

HMB AREA 48 NEWSLETTER



A version of this newsletter and previous editions is at:

<http://www.aahmbny.org>

AA Principles of the Month

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

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

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

Twelfth Tradition Checklist

Why is it a good idea for me to place the common welfare of all AA members before individual welfare? What would happen to *me* if AA as a whole disappeared?

When I do not trust AA's current servants, who do I wish had the authority to straighten them out?

In my opinions of and remarks about other AAs, am I implying membership requirements other than a desire to stay sober?

Do I ever try to get a certain AA group to conform to *my* standards, not its own?

Have I a personal responsibility in helping an AA group fulfill its primary purpose? What is *my* part?

Does my personal behavior reflect the Sixth Tradition--or belie it?

Do I do all I can do to support AA financially? When is the last time I anonymously gave away a Grapevine subscription?

Do I complain about certain AAs' behavior--especially if they are paid to work for AA? Who made *me* so smart?

Do I fulfill all AA responsibilities in such a way as to please privately even my own conscience? Really?

Do my utterances always reflect the Tenth Tradition, or do I give AA critics real ammunition?

Should I keep my AA membership a secret, or reveal it in private conversation when that may help another alcoholic (and therefore me)? Is my brand of AA so attractive that other drunks want it?

What is the real importance of *me* among 500,000 AAs?



January Newsletter Deadline: December 1, 2008



HMB EVENT SCHEDULE - 2008

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>HOST CLUSTER</u>	<u>DATE</u>
January	HMB Area Inventory Day	Eastern (1,2,18)	Saturday, 1/10/2009
February	NERASSA	Portland, Me	2/20 - 2/22/2009
March	HMB Area Delegate's Day	Hudson Valley (3,7,11,15,16,17)	Saturday, 3/28/2009
April	HMB Area Fellowship Day	Adirondack (5,10,13)	Sunday, 4/26/2009
May	HMB Area Assembly	Central (4,8,14)	Sunday, 5/17/2009
June	Northeast Regional Forum	Somerset, NJ	6/26—6/29/2009

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

Calendar of Events

THANKSGIVING ALCATHONS

DISTRICT 4: Wednesday, November 26 beginning 6 pm through 6 pm, Thursday, November 27th Club 24, 218 Kingsboro Ave, Gloversville. Breakfast after 7 am morning meeting, Dinner at 3 pm. Speaker Meeting at 7 pm Wednesday. 24 Hours of AA, Al-Anon, food and refreshments. Please bring a dish to share; call Fran at 773-9046 or 725-1881. **Meetings every odd hour.** Mail donations to Doreen/Heidi at Club 24.

DISTRICT 5: Thursday, November 27th, 8am-7pm at Salvation Army, 27 Woodlawn Avenue, Saratoga Springs Dinner served at 2 pm; donations of food and money welcome. **Meetings on the odd hours** and fellowship all day long. Contact Jennifer 518-899-5300 for more info or to volunteer.

DISTRICT 7: Thanksgiving Day Dinner, Thursday, November 27th, served 1-4pm at St. James Church, Fair and Pearl Streets, Kingston. **Meetings 7am, 9am, Noon, 3pm** Contacts: Lynne M 845-339-3256, Scotty 845-339-4534, Annette B 845-532-7838, Chris P 845-331-2001.

DISTRICT 15: Sober Celebration Thanksgiving Dance Saturday, November 29th at Rosendale Rec Center, Route 32 Rosendale from 7:30 'til you can't dance no more! Tickets \$5.00 to cover facility and refreshments. See any GSR or district committee member.

DISTRICT 18: 24 Hours of AA and Al-anon Meetings and Fellowship 6 pm Wednesday, November 26th until 6 pm Thursday, November 27th at Blooming Grove Reformed Church in Defreestville. **Meetings on even hours.** Please bring a dish to share. Donations also welcome. Call Rob S 518-248-2041 or Tad J 518-366-5631.

DISTRICT 16 NEW YEAR'S EVE

Wednesday, December 31, 2008 Saugerties Senior Citizen's Center at Cantine Field, 6 PM-1:00 AM; Continuous hourly meetings; Hot meal at 10:00 PM, coffee and snacks all night. Enjoy a safe and sober New Year's Eve.

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



Concept Checklist

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

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



Peace and Joy in 2009

CORRECTIONS UPDATE

I hope all is well. I have received a new directive from The State of New York Correctional Services. It reads-"A new policy has been issued by the New York State Department of Correctional Services requiring all regular ongoing volunteers to be fingerprinted. This requirement will include all new volunteers, as well as those volunteers who are currently active, even if they have been fingerprinted in the past by the Department."

"A regular on-going volunteer is defined as one who provides a service on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis, or more than four times a year. There will be no cost incurred by volunteers for this requirement." "For currently active volunteers, facilities will begin fingerprinting over the course of the next 90 days. Facilities will attempt to schedule fingerprinting at a time, which is convenient for our volunteers."

I was able to make an agreement with our facilities-Greene & Cocksackie-to have the fingerprinting done when we show up to conduct our meetings. I would suggest though that you contact your volunteer staff member as each facility may have different rules. The names of these people are in the folder packet I gave out. If you have any questions or problems e-mail me at crowebj07@verizon.net or call 518-732-4380.

HMB Area 48 Inventory Day

Saturday, January 10, 2009

Blooming Grove Reformed Church

706 Blooming Grove Drive
Rensselaer, NY 12144

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM - Meeting and Greet

10:00 AM – 12:00PM Area Business, Service Committee Meetings, Traditions Skit

Noon-1:00pm Lunch (Provided)

1:00pm – 3:00pm Area Inventory

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.

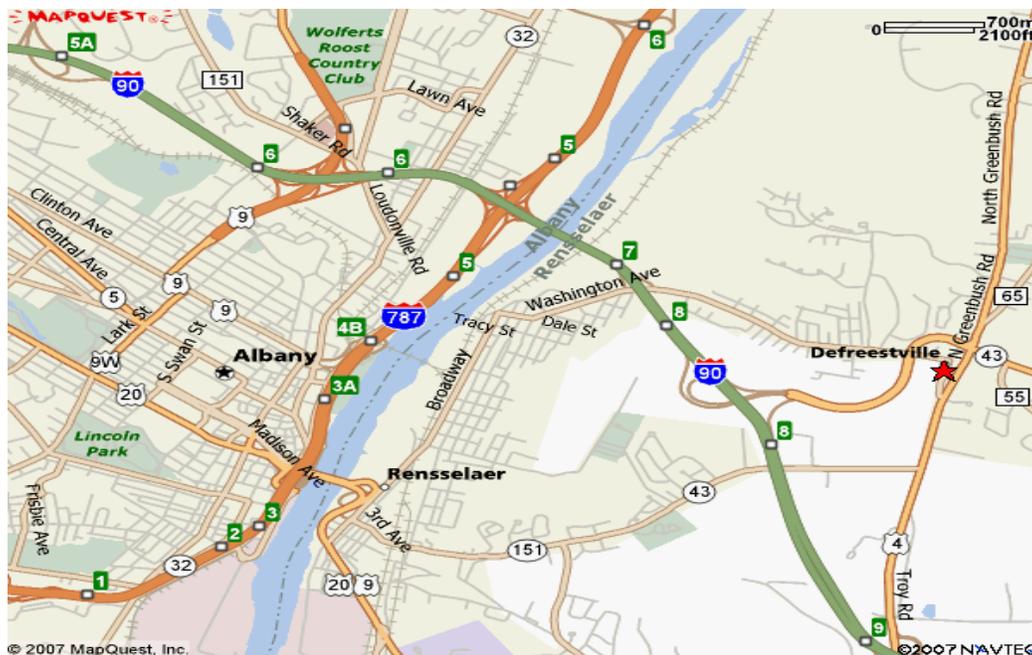
From the South:

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 REPORTS

From the HMB Delegate

By the time this article is read, the HMB Convention will have taken place. I would like to thank the Convention Chair, Pat L., the entire committee and volunteers for a fantastic job - well done! There were exciting speakers throughout the weekend attended by over 400 members. What a great way to celebrate the precious gift of sobriety. I had the privilege of participating on the Hospitality Committee at the World Services meeting NYC in October. Thanks to Isadora D. and the entire committee for the opportunity. What a privilege it is to serve Alcoholics Anonymous in any capacity. There is still so much more we can do to reach the still suffering alcoholic.

We have an abundance of men and women whose dedication, stability, vision and special skills make them capable of dealing with every possible service assignment. We have only to seek these folks out and trust them to serve us.

(From the Language of the Heart, Page 287 - Reprinted with permission of The A.A. World Services, Inc.)

I am eagerly awaiting your ideas and suggestions for the 2010 General Service Conference theme and workshops. This is a great opportunity for our members to participate in the process. Please discuss with your group members and forward your suggestions to me as soon as possible. This is an opportunity for your suggestions to be a part of the Agenda items.

Your DCM was sent information to discuss on support of our General Service Office (GSO). A request of this Area's conscience was made by Terry B., Class A Trustee and one of HMB's. Many of you met Terry at one of our recent area events. Please request copy of the background information and discuss with your members, groups and districts. Are contributions being sent to GSO by members, groups and districts? If not, why not? I have been asked to compile a response based on your comments, thoughts and suggestions.

Some exciting news in HMB – Area 83 District 46 has decided to join HMB Area 48. They are located in the north country and will become HMB District 19. The DCM, Don S, will forward the group information and contact information. We look forward to working with the members and groups of the new district and welcome them to HMB.

NERAASA 2009 will be held on February 20- 22 in Portland, Maine. Many HMB members are deciding the mode of transportation – air, train, charter bus or automobile. Please make your hotel reservations as soon as possible. Look forward to seeing you there.

The Delegate's Day will be held on **Saturday**, March 28, 2009 and will be hosted by District 17.

In the Sunlight of Service

Joan Ramsey

(518) 438-6451 Home

(518) 330-2800 Cell

hmbdelegate@aahmbny.org

Area Chair

It is hard to believe that a year has already passed in this service commitment. I would have never guessed the gifts that I would receive by being of service in this capacity to the Area. I am in awe at the tremendous amount of AA Service Work happening in our Area.

Highlights from the last month include participating in the Bus Trip to our General Service Office. What a BLAST! It started with a Friday AA meeting in which some members of the staff participated, as well as local AA members. After lunch, a tour of the General Service Office was provided, a tour of the Grapevine Offices and there was the opportunity to see the AA Archives. While at the offices, I was able to pick up literature and was even able to obtain copies of the AA Grapevine Magazine that were published in the Month and Year of a couple of my sponsee's anniversaries. They were great anniversary gifts.

In October, the Area held the annual Assembly. There were a number of proposals as well as the budget that was discussed. The secretary minutes have the results of the various proposals and yes, the budget was approved... The day was very lightly attended, but the discussion of the topics was full in both content and respect for each other.

I just returned from the HMB Area Convention. It was a fun weekend of service work, fellowshiping and yes, a bit of dancing. I would like to thank all the volunteers that helped to make the event possible. A special thanks to Pat L who chaired the convention committee for the past year.

I would like to close with Bill W's message from 1951. May the Spirit of his message be with each of you throughout the holiday season.

From the Grapevine Digital Archives:

A Merry Christmas

As in no other season we of AA gratefully reflect upon that miracle of rebirth and regeneration which has befallen us; we joyfully gaze upon the ever brighter radiance that suffuses our once dark world. Once again we listen to our Lord's command--"Freely ye have received, freely give."

Lois and I say to you all "Merry Christmas, Merry Christmas indeed!"

WHEN the holiday time of the year comes around, we of your General Service Headquarters wish that we could speak to each and everyone of you personally. For AA this has been a year of milestones. May this coming Christmas Day and all the days to follow be happy personal milestones to you all. From all of us to all of you, a happy, happy Christmas and a good New Year.

Bill W. and from all of us

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In love and service,

Deb

Secretary's Report

Secretary's Report – HMB Area Assembly, October 4, 2008. Guilderland, NY. Hosted by District 14. Attendance was 65 registered.

At 10:07 **Deb D** opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer and introductions.

Joan R the Area Delegate was absent due to the date change of the Assembly. Quay read her report. The report mentioned an upcoming CPC event to be held in Saratoga Springs with District's 5 & 13 providing coverage. Also there are envelopes available to make contributions to the General Service Office, please pass on to members, groups and districts. Joan is asking for suggestions from groups and districts for the 2010 General Conference theme.

Secretary's Report: Keith D reminded everyone to sign the registration sheet. He then offered to read the minutes from the Sept. 14th Fellowship Day, which was declined. A motion to accept was made and seconded; the report was accepted by a unanimous vote with NO abstentions.

Alt. Secretary's Report: Dan J explained the final format that the Area had chosen for the Schedules to be by District, with the size of 4"X 7" with NO cover. He also mentioned that Tom E had distributed draft copies of the Area Meeting Schedules and asked to please compare with the districts information for accuracy and to send him any discrepancies HMBAreaRegistrar@gmail.com Dan also asked the Districts to make sure to ask any GSR's to be specific if they wanted to be listed in the Eastern United States AA Confidential Directory and to contact him.

Treasurer's Report: William T read the September report which showed an ending balance of \$ 3,863.44 after the Prudent Reserve. He also fielded a couple of questions. A motion was made to accept by Rob B and seconded by Cindy; the report was accepted unanimously with NO abstentions.

Alt. Treasurer: Jim M discussed the Meeting Book order forms and requested that it not be put in the Newsletter so as not to break his anonymity.

Area Chairperson: Deb D acknowledged District 14 for holding the day's event and everyone who helped out. She then mentioned the remaining Area events of the year. The first is the HMB Area Convention being held at the Holiday Inn on Wolf road in Albany from Oct. 31st through Nov. 2nd. The second one is a Fellowship Day being held in Utica on November 16th. Deb held a brief discussion on proper Internet procedures concerning the use of people's names and that you need explicit approval from said individual before the printing of their names which also led in to

a conversation about Anonymity. The new *internet* guidelines were provided to everyone. From there Deb went on remind the Assembly of what our primary purpose of the day. She explained that we would use the HMB Area Service Manual in our voting procedure from pages 20 -21. And in the Manual it designates that the Parliamentarian is the Area Alt. Secretary (Dan J).

At 10:45 the voting on the proposals was started. The first order of business was to nominate an individual for U.S. Trustee-At-Large from Area 48. Quay H made herself available. A motion to accept was made and seconded. With no one else standing for the position the Area Secretary cast 1 vote for Quay to represent HMB Area 48 for the position.

Proposal # 1- was withdrawn by Peggy M who submitted the proposal. A friendly amendment was made by Bob B to increase the budget amount of the Newsletter printing for the year by \$ 500. The Budget Committee said that this could be discussed during the Budget process later.

Proposal # 2 was read by Keith D, to reflect in the Area Service Manual that both the Area Archivist and Web-Master be for a period of two years commencing Jan 1st. Archivist in even years and Web-Master in odd. A motion was made and seconded. There was much discussion on the degree of difficulty on replacing either position or the finding qualified people and that this was not personal issue directed at either Chairperson. Tom E made a friendly amendment that it state in the Manual it reads "concurrent" not "consecutive "terms, it was accepted. There was some question about clarification of Web Master/ Web Chair. The vote was taken; Yea - 48, Nay- 5 & 1 Abstention. Minority Opinion was heard, Paul asked that the Archivist be withdrawn from Proposal and someone suggested that it be Tabled. A vote to reconsider taking another vote was made; Yea – 11, Nay- 36 & 3 Abstentions. Original proposal PASSED.

Proposal # 3- A proposed yearly Corrections Connection meeting with details being worked out by an ad hoc committee was WITHDRAWN.

Proposal # 4- The approval for a format will be determined by a consensus of DCM's and District Records Keepers but would require the approval of Area Assembly for the meeting schedules. The Alt. Secretary will coordinate the Committee. A motion was made to accept and seconded. Much discussion followed with views such as this appears to be overkill to let the current Committee do their jobs. The question was called by William T and seconded by Keith D. The question vote was Yea – 50, Nay – 0 and Abstentions 2. With the question being called went in to the vote on the proposal. The vote was Yea- 0, Nay 48, Abstentions – 5, Proposal # 4 FAILS.

After the proposal voting was done Deb D decided that we hear DCM reports then come back after lunch and work on the 2009 Budget, this way there would be no interruption. We broke for lunch at 11:55 with the agreement that we would reconvene at 12:30.

2009 HMB Area Budget discussion / vote.

The budget was read by Jim M; a motion to accept by Rob was made and seconded by Tad. The following friendly amendments were offered.

The Alt. Secretary, Alt. Chair & Alt. Treasurer be able to attend NERAASA, Accepted. To increase mileage up to Federal standards, the mileage was raised from the proposed .35 cents to .45 Accepted.

To increase the Newsletter Printing from \$ 2500 to \$ 3000. Accepted. To increase allotment for BTG from \$ 400 to \$ 550, Accepted. To combine both line items for # 9 to \$ 550. To define

Web Chair to read Website Committee Chair and Web Chair to Webmaster.

Budget Vote: Yea – 40, Nay – 1, Abstentions – 5. Minority opinion was heard and a vote to reconsider was taken, Yea – 9, Nay- 30, Abstentions- 4, and original Vote PASSES! We have an Approved Budget for 2009.

There was a motion to adjourn the Assembly by Rob B and seconded by Sue P at 2:28.

Respectfully submitted for approval by Keith Domack, HMB Area Secretary



Looking for a meeting? Check out [/www.aahmbny.org](http://www.aahmbny.org) to hook up to meetings in your district or in the Area if you're traveling. There are links to great stuff and all the hot events around the Area.. Oh! And you can read a copy of the newsletter there too!!

Treasurer

HMB AREA ASSOCIATION Treasury Report October 2008

Prepared by William Tuthill, Area Treasurer
11/3/2008
williamtuthill@yahoo.com

Check Book Balance: 10/1/08			\$10,863.44
Income:			
Group Contributions	\$2,414.90		
Ret. Monies (Liability ins.)	\$15.00		
<u>Total Income:</u>	\$2,429.90	(+)	\$2,429.90
Total Assets:			\$13,293.34
Expenses:			
Alt Chair - NYS Conv	\$322.86		
Alt Chair - NYSIW	\$339.00		
Alt Treasurer Alloc	\$100.00		
Archives Chair - NYS Conv	\$327.20		
Archives Chair - NYSIW	\$212.00		
BTG Alloc	\$161.32		
Corrections Chair - HMB Conv	\$20.00		
Corrections Chair Alloc	\$58.80		
CPC Chair - HMB Conv	\$248.52		
Grapevine Chair - Alloc	\$233.49		
Grapevine Chair - NYSIW	\$291.64		
Mailbox	\$16.43		
Newsletter Editor Alloc	\$47.13		
Newsletter postage	\$294.00		
Newsletter printing	\$225.67		
PI Chair Alloc	\$43.70		
Secretary Alloc	\$196.17		
Secretary NYS Conv	\$178.00		
Treasurer Alloc	\$94.10		
Web Site Chair Alloc	\$59.75		
<u>Total Expense:</u>	\$3,469.78	(-)	\$3,469.78
Checkbook Balance: 10/31/08			\$9,823.56
Prudent Reserve:		(-)	\$7,000.00
Total Available Cash:			\$2,823.56

Alternate Treasurer

**HMB 2009 BUDGET
(approved)**

Expenses			NOTE
Delegate		\$3,750	2
GSO Conference Donation		\$2,000	
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	\$550	4
	Grapevine Chair	\$400	4
	Archivist	\$400	4
	Newsletter Editor	\$400	4
	Convention Chair	\$300	4
http://www.aahmbny.org/	Website Committee Chair	\$400	4
http://www.ny-aa.org/	Webmaster	\$400	
	Sub-Total	\$5,150	
NERAASA 2009		\$4,500	5
NE Regional Forum 2009		\$2,500	16
NYS Informational Workshop 2009		\$3,000	7
Archivist Attendance at NYS Convention		\$400	6
Newsletter Printing		\$3,000	
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	
Websites (Operational cost for two)	\$550	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	
Total Expenses:	\$48,276	
Income:		
WebSite Contributions to Area website http://www.ny-aa.org/	\$200	
HMB Convention (Seed Money Returned from 2008)	\$2,000	
Projected Group Contributions	\$35,076	
Estimated Checkbook Carryover on 1/1/09	\$10,000	
Extra Meeting Books (seed money returned from 2008)	\$1,000	14
Total Income Needed:	\$48,276	
Misc Information:		
Prudent Reserve	\$7,000	

HMB BUDGET NARRATIVE (Approved)

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 \$.45 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), Grapevine (GV), Archives, Website Committee Chair (for Area Website at <http://www.aahmbny.org>), and Webmaster (for Area Website at <http://www.ny-aa.org>) are budgeted for \$400. They may exceed the budgeted amount to a maximum of \$500 with Finance Committee approval. Allocations for Treatment Facilities (TF), Bridging the Gap (BTG), 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 2009 NERAASA will be a maximum of \$300 per funded member. The budgeted amount of \$4,500 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, Website Committee Chair (for Area website at <http://www.aahmbny.org>), Alternate Area Chair, Alternate Secretary and Alternate Treasurer.
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. \$550 is allocated to maintain the Area Websites (one at <http://www.ny-aa.org> and one at <http://www.aahmbny.org>). These expenses are based on estimated costs of maintaining the two existing Area Websites.
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, 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 Website Committee Chair (for the Area Website at <http://www.aahmbny.org>).
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. (HMB Area will absorb cost of shipping – \$112.00 – and should recover \$1,000 if all additional books are sold.)

Should contributions exceed the budget requirements, additional items may be funded at the discretion of the Finance Committee, reviewed quarterly.

16. Expenses to attend the North Eastern Regional Forum (NERF) are \$250 per funded member. The budgeted amount of \$2,500 should not be exceeded. Members funded include the PI Chair, CPC Chair, TF Chair, CF Chair, SN Chair, BTG Chair, GV Chair, Archivist, Newsletter Editor and Website Committee Chair (for the Area Website at <http://www.aahmbny.org>).

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 \$.45 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.

Bridging the Gap

Hi Everyone,

I wanted wish all of you a very happy holiday and a happy New Year filled with blessings. See you in '09!

Sue P. – BTG Area Chair

(518) 798-0386

hmbarea48btgchair@yahoo.com

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.

Area 48 HMB Convention Update

The HMB Area Convention was a great success sheerly by the number of people in attendance. A rough estimate would indicate a possible attendance of over 400! Many thanks to all the members who helped with the Convention over the past weekend : Bill C and Tad J for the registration table, a big undertaking with the constant flow of walk-ins; Linda, Laura and their Greeters crew, keeping the flow of attendees moving!! Pat C and Jimbo organized the Hospitality room and kept that up and running, with many, many folks "staffing" the room over the weekend.

Tom E entertainment chair certainly outdid himself and it was wonderful to see his daughter Helene performing and emceeing.

Gail G and Quay were in charge of panels/workshops and outdid themselves too, having 32 panelists from all 17 districts.

Our speakers, Bill M, Quay H, and Bill O carried the message in the very well attended Speaker meetings.

Thanks to all the groups who donated treats and cash as well as District 1 donating for the Hospitality room.

Thanks to Marcia, Maryanne, Barb, Mary Ellen, and Steve from the CD Central Office for hosting the Hospitality room on Sunday morning and thanks also for their very generous donation!! If I forgot anybody thanks to you too!

AA love and service

Pat L

HMB Convention Chair 2008



** Please submit your articles for the **January** Issue to:
hmb48newsletter@yahoo.com by **December 1, 2008**. **



Corrections

Hi everyone,

Well the convention has come and gone, and what a great convention it was. I don't know the final tally, but I do know that it was over 300 people. Personally I think that everyone who put in their time to get this off the ground, selfishly I might add, did a superb job. I had fun. A long hard tiring fun, but I am extremely grateful to have been part of the committee. Thank you Pat L. for allowing me to serve on your registration committee. My own corrections table was also very successful. We got \$35.35 in our pink "Coins for Cons" can. That will pay for about 7 12 & 12 books for our boys. Thanks people. I got 4 names from people who are interested in bringing the message behind the walls. 1 gentleman that I spoke with is already cleared for 5 prisons and has asked me if I would come and speak. I will be at district 1 this Monday to explain to them what we are trying to do in the way of getting a Correction Connection going for our area. I am very optimistic about this. Well it is 3 p.m. Sunday and I need a nap. TTFN (ta ta for now).

Love in Service,
Bill Crowe

Newsletter

Its hard to believe the end of the year is approaching and the beginning of the holidays have arrived. The end of the year is a time of reflecting and looking back at the progress and the changes that have been made through the year. My first sponsor taught me to look back and see what is better now than a year ago. Here are a few ways life is better.

- If I had not taken this service position, I would not have met and worked with the Newsletter Committee. My life is a whole lot richer and easier because of the service hours put in by Les B, Keith D, Jodi H and Dave S, who proofread, edit and offer support each month to me. Thanks for your service and for being there in so many ways.
- A year ago, HMB sent the newsletter to approximately 50 AA members and mailed approximately 750. This year we currently send the e-mail version of the newsletter to 204 people. Managing the data base for the e-mails has become a new job, so it is with a grateful heart that we welcome Barbara M to the Newsletter Committee to manage the e-mail data base. She has been a part of the folding and mailing crew since I started as the editor, and made the transition to this new service position a lot easier for me. Thanks for sharing your talents with the Area
- There's not enough room to tell you all what an amazing gift it is to serve the Area and meet the faces that go with the names. The joy of working with the Area Officers, District Officers, GSR's and AA group members has provided the balance to some bumps and potholes that are part of life on life's terms. The truth is service has kept me sober. It was scary to say yes when asked to serve and many of you were so encouraging. Through service I was able to celebrate another year of sobriety.

That's some of the ways my life is better this year. May you all find the way your life is better than a year ago. No matter how difficult or scary it is to live in this world right now, we have been given a way of life that shows us how to be happy and usefully whole one day at a time. May you find peace.

In love and service,
Peggy

Special Needs

Lots of exciting and new Special Needs news this month. GSO sent out to all Special Needs Chair the newly completed Special Needs Workbook, which is called Special Needs/Accessability and a companion piece, a 15 page service piece on Cooperation with the Elderly Community!! We will have lots to talk about at the next Special Needs Committee in November. I've been to several Districts for their monthly District meeting and noted there have been changes in Special Needs Chairs. When this happens please have the DCM forward that info so new Chairs get the info they need!!

Love in Service,
Pat L
Area Special Needs Chair
Area 48

Treatment

Hi all,

We need to use our imaginations to reach out to the communities in which we live in order to spread the message of hope to the next sick and suffering alcoholic. I have offered to do presentations if they are needed or wanted. I am also available to speak at any speaker functions if needed or wanted. Please keep in touch - write, email or call me.

In service,
Brenda Outwater
Treatment Chair
106 Louisa Street
Rome, NY 13440
(315) 337-7746
boutwater@twcny.rr.com

Web

OBSERVATIONS ABOUT A.A. ON THE INTERNET

New Site with H-M-B Area Information:

<http://www.aahmbny.org> now has most of the general information about the area that has been in the /hmb/members/ section of the original New York State meeting list web site. I am going to leave the "links" active on ny-aa.org for anyone who has "bookmarked" it there but the information will be accessed from the new web site. Go check out the newsletters and calendars and service information as more is added.

How the Meeting List Site Evolved:

From the beginning, <http://www.ny-aa.org> has said, "Keep coming back. It gets better." One member objected that just "coming back" to A.A. meetings doesn't make things "better" unless you are working the Twelve Steps. That's true but, in the context of a meeting list web site, the statement meant that the functions would be changing to make the meeting lists more complete and easier to use. That has proven to be the case. One goal was that a user can get everything he needs with "one click" from the home page. Another was reasonable performance over a slow dial-up internet connection.

Programming the Meeting Lists:

When a computer person refers to a program, he may not be talking about The Steps. I didn't find the function available at the time. Even McDonalds didn't have a restaurant locator until a year later. I like to say that much of the programming was done in Mexico. It wasn't outsourced. My wife objected but I took a computer on our vacation to Mexico City. Well, she took her quilting.

Maps Show the Cities:

You can get meetings per district or by county. And the program creates a meeting list by request for almost anywhere in upstate New York. To help people unfamiliar with a location, a map shows the cities included. A mapping service by the Census Bureau had no copyright restrictions. Unfortunately, it became unusable a year or so later and had to be replaced.

It Gets Better:

From time to time some improvement is made. I'm looking at how to provide links to a commercial (free) directions web site without reducing the function that is already useful to many individuals and agencies looking for A.A. meeting information.

Tom E host@ny-aa.org 845 297-4026

MAINE and NEW BRUNSWICK AREA 28

NERAASA 2009

18TH ANNUAL

NORTHEAST REGIONAL ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS SERVICE ASSEMBLY
2009 GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE THEME
"Our Commitment to Carry A.A.'s Message — Enthusiasm and Gratitude in Action"
PORTLAND, MAINE
FEBRUARY 20TH, 21ST, AND 22ND 2009

PURPOSE:

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

ALL A.A. MEMBERS ARE WELCOME!

LOCATION: HOLIDAY INN HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTER
88 Spring Street, Portland, Maine 04101

DEADLINES:

Hotel Registration January 18, 2009
Event & Meal Registration February 6, 2009
Registration available on-site

ON SITE REGISTRATION:

Begins at 1:00 pm
Friday, February 20, 2009

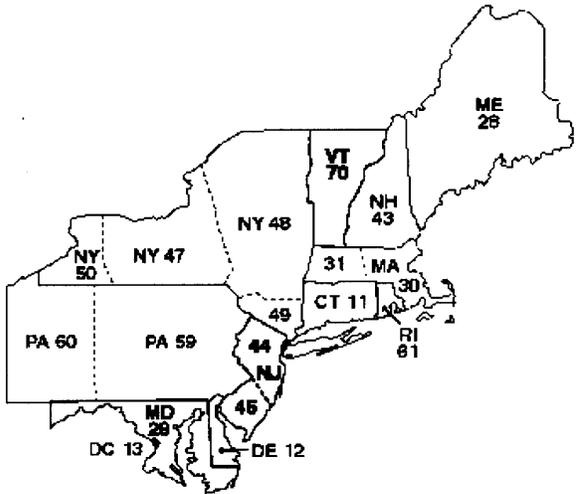
FIRST PANEL:

Begins at 3:00 pm
Friday, February 20, 2009

KICK OFF AA SPEAKER MEETING:

Thursday Evening at 8:00pm
February 19, 2009

www.neraasa.org



HMB AREA NEWSLETTER (12/2008)

775 Myrtle Avenue 6C

Albany, NY 12208

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED