

# HMB AREA 48 NEWSLETTER



## AA Principles of the Month

**Step 5:** Admitted to God, to ourselves and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.

**Tradition 5:** Each group has but one primary purpose - to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

**Concept 5:** Throughout our structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.

## Tradition Five Checklist

1. Do I ever cop out by saying, "I'm not a group, so this or that Tradition doesn't apply to me"?
2. Am I willing to explain firmly to a newcomer the *limitations* of AA help, even if he gets mad at me for not giving him a loan?
3. Have I today imposed on any AA member for a special favor or consideration simply because I am a fellow alcoholic?
4. Am I willing to twelfth-step the next newcomer without regard to who he is or what is in it for me?
5. Do I help my group in every way I can to fulfill our primary purpose? Does my group *carry* the message, or do we expect people to come get it?
6. Do I remember that AA old-timers, too, can be alcoholics who still suffer? Do I try both to help them and to learn from them?

## Concept Five Checklist

- Do we encourage the minority opinion, the "Right of Appeal", to be heard at our home group, district committee meetings, area assemblies and the Conference?
- What does our group accept as "substantial unanimity"?
- Has our group experienced the "tyranny of the majority" or the "tyranny of the minority"?
- Does our group understand the importance of all points of view being heard before a vote is taken?

***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>
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)	Saturday, 9/8/07
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.*

## HMB AREA 48 FELLOWSHIP DAY

**Sunday, April 29, 2007**

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

**KEY DATES FOR 2007 NEWSLETTERS:**

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

June Edition - 5/4/2007

July Edition - 6/1/2007

August Edition - 7/6/2007

September Edition - 8/3/2007

October Edition - 9/7/2007

November Edition - 10/5/2007

December Edition - 11/2/2007

January Edition - 12/7/2007

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

6/1/07 – September Election Assembly flyer

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

7/6/07 – October HMB Assembly flyer

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

8/3/07 – November Fellowship Day flyer

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

12/7/07 – March Delegates Day Flyer

**May HMB AREA ASSEMBLY****Sunday, May 20, 2007**

Warner Hall SUNY Cobleskill  
State Route 7  
Cobleskill, NY 12043

- 9:00 am – 10:00 am Registration
- 10:00 am – Noon Area Chair, Committee Reports, Discussion of Proposals
- 12:00 pm – 1:00pm Lunch (provided)
- 1:00 pm – ?? DCM Reports, Voting on Proposals

**Directions**

—> From Albany take I-88 west to Cobleskill (Exit 21). Turn right off of the exit. Turn right on Route 7. Look for sign indicating SUNY Campus. Turn right into SUNY Cobleskill Campus in about 1 mile.

—> From Oneonta take I-88 East to Cobleskill (Exit 21). Turn left off of the exit. Turn right on Route 7. Look for sign indicating SUNY Campus. Turn right into SUNY Cobleskill Campus in about 1 mile.

—> From Saugerties, Kingston & Beyond—Take I-87 to Catskill (Exit 21). Left on CR-23B East. Merge onto 23 West. Follow to State Route 145. Follow 145 (Total of 40 Miles) to Cobleskill. Bear Left (West) to stay on NY-7/NY-10. Turn left onto SUNY Campus in about 1 mile.

—> From Utica take I-90 to Exit 29 toward Route 10. (Canajoharie, Sharon Springs). Turn right onto 5S and left onto NY-10 for about 10.5 miles. Make a sharp left onto US-20 for 4.9 miles. Stay straight to go onto NY-145 for 7.1miles. Turn right onto NY-7. Turn left onto SUNY Campus in about 1 mile.

When you arrive at SUNY CAMPUS, Take 1st Left and follow to Warner Hall. Building and Parking will be on your right.

For questions, contact Matt at (607) 643-1651 or (607) 547-5491

## 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) Register domain \$7.95 for 2 years One year host server \$7.95 mo = \$95.40 yr Developer helpline \$3.95 mo = \$47.40 Use existing hardware	< 15 days \$360.00 \$ 7.95 \$ 95.40 \$ 47.40 \$510.75 total
Maintenance Cost	One year host server \$7.95 mo = \$95.40 yr Developer helpline \$3.95 mo = \$47.40 License & software can rotate	\$ 95.40 \$ 47.40 \$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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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

HELP!!!!

As you all know, the HMB Area of Alcoholics Anonymous is hosting the NYS AA Convention in Glens Falls, NY on July 20-22, 2007. AS THERE IS NO HMB CONVENTION THIS YEAR, the planning committee is asking for everyone's help to make this State Convention the most successful one that the HMB Area has hosted. The following are the areas where we need volunteer help:

We need 2 people from each district to be greeters Friday afternoon and evening and Saturday from 8 A.M. until 2 P.M.. They can call William T. at (518) 320-0875 or e-mail him at nathantuthill@aol.com.

We need 2 people from each district to help in the hospitality suite Friday, 4 til midnight, all day Saturday until midnight and Sunday morning for a couple hours. They can call Kae S. at (518) 696-4279.

We're asking that districts and groups make MONETARY(preferred) or product contributions for the hospitality suite. Products that could be donated are beverages, food platters, paper supplies, fruit, bagels and cream cheese and any other item that the hospitality chair may need for a good, healthy hospitality suite. Monetary contributions can be sent directly to the convention treasurer and marked as such. The address is; NYS Convention 2007, PO Box 1095, New Paltz, NY 12561.

Let's make this convention a huge success and we can with your help.

Thank you,

The Planning Committee

Contacts:

Gene H. Co-Chair (518) 286 - 3140; Tom H. Co-Chair (802) 287 - 9589; Keith or Deb D. registration (845) 255 - 0131

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THE BANQUET IS LIMITED TO THE FIRST 300 RESERVATIONS AND THE CUT OFF FOR ROOM RESERVATIONS IS JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2007.

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

Would you or someone you know like to volunteer to help ??

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"

## 39<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007**

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

1<sup>st</sup> - 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 -**

Hiya everyone. I am Bobby F YOUR HMB Area Delegate. I had a great time at Delegates Day and have the Areas voice on the agenda items for conference. The next meeting I will be brain dead because I will be getting back from Conference and the next day is a fellowship day in Clifton Park so don't expect much....I will be handing out the Early Bird edition of Box 459 that day.

After that we have the May Assembly where all the proposals will be voted on. PLEASE bring ONE more GSR with you to this assembly. It's YOUR vote that works and it's NOT the areas decision on these matters. The more the merrier.

The meeting schedules they are ALL finally delivered. There were a number of concerns raised to DCMs regarding the meeting schedules and the lateness of them. If anyone wishes to discuss, please feel free to call me.

As always, if any district would like me to come visit them at their GSR meeting please contact me.

Love & Service

Bobby

### **Area Chair Report -**

There is a tremendous amount of discussions taking place in HMB Area 48!!

- Members are thinking about "*standing*" or being "*available*" to serve the Area as Area Chair, Alternate Area Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.
- The new April 29 Fellowship Day – where the area will conduct its business and the area standing committee chairs will meet with their committees (the District committee chairs)
- The May 20 Assembly – where the six proposals will be discussed and voted on
- The July 20 – July 22 New York State Convention – where the four areas of New York gather to discuss general service theme "Our 12<sup>th</sup> Step Responsibility – Are We Going to Any Length?"
- The Aug 3 - Aug 5 New York State Informational Workshop – where the four areas of New York gather to share their experiences in carrying the AA message

Reserve your room, mail your registration form and volunteer for service!! As always, ALL A.A. members are welcomed and encouraged to attend and participate in all events.

Please, let us not confuse the new members in our Fellowship when we speak of "running" for an elected position. We do not want any member to think of general service as political or that our wonderful Fellowship is a "political" organization. We want to be clear and concise in our communications of spiritual matters.

An Ad Hoc Committee was appointed which submitted Proposal #4 for discussion and vote concerning an additional website for the HMB Area. There are four members who are willing to serve if the proposal is given the go ahead. The present website is a New York *State* meeting list web site and so much more.

Here are a few advantages of having an HMB *Area* website:

- Allows multiple people to participate in service– including members who can't easily travel
- Allows for posting the HMB Area 48 Service Manual and other Area documents
- Provides an email address for each officer and committee chair as an avenue for 12 Step work to individuals and

the Professional Community

- Provides an interactive calendar of Area events, notifies the user of upcoming events, allows forms to be accessed and downloaded online
- Can be used to conduct online registration via "secure" methods
- Annual website costs maybe less expensive than present website ( \$135 vs. \$400)

Please discuss this and all proposals with your group members. We want to hear from as many general service representatives as possible. Look forward to seeing you at the Fellowship Day hosted by Districts 5, 10 & 13.

In Unity & Service, Joan R

### **Alternate Chair Report -**

I just attended our HMB Delegates Day on March 31st, hosted by District 15 of the Hudson Valley Cluster. Thanks to District 15 and all who helped make it a great day. There were about 100 AA's in attendance, which was good to see because this was our first HMB event on Saturday in a while. Please don't forget Fellowship Day April 29th which will be hosted by District 5. Check your newsletter for details & directions. I'm personally thrilled to see our Adirondack Cluster host this event.

We have a busy year ahead in AA Service and although my health is questionable, I'll do my very best to keep you informed of all Events & any changes that may come up.

In Service, Dave J. - HMB Alternate Chair/Functions

### **Secretary Report -**

Delegate's Day, March 31, 2007, New Paltz, NY

91 members in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 10 A.M. by Area Delegate, Bobby F., in the absence of Area Chair, Joan R.

Bobby explained that the purpose of the meeting was for the assembly to meet and discuss various agenda items for the 2007 General

Service Conference and to inform him of the Area's group conscious on these items. The group was then disbursed and invited to sit in on any round table discussion on any item that was of interest to them.

At 12:45 P.M. the meeting was reconvened following the lunch break. Gene and Tom, co-chairs for the New York State Convention, gave an up date. They reminded the assembly that there would be no HMB Convention this year due to our hosting the NYS Convention. The cut off for hotel registration is 6/1/07. There is another hotel booked for overflow. It was also announced, from the floor, that Monroe State Park is near and there should be camp sites available for those wishing to camp out. Since the banquet is limited to 300 people, convention registrations need to be in as soon as possible. Fliers have gone out to all districts. More fliers can be down loaded on [ny-aa.org/events](http://ny-aa.org/events).

It was suggested that Area DCMs sign up to chair a meeting at the alcathon. In addition, they would like 2 volunteers from each district for Hospitality and 3 from each district for Greeter. There will be an Old Timer's panel for those with over 25 years of sobriety.

The various committees were asked to report their findings. Those responding were: CPC, Corrections, Finance, International Convention/Forums, Grapevine, Literature, Policy and Admissions, Trustees, Report & Charter, Public Information, Treatment, and Archives. Copies of written reports were submitted to the Delegate and will be attached to the Secretary's Report.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 P.M. There was a moment of silence in remembrance of Past Delegate Carolyn B., who recently passed away, followed by the Serenity Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Bob L, Area Secretary

**Alternate Secretary / Area Registrar Report -**

Hi Everyone,

I just received information about registering our Area for the new Fellowship New Vision Database from GSO. I am submitting the information needed for us to participate. I have been told that the roll out has been delayed, but progressing. This new system will give Area Registrars the ability to update the records at GSO in real time, rather than mailing in a disk, or hard copies. I have been asked by some folks about the proposals I submitted, and are running in the newsletter. I will be happy to discuss them with anyone, or if your District would like me to attend your GSR meeting to explain them, I will be happy to do so. I have been asked if I would accept an amendment to the proposal regarding quotes for the Area Meeting Schedules, to allow a contract to a printer for a period of three years. After talking to some folks who have this kind of work done, I think that this would be a reasonable amendment to my motion. I will have the Confidential Directories available for each District at the Assembly, and available to AA members who request them in PDF format, by email. I will be happy to send your District records to you in this format, at your request, as well. I look forward to seeing you at the May Assembly in District 8.

In Service, Kevin B - Alternate Secretary\Area Registrar - area48registrar@gmail.com

**Treasurer's Report -**

Beginning Checkbook Balance 3/1/07:	\$10,473.06
Contributions:	\$ 3,105.95
Expenses:	\$ 4,696.93
Ending Checkbook Balance 3/31/07:	\$ 8,882.08
Available Funds (minus \$7,000 prudent reserve):	\$ 1,882.08

As we end the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2007 I want to thank all of those who have contributed to the Area this year, we are ahead of last years pace thus far. Remember it is all of our responsibility to help the next sick and suffering Alcoholic who comes to our door. Thanks again.

With the end of the quarter comes my request for ALL AREA OFFICERS and COMMITTEE CHAIRS to send me their stipend reimbursement requests. I have received a few and thank those concerned. By now you should all be familiar with your allowances but if you are not please give me call. It certainly works out better when we have an open line of communication about your allowances and we do not end up at odds over reimbursements. (No that any of us have ever argued over money). HaHa!

To all DCM's I will be handing out a copy of your Districts 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Contributions at the Fellowship Day on April 29<sup>th</sup>. I look forward to seeing you all.

Grateful to Serve, Keith D

**Archives Report-**

We are currently removing our displays from the 1930 type suitcases to wood and plexiglass. Many were starting to lose their handles. Many came from family attics and have spiritual significance and gentle memories of now departed love ones. Many have told us that they feel love in our display. Love of the fellowship, love of unity and service. It takes many years to regain trust and we believe that is why Bill said Archives should not rotate.

Many important dates in the month of May in AA history. One the 11th, Bill W heard tinkling glasses from the Mayflower Hotel bar, but was drawn to the church directory, instead. He picked out the name of Rev. Turk and called him asking for contact with another alcoholic, and was given 10 names of those who might help. He called nine to no avail. He returned to his room and looked at the 10th name, Henrietta Seiberling. That's Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, I've got to call her.

One the 12th, Bill met Dr. Bob, at Henrietta's gatehouse. "Young man, I understand you know something of this disease. I can spare you 15 minutes." Bill replied, "Gee doc, I could use a drink, myself." They talked for seven hours.

Around the 21st, in 1938, Bill W and others began to write the untitled, Big Book.

Our schedule includes the forthcoming 39th NYS Convention, "The Summer Place to Be" which HMB will be hosting in the Queensbury Hotel, Glens Falls, NY on July 20th-22nd, 2007. We hope to be joined by other Area Archivists and a few district archivists.

August 3rd-5th, we will have a full display at the NYS Informational Workshop at Russell Sage College of Albany. Please come for Saturday and have lunch and dinner for \$25.00.

Jim K.

### **Newsletter Report -**

Many thanks to the committee of folks that have been making themselves available to fold, stamp and address the newsletter. We have been able to get the process down to about a two hour job. Awesome trusted servants! This has been an incredible experience to share the gift of service with all of them. At our most recent meeting, it was discussed and by group conscience, we will hold a tradition meeting during our committee meeting. I am looking forward to this as well. I look forward at the end of December to rotate this service position to someone else who will also have the opportunity that I have experienced.

For those who are not aware, the 2007 monthly editions of the newsletter are available on the Area Website at <http://www.ny-aa.org/hmb/members>. If you would like to be on e-mail distribution to the newsletter, please let me know by sending an e-mail to [HMBAreaNewsletter@hvc.rr.com](mailto:HMBAreaNewsletter@hvc.rr.com). Also, if you would like to submit an article, that can be sent to that e-mail address as well.

Thank you to all who came to the Delegates Day of Sharing on March 31st. As stated we had 91 people in attendance. One area that has been of interest in the first part of this year is the cost of the Area Events. While we have only \$250 budgeted in the Approved Area Budget, the cost of the event was \$734.24. The districts in the cluster help to off set the difference which District 15 was very grateful for, but it leaves me with a question for consideration. With the topic of our Area Events (Inventory Day, Fellowship Day, Assemblies, Day of Sharing) is the Area being self supporting? The average cost of an event for the last five years exceeds the \$250 budgeted. The cost of rent is barely covered by the \$250 that is budgeted. This does not cover the food expense for providing the lunch and coffee. The contributions in the basket the day of the event is low. (As an example at the last event, \$135). I think this is something to think about.

In Love and Service, Deb D

### **Website Report -**

#### **State Events on the Web**

This H-M-B Area Newsletter is on the area web site at:

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

A committee verifies that anonymity and other standards are met in what gets published. Events of state and regional interest such as the State Convention and the New York Informational Workshop are at:

<http://www.ny-aa.org/events/>

Many of those event flyers correspond to items that also appear in the Newsletter.

#### **Your Group on the Web Meeting List**

The H-M-B meeting list information that is on the web site is created directly from the H-M-B Area database that maintained by the Area Registrar. With each file version, the meeting lists are compiled in two different formats, day-at-a-time and week-at-a-glance, and uploaded to the internet server (a computer). I work directly from the file in order to avoid losing changes next time the database comes. Kevin B is doing quite a job keeping the meeting and contact information current. He has to receive changes through the districts or, at least, he keeps the districts informed. Much of his work is GSRs and Alternate GSRs but there are a lot of meeting changes. In the first three months of 2007, about one group in fifteen had at least one change to meeting time, place, or type.

Tom E - [host@ny-aa.org](mailto:host@ny-aa.org)

**Grapevine Corner -*****A Place for Minority Opinions***

As "the free press for AA," the Grapevine is a forum where—within the bounds of relevance, good taste, and our AA Concepts and Traditions—and AA can get anything he wants off his chest without hindrance of censorship. This freedom has been carefully written into the basic documents of AA by their wise authors, for the very good reason that the Grapevine is the only place where the voice of minorities can be heard outside of the committee rooms—from whence, otherwise, only the opinion of the majority might ever issue. This unifying function of the magazine, airing opinions so that they may be weighed, sifted, and used as bases for decision, has more than once stood the movement in good stead, as it doubtless will in other great decisions to be made in the future. - AA Grapevine, October 1962

*(From A Guide to the AA Grapevine, page 21 -. Reprinted with permission of The A.A. Grapevine, Inc.)*

**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 – 12:00pm - 5:00pm – Peebles Island, Cohoes, NY -Contacts: Steve R (518) 858-5267 or Kim D (518) 270-5142

**Saturday, July 7, 2007 - District 18** - Annual Independence Day Picnic 12:00pm - 6:00pm, North Greenbush Town Park @ Snyder's Lake. Contact: Karl D (518) 733-9236

**Saturday, August 4, 2007– District 18** - Annual Serenity Cruise 7:00pm - 10:00pm, Dutch Apple Cruises, Albany, NY. Contact: Pat K (518) 286-6712

**Sunday, August 19th - District 14** – Unity Day – 11:00am - 5:00pm – Central Park Pavilion, Schenectady, NY. Contacts: Ken S (518) 355-2398 or Joel T (518) 346-2620

**THE PURSUIT OF SOBRIETY****We recover by the Steps we take, not the meetings we make!**

Alcoholics Anonymous is for alcoholics who want to stop drinking, start living and enjoy being alive. But, AA has two elements: (1) the Fellowship and (2) the Program. The Fellowship of AA is comprised of the individuals who make up the groups. Some have recovered from alcoholism and some have not. Recovery occurs as the result of following a precise Program of action. This Program of Alcoholics Anonymous is stated in the book "Alcoholics Anonymous". Page 17 of this book, the "basic text" for members of Alcoholics Anonymous and lovingly called the "Big Book", states that almost all who have followed the Program have recovered. It further states that the Fellowship (making meetings and hanging out in AA) is good and important, but that will not produce recovery. Recovery is the product of taking the "Program of Action" or the Steps as they are outlined in the "Big Book" and is absolutely necessary if you are to survive alcoholism.

Today, a person with a drinking problem will have little trouble finding the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous wherever they may be in this world of ours. Unfortunately though, they will probably have a difficult time finding the Program, and therefore will have little chance of finding lasting sobriety. The reason is quite simple; many AA groups today are made up of folks who are confused as to why the group exists and have little if any knowledge of the Program, i.e. the problem (alcoholism), the Solution (God *as we understand Him*) nor the practical Program of action (the 12 Steps) which assures recovery. Search for a group that is focused on the Solution. They will have "Big Book Study Meetings", "Speaker Meetings" and "Tradition Study Meetings". The members of such a group will be alcoholics who are "recovering" (taking the Steps) or have "recovered" (have taken and continue to live by our Steps).

Gerard L. - AA Member

## Capital District Central Office (CDCO)

So how would you respond to this request? "Can I get a letter from A.A. stating that I am not an alcoholic?" Or this one: "My son was just arrested for his third DWI. How can I keep him out of jail?"

These are some of the questions that come up for the volunteers who work four-hour shifts at the Central Office. Most of the calls are seeking times and locations of meetings in the Capital District, as far north as Glens Falls and as far south as Hudson. But there is the occasional person looking for his/her first meeting, asking questions like—do I need my insurance card? Can I go alone? Do I have to say I'm alcoholic?

The CDCO serves Alcoholics Anonymous groups in Districts 1, 2, 14, and 18 and is supported by the groups. But more help is needed to fill daytime volunteer shifts and evening phone coverage. The CDCO's desire is that there will always be a human voice on the other end of the line when someone calls seeking help, and this requires commitments from recovering people to carry the message.

Not only are there calls from people looking for A.A. meetings, but many calls for AI-Anon (38 in the last three months), Narcotics Anonymous, and CoDependents Anonymous, and for meeting information in distant places, such as California, Florida, Hawaii or Canada.

Since opening the Central Office in November 2005, over 1,490 people called for help and the numbers are growing. In the spring of 2006, there were 30 calls per month. This grew to 150 calls per month during the winter 2006-2007. Because the CDCO can access A. A. websites nationwide, schedules and locations are only a click away, and the Eastern and Western States Directories are available as well as AI-Anon, N.A. and CODA meeting schedules.

The CDCO publishes a monthly newsletter, The Broken Bottle, which is available for only \$12.00 a year. Group members would benefit from reading it, and The Broken Bottle would be happy to publish news from your group, such as anniversary celebrations, changes of location or other group news.

In addition, the CDCO sponsors meeting exchange forums, where group representatives arrange to speak at other groups within the Capital District, opening up a new channel for sharing experience, strength and hope.

And consider also the satisfaction of knowing you are part of Alcoholics Anonymous doing what we promise, to carry the message to the sick and suffering alcoholic.

You probably know how to answer the two questions posed above! No, we don't write letters attesting to anything, and Ma'am, have you considered AI-Anon?

To learn more about the Capital District Central Office, go to the website <http://aacdco.org>, or call (518) 463-0906. Your participation is most welcome!

### Capital District Central Office – Answering Service Update

The Capital District Central Office (CDCO), which services Districts 1, 2, 14, and 18, refers callers to nearby A.A. groups or has a volunteer twelfth stepper contact them from their district. The office is located at the Schuyler Inn, 575 Broadway, (*Village of Menands*) Suites 128-130, Albany, NY 12204. To easily find from Albany; take 787N, to the first exit (#6), take a right onto RT 32N (Broadway), proceed through five traffic lights, turn right into the Schuyler Inn, go to the far back left, NE, of the parking lot, and then walk to the inner courtyard. Enter Suite 128. There you may purchase A.A. books, find fellowship, enjoy a cup of coffee and attend a meeting on Tuesdays at 4:30 PM.

CDCO has a bold face listing in the Verizon Directory. **To reach us call (518) 463-0906.**

We recently discovered that in Verizon's error, the old Answering Service phone numbers serving Districts 1, 2, 14, and 18 were not removed for the printed directory. Please be aware that the following numbers are **DISCONNECTED**.

A.A. of Albany	(518) 528-5823	A. A. of S Rensselaer Co	(518) 766-2112
A. A. of Schenectady	(518) 533-2320	A. A. of Troy	(518) 273-2225
A. A. of Schenectady Co	(518) 242-4989		