

HMB AREA 48 NEWSLETTER



A version of this newsletter and previous editions is at:

<http://www.aahmbny.org>

AA Principles of the Month

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

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

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

Third Tradition Checklist

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

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

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

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

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

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

Concept Checklist

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

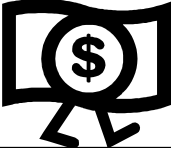
* Do we understand what is meant by the “Right of Decision”? Do we grant it at all levels of service or do we “instruct”?

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

HMB EVENT SCHEDULE - 2009

| | | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| <i>March</i> | <i>NERD</i> | <i>Pittsburgh, Pa</i> | <i>3/13 - 3/15/2009</i> |
| <i>March</i> | <i>HMB Area Fellowship Day</i> | <i>Hudson Valley (3,7,11,15,16,17)</i> | <i>Saturday, 3/28/2009</i> |
| <i>April</i> | <i>HMB Area Delegate's Day</i> | <i>Adirondack (5,10,13,19)</i> | <i>Saturday, 4/11/2009</i> |
| <i>April</i> | <i>General Service Conference</i> | <i>New York, NY</i> | <i>4/26 -5/2/ 2009</i> |
| <i>May</i> | <i>HMB Area Assembly</i> | <i>Central (4,8,14)</i> | <i>Sunday, 5/17/2009</i> |
| <i>June</i> | <i>Northeast Regional Forum</i> | <i>Somerset, NJ</i> | <i>6/26 - 6/29/2009</i> |
| <i>July</i> | <i>NYS Convention</i> | <i>Area 50 Buffalo, NY</i> | <i>7/24 -7/26/2009</i> |
| <i>August</i> | <i>NYS Informational Workshop</i> | <i>Area 47 Central NY</i> | <i>TBD</i> |
| <i>September</i> | <i>Area Election Assembly</i> | <i>Eastern (1,2,18)</i> | <i>Saturday, 9/12/2009</i> |
| <i>October</i> | <i>Area Assembly</i> | <i>TBD</i> | <i>TBD</i> |
| <i>November</i> | <i>HMB Convention</i> | <i>Central (4,8, 14)</i> | <i>11/06—11/08/2009</i> |

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**DISTRICT 8 WORKSHOP**

April 18, 2009 9:00 am-3:00 pm "Get Back to Basics" Steps, Sponsorship, Service, at St. James Episcopal Church, 305 Main Street, Oneonta, NY 13820. Coffee breaks and lunch provided.. Info Rob B (607) 441-3004 or (607) 437-2579(c), or rbjosh1@stny.rr.com.

47th GROUP ANNIVERSARY

Thursday, April 30, 2009 - The Life of Riley Group invites you for food and fellowship at 8:00 pm and a celebration meeting at 9:00 pm at the First United Methodist Church, Main Street, Corinth, NY (District 5)

Conventions**SENY AREA 49 42nd CONVENTION**

March 27-29, 2009 The Westchester Marriott, 670 White Plains Road, Tarrytown, NY; meetings, banquet and dance, panels and workshops. Alkathons and more. Convention registration before March 17 visit www.aasenyny.org; deadline for room reservations March 5 at 1-800-228-9290 or online www.marriott.com/nycwe group code: "SENSENA".

44th BLOSSOM TIME CONVENTION

May 1, 2 & 3, 2009 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Niagara Falls, Canada; Speakers, Banquet, Discussion meetings, Marathon Meetings, AI-Anon speakers and more. Info at www.blossomtimeconvention.com

VERMONT ANNUAL CONVENTION

May 15, 16 & 17, 2009 Speaker Adrienne B from GSO; meetings, banquet and dance at the Middlebury Inn, 14 court Square, Middlebury, VT. For info: Becky at (802) 236-8046 or e-mail area70convention@comcast.net.

HMB Area 48 Fellowship Day

Saturday, March 28, 2009

9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Hosted by District 17

Columbia County

First Reformed Church

52 Green St.

Hudson, New York 12534

Directions

North from Albany: Take I-90 East to Exit 12/Rte. 9, Hudson. Merge onto Rte. 9H, take a right onto Rte. 23/Rte. 9 in Hudson (Green St.). The church is on the right-hand side, #52.

South and West via Catskill: Take the NY Thruway North to Exit 21 (Leeds). Go East on Rte. 23, cross the Rip Van Winkle Bridge (\$1.00 toll), turn on left Rte. 9 (not 9G!). At the traffic light, turn left on Warren St., take a right on Park Pl., another right on Columbia St. At the fork, bear left (Green St.). The church will be on your left-hand side, #52.

South from Poughkeepsie: Take Rte. 9 North, merge w/ Rtes. 82/23, take a right at the light onto Rte. 9, turn left on Warren St., take a right on Park Pl., another right on Columbia St. At the fork, bear left (Green St.). The church will be on your left-hand side, #52.

Coffee, tea, and a light lunch will be provided.

Contact: Carolyn L. at (518) 929-6199

1st Annual HMB Area 48

Corrections Connection Workshop

Friday, April 3, 2009—9:00 am-4:00 pm

NYS & County Departments of Corrections Personnel

Members of Alcoholics Anonymous

Carrying the Message of Recovery to the Incarcerated Alcoholic

NYS Correctional Academy

1134 New Scotland Rd.

Albany, NY 12208-1041

Cafeteria will be open for lunch-on your own

Every one attending **must** bring a photo ID. Just state you are attending the workshop so there is no break in anonymity. **Pre-registration is a must!! No one will be admitted who is not registered. To register, contact Bill 732-4380; e-mail crowbj07@verizon.net, Ann H 434-4847 e-mail menehune@deities.net, or Sue P. 518-798-0386; e-mail hmbbtgchair@yahoo.com**

Corrections Personnel A. A. Members Volunteer Services

Speakers Questions & Answers Pre-Release Programs

**If you liked the one held at Sing Sing, you will just love this one,
they keep getting better!**

If you missed Sing Sing, then this is a must for you.

DIRECTIONS

From the East: 190 west to exit 4 (Rt 85)-stay to the left arrow for 85 at both roundabouts-at 2nd one exit onto Maher Rd.-at light turn left-.08 ml. on right is it.

From West and South: Thruway to exit 24-Rt. 190 East-see above.

From the North: North to 190 East-see above.

HMB AREA 48 Delegate's Day
A Day of Sharing
Saturday, April 11, 2009

United Methodist Church
175 5th Avenue at Henning Road
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

AGENDA

9:00 a.m. Registration & Coffee

DETAILED MORNING SCHEDULE
BEING FINALIZED

12:00-1:00 LUNCH (Provided)

DETAILED AFTERNOON SCHEDULE
BEING FINALIZED

Directions: Take 'Northway' I-87 to Exit 14; turn right at end of ramp & go to traffic light; turn right at traffic light onto Henning Road; go approx ¼ mile on Henning to 175 5th Ave. United Methodist Church is on left side – across from John Meyers BOCES Center. Any questions? Please contact:

Bob B. DCM 5(518)580-0838; Chris D. DCM 10(518)570-8901

John D. D13(518)494-7432 or Don S. DCM 19(518)521-3223

(Sponsored by the Adirondack Cluster - Districts 5, 10 , 13 & 19)

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

AREA REPORTS

From the HMB Delegate

I witnessed the Concepts come alive during the Board weekend! The heartfelt sharing by all, the obvious great love for A.A., disagreeing without being disagreeable, minority opinion change minds, people with the courage to speak from the heart, the utmost desire to reach those who have not heard A.A.'s message and the continuing efforts to do what is best for AA as a whole is being done. We owe an incredible debt of gratitude to our Trustees, Class A and Class B, to the GSO staff and support staff for all the hard work they do for this Fellowship. It is a privilege and an honor to serve HMB and AA as a whole!!

As many of you know, I will have the privilege to chair the Conference Committee on Agenda at the upcoming 59th General Service Conference. Fourteen Conference Committee Chairs were invited to participate in an orientation meeting and as observers during General Service Board Weekend held from January 30, 2009 to February 2, 2009. I cannot adequately describe the experience of the weekend or the hard work of our Trustees on behalf of AA as a whole.

On Friday, the Delegate Chairs met at our General Service Office for Orientation. In attendance were Bill C, Chair of Trustees' Committee on the Conference, John K, our Northeast Regional Trustee and Vice-Chair Trustees' Committee on the Conference, Leonard Blumenthal, Class A Trustee and Chair of our General Service Board, secretaries to Conference Committees (GSO staff) and our new General Manager, Phyllis H. During this orientation, everyone shared their experiences on the role of the Conference Committee Chairs. We were given great suggestions and information on sharing with our committees before and during Conference. Each of the GSO staff shared wonderful ideas based on their vast experience. Our General Manager spoke on "How the Conference Operates". The day closed with questions and general sharing.

The General Service Board Weekend officially began on Saturday. All participants met at the Crowne Plaza in Times Square for the remainder of the weekend, each day beginning at 8 am. There were ten Trustees' Committee meetings during Saturday and Sunday – two at a time. The committee which I serve met on Saturday at 8 am for two hours. It was an opportunity to witness the discussion and thoughtful sharing of the eight members on the committee. The Conference Committee members are a mixture of Class A Trustees, Class B Trustees and appointed Committee members. As Chair, I was seated next to the Chair Bill C – all Delegate Chairs were given the opportunity to sit in the Committee meeting as observers. We also had the opportunity to listen to the discussions of the other Trustees' Committee meetings.

During dinner, two presenters shared on the topic - A Key to Unity: Love and Tolerance is Our Code. One of the presenters began her recovery process at age 14 and has been sober for 25 years! There were 5 guests present who had interviewed for Class A Trustees. On Sunday afternoon the Trustees' Executive Session was held and was closed to the delegates and guests. On Monday morning the General Service Board held its Quarterly meeting. The delegates and guests were observers to the spiritual principles of A.A. in action. What an incredible and awesome privilege it is to serve!!

In the Sunlight of Service,

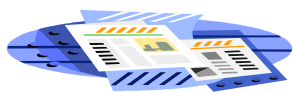
Joan R

Panel 58 Delegate

(518) 438-6451 Home

(518) 330-2800 Cell

Hmbdelegatepanel58@gmail.com



** Please submit your articles for the **April** Issue to
hmb48newsletter@yahoo.com by **March 1, 2009**. **



Area Chair Report

As many of you know, we recently completed our Area's annual inventory, utilizing the 12 Concepts Checklist. I was honored to be a part of a session where the dedication and resolve to carry the message to the still suffering rang loud and clear throughout the room. Each of the participants reminded me that the Steps, Traditions and Concepts are the glue that holds our Assembly together. While there was some disagreement in the beginning of the session as to use of the Concepts to inventory our Area, as we proceeded to discuss each point, I was touched by the sincerity and honesty of those that shared their feelings. I could feel the richness of our Fellowship, and the commitment of each of you as you shared your opinions based on your experience, strength and hope. I believe that going forward in our efforts -- no matter what the committee or what the project -- the 12 Concepts discussion will grow in its importance to how we conduct ourselves and how we reach our service goals. Again, to all who participated -- including those attendees who didn't feel the need to speak up -- thank you again for an important day of sharing and introspection.

By the time you read this issue of the Newsletter, the 2009 Northeast Regional AA Service Assembly will be a vivid memory. Now might be the time for our trusted servants to seriously consider attending the Northeast Regional Forum, which will be held June 26-28, in Somerset, NJ.

Regional Forums originated in 1975 at the suggestion of Dr. Jack Norris, then Chair of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous. They are designed to be a weekend of sharing and informational sessions designed to help the General Service Board, A.A. World Services, Inc., the Grapevine Corporate Board, the Grapevine Staff, and the General Service Office Staff stay in touch with A.A. members, trusted servants and newcomers to service throughout the A.A. service structure. You can visit the AA Web-site (www.aa.org and search the keyword "forums") for more information, a registration form, or online registration.

As you know from our previous meetings, there's lots going on -- and plenty of room for your participation. Thanks again for your service to our Fellowship.

In Love and Service,
Deb D - Area Chair

Secretary's Report

Secretary's Report – Inventory Day January 10, 2009. Rensselaer, NY. Hosted by Districts 1, 2 & 18. Attendance was 69 registered.

Deb D. opened the meeting at 10:00 with the Serenity Prayer. She then acknowledged Area 48's Past delegates in attendance: Dave S, Quay H. & Bob F. There was a moment of silence for Past Delegate from Panel 26 Charlie W has passed away.

At 10:10 the Area split in to Service Committee Round Tables; CPC, Corrections, DCM/Functions, Finance, Newsletter, Special Needs & Website.

The Area reconvened for the Business Meeting at 11:10.

Delegates Report- Joan R passed out Anniversary/Birthday envelopes for Contributions. She reminded the Assembly that the survey requested by GSO is due by April 15th. Joan said that copies of the 2009 Conference Agenda items were on the table for the taking, and requested that the Area start discussing the items with their groups for feedback. She went on to say that a few GSO staff members would be leaving and rotations happening. Joan told the Area that the three other Areas that comprise New York State wanted to increase the yearly State Convention seed money from \$2000 to \$3000, and that they have already voted on and passed the motion. The Area then took a vote and unanimously passed the motion. Joan also said that she was looking for men and women to serve on panels for this year's State Convention and to contact her if interested.

Chairperson's Report- Deb D introduced the New Committee Chairperson's; Alt. Treasurer- Tad J, Webmaster- Marcie N, Grapevine- Doreen A, BTG – Sue P, Alt. BTG- Fred F, and Public Information- Lori W. After the intro-

Deb expressed the need for volunteers for workshops at this year's State Convention and to contact her if interested. She also reminded people of NERAASA in Portland, Maine in February.

Alt. Chair- Bob L said that the 2009 Event Schedule was available and if anyone had additional information to e-mail it to him. He also requested that everyone notify him about any events/functions going on around the Area so as there is no scheduling conflict.

Secretary's Report- Keith D requested that DCM's and Officers/Committee Chairs turn in hand written reports at Area meetings, and reminded everyone to sign in on the sign-up sheet. He reported that the updated Area Service Manual was complete and they would be handed out later on during the day. He also mentioned that the Service Manual will also be available on line at aahmbny.org. Keith then presented the minutes from the Fellowship day held on 11/16/08 held in Utica. The Assembly unanimously approved the minutes, after Bob L made the motion and Jack M seconded that they did not need to be read aloud.

Treasurer's Report- William T gave the December 2008 report. December starting balance was \$14,814.09 with Income of \$ 2,946.39 and Expenses of \$ 8,201.45 for an ending balance of \$9559.03 before the \$7000 Prudent Reserve leaving available for disbursement \$ 2559.03. A motion to accept was made+ by Bob L and seconded by Bob F. The vote to accept was unanimous with NO Abstentions. I concern from the floor was raised over the monies left over from the HMB Convention (\$4600.+) last year. Deb D helped out by explaining that the Convention Committee does a best estimate of what attendance will be and to base a budget on that number. This includes registration cost, rent & coffee etc. If the attendance is higher than estimated excess monies occur.

ALT. Treasurer- The new Alternate Treasurer Tad J thanked Deb for asking him to fill in for Jim M who had to step down due to life's circumstances. Tad started off by saying that the Area had just made the minimum order amount for the Area meeting schedules with 23,771 ordered and that the 1st payment had been sent out by Jim M, and that Tom E had sent in the formatted information. Then Tad along with William brought up the fact that the Finance Committee was very concerned that the mileage reimbursement increase for fiscal 2009 was too much (.45). This was an increase of .15 from the previous year and that the Area could be over-extending its expenses by such an increase. Then Tad gave his e-mail contact information; HMBAltTreasurer@nycap.rr.com.

Alt. Secretary- Dan J thanked all who participated in the 2009 edition of the Meeting Book schedules. Dan alluded to the fact that with a new year brings in new rotation throughout the Area and that records will need to be updated. Dan discussed the complexity of his position and that he has been working on simplifying his duties with help from other Registrars and is looking to complete the process by the end of his term.

2009 HMB Convention Report- Co-Chairs Mary M & Chris S introduced themselves and some of their committee people. The convention will take place November 6-8, 2009 at the Holiday Inn in Johnstown, NY where the 2004 convention was held.

DCM Reports

Dist.1- Pat announced that the monthly GSR meeting to the 3rd Reformed Church on 20 Ten Eyck, Albany. The District has voted send 6 officer/committee chairs to NERAASA

Dist.2- Rick B announced that they would be hosting the Election Assembly on Saturday September 12th.

Dist.3 – Bob said that the New Year's Eve Sober Dance was a success even though the weather was terrible. As 2009 starts all of the service chairs are filled.

Dist.4- Mary announced that there were 10 tickets still available for the Spiritual Breakfast on Saturday January 24th at the Holiday Inn in Johnstown, NY.

Dist.5- Bob said his district will host Delegate's Day Saturday April 11th at the United Methodist Church in Saratoga Springs, more information to follow in Newsletter.

Dist.7- Guy said that most positions filled and that ALL facilities have meetings going into them. The holiday events on Christmas and New Year's were very successful.

Dist.14-Chris said that the District had an accepted budget in place for 2009. Also they will be working with both District's 8 7 14 to host this year's HMB Convention.

Dist.15- Laura the District voted on and passed their 1st budget ever. New position filled by election was Jean P as Treasurer, still looking to fill vacant Secretary spot.

Dist.16- Jack said that the Alt. DCM Pat S had to step down do to medical reasons and thanked him for his service and that a replacement would be elected at the next meeting

Dist.17- Joanna said that her District will host the Fellowship Day this March 28th at the First Reformed Church, 52 Green St, Hudson. Flyers are out and available.

Dist.19- (our new District) Don explained where they are located in rural Northern NY and that they came from Area 83- Eastern Ontario. Don says they suffer the same problems that most other Districts experience.

The Area broke for lunch at 12 noon.

The Assembly reconvened at 1:00.

At that time Tad J informed everyone that the Finance Committee after conferring with some Past Delegates had decided to invoke its authority to change the mileage reimbursement amount from the 2009 budgeted amount of .45 to .30 as an emergency measure to help protect the Area's finances. Tad also informed everyone that there would be a formal proposal at the May Assembly to stay with the .30 the remainder of the year.

The Area Inventory started at 1:15 and was facilitated by **Buck R** who is a *Past Delegate* from **Area 12 Panel 54**.

Buck started off by reading the suggested guidelines to the Assembly. At the end of reading each guideline Buck asked everyone if they agreed with and would follow them, all were in agreement. The Inventory was done utilizing the Concepts Checklist. Some concerns were raised at the beginning of the Inventory regarding the format. A vote was taken and as a result, the Inventory continued under the original published format.

The Inventory closed at 3:00.

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

Area Registrar's Report

Thank you to all the people who participated in organizing the 2009 Hudson-Mohawk-Berkshire Meeting Schedule. As we consider our Area Inventory, it may be encouraging to reflect on the massive co-operation that the project entails. It is very exciting to see AA growing, and, though there are always meetings which are falling into inactivity, there are always people out there willing to plug in a coffeepot and open the door. Welcome to "There Is A Solution" in Albany, "Sweet Surrender Group" in Poughkeepsie, "Women of Hope" in Clifton Park, "59 Minute Meeting Group" in Latham, "Salt Point Open Random Topic Sunday" in Salt Point, "Women of Truth" in Little Falls, and "Simple But Not Easy Group," "Simple But Not Easy Group" in Gloversville, "There Is A Solution Group" in Saratoga, "11 at 7 Group" in Saratoga, "Monday Night Fort Edward," "West Winfield Group," "Spiritual Foundations," in Plattsburgh, and "Soul Sisters" in Greenwich. All of these groups are new in 2008.

As we move into the 2009 year, many districts will be electing new officers. Thank you to all of the records keepers I have worked with who will be rotating out. I would reiterate the pleasure I have had in developing communication with all of you. Nancy C., from District 13, for instance, who has been to India and back twice for extended periods during her time as records keeper. Paul J., from District 9, who has offered many good ideas in response to emails I have sent regarding possibilities for the future of the Area Registrar's job. Jim L., from District 1, whose diligent footwork has been the terror of many a disorganized Albany group. I look forward to meeting the next round of district records keepers, and to continuing to work with those of you who will serve through 2009.

It is my hope that when it is time for me to rotate out of the Area Registrar's job, I will be able to pass on a greatly simplified set of responsibilities. Through the summer, the ad hoc meeting schedule committee assembled by Deb D., Area 48 Chair, spent a not inconsiderable amount of time discussing the role of the Area Registrar, especially as it is outlined in the Area Service Manual. Those conversations, along with suggestions from Paul J. of District 09, and my personal experiences, have led me to the conclusion that it would be desirable to clearly describe the Area Registrar's job in terms of dates and tasks. So it is my goal to be able to give the incoming registrar a calendar of instructions, which they will be able to use as a road map to guide them through this complex job. It is also my hope that the next registrar will have only one set of records to maintain.

At present, the Area 48 Registrar must make all updates twice: once in an Approach file which we use for most of our printing, mailing labels, and the ny-aa.org website, and one at the A.A. General Service Office, which is accessed on the internet. As the General Service Organization online database, which is called Fellowship New Vision, or FNV, develops more functionality, it is my hope that we will be able to rely on it to meet the needs of our area. The advantages of eliminating the duplication of our efforts would be to drastically simplify the job of the Area Registrar. No decisions regarding this issue will be made without Area approval, and without careful consideration and discussion of the situation. My main concern in dealing with this issue is to increase the ease with which the Area Registrar's position can be rotated into and out of, while maintaining a strict level of security and continuity to our records.

Thank you all for allowing me to serve as your Area Registrar. Please do not be afraid of being in contact with me too much. Questions, grievances, and conversations are all welcome.

In love and service,

Dan J

Area 48 Registrar

Treasurer's Report**HMB AREA ASSOCIATION****Treasury Report****January 2009**

Prepared by William T, Area Treasurer

1/31/2009

williamtuthill@yahoo.com

Check Book Balance: 1/1/09 \$9,559.03

Income:

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|-----|------------|
| Group Contributions | \$2,137.35 | | |
| Literature sales -- GSO Svc Manuals | \$186.75 | | |
| 08 Meeting book sales | \$577.00 | | |
| <u>Total Income:</u> | \$2,901.10 | (+) | \$2,901.10 |

Total Assets: \$12,460.13

Expenses:

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|-----|------------|
| 08 Meeting book purchase from Dist 9 | \$212.50 | | |
| Area Chair 1st half Allocation | \$1,375.00 | | |
| BTG chair -- 09 NERAASA advance | \$300.00 | | |
| Delegate 1st half Allocation | \$1,875.00 | | |
| March 28 Fellowship Day advance | \$400.00 | | |
| January 10 Inventory Day | \$254.38 | | |
| Mailbox | \$23.09 | | |
| Newsletter ed -- 09 NERAASA advance | \$300.00 | | |
| Newsletter postage | \$273.00 | | |
| Newsletter printing | \$216.00 | | |
| Prior Year's Expenses -- Delegate | \$550.04 | | |
| Web site hosting fee 2009 | \$180.00 | | |
| <u>Total Expense:</u> | \$5,959.01 | (-) | \$5,959.01 |

Checkbook Balance: 1/31/09 \$6,501.12

Prudent Reserve: (-) \$7,000.00

Total Available Cash: (\$498.88)

Bridging the Gap (BTG) Report

Hi Everyone,

I would like to extend my gratitude to all who rotated out, and into their new positions of service. I am honored to continue working along side each and every member in the HMB Area 48 BTG Chair position for the next two years. I was pleased to meet so many interested AA members at the Bridging the Gap (BTG) round table, on Inventory Day in January. Every AA member is welcome, and encouraged to participate in Area functions. The Bridging the Gap (BTG) Committee would greatly appreciate all AA members input. I hope you will be able to join us at our next round table discussion, on Saturday, March 28th, 2009 at Fellowship Day.

Your District Chairs will be sending around a **Temporary BTG Contact List** – with a cover sheet to explain what a temporary BTG contact does and doesn't do.

The BTG program is 12 Step Work in action – so please put your name and phone # on the list, and send it around to AA members at your meetings. With out a contact person we can not complete a Bridge. Remember “Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.”

If you have any question in regard to Bridging the Gap (BTG) please do not hesitate to call me @ Phone # or email at the new BTG email address.

In Unity & Service,

Sue P.

HMB Area 48 BTG Chair

(518) 798-0386

hmbbtgchair@yahoo.com

Corrections Report

Well a very cold January has come and gone. I went to the Inventory Day, and the morning was very productive. On Wednesday January 20, I went to the volunteer recognition dinner in Coxsackie. It was wonderful. There were award certificates given to 9 AA people. Janet Tool spoke about a new program they are going to start very soon at Hudson Correctional Facility.

Inmates who are close to parole and are due to be released to the Albany, Rensselaer, area will be transferred there. The prison will then try to hook them up with outside people upon their release. (does this sound familiar?). They need people from religious, NA, AA, etc.

I will be sending out sign up sheets for anyone, male or female, who would like to carry the message to these men. We can get Bridging The Gap paperwork in there without a problem, but if the inmates aren't told it's there, it's useless. I have asked District 17 (Hudson) a couple of times for help. I keep getting feeble attempts. Come on folks, there but for the grace of God go you. 82% of the people behind bars are there because of alcohol or drugs. (The rest are women-just kidding). Most of you know me but I'll put my name and number here. Bill Crowe-518 732-4380.

crowebj07@verizon.net. You can also call Ralph Peterson Alt. Corrections Chair-518 943-4305 or Ron Keller, Area Coordinator 518 755-1773.

It is my sad duty to inform everyone that The Castleton Step group that was founded by me 23 years ago as of Saturday January 31, 2009 will cease to exist. We have been having a very poor attendance for over 6 months now. We have begged and pleaded with the membership to help, but we were ignored. I even had one guy who came there during his early sobriety say "I would hate to see it close" but has made no effort to attend for a long time now. From that meeting, I have seen a lot of new people get sober. Four of which started their own meetings. I guess it's God's will.

Love in Service,

Bill C.

Corrections Chair

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.. And you can read a copy of the newsletter there too!!



Newsletter

There was a robin singing in my yard today as I was chopping the inch and a half of ice off the driveway. Can Spring really be far off? The return of Spring reminds me of the hope of each day, a bird singing with the ground still covered with snow, a full moon on a clear, cold night and serenity after a life of misery. NERAASA in Maine is done, and the HMB Area looks toward a busy calendar for the Spring. Please check it out on page 2.

The newsletter committee met at the January Inventory Day and discussed the possibility of themes for each monthly issue of the newsletter such as service and gratitude with articles on the theme submitted by AA members. The "articles" could be poetry or black and white art work as well as short personal stories related to the theme. It is exciting for the newsletter committee to explore the possibilities of content that is more inclusive of our membership. This is an ongoing dialogue at this time that may lead to a proposal at one of the assemblies, so please talk to your home group and other groups in your districts about these additions to the current format. Feel free to send your feedback to the editor at hmb48newsletter@yahoo.com, so the newsletter committee has your input as we dialogue over the next months.

So as the sun moves back closer to us and the warmth of Spring fills more of our days, I send you best wishes for peace and light as we all continue to carry the message of hope and recovery to those around us who are waiting for our hand to reach out to them. Happy Spring!

Peace,
Peggy
Editor

Special Needs Report

December and January have continued to be very slow months for the Special Needs Committee, as has been the norm for the past 3 years. This writer has received a request about Special Needs that may prove to be very challenging, as well as an exciting aspect of this 12 step work.

We have received an inquiry from a patient in the Capital District Psychiatric Center, who is seeking help from AA to maintain his sobriety. He wants to be connected with AA and AA members. He asked if a meeting could be started there. We will certainly contact the Psychiatric Center about starting this; we have tried unsuccessfully for several years to carry the message to the Mental Health facilities in the Capital District, while maintaining our singleness of purpose.

We are making some preliminary steps toward widening our availability to the Senior Citizens in our Community, particularly those new to AA in their Golden Years.

Respectfully submitted
Pat L
Special Needs Chair

Service Opportunity

We received a reminder from Gayle S.R., Corrections Coordinator at our General Service Office that help is wanted in the Corrections Correspondence Service. This ongoing need applies especially to male volunteers, as the office continues to get substantially more requests for the service from male inmates than from female inmates. You will be linked up with an inmate serving time at least two regions away. ***Please contact Gayle at corrections@aa.org or mail your contact information to Corrections Desk, General Service Office, P. O. Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163.***

Announcement

The 2020 Alcoholics Anonymous International Convention will be held in **Detroit, MI**. Hope to see you there. Better yet, we'll go together as a group!

Proposals for May Assembly

At the Area Inventory Day held on January 10, 2009 the HMB Area 48 Finance Committee met. In an effort to be prudent and protect the Area's funds, we instituted an emergency interim measure, effective immediately, reducing the 2009 mileage reimbursement rate from the rate of \$0.45/mile, established by the vote of the Area Assembly in October 2008, to the 2008 rate of \$0.30/mile. This measure can only be in effect until the next Area Assembly on May 17, 2009.

This action was based on significant reductions in the cost of fuel, real concerns about current spending patterns, and costs over budgeted amounts for 2008. Several of the scheduled events this year are a significant distance from our Area, including Maine, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and western New York.

Therefore, the Finance Committee proposes that the interim mileage reimbursement rate of \$0.30/mile instituted at the January 2009 Inventory Day be made permanent for the remainder of the 2009 budget year.

Respectfully submitted,
HMB Area 48 Finance Committee
Tad J., Chair
William T.
Keith D.
Bob F.
Gene H.

Literature Links

If you want to order literature, here is a link to the latest catalog of A.A. Literature Catalog for your use http://www.aa.org/lang/en/en_pdfs/aacatalog.pdf. Browse through to see the books, pamphlets, audiovisual, audio cassettes, CD's, DVD's and other items. Did you know that ALL pamphlets, videos and miscellaneous items carry a **20%** discount, regardless of language? Did you know orders of 20 or more books and 100 or more pamphlets and wallet card carry quantity discounts? If you order literature for a group, be sure to check the literature packages, Page 6, and to "A.A. Group Life" section on Page 7.

You can order by phone by calling the Order Entry Department weekdays from 8 am to 4:30 pm at 1-212-870-3312 or you can order by E-Mail at Orders@aa.org. This email address is for committees or groups to charge orders or to place order with credit card information - MasterCard and VISA only.

Attached is a link to the latest Grapevine catalog for your use <http://www.aagrapevine.org/catalog/>. You can shop for Grapevine books, AA's Preamble, CD's, audiotapes, calendars, slogans and Man of the Bed posters. Information to place orders is on this site as well. These sites can be used for individuals, groups, districts and professionals. Take a look to see what is available!! Please pass it on to your sponsees. What a wonderful way to share AA's message!



Conventions Continued

MARYLAND STATE CONVENTION

June 18 - 21, 2009 The 39th Annual Area 29 Maryland State Convention, at the Clarion Hotel and Hager Hall Conference Center nestled in the mountains of western Maryland in Hagerstown.. The registration flyer is also available on our Area 29 web site at www.marylandaa.org.

Received in the E-Mailbox

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship designed and administered by a bunch of ex-drunks whose only qualifications for membership is that they can't hold their liquor and don't want to learn how. It has no rules, dues or fees, nor anything else that any sensible organization seems to require.

At meetings the speaker starts on one subject and winds up talking about something entirely different and concludes by saying he doesn't know anything about the program, except that it works. The groups are always broke, yet always seem to have money to carry on. They are always losing members but seem to grow. They claim AA is a selfish program but always seem to be doing something for others.

Every group passes laws, rules, edicts and pronouncements which everyone blithely ignores, members who disagree with anything are privileged to walk out in a huff, quitting forever, only to return as though nothing happened and greeted accordingly. Nothing is ever planned 24 hours ahead, yet great projects are born and survive magnificently. Nothing in AA is according to Hoyle. How can it survive?

Perhaps it is because we have learned to live and laugh at ourselves. God made man and woman. He made laughter, too. Perhaps he is pleased with our disorganized efforts and makes things right no matter who pushes the wrong button. Maybe he is pleased, not with our perfection, but with our sincerity. Maybe he is pleased with our trying to be nobody, but ourselves. We don't know how it works, but it does and members keep receiving their dividend checks from their AA investments. It is smart to be sober and it is much easier, my friends, to stay sober than to get sober.

~~ (Stolen)



**Hudson Mohawk Berkshire Area 48 of Alcoholics Anonymous
2009 HMB Meeting Schedule Book Order Form**

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| 301-600 | \$32.00 | 1501-1800 | \$96.00 |

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HMB AREA NEWSLETTER (3/2009)

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