
DISTRICT 18 NEWS

Area 48 Website for meeting lookup, events, info, and archived newsletters:
aahmbny.org



District 18 Business Meeting

Zoom online forum

The next meeting is scheduled for October 15, 2020 at 6:30pm.

District 18 will be using Zoom for business meetings through the end of 2020. Meeting ID: 653 765 330. Password: 658575.

Meeting Report – September 17, 2020

ATTENDEES: Linda A, Paul P, Tammie E, John E, Kevin McN, Kerri B, Jen D, and Paul D

- I. Meeting opened at 6:30pm with the Serenity Prayer
- II. Alt DCM Paul P read Tradition 9 and Concept IX
- III. The Seventh Tradition

Linda noted that the District does not have a virtual basket for the monthly meetings. Donations can be sent to the District post office box (see last page before the attachments). There have been only two donations from groups since February. **The District still has monthly expenses. (hint, hint)**

IV. GSR Group Reports

Surrender, Acceptance & Gratitude Group: Rick C, not present: Temporarily closed.

Yankee Doodle Beginners' Group: Tom M, not present. Per Alt GSR Paul D: Hybrid meeting has been taking place at the city park, 505 Broadway; core of members 3-4 in-person plus Zoom attendance 8-9 attendees; meeting will return to its original location, 85 Washington St., Rensselaer, starting October 5.

Fresh Start Group: Mike S, not present: Meeting in person at Blooming Grove Church.

Soggy Tuesday Group: Rich F, not present: Temporarily closed; GSR regrets he can no longer attend D18 meetings.

Nassau Tuesday Night Step Group: Bob W, not present. Per member Linda A: In-person meetings begin on October 6 at their original location-Grace United Methodist Church; bring hand sanitizer and your copy of the 12&12; masks required when on church property; bring a beverage but carry in, carry out.

Original Clinton Heights Tuesday Night Group: Ginny E, not present but reported: Meeting back to 9pm start time and in person at new location-Love Lutheran Church.

Share at Noon Group: **Needs GSR**. Has contact person. Per Linda: Meeting is live.

Blue Teapot Big Book Group: Nicole P, not present but reported: Temporarily closed.
Nassau Wednesday Night Women's Group: Pam D: Former location (the Gathering Place) will no longer allow meetings; group meeting via Zoom while searching for a new location.

Wednesday Set Aside Group: Paul P: Meeting is still on Zoom; attendance has been steady at around 10-15 people; Linda was told there are members meeting live at the Blooming Grove church as well; Paul is not aware of this; meeting time remains at 7:15pm.

Regular Wednesday Night Meeting in Rensselaer: Kevin McN: 7-10 people were showing up at CDTA Park & Ride across from Blooming Grove; group moved to Love Lutheran Church effective September 30; still meeting in person.

Hampton Manor Big Book Group: Rich F, not present: Temporarily closed.

Late Bloomers' Rule 62 Big Book Group: **Needs GSR**. Meeting in person.

New Lebanon Group: **Needs a GSR**. Contact person Mike reported: Meeting is in-person; usually 10 attendees; enforce social distancing but masks are optional.

Out to Lunch Bunch: **Needs GSR**. The group has been meeting at Love Lutheran Church (do you see a pattern developing?).

Friday Night Caring and Sharing Group: Mike McB, not present, but reported: Meeting in person in original space; masks are required. Per member Kevin McN: sign-in required for contact tracing.

Near Noon Group: Mary, not present. Per John E, who acts as "co-host": Meeting is still happening via Zoom, averaging 12-16 people; planning to hold a group conscience about going live, but most meeting goers are not comfortable meeting in person.

Hour of Power Group: Kerri B, present: Temporarily closed.

Late Bloomers' Saturday Night Candlelight Group: **Needs GSR**. Meeting in person with good attendance.

Primary Purpose Group: **Needs GSR**. Contact person Laura C, not present. Still meeting in person.

Light for Dark Places Group: Marilyn L, not present, but reported: Meeting is now hybrid (in person and via Zoom). Per member Kevin McN: There have been some technical difficulties with church's Wi-Fi, so the Zoom participants meet separately; 6-7 attendees in person; masks are required.

Castleton Carry the Message Group: Pam R, not present. Per Linda: Meeting has been in person all along.

V. DCM - Linda A

- a. Area 48 has a monthly check-in session on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm. Meeting ID: 349 408 103. Password: A48CheckIn.
- b. Area 48 Virtual Voting Assembly is Saturday, October 17. **All GSRs have a vote! Please obtain your group's conscience.** Meeting ID: 812 1468 3507. Password: Assembly

- c. Area 48's annual Convention will be VIRTUAL and will take place October 30-31. Pre-Registration is now open: <https://aahmbny.org/area-48-virtual-conventionflyer/> Albin Z, the Grapevine publisher, will be the Saturday night speaker. They are looking for help. Contact Linda and she will send an email to the proper person. Or place your interest on your registration form.
- d. Necessary to update the area upon reopening of meetings and/or if hybrid. Much information and guidance on safely reopening live meetings on the HMB website: aahmbny.org. In person meetings should provide info on what precautions are required for attendees; that info will be documented on the Area website.
- e. Linda attended Fellowship Day, which was a success! The Ad Hoc committee is still active surrounding the name change of our Area since we no longer have meetings in the Berkshires. There is a Meeting Schedule Ad Hoc committee that did not meet the 3-month requirement of advance posting their proposal in the Area Newsletter and online. There will be a vote to consider this. The Area's available balance is \$19,000. Income and expenses are down.
- f. Hawk has stepped down as the Area Webmaster due to health issues. Matt has stepped up.
- g. We will be holding elections for ALL service positions during the October meeting. Please think of anyone you would like to nominate and bring to that meeting. There are currently three vacant district positions: Grapevine, PI/CPC, and Treatment. There are published guidelines that describe the role of these positions if anyone would like to look at them.
- h. Linda received a copy of Blooming Grove Reformed Church's building policy, which states that **everyone must wear masks the entire time they are in the building, regardless of whether the required 6-foot social distancing is maintained.**

VI. ALTERNATE DCM – Paul P

- a. Nothing to report

VII. SECRETARY – Jen D

- a. Nothing to report.

VIII. TREASURER – Tom P, not present

- a. July and August reports from Linda A are attached.
- b. Motion was made to accept the reports, seconded, and passed.

IX. CORRECTIONS – Rich F

- a. Not present but reports he has not heard anything about being able to go into the jail. He is considering stepping down as he will not be able to attend district meetings in the future due to work obligations.
- b. There are two workshops coming up relating to jail services: September 21 and 24, including DOCCS officials. The speakers were previously incarcerated and have stayed sober.

X. TREATMENT – **Open position**

- a. Linda A has not heard anything from District 2 about meetings starting up again.

- b. Linda A emailed the District 2 DCM about doing Zoom meetings.
- XI. PI/CPC - **Open position**
 - a. The Area CPC Chair conducts monthly conference calls. If interested, contact Sally at cpc@aahmbny.org.
- XII. BRIDGING THE GAP – Tom M
 - a. Not present, emailed nothing to report.
- XIII. ACCESSIBILITY - **Open position**
 - a. Paul P is standing in. Nothing to report
- XIV. FUNCTIONS – Pam D.
 - a. Not present and nothing to report.
- XV. RECORDS/ARCHIVIST – John E
 - a. As slow as a basket of two-toed sloths.
- XVI. GRAPEVINE REP - **Open position**
- XVII. NEWSLETTER EDITOR – Kevin McN
 - a. Curious if people are getting the newsletter into the hands of members.
 - b. Linda A noted that the newsletter is posted to the Area website for accessibility.
- XVIII. CDCO LIAISON - Fred F
 - a. Not present but reported CDCO is taking orders for literature and tokens that are available for pick-up on Wednesdays 5-8pm and Saturdays 12-4pm when the office is open.
 - b. The September CDCO report is attached.
 - c. All CDCO reports are posted at aalbanyny.org.
- XIX. OLD BUSINESS
 - a. Kevin McN placed a proposal in February that was to be voted on in March. The vote did not occur due to COVID-19. Linda A asked when it should be voted on. Kevin suggested that it be placed in the newsletter and an email to the GSRs before the next district meeting. Linda suggested it be voted on in October. Group members present in agreement. Kevin’s proposal restated: [said proposal] will be an addition to the District 18 Area 48 Service Manual’s Introduction section 1.1 in the form of an additional last paragraph: “Keeping with AA traditions, this Service Manual and all other service manuals adopted at any level of the AA service structure are guidelines. They do not contain rules or dictates. Care for our fellow AAs, respect for the autonomy of each AA group, and reference to group conscience lead us to the appropriate application of these guidelines.”
 - b. Thanksgiving Alkathon: Linda spoke with Jeff, the contact at Blooming Grove Reformed Church, who said that he will speak with Alison but doubts we will be able to use the daycare space. We will not be able to use the gas stoves after an inspection that was done recently in the church. Linda asked for the group conscience whether we should coordinate some sort of Alkathon gathering. Kevin McN suggested that the church hall be available for meetings, if possible, for people to gather at, especially because for a lot of people, holidays are a tough

time and can be challenging on sobriety. Group expressed agreement with this. Suggested that there be no food/drinks brought into the church if we have the event. Logistics remain to be figured out. Linda will talk to Jeff at the church about opening the church for the holiday on this smaller scale version.

XX. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Vote coming up on four Area proposals plus possible fifth proposal regarding meeting schedules: Meeting schedule - usually would solicit orders at this time. Because meetings are mostly online, meeting schedule is not up to date. Some meetings have closed temporarily or permanently or are online. At earlier HMB check-in, feedback was to postpone issuing meeting schedule. An ad hoc committee was developed to discuss this. Committee will propose to Assembly in October to cancel production of meeting schedule this year and print tri-fold brochures and include key info -website, pointer to online meetings, contacts for GSO, committees and other static info from meeting schedule. PROPOSAL: Print 10,000 brochures and distribute around area through DCMs and committees. The proposal will go out to newsletter and out via email soon. The basic idea is to cancel current format, publish current contracts (hotlines, websites), and look at an approximate amount to print. Because we hold our service elections in October this year, we were to vote on the Area proposals as a district this month. There was a vote taken to not read each proposal nor to have the GSRs vote on them. It was agreed to let the DCM represent the district for voting at the October Assembly.
- b. Floor opened for nominations for service officers and committee chairs. Uneasy silence and shifting in chairs like when the chair asks for a topic at a discussion meeting. **Please send nominations to Linda via email.**
- c. Tammie E, our Area Chair/Alt. Delegate, shared a few thoughts on how the coronavirus pandemic has impacted AA locally, nationwide, and beyond. Connections that were perhaps minimal before about six months ago, are now rich and widespread. For example, local AA members and service-doers have connected with their AA peers as far away as Canada thanks to virtual meetings. Tammie also mentioned a new app has been developed to help guide GSRs in their role called "Glide" that serves as a virtual GSR toolkit/resource guide. An app for AA events and retreats, etc., is also being developed. Tammie left us with a thought relating to her personal experience with doing AA service...God will present the service opportunity that God sees fit at the right time, if we all but make ourselves willing and available.

XXI. MEMBER AND GROUP ANNIVERSARIES

Group anniversaries in September:

Nassau Tuesday Night Step Group - 31 years as of September 12

New Lebanon Group - 43 years as of September 6

Member Anniversaries in September:

Ed C - 36 yrs

Vicky W - 36 yrs

Anne S - 23 yrs

Ray R - 22 yrs

Kyle - 22 yrs

Rich C - 17 yrs

Fran H - 14 yrs

Anthony - 13 yrs

Tony H - 9 yrs

Dave G - 9 yrs

Dave C - 4 yrs

Please email October anniversaries to: district18dcm@aaahmbny.org.

Motion to adjourn the meeting passed at 7:32 p.m., followed by the AA Responsibility Pledge:

"I am responsible when anyone, anywhere reaches out for help. I want the Hand of AA always to be there and for that I am responsible."

Group treasurers and members: Your donations help keep AA alive in your district and our Area 48 and support the work of the Capital District Central Office (CDCO) and the General Service Office (GSO). Please consider donating.

DISTRICT 18
PO BOX 188
EAST GREENBUSH NY 1206

HMB AREA ASSOCIATION
RT 30 #144
1118 POLAR PLAZA
AMSTERDAM NY 12010

GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE
PO BOX 45911
GRAND CENTRAL STATION
NEW YORK NY 10163

CDCO
11 COMPUTER DRIVE WEST
SUITE 100
ALBANY NY 12205

Please visit the CDCO to purchase AA books and pamphlets as well as month and year medallions. The CDCO office hours and monthly reports are on their website: aaalbany.org.

The District 18 24/7 hotline number is 518-463-0906.

If you are interested in service, consider one of these splendid positions, ready when you are:

**ACCESSIBILITY CHAIR
PI/CPC CHAIR
TREATMENT CHAIR
GRAPEVINE CHAIR**

**DISTRICT 18
TREASURER REPORT
JULY 2020**

Beginning Balance -	\$2083.54
INCOME	
07/02: Donation from Set Aside Group	50.00
07/02: Return pavilion deposit from North Greenbush	<u>100.00</u>
Total Income	\$150.00
EXPENSES	
07/24: Online Payment- Storage Solutions (August rent)	<u>60.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$60.00
Ending Balance	\$2173.54
Prudent Reserve	<u>700.00</u>
Available Funds	\$1473.54

Prepared by Linda A.
08/07/2020

**DISTRICT 18
TREASURER REPORT
AUGUST 2020**

Beginning Balance -	\$2173.54
INCOME	
Total Income	\$0.00
EXPENSES	
08/06: Ck #704 Blooming Grove (rent for Aug. & Sept.)	50.00
08/24: Online Payment- Storage Solutions (Sept. rent)	<u>60.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$110.00
Ending Balance	\$2063.54
Prudent Reserve	<u>700.00</u>
Available Funds	\$1363.54

Prepared by Linda A.
09/02/2020

CAPITAL DISTRICT CENTRAL OFFICE, INC (CDCO)
Report of Phone Calls Received
and Other Data
September 2020

The office address is: 11 Computer Drive West, Suite 100, Albany, NY 12205. The hotline phone number is 518-463-0906. A daily log has been kept of all phone calls received since the Office's opening day, November 10, 2005. Following is the latest monthly report.

Telephone Calls

District 1 (Albany region)	89
District 2 (Troy-Cohoes region)	18
District 14 (Schenectady region)	13
District 17 (Hudson-Kinderhook region)	4
District 18 (Rensselaer-Nassau region)	4
	128
For other New York State sites*	19
For out of state**	2
	21
CDCO information	8
TOTAL CALLS	157

Of the calls received, 1 was for NA, 1 was for Al-Anon, 3 were for 12th-step action, 16 were first-time callers, and 20 were regarding literature. All other calls were for AA meeting information.

*Canandaigua, Clymer, Corinth, District 5 (2), Johnstown, Glens Falls, Lake George, Lake Placid, Mechanicville, New York City (6), Plattsburgh, Saratoga Springs, and Syracuse.

**Kentucky, and San Francisco, CA.

General office visits	0
Office visits to purchase literature	19
	19

The Office sold \$485 in AA literature, at list, and \$66 in medallions.

The CDCO website received 1,429 visitors; 84% were new visitors.

The Office received 29 emails at chair@aalbanyny.org. All were resolved.

All CDCO reports are available at <https://aalbanyny.org/table-of-reports>.

Respectfully Submitted, CDCO data coordinator, Tom O.

Save The Date

Area 48 Voting Assembly

SAT. OCTOBER 17

ZOOM ID: 812 1468 3507
PASSCODE: Assembly

www.aahmbny.org

The waiting room function will be enabled. Please use a recognizable screen name, including your area/district service position, if applicable.

***** FINAL DRAFT *****

Proposal: Cancel Printing of 2021 Meeting Schedules and Instead Provide Tri-Fold Brochure

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, in-person meetings have been disrupted and at this time many groups are still meeting on-line or not at all. An ad-hoc committee - established in early September - agree that printing the meeting schedules is not practical at this time, but recognize there still exists a need to reach out to the alcoholic who still suffers, particularly in the areas of treatment and corrections. As such, the committee recommends that Area 48:

- 1) Cancel the production of the 2021 meeting schedules.
- 2) Instead, produce and distribute within the Area at no charge 10,000 tri-fold brochures containing the key contact information normally published in the annual meeting schedules, including links to the Area 48 website, link and QR code to access Area 48 online meetings, hotline numbers, aa.org website, and space for Phone # 's, etc. Showcasing of the proposed brochure will take place during the October Assembly.
- 3) Provide a link on the Area 48 website to enable members and the public to reprint and/or download the brochure on demand, as needed. The brochure on the website will be "read-only" and can not be modified by users of the website.
- 4) Printing of the 2022 meeting schedules would be revisited in late spring/early summer next year.

Details of Cost and Distribution

Based on previous demand for meeting schedules, the brochures would be distributed as follows:

Recipient	Qty	Notes	Estimated Postage
Area 48 Committees	1500	250 each to CPC, PI, Corrections, Treatment, BTG, and Accessibilities committees	\$48.00 (6 * \$8.00)
District DCMs	3600	200 brochures for each of the 18 districts in Area 48, to distribute as each see fit (e.g. to groups and/or committees)	\$144.00 (18*\$8.00)
Capital District Central Office (CDCO)	3000	CDCO serves 6 counties in the Capital Region, ordered 4200 schedules last year	\$0 (hand delivered)
St Peter's Addiction Recovery	1000	Ordered 3200 schedules last year, has a great need.	\$24.00
Four Winds	200	Ordered 500 schedules last year	\$8.00
Area 48 On-Hand (future)	700	Surplus for future distribution, as needed	\$100.00
Totals	10,000	\$797 Total for Printing	\$324.00 Total for Postage

Total Cost for Printing and Postage = \$1121

The 70th Annual Area 48 Virtual Convention

October 30th & 31st 2020

Pre-register by going to aahmbny.org/2020-convention
to get the convention login information.

****Pre-registering is quick and will save you time later!****

Workshops

- Updating the Big Book
- The Black & African American Pamphlet
- Sobriety the Old-Fashioned Way
- And more!

Speakers

- Friday:
- Saturday: Albin Z. – Grapevine Publisher



Missed Pre-registration?

If you missed pre-registration you can join the “Registration Table” virtual meeting during the convention and, from there, the host can provide the login information to the Convention.

Friday Registration Table

Link: [Click Here](#)

Meeting ID: 857 6940 8048

Password: A48walkin

Saturday Registration Table

Link: [Click Here](#)

Meeting ID: 830 1810 2774

Password: A48walkin

Please log into the meetings with an easily recognizable name