

# HMB AREA 48 NEWSLETTER



## AA Principles of the Month

**Step 3** - Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him..

**Tradition 3** – The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking.

**Concept 3** - To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A-the Conference, the General Service board and its service corporations, staffs and committees, and executives-with a traditional “Right of Decision”.

## Tradition Three Checklist

### Third Tradition Checklist

In my mind, do I prejudge some new AA members as losers?

Is there some kind of alcoholic whom I privately do not want in my AA group?

Do I set myself up as a judge of whether a newcomer is sincere or phony?

Do I let language, religion (or lack of it), race, education, age, or other such things interfere with my carrying the message?

Am I over-impressed by a celebrity? By a doctor, a clergyman, an ex-convict? Or can I just treat this new member simply and naturally as one more sick human, like the rest of us?

When someone turns up at AA needing information or help (even if he can't ask for it aloud), does it really matter to me what he does for a living? Where he lives? What his domestic arrangements are? Whether he has been to AA before? What his other problems are?

## Concept Three Checklist

**Concept III:** To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A. —the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives—with a traditional “Right of Decision.”


- Do we understand what is meant by the “Right of Decision”? Do we grant it at all levels of service or do we “instruct”?

Do we trust our trusted servants — G.S.R., D.C.M., area delegate, the Conference itself?

**HMB EVENT SCHEDULE - 2008**

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>HOST CLUSTER</u>	<u>DATE</u>
March	NERD	Killington, VT	3/7/08 - 3/9/08
March	HMB Area Fellowship Day	Hudson Valley (3,7,11,15,16,17)	Saturday, 3/15/08
April	HMB Area Day of Sharing	Adirondack (5,10,13)	Saturday, 4/5/08
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	8/1/08 - 8/3/08
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
Oct/Nov	HMB Area Convention	Eastern (1,2,18)	10/31/08 - 11/2/08
November	HMB Area Fellowship Day	Western (9,12)	Sunday, 11/16/08

**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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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*\*Newsletter Deadline:** Please submit all articles and info by **February 25, 2008** for the April issue.\*\*

NEW ULSTER COUNTY ANSWERING SERVICE NUMBER: (845) 943 - 5151

If you would like the HMB Area Newsletter e-mailed to you, and no longer want to receive it by postal mail, please drop a note to the editor at [hmb48newsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:hmb48newsletter@yahoo.com), and we'll start with our next issue. Save a tree!

**CORRECTIONS VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!!**

*Clinton County, Dutchess County, Essex County, Franklin County,*

*St. Lawrence County, Ulster County, Washington County*

DID YOU KNOW????

For members willing to carry the message of A.A. into the above correctional facilities, your TB test will be paid for by New York State. If you only take one meeting a month into a facility for less than eight (8) hours, you are NOT required to have the test.

“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.”

*If anyone has clearance to carry the message into the Columbia/Greene County facilities, please contact*

*Joan R at [hmbdelegatepanel58@gmail.com](mailto:hmbdelegatepanel58@gmail.com)*

# HMB AREA FELLOWSHIP DAY

*Hosted by District 16*

Saturday, March 15, 2008

At

The Saugerties' Senior Citizen Center

207 Market Street

Saugerties, NY 12477

## Tentative Agenda

9:00am – 10:00am - Registration & Coffee

10:00am – Open with Serenity Prayer

God, Grant me the Serenity to Accept the things I cannot change, Courage to change the things I can and Wisdom to know the difference

10:00am – 10:20am - Overview of Service Committees

10:25am – 11:15am - Service Committee Meetings (TF, CF, BtG, Finance, Website)

11:20am – 12:15pm - Service Committee Meetings (CPC, PI, SN, Grapevine, Newsletter)

12:15pm – 1:00pm - Lunch

1:00pm – 3:00pm - Area Business Meeting

Adjourn with the Responsibility Declaration

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.

## Directions

### From the North

Exit Thruway(Rt 87) at exit 20, make left on Rt. 32 south, make left at stoplight at Rt. 212 east, proceed into village, make left on Market Street, approx. 1/2 mile on left just before Cantine Field.

### From the South

Exit Thruway (Rt 87) at exit 20, make right at stoplight at Rt. 212 east, proceed into village, make left on Market Street, approx. 1/2 mile on left just before Cantine Field.

For more information: 845-338-5151 (Jack)

# Hudson-Mohawk-Berkshire (HMB)

## Area 48 Delegate's Day

United Methodist Church  
 175 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue at Henning Road  
 Saratoga Springs, NY 12866  
 Saturday, April 5, 2008

9:00 am – 10:00am	Registration
10:00 am – 10:30 am	Delegate's Experience (Bobby F., Betty C., Charlie C.)
10:30am – Noon	General Service Conference Agenda Discussion
12:00pm – 1:00pm	Lunch provided
1:00pm – 3:00 pm	General Service Conference Agenda Discussion

**“We may not need a General Service Conference to ensure our own recovery. We do need it to ensure the recovery of the alcoholic who still stumbles in the darkness one short block from this room. We need it to ensure the recovery of a child being born tonight, destined for alcoholism. We need it to provide, in keeping with our Twelfth Step, a permanent haven for all alcoholics who, in the ages ahead, can find in AA that rebirth that brought us back to life.”**

***The late Dr. Bernard B. Smith, nonalcoholic, then chairperson of the board of trustees, and one of the architects of the Conference structure, in his opening talk at the 1954 meeting***

**Directions:** Take ‘Northway’ I-87 to Exit 14; turn right at end of ramp & go to traffic light; Turn right at traffic light onto Henning road; go approx. 1/4 mile on Henning Road to 175 5th Ave. United Methodist Church is on the left side—across from John Meyers BOCES Center.

Questions? Contact Bob B, DCM D5 (518)580-0838 or John D, DCM D13 (518) 494-7432

**(Sponsored by Adirondack Cluster - Districts 5, 10, & 13)**

## Calendar of Events

### AREA CONVENTION

The 58th Annual HMB Area Convention will be held the weekend of **October 31- November 2, 2008**, at the Holiday Inn Albany, 205 Wolf Road, Albany, New York, 12205 Flyers will be available at the May 2008 Assembly and early registrations will be accepted beginning in July!!

This is your chance to have your voice heard!! If you have ideas for topics for workshops and panels, please send an e-mail to the address we have set up just for this purpose. Any and all submissions will be carefully considered.

If you have a special skill or talent that would help make this a great weekend... please send along that information too!! Volunteers will be needed for many service opportunities during the upcoming months, and during the 3 days of the Convention!!

Send your emails to: [hmbconvention2008@gmail.com](mailto:hmbconvention2008@gmail.com)

Thanks.

Pat L

Convention '08

### CORRECTIONS CONNECTION

SENY Area 49 Corrections Committee is sponsoring a one day Corrections Connections Workshop with Department of Corrections personnel and AA members on **Friday, April 18, 2008** from **9:00 am-3:30 pm** at Sing Sing Correctional Facility in Ossining, New York. The topic for the day is *Carrying the Message of Recovery to the Incarcerated Alcoholic*. This is an opportunity to network to bring AA meetings into prison and become familiar with corrections correspondence and Bridging the Gap Pre-Release programs. Lunch will be served. If you are interested in attending, please contact Jim W at (718) 829-7287 or e-mail at [corrections@aaseny.org](mailto:corrections@aaseny.org).

### THIRD LEGACY BREAKFAST

**District 11-On Saturday, March 8, 2008 9:00 am –12:30 pm** District 11 will hold their 6th Annual Third Legacy Breakfast at St James Episcopal Church, Hyde Park, NY. \$5.00 suggested donation. Contact program Chair Bob H (845) 489-6999.

### FELLOWSHIP AND FUN

**District 18-Friday, April 11, 2008** AA meeting at **8:00 pm** followed by a Sober Dance, at Greenbush Reformed Church, Hays Road in East Greenbush, New York. \$5.00 suggested donation snacks included. For directions and more information call Rob S. (518) 931-4024 or Tad (518) 366-5631.

### SPIRITUAL BREAKFAST

**District 12-5th Annual Spiritual Breakfast Saturday, April 19, 2008** from **9:00 am-Noon** at the Turning Stone Resort and Casino Conference Center, located off Exit 33 of the NYS Thruway. \$15.00. Tickets available from Mike Y (315) 729-8914 or Sharon S (315) 338-5645. Additional details are also available at [www.area48district12.org](http://www.area48district12.org).

\*\*Send announcements of your District events to [hmb48newsletter](mailto:hmb48newsletter) so we can get the word out to the Area.. Thanks to everyone who sent info by the deadline Next deadline: **February 25, 2008\*\***

**2008 General Service Conference Committees****Preliminary Agenda Items**

Below are the preliminary agenda items for the 58th Conference committees. Please keep in mind that this is a preliminary list and that work is still in progress and will be subject to review and/or change by the trustees' committees at the January board weekend. During the January meetings of the trustees' committees, additional items received by the January 15th deadline may be assigned to appropriate Conference committees.

**I. Agenda**

- \* Review suggestions for the theme of the 2009 General Service Conference.
- \* Discuss presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2009 General Service Conference.
- \* Discuss workshop topic ideas for the 2009 General Service Conference.
- \* Review the General Service Conference Evaluation Form.

**II. Cooperation With the Professional Community**

- \* Review contents of Kit and Workbook.
- \* Consider the proposed video segments directed to professionals in the employment/human relations, legal/criminal justice and medical fields.

**III. Corrections**

- \* Review contents of Kit and Workbook.

**IV. Finance****V. Grapevine**

- \* Review contents of Workbook.

**VI. Literature****VII. Policy/Admissions**

- \* Consider approving admission to the 2008 General Service Conference of Scott Ahlgren, alternate delegate, Area 36, Southern Minnesota, in place of Samira Anderson, the Panel 57 delegate for Area 36, who is unable to attend.
- \* Approve invitation for two observers to attend the 58<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference from the General Service Board of Central Mexicana of Mexico.
- \* Review dates for the 2011 General Service Conference.
- \* Consider proposal that the Conference Archives Committee be established as a permanent Conference committee.

**VIII. Public Information**

- \* Review contents of kit and workbook

**IX. Report and Charter**

- \* A.A. Directories:
  1. Review A.A. Directories
- \* *The A.A. Service Manual, 2007-2008 Edition:*

**X. Treatment Facilities**

- \* Consider sample footage of the revised video Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous.
- \* Review contents of Kit and Workbook.

**XI. Trustees**

- \* Review résumés of candidates for:
  1. West Central Regional Trustee
  2. Western Canada Regional Trustee
- \* Review slates of trustees and officers of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc.
- \* Review slate of directors of A.A. World Services, Inc.
- \* Review slate of directors of A.A. Grapevine, Inc.
- \* Bylaws of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc., amended in April 2007
  1. Discuss recommendation from the General Service Board that the following language from paragraph three, page 4 of the Bylaws be amended so that it applies only to **Class B regional trustees**:

“...However, when the vacancy being filled is that of a Class B **regional** trustee, the maximum term of service of such successor member trustee shall be limited to that number of one-year terms which will result in the term of service of the successor member trustee ending at the same time as the term of the replaced member trustee would have ended if no vacancy had occurred and the replaced member trustee had served four consecutive one-year terms.”

2. Discuss recommendation from the General Service Board that the following language from paragraph two, page 4 of the Bylaws be amended so that it applies only to **Class B regional trustees**:

“In the event that any member trustee shall resign, die, retire, be removed, become disqualified, or shall be otherwise unable to serve, the trustees may, at any regular or special meeting of the Board of Trustees, elect a new member trustee to fill such vacancy, or, alternatively, permit such a vacancy, or, alternatively, permit such a vacancy to continue until the next annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board. A third alternative, with respect to Class B **regional** member trustee vacancies occasioned by resignation, death, retirement, removal or disqualification, is to permit the vacancy to remain unfilled for the remainder of the four year commitment, and to allow regional coverage to be provided by the trustee-at-large or the regional trustee from a adjacent region, unless a region decides that a new regional member trustee should be elected.”

**XI. Archives**

- \* Review contents of Workbook

**XII. International Conventions/Regional Forums**

- \* Discuss selection of three cities to be considered as a site for the International Convention in 2020.
- \* Discuss ways to encourage interest in Forums.

## **AREA REPORTS**

### **Area Chair**

With the year in full swing, it is wonderful to see the new service chairs get started in their service positions. It will be great to see many of them at NERAASA in a couple of weeks where all of us will be able to gain experience, strength and hope from those that have served before us and those who are serving beside us. I am still in awe with the number of folks that have made themselves available to serve our Area. As the Area Chair, it is encouraging to have all the service committees filled.

Since January, I have been working with Peggy on turning over the Newsletter position to her. She is doing a great job and I look forward to seeing the wonderful results from her committee.

I have also been in touch with several other service chairs and as they transition and get more familiar with their service positions, I am sure we will see great things happen in terms of how each of our service chairs leads our area in spreading the message of AA to the next sick and suffering alcoholic. As a reminder, the Area Service Committees are made up of the service chair person at the Area level AND each of the district representatives for those service positions. If you hold a District service position, I encourage you to attend the March Fellowship Day in Saugerties where the committees will be meeting. Take the opportunity to hear what is happening in other parts of the HMB Area 48 or to learn more about how you can help. What ever your interest... Corrections, Treatment, Bridging the Gap, Special Needs, Public Information, Cooperation with the Professional Community, Newsletter... come and see how you can help.

In love and service,

Deb D - HMB Area 48 Area Chair

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

It is a pleasure and an honor to serve in my new position as Treasurer of HMB Area 48. The transition has been smooth; I want to thank everyone for their patient instruction as I learn the ropes, especially my predecessor Keith D., and Deb D., who served as Treasurer in 2004-05. I also want to thank the many groups who generously send contributions to support the Area. They are the contributions we depend on, of course, but especially in the early months of the year when several large annual bills come due to fund our primary purpose of serving the alcoholic inside and outside of the rooms of AA. **I would urge Districts and groups to continue to make contributions to the Area, particularly at this time.** Please communicate this to your Group Service Representatives and other trusted servants, when they go back to their groups and consider disbursements to the various entities within the Alcoholics Anonymous General Service structure.

When making contributions, please make checks or money orders payable to "HMB Area Association" and mail to: HMB Area Association, Ship & Copy #114, 118 Polar Plaza, Route 30, Amsterdam, NY 12010, and indicate your group name on your payment.

Respectfully submitted,

William T.

HMB Area 48 Treasurer



**From the Delegate****“Communication and Participation—The Key to Unity & Self-Support”****58<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference Theme**

Congratulations to District 4 on the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Spiritual Breakfast!! I witnessed such a celebration of sobriety. District members were encouraged to participate in the upcoming Area events – bring your energy and your ideas! All members of HMB are welcomed!

*Often, I sense the deep meaning of the phenomenon of Alcoholics Anonymous, but I cannot begin to fathom it. Why, for instance, at this particular point in history has God chosen to communicate his healing grace to so many of us? Who can say what this communication actually is – so mysterious and yet so practical? We can only partly realize what we have received and what it has meant to each of us. ...Bill W.*

*-Reprinted from The Language of the Heart, page 243 with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc*

It is my privilege to serve on the 2008 General Service Conference Agenda Committee. The final Conference agenda items will be distributed as soon as they are received. Please begin to discuss the preliminary agenda items with your group members, at your district and area meetings. The General Service Office has provided the following information to be shared with members:

- Each member of the Records Department will be responsible for assisting at least 5 new Registrars with Fellowship New Vision (FNV) processing procedures.
- Each area chair of a correctional facility, H& I, and Bridging the Gap Committee received a complimentary copy of the DVD, *A.A. in Correctional Facilities*. The DVD is now available for sale. The first edition of the book *A.A. in Prison: Inmate to Inmate* is also available for sale.
- The Young People’s Video Project deadline has been extended (see page 15). A.A. members are invited to submit digital videos that focus on the experience of getting sober between 12 and 25.
- A.A. Grapevine has two new CDs, *Power of Example: AAs Talk About Practicing the Principles in Everyday Life* and *Attitude Adjustment*.
- Medical students from Cornell University are in the second year of a program with CPC - these students attend open meetings with A.A. members.
- The Third Edition Spanish Big Book is due out within the next few months.

As always, I wish all members in HMB well and encourage your continued support of A.A.’s Legacy of Service.

**In the Sunlight of Service,**

**Joan R.**

**Area 48 Delegate Panel 58**

**[hmbdelegatepanel58@gmail.com](mailto:hmbdelegatepanel58@gmail.com)**

**Secretary Report****Secretary's Minutes- January 5, 2008 Inventory Day – Troy****Hosted by the Eastern Cluster of HMB Area.**

Opened by Area Chair Deb D. at 10:00 AM with the Serenity Prayer.

**Chairperson's Report:** Deb welcomed everyone and asked if anyone was attending for the first time, and then asked for everyone to introduce themselves and their Service position. She then announced the newly appointed Service Committee Members, Alt. Secretary, Dan J, Alt. Treasurer, Jim M, past Delegate Betty C and past DCM Gene H, will both be on the Finance Committee. Past Delegate Dave S. and Les B. have both been appointed to the Newsletter Committee. We were still looking for a Newsletter Editor, if interested please see her today.

In December Deb attended the 2008 NYS Convention Planning Meeting in Tarrytown and will be attending NERAASA in February.

**Delegate's Report:** Joan announced that she is on the Agenda Committee at Conference this year and told the Area what information she will need to take with her. She informed the Area what will transpire at Delegate's Day in April.

**Outgoing Secretary:** Bob asked if anyone had any additions or deletions to the November 2007 report. There were none. Motion to accept was made and seconded, motion carried, report approved.

**Treasurers Report:** Keith told the Area that for 2007 Group Contributions were up over \$4800 from the previous year and thanked everyone for letting him serve. William T. was introduced as the new Area Treasurer and gave everyone his contact information.

At 10:15 the Fellowship was divided up into separate groups to select Committee chairs for either 1 or 2 year terms. The results for 1 year terms were as follows; BTG- Sue P, Alt. James L, for PI- Dawn M, Alt. Morleana, GV- Tammy E, Alt. Marci Z. For 2 year terms we have CPC- John M, Alts. Cindy S & Donna P, CFC- Lori W., TFC- Brenda O, Alt. Bill B., SN – Pat L.

At 11:10 the Area was divided up into 3 separate groups, the new Finance Committee held a meeting led by Jim M, the chairperson; Bob L. led the DCM meeting and mapped out this year's function with them. Joan L led a Tradition One Workshop.

We broke for lunch at noon.

Meeting was reconvened at 12:45 and we opened up for general comments.

At 1:00 we started our Inventory Day facilitated by Charlie C. The following questions were presented with comments from the floor.

1. What is the primary purpose of our Area?
  - \* Carry the message to the next sick and suffering Alcoholic.
  - \* Elect a Delegate so we can participate at Conference.
2. What more can the Area do to carry the message"?
  - \* Welcome the newcomer.
  - \* Make Service Work attractive not political.
  - \* Communicate with the Group's.

3. Are we acting as guardians of the 12 Traditions and 12 Concepts?
  - \* Concepts are for Conference not the Groups.
  - \* Purpose is for Conference to conduct business but can still be used in the Fellowship.
  - \* People do not have a clue about the Traditions.
  - \* Traditions have a good impact on daily life.
  - \* The Concepts clearly define our working principles.
  - \* Need more Tradition and Concept meetings.
4. Are we seeing good cross-section of our community? Is the Area attracting alcoholics from different backgrounds?
  - \* We should encourage groups help people do service work by financing them.
5. Do new trusted servants stick with us, or does the turnover seem excessive? If so why? What can we do as an Area to keep trusted servants active?
  - \* Area needs to do more to address issues for helping the Groups.
  - \* Service Sponsorship/ feed people.
6. Do we emphasize the importance of sponsoring people into service? How can we be more effective in sponsoring people into Service?
  - \* Groom people into service.
  - \* Show up and make yourself available.
  - \* Service sponsorship workshop.
  - \* We need to greet people at the door and make them welcome.
7. Are all members given opportunity to speak at Area meeting and participate in Area activities?
  - \* Controversy hinders conversation. Resentments fester.
  - \* Everyone has the right to get their questions answered.
  - \* More people need to respond more to discussions.
  - \* Newsletter censorship, people should be able to say what they have to say.
8. Mindful that holding office is a great responsibility not to be viewed as the outcome of a popularity contest, are we choosing our officers with care?
  - \* Is this an ego thing or are we doing it for the next sick and suffering Alcoholic?
  - \* Participation is low we need to make this more attractive- make it sound like fun.
  - \* Sometimes we throw new people into commitments too soon.
9. Does the Area do its fair share toward participating in the purpose of AA as it relates to our three legacies: Recovery, Unity and Service?
  - \* Contribute more to GSO for literature they send us.
  - \* Carry the message to Treatment facilities.
10. What has the Area done to bring the AA message to the attention of professionals into the community (such as clergy, physicians, court officials, educators) who are the first to see alcoholic in need of help?
  - \* CPC working actively with local schools and churches. Need to continue and do more.
  - \* Assemble guests from the professional community for a weekend to educate them.

11. How is the Area fulfilling its responsibilities to the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition?

- \* In the past year the Area's contributions where up about \$5000. Over 2006.
- \* Use of GSO supplied envelopes for birthdays/anniversaries for contributing.

12. How are DCM's and officers upholding their service commitment?

- \* Show up and do it and allow issues to be heard.
- \* Not many people are making themselves available for service work.
- \* Attraction not promotion.

Following the Inventory a motion was made to adjourn the meeting and seconded. The reciting of the Responsibility Pledge was done and the meeting adjourned at 2:55PM.

Respectfully submitted for approval by Keith D, Area Secretary.

### **Alternate Secretary**

Thank you to those of you who have emailed updates!

As the newly appointed Registrar, I am presently working to update the area records. The changes you have mailed will be updated as soon as possible.

The Confidential Directory, which is used by the Delegate, Area Chair, Standing Committee Chairs, and District Committee Members (DCM's), will be done no later than February 15. This means all Area and District Service Positions will be updated by then. While transitioning, the group updates may be delayed briefly. Following, these updates will be done on a regular basis.

From the first time I took a coffee commitment, I have felt apprehension about the responsibilities and commitment that go along with AA service. This fear has always been followed by gratitude for what AA has provided me. Service in AA has truly made the difference in my life!

Please send any questions or suggestions to [hmbarearegistrar@gmail.com](mailto:hmbarearegistrar@gmail.com)

Thank You,

Dan J  
HMB Alternate Secretary (Area Registrar)

### **Newsletter**

It is with enthusiasm and anxiety that I accepted the position of editor for the Area 48 Newsletter. I can truly say AA saved my life and this is a great opportunity to "put my money where my mouth is"...so to speak. Service is where sobriety becomes an action word. I spent the first five years of sobriety in District 5, serving in many of the usual service positions before moving to Cape Cod where I served in service positions at all levels including the treasurer of the MSCYPAA convention. For the past eleven years I have been living in Area 15 (Florida) and served as a trusted servant on both the group and district level, including as the chair of the Traditions Committee for District 8. I look forward to working with the newsletter committee as we serve as the vital link for you and the AA members in your groups in carrying the message. Please send articles, info and events to [hmb48newsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:hmb48newsletter@yahoo.com). It's great to be back in Area 48 where AA is alive and well.

In love and service,

Peggy M.

**Website Chair****How Meetings Get Onto <http://ny-aa.org/>**

When your group adds or changes a meeting, the GSR or Secretary or someone passes the information to your district. That would be a District Records Keeper or the DCM depending on the district. That person sends the change to the Area 48 Registrar, which now is Dan. He updates a database file which then comes to me. I have a computer program which merges the H-M-B meeting data with information from other parts of the state and converts it to something near what you see on the meeting list web site. This process works well to make sure every level of service sees the changes.

**Other Parts of the State**

The [www.ny-aa.org](http://www.ny-aa.org) web site is an attempt to provide one-stop-shopping for anyone looking for a meeting in upstate New York. Various intergroups, answering services, and central offices in other areas provide their meeting data in different ways. The original intent was that each would maintain a small file of its meeting data in the same format as the meeting part of the Area 48 database. In several cases, it has turned out to be more convenient for someone to tell me the meeting changes rather than training a changing sequence of people on how to run the database.

**Comparing Meeting Lists**

One tedious task is to compare a new printed meeting list from somewhere with what is on the web. That is even more challenging if one or both lack group names. There are two stacks of paper with circles and X's and arrows before I can start updating the data files.

**Visitor Requests**

It is best if meeting changes come from someone associated with the local AA service entity but sometimes email comes from an individual member or someone associated with the meeting facility. Then, if possible, I try to coordinate with the regular data provider. Just figuring out what the person means can be a challenge. "The Saturday meeting at the Methodist church starts an hour later now," doesn't tell me a heck of a lot. It once took a few email exchanges before I figured out that one person was talking about a group in Orange County, California.

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

**Bridging the Gap (BTG) Report**

Hi my name is Sue P. and I am honored to serve as your newly elected Area 48 BTG committee chairperson. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Cindy D. for her dedication and service to Area 48 Bridging the Gap, for the past two years. Also I would like to wish her well, and keep her in our prayers for a speedy recovery from her surgery.

Congratulations to all newly elected chairpersons. I am looking forward to working closely with Lori W. (Corrections) and Brenda O. (Treatment) in the New Year.

Bridging the Gap provides a temporary contact to Alcoholics being released from correctional and treatment facilities. As you know the most "slippery" place in the journey to sobriety is between the door of the facility and the nearest AA meeting. This is where the Bridge comes in. Volunteer AA members meet with newcomers and take them to their first meeting and introduce them to fellow members to help them feel comfortable and not alone. I am grateful every day to the hand that reached out to me.

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED**-Please contact your District representative

I am looking forward to meeting all the committee members at the HMB Fellowship Day on March 15<sup>th</sup>. At that time, your packets will be available for pick-up. I, also, respectfully ask – all BTG Committee Chairs, and/or a representative from each District contact me at:

[hmbarea48btgchair@yahoo.com](mailto:hmbarea48btgchair@yahoo.com)

**May the hand of AA always be there**

**Sue P.**

**BTG Area Chairperson**

**Grapevine**

*"There is a principle which is a bar against all information, which is proof against all arguments and which cannot fail to keep a man in everlasting ignorance - that principle is contempt prior to investigation."*- Herbert Spencer

Tamster here, pleased to be of service through *The Grapevine*. Thank you Marcy Z for volunteering to be my alternate so we can do this together! Marcy's enthusiasm and energy inspire me to keep going when I need it most. I hope you will find us to be a helpful, serviceable team.

Direct from the New York AA Grapevine office: They announced the arrival of a new art director for the magazine so watch for changes in the upcoming months.

If you haven't visited the Grapevine website – [www.aagrapevine.org](http://www.aagrapevine.org) – I urge you to do so. It offers lots of opportunities for participation. Cast your vote in the monthly poll and find out how others stand; check out the isay forum for a chance to voice your experience, strength and hope; click a joke (over and over and over...); or listen and/or read the featured story of the month.

At the Area level, as I mentioned, I am pleased to be of service and look forward to working with everyone involved. Currently, Pat L, Special Needs Chair, has been pursuing the possibility of an area wide Lending Library. The AA Grapevine has so much to offer in this regard and would be a great addition to the GSO literature.

Be aware District Grapevine Chairs - I will be contacting as many you as I can muster up contact information for. I will be encouraging any district service chairs to attend the area events – get involved and stay involved. I intend to make myself as available as possible to answer questions, help with events, supplies and displays, whatever the moment may call for.

In Service and Sobriety,  
Tammie E  
Grapevine Chair, Area 48 HMB

**Special Needs**

Special Needs Committees identify alcoholics in our communities who are unable to fully participate in and benefit from attending AA meetings due to disabilities such as visual or hearing impairment, chronic illness, brain injury, homebound, confined to a nursing home, or hospice, or hospital. The committees then try to provide solutions. Our first meeting as a committee, meeting jointly with the Area Grapevine Committee was a great success with 14 people in attendance, including new District Special Needs Chairs, DCM's, Grapevine Representatives and members interested in getting involved in doing Special Needs Service work. One of the ideas to come out of that first meeting was for a joint effort by the Area Special Needs Committee and Grapevine Committee to set up a lending library of Special Needs Books, pamphlets, tapes, Braille literature and other material that would be available throughout the Area. Enclosed with the new packet of information sent to Area and District Special Needs Chairs was a flyer "Lending Libraries Service AA's with Special Needs" with lots of great ideas for us to work with. There are now 11 Districts in HMB Area 48 with District Special Needs Chairs!!

Our next meeting will be March 15, at the Fellowship Day in Saugerties NY.

In love and service,

Pat L

Special Needs Chair, Area 48 HMB

**AA VIDEOS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE PROJECT UPDATE**

Dear Friends,

Again, warm greetings from the General Service Office of A.A. in New York City.

Many of you have already received e-mails from me regarding the A.A. Videos for Young People Project. **Since we are still hoping to receive further submissions, we are happy to inform you that we have extended the deadline, and we continue to welcome video submissions.** Please pass the word about the deadline extension.

At this point we do not have a firm deadline; I expect to receive guidance on this at our upcoming trustees' Public Information Committee meeting on February 1. I will send another e-mail shortly thereafter with additional information.

All project information, including project Guidelines and the Copyright Assignment Form, can be found via an icon on the lower, right hand side of our home page, [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org). You can also get to the video upload site directly at <http://72.47.197.19/youngpeoplevideoproject/>.

Let me know if you will not be participating in this project. I would be happy to ask that your account be deleted by the Webmaster.

If you have any questions about the project, please don't hesitate to contact me via phone or e-mail ([publicinfo@aa.org](mailto:publicinfo@aa.org)). However, please know that I will be on vacation and out of the office Jan. 17-31 for a well-needed adventure in Mexico.

All warm wishes your way.

In fellowship,  
Irene K  
Coordinator, Public Information  
East Central Regional Correspondent  
(212) 870-3119

**Please get involved in this opportunity if you want to see it happen!!**

**HMB AREA NEWSLETTER (3/2008)**

**775 Myrtle Avenue 6C**

**Albany, NY 12208**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**