

→ **The next District 13 meeting will be Wednesday, MARCH 3rd**

24 hour District 13
AA Hot-Line
518 - 793-1113

Alcoholics Anonymous - Northeast Region
Hudson Mohawk Berkshire Area 48

DISTRICT 13 NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2010

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Need to talk to someone at District 13? See the Committee Chairs' contact information on last page.

Reminder: AA District 13 meetings have changed from monthly to every other month 7:00PM on the first Wednesday at the Lake George Town Center, Old Post Rd., Lake George. Meeting dates will be: 3/3; 5/5; 7/7; 9/1 and 11/3. All AA members are welcome to attend.

→ **The next District Meeting will be WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3rd at 7PM**

The District's January Newsletter reported on actions taken & reports at the last [January 6th] District meeting. There was no February District meeting so there are no meeting results to report.

This does, however, give us a chance to share below just one of the often untold stories of AA service underway because of dedicated District 13 AA volunteers...

"The was not a dry eye in the house!" is often heard when describing an especially poignant, powerful event.

Such an event happened on Thursday, February 11th, at New York State's maximum security prison in Comstock.

Don B. coordinates the District's corrections service efforts and here's how Don described it...

"Last Thursday night's AA meeting at Comstock marked the Two Year Anniversary of our meetings at Comstock. It was a really remarkable celebration of the AA miracle in action. Two AA members shared their stories for the twenty-five inmates participating in the meeting. The first was our own Ronnie G. who travels to Comstock to share his story of recovery through AA, despite setbacks in his life including again fighting aggressive cancer, and of the strength and hope AA has given him in his daily journey of sobriety. The second to share was a Native American with 25 years sobriety who is steeped in AA recovery including daily readings of AA literature and attending AA meetings every chance he gets. But getting to AA meetings wasn't often possible for him in the past because, you see, he has been a prison inmate over the many years. His story was truly inspirational, a message to his fellow inmates of hope and of the sure and certain knowledge that AA works even for inmates - not just not drinking one day at a time but also for leading meaningful sober lives despite ever-present prison walls. Other inmates also shared briefly and simply as they do at each of these weekly Thursday night AA meetings.

At the meeting's end, the inmates, our District 13 volunteers including Don B., Charles W. and Ronnie G. and the Prison Chaplain shared in an inspiring two-year Group Anniversary Celebration - with three-foot heroes and ice cream - all paid for by the inmates themselves out of their meager prison voucher accounts - and with prison staff ordering the food and arranging for its delivery to the prison. In fact, the food cost \$127 but the total money in all the inmates' accounts was \$98. And yet, it happened. How? The prison staff made up the difference and the inmates are now taking up a collection to repay them! We sometimes hear in AA, 'We don't know how it works, but it works.' Let me tell you, it works! The Higher Power was surely with us that Thursday night as we closed with the Serenity Prayer. There were many hugs of real joy and barely a dry eye in that prison room last Thursday night among the inmates and District 13 volunteers who faithfully bring in these AA prison meetings!"

Don later told us, "For security reasons, a maximum of 25 inmates may assemble for any 'outside' event including AA meetings. Our Thursday meetings have 25 inmates regularly participating but sadly," Don added, "there are 34 more inmates on a waiting list hoping to attend these AA meetings - but they can't - for now."

Don is discussing with supportive prison officials the possibility of an additional AA meeting for these inmates, possibly on a different day of the week if, says Don, we can get more AA members to volunteer.

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Our District's Charles W. also brings an AA meeting every Wednesday 1pm into the separate Mental Health Unit at Comstock maximum security prison and Don B brings a new AA meeting into the State medium security facility also located in Comstock. Other District 13 men and women AA volunteers faithfully carry AA's message into Washington and Warren County jails and into treatment facilities including Glens Falls Hospital. And still other AA members help welcome AA newcomers returning home from these facilities - called Bridging the Gap.

Don's little story on page 1 is just one of the many – usually untold but equally real – stories of AA in action because of the selfless service of these dedicated AA volunteers.

You know, you can help, if you're willing to put into action, gratitude for the God-given gift of sobriety we have in AA. It's easy, as little as once a month: just contact Don B. for Corrections or Kevin A. for Treatment or Charles W. to help welcome the AA newcomer home [Bridging the Gap].

Your own sobriety will be enriched by the experience!

An earnest and straightforward request from The District:

In order to pay for the cost of maintaining our 24-hour hotline, printing meeting lists, buying literature for correctional and treatment facilities and for mailings, the District's treasury has gone below its Prudent Reserve of \$250. Costs of maintaining these basic services have increased over the years while group contributions, sadly, have not kept pace. We hope this is a seasonal condition and that groups will resume their usual generous contributions to the District in the near future. If your group is currently in a position to do so, may we respectfully request that your group consider a much-needed early contribution to District 13 in any amount your group conscience considers appropriate?

With our gratitude, please send contributions to HMB District 13; P.O. Box 4335, Queensbury, NY 12804.

NEW DISTRICT 13 MEETING LIST: District prints new meeting lists three times a year: February; June & October. 1,500 copies of the new February 2010 meeting list have been printed and are being distributed to Groups. If your group needs copies, contact Tom B. to make arrangements to get them. 'North Country' groups may also contact John D. for copies. There is a correction in the new list: the How to Grow Group meets Tuesday & Thursday 6:30pm at 13 Crandall St., Glens Falls; please delete words 'First Baptist Church.' And remember, the new **Newcomb** 'Serenity by the Stream' Thursday 8pm meeting welcomes your support.

Extra copies of the new meeting list will be available at the March 3rd District meeting.

Records Keeper, Nancy C. has been doing a wonderful job at keeping District 13 information correct and up to date in the District and working with Area 48 so Area and national records are correct. This includes information on the 66 AA meetings now occurring every week in District 13 – as shown in the new February 2010 meetings list.

We thank Nancy for her sustained work – **BUT** – her two-year term as District 13 Records Keeper will end soon and, under AA Traditions, Nancy should rotate out of the position to provide a new service opportunity for another willing AA member. Are you willing to serve as District 13's new Record Keeper? The main requirements are computer access and attention to detail. Willing to give something back in gratitude for your Sobriety? Just call DCM, Tom B. to discuss this important service opportunity or call Nancy who can provide more information.

DCM Tom B. reminds us of the upcoming Area 48 **Annual Fellowship Day**, the one annual event hosted each year by the Adirondack Cluster [Districts 5, 10, 19, and our District 13] and that under Area 48's 'rotating schedule, this year, our District 13 will take the lead in the event, set for **April 10th in Lake George**. (See the enclosed flyer)

Tom also reminded everyone that **AA's International Convention, held only once every five years**, will be held this year [**July 1 through July 4, 2010**] in San Antonio, Texas. **The Year 2010 is AA's 75th Anniversary.** AA's General Service Office reports **almost 30,000 AA's have already registered to attend the Convention.**

If ever there was a time to consider participating in the remarkable sobriety of an International Convention, this is it!

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Remember, District 13 maintains a **24 hours/7 days a week telephone 'hotline'** where any individual may call anonymously and talk with a sober alcoholic about any problem or question that individual may have about alcohol/alcohol abuse and also find locations of the more than 60 AA meetings each week in our District 13 area. **The 'hotline' telephone number is (518) 793-1113 Don't be timid in giving out this phone number!**

District 13 is deeply grateful to the Groups and Members who have contributed to our AA service work.

As a possible help to members and Groups, it was decided at the 5/6/09 District meeting to include the addresses for mail and contributions in newsletters & meeting lists. An historical contribution share has been 60% District; 30% Area & 10% GSO.

The addresses are: District 13 P. O. Box 4335, Queensbury, NY 12804;
HMB Area 48 Route 30 - #114, 118 Polar Plaza, Amsterdam, NY 12010; and
General Service Office P. O. Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163

Need to talk to someone at District 13? Committee Chairs [and contact information] are as follows:

<u>Committee:</u>	<u>Chairperson</u>
• DCM	Tom B.
• Alternate DCM	Lou H.
• Secretary	Jack B.
• Treasurer	Sue P.
• Records	Nancy C.
• Bridging the Gap	Charles W.
• Corrections	*Vacant * in interim contact Don B.
• CPC/PI	John D.
• Treatment	Kevin A.
• Newsletter Editor	Larry T.
• Grapevine*	*Vacant *
• Archives	Tim C.
• Special Needs	*Vacant *

SIGNIFICANT UPCOMING AA ACTIVITIES and EVENTS

For details, see the HMB Newsletter [hard copy or on-line at: www.aahmbny.org] or at our District 13 Meetings. AA members can receive a copy of the HMB Area 48 Newsletter by e-mail request to: hmb48newsletter@yahoo.com. Until our District 13 Newsletter Editor, Larry T, returns in the Spring, District 13 AA members can receive a copy of the District Newsletter by e-mail by request to John D.

- ➔ **2/26 – 2/28** (Friday thru Sunday) **NERAASA** [Northeast Regional AA Service Assembly] – Niagara Falls, NY. AA members from throughout the Northeast Region [12 States] participate in multiple AA workshops and share on ways to better provide the many AA services needed in the Northeastern United States.
- 3/20** (Saturday) **Annual Delegate's Day** Cairo, NY. An opportunity to inform Area 48's new Delegate, Deb D, of issues important to 'Adirondack AA' as Deb prepares for AA's April U. S. General Service Conference in NYC.
- 3/27** (Saturday) **Annual 'Corrections Connection'** Rensselaer, NY. AA members in correctional service meeting with New York State Corrections' personnel on how better to 'bring in the AA message to inmates.'
- ➔ **4/10** (Saturday) **Annual AA Fellowship Day, Lake George** [Sacred Heart Church] hosted each year by AA's Adirondack Cluster and **coordinated, this year, by our District 13.** (**See enclosed flyer**)
- 5/16** (Sunday) **Area 48 Assembly** – Cobleskill, NY. Annual voting on AA issues in Area 48 and hearing a report back from Area Delegate, Deb D, on the U. S.-wide General Service Conference held in April in NYC.
- 7/1-7/4** (Thursday thru Sunday) **AA's International Convention** – in San Antonio, Texas - **Held only once every five years, this Year 2010 is AA's 75th Anniversary!** Almost 30,000 AA members have already registered to attend! If ever there was a time to consider participating in the remarkable fellowship and sobriety of an International AA Convention, consider this event.

**HMB AREA 48
FELLOWSHIP DAY**

SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 2010

**SACRED HEART CHURCH
Parish Hall**

**51 MOHICAN STREET
LAKE GEORGE NY 12845**

9 AM TO 3 PM

**SPONSORED BY THE ADIRONDACK CLUSTER
DISTRICTS 5, 10, 13, and 19**

HOSTED BY DISTRICT 13

**FELLOWSHIP DAY AGENDA
BEING FINALIZED BY HMB AREA 48**

Directions: Northway Exit 21. If going North make right. If coming from North make left and go a short distance on 9N to end of road at traffic light (Routes 9 and 9N). Make left on Route 9 (North) toward Lake George Village. Go 1.1 miles to Mohican Street and make left. Parish Hall is two blocks farther on left.

Contact person: Tom B. DCM District 13

The other side of this 'flyer' describes our need for AA Members to volunteer a little time at corrections or treatment facilities or to welcome an AA newcomer home from one of those facilities. This type of service often seems 'distant' to an AA member so he or she doesn't offer to help. Yet, helping is easy and the rewards are great. Perhaps the little story below [reprinted from District 13's February '10 Newsletter] shows how important this is.

"The was not a dry eye in the house!" is often heard when describing an especially poignant, powerful event.

Such an event happened on Thursday, February 11th, at New York State's maximum security prison in Comstock. Don B. coordinates District 13's corrections service efforts and here's how Don described it...

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