

HMB AREA 48 NEWSLETTER



AA Principles of the Month

Step 6 - Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.

Tradition 6 – An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.

Concept 6 - The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.

Tradition Six Checklist

1. Should my fellow group members and I raise money to endow several AA beds in our local hospital?
2. Is it good for a group to lease a small building?
3. Are all the officers and members of our local club for AAs familiar with "Guidelines on Clubs" (which is available free from GSO)?
4. Should the secretary of our group serve on the mayor's advisory committee on alcoholism?
5. Some alcoholics will stay around AA only if we have a TV and card room. If this is what is required to carry the message to them, shouldn't we have these facilities?

Concept Six Checklist

- Are we familiar with how our General Service Board (G.S.B.) Class A and Class B trustees serve A.A.? Are we familiar with how our other trusted servants serve A.A.?
- Are we clear about the terms, "chief initiative" and "active responsibility"? Can we see a direct link to our home 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>
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.*

KEY DATES FOR 2007 NEWSLETTERS:

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

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



If you were accused of carrying the A.A. message, would there be enough evidence to convict you?

"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: Gayle R. 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 enter their name:

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 Bobby F, Panel 56 Area 48 Delegate. I know over the past couple of months I have been bombarded with emails and phone calls over the stuff going on at the area. I do NOT run the area Joan does. If you have a problem with what's going on contact the respective service chairs, or at least call me before 8PM and NOT before 9AM and I will direct you to who you have to talk to. I just hope and pray that this will be all worked out shortly and it's not a repeat of the things that happened about 8 years ago. It was NOT pretty.

As the people who attended the area meeting last Sunday saw I was brain dead from the conference but survived. A lot of good things came out of the conference and I will explain them to you at the May Assembly. I had to change the area's vote on combining the shipping costs to the literature because after it was explained to me the people placing their orders would have felt AA was just raising the prices of literature and would have missed that the increase was the shipping cost rolled into it.

Remember there are a lot of things to be done at the Assembly, 6 proposals so please read the guidelines for the assembly and if someone already said what you were going to say it doesn't need to be repeated. All you GSR's please attend this because every vote counts. If the DCM just shows up then he/she has ONE VOTE. Another hint remember Principles BEFORE Personalities this is for the better of HMB, not my nor your opinion.

Coming up next will be the state convention in Queensbury in July, so far there aren't a lot of registrants. Do not wait until the last minute and have all the committees running around with last minute ordeals to do. Register early and often.

As for the meeting schedules I have about 1200 left so if your group didn't order them you still can. So for now if anyone wants me to visit their district, please contact me at HMBAreaChair@aol.com.

Love & Service, Bobby

Area Chair Report -

Bill W. wrote the most influential group of world servants that we have should be A.A.'s Board of Trustees – and referred to them as “our parents.” The Board of Trustees is made up of 7 nonalcoholic (Class A) and 14 alcoholics (Class B). These men and women are elected to bring a variety of experiences to the General Service Board. The by-laws state the nonalcoholic trustee “shall be persons who are not and have not been afflicted by the disease of alcoholism and who express a profound faith in the recovery program upon which the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous is founded.” These nonalcoholic trustees are available to appear in public on behalf of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Concept VI states the Conference Charter of the General Service Board and its By-laws gives freedom of action to our Trustees. The Trustees are granted the traditional Rights of “Decision”, “Participation,” and “Appeal.” The kinds of professional and financial skills are clearly defined as well as their authority. Our Trustees are mainly responsible for all our service activities – A.A. World Services, the A.A. Grapevine, world-wide public relations, lead in formulating A.A. policy, active guardians of our Traditions, A.A.'s bankers, responsible for investments and use of our reserve funds.

While this is a huge responsibility, the Trustees are granted the authority to handle or be involved in A.A. World Services and A.A. Grapevine and to see that both work in the best interest of A.A. as a whole. The Trustees must always work under the direction, close observation and guidance of the Conference. They turn to the Conference whenever a decision on policy is sought. They are individual members of the General Service Conference body and their authority comes from the Conference.

In A.A., the principle of consistent rotation of responsibility is almost followed for all service positions. Although limits vary, Area positions are usually two years, Delegates to the General Service Conference usually serve no longer than two years and alcoholic trustees of the General Service Board are limited to a four-year term.

In Unity & Service

Joan R - jodenjo@gmail.com

Secretary Report -

Minutes for HMB Area Fellowship Day, April 29, 2007, Clifton Park, NY

The meeting was called to order at 10 AM by Area Chair Joan R. There were 86 members in attendance.

The Area officers and Committee Chairs were introduced.

The meeting then broke up with members attending either an Area Committee meeting or a discussion meeting on Traditions 1 & 2.

The meeting was reconvened at 12:50, following lunch.

Bobby F., our Area Delegate, had just returned from the Delegate's conference in New York City and was not prepared to give a full report. He will be making a detailed report at the May assembly. He did say that he changed his vote, as is his prerogative, on the proposition regarding incorporating shipping charges in the cost of literature. He encouraged anyone with questions to see him after the meeting.

The following reports were read:

Alternate Chair: Members were encouraged to support the upcoming NYS Convention and the Informational Workshop. The date of the Sept. assembly has been changed from Sunday, 9/9, to Saturday, 9/8. A rough draft of the 2008 calendar will be ready for the May assemble.

Secretary: Secretary reports are printed in the HMB Newsletter. There were not additions or corrections.

Alternate Secretary: The Area data base is being worked on. Anyone with questions regarding the proposals are invited to contact him. He reminded all that the proposal on the HMB meeting book had been tabled. There are questions on the contents of the HMB newsletter. Area guidelines are not clearly defined. Clearer boundaries need to be established for service positions.

Treasurer: A copy of the Treasurer's Report for March was available for all. We started March with \$10,473.06, we took in \$3,105.95, expenses were 46,696.93, giving a balance of \$8,882.08. Our prudent reserve is \$7,000. So far, \$1,350 of the \$2,000 seed money for the 2006 HMB convention has been returned. The treasury has been audited and all is well.

Alternate Treasurer: The Finance Committee met on April 14th to commence work on the 2008 budget.

HMB Convention: Final report not ready, should be in by May assembly.

NYS Convention: As of this date, there were only 25 rooms left at the Queensbury Hotel. There have been arrangements made at another area hotel to handle the overflow. There have been only 76 people registered so far. Members were encouraged to register as soon as possible. The Hospitality & Greeters committees report getting a good response. However many of the other committees still need help.

New York State Informational Workshop: The main speaker has been changed due to other commitments. The Hospitality committee needs help. Area 48 is hosting this event, so members were encouraged to attend and support this workshop. Last year's workshop was not well attended by HMB.

Committed Chairs gave their reports.

Archives: HMB Archives will be at the NYS Convention along with other Area archives. Jim gave a history of the HMB Area and how it has effected AA in New York State.

Bridging the Gap: Cindy is working with the Treatment Chair of District 9. BtG information has been sent to all treatment centers.

Corrections: A women's meeting is being started in the Oneida County Jail.

Cooperation With the Professional Community: Laurie attended an OASAS sponsored conference in Albany. She gave a presentation, along with Jim PI Chair, at Senior Hope, an out-patient alcoholism facility for those 50 years and older. The difference between AA and treatment was explained.

Newsletter: Deb thanked her folding committee and announced that the next folding meeting will also include a Traditions discussion. She reminded all that she will be giving up this post this year and encouraged anyone interested to get in touch with her. It has been a rewarding experience.

Special Needs: Glen is in the process of making up a Special Needs guidelines and hopes to have it ready for the May assemble. It needs to address Federal Confidentiality rules when visiting facilities. He will have a display at the NYS Convention.

Treatment: Brenda has guidelines for taking meetings into facilities. Packets are available from her.

Web Chair: The web site ny-aa.org was started as a District 11 meeting list. It now covers all of NY state. If the Area Newsletter is to be put on the web site (ny-aa.org/hmb) it should be web clean. Tom has developed a map of NYS showing all locals with an AA answering service. On line meetings are listed with GSO.

The following DCMs submitted reports: Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, & 18.

Old Business: Charlie C. is working on a new Area Service Manual, changing the format and updating information. There is a possibility of posting it on the web site, making it available to all.

New Business: Nancy R. objected to having received a letter from the new Central Office requesting financial assistance. She also objected to information regarding the General Office being placed in the Area Newsletter. A discussion on the pros and cons of a Central Office followed with no definite conclusion. Dave S. suggested that the Central Office situation needs to be discussed at every group that is effected. This is not an Area concern.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:55 PM.

Alternate Secretary / Area Registrar Report -

I am writing this report before the 2007 Spring Assembly, so I have no idea what God's plan is for the proposals which I have submitted, but I have faith in this Area, that God's Plan will prevail. We are going through growing pains in HMB. I am grateful to be a part of our Area's history, in helping to set guidelines for those to come after us, so they won't have to go through these growing pains again. Our 10th Concept points out to us that we need clear direction in the responsibilities we hold in AA, and guidelines prevent us from needing to make decisions on our own. My best thinking got me here! :) By God's Grace I stay here.

At the April Fellowship Day in Clifton Park, during new business, there was an issue brought up of a mailing done by the Central Office which serves District's 1, 2, 14, and 18. I would like to clarify my actions in cooperating with CDCO, so people can understand.

When the Central Office was first formed, by some AA members, some GSRs, as well as some folks in Area Service, a request came to our Area Registrar for mailing labels. This request was referred to the Districts in which the Groups were located. After receiving permission from each District to give this data to the Central Office Planning Committee, the labels were sent. The labels were used for a mailing to ask groups if they would like to participate.

Since I have become the Area Registrar, I have been asked from time to time for these labels from the folks with the Central Office, which I have given them in the spirit of cooperation. The legitimacy, as an AA Service entity, had already been determined by each District contacted, and the policy of sharing this data had become established before I had taken this service position. When I offer this confidential data to any A.A. member, I always make sure to let them know that this information is to be used for A.A. service only, and that it not be used by any commercial, or non-AA enterprises.

The question by the GSR who was offended by receiving a letter from the Central Office, was, "Why and how did they receive her mailing address?" This is really a matter of District Autonomy. We, in Area service positions, are directly responsible to those we serve. In this case we served the Groups by following the direction of the Districts they are represented by. I have since sent requests to each of these Districts to re-affirm the fact that they support continued cooperation with the CDCO. This should be obvious due to the fact that they have turned over their Answering Services to them, and are allowing them to do this service for them.

If the legitimacy of this Central Office had been established by each of the Districts it serves, then it would only make sense that each group receive a communication by them to disclose their financial status, and request volunteers and contributions. If a group does not wish to participate, this is their right, and if they send a request to the Central Office, they should be removed from the mailings.

I am sorry that this misunderstanding has come about, and I can assure you that I will comply with the wishes of the Districts. The important thing to remember is that this is a choice of District autonomy, and should not be decided by the Area Committee. We are responsible to those we serve, not the other way around.

By the time you read this report, I hope to be using the new GSO database "Fellowship New Vision". This new web portal produced by GSO will give us the ability to do "real-time" updates, and registrations of our records. No more waiting for GSR, and new Group kits! I will be attending the North East Regional Forum, and hope to learn more about using this new program there.

In Grateful Service,

Kevin B.

area48registrar@gmail.com

Treasurers Report -

Beginning Checkbook Balance 4/1/07: \$ 8,882.08
 Contributions: \$ 2,263.60
 Expenses: \$ 1,573.57
 Ending Checkbook Balance 4/30/07: \$ 9,572.11
 Available Funds (minus \$7,000 prudent reserve): \$ 2,572.11

Alternate Treasurers Report -

The Finance Committee met last month to begin discussing the proposed 2008 HMB budget. Bob L was good enough to let us meet at his house and supplied lunch. Thank you Bob. We made good progress on putting the new budget together. Thanks to all the Finance committee members for their time and energy.

Al M, Alternate Treasurer

Bridging the Gap Report -

It was great to see such a good turnout for Delegates Day and for the Fellowship Day in Clifton Park N.Y. I appreciated the feedback for the Agenda on Corrections and solutions on topics that were discussed at each Area Day.

It would be wonderful if all the BTG and Corrections chairs could come to the May Assembly to give their input on the proposals that have been brought up. Jim M. from District 16 who is a Corrections Chair, has asked if members who are interested in going into Ulster County Jail, to please contact him.

I am happy to announce that District 12 has volunteers for the AA meetings to go into the corrections facility. We will work with District 9.

I thank my Higher Power and the members of AA for teaching me this program.

Yours in Service,

Cindy D. - Area BTG Chair

Special Needs Report -

The committee met today on April 29th 2007 in Clifton Park. Pat L of District 1 and Dawn M. of District 9 were present. We will come up with HMB guidelines to assist those going into Homecare settings, hospitals, nursing homes and hospices. We hope this will help in bringing a "meeting" to those with special needs and not only a "visit" which is of course a good thing in itself. We look forward to the big events coming to HMB. We hope to stock our display for both the State convention and the NYSIW. We will offer display items of interest for special needs such as the "Big Book" in Braille and in video ASL as well as having many pamphlets and reports to "takeaway."

Please consider special needs when choosing a meeting place.

Glen H - SN Chair - snchairhmb@gmail.com

Treatment Facilities Report -

Well, I am sorry that at Delegates Day I ended up chairing the Archives roundtable. I've called everyone a couple of times. I made up packets and mailed them out to the various districts. At Clifton Park I was disappointed at the number of Treatment Chairs that were actually there. We got together with BTG/Corrections and discussed what was going on in each district, how we could help, and be here to answer any questions. I look forward to meeting you all at the May Assembly in Cobleskill.

Yours in service,

Brenda O. - Area Treatment Chair

Website Report -

Keep the Meeting Data Current

Kevin B is the Alternate Secretary and also the Registrar and Records Keeper. He maintains the database with GSR and meeting data. He sends group information sheets to DCMs and District Records people. He also sends something formatted like a meeting list for each district. That form might be the easiest for verifying meeting information. The H-M-B meetings on the <http://www.ny-aa.org/> web site are taken from the same database. Districts should work to keep that as current as possible. It isn't just for Meeting Book time.

Area Newsletter and Other Information

It seems to happen to every Newsletter Editor that there are arguments over content. There is disagreement over what is or is not included. I don't remember that happening in barbershop quartet singing chapters. I don't remember it from my county arts council days. I don't know why it should be this way in Alcoholics Anonymous. In fact, it shouldn't.

The web site was created for meeting lists in order to avoid such arguments. By the time the web site was proposed to the Area at an Area Committee meeting, most of our districts and one or two intergroups outside of H-M-B were already participating. That was confirmed at a subsequent Area Assembly. For a long time the "editorial content" has been limited to text-based equivalents to the Area Convention flyers.

There is now an Editorial Committee for the Newsletter. The last Area Assembly asked that the Newsletter be included on the web site. So <http://www.ny-aa.org/hmb/> is available for that and other related purposes. The Newsletter Editor and the rest of that Committee can decide what goes there with the understanding that web content is "public information" and some things that are appropriate in a printed newsletter are inappropriate in a public forum.

Lots of Meeting Lists for Lots of People

The web hosting service makes it possible to look at statistics such as pages and visitors. I find that about a fourth of the data sent out goes to "search engine spiders" maintaining the lists that will send visitors to the pages. So any numbers are fuzzy. There is good evidence, though, that several hundred individuals are receiving a few meeting lists each on an average day.

Sometimes someone shows up at a meeting with a print-out from the web site. Sometimes an out-of-town visitor mentions having checked the web site. Whatever the actual numbers, a lot of people are getting a lot of meeting data on the internet. Many are using it to maintain their sobriety. " *We meet some of them as we trudge the Road of Happy Destiny.*"

Tom E - host@ny-aa.org

Landmarks in AA History

1935, June 10 - Dr. Bob has his last drink. Alcoholics Anonymous founded

1944, June - *The A.A. Grapevine* Established

1953, June - The book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* published

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Five AA Slogans (1956 - 1957)

AA members mention the use of "First Things First" and other helpful sayings in the Grapevine as early as the June 1945 issue. However, they didn't find a permanent place in many AAs' kit or recovery tools until the Grapevine ran a series on all five slogans - "First Things First," "There But for the Grace of God," "Easy Does It," "Think, Think, Think," and "Live and Let Live" - between September 1956 and February 1957. Each of those issues featured a hand-lettered slogan on the inside back cover and an essay about it inside.

The Grapevine has published numerous articles on the slogans since then, and these, along with the articles mentioned here, can be found in the AA Grapevine Digital Archive.

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2007 Conference Advisory Actions and Additional Considerations

Conference Advisory Actions represent recommendations made by the standing committees and approved by the Conference body as a whole; or recommendations discussed and voted upon by all Conference members during general sessions. Some Advisory Actions and a few additional committee considerations appear below in condensed form. A complete list will be published in the *Final Conference Report*.

Agenda - that the theme for the 2008 General Conference be "Communication and Participation—The Key to Unity and Self-Support."

Archives - that any future proposed project involving widespread distribution of archival recordings be submitted to the Conference Archives Committee so that the Conference might provide guidance prior to production.

Corrections - that the draft information media presentation featuring someone highly credible in the corrections field introducing A.A. to training academies and in-service training programs for correction personnel be approved with a suggested change to the reviewed and approved by the trustees' Committee on Corrections.

Finance - that the annual limit contributed to the General Service Board from individual A.A. members be increased from \$2,000 to \$3,000 and that bequests from A.A. members should be subject to the same limit and continue to be on a one-time basis and not in perpetuity.

Grapevine - that the A.A. Grapevine and La Vina include a section on the medical, legal and social aspects of alcoholism, with an appropriate disclaimer.

Literature - that the title of the pamphlet "Can A.A. help Me Too?" subtitled "Black/African Americans Share Their Stories" be changed to "A.A. for the Black and African American Alcoholic"; that the Spanish-language Third Edition Big Book, *Alcoholicos Anonimos*, be produced.

Policy/Admissions - that the 60th General Service Conference be held April 18-24, 2010.

Public Information - 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; that the public service announcement "A Force of Nature," developed by the trustees' Public Information Committee, be approved.

Report and Charter - that the Publications Department insert into *The A.A. Service Manual*, where appropriate, the inverted triangle graphic that currently appears annually in the General Service Conference manual.

Treatment Facilities - recommended that the video *Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous* be revised, retaining only the script and that sample footage or a progress report be brought to the 2008 Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities.

Trustees - that, in accordance with the Bylaws of the General Service Board, Inc., the board consider all eligible Class A (nonalcoholic) and Class B (alcoholic) trustees when selecting the chairperson of the General Service Board.

Additional Considerations

Cooperation With the Professional Community - recognized the value of utilizing professionals who are friends of A.A. at local A.A. events with the goal of stimulating interest in C.P.C. service.

International Conventions/A.A. Regional Forums - discussed the site-selection procedures for the 2020 International Convention, noting that selecting an International Convention site twelve years out prevents us from having to compete for sites and yet allows us to have enough information about the site city to make a good decision; discussed the concept and details of Local Forums and notes that the new Local Forums formation specifies that some expense, such as site rental, will be the responsibility of the Local Forums organizing committee.

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Is the Grapevine Conference-Approved?

The answer is: Yes and No.

The concept of every Grapevine item is carefully reviewed by the General Service trustees who sit on the Grapevine Board and by the General Service Conference, but they are not meant to express AA policy, so they are not officially conference-approved.

The Grapevine is charged with publishing the diverse thoughts and feelings of AA members. That charge was adopted by the AA groups back in 1945 and approved by the 1985 and 1986 General Service Conferences. In the spirit of Tradition Two, the Fellowship and the founders felt it was important that no one body or person speak for AA. It was important to have a magazine and magazine-related items that reflected the full range of thought of AA members throughout the Fellowship, and not only those expressed by the General Service Board or the Conference. So individual issues of the magazine and Grapevine books are, by design, not Conference-approved.

The magazines and books are carefully reviewed, however. The Grapevine conference committee carefully considers each book idea and informs the whole Conference in its Conference report. The concept is then forwarded to the Grapevine Board for approval and reported to the General Service Board. Then the Conference is given a year to review the idea so that if the Fellowship disapproves, delegates can come back the following year and recommend that a book not be published, if that is the group conscience.

All Grapevine items are made up of previously published Grapevine articles -- so they are not new material. And many, like several of Bill's essays in *The Language of the Heart*, several Big Book stories, and the articles in *AA in Prison*, are reprinted in AAWS pamphlets and books that are Conference-approved.

Tradition Two suggests the Fellowship needs to be guided by the widest variety of AA thought to get a true group conscience. The Grapevine helps us achieve that.

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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, 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

Sunday, July 15th - District 5 - Summer Sober B-B-Q - 11:00am - 7:00pm - Saratoga State Park - Columbia Pavilion, Saratoga Springs, NY - Contacts: Lisa S (518) 584-6567 or Bruce (518) 587-6254

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

HMB AREA NEWSLETTER (6/2007)

59 Violet Avenue

Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

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