

⇒ **New District 13 Meeting Lists should be available at March 2nd District Meeting**

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

Alcoholics Anonymous - Northeast Region
Hudson Mohawk Berkshire Area 48

DISTRICT 13 NEWSLETTER ***FEBRUARY 2011***

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⇒ **We ask Group Chairs or GSR's to bring this Newsletter to their Group Meetings. Please share the information.**
(If you want extra copies [by USPS or e-mail] for use at your meetings, just contact the Newsletter Editor.)

Need to talk to someone at District 13? See the Committee Chairs' information on page 3.

Reminder: AA District 13 meets on the First Wednesday of Every Other Month. 2011 dates left are: March 2, May 4, July 6, Sept 7, Nov 2 - 7:00PM at Town Center, Old Post Rd, Lake George.

All AA members are welcome to attend. Please mark the dates on your calendar.

⇒ **The next District Meeting will be WEDNESDAY, March 2, 2011 at 7PM**

THE NEW [UPDATED] DISTRICT 13 AA MEETING LIST IS BEING PREPARED FOR MARCH DISTRIBUTION.

Several new meetings will be in the updated list! Records Keeper, Paul G, asks all Groups to let him know of any new changes right away so they can be included in the list and District, Area & GSO records.

⇒ **Sufficient copies should be available at March 2nd District Meeting. Be there - and get your Group's copies!**

AA Hudson Mohawk Berkshire [HMB] Area 48 Year 2011 Meeting Books have been printed and shipped to everyone who ordered them. Almost **30,000 copies** of this Year 2011 Meeting Book were printed. **If you did not receive your order, contact the Area by e-mail at hmballdtreasurer@nycap.rr.com.**

[Note: due to a printer mistake, there is an error in the book. The center two pages are reversed but all meetings are listed.]

Extra copies of the Year 2011 Meeting Book were printed. Until they're gone, you still can order some.

Cost of each Year 2011 book, listing over 1,200 AA meetings, is 30 cents down from 50 cents last year.
[Get an order form at Area 48's website: www.aahmbny.org or at the March 2nd District 13 meeting.]

The January Newsletter reported on actions taken and reports given at the last (January 5th) District meeting. Treasurer's reports for November & December were approved at that meeting and reported in January's Newsletter. Treasurer's reports for January & February will be available for review at the March 2nd meeting. Complete minutes of each District meeting are provided for review and approval at the next District meeting. November minutes were approved at January's meeting; January minutes will be provided for review and approval at the March 2nd meeting.

Since there was no February District meeting, there are no meeting results to report. **This does, however, give us a chance to share information on several other important AA items:**

Once each year, elected representatives [Delegates] from **every** AA Area of the United States and Canada gather together for very intense, multi-days' work sessions on what AA could be doing better for the overall good of our AA Program and the more than **61,000 AA Groups** and almost **1.4 million AA members** in the U.S. and Canada. Our **HMB Area 48 Delegate, Deb D**, is dedicated to AA service and will participate in this year's work sessions. As you know, it's called the **General Service Conference** - being held the 1st week in May in New York City. **Delegate Deb D has asked each of us to help her prepare for this year's Conference. How? By filling out and returning to Deb, a Questionnaire on matters important to AA's continued survival. It is really important. It is included in this Newsletter. Won't you PLEASE help - by completing and returning the Questionnaire?**

(Note: extra postage to include the Questionnaire in this Newsletter mailing covered by member contribution - at no cost to District 13.)

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District 13 DCM Tom B said in January's Newsletter that he would give a 'report back' on results of the HMB Area 48 Inventory Day held in Troy on January 22nd. At Inventory Day, Area 48 tries to examine at the Area level [just like the upcoming General Service Conference will do at the U.S. & Canada-wide level], what our Area is doing well and what we could do better for the overall good of AA and for our Groups and individual members. Tom B and other District 13 members did participate in Inventory Day and copies of the informative draft minutes of that January 22nd Inventory Day will be available at the March 5th District meeting.

It is really worth mentioning some information on how District 13 operates, where we 'get our money,' and how, and on what, the District decides to spend that money:

- First, sad to say, we're a financially poor District. Times are tough for all of us; our District is no exception;
- Group and member contributions to District 13 go solely for 24-hour AA Telephone Hotline, printing Meeting Lists, purchasing AA pamphlets for use in service work at Corrections & Treatment facilities and the like;
- Last month's Newsletter reported we had less than \$75.00 available for all this District 13 AA service work;
- That's why, for example, at the 1/5 District Meeting, we were unable to approve a \$68.00 Corrections Committee request to purchase needed AA pamphlets for use in correctional facilities;
- That's why Group and individual AA Member contributions to District 13 are so very important;
- How does the District decide where and how to spend its AA service money? Great question; here's how: Decisions on District expenditures are by vote at District meetings held every 2-months in Lake George. Every Group has a right to vote and be heard. That's why we encourage Group reps/GSRS to attend;
- And did you know that District members, traveling to and participating in District 13 and Area 48 service work for the good of our Groups and AA as a whole, pay all of their costs - including gasoline, phone, etc. out of their own pockets - with no reimbursement whatsoever from the District;

We are truly grateful to Groups which made recent contributions to District 13 AA service work

The need for this financial support continues to be very real so we respectfully request, if your Group hasn't helped out recently, please consider a much-needed early contribution to District 13 in any amount your Group conscience considers appropriate. [Checks or money orders payable to 'District 13' are mailed to: District 13, P. O. Box 4335, Queensbury, NY 12804.] **Thank you very much.**

⇒ A question: if you knew that someone from your hometown had been in a treatment or rehab facility and, while there: came to recognize his or her problem with alcohol abuse; had learned about AA's program of recovery; and, was coming home soon - but didn't know anyone in AA in his or her hometown or where the local AA meetings were - but wanted to meet local AA members and attend local AA meetings, would you be willing to meet that individual, take him or her to a few local AA meetings and introduce him or her to other local sober AA members? Would you? Most of us would say "Yes, of course, I'd gladly do that!" Ah, but the key question: How would you know that person 'is coming home?' The answer: AA's Bridging the Gap [BTG] program. Simply put, if you tell us you are willing to help and give us just your first name and phone number, it will work! When someone is 'coming home,' we will contact you and say 'Jim or Sarah is coming home on [date]; could you meet that person or take him or her to the first few local AA meetings and introduce him or her to other local sober AA members? This may happen only once or twice a year. If it's good timing for you, we'll give you all the details. You don't become that person's AA sponsor; you just become a welcoming AA member who cares! Please consider this really great and very simple opportunity to be of service to the AA newcomer. Why not let us know at the March 2nd District meeting - or simply call the BTG Chair listed on page 3 of this Newsletter!

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You've heard it before but it's definitely worth repeating:

AA members are sorely needed to help carry the AA message into Corrections and Treatment Facilities. District 13 brings AA meetings into two New York State prisons and two County jails and several treatment facilities in our area including Glens Falls Hospital. Could you help? **Even if once a month?** Please let us know! Don B has provided a detailed Corrections Report; extra copies will be available at the March 2nd District meeting.

AA's guiding principles and traditions point out the wisdom of members 'rotating' in service positions whether it is Coffee Maker or Chairperson at a Home Group or in District and Area service positions. District 13 service terms usually are for 2-years. But anyone can help out in this service work. Just ask; we'll show you how easy it is to help.

→ The District has several AA service positions vacant or soon-to-become vacant as AA members 'rotate out' of their AA service commitments. These positions are shown below. Won't you consider one of these? As we said in last month's Newsletter, the Theme of AA this year throughout the U. S. and Canada is:

"We are responsible for AA's Future - Let it begin with us."
Won't you please help?

AA service not only helps those who really need it, it is a remarkable gift we give to our own sobriety!

There are a number of informative and inspirational AA activities and events coming up in the next few months. See page 4 for a brief listing!

→ Remember that our 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 65 AA meetings each week in our District 13 area.

The hotline telephone number is (518) 793-1113 Don't hesitate to give 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 voted at a prior 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 48 118 Polar Plaza #114, Route 30, Amsterdam, NY 12010; and
General Service Office (GSO) P. O. Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163

→ **New information:** GSO contributions also can now be made on-line at: www.aa.org & click on 'contributions' icon.

Need to talk to someone at District 13? **Committee Chairs** are as follows:

<u>Committee:</u>	<u>Chairperson</u>
• DCM	Tom B. [*service term ending - replacement needed*]
• Alternate DCM	Lou H.
• Secretary	Kristen H. [new as of 1/5/11]
• Treasurer	*Vacant* [in interim contact DCM Tom B]
• Records	Paul G. [new as of 11/3/10]
• Bridging the Gap	Charles W [*replacement needed*]
• Corrections	*Vacant* [in interim call Don B]
• CPC/PI	John D.
• Treatment	Kevin A. [*service term ending - replacement needed*]
• Newsletter Editor	Larry T. [until Larry returns in the Spring, contact John D]
• Grapevine	Alex S.
• Archives	*Vacant* [please consider this AA service opportunity]
• Special Needs	*Vacant* [please consider this AA service opportunity]

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UPCOMING AA ACTIVITIES and EVENTS

For details, see the HMB Area 48 Newsletter [hard copy or on-line at: www.aahmbny.org or at our District 13 Meetings.

AA members can receive a free copy of Area 48's Newsletter by e-mail request to: hmb48newsletter@yahoo.com .

District 13 AA members can receive a free copy of District 13's Newsletter by USPS or e-mail by request to the Editor. Larry T. is our Editor, but, until he returns in the Spring, contact John D.

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- 2/25-2/27/11** **NERAASA [Northeast Regional AA Service Assembly]** – **Tarrytown**.
(Friday thru Sunday) Join almost 1,000 members in AA service throughout the Northeast as they examine ways to better carry the AA message of hope to those in and out of the rooms. See www.neraasa2011.org.
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- 3/2/11** **District 13 Meeting, 7:00pm** [1 hour] **Lake George Town Center, Old Post Rd, Lake George**
(Wednesday) **The new March District 13 Meeting List will be available.** Show up & get your Group's copies.
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- 3/19/11** **Area 48 Fellowship Day** 9am-3pm - First Presbyterian Ch., 80 Elmendorph St., **Kingston**.
(Saturday) See the flyer in Area 48's Newsletter or obtain copies at District 13's March 2nd meeting.
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- 3/26/11** **Area 48 'Corrections Connection'** 9am-1pm - Sacred Heart Ch. Parish Hall, **Lake George** - join with
(Saturday) AA members involved in corrections service and NY State and local correctional facilities officials and staff to discuss how to better carry AA's message to individuals in correctional facilities. See the flyer in Area 48's Newsletter or obtain copies at District 13's March 2nd meeting. Lake George is our District 13 so we'll be asking for members to help with set-up, etc. on 3/26.
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- 4/16/11** **Area 48 Delegate's Day/Day of Sharing** 9am-3pm - 27 Woodlawn Avenue, **Saratoga** - **District 5**
(Saturday) Join with your fellow AA members from throughout Area 48 - a major portion of New York State – as we share the AA bond of fellowship and participate in Roundtable discussions aimed at improving AA service - **and helping Delegate Deb D prepare for the May 1st thru May 7th United States and Canada General Service Conference.**
Please, won't you complete & return Deb's questionnaire enclosed with this Newsletter!
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- 5/1-5/7/11** **General Service Conference** – **Area Delegates only from U.S. & Canada - New York City**
(Sunday thru Saturday) Elected representatives [[Delegates](#)] from **every AA Area** of the United States and Canada gather together for very intense, multi-days' work sessions on what AA could be doing better for the overall good of our AA Program, the more than **61,000 AA Groups** and almost **1.4 million AA members** in the U.S. & Canada. Our elected **HMB Area 48 Delegate, Deb D** participates in this Conference. **Please, won't you complete & return Deb's questionnaire enclosed with this Newsletter!**
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- 5/4/11** **District 13 Meeting, 7:00pm** [1 hour] **Lake George Town Center, Old Post Rd, Lake George**
(Wednesday)
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- 5/15/11** **Area 48 Assembly**
(Sunday) Location to be announced. **Hear Delegate Deb D 'report back' on the General Service Conference!**
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- 5/20-5/22/11** **Northeast Regional Forum** – **Sturbridge, MA** - Details to follow.
(Friday thru Sunday) Annual work sessions of AA members from throughout the Northeastern United States.

If your Group is holding an event or would like to include information in our Newsletters, just contact the Editor.