

HMB AREA 48 NEWSLETTER



A version of this newsletter and previous editions is at:

<http://www.ny-aa.org/hmb/members/>

AA Principles of the Month

Step 5 - Admitted to God, to ourselves and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.

Tradition 5 – Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Concept 5 – Throughout our structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.

Fifth Tradition Checklist

Do I ever cop out by saying, "I'm not a group, so this or that Tradition doesn't apply to me"?

Am I willing to explain firmly to a newcomer the *limitations* of AA help, even if he gets mad at me for not giving him a loan?

Have I today imposed on any AA member for a special favor or consideration simply because I am a fellow alcoholic?

Am I willing to twelfth-step the next newcomer without regard to who he is or what is in it for me?

Do I help my group in every way I can to fulfill our primary purpose? Does my group *carry* the message, or do we expect people to come get it?

Do I remember that AA old-timers, too, can be alcoholics who still suffer? Do I try both to help them and to learn from them?

Concept Checklist


Concept V: Throughout our structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.

- Do we encourage the minority opinion, the "Right of Appeal", to be heard at our home group, district committee meetings, area assemblies and the Conference?
- What does our group accept as "substantial unanimity"?
- Has our group experienced the "tyranny of the majority" or the "tyranny of the minority"?

HMB EVENT SCHEDULE - 2008

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>HOST CLUSTER</u>	<u>DATE</u>
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	Buffalo, NY	8/1/08 - 8/3/08
September	HMB Area Fellowship Day	Eastern (1,2,18)	Saturday, 9/13/08
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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Calendar of Events**NEW YORK STATE CONVENTION**

This year's State convention will be held in Tarrytown, New York from **July 25th to the 27th, 2008**. As of March 29th, the Westchester Marriott is booked. The host committee is negotiating for additional rooms and for the overflow hotel (s). Please send in your registration forms as soon as possible. Only one from our Area received so far!

FIFTY YEARS SAME GROUP & SAME LOCATION-IT WORKS

Saturday, May 10th -District 9- Ilion Friendly Group's 50th Anniversary Dinner- Joe H. will receive his 50th. AA anniversary medallion. Speaker Doug R. from GSO New York, 28 years sober. Registration: 5:30-6 pm, Buffet dinner, 6-7:30-program 7:30-9, live entertainment (music) 9-?, for flyer and or advance only tickets see Ilion group members or call Mike S. or John T. Come celebrate with us!

OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, May 17, 2008 - Capital District Central Office, Open House, 9 a.m. - noon with A.A. meeting at 11 a.m., 575 Broadway, Suites 128-130, Albany, NY, Refreshments. Contacts: Marcia G. & Kate C. (518) 573-4200.

35TH GROUP ANNIVERSARY

Saturday, May 17, 2008-Great Sacandaga Lake Group at Northville Presbyterian Church, Reed Street, Northville, New York 6:30 P.M. Buffet Dinner followed by 8:00 P.M. Guest Speaker Meeting. A dish or dessert to pass would be welcomed!

DISTRICT 2 MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC

Saturday, May 24th 12 Noon to 4:00 PM with a Speaker meeting at 3:00 PM at Peebles Island State Park in Cohoes, NY. Donation of \$5.00 for hot dogs, hamburgers. Please bring covered dishes, salads and desserts to share. Parking \$6.00 per car.

May HMB AREA ASSEMBLY

Sunday, May 18, 2008

Warner Hall SUNY Cobleskill
Room 120
State Route 7
Cobleskill, NY 12043

9:00 am – 10:00 am	Registration
10:00 am – Noon	Area Chair, Committee Reports, Discussion of Proposals
12:00 pm – 1:00pm	Lunch (provided)
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	DCM Reports, Voting on Proposals

Directions

From Albany: Take I-88 west to Cobleskill (Exit 21). Turn right off of the exit. Turn right on Route 7. Look for sign indicating SUNY Campus. Turn right into SUNY Cobleskill Campus in about 1 mile.

From Oneonta: Take I-88 East to Cobleskill (Exit 21). Turn left off of the exit. Turn right on Route 7. Look for sign indicating SUNY Campus. Turn right into SUNY Cobleskill Campus in about 1 mile.

From Saugerties, Kingston & South: Take I-87 to Catskill (Exit 21). Left on CR-23B East. Merge onto 23 West. Follow to State Route 145. Follow 145 (Total of 40 Miles) to Cobleskill. Bear Left (West) to stay on NY-7/NY-10. Turn left onto SUNY Campus in about 1 mile.

From Utica: Take I-90 to Exit 29 toward Route 10. (Canajoharie, Sharon Springs). Turn right onto 5S and left onto NY-10 for about 10.5 miles. Make a sharp left onto US-20 for 4.9 miles. Stay straight to go onto NY-145 for 7.1miles. Turn right onto NY-7. Turn left onto SUNY Campus in about 1 mile.

When you arrive at SUNY CAMPUS: Take 1st Left and follow to Warner Hall. Building and Parking will be on your right.

For questions, contact Matt, DCM District 8



THE 40TH NEW YORK STATE CONVENTION

JULY 25TH-27TH, 2008

The Westchester Marriott
670 White Plains Road
Tarrytown, N.Y. 10591



Room rate: \$115.00 Plus tax per night*
 (single, double, triple, & quad)

Phone Reservations: 1-800-882-1042 (direct to hotel)
 *When reserving by phone mention "New York State Convention 2008".

Online Reservations: marriott.com/nycwe
 *When reserving online, enter group code "sensena".

Deadline for room reservations is June 30th, 2008

There is NO SMOKING anywhere within the hotel. Designated smoking areas are conveniently located near the exits on all sides of the hotel.

EVENTS

- AA Panels and Workshops
- AA Videos and Archives
- Al-Anon Meetings (English and Spanish)
- Alkathons
- Hospitality Room
- Saturday Night Dance
- Spanish Speaking Meetings
- ASL Interpretation (upon request w/pre-registration)

- Friday:** Concepts Workshop
Welcome Meeting
- Saturday:** Old-Timers Meeting
Banquet and Meeting
- Sunday:** Young People's Meeting
Spiritual Meeting



All main meetings will be SPANISH INTERPRETED
 On-Site Registration is available Friday 3-11 pm
 and Saturday 8am - Midnight

For more information please contact - NYS Convention Chair - convention08@aaseny.org

(Please tear)

CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE: July 4th, 2008

AA Al-Anon/Alateen Other _____
 (Please Specify)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Do you need ASL Interpretation: Yes No

Special Needs (please specify) _____

Old-timer with 25+ years? ____/____/____
 Month Day Year

If you want to be seated with a specific person (or persons) at the banquet, mail your registration forms in the same envelope

ONE FORM PER PERSON
PLEASE MAKE COPIES FOR EACH REGISTRANT
 Driving directions and public transportation information is on the back of this flyer.

_____ Convention/Dance only\$15.00

_____ Convention/Dance/Banquet\$70.00

_____ Chicken Beef Vegetarian
 (please select one)
 _____ Special Dietary Needs? (please specify)

Children 10 years old and under will be admitted to the convention and dance at no charge, but must wear convention badges.

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

NYS Convention is unable to accept credit cards.
 Make checks/money orders payable to: "NYS Convention 2008"
 Mail payment / registration forms to: NYS Convention 2008
 PO Box 1
 Malverne, NY 11565



NO SMOKING
 Anywhere in Hotel

2008 New York State Informational Workshop



**Communication and Participation/
The Key to Unity and Self-Support**

Friday, August 1, 2008

Through

Sunday, August 3, 2008

Daemen College

4380 Main St., Amherst, NY 14226

Residence and meals available on-campus

See reverse for details

90 beds are available in the Campus Village Apartments. These are single bedroom, apartment-style suites. Each suite includes 4 single rooms, 2 full baths, living room and kitchenette. They are air-conditioned. Sheets, blankets and towels are provided.

The Residential package includes two nights lodging as described above, registration, 2 breakfasts, 1 lunch and 2 dinners (Friday dinner through Sunday breakfast). The cost is \$165.00.

The Commuter Meal package includes meals as above, coffee and registration without lodging. The rate for this package is \$75.

The Saturday package includes lunch and dinner on Saturday only, registration and coffee for the entire weekend. The cost is \$50.

The Coffee package includes registration and coffee for the entire workshop. The rate is \$25.

Continuous coffee is included with all registrations.



Directions:
 From 1-90 East or West - Get off at Exit 50 and exit at Main St West (Second Main St ramp)
 From 1-290 East - Exit at Main St West
 Daemen College is ~1.5 mi on the right

Please return section below to: Registration, 85 Medina Street Buffalo, NY 14206
 Make checks (No cash) payable to: NYS 2008 Workshop

First name: Last name: _____

Address: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Area: _____ District: _____ Home Group: _____

Service position: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

(Check appropriate boxes and add amounts in right column)

<input type="checkbox"/> Residential package - \$165	Sex: []M []F (For singles)	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commuter package - \$75		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday package- \$50		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Coffee package -\$25		_____
	Total \$	_____

Groups of up to four may send registrations requesting suitemates. Please send in one envelope and staple them together. Every effort will be made to accommodate housing requests, but no guarantee can be made.

From the HMB Delegate

“Communication and Participation—The Key to Unity & Self-Support”

58th General Service Conference Theme

A lot of activity has happened in the Area in regard to the upcoming General Service Conference. Many of you have communicated with me the viewpoints, experiences, questions and comments of your group and provided me your group's conscience on the agenda items. Thanks to all who have returned the survey and by the time you read this article, I will have received many more during the Delegate's Day of Sharing. I am very grateful for your assistance and thankful that our Area has such qualified trusted servants. It is a privilege to serve as your Panel 58 Delegate!

As voting members of the Conference, delegates bring to its deliberations the experiences and viewpoints of their own areas. Yet they are not representatives of their areas in the usual political sense; after hearing all points of view and becoming fully informed during Conference discussion, they vote in the best interests of A.A. as a whole.

The AA. Service Manual, 2007-2008, Page S46 Reprinted with permission of The A.A. World Services, Inc.)

Some of the information to be shared with members from our General Service Office:

Cooperation with the Professional Community – The Fall 2007 issue of *About AA* included articles on: the alcoholism training program that pairs first-year residents with A.A. members and pamphlets targeted to specific groups of people such as young people, African Americans and women.

Public Information – P.I. projects: As of December 31, 2007, four valid video submissions were received for the A.A. Videos for Young People's Project. A statistician is currently compiling the results of the 2007 A.A. Membership Survey. We have learned that our 2007 P.S.A. is getting air-time on CNN, en español.

Corrections – At year's end, we still had 52 male inmates waiting to be linked to an outside A.A. member. The first couple of weeks in January have resulted in many male outside A.A. members responding to an article in the Holiday 2007 issue of *Box 4-5-9*.

Archives – With the solid leadership of Archivist Amy F the department accomplished a great deal in 2007. We have scanned all the General Service Board minutes from 1938 to the present. We now have to provide index information for the earliest minutes and perform quality control on the scans. We are finishing the processing of the files in the Nell Wing collection.

Loners-Internationalist Meeting (LIM) – The long-awaited LIM Directory is now available. The confidential directory was mailed to approximately 700 LIM participants at the end of December. The Fellowship New Vision data storage system currently in use at the office now allows for this directory to be created in-house at a sizeable savings.

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

In the Sunlight of Service,

Joan Ramsey

hmbdelegatepanel58@gmail.com

AREA REPORTS

Area Chair

Spring is here! I saw my first robin and the flowers are starting to poke through the ground. With the days feeling like they are longer, the energy seems to increase with in my own life and recovery. Watching the Area over the last few months, it has been great to watch the new service chairs getting started. At the last Area Fellowship Day which was hosted by District 16 of the Hudson Valley Cluster, we had over 100 people in attendance. All the service committees had opportunity to meet on their own, and also with other committees to get synergy going between the committees. I could see the energy and the ideas flowing as a result of many of our service folks attending NERAASA.

There is a New York Mental Health Counselor Event being held in Albany the weekend of April 11-13th in which Alcoholics Anonymous will have a table to provide literature and be available to answer questions. Many thanks to members from the Area's Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) Committee, local AA members, and a member from Area 50, Western New York who have made themselves available. On Friday April 18th, there is a Corrections Workshop at the Sing Sing Correctional Facility focused on Carrying the Message of Recovery to the Incarcerated Alcoholic. These are just two ways in which we extend the hand of AA to the sick and suffering alcoholic.

One of my responsibilities as Area Chair is to periodically visit the districts in the Area to learn more of the district activities, any problems and to facilitate lines of communication. In March, I visited districts 3, 4, 7, 11, and 15. All the districts are very active and it was a great opportunity to meet more members of our fellowship. In those districts, there is a renewed energy for bringing meetings back into correctional facilities, discussing Bridging the Gap with facilities, discussing workshops and how to encourage groups, districts and individuals to fill out the questionnaire from our Delegate. One district has a traveling grapevine display that groups sign out on a month to month basis which provides a different mechanism for members to learn more about our Meeting in print. I am happy to say that any problems any of the districts may be having, is far outweighed by the positive activity of their service committees. This month, I am scheduled for visits to districts 16, 17, 18 and will be working to get to the remaining districts as soon as I can. Please feel to contract me if a need arises.

In love and service,
 Deb D - Area Chair
 HMBAreaChair@hvc.rr.com

Secretary's Report

**Secretary's Minutes- March 16, 2008 Fellowship Day – Saugerties
 Hosted by District 16 of the Hudson Valley Cluster of HMB Area 48.**

Attendance: 109 registrations.

Opened by Area Chair Deb D. at 10:00 AM with the Serenity Prayer, with introductions around the room following. Roundtable discussions were held from 10:20 to 11:15, including DCM's. From 11:15 till Noon Service Committee's were combined in to the following; CPC & PI & Website, SN & Grapevine, TF& CFC & BTG, and the Newsletter met separately.

After lunch at Noon, the meeting reconvened at 12:55 with the Area Business Meeting.

Chairperson's Report: Deb D. reported that she had attended NERAASA in Atlantic City; she reported that the HMB Area had 32 people in attendance at the event. She also attended the North East Region Delegates weekend held in Killington, VT. where she got a preview of what Joan our Delegate will face at Conference this April. Deb made it to the following District Meetings; 3, 4, 7 & 15 as part of her responsibilities as Area Chairperson with plans to attend meetings in all of our Districts.

Delegate's Report: Joan R. passed out a questionnaire for everyone to take back to their groups for the upcoming Conference with issues that will be discussed. She requested that the Area their results to her by either snail mail, e-mail or bring them to Delegate's Day April 5th.

Alternate Chair: Bob L. requested that all Districts who plan on holding any events contact him by either calling him or e-mail.

Secretary's Report: Keith D. offered to read the minutes from Inventory Day held on January 5th. The Assembly

Secretary's Report: Keith D. offered to read the minutes from Inventory Day held on January 5th. The Assembly motioned not to read the minutes; a motion to accept the report was made and seconded. The report was accepted with the Assembly voting Yes unanimously, 0- No votes and 1 abstention.

Alt. Secretary: Dan J. reported that he has been having problems with his e-mail but updates and changes can be sent to: HMBAREAREGISTRAR@gmail.com. Dan attended NERAASA this year.

Treasurer's Report: William T. offered to read entire report but was asked to give just the highlights. The balance in the checkbook on February 29, 2008 was \$ 7871.04 with \$ 7000.00 of that being Prudent Reserve. A motion was made and seconded to accept the report. The report was accepted with the Assembly voting Yes unanimously, 0- No votes and 1 abstention. William referred to the letter that sent with the Area Chair informing the Area of the very low balance in the checkbook and requested financial support.

Alt Treasurer: Jim M. reported that the Finance Committee recently approved the purchase of a laptop for the Alt.Sec/Registrar Dan J. to replace the old one. This laptop is the property of Area 48. The Committee also approved \$ 450.00 for the CPC Chair to attend an event in Albany. Our Area will get financial help here from SENY. The Finance Committee will be meeting soon to begin the budget for 2009, with the proposal being read at the May Assembly. Jim also reported that the Area had sold over 30,000 meeting books for the year, delivery was complete and all the expenses were paid with the money surplus being rolled over for next years lists.

Archives: Alternate Michael L. reported that they need 3 containers to make it possible for exhibits to be more mobile. We also have three new books, 2 red cover Big Books and 1 blue.

BTG: Sue P. attended NERAASA and has handed out packets to all District Committee members if they request them. She has spoken to the members and hopes to host a BTG roundtable next year.

CPC: Cindy D filled in for John M at NERAASA and sat in at the roundtables. She reported that there was a good exchange of ideas. She would appreciate contact information from District CPC Chairs.

CFC: Lori W. attended NERAASA and found it to be very informative. She has received a new DVD "AA in Correctional Facilities" from GSO. She is beginning to communicate with District Chairs. There have been 4 new meetings into CF's in the last 3 months.

GV: Tammie E. reported that Doreen A filled in at NERAASA and reported back about the gray page topic, some promotional ideas. She also brought back an updated rep list. Tammie has met with Special Needs regarding a lending library.

Newsletter: Peggy M attended NERAASA. She met with her Committee Dave S, Keith D, Jodi H and district newsletter editors. She reported that it is costing \$240 a month for printing and \$328 for postage. After conferring with the Committee it was decided to discuss the possibility of publishing the Newsletter bi-monthly to save money at the Assembly in May.

PI: Dawn reported that she could not attend NERAASA but Frank N from District 9 had filled in for her. As of today she has not received a report. Today discussions included ideas on creating PI Committees and training on practices and presentations.

SN: Pat L reported that at NERAASA the roundtables were well attended by Area & District Chairs along with DCM's and Area Officers. Many issues were discussed with Pat reporting that in the HMB Area we have meetings for Traumatic Brain Injured and plans for a lending library of SN materials and access for the visually impaired. She was happy to report that in the Area we have 11 SN Chairs.

TF: Alternate Bill B filled in at NERAASA and reports that he raised the question on how do we get into Treatment Facilities and explain to Administration "What AA is and what AA is not". Suggestions ranged from quarterly mailings to the Admin offices to contacting OASIS, which is a governing body which regulates state run facilities.

Website: Tom E reports that the primary purpose of the Website is to help people find meetings in and out of New York State. The address is www.NY-AA.ORG.

Website over Site Committee: Quay H introduced the other members as Thea H and Steve D. The Committee is charged with implementing the HMB Area guidelines that were proposed and passed at the Area Assembly in 2007. Quay attended NERAASA and was able to look at the other web sites in the Northeast Region. The Committee is developing a front page portal to the HMB website which will have 2 links. One will go to the Area information and the other will be for the meeting lists.

DCM REPORTS:

Dist 1: All service positions filled, financially stable. A site for September's Fellowship Day has been found and the plans for the HMB Convention are progressing.

Dist 2: Absent.

Dist 3: Attendance at the District meeting is moderate but contributions are good. Both BTG & the Corrections chair are getting into the County jail and implementing programs there. District is interested in exchanging meetings with other Districts.

Dist 4: Recently held a Spiritual Breakfast that went well. Bringing speakers into St. Mary's Hospital Rehab. Are sending men into the Montgomery County Jail and are also looking to do the same with women.

Dist 5: Website project underway and the Newsletter have been expanded. Project to re-establish District/Group continuous Contributions to Area underway. An Emergency phone tree system has been established.

Dist 7: District has some 'Brown Out' meeting but lights are coming back. Most service positions filled. Young Peoples bonfire scheduled for August 9th.

Dist 8: Working with Districts 4 & 14 for upcoming May Assembly.

Dist 9: District has ended fiscal year \$700.00 over prudent reserve. A contribution of \$ 200.00 was sent to GSO and \$ 500.00 to HMB Area. The Ilion Friendly is celebrating its 50th anniversary on May 10th. The speaker is Doug R, former GSO International liaison and Joe H. is celebrating 50 years sober. Cost is \$20.00.

Dist 10: All chair positions are filled. The Corrections Committee is strong with regular meetings going into 1 of 3 County Jails and 1 of 11 State facilities. There is much motivation and enthusiasm about getting into other facilities.

Dist 11: No DCM, report given by Jim M. Starting up District Newsletter, currently have active Answering Service workshop. Marcie Z the GV rep is available to travel to meetings to display.

Dist 12: All service positions are filled except for Functions. Corrections Chair working hard on getting volunteers to take meetings into prisons. Will be hosting a Spiritual Breakfast April 19th at Turning Stone Resort.

Dist 13: All Service positions filled except Treatment. Have reinstated meetings at Comstock Prison Facility. Dist 13 will examine how it may increase its practical support to the Area beyond its recent financial contribution, consistent with the District financial resources and prudent reserve.

Dist 14: Public Information night April 9th at Niskayuna HS. Will have a literature table. Annual Spring Workshop being held April 12th and on June 22nd the Annual Community Day at Central Park in Schenectady.

Dist 15: DCM Laura attended NERAASA and brought back much information to share with the District GSR's. Attendance at District meeting is growing with most positions filled.

Dist 16: District is in need of filling most of its Service positions. The meeting is no longer mentioned as a GSR meeting but as the District meeting hoping this will involve more AA member's period.

Dist 17: DCM Joanna B reports that most positions are filled with very enthusiastic members. Six trusted servants attended NERAASA. Are in the process of putting together the 2008 Budget and a Confidential Directory for District Officers.

Dist 18: The Groups have voted to join forces with Dist 2 for Corrections this year. Have a Spring Dance planned for April 11th and are also planning an Independence Day picnic July 5th. Also on our plate is the 2008 HMB Convention being shared with District's 1 & 2. District conscience is that they are not happy with the new Area Meeting Book.

NEW BUSINESS: Feedback HMB Meeting Book Schedules.

- Prefer done by District order.
- Alternate year by year.
- Use last year's schedule.
- Too big size wise.
- Good the way it is.
- I do not like it!
- Sort by city.
- Size OK.
- Is this format being used more or less than old meeting list?

OPEN MIC:

- A comment that the Grapevine magazine is Our Meeting in print.
- Send in CONTRIBUTIONS!

THE MEETING WAS CLOSED AT 2:45 with the Serenity Prayer.

Respectfully submitted for approval by Keith D, HMB Area Secretary.

Bridging the Gap (BTG) Report

Since I became your Bridging the Gap (BTG) Area Chairperson in January, my Spiritual Journey in Sobriety has flourished.

I was blessed to have been able to attend my First NERAASA Conference. What an amazing experience; I was able to participate in two round tables: Corrections and Treatment. Both were enlightening. Hopefully next year they also will have a BTG round table and I will be working toward achieving that goal. It was wonderful spending time and getting to know so many members from all over, including from our own Area 48. Already, I am looking forward to next year.

Many District BTG Chairpersons attended Fellowship Day on March 15th in Saugerties, N.Y. Our BTG round table proved to be very productive, and I have spoken to several District BTG Chairpersons and DCM's since then.

We need AA members to volunteer to be "temporary contacts" (not sponsors) to help in the very important first step for alcoholics who have just been released from various facilities. Remember Alcoholics Anonymous was founded when Bill W. sought out Dr Bob, and the Fellowship grew because they, then, sought out other Alcoholics. What is ever important is our responsibility to the still sick and suffering Alcoholic.

REMEMBER: WE CAN ONLY KEEP WHAT SO FREELY HAS BEEN GIVEN TO US, BY GIVING IT AWAY.

May the Hand of AA always be there,
Sue P., BTG Area Chair
hmbarea48btgchair@yahoo.com

Area 48 Convention Update

Save these dates: October 31, November 1st and 2nd to attend the HMB Area Convention at the Holiday Inn Turf 205 Wolf Road in Albany NY. The committee is still in need of lots of volunteers for hospitality, registration, and greeters. Ideas for the Convention as well as for topics for workshops and panels can be sent to:

HMBConvention2008@gmail.com.

Hope to see YOU at the Convention!!!!

Pat L
2008 Convention Chair

Grapevine

These first few months have been exciting and busy ones serving as your Area Grapevine Chair. At the March Fellowship Day, I had the opportunity to meet some of the incoming District Representatives and I look forward to meeting more of you as the year progresses. During the first hour, the committee received an in depth report on NERAASA from Doreen A, District 4. She attended in my place as I was unable to go. Her report follows this.

We then discussed some different ways of promoting the magazine and getting the word out, especially to newcomers who may not know what The Grapevine is. During the second hour of the morning we met with Special Needs regarding the plans for establishing Lending Libraries in the Area. A hot Grapevine item on the upcoming conference agenda for our delegate is the infamous "Gray Pages". Do they belong in the magazine or not?

Yours in Service and Sobriety,
 Tamster
 Area 48 Grapevine Chair
Area48grapevine@yahoo.com

Grapevine NERAASA Report

I want to start off by saying "Thank You" for the opportunity to attend NERAASA! I have learned so much and have found it to be so very interesting. It was wonderful to see familiar faces and to meet new people traveling this journey.

Several points were brought up and discussions went well. One in particular is the addition of the "Gray Pages" some people didn't realize the information was science based. Some people aren't happy with these pages appearing once again in the Grapevine. This item is on the agenda once again.

The Guide to the AA Grapevine is not available at this time due to it not being cost effective. This item is on the agenda.

The high shipping prices were discussed and the cost is high due to shipping costs increasing. If subscriptions were increased to 130,000 that would keep the cost down, currently we are at approximately 97,000. So we have been challenged! There was intense discussion regarding members not knowing what the Grapevine is and how we can change that. These are some of the ideas presented: Grapevine Festival, Grapevine Roundtables & Grapevine skits.

If you aren't happy with the content of the Grapevine or if you have questions or comments you may email the Grapevine at: managingeditor@aagrapevine.org

Last but not least someone asked: "Where is Clara? Will she ever come back?"

Most of all we need to raise consciousness about the Grapevine!

Yours in Service,
 Doreen A
 District 4 GvR



A subscription to *The Grapevine* makes a great gift for an AA Birthday, new sponsee or sponsor to receive "Our Meeting in Print" for a year!



Newsletter

It was exciting to meet so many trusted servants in Saugerties on March 15th. The meeting with the newsletter editors from the districts was full of energy as ideas were exchanged and refined. The meeting of the Area Newsletter Committee was informative and productive. The newsletter editors of each district are considered members of the Area Newsletter Committee. The Area Newsletter Committee has the responsibility of oversight of the Area Newsletter to insure that the newsletter stays within the guidelines established by the Area about content and format while practicing fiscal responsibility.

Since the treasury of Area 48 fell below the prudent reserve in March, the costs for production of the Area Newsletter is a major expense from the budget. We are trusted servants who know that keeping you informed of Area 48 events while practicing financial accountability is important to you. Each month the expenses for printing exceeds our budgeted amount of \$205. each month. Mailing costs have stayed within budget thanks to the increased number of newsletters being received by e-mail.

The Newsletter Committee reviewed options for saving money when we met and agreed that one possibility would be printing the newsletter every other month. It was suggested and agreed by consensus of the Committee that a discussion at the Area Assembly in May would allow feedback from the members, the groups and the districts about our idea about producing the newsletter every other month.

We look forward to seeing you at the Assembly in Cobleskill because the Area Newsletter belongs to you.

In love and service,
Peggy M
Editor
hmb48newsletter@yahoo.com

Send announcements of your District events to hmb48newsletter@yahoo.com so we can get the word out to the Area.. Thanks to everyone who sent info and articles by the deadline Next deadline: **May 1, 2008 **

Treatment

It was great to meet many of you and have the discussions at the Fellowship Day in March. The new treatment packets were available for pick up on April 5th, but if you didn't get it, I will mail it to you. Do not give away your last copy; remember that you can make copies and keep the receipts for reimbursement.

I am here to assist you in anyway possible, so if you have questions please ask. I am available to do presentations for treatment facilities, as well as for CPC, Corrections, and BtG. I am available to do speaker meetings too. Please give me enough notice to fit it into my plans. As we discussed at our meeting, you can also go outside your usual areas if you need speakers.

When anyone speaks to an outside group we need to remember that we are the face of Alcoholics Anonymous. I hope we can have a beneficial year for all. We are here for each other and the newcomer. Check out tradition 12 in long form.

In Service,
Brenda O
Area Treatment Chair
boutwater@twcny.rr.com



Treasurer's Report**HMB AREA ASSOCIATION
Treasury Report
March 2008**Prepared by William T, Area Treasurer
3/31/2008

Check Book Balance: 3/1/08 \$7,871.04

Income:

Group Contributions	\$3,321.17
Meeting lists sales	\$410.50
Monies Returned	\$70.00

<u>Total Income:</u>	\$3,801.67	(+)	\$3,801.67
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Total Assets: \$11,672.71

Expenses:

Alt Secretary Alloc	\$80.40
Alt Secretary laptop purchase	\$935.28
CPC Chair NERAASA	\$216.60
Mailbox	\$21.22
Newsletter Editor Alloc	\$68.57
Newsletter Editor NERAASA	\$82.15
Newsletter Postage	\$328.00
Newsletter Printing	\$256.00
Secretary NERAASA	\$189.24
Special Needs Alloc	\$78.74
Special Needs NERAASA	\$204.32
Treasurer Alloc	\$226.38
Treatment Alloc	\$119.79
Treatment NERAASA	\$252.00
Treatment NYSIW	\$165.00
Web Site Chair NERAASA	\$230.00

<u>Total Expense:</u>	\$3,453.69	(-)	\$3,453.69
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Checkbook Balance: 3/31/08 \$8,219.02

Prudent Reserve: (-) \$7,000.00

Total Available Cash: \$1,219.02

Website Chair

OBSERVATIONS ON THE INTERNET

A.A. Guidelines:

Many of you are in new service positions and are wondering what to do. Alcoholics Anonymous has "Guidelines" for all of the major committees such as Public Information and Treatment and Corrections. Go to the main web site: <http://www.aa.org/> and click "Services for Members." Second item on the left side is "A.A. Guidelines." Click that and you get a page on which you can select from about sixteen different ones. You can print them. It is OK to display them at A.A. meetings and other events. They are A.A. Service Material which is just as acceptable as Conference Approved literature.

E-Mail to GSO:

Let's say you want to ask someone in the General Service office a question about Public Information or about Treatment Facilities. You could phone 212 870-3400 and tell the operator which "service desk" you want. Or you can send an email. Yes, some people use a piece of paper and an envelope and a stamp but this is an internet article. Go to the main web site: <http://www.aa.org/> and click "Services for Members." The fifth item on the left is "Communication with G.S.O. by Region or Service Activity." They don't display the actual email address on that page. You either click a service position or, on some browsers, hover over it.

Being Found by Search Engines:

Somebody asked me why their web page wasn't showing up when someone searched for "alcoholics anonymous" in the Google search engine. I noticed that the words "Alcoholics" and "Anonymous" didn't appear on the web page. The home page of: <http://www.ny-aa.org/> is carefully designed to be sure that likely search words are prominently placed. This is called SEO for Search Engine Optimization. Similarly, the various meeting list pages show up at or near the top of search results such as "**alcoholics anonymous meetings in woodstock**" or "**aa amenia**" and similar combinations.

Search Engine Competition:

Google shows matches for a few other web sites that mention the city names. Some, but not all, of them provide links to ny-aa.org meeting list pages. I've seen some that supposedly helped people find nursing jobs, hotel rooms, and flower delivery in AA meeting cities around the country. I was going to call them "parasites" but, by Tradition 10, I have no opinion on these leeches.

Tom E host@ny-aa.org

Special Needs

The HMB Area Special Needs Committee met at the March 15th Fellowship Day in Saugerties, with 11 in attendance. Several newly elected District chairs attended for the first time, as well as enthusiastic members from several districts, who would like to get involved in Special Needs. The most pressing question was "how to get started", and many great ideas were shared. Issues discussed included the special needs of hearing impaired members, taking meetings to members at their homes, getting group members involved in special needs.

We then met with the Area Grapevine committee to discuss setting up a "lending library" of books, tapes, CD's and DVDs for the Special Needs Committee throughout the Area. Some of the larger districts might be able to do this within their own district. Debbie W, District 14 special needs chair, developed a great flyer for Special Needs district committees, and distributed it at the meeting.

There are still opportunities for Special Needs Chairs in 6 of the Districts, go to your District meeting to get involved.

Love in service,

Pat L. HMB Area Special Needs Chair

HMB AREA NEWSLETTER (5/2008)

775 Myrtle Avenue 6C

Albany, NY 12208

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED