

HMB AREA 48 NEWSLETTER



AA Principles of the Month

Step 9 - Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.

Tradition 9 – A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

Concept 9 - Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.

Tradition Nine Checklist

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

Concept Nine Checklist

- Do we discuss how we can best strengthen the composition and leadership of our future trusted servants?
- Do we recognize the need for group officers? What is our criteria for election? Do we sometimes give a position to someone "because it would be good for them?"
- Do I set a positive leadership example?



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HMB EVENT SCHEDULE- 2007 thru 2008

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>HOST CLUSTER</u>	<u>DATE</u>
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
January	HMB Area Inventory Day	Eastern (1,2,18)	Sunday, 1/6/08
February	NERAASA	Atlantic City, NY	2/22/08 - 2/24/08
March	NERD	Killington, VT	3/7/08 - 3/9/08
March	HMB Area Fellowship Day	Hudson Valley (3,7,11,15,16,17)	Sunday, 3/16/08
April	HMB Area Day of Sharing	Adirondack (5,10,13)	Sunday, 4/13/08
May	HMB Area Assembly	Central (4,8,14)	Sunday, 5/18/08
July	NYS Convention	Tarrytown, NY	7/25/08 - 7/27/08
August	NYS Informational Workshop	TBD	TBD
September	HMB Area Fellowship Day	Eastern (1,2,18)	Sunday, 9/14/08
October	HMB Area Assembly	Central (4,8,14)	Sunday, 10/5/08
November	HMB Area Convention	TBD	TBD
November	HMB Area Fellowship Day	Western (9,12)	Sunday, 11/16/08

- *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.*

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
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KEY DATES FOR 2007 NEWSLETTERS:

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

- 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:

- 10/5/07 – January Inventory/Fellowship Day Flyer
- 12/7/07 – March Delegates Day Flyer

HMB Election Assembly - Directions to the Blooming Grove Reformed Church Saturday, September 8th

706 Blooming Grove Drive
Rensselaer, NY 12144

From the North and West:

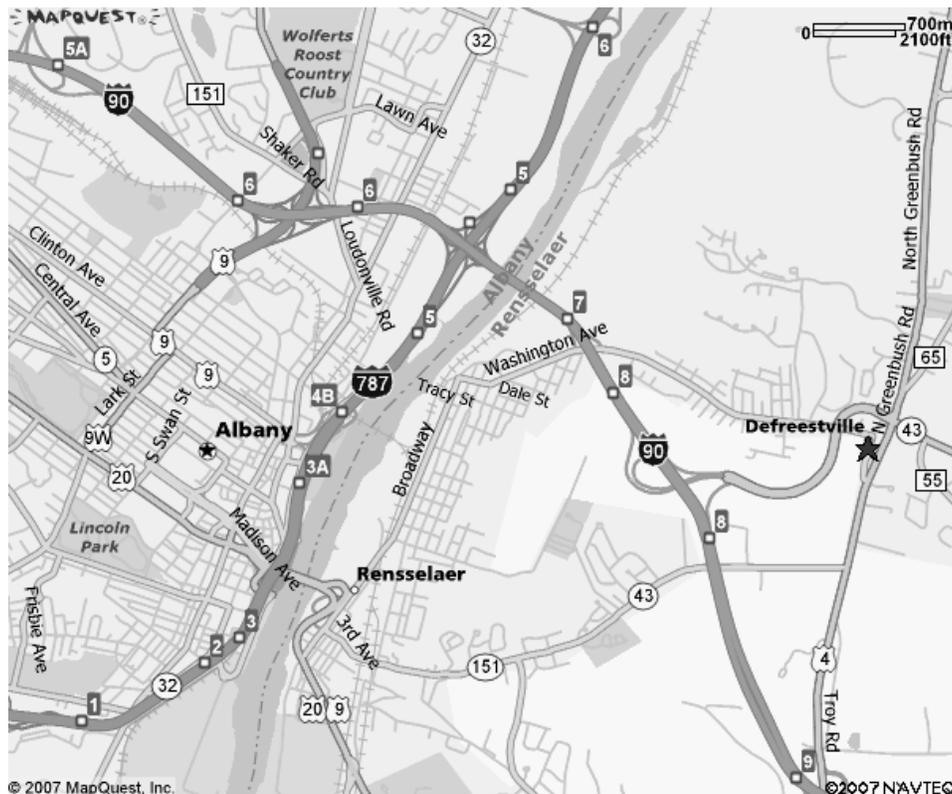
Get off the Thruway/Northway at Exit 24. Get on I-90 East (Albany-Boston).
Exit I-90 at Exit 8.
Turn right on Washington Ave at the first light.
Turn right on Blooming Grove Drive at the Stop sign.
The church is almost immediately on your right.
Parking is behind the church (limited) or across the street in the CDTA Park & Ride.

From the South:

Exit the Thruway at Exit 23. Get on I-787 North. Take Exit 5 for I-90 East.
Follow the directions above.

From the East:

You're local – good luck!



Contacts:

Tad J. - 518-366-5631
William T. - 518-320-0875
Jim McG. - 518-326-5186

Service Resumes for the September Election Assembly

It is an honor and privilege to make myself available for the Panel 58 Area Chair/Alternate Delegate position.

GROUP AND DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

1990-1999 a broad range of group and district service positions that include: coffee maker, greeter, secretary, literature chair, and program chair; 1999-2000 GSR (Kingston Original Group), Records Chair District 7; 2001-2002 DCM District 7; 2002-2003 Treasurer (Kingston Original Group), Newsletter Editor District 7; 2006-2007 Records Chair District 15.

AREA 48 – HMB ACTIVITIES

2001-2005 Finance Committee member; 2004-2005 Treasurer; 2005 Area Convention Committee - Treasurer & Registration Co-Chair of the 55th HMB Area Convention; 2006 Area Convention Service Table Chair; 2006 Panel Member at November Fellowship Day on Traditions 7, 8 & 9 Workshop; 2007 HMB Area Day of Sharing Event Chair; Presently: HMB Area 48's Newsletter Editor and Newsletter Committee Chair, HMB Area 48 Website Ad Hoc Committee, 39th NYS Convention Treasurer and Registration Co-Chair.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

I currently sponsor women in recovery and service; I am honored to be an active member of the New Leaf Group and to take my turn greeting the newcomers, visitors and all who attend the meeting; in March 2006, I participate in as a Panel Participant at District 11 3rd Legacy Spiritual Breakfast; in March 2007, I participated as a speaker at the District 11 3rd Legacy Spiritual Breakfast; in May 2007, I participated as a speaker at the 47th Delaware State Convention.

I am grateful for the past, current and future opportunities to serve HMB - Area 48 and AA as a whole.

In love and service,

Deb D.

My name is Bob L; I am an alcoholic and am currently serving as your Area 48 Secretary. My sobriety date is March 2, 1976 and my home group is the New Beginnings Group of Woodstock, NY. I am respectfully submitting my name for consideration for the job of Alternate Chairperson. In my 31 years I have performed service on all levels, from coffee maker on up to DCM. I believe that the experience that I have gained as Area Secretary will prove valuable in performing the duties of the Alternate Chair and in assisting the Area Chair when required. Thank you for allowing me to be a Trusted Servant for the past two years. I am looking forward to continuing service on whatever level I am called upon. Yours in service, Bob L

I am writing to make myself available for the position of Treasurer for HMB Area 48, at the upcoming Area Elections on September 8, 2007. At the same time, I withdraw my name from consideration for Area Secretary

Biography:

Home Group: Lambda Group, Albany, Dist 1 HMB
Sobriety Date: April 4, 1995
Service: Coffee maker, Slingerlands Midday Step Group, 1995-96
Coffee maker, Lambda Group, 1996-97
GSR, Lambda Group, 1997-99
Dist 1 Treatment Chair, 2000-02
GSR, How It Works Group, Albany, 2003-05
DCM, Dist 1 HMB, 2005-present

Note: Because of a family commitment in Maine, I will not be able to attend the HMB Area 48 Election Assembly on Saturday, Sept. 8, 2007 in Defreestville. I am still willing to stand for election as Area Treasurer, if it is the conscience of the group. I would welcome the opportunity to serve -- if not now, then at a future time.
Respectfully submitted,
William T.

In love & service, William T.

It is an honor and privilege to make myself available for the Panel 58 Area Secretary position.

GROUP AND DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

1993-2004 a range of group and district service positions that include: treasurer, coffee maker as well as greeter and meeting leader. 1997-1998 Group Treasurer -Lakeville Group, 4/2001- 11/2001 GSR- Ancramdale Men's Group, 11/2001 – 12/2002 District 17 Newsletter Editor, 2003-2004 DCM District 17. 1/2007- Present District 15 Answering Service Rep.

AREA 48 - HMB ACTIVITIES

2004- Present Finance Committee member, 2005 Area Convention Committee Treasurer and Registration Co-Chair of the 55th HMB Convention. Presently: serving as HMB Area 48 Treasurer and this year 39th NYS Convention Treasurer and Registration Co-Chair.

I currently sponsor men in recovery and find it most helpful and rewarding in my own recovery.

I am grateful for my past service to HMB Area 48 and look forward to what ever opportunities my "Higher Power" has in store for me.

Grateful to serve, Keith D.

HMB AREA 48 AREA ASSEMBLY

Sunday, October 14th, 2007

(Site to be determined)

9:00 am - 10:00 am	Registration
10:00 am - 12:00pm	Area Committee & Committee Chair Reports, Discussion
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	Lunch (Provided)
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Voting on Proposals

Proposals for the October Area Assembly

PROPOSAL #1:

Whereas, the HMB Area Approved Newsletter Guidelines in October 2006, the guidelines did not specifically address submissions from the CDCO.

Therefore, be it resolved that the HMB Area Newsletter Guidelines be amended to include the following:

- Event submissions from the CDCO can be included in the section on district events as one line info.
- The CDCO can submit an article or report once a quarter, to be no longer than a ½ page in the HMB Area Newsletter, and must following the same guidelines as other submissions.

Respectfully Submitted by the Newsletter Committee (Deb D, Betty C, Kevin B, Bob L)

PROPOSAL #2:

Per this years Audit Committee suggestion, we propose to Area 48 the purchasing of 2 laptop computers and printers to be maintained as Area property. These computers are to be available for the service positions of Area Treasurer and Alt. Secretary (Records keeper) if needed. The final expense should not exceed \$1800.00, with final purchase approval to come from the Finance Committee.

Respectfully submitted by, Keith D. - HMB Area Treasurer

PROPOSAL #3:

Whereas today, there is no HMB Area Website Committee

Therefore, be it resolved that the HMB Area Establish a Website Committee.

1. The HMB Area 48 website/s shall be administered by a Website Committee, which shall have direct oversight of the Website/s. The committee shall be a Standing Committee of HMB Area 48. (minimum of 3 people appointed by the Area Chair)
2. The elected Webmaster/s shall maintain and update the website and perform other related duties as requested by the Website Committee. The Website Committee will also identify qualifications for the Webmaster/s position.
3. The internet web site, its name, 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.

Respectfully Submitted by the Website Ad Hoc Committee

PROPOSAL #4:

Whereas we are suggesting an Area Information Website,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Area adopt the following guidelines.

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.
- Provides intra-area communications between Area 48 representatives and the fellowship.

- 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 for NY State Meetings continue to be available 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>. Use of support services such as maps for directions to meetings can be used. Some events may have registration or information websites that will link from the calendar. When leaving the HMB Area Website some indication will be given to the user that they 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.

Respectfully Submitted by the Website Ad Hoc Committee

Budget Proposal for October Area Assembly

PROPOSED HMB 2008 Budget

Expenses:

Delegate	\$3,500
GSO Conference Donation	\$2,000
Chairperson	\$2,500

Stipends:

Alternate Area Chairperson	\$500	
Secretary	\$500	
Alternate Secretary	\$850	
Treasurer	\$850	
Alternate Treasurer	\$500	
Sub-Total		\$3,200

Committee Chairs and Others Stipends:

PI Committee Chair	\$350	
CPC Committee Chair	\$350	
TF Committee Chair	\$500	
CF Committee Chair	\$500	
SN Committee Chair	\$350	
BTG Committee Chair	\$350	
Grapevine Chair	\$350	
Archivist	\$350	
Newsletter Editor	\$350	
Web Chair	\$350	
Sub-Total		\$3,800

NERAASA 2008	\$3,750
HMB Convention seed money for 2009	\$2,000
NYS Convention 2008	\$800
NYS Information Workshop 2008	\$3,000
Newsletter Printing	\$3,000
Newsletter Postage	\$4,500
Service Manual Updates	\$200
Area Inventory Day	\$400
Day of Sharing/Delegates Days	\$400

Area Assemblies	\$800
Fellowship Days	\$800
Insurance Costs	\$600
Website	\$400
NYS Info Workshop Seed Money 2008	\$0
Mail Box Service	\$300
Archive Storage Fees	\$800
Meeting Books for Committee Chairs	\$500
Tax Preparation	\$350
Prior Year Expenses	\$500
NE Regional Forum	\$0
Total Expenses:	\$38,100

Income:

WebSite Contributions	\$200
HMB Convention (Seed Money Returned from 2008)	\$0
Projected Group Contributions	\$27,900
Estimated Checkbook Carryover on 1/1/08	\$10,000
Total Income Needed:	\$38,100

Misc Information:

Prudent Reserve	\$7,000
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PROPOSED HMB AREA ASSOCIATION BUDGET NARRATIVE FOR 2008

1. Amounts allocated are the maximum allowable expenditures for each category. Actual expenditures must be reported in writing and documented with receipts. Reports are due by April 15th, July 15th, October 15th and December 15th. The Finance Committee must review all reports past due before any payments are made. Stipend expenses are allotted when requested, and only when an accounting of the previous allotment has been made. Stipend allowances include mileage at \$.30 per mile, tolls, postage, supplies, telephone, printing, copies and other. Receipts and mileage details are required.
2. The Delegate's and Area Chairperson's allocations include funds for expenses to all Area, State and Regional events. The Delegate and Chairperson are asked to balance their activities as close to the amount allocated as possible.
3. Allocations for Secretary, Treasurer, Alternate Area Chairperson, Alternate Secretary, Alternate Treasurer include: Expenses up to \$500, the Treasurer and Alternate Secretary is allocated an additional \$350 to cover supplies, printing and postage.

4. Allocations for Newsletter Editor, Public Information (PI), Cooperation with Professional Community (CPC), Special Needs (SN), Bridging the Gap (BTG), Grapevine (GV), Archives and Web Committees are budgeted for \$350. They may exceed the budgeted amount to a maximum of \$500 with Finance Committee approval. Allocations for Treatment Facilities (TF) and Correctional Facilities (CF) Committees are budgeted for \$500. They may exceed the budgeted amount to a maximum of \$750 with Finance Committee approval.
5. Expenses to attend 2008 NERAASA will be a maximum of \$300 per area committee member. The budgeted amount of \$3,750 should not be exceeded. Members funded include all Area officers and committee chairs. NERAASA is a service assembly for GSR's, DCM's and Area Committee Members of the Northeast Region to discuss issues and concerns affecting AA as whole, as well as pertinent aspects of recovery, unity, and service common to the Northeast Region. The 2008 event will be in Atlantic City, NJ.
6. Expenses to attend the NYS Convention are \$400 per area committee member. Members funded are the Secretary and Alternate Area Chairperson. Officers attending must be providing a service function for the convention to be funded and provide a report on the conference. The NYS Convention will be hosted by SENY.
7. Expenses to attend the NYS Informational Workshop are \$200 per area committee member. The budgeted amount of \$3000 should not be exceeded. Members funded include all Area officers and committee chairs. 2008 NYS Informational Workshop will be hosted by WNY.
8. Exceptions: Chairpersons and Officers living within 25 miles of a funded event will be reimbursed for mileage and registration only, unless handicapped. Banquet and meal costs are not funded. Funding covers lodging, registration, mileage at \$.30 per mile and tolls. As always, those funded are asked to share expenses whenever possible.
9. \$400 is allocated for each Area function. Six functions in 2008. The functions are: Inventory Day, Delegates Day/Day of Sharing, two Fellowship Days and two Assemblies. Note: There are two Area Assemblies in even-numbered years. There are three Area Assemblies in odd-number years and includes Area Election Assembly held in September.
10. \$400 is allocated to maintain the Area Website. This expense is the same as any other not-for-profit organization would pay to maintain a Website.
11. \$200 for service manual updates; the estimated cost of printing update pages. To be done once a year after the October Assembly.
12. \$500 for HMB Meeting schedules to Standing Committee Chairs. These include PI Chairperson, CPC Chairperson, TF Chairperson, CF Chairperson and BTG Chairperson.
13. \$2000 is allocated for the 2009 HMB convention.
14. Regarding area events sponsored by clusters: any expenses exceeding the budgeted amount of the stipend must be approved by the Finance Committee; any monies collected in excess of the expenses shall be returned to the Area.
15. **Should contributions exceed the budget requirements, additional items may be funded at the discretion of the Finance Committee, reviewed quarterly.**

Notes:

- Expenses vary from year to year. The funding amount is based on hotel costs, registration costs, and mileage to the 2008 event (not a fixed amount). An estimate of the number of attending is based on previous years. It is hoped that this method will help bring the budget closer to the actual expenses and give all those who want to serve the HMB Area an equal opportunity. As always, those funded are asked to share expenses whenever possible.

- Expense reports are due by April 15th, July 15th, October 15th, and December 15th. Late reports will not be paid until reviewed by the Finance Committee.

HMB AREA 48 FELLOWSHIP DAY

Sunday, November 11th, 2007

(Site to be determined)

Sponsored by Western Cluster-District's 9 & 12

9:00 am - 10:00 am	Registration
10:00 am - 11:45 am	Service Workshop Traditions Workshop
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	Lunch Provided
1:15 pm - 2:45 pm	Business Meeting

AREA REPORTS

Delegates Report -

Hello everyone I am Bobby Fryer YOUR HMB Area Delegate. First of all I want to thank all four of the areas for putting on a wonderful State Convention. Kudos to the Committee. Great speakers, panels, workshops and such.

Now onto the Information Workshop this weekend, by the time you get the newsletter this will be over and hopefully everyone that attended it will come back with more information than they came with.

Next up is the Election Assembly in September. There is going to be a little bit different at this election assembly. Kevin B our Area Registrar is going to print out a form for all voting members to sign and we will cross check it to make sure you are a voting member. After that everything else in the election assembly is the same. Good luck to all those that made themselves available to serve the HMB area, along with Joan R who will become the Delegate on January 1st, 2008.

I sent out all the member survey questionnaires to the 10 groups picked in our area. So far as of August 2nd, I have received ONLY ONE response back. They need to be mailed from me the week of August 14th. Plus it was just from ONE gentleman who responded. READ the instructions. Each group was given 40 copies of the questionnaire and was suppose to be filled out by whoever was at the meeting, NOT just filled out by the GSR or Home Group members. PLEASE get them back to me before then so that this survey can be as accurate as possible.

As I close I just want to thank everyone who has made this journey for me a very enjoyable one.

Love & Service, Bobby F.

Area Chair Report -

The spiritual principle of rotation creates the need for new members to participate in our general service structure. The General Service Representative (GSR) is the group's service leader as well as a link between the group and A.A. as a whole. The GSR's get together to elect the District Committee Member (DCM), Area committee members, delegates and the trustee candidates.

In September, HMB will hold its Election Assembly and many members will then rotate into new responsibilities. Bill W. wrote in a 1959 Grapevine article, *"We shall be in continual need of these same attributes — tolerance, responsibility, flexibility and vision — among our leaders of A.A. services at all levels. We thank God that Alcoholics Anonymous is blessed with so much leadership in all of its affairs."*

We have several members who have what it takes to effectively handle all of our service assignments and responsibilities. If your group does not have a GSR, please continue to discuss the duties, the responsibilities and why it may be the most important job in A.A. When electing a GSR, I would encourage your group to also elect an alternate. Your group's GSR may one day be elected the DCM, Area committee member, delegate and trustee.

In Unity & Service, Joan R

Secretary Report -

Hooray! The NYS AA convention is over and, by all accounts, it was a huge success. Glens Falls was beautiful, the weather was great, the hotel & accommodations were outstanding, and best of all, we out did our expectations of attendance. Everyone in the HMB area who either worked at the convention, participated in panels or workshops, attended, or supported our efforts is to be congratulated. We thank you all. On a personal level it proves once again, to me, how easy it is to get aquatinted with AAs from all over the state. Best of all, I had a good time and can remember all of it. No hangovers and no amends to make either real or imagined. The promises do come true, sometimes you just have to wait a little longer. By the time this article is printed the NYS Informational Workshop will have been held. It is unfortunate that it followed the convention so closely. I hope that it was well attended also. Conventions are fun but the Workshops are the meat and potatoes of the Fellowship. As recovering alcoholics it is important that we have a balance of both. It is important to have fun but it is also vital that we continue to work towards ensuring the survival and growth of Alcoholics Anonymous. This can't happen if we sit comfortably in our home groups and ignore AA as a whole and forget what it means to alcoholics all over the world. I often hear members say that they were glad that AA was there when they needed it. Let's work to make sure that AA is there for the next suffering alcoholic wherever they may be.

In Service, Bob L, Area Secretary

Treasurer's Report -

Beginning Checkbook Balance 7/1/07:	\$ 11,472.66
Contributions:	\$ 2,859.06
Expenses:	\$ 4,512.75
Ending Checkbook Balance 7/31/07:	\$ 9,818.99
Available Funds (minus \$7,000 prudent reserve):	\$ 2,818.99

Corrections Facility (CF) Update -

New York State has 69 correctional facilities which include Maximum Security, Medium Security, Minimum Security, Minimum Security – Camps and the Willard Drug Treatment Campus. HMB has the largest geographical delegate area and more than 50% of the correctional facilities are located in our area, including one female facility. The northernmost part of HMB has 15 correctional facilities with members from Area 83 Ontario assisting in carrying the message into some of these facilities. Thanks to all the members presently carrying AA's message into the correctional facilities!!

The breakdown of facilities by New York State delegate area is as follows:

Area 47 Central New York (CNY) 8	Area 48 Hudson-Mohawk-Berkshire (HMB) 37
Area 49 Southeast New York (SENY) 13	Area 50 Western New York (WNY) 12

HMB has received a request to bring the message of hope into more correctional facilities. The inmates seeking recovery in these facilities made the request and a non-alcoholic friend of AA and correctional facilities supervisor has informed HMB of the need. Sounds great - so what's the problem? There are still some facilities without an AA meeting!

CORRECTIONS VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!!

*Columbia County, Clinton County, Dutchess County, Essex County, Franklin County,
Greene County, St. Lawrence County, Ulster County, Washington County*

If you live in or near the following counties and would be willing to carry the message behind the walls in your county, please contact me. If you or your group is presently carrying the message behind the walls in the counties listed above, please contact me.

Comments from an alcoholic inmate:

Since the introduction of A.A. into prisons and jails, many hundreds of criminal alcoholics--and some alcoholic criminals--have been saved from permanent insanity or death.

BUT FOR THE GRACE OF GOD

Joan R

"I AM RESPONSIBLE...When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there, and for that: I am responsible."

Newsletter Editor Report -

Hello. I happy to report that the newsletter has been coming out on time and that the input has been steadily flowing in. The Newsletter Committee has a proposal that has been submitted to further clarify the guidelines as it relates to the CDCO. Please review that with your districts and groups prior to the October Assembly. The Newsletter Folding Committee has been regularly meeting and it has ended up being an awesome opportunity for some of our local AA members to fellowship on a monthly basis. The gifts of this service position have been abundant and I am tremendously grateful for the opportunity to have served. As I reminder, my service position as Newsletter Editor ends in December. Please consider making yourself available to serve.

On a separate note, I attended the NYS Convention in Glens Falls and assisted with the Registration Table. Approximately 540 people were in attendance. We had a fabulous time meeting and greeting folks upon their arrival to the convention and throughout the weekend. Thanks to all who helped not only with the registration, but with hospitality, greeting, panels, workshops, service tables, Alkathon meetings and more. Without the help of over 100 HMB Area members, the success of the event would not have been possible. As the treasurer for the event, I am pleased to report that the event was self supporting. Final numbers are not quite available, but will be forthcoming very soon.

In love and service, Deb D

Web Site Chair Report -

Web Site Development:

Maintaining an internet web site is more than putting information on a "server." It doesn't accomplish much if "visitors" don't find it and read the contents. The meeting list site <http://www.ny-aa.org/> has a lot of friends who tell their friends and so on. That is the result of years of development. Many provide a link in an e-mail or on their web sites. Many "bookmark" it for their own use. All of the public web site links increase the placement of ny-aa.org on the results page when someone does an internet search such as on Google. It is in the top few search results for many relevant "keywords" that someone seeking AA meeting information might use.

I am aware of over 500 web pages (other than our own) which link to ny-aa.org pages. Half of those are to the home page. The rest are to specific county, district, or intergroup web pages. For example <http://ny-aa.org/dutchess/> or <http://ny-aa.org/local/hmb11/> are linked from other sites. It would be a mistake to change ny-aa.org in any way that these links no longer work. Not only does it cost search engine ranking, it abandons our friends who book marked or e-mailed or provided a link.

Search Engines:

Of the internet search engines, Google sends by far the most visitors to the site. Yahoo! is next. There are others. I would guess that half of those coming to ny-aa.org now either Googled (*now a verb*) it themselves or were sent by someone who Googled it. You need to maintain a web site in a way that looks "tasty" as a search engine "spider" crawls over it.

White Hat vs. Black Hat:

People who do "search engine optimization" come in two flavors. The "white hats" play by rules by putting legitimate information on the web and gratefully accepting anyone who links to it. I try to use words that people might search. The "black hats" make fake or hijacked material look useful through a number of tricks. I will add "dunce hat" to that list. Some clueless webmasters use "Keywords" to tell search engines that their page has something about "Dr Bob" when it really doesn't.

It is important for us white hats to maintain whatever search results positions we can above the black hats so people are not misled by them. Honest to gosh, I have seen a florist come up in a search for AA meetings near some city offering quick delivery of flowers. Imagine a newcomer getting flowers from his spouse during his first meeting. Another web site said it would help find a nursing position near the meeting.

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At the NYS Convention, Rule 62 came up as a conversation. Some folks were interested in knowing where this all started. Here is a grapevine article by Bill W that talks to it. Enjoy!

Tradition Four

The fourth of a new series of articles explaining The Twelve Traditions. . . < a as AA or groups other affecting matters in except autonomous, be should group Each>

AUTONOMY is a ten-dollar word. But in relation to us, it means very simply that every AA group can manage its affairs exactly as it pleases, except when AA as a whole is threatened. Comes now the same question raised in Tradition One. Isn't such liberty foolishly dangerous?

Over the years every conceivable deviation from our Twelve Steps and Traditions has been tried. That was sure to be, since we are so largely a band of ego-driven individualists. Children of chaos, we have defiantly played with every brand of fire, only to emerge unharmed and, we think, wiser. These very deviations created a vast process of trial and error which, under the grace of God, has brought us to where we stand today.

When AA's Traditions were first published in 1945, we had become sure that an AA group could stand almost any amount of battering. We saw that the group, exactly like the individual, must eventually conform to whatever tested principles would guarantee survival. We had discovered that there was perfect safety in the process of trial and error. So confident of this had we become that the original statement of AA tradition carried this significant sentence: "Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an AA group provided that as a group they have no other affiliation."

This meant, of course, that we had been given the courage to declare each AA group an individual entity, strictly reliant on its own conscience as a guide to action. In charting this enormous expanse of freedom we found it necessary to post only two storm signals. A group ought not do anything which would greatly injure AA as a whole, nor ought it affiliate itself with anything or anybody else. There would be real danger should we commence to call some groups "wet," others "dry," still others "Republican" or "Communist," and yet others "Catholic" or "Protestant." The AA group would have to stick to its course or be hopelessly lost. Sobriety had to be its sole objective. In all other respects there was perfect freedom of will and action. Every group had the right to be wrong.

When AA was still young, lots of eager groups were forming. In a town we'll call Middleton, a real crackerjack had started up. The townspeople were hot as firecrackers about it. Star-gazing, the elders dreamed of innovations. They figured the town needed a great big alcoholic center, a kind of pilot plant AA groups could duplicate everywhere. Beginning on the ground floor there would be a club; in the second story they would sober up drunks and hand them currency for their back debts; the third deck would house an educational project. . .quite noncontroversial, of course. In imagination the gleaming center was to go up several stories more, but three would do for a start. This would all take a lot of money. . .other people's money. Believe it or not, wealthy townsfolk bought the idea.

There were, though, a few conservative dissenters among the alcoholics. They wrote the Foundation, AA's headquarters in New York, wanting to know about this sort of streamlining. They understood that the elders, just to nail things down good, were about to apply to the Foundation for a charter. These few were disturbed and skeptical.

Of course there was a promoter in the deal. . . a super-promoter. By his eloquence he allayed all fears, despite advice from the Foundation that it could issue no charter, and that ventures which mixed an AA group up with medication and education had come to sticky ends elsewhere. To make things safer, the promoter organized three corporations and became president of them all. Freshly painted, the new center shone. The warmth of it all spread through the town. Soon things began to hum. To insure fool-proof, continuous operation, 61 rules and regulations were adopted.

But alas, this bright scene was not long in darkening. Confusion replaced serenity. It was found that some drunks yearned for education, but doubted if they were alcoholics. The personality defects of others could be cured maybe with a loan. Some were club-minded, but it was just a question of taking care of the lonely heart. Sometimes the swarming applicants would go for all three floors. Some would start at the top and come through to the bottom, becoming club members, others started in the club, pitched a binge, were hospitalized, then graduated to education on the third floor. It was a beehive of activity, all right, but unlike a beehive, it was confusion compounded. An AA group, as such, simply couldn't handle this sort of a project. All too late that was discovered. Then came the inevitable explosion. . .something like that day the boiler burst in Wombley's Clapboard Factory. A chill choke-damp of fear and frustration fell over the group.

When that lifted, a wonderful thing had happened. The head promoter wrote the Foundation office. He said he wished he'd paid some attention to AA experience. Then he did something else that was to become an AA classic. It all went on a little card about golf-score size. The cover read: "Middleton Group No. One. Rule No. 62." Once the card was unfolded, a single pungent sentence leaped to the eye: "Don't take yourself too damn seriously."

Thus it was that under Tradition Four an AA group had exercised its right to be wrong. Moreover, it had performed a great service for Alcoholics Anonymous, because it had been humbly willing to apply the lessons it learned. It had picked itself up with a laugh and gone on to better things. Even the chief architect, standing in the ruins of his dream, could laugh at himself. . .and that is the very acme of humility.

Bill W.

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