

DISTRICT 4 NEWSLETTER

HMB Area 48 District 4
D4newsletter@ahmbny.org

March 2017
Volume 2 Issue 3

Mission Statement: The District 4 Newsletter is published monthly and is distributed as an email in an effort to be more eco-friendly, as well as to reduce postage and printing costs. Please feel free to forward this e-mail, because we are unable to reach all our District 4 members, especially at the group level.

AA PRINCIPLES

Step 3: Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood him.

Tradition 3:

The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking.

Concept 2.:

To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A. —the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives—with a traditional "Right of Decision."

Second Step Prayer

God, I offer myself to Thee To build with me & to do with me as Thou wilt. Relieve me of the bondage of self, that I may better do Thy will. Take away my difficulties, that victory over them may bear witness to those I would help of Thy Power, Thy love & Thy way of life. May I do Thy will always.

NERAASA 2017 – Report provided by Hawk

I had the good fortune to attend another NERAASA. This one in Framingham, MA. Although I “officially” attended as the Alternate Area 48 Chair, my intention was to attend the Bridging the Gap roundtable since I am your BTG District 4 chair.

For those who are unfamiliar with the North East Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (NERAASA), NERAASA is a weekend of Panel Presentations and Floor Discussions on Issues Affecting A.A. Today; the Northeast Regional Trustee’s Report; Saturday Dinner followed by an A.A. Speaker Meeting. In addition, there are several Round Table Sharing Sessions throughout the weekend. They include (but are not limited to); General Service Representatives (GSR’s), District Committee Members (DCM’s), Archives, Cooperation With The Professional Community (CPC), Public Information (PI), Correctional & Treatment Facilities (CTF), Grapevine, Area/Panel Officers, Central Office/Intergroups, Website, Alternate & Area Delegates. The Northeast Region encompasses all the Areas from Maine south to MD, Delaware and DC. West to Pennsylvania and Western NY. In short, the purpose of NERAASA as well as other AA Service functions is to help me serve the groups better.

Although there were many panels covering a variety of topics, what stood out the most to me was the focus that Alcoholics Anonymous is putting on individual and group safety. How important it is that members be safe from physical threats or actual harm. Although it would be nice if I could report on this in detail, as well as the content of all the other panels, there isn’t enough time or space. I did purchase the recordings of the whole weekend and these will be available for listening if you contact me. I cannot make copies for distribution, but you may purchase individual panels or the whole series from the taper if you wish. See me for the details.

Friday and Saturday evenings we break up into roundtable categorized by service position of committee. Imagine my surprise (and disappointment) to learn that there was no roundtable for Bridging The Gap. Nor is there a committee at the General Service level or a workbook. So, since BTG ties in with both corrections and treatment, I and our Area BTG chair attended the treatment roundtable. There were other BTG chairs attending to, since that was where they were directed. Now, the purpose and the importance of NERAASA and other service events materialized before my very eyes.

After the roundtable chair put forth the topics to be discussed I immediately raised my hand and voiced our disappointment that there was no Bridging the Gap Roundtable and that BTG on the whole is treated like the orphaned child of Treatment and Corrections. I pointed out there are no guidelines or workbooks like all the other committees have, nor is there any kind of continuity in BTG from Area to Area and District to District. I added that in this day and age, BTG may be the closest thing to what we used to call a 12th step call, and I mentioned the fact that anyone coming out of treatment or corrections who gets to a meeting that first day is much more likely to stay sober than those who do not. Immediately the focus of the round table turned to BTG. The treatment people were wonderful. One of the first suggestions was that when we filled out the evolution forms for the weekend, we all suggest that a BTG roundtable be added in the future, and that the General Service Conference should develop some guidelines and a workbook for BTG. Then the BTG people as well as the treatment people (since in some Areas BTG is implemented within the treatment Committee) shared some of the difficulties as well as how they use BTG in their respective areas. The treatment chair for Area 13 (DC) shared that Area 69 (Utah) has a very successful BTG committee and that there was a lot of information on their website. Later that evening I went to the website and confirmed that there was a wealth of information, much of which will be used for setting up Area 48 as well as District 4 Guidelines. So, we came away from that round table with a wealth of information that can be used to help the alcoholic coming out of treatment or correctional facilities. I am currently in the process of developing guidelines for Area 48 based on the information I have received.

I was also pleased to learn that most of the other Areas were experiencing the same problem with Treatment. Getting the Groups who have committed to taking meetings to and furnishing literature and literature racks to rotate out and let other groups rotate into the duties. It appears that in most other areas of the Northeast, Groups are following the intent of the founders by actively reaching outside if the group meeting to reach the sick and suffering alcoholic.

So I came away from the round tables and NERAASA 2017 with a trove of useful information that will help me better serve the groups, the district, the area and above all, the alcoholic who still suffers, just the way that Bill and Bob planned it.

NERAASA was as usual, an opportunity to connect with friends that I only see a couple of times a year and to meet new ones. It also allows me to feel the pulse of what is currently happening in AA and to be able to accurately relay that information to my fellow AA members so they can arrive at an "Informed Group Conscience".

I am already looking forward to NERAASA 2018 in Area 11, Cromwell, CT,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to "Give it back"

Hawk

Area 48, HMB, District 4 BTG chair.

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

*Frank M. 8

*Donny D. 33

*Larry B. 23

*Andréa's 3

*Mike D. 3

*Sue S. 5

*Ben 6

*Kirsten 13

*Lou P. 29

*Ann T. 23

WORKSHOPS AND OTHER EVENTS

You can find all workshops and events on : <https://aahmbny.org/a-a-area-48-hmb-hudson-mohawk-berkshire/>

Area Events:

HMB Delegate's Day of Sharing

Saturday, April 1, 9 am – 3 pm
Sacred Heart Church Parish Center
50 Mohican St
Lake George, NY 12845
See [flyer here](#)

HMB Spring Assembly

Sunday, May 14, 9am – 3pm
Florida Town Hall
214 Fort Hunter Road
Amsterdam, NY

Joy of Service Day

Saturday, June 10
Marbletown Community Center
3564 Main St
Stone Ridge, NY 12484

HMB Fall Assembly

Saturday, October 14, 9am – 3pm
St. James Episcopal Church
305 Main Street
Oneonta, NY

HMB Convention

November 3-5
Ramada Conference Center
542 Route 9
Fishkill, NY 12524
More information [here](#)

District Events:

Spring Fling Dance

Hosted by District 3
Saturday, April 1, 6pm – 11pm
Gallagher's Banquet Hall
513 Main St.
Cairo, NY
See flyer [here](#)

Spiritual Breakfast

Hosted by District 16
Saturday, April 22, 9am – Noon
Katsbaan Reformed Church Community Center
1800 Old Kings Hwy
Saugerties, NY
See flyer [here](#)

Young Peoples Events:

ESCYPAA IV

Meets every first and third Tuesday of the Month at 7:30pm
St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
10 Western Ave
Albany, NY 12203

Pre-Registration for ESCYPAA IV is \$10!!

November 9 – 12, 2017
Radisson Hotel Albany
205 Wolf Rd
Albany, NY 12205

Regional Events:

Central NY Delegate Report and Convention

May 19 – 21, 2017
Watertown Ramada Inn
21000 State Route 3
Watertown, NY 13601
See event flyer [here](#)

Northeast Regional Forum (NERF)

June 2 – 4, 2017
Doubletree by Hilton Pittsburgh-Cranberry
910 Sheraton Drive
Mars, PA 16046
See the event flyer [HERE](#)

New York State Informational Workshop (NYSIW) 2017

August 4 – 6, 2017
Roberts Wesleyan College
2301 Westside Dr
Rochester, NY 14624
See flyer [here](#)

DONATIONS

There were no reports given for the Month of March regarding donations.

Also attached to this newsletter is a group donation form that people can print out when mailing in donations. Many people have been inquiring about this form.

CONTACTS

District 4 Committee, PMB 159, 61 Elmwood Ave., Gloversville, NY 12078

HMB Area 48, Treasurer, Box 114, Route 30, 118 Polar Plaza, Amsterdam, NY 12010

General Service Office, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163

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Grapevine – Open

Word from the Editor:

All meetings need support. Also, Fulton County Women's Correctional Facility is looking for volunteers. If anyone else is interested in doing service work, please contact Maryanne B. at district4pi@aahmbny.org.

Also there are a number of groups looking for GSR'. Please contact Jack S. for further information at above contact information.

I would like to let everyone also be informed that the Secretary's position is open.

Again, should anyone have any news, information or anything they would like to share, I certainly welcome this. If you change your email address, please contact me. I want this newsletter to be successful! Thanking everyone in advance!

District 4 CONTRIBUTION FORM

Group Name: _____

General Service Number: _____

Amount of Contribution: _____

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT Will Be In the Monthly Newsletter

MAIL CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

HMB District No.4

PMB 159

61 Elmwood Ave.

Gloversville NY 12078