

# HMB AREA 48 NEWSLETTER



## AA Principles of the Month

**Step 12** - Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

**Tradition 12** – Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

**Concept 12** - The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government, and that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.

## Tradition Twelve Checklist

1. Why is it a good idea for me to place the common welfare of all AA members before individual welfare? What would happen to *me* if AA as a whole disappeared?
2. When I do not trust AA's current servants, who do I wish had the authority to straighten them out?
3. In my opinions of and remarks about other AAs, am I implying membership requirements other than a desire to stay sober?
4. Do I ever try to get a certain AA group to conform to *my* standards, not its own?
5. Have I a personal responsibility in helping an AA group fulfill its primary purpose? What is *my* part?
6. Does my personal behavior reflect the Sixth Tradition--or belie it?
7. Do I do all I can do to support AA financially? When is the last time I anonymously gave away a Grapevine subscription?
8. Do I complain about certain AAs' behavior--especially if they are paid to work for AA? Who made *me* so smart?
9. Do I fulfill all AA responsibilities in such a way as to please privately even my own conscience? Really?
10. Do my utterances always reflect the Tenth Tradition, or do I give AA critics real ammunition?
11. Should I keep my AA membership a secret, or reveal it in private conversation when that may help another alcoholic (and therefore me)? Is my brand of AA so attractive that other drunks want it?
12. What is the real importance of *me* among 500,000 AAs?

### Concept Twelve Checklist

- How do we guard against becoming a “seat of perilous wealth or power?”
- How do we practice prudent use of our Seventh Tradition contributions and literature revenue?
- Do we insure the spiritual liberties of all A.A. members by not placing any member in the position of absolute authority over others?
- Do we try to reach important decisions by thorough discussion, vote and, where possible, substantial unanimity?
- As guardians of A.A.’s traditions, are we ever justified in being personally punitive?
- Are we careful to avoid public controversy?
- Do we always try to treat each other with mutual respect and love?

#### KEY DATES FOR UPCOMING NEWSLETTERS:

To submit articles to the HMB Area Newsletter, please e-mail to [HMBAreaNewsletter@hvc.rr.com](mailto:HMBAreaNewsletter@hvc.rr.com).

Submissions for the January Edition of the newsletter are due no later than 5pm on 12/7/2007.

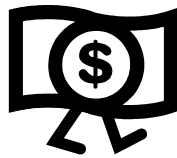
### **HMB EVENT SCHEDULE - 2008**

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>HOST CLUSTER</u>	<u>DATE</u>
January	HMB Area Inventory Day	Eastern (1,2,18)	Saturday, 1/5/08
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	Eastern (1,2,18)	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



Happy  
Happy  
Holidays

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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.

**Monday and Tuesday , December 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> - District 7** - Holiday Alkathon - Dec 24th at 6:00 pm - 1:00 am & Dec. 25th from 7:00 am - 6:00 pm - Benedictine Hospital Auditorium, Kingston, NY - Contacts: Chris P. (845) 331-2001; Annette B. (845) 532-7838; Lorenzo S. (845) 853-8721, Lynne M. (845) 339-3256

**Monday and Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> - District 5** - Christmas Alkathon - Dec 24<sup>th</sup>- 6:00 pm thru Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> -6:00 pm – First Baptist Church, 45 Washington St, Saratoga Springs, NY - Contact: Lisa S (518) 527-9214

**Monday and Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup> & January 1<sup>st</sup> - District 5** – New Years Alkathon - Dec 31<sup>st</sup>-5:00 pm thru Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>-5:00 pm – Salvation Army, 27 Woodlawn Avenue, Saratoga Springs, NY - Contact: Lisa S (518) 527-9214

**Saturday, January 26<sup>th</sup> - District 4** - Spiritual Breakfast - 9:00am—The Johnstown Holiday Inn, 308 North Comrie Avenue, Johnstown, NY 12095 - Contacts: Christy T (518) 661-5331

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)  
Hudson Mohawk Berkshire Area (HMB)

2008 HMB AREA MEETING SCHEDULE ORDER FORM

All orders must be pre-paid in full, and must include shipping charges. Schedules are \$.50 each.  
Please include your complete address, including zip code. (NO PO BOXES PLEASE)

**TENTATIVE DELIVERY IS EARLY TO MID FEBRUARY**

**\*\*\*\*MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO\*\*\*\***

James Malone  
Send to:  
HMB Meeting Schedules  
PO Box 318  
West Park, NY 12493

**ALL ORDERS MUST BE PRE-PAID – NO EXCEPTIONS**  
**ALL ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY DECEMBER 31, 2007**  
**LATE ORDERS WILL NOT BE FILLED**

Any questions about pricing can be directed to:

Jim Malone  
Area 48 Alt Treasurer  
845 338 2064  
Area48alternatetreasurer@gmail.com

**SHIPPING INFORMATION:**

**- ORDERS CANNOT BE SHIPPED TO A PO BOX -**

Undeliverable addresses may be subject to additional shipping and handling charges. These will be delivered to your local District General Services Committee, DCM, or District Secretary.

**(Please Print – Bold and Legibly)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Group (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Order Quantity (minimum order is 10 books): \_\_\_\_\_ \* **\$.50** = \_\_\_\_\_

+ Shipping and Handling: \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Include shipping and handling price per quantity.

10-50 @ \$7.00  
51-100 @ 9.00  
101-300 @ \$16  
301-600 @ \$32

601-900 @ \$48  
901-1,200 @ \$64  
1,201-1,500 @ \$80  
1,501-1,800 @ \$96



# NERAASA '08

## 17<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

### NORTHEAST REGIONAL ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS SERVICE ASSEMBLY

#### 2008 GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE THEME

“COMMUNICATION AND PARTICIPATION – THE KEY TO UNITY AND SELF-SUPPORT”

WEST ATLANTIC CITY, SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY

FEBRUARY 22<sup>ND</sup>, 23<sup>RD</sup> AND 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2008

**PURPOSE:**

*The purpose of the Northeast Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (NERAASA) is for GSR's, DCM's, Area Committee Members and Intergroup and Central Office Representatives of the Northeast Region to discuss General Service Conference related issues and concerns affecting A.A. as a whole, as well as pertinent aspects of recovery, unity and service common to the Areas of the Northeast Region.*

**ALL A.A. MEMBERS ARE WELCOME!**

**LOCATION:**

**CLARION HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTER**

6821 Black Horse Pike, Atlantic City West, EHT, NJ 08234

**DEADLINES:**

Hotel Registration - January 24, 2008  
 Event & Meal Registration - February 10, 2008  
 Registration available on-site

**ON SITE REGISTRATION:**

Begins at 1:00 pm  
 Friday, February 22, 2008

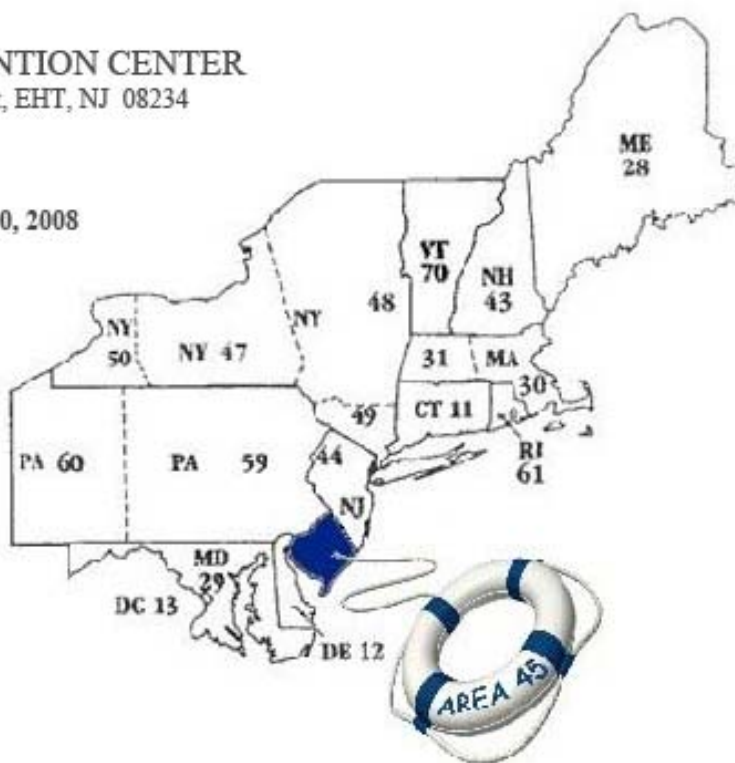
**FIRST PANEL:**

Begins at 3:00 pm  
 Friday, February 22, 2008

**ICE BREAKER AA MEETING:**

Thursday Evening at 8:00pm  
 February 21, 2008

[www.neraasa.org](http://www.neraasa.org)





**NERAASA 2008 ~ February 22 – 24, 2008**  
**Clarion Hotel & Convention Center Atlantic City**  
 6821 Black Horse Pike  
 Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234  
 Phone: (609) 272-0200 Toll-Free: (800) 782-9237  
 Web contact: clarionacwest@comcast.net



**NERAASA '08**  
 SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY  
 AREA45

**Hotel Reservation Information:**

**Check In:** 4:00pm **Check Out:** 12:00pm

**Wheel chair Accessible:** Handicap accessible rooms are available.

**Smoking:** Smoking is allowed in a limited number of smoking guest rooms (or outside designated areas)

**Hotel reservations MUST be made directly with NERAASA '08 for rates quoted.**

- ❖ Send the form on the facing page along full payment or credit card information – or –
- ❖ Go online at [www.neraasa.org](http://www.neraasa.org) (click on NERAASA 2008, then Registration - starting 10-20-07)
- ❖ Confirmation of your reservations is through the NERAASA '08 Committee (not the hotel)
- ❖ **Credit cards can ONLY be used for pre-registration**
- ❖ Walk-in Registration: cash/check/money order

**BY AIR OR RAIL:**

Please review the "Directions" link at <http://www.neraasa.org/neraasa/direction.html> for information regarding transportation & directions:

- ❖ Hotel(s) provides shuttle service from Atlantic City Airport
- ❖ For those in need; the NERAASA Committee may be able to assist with some transportation

**BY CAR:**

**From Philadelphia & West**

Walt Whitman Bridge to Route 42 South to Atlantic City Expressway toward Atlantic City, to exit 7S Garden State Parkway South, to exit 37 toward US-40/Pleasantville/US-322/Atlantic City. Turn left at W Washington Ave. Turn right at Fire Rd. Turn left at Black Horse Pike/US-322 E/US-40 East. Hotel is on right.

**From the Northeast**

Garden State Parkway South to Exit 37 toward US-40/Pleasantville/US-322/Atlantic City. Turn left at W Washington Ave. Turn right at Fire Rd. Turn left at Black Horse Pike/US-322 E/US-40 East. Hotel is on right.

**From the Northwest**

It is recommended that you do an Internet map search for directions to the hotel from your location or to Philadelphia and follow directions *From Philadelphia*

**From the South (including Philadelphia Airport)**

Interstate I-95 North to Philadelphia, Walt Whitman Bridge to Route 42 South to Atlantic City Expressway toward Atlantic City, to exit 7S Garden State Parkway South, to exit 37 toward US-40/Pleasantville/US-322/Atlantic City. Turn left at W Washington Ave. Turn right at Fire Rd. Turn left at Black Horse Pike/US-322 E/US-40 East. Hotel is on right.



**Panel Presentations / Floor Discussions on Issues Affecting A.A. Today**  
**Northeast Regional Trustee's Report**

Saturday Banquet followed by an A.A. Speaker Meeting / Round Table Sharing Sessions on:

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| ● A.A. Literature                             | ● Grapevine/La Viña                           | ● Area Delegates and Alternate Delegates |
| ● Archives                                    | ● Hispanic Community (La Comunidad Hispánica) | ● Area / District Registrars             |
| ● Area / District Chairpersons                | ● Intergroup/Central Office                   | ● Area/District/Group Secretaries        |
| ● Central Office/Intergroup                   | ● Newsletter                                  | ● Area/District/Group Treasurers         |
| ● Cooperation With The Professional Community | ● Public Information                          | ● Treatment Facilities                   |
| ● Correctional Facilities                     | ● Special Needs/Remote Communities            | ● Website                                |
| ● District Committee Members                  |   | ● Young Peoples                          |
| ● General Service Representatives             |   |  |

For more information visit [www.neraasa.org](http://www.neraasa.org), or call a NERAASA 2008 Committee Member:

Laurie E., Chair	609-425-4941	Joe M., or Elaine M. Registration	856-939-8979
Fred E., Co-Chair	856-784-4728	Steve G., Transportation	609-501-4785
Jimmy S., Program	609-731-4302		

**WHAT TO BRING:**  
 You A.A Service Manual  
 2007 Final Conference Report  
 Note Taking Material

**REGISTRATION FORM**

**Forms may be copied. Please use one form for each person registering**

*In order for those without on-line access to stay in the Main Hotel; On-line registration will begin October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Mail-in & On-line Registration will be processed starting on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2007.*

**NERAASA Hotel Registration Deadline (mail & online): January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2008**  
 (Hotel prices are guaranteed until January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2008 or until room blocks are filled)  
**Event & Meal Registration Deadline (mail & online) - February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

**Please complete the form below and mail to: NERAASA 08, P.O. Box 75, Runnemede, NJ 08078**  
**Or go to: [www.neraasa.org](http://www.neraasa.org) beginning on October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ A.A. Area # \_\_\_\_\_ (see front page map)  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone (Day): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (Evening/Cell): \_\_\_\_\_

- GSR or Alt GSR
- DCM or Alt DCM
- District Committee
- Central Office or Intergroup
- Delegate or Alt Delegate, Panel \_\_\_\_\_
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- Area Committee
- Area Officer
- Trustee/Director

- Past Delegate, Panel \_\_\_\_\_
- Conference Committee \_\_\_\_\_
- I would be interested in moderating a round table session.

I have been to a NERAASA before? Yes No As a presenter? Yes No  
 I would like to participate in a panel presentation Yes No -or- record a round table session Yes No.  
 Arrival date: \_\_\_\_\_ (Time) \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 I have special needs (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**EVENT REGISTRATION, MEALS & ROOM SELECTION:**

**Event Registration & Meals (tax/gratuity included)**

- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ NERAASA Registration \$20
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Delegate's Luncheon \$22  
 (Delegates, Current Alt. & Past Delegates only)
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Friday Night Buffet \$30
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday Night Banquet \$35  
 Prime Rib  Chicken  Vegetarian

*Please note: When staying at the hotel (Clarion or Holiday Inn Express), breakfast is included*  
 ❖ Meal registration is not available on site

**Hotel (tax included)**

- \$105 per night, double occupancy
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Thursday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Friday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2008
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2008
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2008
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ For 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> persons in one room
- Add \$25 per person, per night
- Single  Double  Triple  Quad
- Smoking room (if available)
- King -or-  2 Double beds

To insure your reservation is made correctly, please provide us the name(s) of your roommates.

Roommate: 1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_ 3) \_\_\_\_\_  
First and last name First and last name First and last name

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Enclosed (Check, Money Order Payable to: NERAASA 2008)**

Or Credit Card Info: <input type="checkbox"/> American Express <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Master Card <input type="checkbox"/> Discover (No Code)			
Credit Card # _____	Exp. Date ____/____	Security Code _____	
Please charge my credit card: Amount \$ _____			
Signature: _____		Name on Credit Card _____	
<i>Your signature authorizes your credit card to be charged for the total amount due.</i>			

**\*\*\*NO CREDIT CARDS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER FEBRUARY 10, 2008 -OR- FOR WALK-IN REGISTRATIONS\*\*\***

## AREA REPORTS

### **Delegates Report -**

Hello I am Bob F, YOUR Panel 56 Area HMB Delegate. Well this is it folks, my last report and here goes. I have had a wonderful time (most of the time) being the chairperson and then the delegate of the HMB area. It is truly an experience I would have never dreamed of when I first walked into my first AA meeting. The people I have met and the experiences I have been taught by going to all these functions almost overloaded my brain, but it was a very educational. Somehow I only knew of the steps and traditions; then someone threw in those pesky Concepts. Most of us never even heard of them before getting into service work. The times I had at conventions, NERAASA, NERF and the Conference will last with me until my last breathe and I am be ever so grateful to be able to serve the HMB Area. I hope that as I leave this position the HMB area is better than when I held those positions and hope that the HMB area continues to grow and more people get into Area service work. It is actually a shame with over 700 groups in our Area and we get just a few GSRs to attend the Area meetings. It all comes down to educating the New GSR's to let them know they have a right and an obligation to be there. Now I can sit in the back row with the other Past Delegates and throw monkey wrenches and hand grenades as one Past Delegate told me.

I would love to personally thank everyone who I have met, helped me during this time or I have helped but it would take up the whole newsletter.

I have been asked by Deb to start a committee of Past Delegates to form a welcoming committee as greeters at the doors of the area meetings. If any Past Delegates are willing to step up and help this committee PLEASE email me or call me to verify you are willing to participate with this.

Now onto a more sensitive part of this report. I don't agree with the Assembly's decision to cutoff the ordering of meeting schedules on December 31st. But respect their decision on this. I have gotten numerous phone calls about this and just keep telling to make sure they get their orders in before the deadline. Certain groups, districts and individual AA members concerns are that when we voted this if they knew how much power or control they had with this proposal, (and please don't take that wrong, that is their words not mine) they would have never voted for it. Rehabs also have called and asked what happened. Most Rehabs don't approve their budgets until after the cutoff date and won't be ordering schedules anymore. Some Rehabs use purchase orders also and I told them they won't be accepting PO's anymore. I know the Area ordered 2000 extra schedules but this one Rehab ordered 4500 for a lot of the past years. Personally I think that we have slammed the doors in the faces of the Groups, Districts, Individual AA Members and Rehabs by doing this, but that's just my humble opinion by what I have heard from these phone calls. I just have this feeling that this is going to put a wedge into what the Area should actually be doing and that's helping the next drunk who walks into the doors of AA in the HMB Area.

So as I close I wish the new Area Officers to enjoy their positions and have as much fun as possible with their terms. Joan, enjoy the Conference. It is truly a spiritual experience you have never felt yet. Then come back and tell us about it so us Past Delegates can relive it also. We are like kids in a candy store when you will tell us. I didn't understand that until I attended my last conference and as I walked out of that hotel I said now I know what these Past delegates are talking about.

So for now,  
Love & Service

Bob F

### **Area Chair Report -**

For those who follow a path of general service in Alcoholics Anonymous, I think rotation is one of the greatest gifts-it reminds us that we are but a small part of a much greater whole. Many in HMB are rotating and looking forward to a new phase of general service experiences and responsibilities. Whether you experience general service in your group, district or Area, it is my hope for all to experience the joys and gifts of sobriety as you become involved!



I would like to thank the Area for all the opportunities you have given me to serve for the past two years, whether it was being asked to moderate a group or district inventory, to speak at districts, group anniversaries, state convention, to speak on Traditions or Concepts, or maybe just to share my own experience, strength, and hope. What a wonderful opportunity for spiritual growth! I would also like to thank **all** the trusted servants who served HMB anytime during the past two years for all their efforts!

Once A.A. members are well informed about service, they often want to become involved and to take on their own service responsibilities. In many areas, the delegate and area committee members make themselves available to visit groups or district meetings and talk about general service.

*(From the A.A. Service Manual, page S22, 2007-2008 Edition - Reprinted with permission of The A.A. World Services, Inc.)*

It is a privilege to rotate into the position of your Panel 58 Delegate! **"Communication and Participation—The Key to Unity and Self-Support"** is the theme of the 2008 General Service Conference. There is no end to communication - I will make every effort to communicate with members and ask members to reciprocate. As always, I encourage participation from ALL members of the Area. Your participation is an opportunity to observe, ask questions, and make suggestions or to discuss concerns, not only for the Area but for A.A. as a whole.

By the time you read this, most of us will be getting ready to enjoy the holiday in the company of our friends and family. I wish you all a happy, safe and sober holiday!!

In Unity & Service

Joan R

### **Secretary Report -**

HMB Area Assembly, Oct. 14, 2007, Delanson, NY.

There were 63 members in attendance.

10 AM: Meeting called to order by Chair, Joan R. by reciting the Declaration of Unity.

Joan asked everyone to identify themselves by name, position, and home area.

Delegates Report: Bobby F. expressed his gratitude at being honored to serve the past two years as our Area Delegate. It has been hard work but very rewarding. He has distributed the convention reports to all Districts except two (8 & 10). He also has extra Service Manuals available.

Alternate Chair: Dave J. announced that the new calendars are out. One change, District 2 will be hosting the 2008 Inventory Day on Saturday, January 5, 2008.

Secretary: Bob L., Minutes of September meeting have been printed in the newsletter. There were no additions or corrections so minutes were accepted.

Treasurer: Keith D. gave report on finances. The quarterly contribution list, treasurer's report, and green cards have been distributed to DCMs. He reminded all that 3rd quarter reimbursement requests are due. Report accepted.

Bridging the Gap: Cindy reports success in getting prisoners connected with AA contacts prior to being released. She attended a workshop on Aug. 2, 2007.

Cooperation with the Professional Community: Laurie, things are slow. She is open to anyone willing to help.

Public Information: JIM is in the process of putting together a narrative for the January Inventory Day.

Newsletter: Deb, copies of the November newsletter are available today and are in the mail. She encouraged anyone interested in becoming Newsletter Editor to contact her.

Special Needs: Pat, Special Needs 12 step work is being done. Cooperation between Districts has been helpful. CDCO has made referrals. An article on Pat and special needs work is in this month's Box 459.

Treatment: Brenda has been invited to the Great Meadows Maximum Security Facility.

Web master: Tom reminded all that the web site is available to all AAs. Meetings for all of New York State are listed. The site receives an average of 700 unique visitors per day. Please send all changes to Kevin B., Alt Secretary, or his replacement.

Alternate Secretary: Kevin, A consensus was taken from the DCMs and Record Keepers for the sort order of the meeting schedule. City sort won by more than 2/3 majority. The process by which the contract for the new meeting schedules was awarded was

explained. A lengthy discussion followed regarding the ordering process. Chair Joan R. suggested that further discussion by interested parties take place during the lunch break.

Joan then asked for the Proposals to be presented. At this time they will be read only. No discussions will take place until they are put up for a vote in the afternoon session.

Jim M. read the proposed 2008 budget.

Deb D. read Proposal #3, HMB Area to establish a web site committee and Proposal #4, Guidelines for the Area web site.

Keith D. read Proposal #2, authorize the Area to purchase two lap top computers and two printers.

Kevin B. read Proposal #1, the newsletter guidelines be amended to include articles from the Capitol District Central Office.

11:30 AM, Adjourned for lunch.

12:20 PM, Reconvened

The Proposal regarding the 2008 budget was read. A motion by Dave S., 2nd by Deb D.

The following friendly amendments were offered.

Gene asked to include \$250 expenses for the Committee Chair of any HMB sponsored convention. Passed.

Vera: would like to add \$1000 to purchase 2,000 additional meeting schedules that the Area would hold in anticipation of selling to those unable to order on time. Passed.

Tom: Item #13, add "seed money". Passed.

John: change "Stipends" to "Allocations". Passed.

Jim: Archivist should be included in expenses to attend the NYS Convention. Passed.

Fred: Downsize budget for newsletter printing from \$3000 to \$2500 and postage from \$4500 to \$4000. Passed.

Vote - Yea 34, Nay 0, Abstentions 1. Motion carried.

Proposal #3, HMB Area to establish a web site committee. A motion by Fred, 2nd by Gene. No Discussion.

Vote - Yea 46, Nay 3, no abstentions. No minority opinion. Motion carried.

Proposal #4, Guidelines for the Area web site. A motion by Keith, 2nd by Brenda. No discussion.

Vote - Yea 45, Nay 2, no abstentions. No minority opinion. Motion carried.

Proposal #2, Area to purchase two lap top computers and two printers. A motion by Dave, 2nd Bill. Discussion held. Friendly amendments added.

Vote - Yea 25, Nay 10, Abstentions 9. No 2/3 majority, motion denied.

Proposal #1, Newsletter to allow articles from the Capitol District Central Office. A motion by Fred, 2nd by William. Discussion followed with these friendly amendments passed.

Tom: Add "It is suggested: that CDCO can submit ...."

Jim: Add "Articles shall be submitted under the same guidelines as others."

Thea: Spell out CDCO (Capitol District Central Office)

Vote - Yea 44, Nay 1, no abstentions. Motion carried.

Incoming Chair, Deb D. announced the following service positions have been appointed, Jim M. has volunteered to fill the unexpired term of Alternate Treasurer and will carry over to the next two year term. Dan J. has accepted the position of Alternate Secretary. There are many committee chairs open. Anyone interested should contact Deb. New committee chair positions will be announced at the January Inventory Day. The AA Service Manual recommends rotating half of the committee chairs each year. Therefore, CPC, Corrections, and Treatment will be appointed for 2 years. Special Needs, PI, BiG, & Grapevine will be appointed for 1 year and thereafter for 2 years.

#### District Reports:

District 1 - Hosting the 2008 HMB convention also Christmas & New Year's alkathons.

District 3 - Hosting a New Year's Eve party.

District 4 - DCM, rotating out. New trusted servants elected. Holding Thanksgiving alkathon.

District 5 - Held successful summer picnic. Will host Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's alkathons. They are planning their own web site.

District 7 - Planning a Youth Conference. A networking meeting will be held 10/19/07. Meetings are being taken in to Eastern Correctional Facility.

District 10 - Will be electing a full slate of service positions in the coming year.

District 11 - Need volunteers for Dutchess County Jail and correspondence with inmates.

SENY is helping with bringing meetings to the Downstate Correctional Facility.

District 12 - Records Keeper working on corrections to groups and contact persons.

- District 13 - Due to increased service activity, District meetings are again being held monthly rather than bimonthly. Corr & BtG very active in prisons, hospitals, and other institutions. District operates a 24 hr 7 day telephone "Hotline" 518-793-1113.
- District 14 - 50% participation in District Meetings. Area AAs recently shared with grieving members. The Program works!
- District 15 - New DCM. New answering service in conjunction with Districts 7 & 16. Phone number to be announced later.
- District 16 - Looking to rotate service positions in the new year. A long standing group is in danger of losing its meeting place. A reminder, we are guests. If we don't respect the property and rules we can be asked to leave.

Gene expressed his gratitude and thanks to everyone who worked on the NYS Convention. It was a huge success.

Area Chair Joan R. suggested that groups not order meeting schedules individually, but order them through their Districts. She asked that groups and districts be reminded that the Area needs their financial support. Please send contributions. Fliers are out for the November 11th meeting. People should try to car pool. The new officers were introduced and the outgoing officers were given a hearty round of applause.

Tom suggested that all outgoing GSRs accompany the new GSRs to the January meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15 PM with the Responsibility Pledge.

### **Treasurer's Report -**

Beginning Checkbook Balance 10/1/07:	\$ 12,545.93
Contributions:	\$ 2,639.95
Expenses:	\$ 3,042.64
Ending Checkbook Balance 10/31/07:	\$ 12,143.24
<b>Available Funds (minus \$7,000 prudent reserve):</b>	<b>\$ 5,143.24</b>

Hi everyone,

Wow it's December already and with this comes my year end reminder to all *Area Officers and Committee Chairs*, your year end expense reports are ***due by December 15<sup>th</sup> please.***

My final Treasurers report comes out in January but I would like to take a moment and thank the Area for allowing me the privilege of serving as your Treasurer the last two years. It certainly has been a wonderful learning experience for me that I will not forget.

As you may know William T. will be our new Treasurer and I am very confident that he will do a great job. I wish all of our incoming Area Officers & Committee Chairs the best of luck the next two years and look forward to working with you all as I embark on my new position of Area Secretary.

Last but most important I want to thank Area 48 for its continued financial support of the Area and A.A. World Services. Without your financial support the message could not be carried. Recent proof of this is the latest edition of the Big Book (Hebrew) was printed and distributed. It just goes to show that you never know where that dollar that you put in the basket goes for and ***that we are all responsible to help pass on what was freely given to us. Thanks again!***

Grateful to serve, Keith D.

### **Alternate Treasurer's Report -**

Hello HMB!

The meeting book orders have started pouring in (if you hear me the sound of me drowning, it's because I haven't learned yet how to swim in a sea of paper. But I'm treading water and the Finance Committee have been throwing me life preservers!) and it looks like we're off to a great start.

Letters have been sent out to groups and institutions who've ordered late in the past, urging them to be responsible for meeting the deadline this year.

I've also sent order forms and a letter of greeting to institutions/facilities who've ordered meeting books in the past. This mailing is possible because of the tireless efforts of Bobby F. at compiling this information over the past years, and his generous provision of this information in the form of pre-printed mailing labels.

I'm encouraging ALL DISTRICT DCMS, PI, CPC and TF chairs to follow up with local facilities. Get in touch with local professionals and institutions. Let them know about our upcoming meeting booklet. If they can't cut through the institutional red tape to place an order in time for our deadline, consider placing an order FOR THEM at your district

If your district's treasury is low, as some often are at year's end, consider asking AA local groups to "sponsor" a facility's order. Local efforts such as this on the part of individual committees will strengthen relations between AA and these institutions. This stuff is the backbone of the "cooperation" our Traditions suggest.

If I can be of any assistance in ensuring that everyone who wants booklets gets them, please don't hesitate to contact me.

In Service,  
Jim M - Alternate Treasurer - Area48Alternatetreasurer@gmail.com

### **Alternate Secretary / Registrar Report -**

This will be my final report to the HMB Area Newsletter as Alternate Secretary/Registrar. I would like to express my gratitude to you for allowing me the honor of serving in this capacity. A new person has been appointed to the post, Dan J. Alt DCM from District 1.

I would like to request that you copy Dan in all records email communications to me. Dan's email address for Records is: hmbarearegistrar@gmail.com. I have been giving Dan all of the required computer files for our Area Database, and he is becoming familiar with them to successfully fill the Registrar's position. The Fellowship New Vision log-in procedure requires that only one security key be given to each Area at a time. For this reason, I will keep the key, until Dan is ready to take control of the Area's Database. We are working toward a gradual and smooth transition. Tom E. and I plan to assist him until he feels comfortable doing the job.

The meeting book process is underway. It's accuracy will be determined by the data received from each District. Please make sure your DCM and or Record Keeper get the required changes to me as soon as possible. The book will go to the printer before the years end. If you are aware of meeting updates, and would like to email them to me, please feel free to do so. I will make sure your District is contacted for verification, to make the change. A good way to check for inaccuracies is to compare your meeting information to the data on ny-aa.org. I send an updated file to Tom a few times each week to keep our data on the website. What you see on the Web, is what will be in the Area Meeting Schedules.

Fellowship New Vision is still in its infancy, and some changes will be taking place very soon. The functions allowed up to this point include the ability to download .CSV database lists of groups, and officers. All data entered is still through key stroke. A new feature which will be implemented soon will be the ability to download group sheets. At the present time we are only able to one at a time. All labels, sheets and lists must be downloaded as a .CSV file, and manipulated in database software, such as Excel.

I have been working with Area 31, Western Mass, and Area 83, Eastern Ontario, to sort out some groups which are registered in the wrong Areas. The process is very slow, because it requires the coordination of each Delegate, and the contact for the group in question, in order to move a group to another Area. I am happy to report that the former District 6 in our Area is down to a few groups, and these may be resolved by the time you read this. In Area 83 we have some groups in Lewis County which were a part of Area 83. These groups are a part of a "dark district" which we would like to welcome into our Area. If you are aware of any of these border groups which would like to participate in our service structure, please contact me so we can start the process of re-connecting them.



As each District elects new people to service positions, our Area database needs to be updated. Please send all of these changes to me as soon as possible, so we can have an updated Confidential Directory to distribute to each District. This list is vital to service work communication.

Thanks for another day of Sobriety.

In Grateful Service,

Kevin B - Area 48 Alt. Secretary/Registrar

### **Public Information Chair Report -**

Hello HMB!

I'll be canvassing all district PI chairs (or DCMs) for a summary of PI activity in their districts, so that I can assemble a narrative for distribution on the upcoming Area Inventory Day. Having a written record of the past -- what worked and what didn't -- is the best way I know to grow toward a brighter future. Heck, it worked in our fourth steps -- let's see it work for the spirit of the HMB!

I'll be rotating out of the PI position in January as well, so those of you serving as local PI chairs can expect a little nudging and encouragement when we speak. Who knows? Maybe YOU are the one to take the job!

In service,

Jim M - Public Information Chair - Area48publicinformation@gmail.com

### **Special needs Report -**

I thank Joan for asking me to serve and I thank all the district special needs chair people. I have learned a lot about service and about myself. After jumping in at full speed, my life took a swing that would lead me back to New York City. The time and travel took a toll and my service may have suffered for it. I am delighted Pat L. of district one took up some of my "slack"

I still have a few workbooks and some supplies to pass on to the next area SN chairperson and will do so. I believe we in Area 48 and people in AA in general do a good job meeting the needs of fellow AA's, It seems a natural thing for drunks wanting to help drunks. This may hold true for all people but I feel that when it comes to alcoholics it is much like a second nature. I wish the best to the incoming chairperson and thank all of you very nice people of our beautiful Area 48

Glen H

### **Treatment Facilities Chair (TFC) Report -**

Hi Everyone,

It has been interesting with the new upcoming changes. I hope you will all attend the January Inventory Day. I hope we can have a roundtable Treatment discussion and meet the new chairs. I hope many of you will attend the fellowship day November 11,2007 Utica NY the St. Luke's home. I am looking forward to hearing from you all. Remember mark your January calendars. See you soon.

Yours in service,

Brenda O

### **Website Chair Report -**

H-M-B Meeting Data for <http://ny-aa.org/>

Our Alternate Secretary and Registrar, Kevin Barratt, does a heck of a job keeping up with all of the GSR, Alternate GSR, officer, and meeting changes. I think he handles about twice as many records updates per year as we have groups. Maybe more! Every time he gets a change in meetings, he sends a copy of the file. I then run a few steps to upload that to the web site. (The Area Meeting Book list comes off that same file and so does my district's meeting list.) Kevin has sent over fifty files so far this year. Using the "change date" I can tell what is different and contact him to fix meeting data format problems. Near the end of the year, we exchange information several times a week. Like I said, he does a heck of a job.

**Ease of Use:**

Part of the design criteria for the meeting list part of the [www.ny-aa.org](http://www.ny-aa.org) web site is to provide a "seamless" way for people to find meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous near where they live or are visiting. I have a good deal of experience in finding A.A. while on trips. I've looked at a lot of meeting books and internet pages. Often, I would end up at the hotel desk asking, "Which of these cities is near here." That led to an enjoyable chat with one young lady who was able to tell me that the building I wanted was behind Jack-in-the-Box and the meeting was on the second floor. Some "Anonymous" people work as hotel desk clerks it seems.

**We Get Letters:**

Some of the email that comes to the web site is what I would call newcomer classic. "I don't know if I am an alcoholic. I'm not always drunk but sometimes I lose control. I tried not drinking for a few weeks last year but I couldn't stick with it." It is tempting to say "yes" but the response is to point to enough information about what being an alcoholic means that the person can pretty well do a self-diagnosis. And, of course, they are told how to contact A.A. near them.

**Cuss-cuss:**

I was trying to load some data into my PC from an external device. It was going slower than I thought it should so I interrupted it. Bad idea! I spent the rest of the day working to recover from a "Windows Protection Error" whatever the heck that means. I relearned a little. A) Maybe I will learn patience. B) Never let a machine know you are depending on it. C) I'm way too busy to drink any more.

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

**Incoming Area Chair Report -**

Dear HMB AA Members,

My name is Deb. I am an alcoholic and will be serving as your Panel 58 Area Chair starting on January 1<sup>st</sup>. While my term does not officially start until then, there are a few things that need to be addressed during this transition period.

First, with regards to service positions that are opening up, there are a number in which the Area Chair appoints. These include the following: Alternate Treasurer, Alternate Secretary, Past Delegate for the Finance Committee, Past DCM for the Finance Committee, Newsletter Editor, Newsletter Committee (2-3 people)

The Alternate Treasurer position became vacant a couple of months ago. Joan and I discussed this opening with Jim M from District 11 and he has agreed to fulfill the remaining time of the current term (through the end of the year) and to also assume a 2 year commitment starting January 1<sup>st</sup>.

For the Alternate Secretary position, I have appointed Dan J from District 1 for a 2 year commitment officially starting January 1<sup>st</sup>. Starting immediately and probably into the new year, Kevin B will be transitioning and educating Dan on the service position. Given the amount of activity that is occurring with the record updates and the meeting book bids, printer selection and formatting, it provides a good opportunity for training and education.

The finance committee is made up of the Alternate Treasurer, Treasurer, Secretary, a past DCM and a past Delegate. I have asked Gene H from District 18 to serve as the past DCM and Betty C from District 8 to serve as the past Delegate. The finance committee for 2008-2009 will therefore be comprised of Jim M, William T, Keith D, Gene H and Betty C.

I would like to thank Jim M, Dan J, Gene H and Betty C for making themselves available to serve, as well as the newly elected trusted servants, William T and Keith D. Additionally, *THANK YOU* to all who currently serve in those positions. Your service to the Area has been greatly appreciated.

I will be focusing next on the newsletter editor and newsletter committee. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please let me know. I will be looking to appoint these positions by the end of November to ensure some time for turnover with the existing committee.

Lastly, I have had a number of people who have already approached me regarding the service committee positions that will be opening up as of the first of the year. It is exciting to see people making themselves available for the service work within our fellowship. To align with our service manual, I will be asking that the service committees meet at the January Area event and bring forward a recommendation for a chairperson for their respective committees. To align the rotation of our committees such that only ½ of our committees rotate on any given year as detailed in our service manual

- CPC, CFC, TF and SN committees are to select a chair for each committee to serve for 2 years.

- PI, BTG and Grapevine committees are to select a chair for each committee to serve for 1 year. At the end of the one year, those positions will resume a 2 year commitment cycle using the same process.

In the event there is no chair selected for a particular committee, I will appoint someone. Please continue to let me know if you are willing to make yourself available. I am looking forward to serving the HMB Area. Thank you.

In love and service,

Deb

### *Incoming Alternate Secretary Report -*

I am grateful to have the opportunity to serve as the HMB Alternate Secretary beginning January 2008. I have been serving as the Alternate DCM in District 1 for the past two years, with William T. as DCM. I had been a GSR, prior to that, for my home group, the Center Square Promises Group in Albany. As Alternate DCM, I had the great privilege of attending NERAASA in Burlington.

As the Alternate Secretary, I will be responsible for maintaining Area records. Pending my appointment to this office, I have been in contact with Kevin B., who has been priming me for the significant work ahead. This entails frequent and direct communication with District Registrars, and with a GSO database. I will also be responsible for communicating changes in group information to Tom E., who dutifully maintains the website at ny-aa.org.

I am looking forward to meeting many of you in the months to come. Please contact me at any time. Thanks,

Dan J

### *What's new in AA Worldwide?*

- ◆ **The Hebrew Translation of the Big Book** is now orderable through the General Service Office. This marks the 53rd translation of our Big Book. Order reference number is HEBRB-30.
- ◆ **The Young People's Video Project** - In 2007 the General Service Conference recommended that the Trustees' Committee on Public Information seek out video/digital submissions from the Fellowship that could be compiled and included in a video designed to carry the A.A. message of recovery to young People. The General Service Office is now looking for digital videos that focus on the experience of getting sober between the ages of 12 and 25. There are specific guidelines on the submissions and release forms that are required. For more information, please visit the [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org) website. Submissions should be received by the General Service Office by November 30th.
- ◆ **Invoices via e-mail from A.A.W.S.** - Anyone placing an order with A.A. World Services now has the option of receiving their invoices or statements via e-mail. Previously, this paperwork went out by regular mail only, a process which can take up to two weeks to reach customers. So next time you place an order for literature or any other material from A.A.W.S, please supply us with your e-mail address and receive your invoice right away.