

# HMB AREA 48 NEWSLETTER

When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there.  
And for that: I am responsible.

## 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 IV 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?

# AREA 48 EVENT SCHEDULE - 2011

April	Delegate's Day	Adirondack Cluster (District 5 Host)	April 16
May	Area Assembly	Central Cluster	May 15
	Northeast Regional Forum	Sturbridge, MA	May 20-22
June	Fellowship Day	Western Cluster	June 18
July	NY State Convention	SENY (Tarrytown)	July 29-31
August	NYS Informational Workshop	HMB (TBA)	August 19-21
September	Election Assembly	Eastern Cluster (District 18 Host)	September 10
October	Area Assembly	Central Cluster (District 14 Host)	October 15
November	HMB Convention	Hudson Valley Cluster (Fishkill)	November 4-6
	Fellowship Day	Western (TBA)	November 20

**April 19, 2011 7:00 p.m.** The Capital District Central Office (CDCO) asks all groups interested in participating in 12th Step work to attend our monthly business meetings; held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM in Rooms 128-130 of the Schuyler Inn, 575 Broadway in Menands. Groups sending representatives will have a voice in how CDCO carries A.A.'s message of hope to the suffering alcoholic. Volunteers are especially needed to answer phones in the office or at home overnight, and to get on the 12th Step lists.

**April 15, 2011 9:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m. District 18 Spring Dance** AA meeting at 8 p.m. Hays Road, East Greenbush. \$5.00 suggested donation. Please bring snacks to share. Contact Maria (518)732-2994.

**October 22, 2011 Serenity of the Catskills in the City of the Hills Banquet.** 5pm meet & greet. 6 pm dinner. 7 pm speaker. Northeast Regional Trustee. Holiday Inn. 5206 State Highway 23, Oneonta, NY. Rob B. (607)441-3004

**Ongoing in Area 48 EACYPAA Bid Committee Needs You** Meetings are held Wednesdays at 8:30 pm after the Saratoga YP meeting at 36 Phila Street (2nd Floor), Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. We are looking for supportive people with all levels of service or for those who are interested in increasing the involvement of YPAA in Area 48 **Contacts:** Maria (518)441-5511; Will (419)215-2907; Tori (518) 701-5070, or e-mail [saratogaeacypaabid@gmail.com](mailto:saratogaeacypaabid@gmail.com).

When A.A.'s Traditions were first published, in 1946, we had become sure that an A.A. group could stand almost any amount of battering. We saw that the group, like the individual, must eventually conform to whatever tested principles would guarantee survival. We had discovered that there was perfect safety in the process of trial and error. So confident of this had we become that the original statement of A.A. tradition carried this significant sentence: "Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group provided that as a group they have no other affiliation."

*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p. 146-147*

**Important Notice:** The new email address for the Area Records Keeper is:  
**area48records@gmail.com**

## DAY of SHARING/DELEGATE'S DAY

Hosted by District 5 and the Adirondack Cluster

**Saturday, April 16, 2011**

9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Salvation Army

27 Woodlawn Ave.

Saratoga, NY 12866

Directions from the Northway: Take exit 13N and 4.6 miles toward Saratoga. Left on Division St. Take the 2<sup>nd</sup> right onto Woodlawn Ave. 27 Woodlawn is on the left. Contact: Wally M. (518)331-9658

**New Meeting in District 18:** Hour of Power. Saturday 7 p.m.—Open Discussion Brunswick Church. Contact Joanne (518)892-2998

**Service Opportunity:** Women are needed to carry the message into Albany County Jail. To get involved, please contact Terry H (518)437-9854

## Cooperation With the Professional Community (CPC)

### A Brief Report and A Request For Feedback

AA's membership surveys over the years show, for better or worse, a pattern of **decline** in the percent of newcomers who first came to AA through another AA member – and a great **increase** in the percent of such newcomers who first came to AA through medical or other 'professional' sources.

**One thing is clear: the professional community can play, and is playing, an ever-greater role in helping the still sick and suffering alcoholic find recovery from active alcoholism through the AA program!**

That's why AA members doing CPC service work can be of such help to the still sick and suffering alcoholic. That's also why Area 48 and its Districts are striving to do more effective and smarter CPC work. These efforts are somewhat constrained by limited funding but, perhaps more often, by a lack of AA members willing to do CPC service work.

**Do you know:** The more that AA members know about CPC service work, the more willing they are to serve! That's why the Area is increasing its outreach information efforts to Districts and why some Districts are taking similar steps at Groups in their Districts. The Area had a good CPC visit at District 14's recent business meeting. **Area 48 can share CPC information at one of your District meetings. Just ask; we'll match your timing!**

The Area CPC Committee has prepared an **updated report giving many examples of CPC service work** already underway in Area 48 and the Districts - and giving examples of some work yet to be considered. The report was e-mailed by CPC Chair John D. and Alternate CPC Chair Brenda O. to District CPC Chairs and DCMs. If you haven't received a copy, or for anyone interested in possible CPC work and wanting a copy, just contact John D by phone or e-mail: [hmb48cpc@sprynet.com](mailto:hmb48cpc@sprynet.com). **We'll gladly share the report with you.**

**Just who are these Professionals?** The **free AA CPC Guideline** [MG11] cites, among others, those in: health care; educators; members of the clergy; social workers; the Courts [separate from Corrections Committee work in bringing AA meetings into correctional facilities] and others. Doctors can play a key role.

**Do you know:** AA provides a '**CPC Workbook**' [M-41] **free** to members serving as CPC Chairs in District and Area work. The Workbook contains great sample letters to doctors, courts, police, schools, and others. A complete **CPC 'Kit,'** containing the Workbook and a wealth of other CPC tools such as AA pamphlets and DVD videos, also is available at modest cost.

**Do you know:** **Anyone** can receive the **free** periodical '**About AA - Newsletter for Professionals**' [F-13] just by asking for it? How about a copy for **your** doctor? Just ask the General Service Office (GSO); They'll mail it!

With the medical profession having such great potential to refer willing alcohol-troubled patients to AA, our updated CPC report discusses this aspect in detail and offers a **Medical Profession Proposal** to consider. It asks: **WHAT IF** - On the next visit to his or her doctor, each AA member whose doctor knows of his or her AA journey of sobriety, brings a supply of local AA meeting lists & tells the doctor of the 24-hour Hot Line phone # usually printed on the meeting list? And **WHAT IF** - Each AA member also tells the doctor of a willingness to let the doctor give the AA member's first name and phone number to any patient **whom the doctor believes really wants help and if the patient expresses receptiveness to the doctor's offer of a local AA first name and phone #?** (Of course, it would be **solely** up to each AA member to decide whether he or she wished to do this.) **Our updated report has a sample 'card' AA members might use with their doctors.** This subject and the 'card' already are being reviewed in several Districts and were discussed at NERAASA. Reaction to date has been positive.

All CPC efforts including medical and a school websites' proposal will be discussed in a major **CPC Roundtable at the 4/16 Delegate's Day/Day of Sharing in Saratoga.**

Since our **Delegate, Deb D** not only will participate in the annual General Service Conference in May but also **will Chair the Conference' CPC Panel,** we really can use and need your important CPC input and feedback. Respectfully, Deb, John D. and Brenda O. ask that you please review our updated CPC report [and available Conference CPC Agenda Items and Questionnaire] and **join with us in the 4/16 CPC discussions.**

<b>HMB Area 48</b> <b>Monthly Treasury Report</b> <b>February 2011</b>	
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$11,085.95</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Area Contributions	\$2,105.40
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$2,105.40</b>
<b>Expense</b>	
Delegate	\$500.00
Chairperson	\$500.00
Bridging The Gap	\$68.49
Newsletter Editor	\$8.63
NERAASA	\$567.20
Mail Box Service	\$35.87
Newsletter Postage	\$484.00
Newsletter Printing	\$678.38
Website	\$19.00
Allocation Advance	\$615.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$3,476.57</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-\$1,371.17</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$9,714.78</b>
Prudent Reserve	-\$7,000.00
<b>Available Funds</b>	<b>\$2,714.78</b>

Prepared by Chris S.  
[treasurer@ahmbny.org](mailto:treasurer@ahmbny.org)

**April 2011 Area Chair Report**

Dear Fellow Members, I recently attended my 8<sup>th</sup> NERAASA and as usual left the event more energized than prior to attending. The event was very well attended as there were close to 1000 registered attendees. And as usual the agenda was a full one from start to finish which always leaves most tired but very fulfilled. HMB Area 48 was well represented at the event with many in attendance and a lot of them first timers. Pat L, HMB's Alternate Chairperson spoke on the first Panel on Friday and did a wonderful job. I myself sat in on the Area Chair Roundtable which was facilitated by our own Past Delegate Dave S who offered much experience to those in attendance. Also putting them self in front of the Assembly was our Panel 60 Delegate Deb D, who served as Chair for a formed Ad-Hoc Committee that brought forth a proposal to the NERAASA Business Meeting. Deb handled herself wonderfully under a stressful situation. Thanks to all of those who attended.

By the way did you know that next year's NERRASA is being hosted by HMB Area 48? The event will be held next March 2<sup>nd</sup> –4<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Albany. There are many opportunities for you to be a part and do service work at the event. If you are interested you can either contact the convention chair Joan R or your own District Officers should be able to help you out. Another opportunity for getting involved in a large AA gathering is the NYS Convention which HMB is hosting in July of 2012. The event is still being set up and pertinent information will be out as soon as it becomes available. I have asked Deb D and Tad J to Co-Chair the event and am sure that the event will be successful.

Lori J the Area Special Needs Chair has offered her resignation do to personal reasons effective immediately. With this being said I will be announcing at the March Fellowship Day event the opening. But if you are interested, please do not hesitate to contact me to see if the position has been filled or maybe you can take the Alternate position. Like all of our Committees this one is very important in helping out the next sick and suffering Alcoholic.

Upcoming event include Delegate's Day and the May Assembly, flyers for both of these events are included in this Newsletter. Please read the Area Calendar so you can plan in advance for attending the events and get involved. Also please note a Proposal that I have in this issue concerning the New York State seed money. I look forward to seeing you all at the upcoming events.

In Love & Service, Keith D – Panel 60 Chair/ Alt. Delegate

**April 2011 Alternate Chair Report**

NERAASA 2011: The SENY NERAASA 2011 committee outdid themselves with this annual service event. For anyone who has never attended, NERAASA stands for Northeast Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly, and was attended by 938 AA members from the 18 Delegate areas from Maine to D.C.

I was privileged to be on a panel about the General Service Conference, and my topic was the theme for this year's General Service Conference: "We are responsible for AA's future... let it begin with us." In addition to a little history about the Conference I chose to focus on meeting our responsibility for A.A.'s future through service sponsorship. Other panels included Public Information/CPC, Literature, Finance, and "Practicing these Principles." Some of the hot button issues at this Assembly were Anonymity in the age of Social Networking, and adaptation of AA literature onto "Kindle" and other electronic readers.

Service roundtables are always a big part of NERAASA, and I attended the roundtable for Area Chairs/Alternate Chairs. Not all Areas have an Alternate Chair and those that do have a variety of service responsibilities. Also at that roundtable were "functions chairs," and one member whose service title is "Officer at Large." He has to be prepared to step in as an alternate for any officer position.

The primary issue brought forward at this roundtable was "increasing service participation at the district and area levels". Among the suggestions were GSR and DCM orientation at Area events, holding workshops at the District level, Area officers getting around to all the Districts every few months, and having greeters at Area events.

This was a very worthwhile event and I encourage all our members to attend next year, when NERAASA will be hosted by our Area and held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Albany, NY.

There are flyers in the newsletter for upcoming events in our Area. The registration flyer is now available for the NYS Informational Workshop, which will be held August 19-21, 2011 in Latham, NY, as well as the flyer for the April Day of Sharing/Delegate's Day in Saratoga. At this event we will discuss and get a consensus on issues that our Delegate, Deb D., will be addressing at the Conference.

Respectfully submitted March 1, 2011

Pat L.

Area 48 HMB Alternate Chair

**Proposal: Electronic Distribution of Newsletter**

**Background:** Printing and shipping costs are a substantial burden to the Area. In addition to the financial considerations, it is becoming increasingly customary for organizations to move away from paper to an electronic format. Electronic media permit the transmission of a greater amount of information at minimal cost. The cost of printing and shipping the newsletter is a substantial cost to the area. Given the opportunity to direct our limited resources elsewhere, it seems wise to move in the direction of electronic distribution.

**Proposal:** That the area newsletter be delivered primarily via posting on the Area Website and through e-mail distribution, with postal delivery available upon request. E-mail distribution will be those e-mails listed for the GSRs or group contacts in Fellowship New Vision (FNV).

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dan J.

**Proposal: NYS Convention Seed Money Increase**

**Background:** At the New York State Convention planning meeting in December 2010, the committee decided to ask the participating Areas to increase the seed monies available from \$2000 to \$3000 due to increased costs associated with securing facilities and other convention planning expenses. The cost to each Area would be a onetime expense of \$250. This seed money is available to each host Area on a rotating basis.

**Proposal:** It is proposed that HMB Area 48 approve a onetime payment to the NYS Convention Committee of \$250 to share the cost of increasing the seed monies available to host Areas to \$3000 from \$2000.

Respectfully submitted,  
Keith D.

**NERAASA 2012: March 2 – March 4****CROWNE PLAZA**

State and Lodge Streets

Albany, NY 12207

**Hosted by Area 48 HMB****Hudson-Mohawk-Berkshire**[NERAASA2012@gmail.com](mailto:NERAASA2012@gmail.com)

## What is NERAASA?

NERAASA 2012

March 2 - March 4, 2012

<https://neraasa.org/Guidelines.html>

I have been asked by several members "what is NERAASA"?

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

NERAASA is a weekend of panel presentations and floor discussions on issues affecting Alcoholics Anonymous. Today, the Northeast Regional Trustee's Report, Saturday dinner followed by a A.A. Speaker Meeting. In addition, there are several Round Table Sharing Sessions throughout the weekend. They include (but are not limited to); General Service Representatives (GSR's), District Committee Members (DCM's), Archives, Cooperation With The Professional Community (CPC), Public Information (PI), Correctional & Treatment Facilities (CTF), Grapevine, Area/Panel Officers, Central Office/Intergroups, Website, Alternate & Area Delegates.

There are 18 regions in the Northeast Region. and we expect over 500 members from the 18 regions will participate. ALL members are welcomed and encouraged to attend!!

We are members of HMB (Hudson-Mohawk-Berkshire) Area 48 and will host NERAASA the weekend of March 2 - March 4, 2012 at the Crowne Plaza in Albany. GREETERS, HOSPITALITY (smoking & non-smoking) and REGISTRATION have service positions available. If you have any questions and/or would be interested in serving, please send email to [NERAASA2012@gmail.com](mailto:NERAASA2012@gmail.com).

I wish all HMB members continued blessings this New Year!!

In the Sunlight of the Spirit,  
Joan R.

NERAASA 2012 Chair  
[NERAASA2012@gmail.com](mailto:NERAASA2012@gmail.com)

### Interested in NERAASA 2012 service? Please contact the following:

#### REGISTRATION

Tammie E. [tamster1962@roadrunner.com](mailto:tamster1962@roadrunner.com)

Don S. [dstrachan@twcny.rr.com](mailto:dstrachan@twcny.rr.com)

#### HOSPITALITY

Smoking

Faye F. [fallonfaye@yahoo.com](mailto:fallonfaye@yahoo.com)

Non-smoking

Fred F. [neraasa2012@gmail.com](mailto:neraasa2012@gmail.com)

#### GREETERS

Keith D. & Debbie D [neraasa2012greeters@hvc.rr.com](mailto:neraasa2012greeters@hvc.rr.com)

**32<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL NEWYORK STATE INFORMATIONAL WORKSHOP**

August 19, 20, 21, 2011  
Carondelet Hospitality Center  
385 Watervliet Shaker Road  
Latham, NY, 12110

“We are responsible for A.A.’s future: let it begin with us”

Panels, Workshops, Roundtables: P.I., CPC, Treatment, Corrections, Special Needs

Displays: Archives, Grapevine, Literature

Speaker meetings, Ask-it basket, Lots of coffee and fellowship; hospitality room

Friday August 19, 2011 4:00 PM ---- Sunday August 21, 2011 12:00

Full Weekend accommodations \$175.00. Includes 2 nights lodging and 5 meals (single occupancy only) and registration. Registration only \$15.00; no lodging or meals. Add \$8.50 for Saturday lunch. Please preregister for full weekend accommodations and registration plus Saturday lunch.

Directions: From Northway (I-87) exit 5 onto Watervliet-Shaker Road (Rt155) go east, crossing Rt. 9 and Old Loudon Rd. Continue straight about 1.3 mi.. on left is St Joseph’s Provincial House Carondelet Hospitality Center. Turn in and proceed to farthest parking lot and follow signs “HMB/NYSIW”

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Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Onsite: \$20.00 no meals  
Weekend lodging and 5 meals and registration: \$175.00  
Commuter Special: \$15 registration plus \$8.50 for Saturday lunch  
Registration cut-off: August 10, 2011

**Checks payable to NYSIW2011. Send to NYSIW, 20 Twiller St., Albany, NY, 12209.**



# HMB 2011 Convention

## November 4-6, 2011

**“We are Responsible for A.A.’s Future  
- Let it Begin With Us”**

### Ramada Conference Center Fishkill

542 Route 9  
Fishkill, NY 12524  
(845) 896-6281

*Single Rooms: \$89 per night (plus taxes) / Double Rooms: \$109 per night (plus taxes)*

*Hotel Reservations should be made directly with the hotel.*

*Please use Group Code "HMB".*

*Hotel Reservations MUST be secured by October 4, 2011.*

### Friends • Fellowship • Meetings & Speakers • Panels & Workshops

*Pre-Registrants  
will Receive an Extra  
Free Bottle Ticket for  
an Archive Item!*

**Entertainment Friday & Saturday Night  
Saturday Night Banquet  
Hosted by the Hudson Valley Cluster  
(Districts 3, 7, 11, 15, 16, 17)**

*Pre-Registrants  
will Receive an Extra  
Free Bottle Ticket for  
an Archive Item!*

For More Information: Lori W. (518)997-1925/ Deb D. (845)331-4213

### Convention Registration Form

One Person Per Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (      ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Years in Program

\_\_\_\_\_ A. A. \_\_\_\_\_ Al Anon \_\_\_\_\_ Alatan

Special Needs? (Ex. Hearing...) \_\_\_\_\_

Detach & Mail with Check or Money Order Payable to:

HMB Convention 2011  
385 Dewitt Mills Rd.  
Kingston, NY 12401

Saturday Banquet: \$30.00 per plate  
Includes: Salad, Beverage, & Dessert

Please Indicate Choice:

\_\_\_\_\_ Chicken

\_\_\_\_\_ Pork

\_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian

\_\_\_\_\_ Dietary needs?

Banquet Reservations **MUST** be Received by:  
October 15, 2011

\$27.00 Registration Fee

\_\_\_\_\_ Banquet

\_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed

Walk In Fee for Saturday Evening Activities  
will be \$12.00 (excluding Banquet)

*DISTRICT AND GROUP TREASURERS—below are the addresses in which to send contributions....*

HMB AREA ASSOCIATION RTE. 30, #114 118 POLAR PLAZA AMSTERDAM, NY 12010		GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE PO BOX 459 GRAND CENTRAL STATION NEW YORK, NY 10163
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It all went on a little card about golf-score size. The cover read: "Middleton Group #1: Rule #62." Once the card was unfolded, a single pungent sentence leaped to the eye: "Don't take yourself too damn seriously."

*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p. 149*

# Area 48 Assembly

## May 15, 2011

9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Carondelet Family Health Center  
380 Guy Park Ave. Amsterdam, NY 12010

Directions- From Exit 27 NYS Thruway. Follow Blue Hospital Signs. Turn Right on NY- 30N. Turn Left on NY- 5W. Turn Right at Steadwell Ave. Turn Left at Guy Park Ave. Carondelet will be on Left parking will be on left just past building.

Contact Information- Les B (518)378-2417

Dear Friends,

In the AAWS Service Manual, Chapter 6 - "The Delegate"; there is a line on page S26 that which reads **"Your voice expresses your informed area conscience."** To that end, I have created the following questionnaire -- based on the 61st General Service Conference agenda -- so that groups and individuals can share their views with their Delegate, in preparation for my attendance at the General Service Conference which will be held May 1 – 7, 2011. While some agenda items may not interest you, please return this document to me in one of the following ways **NO later than April 20th.**

Bring it to one of these Area Events

Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup> – Fellowship Day - 80 Elmendorf Street, Kingston, NY 12401

Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> – Day of Sharing with Your Delegate – 27 Woodlawn Avenue, Saratoga, NY 12866

Email it to [HMBArea48Delegate@hvc.rr.com](mailto:HMBArea48Delegate@hvc.rr.com)

Mail to HMB Area 48 Delegate - Deb D, 385 Dewitt Mills Road, Kingston, NY 12401

In service,

Deb D. – Delegate - Panel 60, Area 48

## **I. CORRECTIONS:**

**Consider adding references to the Big Book in the pamphlet "A.A. in Correctional Facilities," including a proposed section describing Big Book studies as a possible meeting format.**

**Background:** In a letter from a member, it was noted that in pamphlet p-26 "A.A. in Correctional Facilities, on page 11, that the first paragraph suggests step meetings using the 12&12, but leaves out any mention of using the steps out of our basics text "Alcoholics Anonymous." For access to the online version of the pamphlet, refer to [http://aa.org/pdf/products/p-26\\_AAinCF.pdf](http://aa.org/pdf/products/p-26_AAinCF.pdf) *What are your thoughts and considerations for making an update to address the concern?*

## **2. COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY (CPC):**

**Discussion the concept of a compilation DVD of C.P.C Literature**

**Background:** The 2010 Conference Committee requested that the committee secretary and trustees committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community discuss developing a method by which appropriate C.P.C. pamphlets and other materials may be consolidated on cost effective digital media such as CD or DVD in order to be distributed to professionals. The Trustees committee agreed to forward to the 2011 Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Committee the work done and noting that this information is readily available on G.S.O.'s website and the item would be redundant. The estimated cost of creating a C.P.C DVD would be about \$1,350. *Is there a need for such a compilation? How would you use the DVD/CD if it was developed further?*

**Consider request to include in the Cooperation with the Professional Community (C.P.C.) workbook a list of goals and projects suggestions for C.P.C. Committees.**

**Background:** It was noted by an Area that the Workbooks for Corrections, Treatment Facilities and Public Information Workbooks have sample lists of goals and project suggestions, but the Cooperation with the Professional Community Workbook does not.

-Links to workbooks:

Cooperation with the Professional Community Workbook - [http://aa.org/pdf/products/m-41i\\_CPCWorkbook.pdf](http://aa.org/pdf/products/m-41i_CPCWorkbook.pdf)

Corrections Workbook, see page 6-7 - [http://aa.org/pdf/products/m-45i\\_corrections.pdf](http://aa.org/pdf/products/m-45i_corrections.pdf)

Treatment Facilities Workbook, see page 6 - [http://aa.org/pdf/products/m-40i\\_TFWorkbook.pdf](http://aa.org/pdf/products/m-40i_TFWorkbook.pdf)

Public Information Workbook, see page 7 -8 - [http://aa.org/pdf/products/M-27i\\_PubInfWorkbk.pdf](http://aa.org/pdf/products/M-27i_PubInfWorkbk.pdf)

*Should a list be included in the Cooperation with the Professional Community workbook? If so, what specific suggestions would you include?*

### **3. FINANCE:**

**Consider a request “that the trustees’ Finance Committee develop a Finance Workbook, a draft of which is to be made available to the 2012 General Service Conference, to assist group, intergroup/central offices, district and area service workers in carrying the message of our shared responsibility for the Seventh Tradition.”**

**Background:** An Area submitted the request for a Finance Workbook and a list of suggestions for topics to be included in such a proposed workbook.

1. Guidance for setting up back accounts 2. Discussion of non-profit issues 3. Budget ideas 4. Guidance on use of group funds 5. How is a group’s money used ... at GSO? ...at the Area? ...at the District? 6. Suggestions for information groups and members of where their money goes 7. Graphs or pie charts as visuals to describe where money goes 8. A list of items available to be used in Finance service work (pamphlets guidelines, contribution envelopes, etc. 9. Description of each item available for use and suggestions for their use. *Do you think such a workbook should be developed? Are there specific issues that you would like addressed in such a workbook? Are there additional topics you would like to see included in such a workbook?*

### **4. A.A. GRAPEVINE:**

**Review request for a discussion on how best to support the Grapevine magazine.**

**Background:** From 1965 Advisory Action – It was recommended that the Grapevine use the services of area committees in promoting the sale of the Grapevine at the group and individual level. From 1967 Advisory Action – It was recommended that delegates suggest to groups the need for sponsoring subscriptions to the Grapevine for prisons, jails, and hospitals in their areas. From 1977 Advisory Action – It was recommended that delegates be responsible for establishing area Grapevine committees, using the area and district service structure to achieve the goal of a Grapevine representative in every group. From 1978 Advisory Actions - It was recommended that delegates continue their efforts in using the area and district service structure to achieve the goal of a Grapevine representative in every group. That a Grapevine information table be made a regular feature at all conferences, conventions and assemblies (A Grapevine Conference Display Kit is available at no cost.) That committees on public information, cooperation with the professional community, correctional facilities and treatment facilities explore the use of the AA Grapevine in their endeavors. That area and state functions consider Grapevine workshops similar to other workshops held at the area level from time to time. From 1979 Advisory Action - That Grapevine representatives recommend to their groups that they sponsor subscriptions, where possible, for institutions treatment facilities, and professionals being “sponsored.” From 1980 Advisory Action – That delegates continue their effort in using the area and district service structure to achieve the goal of a Grapevine representative in every group. From 1981 Advisory Action – That delegates, in their continuing effort to achieve GvRs in their groups, work toward estab-

lishing district GvRs. From 1985 Advisory Action – It was recommended that Grapevine committees seek ways to work with Public Information, cooperation with Professional Community, Correctional Facilities, Treatment Facilities, and other service committees, with the aim of increasing the use of the Grapevine as a tool in carrying the message. From 1987 Advisory Action - That delegates focus their efforts on the district service structure as a means of reaching individual groups, in order to make every group aware of the value of the Grapevine as a recovery tool. From 2008 Additional Considerations – To increase use of the Grapevine and La Vina and awareness of their o in A.A. today, the committee made several suggestions, including the following:

- That delegates challenge each of their Areas to increase circulation of the Grapevine by at least 100 subscriptions and circulation of La Vina by as much as possible.
- That group buy bulk subscriptions or 50-packs of back issues for distribution in treatment facilities, correctional facilities, and other institutions.
- That districts buy subscriptions for local libraries
- That GvR/RLVs use laptops to take subscriptions at AA events
- That delegates and Area Grapevine/La Vina chairs exchange information about successful efforts to increase awareness of AA's magazines
- That groups put copies of the magazines in grocery stores, laundromats and other public places where they might help alcoholics
- That groups hold Grapevine and La Vina meetings

*What are your thoughts and comments on how to best support the Grapevine and La Vina magazine?*

### **Consider collections of Grapevine stories for possible publication in the year 2012 or later**

**Background:** From 2002 Advisory Action, it was unanimously recommended that the Conference Committee on the Grapevine annually review a list of proposed related items at least one year in advance of possible product, so that the Conference might provide guidance, recognizing that the committee may request more than one year to review some proposed items. The following are noted from the Staff Report of AA Grapevine Items – Suggestions for production in the year 2012 or later: Working the Program (working title) – A collection of AA Grapevine stories on the recover from alcoholism. Soft cover – approximately 180 pages. Happy, Joyous and Free (working title) – A collection of AA Grapevine stories reflecting experience, strength, hope and humor. Soft cover – approximately 180 pages. Young and New to AA – A collection about getting sober young from those who have done it. Soft cover – approximately 180 pages

*What are your thoughts and comments?*

## **5. LITERATURE:**

**Consider a request to develop an item similar to the Self-Support or “green card” to help promote the use of our literature as a Twelfth Step tool.**

**Background:** An Area submitted the idea indicating the possible need to emphasize the value of our literature as a Twelfth Step tool and better promote its use in our life saving work. Possible wording for the ‘Literature Card:’

This Group stocks Big Books and other AA books for sale at cost. We have free pamphlets containing the collective experience of AA members on a wide variety of topics, including sponsorship, the role of money in AA, the way Groups operate and how AA interacts with outside groups. Pamphlets

are a great resource for the newcomer, the sponsor and to all AA members carrying the AA message.

*Is such a card needed? Is there anything you would add or state differently?*

**Consider a request to reconsider the 2010 Conference Advisory Action that “the trustees’ Literature Committee develop literature which focuses on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are successfully sober in Alcoholics Anonymous.”**

**Background:** For the 2010 Conference there was a Literature agenda item to ‘Discuss whether there is a need to develop Conference-approved literature that focuses on spirituality, and agnostics or atheists/nonbelievers in A.A. At the 2010 Conference, an Advisory Action was approved to develop a piece of literature which focuses on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are successfully sober in Alcoholics Anonymous. The trustees’ committee on literature formed a subcommittee to develop a draft piece of literature. As part of the subcommittee’s work, the requested stories from the fellowship that reflect a wide range of spiritual experiences of A.A. members and to include them in a pamphlet format. A progress report was sent to the Conference Literature Committee. In parallel to the above, there were three communications to the General Service Office, one from a group, one from a district and one from an area requesting this advisory action be reconsidered. Various reasons cited from the background material for why this should be reconsidered:

1. The program of A.A. is outlined in the Big Book is our society’s basic text. This book gives clear cut directions on how to practice AA’s Twelve Steps which are described, in the forward to the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions as “a group of principles, spiritual in nature, which, if practiced as a way of life, can expel the obsession to drink and enable the sufferer to become happily and usefully whole.”
2. Practicing the Twelve Steps enables alcoholics to develop faith in a Higher Power (or God of one’s understanding) that is sufficient to bring about recovery from alcoholism.
3. Any literature which attempts to describe *current* atheists or agnostics as being “successfully sober” in AA would be deceptive, misleading, and harmful to *real alcoholics* attempting to find the power necessary to solve their problem. Such a position is fundamentally opposed to the program of recovery detailed in the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous. AA is a program designed to change us, not for us to change the program.
4. Alcoholics Anonymous is a spiritual program of action based on a willingness to believe in a power greater than oneself. This is the Great Fact, as Bill Wilson wrote in the Big Book, p. 164.
5. The proposed literature amounts to a break in several of our traditions: Tradition Five – Our primary purpose is to “Carry the Message” which is already outlined in the first 164 pages of the Big Book. ; Tradition Ten – We have no opinion on outside issues. Some feel this is an outside issue; Tradition One – We have no unity if we have a program in which we do not agree on the essential element of the three pertinent ideas as describe at the end of ‘How it Works.’
6. Concern was raised as to whether this topic was adequately discussed and debated at the prior conference.

*What are your thoughts on the need for developing a piece of conference approved literature? Is it needed and why? Is it not needed and why?*

**Consider a request to include the A.A. Preamble in the front inside pages of the Big Book.**

**Background:** Reasons as submitted by an Area:

Now that the Traditions and the Concepts are included in appendices in the Big Book, it has become closer to the complete manual for AA with the steps, the traditions and the concepts it gives the guidelines for per-

sonal recovery, unity and service respectively. The one thing that is missing is a statement of the AA Preamble which is read out at the start of every group and defines what AA as a whole is. It seems appropriate therefore to have this in the book that gave its name to the fellowship. When the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Big Book is opened, there are 2 clean pages and then a third that has just the words 'Alcoholics Anonymous' on it. It might be appropriate to put it under the heading on the third page. If the statement of the Preamble was put into the Big Book, it would serve to seal an unbreakable connection between group, fellowship and book. There is another reason. It may not be a general problem, but have heard of discussion about people writing their own preamble in their owners groups to replace the AA Preamble. The argument used was that "it's not in the Big Book."

The original version of the "preamble" as it was first introduced to AA in the June, 1947, Grapevine. Written by the then editor to describe AA to the Grapevine's non-AA readers, it has become a part of AA literature. It came to be called the "preamble" because it is so often read at the opening of AA meetings. Much of the phrasing was borrowed from the foreword to the original edition of "Alcoholics Anonymous," where "an honest desire to stop drinking" is described as "the only requirement for membership." In the September, 1958, Grapevine, the preamble was first published in its present form. The current version of the preamble appears on the inside front cover of this issue.

*What are your thoughts on including the Preamble in the Big Book?*

## **6. PUBLIC INFORMATION:**

**Consider approval of the General Service Board "Policy on Actors Portraying A.A. Members or Potential A.A. Members in Videos produced by the General Service Board or its Affiliates."**

**Background:** Proposed wording of Policy

### **Policy on Actors Portraying**

#### **A.A. Members or Potential A.A. Members in Videos Produced**

#### **By the General Service Board or its Affiliates**

Videos produced and distributed by the General Service Board or its affiliated corporation, Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. and Alcoholics Anonymous Grapevine, Inc. that include actors portraying A.A. members or potential A.A. members shall not show the actor's full face, unless:

a. The General Service Board, by substantial unanimity, agrees that the proposed video is consistent with the A.A. tradition of attraction rather than promotion, and that such use of an actor or actors does not in fact or appearance place personalities before principles, and The General Service Conference authorizes, by substantial unanimity, the production and distribution of such video.

For purposes of this Policy, a "video" is any item of visual media in which a live actor appears, regardless of the medium in which the video is presented (DVD, film, electronic file, etc.). For purposes of this Policy, a "potential A.A. member" is a character in a video who is portrayed as seeking help from A.A., or who is portrayed as the recipient of Twelfth Step work in any form. Existing videos using actors portraying A.A. members or potential members may continue to be produced and distributed until retired from service. The videos "Markings on the Journey and "Bill Discusses the Twelve Tradition," each of which currently distributed only to A.A. groups, as well "Bill's Own Story," which also had restricted distribution, may continue to be produced and distributed. A copy of this policy shall be given to all entities participating in the production of a video prior to commencement of production.

*What are your thoughts and comments?*

**Consider a revision to "A.A. At a Glance"**

**Background:** A request from an Area to update the current paragraph:

How You Can Find AA In your Town

Look for “Alcoholics Anonymous” in any telephone directory. In most urban area, a central A.A. office or “Intergroup”, staffed mainly by volunteer A.A.’s will be happy to answer your questions and/or put you in touch with those who can.

Proposed amended paragraph:

How You Can Find AA In your Town

Look for “Alcoholics Anonymous” in any telephone directory or “How to Find AA Meetings” on the home page of our website [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org). In most urban area, a central A.A. office or “Intergroup”, staffed mainly by volunteer A.A.’s will be happy to answer your questions and/or put you in touch with those who can.

Link to current pamphlet: [http://www.aa.org/pdf/products/f-I\\_AAataGlance.pdf](http://www.aa.org/pdf/products/f-I_AAataGlance.pdf)

*What are your thoughts on this proposed update?*

**7. POLICY and ADMISSIONS:**

**Discuss request to change the deadline for the submission of Conference Agenda items.**

**Background:** To provide for and encourage Group participation in the decision making process of the General Service Conference, it is suggested that GSO revise its procedures to send background information in November and not allow any new issues unless the survival of AA is threatened. The issues to be discussed at the General Service Conference are presently sent out and received by the Delegates in January/February. This does not adequately allow for distribution and discussion of the issues by Groups and Districts. The Areas may or may not be holding a conference during this period prior to the General Service Conference. The Districts only hold one meeting per month. The Groups only hold one business meeting per month. The package itself does not invite participation. Our trusted servants/Groups are overwhelmed and intimidated by its sheer size. There is, and has been, a problem getting groups to participate at the Area level. This is a nationwide problem.

*What are your thoughts and comments?*

**8. REPORT and CHARTER:**

**Review revised text forward from the 2010 Conference Committee on Trustees regarding the nominating procedure listed as #2 on page S65 from Regional Trustee Elections and information on page S67 regarding the Trustees-at-Large Election procedure.**

**Background:** Request to replace on S65:

“2. Two Conference Action should be kept in mind. In 1977, the Conference recommended that a delegate not eligible as a trustee candidate until one year after his or her last conference. And in 1983, it was recommended that ‘no area shall submit and individual as candidate for both regional trustee and trustee-at-large U.S./Canada in the same year.’”

With:

“2. Prior Conferences have recommended that no area submit the same person as a candidate for both regional trustee and trustee-at-large/U.S. or Canada at the same Conference. Also, a General Service Conference delegate is not eligible as a trustee candidate until one year after his or her last conference.”

Request to replace on S67:

“In the areas, the same procedure used in selecting a regional trustee candidate is followed. No area should submit the same name for regional and at-large trustee in the same year.”

With:

“Prior Conferences have recommended that no area submit the same person as a candidate for both regional trustee and trustee-at-large/U.S. or Canada at the same Conference. Also, a General Service Conference delegate is not eligible as a trustee candidate until one year after his or her last conference.”

*What are your thoughts and comments?*

**Consider request to change the phrase “new kid on the block” to “a first year Delegate on page S52 under Personal Experience in section “Preparing for Conference”**

**Background:** Delegate representation from the fellowship is not made up of any “new kids on the block.”

Request to replace on page S52:

“And remember, even if you’re the new kid on the block, you’re just as important to the conference proceedings as anyone else.”

To:

“And remember, even if you’re a First year Delegate, you’re just as important to the conference proceedings as anyone else.”

*What are your thoughts and comments?*

## **9. TREATMENT FACILITIES:**

**Consider removing line of dialogue from video “Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous.”**

**Background:** A request has been made from several sources to remove the line “Uncle Sam is not gonna bail us out” from the video “Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous” because of its political flavor. The cost of removing the line from the version of the 2009 Hope video is estimated at \$2,745 per language. The video is produced in English, French and Spanish.

*What are your thoughts and comments?*

## **10. SERVICE COMMITTEE WORKBOOKS:**

**Review Archives, Cooperation with the Professional Community, Corrections, Public Information, Special Needs/Accessibility, and Treatment Facilities Kits and Workbooks.**

**Background:** The above Kits and Workbooks are available for order from the General Service Office to assist members in those service positions. Each year, the committees review the workbooks and kits. Do you have any suggestions for updates? Is there content that should be included that currently is not included?

Archives Workbook – [http://www.aa.org/pdf/products/m-44i\\_archivesworkbook.pdf](http://www.aa.org/pdf/products/m-44i_archivesworkbook.pdf)

Cooperation with the Professional Community Workbook - [http://aa.org/pdf/products/m-41i\\_CPCWorkbook.pdf](http://aa.org/pdf/products/m-41i_CPCWorkbook.pdf)

Corrections Workbook - [http://aa.org/pdf/products/m-45i\\_corrections.pdf](http://aa.org/pdf/products/m-45i_corrections.pdf)

Public Information Workbook - [http://aa.org/pdf/products/M-27i\\_PubInfWorkbk.pdf](http://aa.org/pdf/products/M-27i_PubInfWorkbk.pdf)

Special Needs/Accessibility Workbook - [http://www.aa.org/pdf/products/m-48i\\_SNWorkbook.pdf](http://www.aa.org/pdf/products/m-48i_SNWorkbook.pdf)

Treatment Facilities Workbook - [http://aa.org/pdf/products/m-40i\\_TFWorkbook.pdf](http://aa.org/pdf/products/m-40i_TFWorkbook.pdf)

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AMSTERDAM, NY 12010