

HMB AREA 48 NEWSLETTER



A version of this newsletter and previous editions is at:

<http://www.aahmbny.org>

AA Principles of the Month

Step 9 - Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
Tradition 9 – A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

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

Ninth Tradition Checklist

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

Concept Checklist


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

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

HMB EVENT SCHEDULE - 2008

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>HOST CLUSTER</u>	<u>DATE</u>
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**DISTRICT 16 ANNUAL PICNIC**

Sunday, August 24th Cantine Field, Saugerties, NY Food, Fun, DJ and Games. Contact Bob P with any questions (914)466-6100. Send donations to help defray costs to Dist 16 Picnic, P.O. Box 471, Saugerties, NY 12477

EAST/WEST CAMP-VENTION

August 29, 30, 31 2008 Vanderkamp, 337 Martin Rd., Cleveland NY 13042 Day pass \$5, Meals \$5 each, Tents \$30, Cabins \$35pp private cabins and group lodges available. Meetings, BB study workshops etc. Fri.-dinner, Sat-lunch & dinner, Sun-breakfast. Contact Dave S. (315) 534-2174 or Tammy A (315) 271-7046

SUMMER FUN

Saturday, August 30, 2008 - Capital District Central Office, Picnic, Noon - 5 p.m. with Speaker meeting at 3 p.m., Snyder's Lake in North Greenbush (RT 43), \$5 Donation for hamburgers and hot dogs. Please bring covered dishes, salads, and desserts to share. Call (518) 463-0906 (CDCO number) for more info.

GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE TOUR

Friday, October 10, 2008 Depart Albany 7:00AM by Coach, arrive at our GSO for an Open AA meeting, Lunch and a tour of the AA Service offices, Archives and Grapevine. Cost \$35.00 payable by 8/31. Information: Denise T (518) 438-6451 or (518) 331-5819.

October Newsletter Deadline: September 1, 2008

Joke of the Month

From **April Grapevine**:

Q: Why can't alcoholics sing well?

A: They only know one note -- mi, mi, mi, mi.

Gary O., Anaconda, Montana

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HMB Area 48 September 2008 Fellowship Day

At the Blooming Grove Reformed Church

706 Blooming Grove Drive
Rensselaer, NY 12144

Agenda

- 9:00am – 10:00am - Registration & Coffee
- 10:15am – 10:45am - Service Committee Roundtables
(CPC, PI, SN, Grapevine, TF, CF, BtG, Finance, Website, DCMs)
- 10:45am – 12:00pm - Service Committee Roundtables Combined
(CPC+PI+Website, SN+Grapevine+Newsletter, TF+CFC+BtG)
- 12:00pm – 1:00pm – Lunch
- 1:00pm – 3:00pm - Area Business Meeting

From the North and West:

Get off the Thruway/Northway at Exit 24. Get on I-90 East (Albany-Boston).

Exit I-90 at Exit 8.

Turn right on Washington Ave at the first light.

Turn right on Blooming Grove Drive at the Stop sign.

The church is almost immediately on your right.

Parking is behind the church (limited) or across the street in the CDTA Park & Ride.

From the South:

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

Follow the directions above.

From the East:

West on I-90 to Exit 9, go north on Rt. 4 past Home Depot about ¼ mile. The CDTA Park & Ride is on your left.

Contacts:

Tad J. - 518-366-5631
Pat C. – 518 -461-6685
Jim McG. – 518-326-5186

AREA BUSINESS MEETING

Saturday, September 13, 2008

AREA OFFICER REPORTS

- Area Chair Report - *Deb D*
- Delegate Report - *Joan R*
- Alternate Chair Report – *Bob L*
- Secretary Report – *Keith D*
- Alternate Secretary/Registrars Report – *Dan J*
- Treasurer's Report – *William T*
- Alternate Treasurer's & Finance Committee Report – *Jim M*

AREA SERVICE ROUNDTABLE REPORT BACKS

- CPC+PI+Website
- SN+Grapevine+Newsletter
- TF+CFC+BtG

DCM REPORTS (2 minutes each)

- District 1 – *Patricia C*
- District 2 – *Jim M*
- District 3 – *Bob R*
- District 4 – *Mary M*
- District 5 – *Bob B*
- District 7 – *Guy*
- District 8 – *Rob B*
- District 9 – *Jack R*
- District 10 – *Chris*
- District 11 – *Chris*
- District 12 – *Robin S*
- District 13 – *Sue P*
- District 14 – *Chris S*
- District 15 – *Laura M*
- District 16 – *Jack M*
- District 17 – *Joanna B*
- District 18 – *Tad J*

NEW BUSINESS

- Open Mic – Comments, Questions, and Announcements – *All*

CLOSE 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.*

2008 HMB AREA 48 CONVENTION

OCTOBER 31ST, NOVEMBER 1ST & 2ND, 2008

Holiday Inn Albany
 205 Wolf Rd., Albany, NY 12205
 (518) 594-4039

*Please call the hotel to make your room reservation
 \$109 + tax per room per night (Double) – Ask for the AA rate*

Reservation Cutoff October 10th, 2008

Let The Hand

Always Be There...

**MEETINGS
 SPEAKERS
 PANEL DISCUSSIONS**

**OLD FRIENDS, NEW FRIENDS
 FELLOWSHIP
 SATURDAY NIGHT DANCE**

Convention Reservation for:
 (One person per form)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

____ Years in Program

____ AA ____ Al-Anon

____ \$20 Registration Fee

____ \$28 Banquet

____ \$ Total Enclosed

Saturday Banquet – \$28
 INCLUDES GRATUITY

- Beef
- Chicken
- Vegetarian

Banquet Cutoff 10/27/08

DETACH & MAIL FORM WITH CHECK OR M.O. PAYABLE TO:

HMB Convention 2008
 C/O District 18
 PO Box 188
 East Greenbush, NY 12061

→→ Special Needs? (Please Specify) _____ ←←

Directions:

From The North: Take the Adirondack Northway (Interstate 87) SOUTH to Exit 4 (Route 155 West / Albany International Airport). At the end of the off-ramp, turn LEFT on Route 155. Continue for approximately 1/4 mile to the next traffic light, and turn LEFT on Albany-Shaker Road. At the next light, turn RIGHT on Wolf Road. We are about 3/10 of a mile down Wolf Road on the left side.

From The South: Take the New York State Thruway (Interstate 87) NORTH to Exit 24. Continue on I-87 NORTH (Exit 1N out of the toll booths) to Exit 4 (Wolf Road). Turn RIGHT off of the exit. We are about 2/10 of a mile down Wolf Road on the left.

From The East: Take Interstate 90 to New York, and continue on I-90 by taking Exit B-1 from the Berkshire Spur of the NYS Thruway. Follow I-90 to Exit 1N (Interstate 87). Continue on I-87 to Exit 4 (Wolf Road). Turn RIGHT off of the exit and follow Wolf Road approximately 2/10 of a mile. We are on the left side.

From The West: Take the New York State Thruway (Interstate 90) to Exit 24. Continue on I-87 NORTH (Exit 1N out of the toll booths) to Exit 4 (Wolf Road). Turn RIGHT off of the exit. We are about 2/10 of a mile down Wolf Road on the left.

AREA REPORTS

From the HMB Delegate:

As I continue to visit the districts to share post-Conference experiences, there is a great deal of excitement, enthusiasm and questions from members about service. Thanks to the members of District 4, 11 and 15 for your participation. Other visits are scheduled and I am still willing and available to visit your group, district or service event. Again, I thank you for the privilege and the opportunity!

Many of us have now returned from the two summer service events – the New York State Convention and the New York State Informational Workshop. For a few years, these events are also opportunities for members from the four delegate areas in New York to meet with each other, collaborate and share experiences on how we might work together to carry A.A.'s message statewide. This year the delegates, area chairs and committee chairs met again at both state events to continue these voluntary discussions.

The three 2008-2009 Confidential A.A. directories, which are published annually, are now available. These directories are for A.A. members only and can be purchased from our General Service Office at a cost of \$2.88 each. These directories are not to be used as a mailing list.

The three A.A. Directories for the United States and Canada are:

- Eastern United States A.A. Directory
- Western United States A.A. Directory
- Canadian A.A. Directory

By the time you read this article, I will have copies of the Confidential 2008 Final Conference Report. Here are more highlights to share with members/groups/districts/areas:

Delegates challenge each of our areas to increase circulation of the Grapevine by at least 100

The Archive Committee welcomes sharing and experience from Area and District Archives Committees for inclusion in the workbook and *Markings: Your Archives Interchange*.

Possible sites for the 2020 International Convention – Detroit, Los Angeles, New Orleans, Vancouver.

On a lighter note, the Conference Report, page 69 states “The 58th General Service Conference now holds the record as the longest Conference in its 58 years. Scheduled to adjourn at 5 pm Friday afternoon it did not end until 12:40 am Saturday morning. A lot of theatre and baseball tickets were put on hold – permanently”.

In the Sunlight of Service,

Joan Ramsey

Are 48 Panel 58 Delegate

(518) 438-6451 Home

(518) 330-2800 Cell

Hmbdelegatepanel58@gmail.com

Have you seen the new HMB Website? Check it out at www.aahmbny.org



Area Chair

I have just returned from attending two weekends of service events. I had the honor and privilege to attend the NYS Convention and the NYS Information Workshop and be one of many folks that represented HMB Area 48.

The NYS Convention was held in Tarrytown, NY and attended by approximately 1000 people. Vera L, Marcy N, Peggy M, Kitty R, Bob B, Pat L, and Dave S from our Area presented at the various workshops and panels. Many thanks for the outstanding contributions of your experience, strength and hope. I attended the four workshops and listened to the voice of AA members across the whole state. I had the privilege to be with my sponsor and a number of sponsees throughout the weekend. I was reminded that the program requires a working of all three sides of the triangle, and had the profound spiritual experience of the giving and receiving from the gift of sponsorship during the weekend.

The NYS Informational Workshop was held in Amherst, NY and attended by approximately 100 people. While the event was about 10% of the size of the prior weekend's event, the service information shared was just as informative, moving and inspiring. I found myself a number of times, on the edge of my seat listening to the presenters, taking notes and in awe of the service work that is done. From our Area, Tammie E, Jim K, Pat L, Bob L, Brenda O, Bill C, and Cindy D, shared on the service committee panels. Many thanks for your outstanding contributions to the panels. The things that seemed to stick in my mind from the weekend were a continual reminder of the following:

When doing service work with outside institutions, it is important to review the literature on what AA is and what AA is not.

Use the literature and become familiar with the service materials that are available for your service position. (Workbooks, pamphlets, etc)

The staff at the General Service Office is invaluable in answer questions and providing suggestions and guidance.

Service rotation is a valuable and integral part of our program.

So what's coming up next? For Area events, we have our September Fellowship Day (flyer pages 4 and 5). At that meeting, while I will be there, our Alternate Chairperson will be running the meeting to give him an opportunity to work with members of the Area. We will be having service roundtables and a business meeting. In October, we will hold an assembly at which the focus will be on the 2009 Proposed Budget and the proposals included in the newsletter. Additionally, I will be continuing my visits to various district meetings.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

In love and service,

Deb D

845-331-4213

HMBAreaChair@hvc.rr.com

Alternate Chair

Last weekend I had the pleasure of attending the NYS Convention in Tarrytown. It was FUN, but there were also opportunities to learn about how AA is operating across New York. I was able to reconnect with other AA's from around the state and talk about things that were happening in the HMB Area. The panels were very informative and valuable information was garnered. The speakers were great. I'm sure that the laughter could be heard all the way to New York City. Any one who missed it missed a great experience.

As I alluded to in my last article, this weekend, the NYS Informational Workshop, was just that - work. While it was work, it was satisfying work and fun work. The weekend went by fast. The event consisted of panel presentations by the chairs of the various committees from each of the four NYS Areas. Saturday evening ended with a speaker's meeting. A past Delegate from Area 50 spoke. On Sunday there was a panel consisting of the four sitting Delegates from NYS. They each shared their experience at the General Conference. If you are serious about service, plan on attending the next NERAASA and NYS Informational Workshop.

In a short time we will be having the September Assembly. Our Chair, Deb D., has graciously invited me to chair this meeting. What I would like to do is break up into groups in the morning (see agenda p 4) and have the various committees discuss how we are complying with the 5th and 12th tradition, in light of the current economic conditions. Has the price of gas affected our ability to carry the message, and has it had an effect on attendance at meetings? I look forward to seeing you all at the Assembly.

Yours in service,

Bob Lang, Alt Chair.

Treasurer

**HMB AREA ASSOCIATION
Treasury Report
July 2008**

Prepared by William Tuthill, Area Treasurer
7/31/2008
williamtuthill@yahoo.com

Check Book Balance:	7/1/200		
5/1/08	8		\$9,255.68
Income:			
		\$1,354.0	
Group Contributions		0	
		\$1,354.0	
<u>Total Income:</u>		0	(+) \$1,354.00
Total Assets:			
			\$10,609.68
Expenses:			
Mailbox		\$29.30	
Special Needs Chair NYSIW		\$165.00	
Special Needs Chair Alloc		\$64.04	
Newsletter Postage		\$275.10	
Newsletter Printing		\$213.92	
<u>Total Expense:</u>		\$747.36	(-) \$747.36
Checkbook Balance: 7/31/08			
			\$9,862.32
Prudent Reserve:			
			(-) \$7,000.00
Total Available Cash:			
			\$2,862.32

Alternate Treasurer

**PROPROPOSED HMB
2009 BUDGET**

Expenses:			NOTE
Delegate		\$3,750	2
GSO Conference Donation		\$2,000	2
Chairperson		\$2,750	2
Allocations:			
	Alternate Area Chairperson	\$550	3
	Secretary	\$550	3
	Registrar/Alt. Secretary	\$900	3
	Treasurer	\$900	3
	Alternate Treasurer	\$550	3
	Sub-Total	\$3,450	

Committee Chairs and Others Allocations:

PI Committee Chair	\$400	4
CPC Committee Chair	\$400	4
TF Committee Chair	\$550	4
CF Committee Chair	\$550	4
SN Committee Chair	\$400	4
BTG Committee Chair	\$400	4
Grapevine Chair	\$400	4
Archivist	\$400	4
Newsletter Editor	\$400	4
Convention Chair	\$300	4
Web Chair	\$400	4
Sub-Total	\$4,600	

NERAASA 2009	\$3,600	5
NYS Convention 2009	\$400	6
NYS Informational Workshop 2009	\$3,000	7
Newsletter Printing	\$2,500	
Newsletter Postage	\$4,000	
Area Inventory Day	\$400	8
Day of Sharing/Delegates day	\$400	8
Area Assemblies	\$1,200	8
Fellowship Days	\$800	8
Insurance Costs	\$600	
Website	\$200	9
Service Manual Updates	\$200	10
Meeting Books for Committee Chairs	\$664	11
HMB Convention seed money for 2010	\$2,000	12
HMB Convention 2009 (Allocations for Committee Chair Attendance)	\$3,750	13
NYS Info Workshop Seed Money 2009	\$0	
2000 Additional HMB Meeting Books (seed money)	\$1,112	14
Mail Box Service	\$300	
Archive Storage Fees	\$800	
Tax Preparation	\$500	
Prior Year Expenses	\$500	
NE Regional Forum 2008	\$0	
Total Expenses:	\$43,476	

Income:

WebSite Contributions	\$200	
HMB Convention (Seed Money Returned from 2008)	\$2,000	
Projected Group Contributions	\$30,164	
Estimated Checkbook Carryover on 1/1/08	\$10,000	
Extra Meeting Books (seed money returned from 2008)	\$1,112	14
Total Income Needed:	\$43,476	

Misc Information:

Prudent Reserve	\$7,000	
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1. Amounts allocated are the **maximum** allowable expenditures for each category. Actual expenditures must be reported in writing and documented with receipts. Reports are due by April 15th, July 15th, October 15th and December 15th. The Finance Committee must review all reports past due before any payments are made. Allocated monies are disbursed when requested, and **only** when an accounting of the previous allotment has been made. Allocated allowances include mileage at \$.35 per mile, tolls, postage, supplies, telephone, printing, copies and other. Receipts and mileage details are required.
2. The Delegate's and Area Chairperson's allocations include funds for expenses to all Area, State and Regional events. The Delegate and Chairperson are asked to balance their activities as close to the amount allocated as possible.
3. Allocations for Secretary, Treasurer, Alternate Area Chairperson, Alternate Secretary, Alternate Treasurer include: Expenses up to \$550, the Treasurer and Alternate Secretary is allocated an additional \$350 to cover supplies, printing and postage.
4. Allocations for Newsletter Editor, Public Information (PI), Cooperation with Professional Community (CPC), Special Needs (SN), Bridging the Gap (BTG), Grapevine (GV), Archives and Web Committees are budgeted for \$400. They may exceed the budgeted amount to a maximum of \$500 with Finance Committee approval. Allocations for Treatment Facilities (TF) and Correctional Facilities (CF) Committees are budgeted for \$550. They may exceed the budgeted amount to a maximum of \$750 with Finance Committee approval. The Convention Chair is also allocated \$300 for coordinating and planning expenses.
5. Expenses to attend 2008 NERAASA will be a maximum of \$300 per funded member. The budgeted amount of \$3,600 should not be exceeded. Members funded are the Secretary, Treasurer, PI Chair, CPC Chair, TF Chair, CF Chair, SN Chair, BTG Chair, GV Chair, Archivist, Newsletter Editor and Web Chair.
6. Expenses to attend the NYS Convention are \$400 for the Area Archivist.
7. Expenses to attend the NYS Informational Workshop are \$250 per funded member. The budgeted amount of \$3,000 should not be exceeded. Members funded include the Secretary, Treasurer, PI Chair, CPC Chair, TF Chair, CF Chair, SN Chair, BTG Chair, GV Chair, Archivist, Newsletter Editor and Web Chair.
8. \$400 is allocated for each Area function. Seven functions in 2009. The functions are: Inventory Day, Delegates Day/Day of Sharing, two Fellowship Days and three Assemblies. Regarding area events sponsored by clusters: any expenses exceeding the budgeted amount allocated must be approved by the Finance Committee; any monies collected in excess of the expenses shall be returned to the Area. **Amount allocated should be sufficient to cover event – if clusters need assistance in staying under budgeted amount, they should contact Alternate Area Chair (Area Events Chair) and seek assistance/guidance from experienced Area members. Failure to seek such assistance/guidance prior to event may result in denial of request for reimbursement of amounts exceeding budgeted allowance.**
9. \$200 is allocated to maintain the Area Website. This expense is based on estimated cost from Website Oversight Committee for maintaining new web-hosting service after migration is completed by Dec 2008.
10. \$200 for service manual updates; the estimated cost of printing update pages. To be done once a year after the October Assembly.
11. \$664 for HMB Meeting schedules (1200 books at .50 each, plus \$64 shipping) to Standing Committee Chairs. These include PI Chairperson, CPC Chairperson, TF Chairperson, CF Chairperson, BTG Chairperson, and SN Chairperson. These figures are based on 2008 costs, and may be subject to change.
12. \$2,000 is allocated for the 2010 HMB convention as seed money.
13. Expenses to attend the 2009 HMB Area Convention are \$250 per funded member. The budgeted amount of \$3,750 should not be exceeded. Members funded include the Alternate Area Chair, Secretary, Registrar/Alternate Secretary, Treasurer, Alternate Treasurer, PI Chair, CPC Chair, TF Chair, CF Chair, SN Chair, BTG Chair, GV Chair, Archivist, Newsletter Editor and Web Chair.
14. \$1,112.00 is allocated as seed money for additional HMB meeting books to fulfill orders received after approved deadline; books are stored and distributed as needed by an Area officer.
15. **Should contributions exceed the budget requirements, additional items may be funded at the discretion of the Finance Committee, reviewed quarterly.**

Notes:

- As always, those funded are asked to share expenses whenever possible.
- Expenses vary from year to year. The funded amount for various events is based on hotel costs, registration costs, and mileage to the **2008** event (not a fixed amount). An estimate of the number of attending is based on previous years. It is hoped that this method will help bring the budget closer to the actual expenses and give all those who want to serve the HMB Area an equal opportunity. As always, those funded are asked to share expenses whenever possible.
- Expense reports are due by April 15th, July 15th, October 15th, and December 15th. Late reports will not be paid until reviewed by the Finance Committee.
- NERAASA is a service assembly for GSR's, DCM's and Area Committee Members of the Northeast Region to discuss issues and concerns affecting AA as whole, as well as pertinent aspects of recovery, unity, and service common to the Northeast Region. The 2009 event will be in Portland, ME.
- The 2009 NYS Convention will be hosted by Western NY.
- The 2009 NYS Informational Workshop will be hosted by Central NY.

-Exceptions: Chairpersons and Officers living within 25 miles of a funded event will be reimbursed for mileage and registration only, unless handicapped. Banquet and meal costs are not funded. Funding covers lodging, registration, mileage at \$.35 per mile and tolls.

-NERF will be held in Somerset, NJ this year. Expenses for Area Delegate and Area Chair are included in yearly allocation.

-There are **two** Area Assemblies in even-numbered years (May and October). There are **three** Area Assemblies in odd-number years and these include the Area Election Assembly held in September.

Area 48 HMB Convention Update

October 31, November 1, and November 2, 2008 at the Holiday Inn Wolf Road, Albany NY

If you are one of the many talented AA members in our Area, don't hide your light under a bushel.....please sign up for the Friday night Talent Show. We still need a few more singers, musicians, and stand up comics. If you want to participate, contact Convention Entertainment chair at: twe3edwards@aol.com. Hope to see YOU at the HMB Convention.... the October place to BE!

Love in service,

Pat L

HMB Convention2008 Chair

Hi everyone. My name is BILL CROWE and I am your registration chair for the HMB CONVENTION, October 31, 2008. We are having a ball planning this one. There will be some very exciting panels, informative workshops, great speakers, and entertainment like you've never seen and even an amateur hour. I can hardly wait.

The next three months will go past before I can bat an eye. I know everyone who goes will be talking about this one for a long time, which is the reason for this letter. It is unfortunate that a few people who would like to go can't because they are feeling the crunch for one reason or another and don't have the \$20.00 registration fee.

I'm asking, no begging, individuals, groups and/or districts (especially those that have extra above their prudent reserve) to consider sponsoring scholarships for some of these people. What better way to share our experience, strength and hope than to get them to the convention, where for 3 days they can learn, mingle and make new friends. Who knows, it might even encourage them into service.

The scholarships will be given out on a 1st come, 1st serve basis. I have approached 2 groups and have already obtained 5 scholarships. If you want to help someone attend, send the check as follows:

HMB Convention 2008

C/O District18

P.O. Box 188

East Greenbush, N.Y. 12061

Print SCHOLARSHIP on note line. HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE.

Special Needs

At the New York State Convention in Tarrytown NY the weekend of July 25-27, 2008, a Special Needs round table met jointly with Website administrators from throughout the four Areas of New York State, and a few "visitors" from New Jersey. The Special Needs Chair from the SENY area reported that they have changed the name of their committee from "Special Needs" to "Accessibility/Special Needs" similar to what has been done in Central NY recently. Considerable discussion ensued about using the Internet and various websites to help get the information out about Special Needs.

I also attended the New York State Informational Workshop in Amherst, NY the weekend of August 1 thru 3, 2008. This weekend Conference devoted to the activities of Service Committees stressed one of the themes throughout the weekend which was the way the various Committees overlap and can work together. More interest has been generated throughout New York State for meeting the needs of AA members with Traumatic Brain Injury, and Hearing Impairment.

In love and service,

Pat L.

Area 48 Special Needs Chair

Corrections

Well here it is 5:45 p.m., Aug. 3, 2008 and I just got in from the Informational Workshop in Buffalo. Exhausted to the bone but too excited to sit still, so I decided I had to share with you my experience. Believe me it was great. Of course this being my 1st one, I don't have anything to compare it to. I was talking with one lady who had been to several, and she said "This is the best workshop that I have ever been to." I replied "me too." All of the panels were very informative. I learned so much that there isn't enough room here to share it all. I met all of the other 3 Corrections Chairs and got quite an education. We will be doing some exciting things in the near future. Among them, we will be moving ahead with a statewide data base (something that has never been done before) so that we can share the names of people who have been cleared to go into State Prisons, so in case they move we can more easily get them cleared into a prison near them. I will be working very closely with Sue Parker, your BTG chair to get forms into not only State facilities but also county jails, re-habs, and of course detox units. Any District who feels they could use my help, please call me at 518-732-4380 or e-mail me at crowebj07@verizon.net. Maybe together we can get some action going in the areas that are slow or nonexistent. I am looking forward to working with as many of you as want me.

Love in service,

Bill Crowe-Area Corrections Chair

Grapevine

It was a pleasure to be able to attend my first Informational Workshop, this year hosted by Western NY, Area 50. On a personal side, the accommodations were more than adequate and the food was acceptable. But that's not why I attended. Even if the room was dirty and the food stunk, I would have considered the workshop to be an informative worthwhile weekend.

The Grapevine Panel kicked off the weekend on Friday night, followed by Archives. Saturday was filled the remaining panels, with the obvious breaks for lunch and dinner.

If I said that the Grapevine Panel seemed to be the most enthusiastic of all, it would probably sound biased. However, I will say with most honesty that Area 48 continued to be the most enthusiastic and supportive of their respective panelists at each and every panel. Thanks to all for your enthusiasm.

I learned a lot about other areas of service. This opened my eyes to how I might currently support and assist my fellow chairs and committees as well as where I might be of best use in the future.

Due to scheduling so close to the NYS Convention, this workshop traditionally hosts only an average attendance. This year the head count was 104. I think it would be nice if more newcomers were encouraged by their sponsors to attend, even if just for part of the day. Learning more about what each committee really does to help carry the message is a wonderful opportunity to learn where each of us, as individual members, may be of the greatest value to the program as a whole in service.

Saturday evening's speaker was Past Delegate, Mike B., whose story was both captivating and passionate. It is encouraging to hear how completely selfless fellow members can be when it comes to fulfilling needs within the program. If we all could act in that capacity there wouldn't be enough positions for all the volunteers.

It was also a pleasure to hear each of the four current Delegates share on Sunday morning about their experiences at Conference. They were all truly an inspiration.

Thanks to all for the opportunity to attend.

In Sobriety,

Tammie E

Grapevine Chair



Looking for a meeting? Check out www.aahmbny.org to hook up to meetings in your district or in the Area if you're traveling. It's got links to great stuff and all the hot summer events around the Area.. Oh! And you can read a copy of the newsletter there too!!

Registrar

Hello Hudson Mohawk Berkshires!

The major item of the moment is the Meeting Schedule formatting process. I hope you all have had a chance to bring the formatting proposals to your home groups and get a group conscience to bring to your district meetings. If anyone has any questions, please contact me as soon as possible.

It seems there was some confusion about what was meant by "self-cover." This simply means that the schedule will be a total of 64 pages, with the cover being the same paper as the rest of the schedule. Otherwise, there will be 64 pages in addition to an index (heavier paper) cover, for a total of 68 pages. The latter option is somewhat more expensive. It seems the cover will add about 10% to the price.

Also, it was brought to my attention that I was mistaken when I suggested that the price for a 4 by 9 book would be disproportionately expensive. There will be in fact very little difference in price between the three sizes. My mistake! Thank you to the people who have sent me changes in the past month. I have been learning a lot about the GSO database, which is called Fellowship New Vision, and about the database our Area maintains. We have approximately 1600 records in our Area database, including active and inactive meetings, extra mail recipients, and District and Area Chairs. It is a huge amount of information! We maintain this database so we can send mailings, and so that we can stay in touch with each other through our Confidential Directory. As our Fellowship grows and changes, it is always important to be able to reach out and touch someone!

There is always room for improvement! Our Delegate, Joan R., has directed me towards several members of our Fellowship who have been able to ask me the questions I needed to be asked to help define our information situation. As my sponsor likes to say, "You have all the answers. You just need the right questions." In this case, the questions have to do with the GSO database. What kind of database is it? Is there a development plan? These questions will help us to think about how we should orient ourselves in the coming years to most effectively connect with the FNV (Fellowship New Vision) database. If it sounds a little overwhelming, it is. Especially to someone like me, who has little technical background. But the people at our General Service Office have been very helpful in answering our questions. If any of you have any ideas for ways that we as an Area can improve the way we handle information, please let me know.

As you probably know, the Area has a new website: ahmbny.org

District Seven also has a new website: district-7.org

Thanks to everyone who has been sending me changes. Please contact me if there are any questions, or if you need information to help you do your job in AA.

Grateful,

Dan J.

Website

New Look for AAWS /GSO Web Site: -- One thing summarized in the Final Report from the A.A. Northeast Regional Forum (in Lancaster) was that the official web site of the General Service Office <http://www.aa.org> was difficult to read and navigate. For example, a word in a block of text in a small font didn't show up clearly as being a link to another page. As this article is being written, a new re-design is a few days (early August) away. Take a look at it. Try it out.

A.A. Pamphlets on AA.ORG: -- The official main web site for Alcoholics Anonymous is loaded with information including a growing number of A.A. pamphlets. It may seem unusual to put pamphlets on the internet which AAWS (AA World Services) otherwise would sell. but the goal is to help alcoholics. Ideally, printing and selling pamphlets would be a break-even operation anyhow. The copyrights still apply so no outside company can print and sell A.A. literature. There doesn't seem to be much point in giving links to the pamphlets here because previous re-organizations have broken many bookmarks and links to the aa.org web site.

How Does ny-aa.org Look on Your Cell Phone? -- More and more people are getting cell phones and other communications devices that include a screen to access the internet. From the few times I've seen it, the meeting list web site <http://www.ny-aa.org> is readable on some of these. If you try it, you may find the "day-at-a-time" meeting list format easier to read than the "week-at-a-glance" format.

Traditions Question: -- Is printing out a stack of A.A. literature (or area newsletters) for your home group using your employer's paper and ink or toner consistent with being "self-supporting through our own contributions." Don't try to rationalize that this is the only way you can avoid showing up at work drunk. Tom E host@ny-aa.org 845 297-4026

PROPOSALS FOR VOTE AT THE OCTOBER ASSEMBLY

Proposal #1

The HMB Area 48 Newsletter Committee proposes that the newsletter be printed and distributed every other month in order to save money for the Area. This would be a change to Item #3 in the guidelines for the HMB Newsletter in the HMB Area Service Manual p14.

At the current time the newsletter costs for printing exceed the budgeted amount of \$205.00 per month. The Committee believes that printing and mailing the newsletter every other month or six times a year would save the Area approximately \$1470.00 a year. The budgeted amount for postage each month is \$333.00. If the current mailing list received a mailed copy, the cost of postage would be \$336.00 per month. Postage costs have been reduced by an increase in the number of people opting to receive the newsletter by e-mail distribution rather than snail mail.

The costs for the past years have been:

	<u>Print Budgeted</u>	<u>Print Actual</u>	<u>Postage Budgeted</u>	<u>Postage Actual</u>	<u>+/-</u>
2004	\$ 2000.00	\$ 2,644.00	\$ 3,700.00	\$ 3,630.94	+644.
2005	2000.00	2,713.00	3,700.00	4,046.50	+1059.50
2006	3000.00	1,958.15	3,700.00	3,654.67	-1887.18
2007	3000.00	2,291.85	4,500.00	3,780.00	-1428.15
2008	2500.00	1,190.50*	4,000.00	1,528.60*	

*YTD=4 months Feb-May 2008

Proposal #2

Whereas the current service manuals states on page 16:

The Area Archivist and Web-Master positions do not rotate and are filled as needed by the Area Chairperson, with the approval of the Area Committee.

Be it resolved that the Area Service Manual be updated to reflect the following:

The term of the Area Archivist and Web-Master positions will be for a period of two years, commencing January 1. The positions are filled by the Area Chairperson with the approval of the Area Committee; Archivist in even years and Web Chair in odd years. Given the technical nature of these service positions, this does not preclude people from holding concurrent terms, but does give the opportunity for others with the capability and desire to serve.

Respectfully Submitted, Deb D- Area Chair

Proposal #3

I propose that HMB sponsor a yearly Correction Connection meeting. The details of such can be worked out by an ad hoc committee.

Respectively submitted

William C,
HMB Correction Chair

PROPOSALS FOR VOTE**Proposal #4**

Proposal to Change Meeting Schedule Publication and Format

Where It States: The approval of the format will be determined by a consensus of the District Committee Members and District Record Keepers and will not require approval of the Area Assembly . The Alternate Secretary will coordinate the Meeting Book Committee to get final approval by each District in September of every year, where a draft of the final format will be shown as a sample at the Area Committee meeting.

To Be Resolved: The Approval of the format will be determined by a consensus of District Committee Members and District Record Keepers and will require the Approval of the Area Assembly. All votes by the District Committee Members and District Record keepers must be available to the Assembly at the time of Approval . The Alternate Secretary will coordinate the Meeting Book Committee to get final Approval By each District in September of every year, Where a draft of the final format will be shown as a sample at the Area Committee Meeting.

Submitted By,
Les B
District 4

Service Committees at the Area Level**What they are and who is part of the committee?**

The following service committees are at the HMB Area level:

- Archives
- Bridging the Gap
- Cooperation with the Professional Community
- Corrections
- Grapevine
- Public Information
- Treatment Facilities
- Special Needs

These committees are made up of the HMB Area Service Committee Chair and the Service Chairs from each of the 17 Districts in the Area. (For example, if you are a District 15 Corrections Chair then you are part of the Area Corrections committee.)

The service committees meetings help to promote communication among groups, districts, the Area and GSO. Where possible, collaboration between the service entities is encouraged. These committees hold periodic meetings with District Service Committee Representatives to discuss programs, progress, and problems.

The next meetings will be held at the HMB Area Fellowship Day - Saturday, September 13, 2008. Whether you currently serve in a District or Area Position or are interested in finding out more, you are encouraged to attend.



** Please submit your articles for the **October** Issue to

hmb48newsletter@yahoo.com by **September 1, 2008.** **



HMB AREA NEWSLETTER (9/2008)

775 Myrtle Avenue 6C

Albany, NY 12208

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED