

HMB AREA 48 NEWSLETTER



AA Principles of the Month

Step 4 - Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.

Tradition 4 – Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.

Concept 4 - At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional "Right of Participation", allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.

Tradition Four Checklist

1. Do I insist that there are only a few *right* ways of doing things in AA?
2. Does my group always consider the welfare of the rest of AA? Of nearby groups? Of Loners in Alaska? Of Internationalists miles from port? Of a group in Rome or El Salvador?
3. Do I put down other members' behavior when it is different from mine, or do I learn from it?
4. Do I always bear in mind that, to those outsiders who know I am in AA, I may to some extent represent our entire beloved Fellowship?
5. Am I willing to help a newcomer go to any lengths--his lengths, not mine--to stay sober?
6. Do I share my knowledge of AA tools with other members who may not have heard of them?

Concept Four Checklist

- Do we understand the spiritual principles underlying the "Right of Participation"?
- What does "in reasonable proportion" mean? Do we understand when it is appropriate for A.A. paid staff to have a vote at the General Service Conference or in our local service structure?
- Do we expect that, because we are A.A. members, we should be allowed to vote at any group, even if we are not active members of that group?

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	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:
May Edition - 4/6/2007	6/1/07 – September Election Assembly flyer
June Edition - 5/4/2007	6/1/07 – Resumes for Candidates for Area Chair, Alternate Area Chair, Secretary and Treasurer
July Edition - 6/1/2007	7/6/07 – October HMB Assembly flyer
August Edition - 7/6/2007	7/6/07 – Proposals for the October HMB Assembly (including the 2008 Proposed budget) needs to be available
September Edition - 8/3/2007	8/3/07 – November Fellowship Day flyer
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	

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.

Saturday, May 26th - District 2 – Annual Sober Picnic – ?? – ?? – Peebles Island, Cohoes, NY -
 Contacts: Steve R (518) 858-5267 or Kim D (518) 270-5142

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.



Desserts will be POT Luck style....

Bring a dessert and share!

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 areas, 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 -

Hi everyone I am Bob F, YOUR HMB Area 46 Panel 56 Delegate. As I wrote in last months newsletter it is going to be very hectic the next couple of months for me. Last weekend I attended NERAASA; a wonderful service workshop on almost every service position available. From all 18 areas of the Northeast over 750 people attended this event in Baltimore, MD. Long hours, short sleep and a pesky snowstorm at the end, but all was worth the drive there.

This weekend I am going to District 5's GSR meeting and speaking at the meeting after that. On Saturday I am going to District 4 and helping put on a GSR workshop in Amsterdam. The following weekend I will be in Mystic Connecticut for the NERDS conference in which all 18 areas of the Northeast attend to prepare ourselves for Conference.

I hope Debbie was able to attach or place the Conference Agenda items at the end of this newsletter that is EMAILED to people. I am also mailing a copy to each DCM and Area Officer for them to be informed of what's going to be on at Conference Agenda to help better prepare yourselves for Delegates Day in March.

Then it is on to the 57th General Service Conference in NY City for 8 days. Part of me is looking forward to this to see old friends I have made from last years Delegates and seeing the new 57's, but also it a sad part because this is my last year going to it. I guess when they say you can't screw AA that bad in 2 years, they were right.

Now as for the meeting schedules they will start to be delivered in MID MARCH. We had some problems with getting the originals to print. Please be patient. They are coming.

As you can see I do travel a lot and if your District or Group would like me to come to your area, please contact me and let me know in advance so I can make it to your district or group.

In love and Service, Bob F

Area Chair Report -

There is a tremendous amount of excitement in the HMB Area!! Many of us have returned from NERAASA with a renewed commitment to serve this wonderful Fellowship in a variety of ways. Most of the participants at NERAASA expressed their gratitude for this program, their commitment to service and passionately shared their hopes for AA's future.

I will attend the Northeast Regional Delegate's (NERD) the weekend of March 9-11. All HMB AA members are encouraged to attend and participate in the following Area events – Delegate's Day hosted by the Hudson Valley Cluster and Fellowship Day hosted by the Adirondack Cluster. During the May 20 Assembly the Area will discuss and vote on six proposals. It is very important to discuss these proposals with members of your home group. The responsibility of the GSR is to bring its group's conscience to the Assembly.

The communication process starts with the group, which lets its group conscience – for or against change, approval or disapproval of a proposed action – be known to its elected general service representative (G.S.R.). The G.S.R. makes sure the group's wishes are heard and fully considered at the district and area levels, and that they are part of the delegate's thinking at the Conference.

(From the A.A. Service Manual, page S17, 2006-2007 Edition – Reprinted with permission of the A.A. World Services, Inc.)

The Northeast Regional Forum (NERF) will be held the weekend of June 1-3 in Lancaster, PA. Representative of the General Service Board and members of the General Service Office and Grapevine staffs will be present at the Forum to share experience, respond to questions and hear suggestions. It will be a weekend of lively participation for all concerned.

Hope to see you there!!

In Unity & Service, Joan R

Secretary Report -

Once again, another NERAASA is under my belt. This was my third time and as with the previous two, I have returned with some interesting things to think about. I came away with many memories but would like to talk about two.

#1. This year I choose to monitor some different workshops. One in particular, the DCM round table, stands out in my mind. It was a good example of our Second Tradition at work. Tradition Two "For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority - a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern." During the discussion, at the round table, one DCM asked what the procedure was for him to fire a GSR who he did not think was doing a good job. Actually he thought that this GSR was neglecting the position. The answer of course is that the DCM does not have the power to fire anyone. GSRs are elected by a home group and they serve at the home group's pleasure. It would be up to the home group to take action if they deemed it necessary. Another DCM believed that he, and the District, had the authority to dictate how meetings in their District should be closing their meetings. It seemed that some meetings had decided to forgo a prayer and instead close with the Responsibility Statement. Again, it was pointed out that the DCM, or District, works for the various home groups. They do not make rules pertaining to any groups. Each group is autonomous and may open or close their meeting in any way they see fit, as long as it does not violate A.A. Traditions or effect A.A. as a whole.

#2. As usual the speaker at the Saturday open meeting, following the banquet, was excellent. She had a powerful message. What impressed me the most was her sharing about her travels, on A.A. business, to foreign countries. Many third world countries, as well as former Soviet bloc countries, are in desperate need of A.A. guidance and A.A. literature. Unfortunately they are so poor that they can not afford to buy the books and literature that they need. She told about how excited these people were when a recovered alcoholic from America shows up and can share with them. A.A. groups, in many countries, still discriminate against women alcoholics attending meetings. They do need special meetings and the men need to be educated. In some Middle East countries A.A. functions run the risk of being illegal. It made me appreciate what I have here at home. It was also an example of why we should support GSO and AAWS. It is selfish to think that the money I put in the basket just goes to pay for coffee and cookies. If I truly believe in the 12th step, then I must be willing to help suffering alcoholics around the world.

Thank you for allowing me to attend these functions so that I may better serve the HMB Area.

Yours in service,

Bob L, Area Secretary

Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) Report -

Spring is in the air! NERAASA was as usual a wonderful experience for me. Mentally... spiritually.... I had the opportunity to meet others, dedicated to working these principles in all our affairs through service and fellowship. The roundtables proved beneficial to my focus of serving as YOUR CPC Chair.

I am looking forward to upcoming HMB events. The strength within our Area is amazing. We were well represented at NERAASA too, which was encouraging. Please remember, if you have any questions or concerns related to CPC work, I am available. Keep in mind also, that before we know it the spirit of rotation will be upon us. If anyone is interested in becoming the CPC Chair in 2008-2010; and you have any questions. I will be more than happy to share my experiences. The strength and hope that I have received from God's grace to serve in this position has been amazing. I welcome inquiries!

In love & sobriety, Lori W

Treasurer's Report -

Beginning Checkbook Balance 2/1/07: \$10,193.28	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.
Contributions: \$ 2,945.70	
Expenses: \$ 2,665.92	
Ending Checkbook Balance 2/28/07: \$10,473.06	
Available Funds (minus \$7,000 prudent reserve): \$ 3,473.06	

I recently attended my 4th NERAASA and as usual came back with a stronger sense of personal commitment for doing Service Work in AA. Area 29 hosted the event this year and did a superb job putting on the convention and making us welcome. This year I marked a box to be a volunteer. The week before I was called by the Program Chair and was asked to moderate the very 1st panel of the event. Immediately I got excited and said "Yes" and said that I felt honored to be asked. And as usual for me I then started a slow process of getting a case of the nerves. This has been the case for me since I started doing Service Work but would not trade if for anything as it is a major part of my recovery. For me to face my fears without a drink is quite remarkable indeed. I thank my higher power everyday for this wonderful gift of sobriety and all I had to do was show up and be willing to take suggestions. Yours in Service, Keith D

Alternate Treasurer's Report -

Meeting Book orders totaled 23,303 books and \$12,852.75 was collected and deposited in the HMB checking account. All monies cleared (YEA no bounced checks!!! GREAT job everyone!). \$12,852.75 was sent to Knob Hill Printing. Knob Hill needs to bill 3 purchase orders received for total of \$149.75. The HMB checking account has a balance as of today of \$20.00. The \$20.00 was the amount deposited by me initially to open the account last fall.

The Finance Committee has a 2008 budget planning meeting scheduled on April 14th. Input from area chairs on their financial needs would certainly help us put the new budget together. Send your input to me at ALF@together.net. And remember, 'That a HEART that GIVES, GATHERS'

Al M, Alternate Area Treasurer

Archives Corner -

Did you know that the General Service Office (G.S.O.) periodically publishes a newsletter focused on archives? It is called "markings – Your Archives Interchange" If you have web access, go to http://aa.org/en_gso_archives.cfm?PageID=24 for the latest newsletter and the archive of back issues.

In the latest issue, there was a partial list of items that the G.S.O. archives had received 2006. They include the following:

February: A 1925 pamphlet written by Charles B. Towns titled "Hospital Treatment for Alcohol and Drug Addiction."

April: Area history booklet: AA in Moore County, 1947–2005.

May: Greater Louisville Groups pamphlet written and edited by members of the Greater Louisville Groups of AA.

June: Copy of the 1942-1952 visitors' register for a group in Santa Fe. The Lighthouse Group, Rego Park, New York booklet.

July: Account book for the St. Paul by the Lake Group, from 1986 to 2003.

August: Historical documents were received from a June 2006 trip to Trinidad that includes a convention booklet, "Alcoholics Anonymous [Trinidad and Tobago] 50 Years and Growing: 1956 - 2006: Golden Jubilee Convention", "Pumpkinville" booklets (Jubilee Edition: 1956-2006; 2005; 2003; 1996; 1992; 1991; 1989), a National Directory, a 2006 membership survey, and the by-laws of the General Service Board of Trinidad and Tobago.

November: Film recording of the recollections of Dr. Earl M.

Additionally, in October, 2006, the International Conference of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous (ICYPAA) formally donated its archives materials to the General Service Office Archives, to better preserve and offer access to these historic documents. We are creating an exhibit of some of the treasures in this collection, which will be on display at G.S.O. for several months beginning in December 2006. We will continue to work with ICYPAA in the coming years to ensure that important ICYPAA archives being created today will survive for the future. The GSO gratefully acknowledged the work of the ICYPAA Council in helping to coordinate this contribution.

Bridging The Gap Report -

Hi Everyone,

NERASSA was great. I got to tell many people about BTG and was able to give out packets about how it is used in all facilities. More and more people in the program want to use it and I am willing to go to places with district chairs for a presentation. I had a few district chairs and DCMs ask about treatment centers about going into them for BTG presentations. It is being done and I would like the chairs to tell me how it went. As for the correctional facilities, it is going to take a little longer but it will get done. To all BTG DISTRICT CHAIRS, I am urging you all to be at Delegates Day on March 31.

Yours in Service,

Cindy D

Grapevine Corner -**The Grapevine, the FBI, and Box 1980**

Have you ever noticed that the words "Box 1980" appear on every cover of the magazine, as well as in the title of its letter section and on most Grapevine mail? Box 1980 is, in fact, the Grapevine's official name – the name by which it is registered with the U.S. Postal Service. There's a story behind this.

Prior to 1974, the Grapevine was mailed to subscribers in unmarked envelopes, which afforded anonymity to the recipients and allowed the Grapevine to take advantage of periodical postal rates. However, in 1974 postal regulations were changed and it became necessary for the full name of the publication to appear both on the cover of the magazine itself and on the outside of the mailing envelope – a move with severe implications for the principle and practice of anonymity.

When the Grapevine began, it was called simply "the Grapevine". But one day in 1946, a call came in to the Grapevine office from the FBI. It turned out a group of former FBI agents put out a newsletter call "The Grapevine," and they said they'd take legal action if the publication didn't change its name. The AAs sought to work out a friendly compromise, so our "Grapevine" officially became "The AA Grapevine."

This event back in 1946 affected the Grapevine nearly thirty years later. The magazine was now forced by new postal regulations either to pay higher rates, or in order to keep periodical rates, to print the full name of the magazine on the outside of the mailing envelope – thereby threatening the anonymity of its subscribers. But a creative solution was found: change the official name of the publication to something other than "the AA Grapevine." Since PO Box 1980 had long been part of the Grapevine's mailing address and was familiar to subscribers, the name "Box 1980" was duly registers with the Post Office and now appears on the cover of the magazine and all official mail. (By the way, this box number was assigned by the Post Office and has nothing to do with the year 1980.)

The words "Box 1980", then, represent a cherished principle at the very heart of our Fellowship – the Tradition of anonymity.

(From the 'A Guide to the AA Grapevine' p55-56. Reprinted with permission of The A.A. Grapevine, Inc)

Treatment Report -

Hello everyone.

I am pleased to serve as your area treatment chair. Welcome to all district treatment chairs, just to let you know you are all a part of a great whole. We need to work as a team. We also need to work together with PI, CPC, BtG, and Corrections to help spread the message of hope to the next sick and suffering alcoholic. I need to know if you all have a treatment kit and workbook and what you are doing in your districts to help spread the word. Please contact me as soon as possible. I would like to see as many of you as possible at delegates day march 31st. and I would like to invite you all to meet with me to share ideas in April at the fellowship day April 29th Clifton Park. I will contact the committee to let them know I want to meet with all of you. I will be contacting all of the district treatment chairs by phone within the coming month. Good luck.

Yours in service,

Brenda O

Newsletter Editor Report -

February 22-25, I was privileged to attend NERAASA. What a great opportunity to meet new fellows. What always touches my heart is the passion of those who attend this conference for our program of Alcoholics Anonymous. In attendance, there are people in service from the coffee maker, to the workers at our General Service Office and every service position in between.

I had the opportunity to attend most of the panels which focused on topics that will be discussed at the General Service Conference. I also attended the CPC and Grapevine Roundtables. I was able to obtain a bunch of new ideas for the newsletter, as well as new ideas and information to share with my sponsees, our District and our Area.

In love and service, Deb D

Public Information Report -

Hello Area 48! What an incredible experience we had at NERAASA this year. I had the opportunity to share the various ways we approach PI work in the HMB Area, and gather information about the 'best practices' in other northeastern areas as well. In particular, I was lucky to meet some folks with experience regarding content for an Area Website for PI committees. It's so nice to not have to re-invent the wheel -- there are already so many great ideas out there!

March is a busy month. Lori W. (CPC chair) and I have several joint commitments with a collegiate conference in Albany, and a treatment facility as well. I'm also traveling to some districts this month to help a few DCM's drum up interest in PI work. That's another great thing about events like NERAASA -- it really lights an enthusiastic fire to do service!

Delegate's Day is also coming quickly -- March 31st! -- so I've sent out copies of the background information regarding the PI items on the agenda to all district PI chairs (or DCM's for districts that still have that service slot unfilled). Please call if there are any questions about this material, or if I can help you get a discussion going in your district about these things. The more of us who talk about these issues, the more informed our Area conscience will be. It's our responsibility to give Bobby F. the clearest sense we can of how we feel about AA's future directions, so he can bring that sense to NYC in April.

While all of the above is exciting, I can't help wondering if we're missing something... Wait! I know what it is! YOUR IDEAS about how we can better carry the message through PI work to the still suffering alcoholic. What are you waiting for? Get in touch with your district committee and share those thoughts! Give me a call and tell me how we can do MORE!

Your willing servant, Jim M

Web Chair Report -**State Events on the Web**

Last month the most recent issues of the HMB Area Newsletter were added to the area web site at

<http://www.ny-aa.org/hmb/members/>. A committee is making sure that anonymity and other standards are met in what gets published. This current April issue should be there about the same time some of you get it by e-mail.

Starting soon, pages for New York State events such as the NYS State Convention and the New York Informational Workshop will be linked from our home page as well. That had been done in the past for the HMB Area Conventions. This information is accessible at <http://www.ny-aa.org/>.

Renew Your Domain Name

This is a caution to any areas, intergroups, central offices or districts that have meaningful internet domain names. The web site for one young people's A.A. group recently was replaced by a page with business links. It turns out that, in rotating leadership, they forgot to renew the registration for their domain name. There is an annual fee of \$10 to \$30 but you can pay for several years in advance. Theirs expired and a "name speculator" immediately grabbed the expired domain name and wanted \$1000 to sell it back. I haven't heard what they plan to do other than to not drink one day at a time and continue meeting.

Tom E

2007 General Service Conference Committees

Agenda ItemsI. Agenda

- A. Review suggestions for the theme of the 2008 General Service Conference.
- B. Discuss presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2008 General Service Conference.
- C. Discuss workshop topic ideas for the 2008 General Service Conference.
- D. Review the General Service Conference Evaluation Form.

II. Cooperation With the Professional Community

- A. Review "Progress Report on Video Segments Directed to Professionals" from the trustees' Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities.
- B. Review contents of Kit and Workbook.
- C. Discuss ways of stimulating interest in C.P.C. service.

III. Corrections

- A. Consider the draft Informational Media Presentation Introducing A.A. to Training Academies and In-service Training for Corrections Personnel.
- B. Review contents of Kit and Workbook.
- C. Discuss ways of stimulating interest in Corrections Twelfth Step work.

IV. Finance

- A. Discuss a request to increase the maximum annual contribution (or a one time bequest) that the General Service Board can receive from an A.A. member from \$2,000 to \$3,000.
- B. Consider two suggestions to add text regarding reimbursement for G.S.R. (general service representative) travel expenses from group funds to the pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix."
- C. Discuss a request to "Develop a communication plan for the purpose of increasing the level of group participation and self-support within the Conference structure."
- D. Discuss a request "to eliminate volume discounts on literature orders."
- E. Discuss a request "to incorporate shipping costs into literature pricing."

V. A.A. Grapevine

- A. Consider suggestions for new A.A. Grapevine, Inc. items for production in the year 2008 or later.
- B. Consider requests to reinstate a section on the subject of alcoholism in the A.A. Grapevine.
- C. Review contents of Workbook.

VI. Literature

- A. Review trustees' Literature Committee progress report on the "A.A. for the Native North American" pamphlet.
- B. Consider a suggestion to add the following text from *The A.A. Service Manual*, "Financial Support: Current experience indicates that many groups provide financial support for their general service representatives to attend service functions" to "The A.A. Group" pamphlet and the "G.S.R." pamphlet.
- C. Discuss requests to develop an intergroup/central office pamphlet.
- D. Consider a suggestion to change the title of the pamphlet "Can A.A. Help Me Too?" subtitled "Black/African Americans Share Their Stories" to "A.A. and the Black/African American Alcoholic."
- E. Discuss a suggestion to revise the pamphlet, "The A.A. Member—Medications and Other Drugs."
- F. Review trustees' Literature Committee report on the Spanish-language Third Edition Big Book, *Alcohólicos Anónimos*.
- G. Consider a request to produce a pamphlet to replace the discontinued "Letter to a Woman Alcoholic."

VII. Policy/Admissions

- A. Review dates for the 2010 General Service Conference.
- B. Review final report of the General Service Board Regional Composition and Structure Inventory Committee.

VIII. Public Information

- A. Consider the 2006 annual report from the trustees' Committee on Public Information regarding G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site.
- B. Consider that the 2007 A.A. Membership Survey be conducted by area on a random basis as was done in the 2004 A.A. Membership Survey.
- C. Public Service Announcements (P.S.A.s):
 - 1. Consider approving the proposed television P.S.A. "A Force of Nature" developed by the trustees' Committee on Public Information.
 - 2. Review information on centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the television P.S.A. "Testimonials."
 - 3. Consider centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the proposed television P.S.A. "A Force of Nature" at a cost not to exceed \$30,000, in addition to the work of local Public Information committees.
 - 4. Discuss the 2002 - 2006 Conference Advisory Actions regarding replacement and production of P.S.A.s.
- D. Consider a suggestion from the trustee's Committee on Public Information for the development of a video for young people.
- E. Consider a suggested list of early symptoms of alcoholism forwarded by the trustee's Committee on Public Information, and derived from A.A. literature, to replace the list of early symptoms in item 19 on page 17 in the pamphlet "Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings."
- F. Consider a request to include "more information regarding the topic of anonymity of deceased members (posthumous anonymity)" in A.A. literature.
- G. Consider a request to change language in the flyer "A Message to Teenagers."
- H. Review contents of Kit and Workbook.

IX. Report and Charter

- A. *The A.A. Service Manual*, 2006 - 2007 Edition:
 - 1. Review a suggested list of duties of a district committee member chairperson (D.C.M.C.).
 - 2. Review a description of metropolitan districts that more accurately reflects the number of groups in such a district.

3. Consider a recommendation from the General Service Board that the following text be added to Chapter Nine in *The A.A. Service Manual*, where appropriate:

"The intent of forming regions was to create a vehicle by which regional trustees could be added to the General Service Board and a way to provide a cross section of people who would serve A.A. as a whole – not in a representative capacity. To allow for a balanced rotation, elections of regional trustees are staggered in order that there may be a relatively even flow of new trustees coming onto the board. It was not until 1962 that the formal naming of regions occurred and a redistribution; and, soon afterwards the formation of new regions."

4. Consider a recommendation from the General Service Board that the sentence, "Regional trustees bring to the board's discussions a regional point of view and experience that is invaluable," in Chapter Nine: The General Service Board, page S62 in *The A.A. Service Manual*, 2006-2007 Edition, be replaced so that the section reads:

"While no trustee can be said to "represent" a geographical section – all trustees represent only the Fellowship as a whole – regional trustees bring to the board's discussions a diversity of A.A. experience that is invaluable."

5. Consider a suggestion to include the committee scope from each Conference Committee Composition Scope and Procedure document in the Standing Committee section in the Chapter on Conference Committees.
6. Consider a suggestion that the last paragraph reading, "Any group or district of the Fellowship is free to use the symbol of a circle and triangle on newsletters, meeting schedules, or other A.A. material." be moved from S38 to S72 and inserted as a separate paragraph under "Trademarks, Logos, and Copyrights."
7. Consider a request to add a paragraph titled "District Information," which includes references to the District Information Change Form (F-43) to Chapter Three.
8. Consider a request to add an illustration of the "District Information Change Form" (F-43) to Chapter Three.

Consider a list of suggested additional changes.

B. A.A. Directories:

1. Consider a request to have A.A.W.S. discontinue publishing regional directories (Canada, Western U.S., and Eastern U.S.).
2. Consider a suggestion to add to the A.A. Directories (Canada, Western U.S., and Eastern U.S.) a separate subsection within the section "INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE MEETINGS" for listing "Online Intergroups" that request to be listed, and that online Intergroups thus listed provide an e-mail and/or Web site address to be included in the directories.

C. Discuss General Service Conference *Final Report*.

X. Treatment Facilities

- A. Review a summary of local sharing regarding use of the video *Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous*.
- B. Review contents of Kit and Workbook.
- C. Discuss ways of stimulating interest in treatment facility Twelfth Step work.

XI. Trustees

- A. Review resumes of candidates for:
 1. Northeast Regional Trustee
 2. Southwest Regional Trustee
 3. Trustee-at-Large/Canada
- B. Review slates of trustees and officers of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc.
- C. Review slate of directors of A.A. World Services, Inc.

- D. Review slate of directors of A.A. Grapevine, Inc.
- E. Review report from trustees' Committee on Nominating regarding the option of a Class B (alcoholic) trustee serving as chairperson of the General Service Board.
- F. Discuss recommendation from the General Service Board to amend the Bylaws of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc., amended in April 2006.
- G. Approve the General Service Board's recommendation that the existing sentence pertaining to regional trustees in the Bylaws of the General Service Board, Inc. (*The A.A. Service Manual, 2006-2007 Edition*, p. S110) which reads:

"Class B regional trustees are expected to contribute their time basically during the four periods of the years, viz., each three-day period ending on the day of each quarterly meeting of the trustees of the General Service Board, and, in addition, **to advise the Board with respect to regional views and opinions regarding policy matters.**"

be amended so that the sentence reads:

"Class B regional trustees are expected to contribute their time basically during the four periods of the year, viz., each three-day period ending on the day of each quarterly meeting of the trustees of the General Service Board, and, in addition, **to provide the Board their views and opinions regarding policy matters based on Fellowship-wide experience.**"

XII. Archives

- A. Review Workbook.
- B. Review the Final Report of the Subcommittee on Archives Recordings, and the "Sound and Video Access Policies."

XIII. International Conventions/Regional Forums

- A. Discuss and review 2020 International Convention Site-Selection Procedures.
- B. Discuss concept and details of Local Forums as approved by the General Service Board.
- C. Discuss ways to encourage interest in Forums.