

The Gateway Newsletter, District 14

Altamont, Duaneburg, Guilderland, Niskayuna, Rotterdam, Schenectady, Scotia

September 2012

HMB Area 48, New York

Step 9

Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.

Tradition 9

A.A. as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

Concept IX

Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.

Upcoming Events

- ❖ September 22:
District 14
Workshop,
Schenectady, NY
- ❖ September 22:
District 5 PI
Workshop,
Clifton Park, NY
- ❖ October 13: HMB
Area 48
Workshop,
Scotia, NY

“Faith Without Works is Dead”

...We have a list of all persons we have harmed and to whom we are willing to make amends. We made it when we took inventory. We subjected ourselves to a drastic self-appraisal. Now we go out to our fellows and repair the damage done in the past. We attempt to sweep away the debris which has accumulated out of our effort to live on self-will and run the show ourselves. If we haven't the will to do this, we ask until it comes. Remember it was agreed at the beginning *we would go to any lengths for victory over alcohol....*

...The alcoholic is like a tornado roaring his way through the lives of others. Hearts are broken. Sweet relationships are dead. Affections have been uprooted. Selfish and inconsiderate habits have kept the home in turmoil. We feel a man is unthinking when he says that sobriety is enough. He is like the farmer who came up out of his cyclone cellar to find his home ruined. To his wife, he remarked, “Don't see anything the matter here, Ma. Ain't it grand the wind stopped blowin'?”

Yes, there is a long period of reconstruction ahead. We must take the lead. A remorseful mumbling that we are sorry won't fill the bill at all. We ought to sit down with the family and frankly analyze the past as we now see it, being very careful not to criticize them. Their defects may be glaring, but the chances are that our own actions are partly responsible. So we clean house with the family, asking each morning in meditation that our Creator show us the way of patience, tolerance, kindness and love.

The spiritual life is not a theory. *We have to live it.* Unless one's family expresses a desire to live upon spiritual principles we think we ought not to urge them. We should not talk incessantly to them about spiritual matters. They will change in time. Our behavior will convince them more than our words. We must remember that ten or twenty years of drunkenness would make a skeptic out of anyone.

There may be some wrongs we can never fully right. We don't worry about them if we can honestly say to ourselves that we would right them if we could. Some people cannot be seen—we send them an honest letter. And there may be a valid reason for postponement in some cases. But we don't delay if it can be avoided. We should be sensible, tactful, considerate and humble without being servile or scraping. As God's people we stand on our feet; we don't crawl before anyone.

Alcoholics Anonymous, pp. 76, 82, 83

Without Reservation

You are asking yourself, as all of us must: "Who am I?"... "Where am I?"... "Whence do I go?" The process of enlightenment is usually slow. But, in the end, our seeking always brings a finding. These great mysteries are, after all, enshrined in complete simplicity.

Came to Believe, Bill W., Letter, 1955

When brimming with gratitude, one's heartbeat must surely result in outgoing love, . . .

AS BILL SEES IT, p. 37

While practicing service to others, if my successes give rise to grandiosity, I must reflect on what brought me to this point. What has been given joyfully, with love, must be passed on without reservation and without expectation. For as I grow, I find that no matter how much I give with love, I receive much more in spirit.

Daily Reflections, p. 279

"In God's economy, nothing is wasted. Through failure, we learn a lesson in humility which is probably needed, painful though it is."

Letter, 1942



The readiness to take the full consequences of our past acts, and to take responsibility for the well being of others at the same time, is the very spirit of Step Nine.

Twelve & Twelve, p. 87

Tradition Nine Checklist, from the AAGrapevine

A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

1. Do I still try to boss things in AA?
2. Do I resist formal aspects of AA because I fear them as authoritative?
3. Am I mature enough to understand and use all elements of the AA program—even if no one makes me do so—with a sense of personal responsibility?
4. Do I exercise patience and humility in any AA job I take?
5. Am I aware of all those to whom I am responsible in any AA job?
6. Why doesn't every AA group need a constitution and bylaws?
7. Have I learned to step out of an AA job gracefully—and profit thereby—when the times comes?
8. What has rotation to do with anonymity? With humility?

SERVICE CORNER - Carrying the Message....



After 21 years of being in A.A. a situation occurred where I felt as though I needed to go full force into the A.A. program. At that time I started to increase my meetings attending a minimum of 6 days a week. An opportunity came up at the Schenectady Club House where they had not had a GSR for a period of time and I volunteered to take on that service. The experience that I've had attending GSR meetings, meeting other GSR individuals has made my sobriety move in a different direction. I now am much more open to people and do not care what they think of me. The service work brings me pleasure because it is something I've done my entire life. Being in the food/restaurant business all of my life, helping out on workshops allows me to use my talents to the fullest. Being involved in a service position allows the true Michael to come out and not be afraid to walk up to people and talk to them and ask them how they are doing and discussing any other type of questions we would talk about after a meeting.

The A.A. program says that to carry the message is to be of service and that is what I am doing to the best of my ability.

In Service, Michael J.

The Twelve Promises

If we are painstaking about this phase of our development, we will be amazed before we are half way through.

We are going to know a new freedom and a new happiness.

We will not regret the past nor wish to shut the door on it.

We will comprehend the word serenity and we will now peace.

No matter how far down the scale we have gone, we will see how our experience can benefit others.

That feeling of uselessness and self-pity will disappear.

We will lose interest in selfish things and gain interest in our fellows.

Self-seeking will slip away.

Our whole attitude and outlook upon life will change.

Fear of people and of economic insecurity will leave us.

We will intuitively know how to handle situations which used to baffle us.

We will suddenly realize that God is doing for us what we could not do for ourselves.

Are these extravagant promises? We think not. They are being fulfilled among us—sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly. They will always materialize if we work for them.

Alcoholics Anonymous, page 83-84

43rd NYS AA Convention - An AA Member Shares His Experience

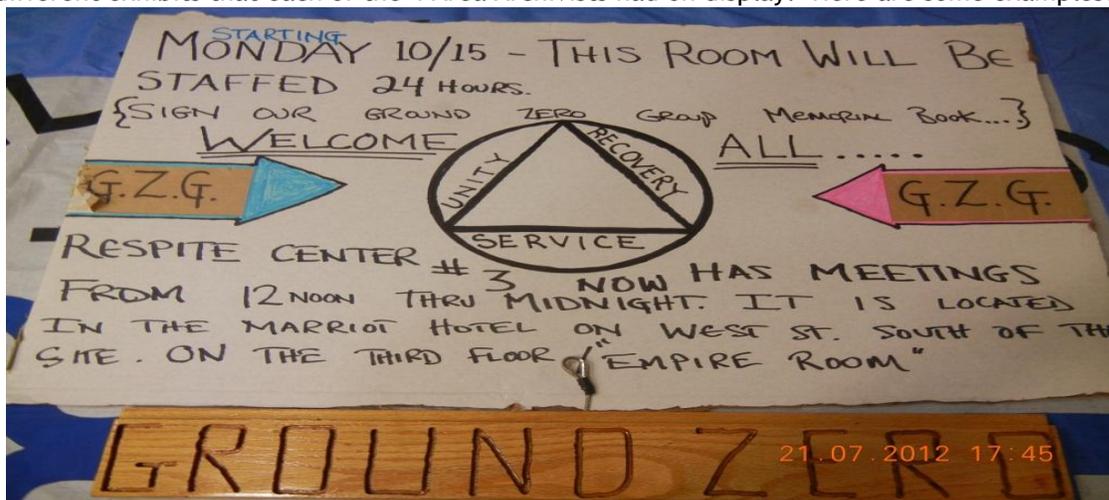
This year our HMB Area 48 hosted two major AA conventions, NERAASA 2012 at the Crowne Plaza in Albany, and the 43rd NYS AA Convention at the Marriott Albany on July 20-22, 2012. It was a rare opportunity to have both events in the Capital District within months of each other, and I was fortunate to be able to take advantage of that. The theme for the convention was "Anonymity: Our Spiritual Responsibility in the Digital Age."

Alkathon Meetings were held on Friday and Saturday Evenings, with live entertainment on Friday night, and there was DJ Jay with music to dance to on Saturday night. There were 3 AA Speaker Meetings; Friday was Tracey O. from the General Service Office (GSO) in New York City; Gary L., current Northeast Regional Trustee, was the Keynote Speaker on Saturday night; and Denise B.-Panel 53, Area 49 Delegate from Brooklyn, NY was the Speaker on Sunday morning. During Saturday, four panels and four workshops were scheduled. The first panel was "Young People in AA". The moderator was Tom T., Delegate Area 47, and the 3 speakers were Tori R., Area 48; Nicole L., Area 49; and Zach F. Area 50. Meanwhile, a workshop on "Service Sponsorship" was held at the same time. The moderator was Joe S., Area Chair, and Area 47. The speakers were Sally A., Area 48; Gail W. Area 49; and Maureen M., Area 50. Next was a panel on "Carrying the AA message- Still Our Primary Purpose". Susan F., Delegate, Area 49, was the moderator, and the 3 speakers were; Mike S., Area 47; Chris S., Area 48; and Raeanne F., Area 50. At the same time, there was a workshop on "Safety in AA- Our Common Welfare in the Digital Age". The moderator was Frank M. Area Chair, Area 50. The 3 speakers were Linda T., Area 47; Gail G., Area 48; and James D., Area 49.

After lunch, the Panel was about "Service: Our Third Legacy". With Mike D., Delegate, Area 50 as the moderator, and the 3 speakers were: Patty S., Area 47; Nicole M., Area 48; and Rob M. Area 49. Meanwhile, a workshop on "Preserving Our Literature in a Digital Age" was going on with Pat L., Area Chair, Area 48 as the moderator, and Bill S., Area 47; Kathy K., Area 49; and Mike M., Area 50 were the speakers. The final panel was "Practicing our Traditions in a Digital Age". Keith D., Delegate Area 48 served as the moderator, with Lore M., Area 47; Kate G., Area 49; and Tom C., Area 50 as speakers. The final workshop was titled "Archives- Where the Past meets the Present". The moderator was Jim W., Area Chair, Area 49. The 3 speakers were: Rosemary P., Area 47; Christyne C., Area 48; and Wally E., Area 50.

All panels, workshops, and Speaker Meetings were recorded by Primary Purpose Recording, with CD's available to purchase.

So, now that I've written about the events as they took place at the convention, please allow me to describe what really had my interest and attention. There was an AA Archives Room, with Archive Displays from all four Areas of New York State. I'm the Records/Archivist Chairperson for our District 14, and volunteered to watch over HMB Area 48's exhibit. I spent most of the time looking over all the different exhibits that each of the 4 Area Archivists had on display. Here are some examples:



Area 49 (NYC) had this sign from when “The Ground Zero Group” had AA meetings in Room 222 at the Red Cross Headquarters during the cleanup/rebuilding of the Twin Towers site. They had an excellent slide show that described all that happened, and how AA was involved.



Here’s two exhibits from our HMB Area 48 Archives. On the left, is a rotary phone that says “Call First” on the dial, with a 1952 Albany, NY phone book. Notice the carved wooden bottle of booze with someone on the phone. On the right, are memorabilia from Marty Mann, an early member (1939) of AA who wrote “Women Suffer Too” in The Big Book. She also wrote: “Marty Mann: Answers your questions on Drinking and Alcoholism.”



There’s a story about this photograph that can be titled “Bill & Lois’s excellent camping adventure in Schenectady”. I will quote from what Jim K. (a former HMB Archivist) wrote about this. *“On a moonlight night, in April 1925, after a visit to East Dorset, VT, Bill & Lois, brimming with youthful vigor, courage, and love, camped, for the night, at the edge of a pleasant farm on the outskirts of Schenectady. They had come up to “investigate” the General Electric Company. They had given up their jobs, apartment and had stored furniture, and with a small loan from Lois’ mother, had purchased a Harley-Davidson. Lois had hoped to curb his drinking by getting away from the cities and bars. The next day, after Bill visited GE, they would gain employment at \$75 a month, working for a couple named Goldfoot, at a small farm near Scotia. It would be one, of many, of Bill’s visits to HMB. They would spend an idyllic month. It was ten years before meeting Dr. Bob, but Bill was his own man, now. The moon shown brightly upon them.”*

The story can be further explored in “Pass It On” and in “Bill W.” by Robert Thomsen. I’m definitely going to get those books to learn more about this.

I really enjoy being involved with Archives in AA. It’s a way of combining a hobby with Service Work, a win-win situation. Let me take this opportunity to thank Pat L., Christyne C., Jim W., Rosemary P., Charlie C., Tom B., and Bill S. for all their help, support, and dedication in preserving our history, past, present, and into the future of Alcoholics Anonymous. - In Service, Wyatt W.

Treasurer's Report for August 2012

Beginning Balance 6/1/12	\$1,511.06
Checks written	393.88*
Deposits	1,136.48**
Ending Balance	2,253.66

*Checks written for Unity Day

**\$50fbb, \$50Scotia, \$50Duansburg, \$541.55
Unity Day; \$143.39; \$45Scotia; \$33Sum;
\$68.54Area; \$50p.s.; \$40nb; \$25www; \$40

Contributions to A.A. as a Whole

District 14

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Schenectady, NY 12301

HMB Area Association

RTE. 30, #114

118 Polar Plaza

Amsterdam, NY 12010

General Service Office

PO Box 459

Grand Central Station

New York, NY 10163

Capital District Central Office

575 Broadway, Room 128-130

Menands, NY 12204

Phone: 518-463-0906

*Please remember to use your group # when
sending contributions.*

Service Activities

- Wyatt W. has taken on the service position of Area 48 Alternate Archivist. Way to go Wyatt!
- District 14 is looking for a Public Information and Alternate DCM. If interested, contact Tammy D. at District14DCM@yahoo.com. Thank you to John C. for all of his service work!
- District 14 is looking to bring two men speakers each month to speak at the A.A. Speakers meeting at the SPARC patient rehab on Western Avenue the 3rd Thursday of every month from 8:00-9:00 pm. If interested, contact Kevin at 365-1034.

District 14 Trusted Servants

D.C.M. Tammy D.
Alternate DCM/Records..... John C.
TreasurerGeorge D.
Cooperation with the
Professional Community
Corrections-Mens.....Wilbur S.
Functions Fred C.
Newsletter Editor Michelle C.
Public Information John C.
Secretary..... Karen K.
TreatmentMike H.
Grapevine Representative.....Lois M.
Records & Archivists.....Wyatt W.
Alternate Functions.....Mike J.
Literature.....Mike M.
Bridging the Gap.....Jack B. & Joe A.
Corrections-Womens.....Alana L.
Special Needs/Accessibility.....Emanuel

HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

The September District meeting will be held on Monday, September 17 from 7:35-9:00 p.m. at the Scotia United Methodist Church... The meeting is open to all A.A. Members!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Niskayuna Beginners Group

36 years, 9/7/76

Monday @ 8:00 pm, Grace Lutheran Church

Niskayuna Fresh Start Group

27 years, 9/6/85

Friday @ 7:00 pm, Nisky Reformed Church

Wonderful Wednesday Women's Group

24 years, 9/21/88

Wednesday @ 7:00 pm, Scotia United Methodist Church



Creating the Fellowship You Crave District 14 Workshop - September 22, 2012

In loving memory of our dear friend and trusted servant, Brian J

A workshop exploring the art of creating local support through a home group, holding ourselves and others accountable, and balancing life in and outside of AA. Doors open at 9:00 - workshop is from 10:00-2:00 at Emmanuel-Friedan's Baptist Church, 218 Nott Terrace, Schenectady, NY 12307; *Corner of Nott Terrace and Franklin Street, next to MVP*. Water, coffee, tea; light breakfast, lunch and dessert; pens and paper provided. If interested in helping, contact Tammy D. at district14functions@yahoo.com or (518) 577-3883.

Carrying the Message District 5 PI Speaker Workshop - September 22, 2012

Hosted by Dist 5's Public Information Committee on Saturday, September 22, 2012 from 11-1 pm; Prince of Peace Church in Clifton Park. The purpose of this workshop is to give members a chance to learn what Speaking At Non-AA Meetings is all about. We will hear one experienced member give a talk and others will share their experiences with these public meetings/functions. Then the attendees can decide if being on the PI speaker list is for them! Questions/suggestions can be directed to Heidi T. at d5pichair@gmail.com/399-4004.

HMB Area 48 Assembly - October 13, 2012

Hosted by Districts 4, 8, and 14 on Saturday, October 13, 2012; 9:00 AM-3:00 PM. Scotia United Methodist Church, 201 North Ten Broeck Street, Scotia, NY 12302



Rest in Peace Trusted Servants Jolie G. & Brian J.