

HMB AREA 48 NEWSLETTER



A version of this newsletter and previous editions is at:

<http://www.aahmbny.org>

AA Principles of the Month

Step 4 - Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.

Tradition 4 – Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.

Concept 4 - At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional "Right of Participation", allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.

Fourth Tradition Checklist

Do I insist that there are only a few *right* ways of doing things in AA?

Does my group always consider the welfare of the rest of AA? Of nearby groups? Of Loners in Alaska? Of Internationalists miles from port? Of a group in Rome or El Salvador?

Do I put down other members' behavior when it is different from mine, or do I learn from it?

Do I always bear in mind that, to those outsiders who know I am in AA, I may to some extent represent our entire beloved Fellowship?

Am I willing to help a newcomer go to any lengths--his lengths, not mine--to stay sober?

Do I share my knowledge of AA tools with other members who may not have heard of them?

Concept Checklist

Concept IV: At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional "Right of Participation," allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.

- Do we understand the spiritual principles underlying the "Right of Participation"?
- What does "in reasonable proportion" mean? Do we understand when it is appropriate for A.A. paid staff to have a vote at the General Service Conference or in our local service structure?
- * Do we expect that, because we are A.A. members, we should be allowed to vote at any group, even if we are not active members of that group?

HMB EVENT SCHEDULE - 2009

<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**44th BLOSSOM TIME CONVENTION**

May 1, 2 & 3, 2009 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Niagara Falls, Canada; Speakers, Banquet, Discussion meetings, Marathon Meetings, Al-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.

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.

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 C 732-4380; e-mail crowebj07@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

On Trust

The Spirit of the General Service Conference

So, since 1951 we have been holding these yearly Conferences, to see whether this movement was interested enough, was responsible enough, felt those services were worthwhile enough, to maintain so long as God will need this society. And I think it's the conclusion of every delegate who has been there that yes, we should take these things over. So, in 1955 we propose to hold an International Convention, at which time, on behalf of the oldtimers, and of Smithy and me, we shall say to you, here is the remainder of your Third Legacy. This Conference shall become our successor. To you we hand the last torch. Carry on. Face your destiny with surety and courage, and God love you.

Bill W., speaking at the 1954 Texas State Convention

At the 1955 International Convention the General Service Conference was designated as the actual voice and the effective conscience of our whole Society. This was done over the objections of those who worried that such a gathering would result in politics, confusion, expense and fruitless strife. Our founders had faith that future generations of A.A. members could effectively take responsibility for maintaining our vital world services.

Every delegate, trustee, director and staff member who serves as a voting member of the General Service Conference is a direct, personal beneficiary of that faith.

Each of us justifies that faith by participation at the Conference in a spirit of fellowship and trust. We are respectful of the committee system which brings matters to the Conference for consideration. We trust that a democratic process engaged in by people acting in good faith will be in the best interest of our fellowship, even though we may not agree with all of the decisions made. We trust that future Conferences will carry on A.A.'s wonderful legacy of service, just as those who came before us have placed that same trust in us.

Therefore we expect that our Conferences will always try to act in the spirit of mutual respect and love — one member for another. In turn, this sign signifies that mutual trust should prevail; that no action ought to be taken in anger, haste, or recklessness; that care will be observed to respect and protect all minorities; that no action should ever be personally punitive; that whenever possible, important actions will be taken in substantial unanimity; and that our Conference will ever be prudently on guard against tyrannies, great or small, whether these be found in the majority or in the minority. The sum of these several attitudes and practices is, in our view, the very essence of democracy — in action and spirit.

The A.A. Service Manual, page 75 (Bill W.'s Commentary on Concept XII)



AREA REPORTS

From the HMB Delegate

I had the privilege to participate in the Sponsorship Roundtable held on Saturday, February 28, in Glenville. The event was sponsored by the Step-by-Step Saturday morning group of District 5. It was a great turnout of interested A.A. members who asked questions, shared their experience, strength and hope on sponsorship. Congratulations to the members for a very informative service roundtable!

There is tremendous amount of travel scheduled for the next few months. By the time this article is received, I will have traveled to Pittsburgh, PA for the Northeast Regional Delegates event. Then I'm off to the 59th General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous in the United States and Canada where members will gather in New York City under the theme "Our Commitment to Carry A.A.'s Message—Enthusiasm and Gratitude in Action" during April 26—May 2, 2009.

One of my duties as your delegate is to present the Area's collective group conscience during this year's General Service Conference. I have prepared and distributed a questionnaire for members/groups/districts to share their responses with me no later by **Monday, April 13**. If you do not have a copy and need one, please request the questionnaire from your District Committee Member (DCM) or from your delegate at hmbdelegate@aahmbny.org. The agenda items discussions will take place during the April 11 Delegate's Day of Sharing event – all A.A. members are welcomed and encouraged to participate. All members have a voice - I look forward to hearing from you.

Representatives of the General Service Board and directors and staff from our General Service Office and Grapevine will be present at the Northeast Regional Forum to share experience, respond to questions and hear suggestions. On June 26-28, there will be a weekend of lively participation for all concerned A.A. members in Somerset, NJ. Hope to see you there!

Many of you have received the March Grapevine and will notice it is now *without* staples. This is a result of your communications with the Grapevine staff, directors and board on the problems with the magazine not being allowed into some facilities. This is to inform you the cost of a Grapevine subscription will be increased by \$7 as of July 2009. Please renew your subscriptions or place your orders before the increase begins. This is also to encourage members, groups and districts to take this opportunity to order a subscription for your local, county and state correctional facilities. The Grapevine is another wonderful way to carry A.A.'s message.

At this year's Conference, the members will elect a new U.S. Trustee-at-Large. Eight regions will select one person to be presented the full Conference and the selection will be accomplished by using our Third Legacy procedure. I have received the resumes of the Northeast Region members selected by their areas including one of our own. Quay H., thank you for making yourself available to serve.

As always, I wish the members of HMB well and it is a privilege and an honor to serve HMB and A.A. as a whole!!!

In the Sunlight of Service

Joan R

Area 48 Panel 58 Delegate

(518) 438-6451 Home

(518) 330-2800 Cell

Hmbdelegatepanel58@gmail.com



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



Area Chair Report

Dear Fellow Trusted Servants,

Last month, I had to opportunity to visit District 2's Business Meeting. It was very well attended and rich with a number of new GSR's. Thank you for the warm welcome and your continued service to the Area and your community.

The Northeast Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (NERAASA) was held in Portland, Maine February 19-22, 2009. There were over 600 members of our Fellowship in attendance, who attended Panels and Roundtables. The Area Chair Roundtable was attended by 16 of the 18 Northeast Area chairs (plus many alternates) both evenings. What was apparent is that all the Areas conduct their business in vastly different ways because of size, committees, inter-group(s), and the number of times they meet -- but all have the common purpose of carrying the *service message* of AA. On Saturday morning, I had the privilege of sharing on the panel concerned with the Report and Charter agenda; I shared on the topic of the GSR Preamble, which is an agenda item on the upcoming Conference Committee on Report and Charter at the 2009 General Service Conference. Anyone interested in the presentation can contact me for a copy.

On a personal note, I was told last year (my first as your Chair and Alternate Delegate) that the road at this level of service would be paved with friendships that would be long lasting. I was not sure what that meant until this year were I saw many of the same people as I had last year -- and got to know them, and they got to know me. I will certainly look forward to serving with these A.A. members from different parts of the Northeast Region in the years in the future.

In the coming month, we will hold our March Fellowship Day and in April our Day of Sharing with our Delegate. I am hopeful that many from the Area will attend the two events. It is always important for us to hear your voice, to consider your thoughts and the thoughts of your group; it is this way that a loving God, as we understand Him, allows us an informed group conscience.

As a reminder, if there are any proposals that you wish to bring forward to the Assembly in May, they need to be submitted to the newsletter in advance.

Happy Spring to all.

In Love and Service,

Deb D., Panel 58 Chair and Alternate Delegate

Email: HMBAreaChair@hvc.rr.com

Phone: 845-331-4213

Special Needs Report

Nancy R. represented the HMB AREA Special Needs committee at NERASSA February 20th through the 22nd and attended the Special Needs roundtables; she returned with a wealth of information from other Areas in the NE Region. Of particular note was the report from Area 11 in Connecticut which encompasses 7 distinct Special Needs services. A few of these include translation equipment for language translation, amplification devices for hearing impaired, making available books and pamphlets in other languages, taking Grapevines to Homeless shelters. Area 11 (Connecticut) calls its committee Special Needs/Languages/Remote communities committee, and other Areas have made similar name distinctions due to local needs.

We have lots of new ideas to help expand the scope of our Special Needs Committee over the next few months.

Respectfully submitted

Pat L

HMB Area Special Needs Chair

Treasurer's Report

**HMB AREA ASSOCIATION
Treasury Report
February 2009**

Prepared by William Tuthill, Area Treasurer
3/1/2009
williamtuthill@yahoo.com

Check Book Balance: 2/1/09				\$6,501.12
Income:				
	Group Contributions	\$1,793.00		
	2009 Meeting book sales	\$1,500.00		
	<u>Total Income:</u>	\$3,293.00	(+)	\$3,293.00
Total Assets:				\$9,794.12
Expenses:				
	Archives Storage for 2009	\$714.45		
	Bridging the Gap - Allocation	\$120.14		
	CPC Chair - NERAASA	\$300.00		
	Grapevine Chair - NERAASA	\$291.28		
	Mailbox	\$23.43		
	Newsletter postage	\$277.20		
	Newsletter printing	\$204.00		
	Special Needs Chair - NERAASA	\$20.00		
	Treasurer - Allocation	\$158.38		
	Treasurer - NERAASA	\$300.00		
	Web Site Cmte Chair - NERAASA	\$274.66		
	<u>Total Expense:</u>	\$2,683.54	(-)	\$2,683.54
Checkbook Balance: 2/28/09				\$7,110.58
Prudent Reserve:			(-)	\$7,000.00
Total Available Cash:				\$110.58

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.

Prudent Reserve Update

The Seventh Tradition (long form)

The A.A. groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name of Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligation whatever, is unwise. Then too, we view with much concern those A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A.A. purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority.

Dear Trusted Servant,

We are writing today to remind the Districts and Groups of HMB Area 48 of the importance of contributions to the Area, and to urge you to be as generous as possible in these first several months of the year, when our expenses are highest. *Certainly, the most critical point to this e-mail is that at this time, the Area treasury is below prudent reserve. In order for us to continue our service efforts, we are asking for your support. Please share this letter with your home groups and other groups in your Districts.*

We are excited about the many opportunities for service at the Area level. All of the officer and committee chair service positions are filled for 2009-10, putting us in a strong position to carry the message of AA to the still-suffering alcoholic. Through Correctional Facilities to Special Needs to Treatment Facilities, to name just three committees, the Area brings the message of hope to people who don't have ready access to the Fellowship.

The monetary contributions from the Districts and Groups in our geographically large Area are what make these services possible. The basis of all service – one alcoholic talking to another – cannot be valued in dollars, thank goodness, but setting up and running the service structure to allow that to happen does require contributions. It is where money and spirituality mix.

For the Area, the first two months of the year is when many of the largest bills are due. These include the semi-annual allocations to the Area Delegate and Area Chair to travel, attend conferences, arrange mailings and do the myriad other things required of them; paying once-yearly fees for archives storage, insurance and meeting book printing; and helping defray costs for officers and committee chairs to attend the Northeast Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (NERAASA), which vastly improves their ability to do their jobs.

Contributions can be sent to the Area at:

HMB Area Association
118 Polar Plaza
Route 30, #114
Amsterdam, NY 12010

We cannot begin to express our gratitude for all the service done by the hundreds of trusted servants at the Area, Districts and Group levels, and we appreciate your consideration and support in this time of need.

In love and service,

Deb D. – Panel 58, HMB Area 48 Area Chair

William T. – Panel 58, HMB Area 48 Treasurer

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. 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!!



Corrections Report

Well here it is March and it still feels like December. Maybe by the time this news letter gets published, it will have warmed up a bit. I went to NERAASA in Portland Me. last month. Other than the fact that the food at the hotel was ridiculously high, I think the event itself was a great success. I learned an awful lot about what corrections is doing in other parts of our region. We had two very informative workshop roundtables. One on Friday evening and the other on Saturday evening.

I am looking forward to our Area event in Hudson at the end of the month. Then one week later, we will be conducting our Corrections Connection workshop at the Corrections Training Academy on New Scotland Ave., on April 3. Please be sure to register so you can be on the list for admittance. There is no charge for this event. Then its up to Saratoga for Delegates day.

On May 9 I will be headed to Buffalo for their Corrections Workshop. They have asked if I would attend and I accepted. They want me to give about a 20 minute talk on how and why things are done in our area. They have agreed to pay for my Motel room and \$125 towards my mileage. I hope I can justify the cost by being of service in a productive way.

I have made a decision about NERF. After speaking with Gayle from GSO and discovering that Corrections will not be represented, I feel that it would be a waste of my time and the Areas money to attend. I would rather, if the finance committee would allow it, spend that money to attend the State Convention.

Love in Service,
Bill C.
HMB Area Corrections Chair

Grapevine

NERAASA was an awesome learning experience. The energy is amazing. We are a bunch of drunks gathering to learn and share our experience of service. I had the opportunity to meet other Grapevine Representatives and share ideas.

The Grapevine has a new look. There are no staples making it easier for the magazine to go into correction facilities; It is also in Full Color.

It has also been confirmed; the Grapevine price increase will be in July 2009 to \$27.00 per year; I encourage you and your groups to order your subscriptions to receive it at the low price of \$20.00 a year or 2 years for \$38.25. I know this is a large increase, but it may have been necessary to keep the magazine alive. If we can continue to increase subscriptions this may prevent future increases of this size.

We have been challenged to increase our subscriptions by 100. Lets get it done! It is our responsibility to carry the message!

You as a member or your group can order a subscription and give a gift subscription to an inpatient or outpatient treatment facility, halfway house, sober house, doctor's office, local library, high school, a jail or prison, or give a subscription to your sponsee. Some groups will raffle off a subscription. Some groups order several subscriptions and sell individual copies for \$2.00. You may even consider starting a "Grapevine Meeting". There are many ways to carry the message.

Keep in mind; that even if you don't care for "AA's Meeting In Print" that's okay. but it may play an important role for the alcoholic that don't know if they are alcoholic, or the alcoholic that is unable to attend a meeting, or a family member may pick it up and bring it home to the alcoholic that don't know about AA.

Does your district and/or group have a Grapevine Representative? Please go to www.aagrapevine.org and print out a Grapevine Representative form and ask your home group if you can have the position or elect someone to be a GV Rep.

I would love to come to your monthly business meeting and do a presentation and set up a display. I am available to give a district or group Grapevine rep encouragement and share some ideas on how to serve in this position.

Please feel free to contact me at: doreenash@hotmail.com or 518-568-3160

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your HMB Area Grapevine Chair!

Yours in Service,

Doreen A.

A letter to AA Members from Phyllis Halliday

Warm greetings from your General Service Office:

This is my first letter to you as your General Manager and what a privilege it is! Your friends in the General Service Office (GSO) are deeply grateful for your unfaltering participation in carrying the A.A. message of hope and recovery to alcoholics in Canada, the U.S. and worldwide. We are ever grateful for your continuing contributions to the General Service Board that help pay for the many services essential to Twelfth Step work.

Group participation is particularly meaningful given the current economic conditions. While many institutions have been shattered financially, AA remains secure because of members like you. During the early days of our Fellowship, the economy was weak and future unpredictable. But, it was during times of uncertainty that our principles were forged and our Fellowship grew. We were strengthened and inspired by each challenge.

Today, as then, we find that action is the answer--we can and will do anything to ensure our Fellowship's survival. This is demonstrated in many ways: embracing the basics of our program; strong focus on sponsorship; home group participation; reaching newcomers; and, through regularly celebrating the practice of self support.

Interestingly, AA history shows that it is during challenging economic times that members' and Groups' contributions actually increase. To my mind, this is one of the finest examples of gratitude in action. It is a way of giving back, of participating in recovery through whatever amount we contribute. In AA there is no contribution too small, as those often represent the greatest sacrifices. So, through your acts of participation to the basket, our services will continue--services that you have requested we provide.

We pray for the members of our Fellowship who are facing life changes and uncertainties during these difficult economic times. Day by day we hear stories that demonstrate the strength of their sobriety and spirit of love and service. It is during times such as these that your General Service Office is most needed to ensure that Big Books are published and distributed, and that group and individual inquiries are addressed with understanding and gratitude. Our vital services continue and enable your Twelfth Step work to be accomplished.

We are therefore deeply grateful for the increase in your voluntary contributions as the New Year begins.

With Gratitude,



Phyllis Halliday
General Manager

59th General Service Conference Personal/Group/District Conscience

Dear HMB Area 48 Group Members

One of my duties as your delegate is to present the Area's collective group conscience during this year's GSC from April 26th to May 2nd. The following questionnaire is based on the final agenda of the 59th Conference. This is an effort to communicate with all the members/groups/districts in HMB. Please provide your personal/group/district views by answering the following questions and return to me by one of the following methods on or before April 22, 2009:

- 1) Give it to your **GSR**
- 2) 2) Bring it to **Delegate's Day**, 175 5th Avenue, Saratoga Springs on April 11, 2009.
- 3) Mail to Area 48 Delegate, **Joan Ramsey at 2 Wendell Drive, Albany, NY 12205** 4) E-mail it to **HMBDelegatePanel58@gmail.com**

The broader the participation by members/groups/districts in this process, the better your delegate can represent HMB at the Conference. This questionnaire allows for your voice to be heard. Thank you for your assistance in preparing me for the 59th Conference.

Joan R
Area 48 Panel 58 Delegate
HMBDelegatePanel58@gmail.com

1. CORRECTIONS

Discuss issues that may be involved in A.A. members' complying with the rules of correctional facilities, such as signing "sponsorship agreements" or legally binding documents.

Background: This is a request to discuss issues that address rules of correctional facilities vs. our Traditions. While recognizing that, as guests in correctional facilities, A.A. members must abide by all the rules of the facilities, the Trustees' Ctme expressed a need for more widespread sharing about what solutions A.A. members may use to resolve perceived conflicts between facility rules and what A.A. is and isn't. What solutions have worked in HMB?

Comments:

2. TREATMENT:

Discuss request that the Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities expand its scope to include service to Special Needs Committees and the name of the committee be changed to the "Conference Committee of Treatment Facilities/Special Needs."

Background: This is a request based on the experiences of GSO staff on the Special Needs assignment in consultation with the General Manager. As of Nov 2008, Special Needs consists of 44 Area Chairs, 136 District Chairs and the numbers are growing. There is no oversight by either a Trustees' Ctme or Conference Ctme and no discussion at the Conference level. Should Special Needs be added to the Conference Ctme on Treatment? Why or why not?

Comments:

3. POLICY/ADMISSIONS:

Discuss proposal requesting a General Service Conference inventory.

Background: The Chair of the General Service Board appointed a committee of 5 to “discuss proposal for a General Service Board inventory”. Discussions have occurred in 1963, 1981 and 1993 but not a comprehensive inventory. The committee concluded that a thorough and soul-searching examination of the General Service Conference was warranted. Consider that a comprehensive inventory be undertaken with a summary of the committee’s discussion as background. Should the Conference take its inventory which may take years to complete? Why or why not?

Comments:

4. REPORT & CHARTER:

Consider suggestion to add a locally developed G.S.R. Preamble to The A.A. Service Manual.

Background: This request is from Area 9 Mid-Southern CA and has been used since the mid-70’s.

“We are the General Service Representatives. We are the link in the chain of communication for our groups with the General Service Conference and the world of A.A. We realize the ultimate authority is a loving God as He may express Himself in our Group Conscience. As trusted servants, our job is to bring information to our groups in order that they can reach an informed group conscience. In passing along this group conscience, we are helping to maintain unity and strength so vital to our Fellowship. Let us, therefore, have the patience and tolerance to listen while others share, the courage to speak up when we have something to share, and the wisdom to do what is right for our group and A.A. as a whole.”

Should this language be added to the A.A. Service Manual in the section the General Service Representative? Why or why not?

Comments:

5. PUBLIC INFORMATION:

Consider the need to clarify the importance of not breaking the anonymity of living A.A. members in memorial announcements when one of our Fellowship dies.

Background: This request is a result of the death of a member of our Fellowship. His surviving family, in the obituary published in newspaper, broke the anonymity of two still living members by thanking them *by full name*. The pamphlet, *Understanding Anonymity*, clearly addresses breaking the anonymity of a deceased member but breaking the anonymity of others in an obituary is not addressed. Should the pamphlet be revised to request A.A. members make clear to their families that anonymity should not be broken in an obituary or any other publication? Why or why not?

Comments:

6. TRUSTEES:

Discuss suggested revision to procedure for distribution of trustee election resumes at the General Service Conference.

Background: Presently members of the Conference Ctme to receive all trustee resumes on a confidential basis as a part of the annual mailing. At Conference, the procedure is all resumes are made available to all Conference members prior to actual elections. The suggested change is resumes to only voting members of Conference and Trustees’ Ctme to protect confidentiality. Should there be a change? Why or why not?

Comments:

7. LITERATURE:

Consider request to develop a second volume of *Daily Reflections*.

Background: This request is from Area 51 as a result of more experience, strength and hope and expressed a need for additional meditation to aid members in our spiritual journey. In 1987 the need was expressed by the Fellowship and volume was completed in 1990. Do you think it is time for a second volume? Why or why not?

Comments:

8. GRAPEVINE:

Consider request that the following 2004 Conference Advisory Action be rescinded:

“To allow the widest distribution of the A.A. Grapevine and La Viña to all purchasers, while guarding against affiliations with any outside enterprise, a) subscriptions to the A.A. Grapevine and La Viña magazines be issued only by A.A. Grapevine, Inc., or by A.A. trusted servants directly; and b) the A.A. Grapevine, Inc., adopt standardized sales practices and pricing structures for all purchasers. Note: This recommendation is to clarify the 1993 Advisory Action stating that the Grapevine Corporate Board not actively pursue the placement of Grapevine materials for resale in commercial (non-A.A.) outlets.”

Background: This request is from a member of Area 71 concerned with increase of Grapevine subscription by \$7 as of July 1, 2009, after a \$2 increase two years ago. If outside enterprises, such as bookstores and treatment facilities, sold Grapevines magazines, circulation would significantly increase and the price would be lower. There is no evidence or experience with this and many are still sensitive of when Grapevine sold to Hazelden. The Grapevine Board has cut staff from 27 to 11, reduced space by 25%, consulted legal consult on pricing practices and determined its current practices were prudent Do you think the price increase is reasonable?? What suggestions do you have to increase subscriptions??

Comments:

9. LITERATURE:

Discuss whether there is a need to develop Conference-approved literature that focuses on the topics of spirituality, and agnostics or atheists/nonbelievers in A.A.

Background: There was a request to explore a video addressing the “spirituality vs. religion” nature of our program and to develop a pamphlet for “agnostics/atheists”. The Trustees’ Committee on Literature Chair appointed a ctme of 4 to discuss and it was decided the video is not the typically format used. The Trustees’ Ctme forwarded for the full Conference to discuss whether there is a need for new Conference-approved literature to discuss this subject. Is there a need for this? Why or why not?

Comments:



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