



Bulletin Board

August, 2012
Monthly Newsletter, Hudson-Mohawk-Berkshire Area 48, District 4

A.A. GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE—GSO

Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163

HMB AREA 48

Area Chair—Pat L.
hmbchair@aahmbny.org

Area Treasurer

Box 114, Route 30
118 Polar Plaza
Amsterdam, NY

HMB DISTRICT 4

PMB 159
61 Elmwood Avenue
Gloversville, NY 12078

TRUSTED SERVANTS:

DCM—Debbie W.

dwalters@nycap.rr.com
518/xxx-xxxx

Alt DCM—Hawk R.

borntobeoutdoors@gmail.com
518/xxx-xxxx

Secretary—Aggie R.

aromeyn@frontier.com
518/xxx-xxxx

Treasurer—Dave C.

dcgrizz@yahoo.com
518/xxx-xxxx

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Answering Service—

Marianne B.
Mooma11@aol.com
518/xxx-xxxx

Archives—Eric S.

odat@frontier.com
518/xxx-xxxx

Bridging The Gap—

Marianne B.
Mooma11@aol.com
518/xxx-xxxx

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GSR's To Tackle Challenging Decision Over Telephone Hotline Service Issues

“When anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible.”

Perhaps no other issue has occupied as much time and anguish for District 4 GSR's and Leadership as has that of dealing with maintaining telephone hotline service in our District.

At one time, when in need, people turned to their phonebook yellow pages for a number to call. Today it's the Internet. The District has maintained a 24/day telephone answering service for years, but of recent, there have been months when fewer than half-dozen calls have been received.

Also at the crux of the problem is the increasing difficulty to get volunteers to cover the phones through routinely

checking with the answering service to retrieve and act on incoming messages.

Incoming calls are generally of two types. Most are from out of town visitors seeking times and locations of nearby meetings. Occasionally a call might be of a 12th step nature but these rare. Today there is a general feeling that our Hotline Service has become ineffective.

Our District is not alone in encountering this situation. Other Districts in HMB Area 48 have joined to work their Hotline Service through a Central Office located in Menands (near Albany).

Debbie W., Your DCM has outlined a set of motions in her report on page 5 which covers the series of steps necessary

to make recommended changes occur. This will be put to VOTE at the next GSR Meeting, Monday, August 13.



Cancer claims a good friend and Icon of A.A.

Local Groups Will Miss Joe D.

“If you don't have a Sponsor, you're just wearing a visitor's pass...,” was one of Joe D.'s frequent comments for which he will long be remembered in the Northville, Broadalbin, Mayfield Meetings he regularly attended. Joe passed away Friday, August 3 from cancer. He benefitted many, many people through sharing his wisdom of over 40 years sobriety. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

**HMB AREA 48,
District 4
Committee Chairs**

Corrections-Kean T.
kbthomas@roadrunner.com
518/xxx-xxxx

CPC/PI-Kirsten P.
rphillips003@nycap.rr.com
518/xxx-xxxx

Functions-Mary Ellen N.
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518/xxx-xxxx

Grapevine-Position Open
(Please consider volunteering for this interesting assignment.)

Newsletter Editor-Bob B.
bollesemail@yahoo.com
518/xxx-xxxx

Records Keeper-Hawk R.
borntobeoutdoors@gmail.com
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Special Needs-Steve S.
ssimonik@roadrunner.com
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Treatment-Dave C.
dcgrizz@yahoo.com
518/xxx-xxxx

Bright Idea!

Keep an eye out for people who have just had surgery... or are handicapped and need assistance.

Help them in, get them a chair and a cup of coffee. Make sure they can hear the group okay.

Thank you,
Steve S.

A.A.'s "Helping Hands" at Work:

District 4 Service Committee Updates:

During this past month, all of your District 4 Committees functioned according to plan. Other than the Functions Committee, all reported that it was "pretty much" business as usual with no report of special activity.

Function Committee:

Thank you is due to Chair Person **Mary Ellen N.** and the many volunteers who assisted with planning and execution of a successful event enjoyed by over 100 A.A.ers. Fellow recovering friends built camaraderie and expanded their sober network while having a fun day!

Special Services:

Steve S. and **Jim J.** continue working with veterans. They both stress their availability for Veterans needing help. Jim may be reached by at (518) xxx-xxxx or by email at: AMET1954@RoadRunner.com

Helpful links for Recovering Veterans include:

- 1 www.va.gov
- 2 www.legion.org
- 3 www.vfw.org
- 4 www.vva.org
- 5 www.IraqVeterans.org
- 6 www.IAVA.org

Treasurer Status:

Dave C. continues to perform as Treasurer however he has also taken on the responsibility for being our District 4 liaison with treatment facilities. We urgently need a volunteer to step up to the Treasurer's position. Please contact Dave at (518) xxx-xxxx

Newsletter: Thank you "Anniversary Angels" **Aggie R. Bev P.** for your assistance with celebrant names. These two people cannot cover all 35 groups so if by chance your name or the name of someone in your Group does not get on the list, please speak to your GSR. Ideally every GSR should send an email (or snail mail) or make a phone call to the newsletter editor to

report all anniversaries in our group.

Please send anniversaries and other announcements of your group to: 518/xxx-xxxx or to district4.newsletter.com.

ANNIVERSARY APOLOGY--Oops!:

An apology is in order to **Dick M.** from the Oppenheim Group who submitted an announcement about a cancelled meeting and also the 6-year anniversary date of Group Member, **Rob S.** Dick and Rob, please accept my apology for my oversight in failing to include these announcements in July.

Corrections: Donations of books and back issues of Grapevine are still being sought for distribution to inmates. All books must be "soft cover."

Kean T. (518) xxx-xxxx is Chairman of the Corrections Committee.

Tina H. is the chairperson for Women's Corrections. She can be reached at (518) xxx-xxxx. Volunteers are always needed for this rewarding experience.

A Message from Your DCM – Debbie W.

Hello, Everyone:

Here's hoping that your summer is going well. We have had some wonderful and well-attended events in which the information was flowing up and down as it should within the A.A. triangle.

I am very eager to have a proposal ready for our next District 4 Business Meeting in which we can move forward with the phone currently in place. This proposal will allow us to vote whether to take it to the Central Office and have a representative from the district or keep our current status. Please review the proposal and talk amongst yourselves so that you are ready for the next business meeting.

The suggested motions below are broken into sections to facilitate discussion. As you recall from our last meeting, several things have to occur for the change to be implemented. This series of motions (lettered A, B, C, etc) are all required if the change is to take place. Unfortunately, this is somewhat of an "all or none" proposition.

Thank you for your careful thought on the important issue of our telephone hotline service.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone on August 13, 7:00 pm.

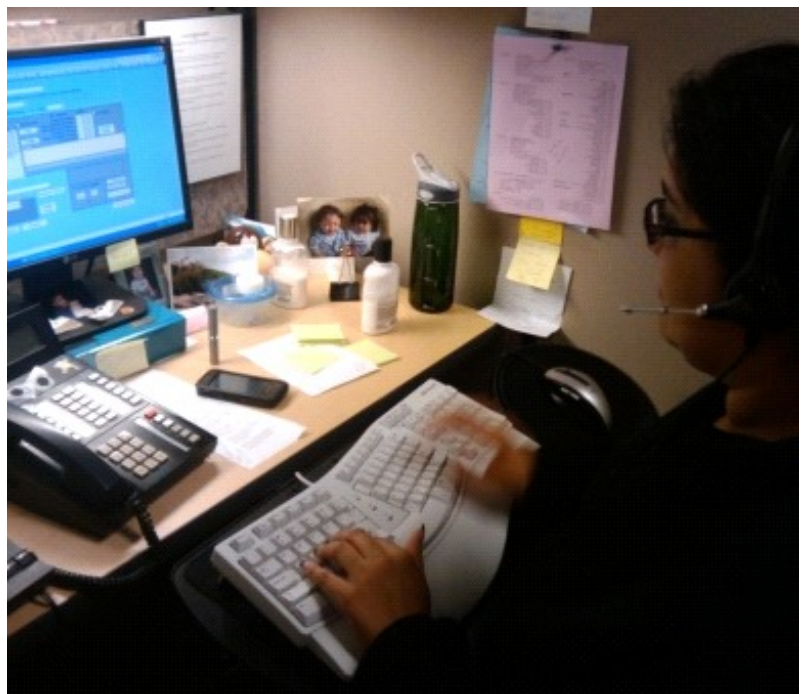
SUGGESTED MOTION:

MOVED THAT (A) the current District 4 Telephone Hotline Service be switched from our present arrangement with Frontier Telephone Company to the Hotline Service operated by Central Office which currently provides this service to several other Districts in our Area.

FURTHER MOVED (B) that upon being accepted by Central Office, District 4 redirect our present incoming telephone calls from Frontier to "call forward" to the Central Office number in Menands.

FURTHER MOVED (C) that District 4 comply with all procedural requirements for participation in the Central Office Hotline Service which include the following:

C-1) Designate a District 4 Hotline Telephone Service Representative to



Updated Hotline Service Shared With Other Districts in HMB Area 48—Menands NY

handle all correspondence with Central Office and follow up on various requests of the Central Office;

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IMPORTANT: VOTE to be Taken at Upcoming GSR Meeting

A Message from Your DCM – (Continued)

(Continued From Page 3)

C-2) Maintain a list of active volunteers for the Night Owl Service Volunteers who are willing and able to be on call once every two weeks on a specific week night from 7:00 PM until 11:00 AM the following morning; and

C-3) Maintain a list of 12-Step Volunteers to respond to emergent calls from Central Office for 12-Step-type calls coming from persons reaching out for help from within our District.

FURTHER MOVED (D) that the District 4 DCM or the District 4 elected Hotline Telephone Service Representative convey District 4's decision to the Central

Office in Menands and be authorized to complete all forms and take necessary steps for the District 4 application to be considered."

Thanks again for your attention to this important matter. Since only the GSR's vote, it is very important that we have a good turnout at this business meeting. Thank you.

Trusted Servant,

Debbie W.

District 4 DCM

Treasurer's Corner

H.M.B. District 4 Treasury Report July, 2012

Group Donations to District 4

Sunday Inspiration Group	200.00
Keeping It Real Big Book Group	60.00
Pass It On Group	50.00
More About Alcoholism Group	30.00
	<hr/>
	340.00

Celebration Donations

N-O-N-E	0.00
	<hr/>
	0.00

Come on, Folks. Celebrate the Celebrants!

Thank you for your contributions. HMB
District 4 is very grateful for your help
in carrying the AA Message

Dave C., Treasurer, District 4

District 4 is still in need of a Treasurer

**Moving? Changes in your Group's
Trusted Servants?**



Hawk needs to know. He keeps the District's records current to assure that you get the information you need. **Please forward any changes or registration of new groups to: William R. (Hawk)**

Thank you.

Records.district4@gmail.com

518/xxx-xxxx

Following A.A.'s Traditions

A Message from Your Area Chair-Pat L.

GSO, our “headquarters” in New York City has available information on almost any issue a group or district will experience. Two are particularly pertinent when there is an influx of new members which may overtax some smaller A.A. group meetings.

These informational service pieces are available from www.aa.org; using search feature enter “referrals” and a drop down menu will list service materials. One is aptly named “Sharing Experience on Coping with Influx of New

Members.”. Some quotes from that service paper: “We cannot discriminate against any prospective AA member, even if he or she comes to us under pressure from a court, an employer, or any other agency.

Another quote: “Remember A.A. Traditions and guidelines are the responsibility of A.A. members. Professionals in the field of alcoholism will be receptive to approaches from A.A.’s that are conducted in the spirit of cooperation. They usually welcome information about A.A. when it is offered in this manner.”

Another service piece, “Alcoholics Anonymous as a Resource for Drug and Alcohol

Court Professionals” is geared toward the judges, counselors, and any other referring professionals, and explains what AA does, and what AA does not do.



One of the issues that arises is signing of “slips” or other paperwork that indicates the client actually attended the A.A. meeting. Here, a couple of our Traditions come into play... Tradition 4: “Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.” An A.A. group can opt to not sign

papers for “court-mandated” prospective A.A. members. This would best be decided at a business meeting of the group.

We need to be mindful not to give the appearance of affiliation with any referring agency.

We also are mindful of our singleness of purpose...we are carrying the message to the Alcoholic who still suffers.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat L
HMB Area Chair/Alternate Delegate

District Picnic Brings Smiles, Laughter, and Sunshine

With a beach offering plenty of swimming, a water-balloon toss, a torrential 12-noon downpour, and a subsequent volley-ball game in ankle-deep rain runoff, not a single one of the 100+ attendees at Sunday's District 4 Picnic were heard complaining about our the present drought. The "togetherness" under the pavilion was **AWSOME** as people huddled together during the height of the wind and rain. Then, as predictable, out came the sun!



...but the games continued on.... then out came the sun!

Thank you to the many people who contributed time and efforts to organizing, cooking, and putting on the Picnic. Thanks also to the attendees who brought food, desserts, games, and a good time for all. Dave, the speaker at the open meeting left everyone rejuvenated as we venture down our Road to Happy Destiny.

A special thank to Mary Ellen N. who worked tirelessly on this event for several months and the many, many volunteers on the Picnic Planning Committee, and who cooked, arranged for food, conducted games, supplied music, and brought great food!

Speaking of good food, Is there anyone who did not gain a pound or two?

FELLOWSHIP DAY TENTATIVE AGENDA

**St. John's Episcopal Church
146 1st Street (at Liberty St.)
Troy, NY 12180**

(9/15/2012—9:00 AM — 3:00 PM)

- **Meet and Greet (Coffee, pastries, etc.)_**
- **Area & District Committee Meetings**
- **BTG and Grapevine will select committee chairs for 2 year terms**
- **GSR Orientation for new GSR's or anyone wanting to learn more about "the most important position in A.A.**
- **Workshop on Traditions 3 and 4**
- **LUNCH**
- **Area Business Meeting**
- **Reports by Area Officers, Area Committee Chairs, and DCMs**
- **Adjournment**

Corrections and Addendum

H-M-B Area 48 Meeting Schedule Book Updates

NEW GROUPS:

- 1) A.A. Big Book Meeting at Club 24 in Gloversville (218 Kingsboro Ave.) Sunday Mornings at 9:00 AM.
- 2) Anonymity First Group: Closed Discussion. 7:00 PM at 292 East Main, Amsterdam, NY.

NAME CHANGES AND CHANGES IN MEETING FORMAT:

- 1) Journey Into Sobriety: Open Discussion, Wednesdays, 6:30 PM, Club @4, 218 Kingsboro Avenue, Gloversville. (Name Changed from "Simple But Easy" Group, to "Wednesday Night Speaker's Group", and now to Journey Into Sobriety" Group. Now it is a Speaker Meeting only on the first Wednesday of each month.

RELOCATED GROUP:

- 1) The Open Arms Group has moved from 15 West Fulton Street to the North Main Street United Methodist Church at 316 N. Main St., Gloversville. (Corner of North Main and 7th Avenue) . Enter at the 7th Avenue wheelchair ramp.



Upcoming Events:



District 4 GSR Meeting (Monday, August 13, 2012) Meeting begins at 7:00 PM, 3rd Floor, St. Mary's Hospital, 527 Guy Park Avenue, Amsterdam, NY. All GSR's should plan to attend or send an alternate from your group. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT EACH GROUP HAVE A GSR OR ALTERNATE AT THIS MEETING DUE TO THE IMPORTANT VOTE SCHEDULED FOR MAJOR CHANGES WITH DISTRICT 4 TELEPHONE HOTLINE SERVICE.

BASEBALL CHALLENGE: District 2 (Utica) versus District 4. Please call Eric S. at (518) 661-5331 for more information.

2012 NYS Informational Workshop, (Fri, Aug 17 thru Sun, Aug 19, 2012)
"Anonymity: Our Spiritual Responsibility in the Digital Age," 4421 Lower River Rd, Stella Niagara, NY 14144.

Open Arms Group Dance, Johnstown Community Center, (1095 East Main, Johnstown, NY, Sat. Sept 1.) Admission of \$5.00.

Fellowship Day (Saturday, September 15, 2012) Hosted by HMB Area 48 Districts 1, 2 and 18 in the Eastern Cluster. 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. St. John's Episcopal Church, 146 1st Street (at Liberty St.), Troy, N Y 12180. [See tentative agenda on page 6.]

HMB Area 48 October Assembly (Saturday, October 13, 2012) 9:00 AM—3:00 PM. Hosted by Districts 4, 8, and 14. Scotia United Methodist Church, 201 North Ten Broeck Street, Scotia, NY 12302

2 Groups Celebrate Anniversaries in August

Drunks of the Roundtable Group:
Ft. Plain
33 Years
8/29/79

Keeping It Real Group:
Amsterdam
6 Years
8/4/06

New Hope Group:
Amsterdam
21 Years
8/15/91



Individual Anniversaries

Celebrant	Years
In Loving Memory of Mark H.	19
Jackie D.	28
Claudia	26
Eric S.	26
Ray C.	26
Dawn C.	23
Richard F.	22
Howard B.	18
Paul W.	8
Mary N.	6
John R.	3
Tom Z.	3
Brian M.	2
Craig	2
TOTAL	212
Average	15

Announcements:

GET YOUR OWN COPY OF THE DISTRICT 4 NEWSLETTER (Free): District 4 would like to see every person with an email address receive a copy of this newsletter. Please pass around a sheet at your meetings getting first names, initial of last name, and email address and forward this either by email to district4.newsletter@gmail.com or send it snail mail to Bob B., 204 Guy Park Avenue, Amsterdam, NY. 12010 or call Bob at (518) XXX-XXXX.

YOUNG PEOPLE IN AA: Saratoga On-going in Area 48 (TOGYPA)—Meetings are held Wednesdays at 8:30 P.M. after the Saratoga Young People's Meeting at 36 Phila St. (2nd Floor) Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. We are looking for supportive people with all levels of service or for those who are interested in increasing the involvement of YPAA in Area 48. Contacts: Maria (518) XXX-XXXX; Will (419) XXX-XXXX; Tori, (518) XXX-XXXX.

GROUP SEEKING SUPPORT:

- Tough Love Group: Wednesdays 7:30 pm, Amsterdam (Scotch Church UPC, W. Charlton, NY)

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: - Last Friday of Every Month. Thank you. Bob B. (518) XXX-XXXX or email your article or information to district4.newsletter@gmail.com. Thank you.

Bob B., Editor - Dist 4 Newsletter
204 Guy Park Avenue
Amsterdam, NY 12010