

There are New Meetings in our local area! See the details below.

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

Alcoholics Anonymous - Northeast Region
Hudson Mohawk Berkshire Area 48

DISTRICT 13 NEWSLETTER **MAY and JUNE 2012**

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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 for use at your meetings, just contact the Newsletter Editor – see page 5.)

HERE IS INFORMATION REALLY WORTHY OF YOUR ATTENTION

A week
from
Saturday!

The Glens Falls Original Group celebrates its 74 Years Anniversary Saturday 6/16.
Did you know Bill W. was one of the Founders of the Glens Falls Original Group?
Why Not Be There For This Special AA Event!! 6 PM Food & 8PM Speakers
See the enclosed flyer for all the details!

⇒ **Good News! There are several newer meetings in our local area. Here are the details:**

- The Steps We Took Group C/Step - Wednesdays - 7 PM - Holy Cross Church, Rt.9 Warrensburg;
- The Steps We Took Group O/Literature - Sundays - 7 PM - Holy Cross Church, Rt.9 Warrensburg;
- 11th Step Open/Literature - Sundays - 11 AM - Quarry House, 138 Upper Pratt St., Glens Falls;
- Young Persons' Big Book - Fridays 8:30 PM - Ch. of Messiah Parish House, 296 Glen St, Glens Falls.

Your support for these meetings is welcomed and appreciated. Why not attend one soon!

Records Keeper, Paul G. reminds everyone to please let him know promptly of any new meetings or meeting changes [e.g. day of week, time, type of meeting, location, GSR or contact person] so that folks looking for meetings have correct information and so important AA information gets to your Group. Paul can provide the **New Group Forms** and **Group Change Forms**. [See page 5 to contact him.]

⇒ **New meetings list should be available at July 11th District meeting. Get your Group info included!**

⇒ Yes, **next District 13 meeting** will be **Wednesday July 11th** - because 1st Wednesday is July 4th holiday. **Isn't taking just one hour** [once every two months] **to hear so much about AA - a good move?**
All AA members are welcome to attend; Why not mark July 11th on your calendar now!

Note this issue of the Newsletter is titled **May and June**. We still will issue monthly but had been issuing at end of month and want to 'catch up' with Area 48's Newsletter which issues beginning of each month. This will enable us to include more timely AA information in future District 13 Newsletters.

New York State-wide Annual AA Convention is fast approaching - in **Albany** Friday **July 20th** - Sunday **July 22nd**. Probably last time the Convention will be held in our Area. This major event will see up to a **thousand AA members gathered in the spirit of AA fellowship.** **Why not attend!** [see page 6 for events & registration information.]

⇒ Please see an important question on the next page asking "**Is your meeting location Handicap Accessible?**"

The information below is from our May 2nd District Meeting and new items since then.

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DCM, Lou H., chaired the 5/2 meeting. He welcomed all present and opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer.

Copies of the March 7th District meeting minutes were distributed by **Secretary Kristen H.**, reviewed and approved. Copies of the May 2nd minutes will be available for review and approval consideration at the July 11th meeting.

Copies of **Tom B's April-May Treasurer's Report** were distributed to all present on 5/2. It was reviewed & approved. **[A copy is included in this Newsletter.]** The Report showed an opening balance of \$356.93; income [from Group contributions] of \$496.00 and expenses of \$355.01 (for: telephone hotline; Contact Communications; toner/paper to print District meeting lists; rent [\$25 for Lake George Town Hall District meeting space]; and postage for newsletter mailings) - leaving a closing balance of \$497.92. Subtracting the District's \$250 prudent reserve, left \$247.92 available for District service work. [See below for hotels/motels mailing expense approved at 5/2 meeting.]

Reports were given by [or on behalf of] Committee Chairs present on 5/2. Some interesting points noted were: **Records** Keeper Paul G. reports that all information he received has been reflected in District Records and reported to Area 48 which, in turn, informs the main General Service Office. This ensures that folks can find correct AA meetings' information and that Groups get timely District and AA-wide information;

Treatment: Treatment Chair Jesse was not present and Sue said some facilities really need AA literature so Sue said she would contact Jesse about this need;

Corrections: Chair position is vacant but **Don B.** has long-helped in corrections' service. **Don has a new phone number:** . He is willing to help anyone get started in corrections service if requested. New York State Comstock (2 facilities - maximum & medium security) and Warren and Washington Counties Jails **really need volunteers** to carry the AA message into these facilities. **Won't you help? Even if it's just once a month?**

CPC/PI: Chairperson Natalie N. said she received her CPC/PI information from GSO and is gathering volunteers to help out including, hopefully, to speak to young people in schools. The annual mailing of District 13 meeting lists to ~115 hotels & motels was discussed. It was voted to spend \$65 for postage/printing for this important project.

District 13 Newsletter is issued monthly. **Editor John D** asks for suggestions on items to include in Newsletters. He thanked District 13 **Archivist Jenny H.** for providing historic **Grapevine** articles included in our Newsletters from time to time. [Note: We're happy to report **former Editor Larry T. is 'well and back home'** in Indian Lake];

Grapevine Chair Peter R. and **Archives Chair Jenny H.** were not present so there were no new reports;

Special Needs: Chair position is vacant but there was good discussion on 5/2 **whether AA meetings listed in our meeting list as handicap accessible [HA] are, in fact, really handicap accessible**, e.g. wheelchair accessible – **including bathrooms**. Sue pointed out types of problems that occur if the whole meeting place is not accessible.

It was agreed to include a request in this Newsletter **asking each Group to do a meeting place HA 'check-up' to confirm actual Handicap Access conditions at its own meeting location.**

So, Folks, **is your location really Handicap Accessible? Would your Group please do this 'check-up' and let Records Keeper Paul G. know so he can delete the HA symbol in our District meeting list if necessary.**

It was noted GSO offers braille, large-print and other special needs literature/items including for hearing impaired.

DCM Lou H., Sr. said these are examples of why filling the **vacant Special Needs Chair** position is so important. **Bridging the Gap** and **Corrections Chair** AA service positions - both very important - also currently are **vacant**. Lou added "I ask each of us to carry the message to Groups we attend about the **opportunities for AA service.**"

In the meantime, tell us if you know of anyone who could benefit from or has a question about AA Special Needs.

Bennie said there have been requests for the Big Book in Spanish. The Big Book and most other AA literature including pamphlets are available in Spanish language editions. It was pointed out that the District cannot afford the cost of providing literature to individual Groups; each Group orders its own AA literature from GSO as needed.

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DCM Lou H. reported on the Area 48 Fellowship Day held April 14th in Lake George and hosted by our District 13. 70 people attended. District 5 brought lunch, District 10 brought soda and District 19 brought breakfast and helped open & clean-up. Lou thanked Districts 5, 10 and 19 which, together with our District 13, make up the "Adirondack Cluster" of AA Groups. Lou said it was a successful day and noted that the cost of the event was covered by Area 48 and 7th Tradition 'cans.'

Lou also said he expected to participate [Lou did participate] in the Area 48 Assembly in Amsterdam on Sunday, May 20th at which the Area 48 Year 2013 Budget [was] introduced and Area 48's elected Delegate Keith D. [gave] a 'report-back' on this year's **General Service Conference**. [See a brief article below on the Conference.]

And **remember**, although some Districts reimburse DCM's and service chairs for expenses incurred in participating in Area, State-wide and regional AA work events, **our District 13 members do this service work out of their own pockets - so all Group contributions to District 13 go directly to our District 13 AA service work.**

Alt. DCM Steve S. described 'the birth of an AA group' saying it was very heartening to see a meeting 'want to become a Group.' Steve said since coming to New York from Ohio, he was not happy to see that we do not discuss the AA Concepts more. He wanted to know if we have done a workshop on the Concepts. We have not and Lou suggested Steve might wish to consider arranging for a Concepts Workshop. Steve noted other differences between our Area and Ohio and asked about Central Offices & communications with General Service Office (GSO). It was noted there is no central office in our geographic area but there is one in the densely-populated Albany area. Rather, it was pointed out, we follow AA's long-established organizational structure with AA Groups being the most important part of the so-called 'upside down triangle' of Groups, Districts, Areas and the General Service Office.

AA's United States and Canada-wide 62nd General Service Conference - April 22-28, 2012

Recall that **once each year**, the **elected AA Delegates** from throughout the U.S. and Canada hold an intensive week-long **AA conscience work session**, the **General Service Conference on issues vital to AA's survival**.

[DCM Lou H., Sr. recently described the Conference as the AA-wide equivalent of a Group Conscience meeting.]

Area 48's Keith D. is one of only 93 elected Delegates from throughout the United States and Canada who, together, represent more than 1.4 million AA members and 65,000 AA Groups [GSO-published estimates as of 1/1/12].

We expect to have more [and printed] information on the Conference results at our District 13 July 11th Meeting. In the meantime, **see Keith's inspiring report** in Area 48's June Newsletter. Here are a few Conference highlights:

- The Conference **Theme** was "**Anonymity: Our Spiritual Responsibility in the Digital Age**;"
- The 93 Delegates were joined by 21 Trustees of the General Service Board, 4 Directors of AA World Services and the Grapevine and 14 General Service and Grapevine staff members – or 132 in total.
- They worked from early morning and sometimes until late at night on how to enable AA to better serve today's 1.4 million AA members & 65,000 AA Groups yet grow stronger to serve those who are yet to come.
- Issues tackled were broad-ranging including the following approved **Conference Advisory Actions**:
 - Support for General Service Board's development of a plan to restructure AA World Services and Grapevine 'to increase unity...and better reach and connect GSO and Grapevine to the broader AA Fellowship.' The plan will be presented to the 63rd General Service Conference for discussion and approval prior to implementation;
 - The limit on one-time bequests from [deceased/wills] AA Members be increased from \$3,000 to \$5,000;
 - Revising many printed AA pamphlets and some audio-visual AA materials to better reflect AA today;
 - The short-form of the Twelve Concepts for World Services be added to the book **As Bill Sees It**;
 - The Grapevine's moving forward with an audio strategy to let AA Members call in and record their own stories for future anonymity-protected use;
 - And many other specific Advisory Actions aimed at helping AA better serve the Fellowship.

Hear more at District 13's July 11th meeting. Also see Area 48's **Newsletter** on its website: www.aahmbny.org.

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**HMB DISTRICT 13
TREASURY REPORT
May 2, 2012**

**(NOTE: COPY OF THE DISTRICT 13 TREASURER'S REPORT
IS DISTRIBUTED TO ALL DISTRICT 13 MEMBERS
BUT IS NOT INCLUDED IN THIS ON-LINE PUBLIC VERSION
OF THE DISTRICT 13 NEWSLETTER.)**

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

In January's Newsletter, we listed each Group contributing in the Year 2011 [ranging from \$25 to \$547].

There are almost 50 Groups in District 13.

The Treasurer's Report above shows seven contributions to the District in the past two months.

We send a contribution acknowledgement letter to each Group & report it in the next month's Treasurer's Report.

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
GSO contributions also can be made on-line at: www.aa.org & click on 'contributions' icon.

The need for your financial support continues to be very real so we respectfully request, if your Group hasn't helped out recently, that you please consider a much-needed early contribution to District 13 in any amount your Group conscience considers appropriate. **Thank You.**

And **remember**, although some Districts reimburse DCM's and service chairs for expenses incurred in participating in Area, State-wide and regional AA work events, **our District 13 members do this service work out of their own pockets - so all Group contributions to District 13 go directly to our District 13 AA service work.**

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Grapevine: Chair **Peter R.** reminds members at meetings how wonderful is **Grapevine - AA's Meeting in Print**. Mail subscriptions are available; free excerpts from the latest issue are available on-line at www.aagrapevine.org. Grapevine also has a catalog of other books & literature as well (e.g. **Language of the Heart** containing all of Bill W's 150+ Grapevine articles). Grapevine was financially 'in the black' last quarter for first time in five years. **When was the last time you read a copy of The Grapevine? Some Groups are getting subscriptions to The Grapevine and sharing copies at Group meetings. How about you? How about your Group?**

Also, **The Grapevine** has announced its wonderful book **Language of the Heart** [\$9.99] and **The Best of Bill** [\$3.99] are now **available for download** at the Online Store at aagrapevine.org by clicking on the **EBOOKS** tab.

That one volume, **Language of the Heart** contains all of Bill W's Grapevine articles [150+] including his first thoughts about the Traditions, his battles with chronic depression and spiritual pride, memories of an all-night drinking spree with Ebby, and a vivid description of how he came to organize the Steps.

And don't forget, the **Big Book** and **Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions** can be downloaded for \$6 each from the A.A.W.S. Online Store at www.aa.org. **A.A. members**, many of whom read, re-read, and quote from the literature at A.A. meetings as part of their recovery, **will be able to search for specific passages quickly and highlight key words and sentences** in the highly portable format. Also, because the **font size and type can be changed**, these eBooks will be more universally accessible to those members needing **larger print**.

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

<u>Committee:</u>	<u>Chairperson</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>e-mail address</u> (all lower case)
• DCM	Lou H., Sr.		
• Alternate DCM	Steven S. [elected 3/7/12]		
• Secretary	Kristen H.		
• Treasurer	Tom B.		
• Records	Paul G.		
• Bridging the Gap	*Vacant *		[Please consider this AA service opportunity]
• Corrections	*Vacant *		[Please consider this AA service opportunity]
	[in interim call Don B		
• CPC/PI	Natalie N. [elected 3/7/12]		
• Treatment	Jesse E. [elected 1/4/12]		
• Newsletter Editor	John D. [elected 1/4/12]		e-mail: district13newsletter@sprynet.com
• Grapevine	Peter R.		
• Archives	Jenny H.		
• Special Needs	*Vacant *		[Please consider this AA service opportunity]

⇒ **NOTE:** A **CONFIDENTIAL VERSION** of the District 13 Newsletter is issued **for inside AA use only**. This **Public Version** of the District 13 Newsletter is **for posting on the HMB Area 48 Website**.

Almost **60** copies of the Newsletter go out each month by USPS mail with an almost equal number sent by e-mail. *Folks, as we've been saying, **it costs real money to mail our District 13 Newsletters to you by U.S.P.S.** **May we e-mail the Newsletter to you instead?** Just tell us by e-mail to district13newsletter@sprynet.com.*

⇒ Lastly, please 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 almost 70 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!**

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UPCOMING AA ACTIVITIES and EVENTS

For Area 48 details, see the HMB Area 48 Newsletter (hard copy) or on-line at: www.aahmbny.org.
AA members can receive a free copy of Area 48's Newsletter by e-mail request to newsletter@aahmbny.org.
Receive free copy of District 13 Newsletter by call to John D. or e-mail: district13newsletter@sprynet.com.

Below are a few upcoming AA activities/events of special interest to District 13 members and Groups.

- ⇒ **June 16th** (Saturday) **Glens Falls Original Group – 74-Years Group Anniversary** **How wonderful! Plan to attend!**
6 PM Food and 8 PM – Great Open Speakers AA meeting. **See enclosed flyer**
- ⇒ **July 11th** (Wednesday) **District 13 Meeting 7:00pm** [1 hour] **Lake George Town Center**, Old Post Rd, Lake George
NOTE: July 11th is the SECOND WEDNESDAY **Every AA member is welcome to attend.**
- July 14th** (Saturday) **Yonder Hill Group - Annual Picnic - Lake George - Noon to 7 PM** **Open AA meeting 3 PM.**
Hot dogs, hamburgers & beverages provided. Bring a dish to share if you wish. Recreational areas, swimming, great AA fellowship – and more! **Location: Lake George Ushers Park 1st Pavilion.**
For more information and directions, contact **Charlie D. 518 668 3626** or **Bob R. 518 307 2321**
- July 20th to July 22nd** (Friday-Sunday) **New York State-wide AA Convention - hosted by our HMB Area 48** - Marriott Hotel **Albany**
If you want to experience wonderful AA workshops; hear truly inspiration speakers and have fun with sober AA friends from throughout New York, this is a definite AA event to attend.
See note below & get registration form in HMB's Newsletter or at website: **www.aahmbny.org**.

⇒ **A Special Note about the wonderful July 20th to July 22nd New York State AA Convention** ←

HMB Area 48 is privileged to be able to host the New York State Convention this year - in Albany - 7/20-7/22.

It's coming up fast If you have not yet registered, please don't miss out! Register as soon as possible!
Get registration forms in Area 48's **Newsletter** or at **website: www.aahmbny.org - or contact John D.**

In the year Area 48 hosts the NYS Convention, we do **NOT** hold an Area 48 Convention in the Fall. As we've done in the past, we encourage members to attend the NYS Convention and **make it a 'double winner' convention!**

Highlights of the weekend include 3 excellent speaker meetings, workshops, panels, entertainment on Friday & Saturday evening, Archives displays from all 4 Areas of New York State, and great AA fellowship.

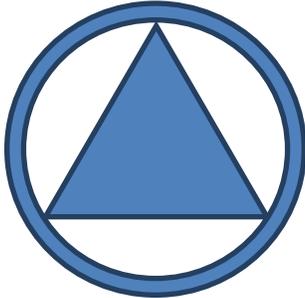
P. S. Volunteers still are needed to assist with Hospitality, Greeting, Registration, Entertainment and more.

Can you help out on this great event? It's easy, fun and wonderful AA service. Please contact us!

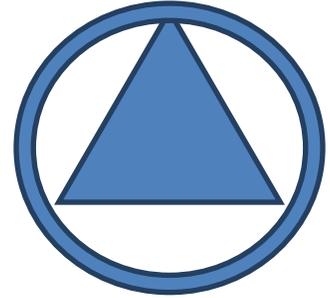
Deb D. at **thedomacks@hvc.rr.com** or phone#: (845) 242-3479

Tad J. at **althmbchair@aahmbny.org** or phone#: (518) 366-5631

Glens Falls Original Group 74th Year Anniversary Founded by Bill Wilson



COME JOIN US



When: Saturday, June 16, 2012

6:00-9:00pm

Dinner/Lite Fare served @ 6:00pm - 8:00pm

**Speaker's meeting 8:00pm - 9:00pm*

***Where: Christ Church, Corner of Bay and
Washington Streets, Glens Falls, NY***

DONATIONS

**** Please feel free to bring a dessert**

**** Time and contributions are greatly appreciated**

Donations may be made out to Glens Falls Original Group

Please send to:

Treasurer, 7 Division Street, Apt #2, Glens Falls, NY 12801

For further information, please contact:

Faye M. (518) 683-6234