

# HMB AREA 48 NEWSLETTER



## AA Principles of the Month

**Step 10** - Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.

**Tradition 10** – Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy.

**Concept 10** - Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined.

## Tradition Ten Checklist

1. Do I ever give the impression that there really is an "AA opinion" on Antabuse? Tranquilizers? Doctors? Psychiatrists? Churches? Hospitals? Freudianism? Catholicism? Judaism? Agnosticism? Jails? Alcohol? Drinking? Psychiatrists? Other alcoholism agencies? Jungianism? Protestantism? Or. . .
2. The Federal or state government? Alcohol education? Legalizing marijuana? Vitamins? Theories of alcoholism? Detoxification centers? Missions? Research into alcohol problems? Paraldehyde? Teen-age drinking? Tax-supported alcoholism programs? Al-Anon? Alateen? The alcoholic beverage industry? Non-alcoholics?
3. Can I honestly share my own personal experience concerning any of those without giving the impression I am stating the "AA opinion"? How?
4. What in AA history gave rise to our Tenth Tradition?
5. Have I had a similar experience in my own AA life?
6. What would AA be like if this Tradition were not in effect? Where would I be?
7. Do I breach this or any of its supporting Traditions in subtle, perhaps unconscious, ways?
8. How can I manifest the spirit of this Tradition in my personal life outside AA? Inside AA?

## Concept Ten Checklist

- Do we understand "authority" and "responsibility" as they relate to group conscience decisions by G.S.R.s, D.C.M.s and our area delegates?
- Why is delegation of "authority" so important to the overall effectiveness of A.A.? Do we use this concept to define the scope of "authority"?

**HMB EVENT SCHEDULE- 2007 thru 2008**

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>HOST CLUSTER</u>	<u>DATE</u>
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.

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

November Edition - 10/5/2007  
 December Edition - 11/2/2007  
 January Edition - 12/7/2007

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

# **HMB AREA ASSEMBLY**

Hosted by District 14

**WHEN:** Sunday, October 14, 2007

**WHERE:** Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church

Bishop Scully Hall  
1735 Alexander Road  
Delanson, NY 12053

**(HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE)**

9:15A- 10:00A	Registration
10:00A-12:00P	Area Business
12:00P-1:00P	Lunch provided
1:00P-????	Area Business

**DIRECTIONS:** Delanson is easily accessible from Route 7, Route 20 and Interstate 88 (I-88) and is located about 29 miles southwest of Schenectady.

From the West Route 20: Travel east on Route 20 through Esperance, NY. Turn right on Rt. 395. Turn right on School Dr. and right onto Alexander.

From the East Route 20: Travel west on Route 20 through Duanesburg, NY . Turn left on Rt. 395. Turn right on School Dr. and right onto Alexander.

From the South Route 7: Travel east on Route 7. Turn left on Rt. 395. Turn left on School Dr. and follow to Alexander.

From the South Rt I-88: Travel east on Rt I-88 to Duanesburg exit. Take Rt 20 west Follow through Duanesburg, NY . Turn left on Rt. 395. Turn right on School Dr. and right onto Alexander.

From the North Rt. I-88: Take I-88 south to NYS Thruway. Take I-90 west to exit 25A (I-88). Take I-88 south to Duanesburg exit. Turn left on Rt. 395. Turn right on School Dr. and right onto Alexander.

**Since this is a Sunday, church services will be in progress when you arrive. We will be parking in the school parking areas near the church. WATCH FOR THE PARKING SIGNS.**

**CONTACT PERSON: Ken S (518) 355-2398**

## 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](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>. 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](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.

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 15<sup>th</sup>, July 15<sup>th</sup>, October 15<sup>th</sup>, and December 15<sup>th</sup>. Late reports will not be paid until reviewed by the Finance Committee.

# HMB AREA 48 FELLOWSHIP DAY

Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2007

St. Luke's Home

1650 Champlin Avenue

New Hartford, NY 13413

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

Directions: From NYS Thruway take Exit 31, Utica.

Follow RT.12 south to Burrestone Rd.

Bear left on Burrestone RD to Champlin Ave.

Take right on Champlin Ave at Utica College.

Go past St. Luke's Hospital to St. Luke's Home.

Turn left into parking lot.

Contact Person: Tom R. (315) 735-6080

## AREA REPORTS

### **Delegates Report -**

Hiya everyone Bob F. your HMB Area Delegate. I hope to find you all having a great sober summer. I had a wonderful time at the NYS Informational Workshop in Albany. Great speakers and topics were presented. KUDO's to Gail and her committee.

By the time you receive this we will have already had our Area elections. Good luck to all those that made themselves available to serve the HMB Area. Then it is onto the Area Assembly in October and a Fellowship day in November out in western (because I cant remember the city its in yet)

I have been in contact with the person who might become the newest Class A Trustee, Terry B. He is from District 2's area and I am trying to get him to come to our Area Assembly in October. Hopefully he can make it.

As I look back on these past 4 years what a wonderful experience it has been for me. The places I have been, the people I have met and the knowledge I have acquired over these past four years. These 2 jobs as the Chairperson and then the Delegate have been truly a humbling experience. I wish I could thank everyone individually for this, but then I'd take up the whole newsletter and can't do that.

I know there are a couple of items to vote on at the Assembly, PLEASE take them to your groups and have them come to the Assembly to vote on these. It's the GSR's responsibility to be there to vote on ANY items of the Area.

I want to thank the THREE groups that responded to GSO's group survey (even though I sent out packets to TEN groups) that's another DUTY as the GSR to do this but oh well we can't be perfect. So I guess 3 responses are better than 2. So for now...

Love & Service, Bobby

### **Area Chair Report -**

Thanks to all the HMB members who participated in making the NYS Convention and the NYS Informational Workshop an enjoyable weekend. During the Convention, there were discussions regarding possible Tradition violation. Our Traditions teach us to stand together through unity, recovery, common welfare, conscience, primary purpose and anonymity. We should not take the Traditions out of context or bend them to fit our needs.

Our literature tells us we are all guardians of the Traditions – our Traditions counter anger, ego and power-driving. It is important to understand how individual members fit in AA and that we are a small part of a big whole. Let us remember that our code is love and tolerance and as Bill states in A.A. Comes of Age, "For as long as He may need us". Let us continue to practice these principles to the best of our abilities.

Many members in HMB will rotate in the next few months and hopefully, into new service positions. Often we hear, "by the time you learn a position, it is time to rotate into another one". Please make yourself available to assist the new person in the position. Without rotation, newer members will not have an opportunity to experience general service. How important is rotation – I believe it is a spiritual responsibility!! Thanks to all who made themselves available to serve!

The next Assembly will be hosted by the Central Cluster and held on October 14 at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Delanson, NY. The four proposals and the proposed 2008 budget should be discussed with your group members before the vote during this Assembly. It is another opportunity for members to observe, ask questions, make suggestions and experience the joys of general service.

As always, I encourage ALL members of HMB to attend and participate.

In Unity & Service, Joan R

**Secretary Report -**

By the time this newsletter is distributed the elections for area officers will have been held. I hope that those of you who could attend and exercise your right to participate did so. Congratulations to the newly elected servants and good luck in your endeavors. In August I attended the NYS Informational Workshop. It appeared that attendance was a little down. This was probably due to it being so close to the NYS Convention. In any event those that did attend enjoyed themselves and learned a little more about the workings of the various committees. As I have previously stated, the conventions are fun, and we need to have fun, but the workshops are the heart of AA. I may be preaching to the choir but it is important that we participate in these activities and encourage our sponsees to become involved also. On a personal note. I recently returned from a week's vacation. During that week I was able to attend three AA meetings in the area that I was vacationing in. At none of those meetings was I approached, acknowledged, or greeted. I am glad I am not new to sobriety. I hope that none of your home groups treat visitors like that. It is not only the newcomer that needs to be greeted and welcomed, it is everyone and anyone that shows up. I couldn't help but think "What if I had just moved to this area and was looking for a home group. It certainly wouldn't have been one of those three." Let's continue with our 12th step work and make sure that every stranger that walks through the doors of our home group is greeted and made to feel welcome.

Yours in service,

Bob L, Area Secretary.

**Treasurer's Report -**

Beginning Checkbook Balance 8/1/07:	\$ 9,818.99
Contributions:	\$ 4,925.09
Expenses:	\$ 2,910.25
Ending Checkbook Balance 8/31/07:	\$ 11,833.83
Available Funds (minus \$7,000 prudent reserve):	\$ 4,833.83

**Public Information (PI) Report -**

Hello HMB Area!

In keeping with the proposed schedule developed last winter, our next "push" in our Public Information work is to target radio and television stations with our most current Public Service Announcements.

At the September Area Assembly I distributed a sample letter of introduction and request to air our radio PSAs for District PI Chairs to use as a model in how to contact local radio stations. I also included an audio CD of our PSAs for distribution. Each district should make copies of this CD as needed, depending on the number of radio stations to be contacted. If any PI Chairs need assistance with this, please contact me immediately. The paperwork part of this PI work is available electronically simply by emailing me at [Area48publicinformation@gmail.com](mailto:Area48publicinformation@gmail.com).

The annual NYS Informational Workshop was great this year. I had the pleasure of chairing a panel on Public Information that included folks from all four NY areas. The wealth of experience and information was wonderful.

Please contact me if I can be of any assistance to your group, intergroup, central office or district in helping to inform the general public of Who We Are and What We Do.

In service,

Jim M. - PI Chair

**2007 NYS Convention Report -**

Gene H. and Tom H. (convention co-chairs) wish to thank all the dedicated volunteers that helped to make this State AA Convention the huge success that it was. There were over 530 attendees. Our committee of William, Keith, Debbie, Kae and Lorna did a superb job of getting volunteers to be greeters, help with registrations, man the hospitality suite and participate during functions at the convention. I thank Gail for her part in seeing to it that speakers were where they had to be on time and transporting our GSO speaker.

I thank Joan R, our Area Chair, for allowing me the privilege to serve as chair of the convention with the help of Tom H. from Vermont. I quickly made Tom my co-chair as he had the experience of doing a convention.

The HMB Area is to be proud of the hospitality and fellowship that the Hotel allowed to be formed.

Again, a BIG THANK YOU to all the AA, Al-Anon and Al-A Teen members who participated and attended.

Yours in service, Gene H. - 2007 NYS Convention co-chair

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I would like to thank the Convention committee and all the people that were involved in making this event a success. With the exception of one issue, this was a very positive event where AA's message of sobriety and service were shared.

Debbie will have all the numbers for the Convention. The attendance was improved from previous years because the registration forms were available to the groups in almost every area. Thank you all who did this. Expense for the convention were exceed because of the number of people attending and a we carefully managed the budget. I thank everyone for this.

This event, like most events, did many things right but there is always room for improvement and I will be sommin a summation of the returned comment forms for the next Convention Committee.

I would like to thank everyone for the privilege of doing service within Area 48. This was a reward, enlightening and educational experience.

In Service, Tom H - 2007 NYS Convention Co-Chair

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Thank you to all who attended and especially those who volunteered themselves to do all the behind the scenes work to make the convention such a success. I am happy to report that the convention was better than self supporting. We were able to return the seed money we had received to the next NYS Convention which will be held in the SENY Area next year. Additionally, the monies remaining after all bills were paid was \$5,248.80. \$1,300 has been distributed to each of the 4 Areas (HMB, CNY, WNY, SENY). \$48.80 remains in the checkbook until all checks have been cleared and then that money will also be distributed.

It was a wonderful opportunity to be of service.

Respectfully submitted, Deb D - 2007 NYS Convention Treasurer

**2007 NYS Informational Workshop Reports-**

At the business meeting for the 2007 NYS Informational Workshop, the Committee received many wonderful comments and some suggestions to help make future IW's even more successful.

One suggestion was to add a Concepts panel into the program.

Putting the agenda on the flyer was perceived as a good idea. Possibly sending out the agenda with the times on it again just prior to the IW would be appreciated.

Have the Delegate/Area Chair explain to those who were going to be speaking on a panel that this is not the place for a drunk-a-log but to share about their specific duties and actions performed in their current service position.

A suggestion of adding a timer (like at NERAASA) to give an equal amount of time for everyone on the panel to share and also to ensure that time would be left over for a question and answer period.

The Delegate and Chair of each NY Area are charged with providing the panelists from their Service Committee Chairs. They also inform the IW Program Chair who is sharing on each of the panels. It is the responsibility of the Delegate and Chair to ensure that these panelists are notified and secured for their respective panel. If a particular Service Chair is unable to attend, that Service Chair should find a replacement and notify the Delegate or Area Chair so they, in turn, can notify the IW Program Chair.

Although the Program Chair sent out notification to the Delegates and Area Chairs in February and May, it was felt that more correspondence might be required. For example, sending out notification in February, April, May, June and July was suggested.

Although this has been the standard practice for as long as anyone on the committee can remember, some in attendance said they were not aware of the above requirement. A concisely written statement could help avoid this exclusion of information in the future.

Our Committee is grateful for the opportunity to serve.

In Love & Service, Gail Gregory - NYSIW '07 Chair

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In the early months of 2007 I began to make efforts to contact each Area to request their participation. We got the flyer together early, and it was distributed at each Area, and Regional event, up to the workshop. Our Area Chair gave me the email addresses, addresses, and phone numbers for each of the other Area Delegates, and Chairpersons, and I emailed the flyer in PDF to each. The other Area's websites were a handy tool to communicate to each Area. I also emailed the flyer to the Intergroups, and Central Offices in NY State. Since we had an added panel with the topic of "Young People in AA Service" I also sent the flyer to the NY-CYPA committee via their web site, inviting them to contact me about participation.

I emailed Greg M. at GSO to request his participation, and he directed me to Rick W., who gratefully accepted the invitation to be our Speaker on Saturday Night. A few months later I was contacted by Rick who said he had to decline the invitation, because of his new assignment at GSO. He referred us to Gayle S.R., who was please to accept the invitation. We were very happy to have Gayle, since she is a Past Delegate from New York State, and we all know and love her here. Gayle's A.A. experience and participation was a valuable asset to us for the entire week end.

I received a few emails requesting information about the event in the weeks prior, which I responded to. One was for special needs, and a few were for directions, and accommodation inquiries. I responded to each by phone, email, and snail mail.

Things I would have done differently as Program Chair:

- Do a follow up phone call to each Area Chair to remind them of their Area's responsibility to populate the workshop panels.
- Make sure the directions on the flyer were drivable, and would bring you directly to the building we were having the event in.
- Put a phone number on the flyer.

Make efforts to get more new members of A.A. there to experience the event. Possible with a scholarship for service program.

One of the things I notice at the workshops is that we usually see the same faces, and we "preach to the converted". If we allow more early members to get involved, we may help to let out the best kept secret in A.A. which is: *Gratitude through Service*. The new "Young People in A.A. Service" workshop served as a great new asset to this effect.

Other than these items, I think we did real well hosting the event. Many compliments were given, and gratefully received after the event. And I congratulate the rest of our committee for their hard work.

In Grateful Service, Kevin B. - NYSIW '07 Program Chair

## Website Chair Report

### Everything Is On the Internet:

If you want to find reliable information about just about anything, it is on the internet. If you want to find guesses about just about anything which are not identified as guesses, it is on the internet. If you want to find total fabrications about just about anything, it is on the internet. Whatever you research on the internet, good luck resolving the contradictory "facts" you find. Finding the voice of authority can be a real challenge. Don't worry yourself into drinking but be skeptical.

### Write Your Own Encyclopedia:

There is a free user-edited encyclopedia available on the internet. If you don't like some fact you find there, sign in and change it. Other people probably will change it back fairly quickly but it is disconcerting that such power is in the hands of anyone who has a computer and some time to spare. Total chaos is prevented by presence of individuals who actually care about facts. My experience is that I can use the information if it isn't something controversial.

### Anyone Can Write the News:

There isn't any organization deciding who can and who can not have an internet presence. One web site with a name similar to the official A.A. web sites used to consist of links to porn' sites. (You don't need the list. You can find your own.) There are copy-right and trademark laws but it is easy to set up a web site and say pretty much anything you want. Your "electronic magazine" can look just as legitimate as some corporate entity. In fact, some BLOGs (for Web Log) do a better job on news that interests the "blogger" than many on-line magazines maintained by print news sources you would recognize.

### Voice of Authority:

It helps to have some organization or agency to help you sort it out. I will mention just one for this article. There are a lot of outfits that look like alcoholism treatment facilities which really just collect a referral fee for steering clients to legitimate treatment providers. If your Treatment Facility Committee wants to make contacts within their coverage area, the U.S. government has collected information from all state licensing agencies.

<http://dasis3.samhsa.gov/>

It isn't perfect but it sure beats trying to find facts among the deceptive listings in your phone book.

### Speaking of Phone Books:

There is a lot of stuff in phone books that tries to look like Alcoholics Anonymous. "AAAAAAA Alcoholism Treatment" is not A.A. no matter how many A's they string together. I don't know how they did it but one detox in Florida or Texas managed get their 1-800 number listed as an alternate number for one of our AA hot-lines. I won't tell you that number because you don't need it. We maintain the dignity of Alcoholics Anonymous by not calling the number a hundred times an hour. I know it is tempting but that isn't who we are.

Tom E host@ny-aa.org

## District Calendar of Events

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

**Friday, October 26, 2007 - District 18** – Halloween Dance – 8pm – Midnight – Greenbush Reformed Church, Routes 9 & 20 @ Hays Road, East Greenbush, NY - AA Meeting at 8pm -Contact: Tad J (518) 336-5631 or Pat K (518) 283-6712

**Saturday, November 11, 2007 - Districts 9 & 12** – Spiritual Banquet - 5:30pm - Roseland Banquet House - 446 Main Street, New York Mills, NY - Tickets Required - Contact: Tom R (315) 735-6080

*Halloween Humor: Casper the Friendly Ghost is now in detox! Yeah, he couldn't kick the Boo's!*



## From the Grapevine Digital Archives

### The Spirit of Rotation

One of the most valuable resources of any organization is the experience of those who have gone before. The sharing of what they've done right, and the sharing of the mistakes they've made, become a solid foundation for continued healthy growth. Because of the wise and spiritual principle of rotation, we in Alcoholics Anonymous are blessed with a constantly vital and always growing pool of people whose primary aim is to serve the AA Fellowship. They are willing to share both success and failure in order to preserve what we have been given. How then can we continue to benefit from the experience of those who have rotated?

My understanding of rotation has led me from one service job to another. I don't believe rotation means "I quit." I don't think rotation means "I've done my time, now it's someone else's turn." I do believe rotation means that "I have made my contribution in this capacity. Where can I be of use next?"

I feel a deep need to pass the message on. I have an obligation to the new person to pass on the message of recovery, but my obligation goes beyond today. It extends to those who will come through the doors of Alcoholics Anonymous fifty years from now, when I am dead and gone. Part of our message must be how to preserve this precious gift so that those yet to come will have the same chance at recovery and life we had.

From the beginning of AA, the concept of sponsorship has been one of our most important means of passing on experience. My early sponsors lovingly showed me simple and direct steps I could take that would produce very specific results. They demonstrated these results in their lives in such a way that I wanted what they had. I followed their suggestions and got the same results. I began to recover and walk the spiritual path as they did. How nice it was to have someone who had been over the path before to show me the rough spots and to explain the new things that were happening to me. When the time came, my sponsors shared with me about serving the Fellowship. I was to do for the new people what had been done for me. I was to make my time and my experience available.

One of the things I like best about spiritual people is that they are seldom rude. They don't often demand their own way, nor do they seem to be driven by a need to be right all the time. They do seem to be around and available, but usually wait to be asked. As I've gone from service assignment to service assignment, I've found that those who preceded me were always willing to share with me, but they also allowed me to make my own mistakes. They told me what they had done, what had worked and what had not. Often when I would go to my service sponsors, they listened, then said, "Let's see what the manual says" or "How does that idea fit the Concepts?"

A "loving invitation" always seems to work with me. So perhaps one of the best ways for us to continue to benefit from our rotated servants would be to request that they put on a workshop at an assembly or be on a panel with others who share their experience. I once heard that the condition of "bleeding deaconism" was caused by service people who got out of service. I don't need a title, but I do need to be involved. I love the action of service. I love service people. I would be less if I couldn't participate. If this is so for me, then perhaps it is so for others. I need to ask them to continue to be part of my service life so that their precious learning is not lost. When I'm allowed to help plan a function, I try always to give out those "loving invitations." I need, and have, service sponsors. I call on the phone or stop by and visit. I don't always agree with my sponsors, but I always listen. But there will be nothing to listen to if I don't ask.

As is usually the case, the answer to most of my questions is in the question itself. "How can we continue to benefit from the experience of those who have rotated?" The best way I can think of to benefit from *their* experience is to be certain that they are a part of *mine*.

Don P.

Aurora, Colorado

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