

HMB AREA 48 NEWSLETTER



AA Principles of the Month

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 A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.

Concept 3 - 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".

Tradition Three Checklist

1. In my mind, do I prejudge some new AA members as losers?
2. Is there some kind of alcoholic whom I privately do not want in my AA group?
3. Do I set myself up as a judge of whether a newcomer is sincere or phony?
4. Do I let language, religion (or lack of it), race, education, age, or other such things interfere with my carrying the message?
5. Am I over impressed by a celebrity? By a doctor, a clergyman, an ex-convict? Or can I just treat this new member simply and naturally as one more sick human, like the rest of us?
6. When someone turns up at AA needing information or help (even if he can't ask for it aloud), does it really matter to me what he does for a living? Where he lives? What his domestic arrangements are? Whether he has been to AA before? What his other problems are?

Concept Three Checklist

- Do we understand what is meant by the "Right of Decision"? Do we grant it at all levels of service or do we "instruct"?
- Do we trust our trusted servants — G.S.R., D.C.M., area delegate, the Conference itself?

DISTRICT AND GROUP TREASURERS—below are the addresses in which to send contributions....

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

HMB EVENT SCHEDULE- 2007

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>HOST CLUSTER</u>	<u>DATE</u>
March	NERD	Mystic, CT	3/9/07 - 3/11/07
March	HMB Area Day of Sharing (Delegate's Day)	Hudson Valley Cluster (3,7,11,15,16,17)	Saturday, 3/31/07
April	HMB Area Fellowship Day	Adirondack Cluster (5,10,13)	Sunday, 4/29/07
May	HMB Area Assembly	Central (4,8,14)	Sunday, 5/20/07
June	Northeastern Regional Forum	Lancaster, PA	6/1/07 - 6/3/07
July	NYS Convention	Glens Falls, NY (Hosted by HMB)	7/20/07 - 7/22/07
August	NYS Information Workshop	Russell Sage College Albany, NY	8/3/07 - 8/5/07
September	HMB Area Election Assembly	Eastern (1,2,18)	Sunday, 9/9/07
October	HMB Area Assembly	Central (4,8,14)	Sunday, 10/14/07
November	HMB Area Fellowship Day	Western (9,12)	Sunday, 11/11/07

- *Flyers for Area Events should be submitted 3 months in advance, if possible.*
- *Please consider those who have special needs in selecting your meeting site.*
- *Always include on the flyer a contact phone number & street address of the meeting site.*
- *Submit Biographies for Elected Positions to the Newsletter Editor by June 1st to be published in the July, August & September Newsletters.*

KEY DATES FOR 2007 NEWSLETTERS:

Submissions for the newsletter are due no later than 5pm on the dates specified below.

In order for items to appear in the newsletter for three months, the following items need to be available by the dates specified:

April Edition - 3/2/2007

6/1/07 – September Election Assembly flyer

May Edition - 4/6/2007

6/1/07 – Resumes for Candidates for Area Chair, Alternate Area Chair, Secretary and Treasurer

June Edition - 5/4/2007

7/6/07 – October HMB Assembly flyer

July Edition - 6/1/2007

7/6/07 – Proposals for the October HMB Assembly (including the 2008 Proposed budget) needs to be available

August Edition - 7/6/2007

8/3/07 – November Fellowship Day flyer

September Edition - 8/3/2007

October Edition - 9/7/2007

10/5/07 – January Inventory/Fellowship Day Flyer

November Edition - 10/5/2007

12/7/07 – March Delegates Day Flyer

December Edition - 11/2/2007

January Edition - 12/7/2007

Lutheran Redeemer Church
90 Route 32 South
New Paltz, NY 12561

Contact Person: Deb D - 845-242-3479

**HMB AREA
DELEGATE'S DAY
Saturday, 3/31/07**

Agenda:

9:00am - 10:00am Registration
10:00am - 12:15pm Round Table Discussions
on Conference Agenda Items
12:15pm - 1:00pm Lunch (provided)
1:00pm - 3:00pm Round Table Feedback

Hosted by Area 48, District 15

Open to all AA Members

Directions:

Take NY State Thruway (I-87) to New Paltz, Exit 18. At the end of the exit, turn LEFT onto Route 299 West (Main Street). Proceed 9/10 mile. At traffic light, turn left onto Route 32 South. The Redeemer Lutheran Church will be approximately 6/10 of a mile on the left hand side.

Note: Church is across from SUNY New Paltz.



District Calendar of Events

Events are listed here as a service to readers of the newsletter and the groups in the Area. For more complete information, please call or e-mail the contact listed for the event.

Friday, March 9th - District 18 – Spring Fling Sober Dance – 8pm – Midnight – Greenbush Reformed Church Christian Education Building, Hays Road, East Greenbush, NY - AA Meeting at 8pm - Contact: Tad J, (518) 732-7385

Saturday, March 10th - District 11 – 5th Annual Third Legacy Breakfast – 9am - 1pm – St. James Church, 4526 Rte 9, Hyde Park, NY - Contacts: Jose - (845) 454-2686, Gary L - (845) 797-6667

HMB AREA 48 FELLOWSHIP DAY

Sunday, April 29, 2007

(Sponsored by Adirondack Cluster - District's 5, 10, & 13)

West Crescent Fire Hall

1440 Crescent Road (Exit 8 on I-87)

Clifton Park, NY 12065

9:00 am – 10:00 am Registration

10:00 am – 11:45 am Committee Meetings
(Archives, Bridging The Gap, Corrections, Cooperation with
the Professional Community, Grapevine, Public Information,
Treatment, Special Needs, Website)

12:00 pm – 1:00pm Lunch provided

1:15 pm – 2:45pm Business Meeting
(Delegate's Report, Area Committee Chair Reports,
DCM Reports)

Directions

Traveling North on I-87 to Exit 8: Take exit 8 and at the end of the ramp take a right. Travel 1 mile and the Fire Hall will be on your right.

Traveling South on I-87 to Exit 8: Take exit 8 and at the end of the ramp take a left. Travel 1 mile and the Fire Hall will be on your right.

For more information, contact: Jim Mc (518) 265-7355

Proposals for the May 20, 2007 HMB Area Assembly

Proposal #1

MOTION TO SIMPLIFY THE PROCEDURE FOR PRODUCING THE AREA MEETING BOOK:

WHEREAS, The HMB Area Meeting Book format changes each year due to the increase in meetings, and from efforts to simplify the book, and has become the subject of debate at the Area Assembly, and

Whereas, The format has become an issue to be determined by the May 2007 Area Assembly, through motion to maintain the format to list by District, rather than by County, which has been tabled,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the approval of the format will be determined by a consensus of the District Committee Members and District Record Keepers, and will not require approval of the Area Assembly, from this time on. The Area Alternate Secretary will coordinate the Meeting Book Committee efforts to get the final approval by each District before September of each year, where a draft of the final format will be shown as a sample at the Area Committee meeting.

This motion is being made to make sure that the meeting book format can be submitted for printing, with out having to debate the format in our Area Assembly. The District Committee Members and Record Keepers of each District can display samples of the meeting book for three months at each District meeting, prior to the September Area Meeting, to get feedback, and suggestions, to forward to the Alternate Secretary to put together as a Committee effort.

Respectfully submitted by: Kevin B - Alternate Secretary - Area Registrar

Proposal #2

MOTION TO ALLOW FOR VENDOR COMPETITION IN PRINTING THE AREA MEETING BOOK:

WHEREAS, The HMB Area Meeting Book is printed each year.

Whereas, The meeting book has been printed by the same printer for a number of years, with increased price, and diminished features, such as the removal of the card stock cover, and smaller printing space allowed due to an increased number of meetings,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that a draft of the Area meeting book be sent to a minimum of three printers, before the October Assembly, and price quotes from each be presented to the October Assembly for selecting a Printing company. The Area Alternate Treasurer, and Area Alternate Secretary will be responsible for finding the printers to submit bids each year.

This motion is being submitted as the result of suggestions from Past Delegates, and Area Committee Members, to be fiscally responsible with A.A. monies, by introducing competition through bidding on the job.

Respectfully submitted by: Kevin B - Alternate Secretary - Area Registrar

Proposal #3

WHEREAS, Although it is impossible to get a meeting list perfect by the time it is distributed, publishing only once a year means that it is very out of date by the time the next one is published.

Whereas, Most intergroups and central offices publish their meeting books three or four times per year,

BE IT RESOLVED that The Hudson-Mohawk-Berkshire Meeting Book should be published twice per year.

Proposal originated with the District 11 Business Meeting, January 2007. To be presented by Tom E

Proposal #4

Proposal Background: Develop an Area 48 Informational Website to standardize information flow and enhance communication between the HMB Area 48 Officers, Committee's and fellowship.

The following immediate advantages can be expected from an Area website.

- Immediate access to information, e.g. Newsletters, announcements, records etc.
- Greater exposure to reach out to general Public with standardized information
- Develop synergy between other Area sites
- Available 24 hours a day 7 days a week
- Saves money on distribution of literature, documents, Newsletters and announcements

The following long term (3-6 months) advantages can be expected from a website

- E-mail accounts for all Area officers and Chairpersons
- Direct communication with Area Officers and Chairpersons (via clearing agent)
- Multiple developers to ensure persistence of critical skills
- Direct communications with GSO, e.g. record keeping

The risks associated with developing and maintaining a website often precludes some from making an informed decision. Here are the significant risks associated with a site and how the committee proposes to mitigate the risks.

Risk	Mitigation Plan	Completion
Dependent on critical skill	One person will provide web development training to 2 people to start.	2-4 months
Start Up Cost	Buy one program (license) registered to Area 48 for each developer (2) @ \$180.00 ea (2 ea)	< 15 days \$360.00
	Register domain \$7.95 for 2 years	\$ 7.95
	One year host server \$7.95 mo = \$95.40 yr	\$ 95.40
	Developer helpline \$3.95 mo = \$47.40	\$ 47.40
	Use existing hardware	\$510.75 total
Maintenance Cost	One year host server \$7.95 mo = \$95.40 yr	\$ 95.40
	Developer helpline \$3.95 mo = \$47.40	\$ 47.40
	License & software can rotate	\$142.80 per yr
Website Management	One new Area Chair to oversee standardization of both websites and consistency of data	<90 days
Implementation guidelines	Proposed Guidelines attached	Done

The attached Website Guidelines offer further detail regarding the overall implementation and management of the proposed Area 48 Website. It has been our pleasure to serve as committee members for this proposal.

Respectfully Submitted, The Website Ad Hoc Committee - Steve D., Betty C., Debbie D., Jim M., Bill G.

HMB Area Website Guidelines

Purpose

The Hudson-Mohawk-Berkshire (HMB) Area 48 AA Web Site is built as another mechanism to inform people about Alcoholics Anonymous in the HMB Area. The web site provides:

- Information about Alcoholics Anonymous in HMB Area 48, such as general structure and an events calendar.
- Service information in the form of a service calendar and web pages for each of the service committees.
- General information about Alcoholics Anonymous and links to the GSO web page.
- Time and location of AA meetings through a link to www.ny-aa.org

General Content Guidelines

- In keeping with anonymity, no names will be published on the website, email address will be general contact addresses, like Webmaster@HMBAA.org
- No paid advertisements will be posted to the website.
- The primary external link on the website will be to the General Service Office (GSO) website at <http://www.aa.org> and to the AA Grapevine website at <http://aagrapevine.org>. We also link to Yahoo maps for directions to meetings, and some events may have registration or information websites that will link from the calendar. It is suggested that when leaving the HMB Area Website that a disclaimer page appear, similar to the one GSO uses indicating "You are leaving the HMB Area Website"

Web Site Guidelines

1. The internet web site shall be administered by a Web Site Committee, which shall have direct oversight of the Web Site. The committee shall be a Standing Committee of HMB Area 48. (minimum of 3 people appointed by the Area Chair)
2. The purpose of the committee shall be to establish and maintain the Web Site according to guidelines adopted by the Area Assembly.
3. The Webmaster shall have the responsibility of maintaining and updating the web site and any other duties as determined by the Web Site Committee. The Web Site Committee will also define the qualifications required for the Webmaster position.
4. A disclaimer statement should be included on the website and should read "This website is neither endorsed nor approved by Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc., or any given Internet provider. No copyrighted material shall be purposefully posted herein without the express permission of those individuals or Institutions possessing ownership of said copyrights. Alcoholics Anonymous, AA, and The Big Book are registered trademarks of Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. The Grapevine, and the AA Grapevine are registered trademarks of The AA Grapevine, Inc."
5. The internet web site, its name and content, and all related computer hardware and software, with the exception of the web hosting service and the internet service provider, shall be owned and supported by Hudson Mohawk Berkshire Area 48 of Alcoholics Anonymous.
6. The internet web site shall conform to The 12 Traditions and The 12 Concepts of Alcoholics Anonymous and to the Structure and Guidelines of the HMB Area 48.
7. In keeping with AA Traditions, the internet web site shall cooperate with AA entities by providing references only, including a non-affiliation disclaimer.
8. There shall be no reference or link to any non-AA material except specific internet software necessary to view the internet web site.
9. Any use of copyrighted material from conference-approved literature will be attributed to AA World Services, Inc. or The Grapevine, Inc. as appropriate.
10. In keeping with AA traditions, there shall be no mention or reference to individuals including email addresses and telephone numbers except for email links to various Area 48 officers and coordinators by service position. (for example: Area48Secretary@gmail.com)
11. The website will initially be provided in English.
12. The Home Page of the Website will be kept user-friendly by having a few clear portals (such as "Who We Are," "How to Find Us" "Service Information" -- etc.) to facilitate navigation. Subsequent content pages will be more specific in scope and information provided.

Proposal #5

The HMB Area adopts a new concise service manual, covering the unique methods used by HMB Area and its officers. The new manual would be smaller in size and would be intended to be used as a supplement to the GSO service manual.

1. New Manual would be easier to update.
2. The GSO manual is updated on a regular basis, and covers the roles of the groups and districts in detail.
3. The budget would no be printed in the service manual, but would be available after its approval. This service item changes every year and would be outdated quickly.
4. Other meeting information is updated yearly in the meeting schedule book, district meeting places, hotline numbers, etc

Respectfully Submitted, Charlie C - Past Delegate

Proposal #6

The HMB Area purchase and keep in stock the GSO service manual to be available to members using the HMB Service Manual.

Respectfully Submitted, Charlie C - Past Delegate

***** Volunteers Needed !!! *****

Would you or someone you know like to volunteer to help with the following events??

If so, please contact the specified committee chairs.....

New York State Convention 7/20/07 - 7/22/07

Hospitality Chair: Kae S (518) 696 - 4279

Greeters Committee Chair: William T (518) 462 - 0266

Registration Co-Chairs: Keith D & Deb D (845) 255 - 0131

New York State Informational Workshop 8/3/07 - 8/5/07

Kevin B: (845) 380 - 5539 or area48registrar@gmail.com

Thank you in advance to all trusted servants that are going to help make these events a huge success.

"THE SUMMER PLACE TO BE"

39th NYS AA Convention

**MEETINGS & PANELS
WORKSHOPS
ENTERTAINMENT
FELLOWSHIP FOR
AA & AL-ANON**

Hosted by
HMB Area 48

This Year's Theme

***"Our 12 step
responsibility -
are we going to any
length"***

**JULY 20-22, 2007
QUEENSBURY HOTEL**

88 Ridge Street
Glens Falls NY
518-792-1121

➤ **ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE THROUGH THE HOTEL**

\$129.00 + tax per room per night
Maximum 4-person occupancy

➤ **Hotel Room Reservation Cutoff June 1st, 2007**

Call 518-792-1121 for reservations
Mention NYS AA Convention

1st - 115 rooms will be @ The Queensbury
Additional Rooms @ The Ramada Inn

tear here-----tear
here

**** SPECIAL NEEDS: ___Meals ___Handicapped ___Other ****

Convention Reservation for:
(one reservation form per individual)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

____ Years in Program
 ___ AA ___ Al-Anon

____ \$ 20.00 Registration Fee

____ \$ Meal Choice total

____ Total enclosed

Individual Meal Option (all buffets except Saturday Banquet)

(Check box for choice)

- Friday Dinner **\$25.00**
- Saturday Breakfast **\$16.00**
- Saturday Lunch **\$22.00**
- Sunday Breakfast **\$16.00**

Package Meal Option \$70.50
❖ *Does not include Saturday Banquet*

Includes:
Friday Dinner
Saturday & Sunday Breakfast
Saturday Lunch

❖ **BANQUET LIMITED TO FIRST 300 RESERVATIONS**

- Saturday Banquet \$25.00**
- Roast Beef
- Chicken
- Fish
- Vegetarian

ALL PRICES INCLUDE GRATUITY

DETACH & MAIL FORM WITH CHECK PAYABLE TO:
NYS Convention 2007
PO Box 1095
New Paltz, NY 12561

2007
28th Annual
New York State Informational Workshop

August 3, 4 and 5

Hosted by Hudson-Mohawk-Berkshire Area 48

Please join us as we share our experience in carrying the AA message with each of the four Delegate Areas of Alcoholics Anonymous in New York State: Area 49 (SENY), Area 50 (Western), Area 47 (Central) and Area 48 (HMB)

Sage College Albany Campus
140 New Scotland Avenue
Albany, New York 12208



Workshop Discussion Topics Will Be:

Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC); Public Information (PI); Treatment Facilities (TF); Correction Facilities (CFC) with Bridging The Gap (BTG); The Grapevine/La Vina (GvC) & Literature; Special Needs (SNC); A.A. Archives
This event will also include a special panel from Young People in AA Service, plus a Delegate's Ask-it-basket Discussion.

Saturday Night Keynote Speaker: Rick W. of the GSO Staff

Weekend registration includes lodging with Friday dinner thru Sunday Breakfast \$145.00

All rooms are double occupancy

Day attendees welcome: Registration: \$10.00

two meals and day registration: \$25.00

(Day-Attendees, if you are planning to eat, you must pre-register.)

Registration & money must be received by 7/13/07 for weekenders & day-attendees with meals

For information email questions to: hmbarea48registrar@gmail.com



NYS Informational Workshop Registration Form

One Form Per Person - Registration deadline is July 13, 2007

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Tel: _____

Service Responsibility _____

Special Needs: _____

If you would like to share a room with someone, please indicate their name below:

Please check one:

- Day Registration - \$ 10.00
(No Meals)
- Day Registration - \$ 25.00
(Including Saturday lunch & dinner)
- Weekend Registration- \$145.00
(2 nights , Friday dinner thru Sunday Breakfast)
- Special Diet: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

Make checks payable to: **HMB Area Association**

Mail checks & registration form(s) to:

**NYS Informational Workshop
50 W. Main St., Apt 4D
Milford, NY 13807**

AREA REPORTS

Delegates Report -

So for the beginning of 2007 I am requesting volunteers for the Panels at the State Convention for July 20-22, 2007 to be held in Queensbury, NY. I need two females and one male for this request. I have gotten the one male and one female who have volunteered. I am still looking for one more female for the Panels. DON'T be SHY!

I will be attending NERAASA in February in Baltimore Maryland where the bids for NERAASA 2010 will be known who is bidding. So if anyone in the area wants me to bid on this please let me know.

I will also be attending NERD 2007 in Mystic Connecticut in March where I will be putting in a bid for the NERD 2008 to be held in Saratoga.

I have to attend the District 5's GSR meeting on the 2nd of March and then the next day I will be in Gloversville at Club 24 for a GSR workshop. ALLLLLLLLLLL GSR's from District 4 SHOULD try to attend this workshop. It will be very informative.

I am also receiving articles from GSO on the 57th Conference already for the Finance Committee and have filled out all the paperwork I need to fill out for the Conference. I am truly looking forward to being in New York City the second time at Conference.

The meeting schedules are a bit behind schedule so be looking for them in Late February or Early March.

I will still keep putting in my article that if any district or group would like to have me come to their meeting please contact me. Until then...

Love & Service, Bobby

Area Chair Report -

The HMB Area voted to hold an additional Fellowship Day where the standing committees could meet and the Area could conduct its business. In an effort to increase participation from GSR's and other interested AA members, I would like to ask the HMB Officers, Committee Chairs and the DCM's to encourage attendance and for each member to bring at least one new person. On April 29, The Adirondack Cluster will host the Fellowship Day which will be held in District 5. Please encourage all AA members interested in service or those who would like to see what happens at the Area meetings, to attend this new Fellowship Day.

HMB thanks the clusters for their service in hosting the Area events. The cost of hosting these events seems to be increasing. I would like to suggest the clusters remain prudent as you prepare for the upcoming Area events. Research and compare costs - please discuss with the Finance Committee when expenditures are over 2007's budgeted amount. Many clusters ask groups to contribute to minimize the expense incurred. I would also like to request contributions from each district in HMB. The continued support of the districts is essential in carrying AA's message.

I have a concern about what has taken place after the September Fellowship Day to change the HMB Meeting Schedule to sort by county rather than by district. At the October Assembly, after much discussion, the Area voted to table the discussion until the May Assembly. As trusted servants, we are charged with carrying out the action of the collective conscience of our Area. If you have creative ideas or suggestions to help carry AA's message and to assist in Twelfth Step work and you feel they merit consideration and discussion, please bring the proposals before the body.

After the October Assembly, the DCM's were sent two different versions of the meeting schedules for their comments, one by district, and the other included counties. It is my hope the DCM's will share this information with their GSR's to include the groups' "informed" conscience for more discussion at the next Area Assembly. Discussions are always a good thing and may continue on some issues. The deliberations may be long or slow, but when it comes to spiritual principles, it is well worth it! But for now, the HMB Meeting Schedule will remain sorted by districts only. Let's adhere to the conscience of the HMB Area and trust the spiritual process which has been given to us.

Deferring personal desires for the greater good of the Area contributes to AA's unity. It is also central to our recovery – the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. The unity of AA is the most cherished quality of our Fellowship. My service sponsor teaches me of "renewed surrender" - the ability to step aside from the need to sway people by aggression, recognition, or the pitfall of personal ambition. The spiritual quality of surrender is humility. We cannot take credit for the wonderful gift of sobriety. We must be vigilant in the practice of spiritual principles in all our affairs.

In Unity & Service, Joan R

Secretary Report -

AA's first tradition states that "AA unity must come first". Survival of the group is of primary importance if we, as individuals, are to achieve sobriety and recover from the disease of alcoholism. How does this apply to me and my recovery? I was told that my disease is three fold, physical, mental, & spiritual. I may physically detox from alcohol, but if I do not tend to the mental and spiritual aspects of the disease, chances are I will repeat myself. The same applies to my support of AA. Not only do I need to be active in support of my home group, I need to support my District and my Area. This I must do for AA to survive and ultimately for me to stay sober.

A spiritual aspect of AA is that we are self sufficient, we pay our own way. When I was drinking, the first bill I thought about paying, come payday, was my bar bill. I felt an obligation to some one who had trusted me. Forget about the rent, phone, and utilities, it was protect the source. I try to apply the same principle to my recovery. If I only have a dollar or two in my pocket, and I want to go out with my friends later, is it ok to stiff the basket just to satisfy my own wants. Some times doing the right thing challenges our comfort level.

We have talked about the phenomenon of the "Buck in the Basket". We should all realize by not that the buck we put in 20 years ago does not go as far today as it did then. Maybe we need to stop announcing, prior to passing the basket, "We have to pay for the coffee and cookies". This gives those who do not drink coffee or eat cookies justification for not contributing. The collection also goes for rent, literature, and support of 12 step work. It also should help support our District and Area.

Please remember this, and teach your sponsees, the next time the basket comes around. This is especially true when attending special functions where a hall has to be rented and food purchased. AA should always be inclusive, open to all, and never exclude those who may genuinely not be able to afford much. However, we should be brutally honest with ourselves and ask if putting more in the basket will really hurt us, or just make us uncomfortable. The literature tells us that "The newcomer is the life blood of AA". If we do not support AA on every level, we may very well bleed to death before the next needs alcoholic reaches our door.

Bob L, Area Secretary

Fellowship Inventory Day - January 7, 2007 - Rensselaer, NY

Meeting was called to order at 10 AM by Joan R., Area Chair. Membership then separated to attend either the workshop for newly appointed GSRs and DCMs or a discussion on Traditions 10, 11, & 12.

Meeting was recessed at 12:15 for lunch.

Meeting reconvened at 1 PM for an Area Inventory. The following questions were presented with comments from the floor.

1. The purpose of the Area structure is to provide communication and connection between the General Service Office and the groups. In what ways are we fulfilling the purpose? In what ways can we improve?

- * The Delegate receives information on what the Area GSRs would like to be addressed at the General

Service Convention. Following the convention the Delegate reports back to the Area.

- * Encourage group members to read District/Area newsletters and Box 459.

- * Encourage all GSRs to attend Area meetings so that they can report back to their home groups.

- * Make announcements at local meetings encouraging all AA members to attend Area meetings.

2. In what ways do we share our experiences of the duties/responsibilities to our trusted servants (GSR's, DCM's, Area Committee Chairs and Officers)?? In what ways can we improve?

- * Share experiences, good and bad, regarding our terms in office.

- * All committee chairs should submit reports to the Newsletter.
- * Newsletter should start a question and answer column.
- * Explore the benefits of conducting GSR/DCM workshops, both on the Area and District levels.
- * We should always be grooming someone to replace us.
- * The importance of Service Sponsorship.
- * It is important to write things down, don't assume people will know.

3. Discuss the importance of the principle of rotation. Why is this so important in AA? How can we assure its continued place of importance?

- * Inform others, especially newcomers, of the importance of service.
- * Present your service experience in a positive manner.
- * Let people know that they are important.
- * Train your replacement, become a service sponsor.
- * Doing service ensures the growth of AA.
- * Rotation protects your humility.
- * Rotating out gives some one else an opportunity to do service.
- * Don't be afraid to rotate down to a "lesser" position.
- * Keep in mind, certain positions require certain talents.

4. Are there any other ideas or suggestions?

- * Since many GSRs start their service in January, perhaps the Inventory day should be scheduled later in the year.
- * Create more formal training for new service positions.
- * Have old office holders stay around to help the new ones.
- * Explain more clearly what the Area events are. Describe what is going to take place at the meeting.
- * In the past, DCMs submitted written reports at the Area meetings. It would be helpful if they continued doing this.
- * Members were encouraged to attend functions such as NERAASA and Informational Workshops.
- * Microphones would be helpful at Area meetings, if available. A mini sound system was volunteered for future meetings.

A brief explanation of the function of a local Inter-Group was made.
Public Information Chair reported on committee's progress.

The following announcements were made:

- * Regarding HMB Area newsletter, proposals and resumes must be presented 3 months in advance. Therefore, any proposals for the next General Service convention should be submitted by 2/1/07. Resumes for upcoming election of officer needs to be in by 6/1/07.
- * HMB Area will be hosting the New York State convention this year. It will be held on July 20-22, 2007 at the Queensbury Hotel in Glens Falls, NY, It was suggested to get reservations in as soon as possible.
- * NYS convention Hospitality chair invited any one interested in helping in the Hospitality Suite call Kae at 518-696-4279.

Following the reciting of the Responsibility Pledge, the meeting was convened at 2:50 PM.
Respectfully submitted by Bob L, Area Secretary

Treasurer's Report -

Beginning Checkbook Balance 1/1/07:	\$11,155.47
Contributions:	\$ 3,707.77
Expenses:	\$ 4,669.96
Ending Checkbook Balance 1/31/07:	\$10,193.28
Available Funds (minus \$7,000 prudent reserve):	\$ 3,163.28

Thanks to all the groups that have provided contributions. We are still in need of financial support with some of the upcoming expenses and events that are required to support the service work at the Area level. Please talk with your home groups and districts. In love and Service, Keith D.

Alternate Treasurer's Report -

Meeting Book orders have been strong. Monies collected and Purchase Orders received total to \$11,569.75 as of January 9th. Bobby will receive all the orders and a check for \$10,710.00 to be used to pay for the printing and shipping of the books. This is the amount of money that has cleared through the HMB checking account as of January 9th. If more book orders come in they will be processed and a final check from the HMB checking account will be given to Bobby once all monies have cleared. The checking account will keep a \$20.00 balance and will be kept open to be used again at the end of this year.

Money is going to be tight this year. Please, let me know if you are going to spend more than has been budgeted. Knowing in advance can head off problems. And remember that 'a heart that gives gathers'

Al M., Alternate Treasurer

Bridging The Gap Report -

Hi Everyone,

Just to let you all know that I am doing better and I thank all of you who had concerns about me. I will be attending NERRASA AND looking forward to see others and learning more and more about this program.

I have been able to get the treatment centers in order by county and I am sending them out to the Area District Chairs, DCMs, treatment or correctional chairs in the districts. I am willing to help and come to the districts to explain what BTG is. I have had Area 49s new correctional Area chair, ask me how BTG works so I had the pleasure in sending a packet of information. So to all my district chairs, you now know that I am here to HELP YOU in any way possible, I want the Treatment Centers and any other facility to know about BTG and let the inmates and clients know they have help. By the time I rotate out, a lot of work will be done with other alcoholics.

Yours in Service,

Cindy D. BTG Chair

Newsletter Editor Report -

Dear HMB Fellow Trusted Servants,

In talking with my sponsor, I was recently given a 'homework' assignment. This is a frequent occurrence, and though I sometimes grumble, it is generally what I need at the time. The most recent assignment was to read the Third Warranty of Concept 12. (Page 68 of the AA Service Manual) What I was reminded of are the spiritual principles of our program. Above all the personalities and opinions within our program, including mine, there is a spirituality that allows us to conduct our affairs in a harmonious fashion. It states "... AA will not tolerate absolute human authority in any form" and none of us are in a position of unqualified authority over any other. We have talked many times about our need in our area to educate one another about the various aspects of our program, which in turn enables us to make informed decisions about our program. I am reminded that we need to lead, not control. My responsibility is to not only talk the talk, but walk the walk.

To that end I wish to thank you for your ongoing support and input to the newsletter. Since the start of doing the newsletter, we continue to lower our costs by better managing the printing and postage. Thanks to all who now receive the newsletter via e-mail. Shortly, we should have the newsletter available on the website. Tom E is working the details of that. Thanks Tom. If you would like to be added to the monthly e-mail distribution, please let me know by sending an e-mail to HMBAreaNewsletter@hvc.rr.com.

In love and service,

Deb D.

Public Information Report -

It was great seeing so many of you at the January Inventory Day.

The "PI Inventory" lists I distributed are also going to be mailed out to the District PI chairs. Please use these to keep track of your local PI efforts, and feel free to contact me with any ideas you come up with that can be added to the list. My new email address for PI related issues is area48publicinformation@gmail.com.

In the next few weeks I'll be burning CD's for each district with the audio Public Service Announcement from GSO. I've got the master CD with all the audio PSA's on it. I'll copy selected ones (there are several – in English and Spanish) onto individual CD's for each district, and also dub-in a voice-over that will give the local Answering Service phone number for the corresponding district. (This last feature was made possible by the work Kevin B. and Tom E. have done recently in compiling all these numbers for us. Thanks guys!)

Lori W. and I will be doing some CPC/PI work in the Albany area during the month of March – one will be a presentation for the staff at an outpatient center for older people with alcohol-related problems, and the other will be a display at a Conference on Alcohol, Drug and Violence Prevention at colleges.

I've also been in touch with the administration of the University at Albany about some PI presentations for students and faculty going into the field of social welfare. More to come.

Please let me know if I can help with P.I. work in your district – including coming to your district meeting and helping you drum up interest in or answer questions about the nature and scope of P.I. work.

Lastly, I'd like to thank Steve D. and the other members of the Ad hoc website committee for allowing me to work with them on our Area 48 Website proposal. It's been a pleasure to share with and learn from all of you.

Happy to serve, Jim M - PI Chair – HMB Area

Web Chair Report -**OBSERVATIONS ON THE INTERNET****H-M-B Newsletter on the Web**

You can receive the H-M-B Area Newsletter by e-mail by requesting it from the editor. Fairly soon the Newsletter, including back editions, will be available on the web site. It will be in a new "members" subdirectory under "hmb" which is being created for the purpose. The typical URL will be:

<http://www.ny-aa.org/hmb/members/hmbnews200702.pdf>

That would be the February 2007 edition. The PDF file type is "Portable Document Format" and requires that you have an Adobe Acrobat Reader or equivalent on your machine. The Newsletter has first name and initials but it also has home phone numbers. Many A.A. webmasters consider that to be confidential or "internal use" information because it is easy use reverse phone look-up to get the member's full name. Therefore, although the resource will be on the web site, it will not be linked at first. After further discussion, it may be linked, perhaps with a trivial password. If it is there, it really will be trivial. "The AA founders were: USERID=b**** PASSWORD=d*****" If you can't answer those questions, ask your sponsor.

Interesting A.A. History Resources

When you read "Bill's Story" in the Big Book, you may notice that Ebby T brought Bill W a copy of William James' "Varieties of Religious Experience" from which Bill got some important spiritual ideas. The complete text of Varieties is available a number of places on the internet. Here is one resource that gives the complete text plus some commentaries:

<http://www.des.emory.edu/mfp/james.html#varieties>

This is not "an easy read." It is fun to realize that Bill was still in "detox" when he first read the book. It is amazing that, befogged as he was, he was able to get **anything** out of the book. That he got enough to save his life and my life and, perhaps, your life too is an absolute miracle.

Tom E

HMB AREA NEWSLETTER (3/2007)

59 Violet Avenue

Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED