voice as everyone else in the Area...but you have to be there for that voice to be heard!

In service

Pat L.
HMB Area Chair/Alternate Delegate

District 4 Newsletter Deadline

Last Friday of Each Month

Newsletter Editor, Bob B.
(518) 842-1657 or email to:
district4.newsletter@gmail.com



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Valentine's Spaghetti Dinner, (Saturday, Feb 11) Saratoga Springs, NY.

This event is sponsored by the host committee of the Eastern Area Convention of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous (EAYPAA) and features a 6-7pm Open Speaker Meeting followed by Dinner and Fellowship. Bethesda Parish House, 41 Washington St. in Saratoga Springs. A \$5 donation is suggested but not required.

District 4 Meeting (Monday, February 13th)

Meeting Begins at 7:00 P.M. , 3rd Floor, St. Mary's Hospital, Amsterdam, NY. GSR's, District Committee Persons and all interested persons are invited.

Step 11 Workshop (Saturday, February 25th)

Saratoga Springs United 12 PM at the Saratoga Springs United Methodist Church, (5th and Henning) Light refreshments will be served. The event is supported by the 7th Tradition.

NERAASA (Friday-Sunday March 2-4)

Northeast Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Services Assembly will be held in Albany at the Crowne Plaza at the corner of State and Lodge Streets in downtown Albany. The event is being hosted by HMB Area 48. See page 1 or go to the website for this event at NERAASA2012@gmail.com. Don't miss this major conference.

EACYPAA (Friday March 30—Sunday, April 1)

The Eastern Area Convention of Young People in AA, is being hosted at the Holiday Inn, Saratoga Springs, NY. Over 800 attendees are expected. Be one!

Corrections Connections Workshop—(Fri, Apr 20, 9:00 am-3:30 pm)

Sing Sing Correctional Facility, 345 Hunter St., Ossining, NY 10562. Carrying the Message of Recovery to the Incarcerated Alcoholic. Lunch

HMB Area Assembly (Saturday, May 19, 2012)

Details to be announced. (Please note this event may be moved to Sunday, May 20.)

43rd New York State Convention (Fri-Sun, July 20-22, 2012) - Albany,

NY, Marriott, 189 Wolf Road, Albany, NY 12205 (Hosted by Area 48). Pre-Registration Deadline: July 5, 2010. For Convention itinerary, registration, room reservations, etc., go to the following: http://www.aahmbny.org/events/State-NYSConventionFlyer-201207_20-

February Anniversaries

FRIENDS OF BILL W:

<u>Celebrant</u>	<u>Years</u>
Bob B.	1
Carol Z	1
Dave G.	2
Meg C.	2
Flint	3
Suzanne B.	5
Butch	11
Dave K.	11
Rob C.	13
Emily S.	18
Frank S.	21
Walt	21
Christy S.	23
Kathy P.	24
Mary Q	25
Mike B.	25
Marty P.	28
Mike S.	38
Blind Jerry	41

“THANK YOU!” to **Aggie R.** and **Bev D.** who compiled this list of February Celebrants.

**Send
'em
to Jail...**



Frank M. is seeking past issues of the Grapevine to be provided to inmates. Please give Frank a call if you or your Group can help. (518) 573-3297.

Thank you.

AA Groups Requesting Support:

Empty chairs? If your Group needs support, please email dist4.newsletter@gmail.com to be put on this list. Groups not responding or without a contact person have now been removed. Both Groups below have empty chairs and are eagerly awaiting your visit!

—**Northville Women's Group:** Wed 7:30pm (St. Francis Ch) N'ville.

—**Tough Love Group:** Wed 7:30pm, Amsterdam (W. Charlton UPC)

Thank you for your support.

