

# THIS DAY

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News & Notes from NNJ General Service Area 44 and Northern New Jersey Intergroup

*A message from your Area Chair*



## Greetings From Your Area Chair

**M**y name is Lester and I am an alcoholic. My home group is the Practice These Principles Group in Manalapan, District 25. If you're ever in the area please stop by. We would love to have you!

First, I would like to thank all of you for electing me to serve you as your Area Chair; this is truly an honor and a privilege. My service sponsor said it gets easy after January. She lied! But I made it through with some great things to report. We already had our first Area Committee Meeting, and it was great to meet a new slate of DCMs, Committee Chairs and Officers. I am looking forward to having an awesome experience with you all as we try to carry the A.A. message

to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Our Area Assembly in January started out to be a little intimidating, but by the grace of God, all things are possible. We voted on a balanced budget for the first time in Area 44's history, and it passed with the approval of the whole body. It was a year ago at the assembly in Freehold when the fellowship spoke up loud and clear to be more frugal in our spending, and I believe your approval spoke to the hard work that the Finance Committee has done to change the way we function financially. Thank you for your dedication! I would also like to thank the GSRs for their presentations at the assembly on the conference topics. You all did a great job in getting the essence of the topics out there. I'm very proud of our GSRs!

By the time you read this, the GSR Mid-Winter Luncheon and NERAASA will both be over, and we will be full steam into our Pre-Conference

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*A message from your Area Delegate*



## "The General Service Conference Takes Its Inventory – Our Solution in Action"

**A**s I sat down to begin writing this article, my first as your Delegate, I went to our website to look at the first articles written by my three predecessors. There was a common theme - not only in the content - but in the message. They shared humility, excitement, anticipation, all sprinkled with a whole bunch of gratitude. And that is no different for me. I could never thank you enough for entrusting me with this opportunity. Each day is bringing a new emotion with all the Conference preparations.

In fact, the past week has been a whirlwind. It started with receiving my committee background materi-

als along with the final agenda of the 2013 General Service Conference (GSC). This was all topped off tonight in working with your Alternate Delegate, Jay E., and our Past Delegates to select the topics we will be discussing at this year's Mini-Conference. And there are a couple of very important topics that need to be discussed.

As many of you know the process is kicked off with Jay and myself along with Lester G., your Area Chair and Wayne G, your Treasurer traveling around our Area providing the background materials for those topics so that each of the groups can discuss how they feel about them so they can then send their representatives/ GSRs to our Mini-Conference fully informed with your group conscience. It is just so important for all that can do it, to attend both a Pre-Conference Report and the Mini-Conference. It is up to you to insure that your Delegate goes to the GSC with all your input.

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*A message from your Intergroup Chair*



**W**hen I was the Intergroup Delegate for my home group, which was just a few short a few short years ago, I would watch the former Intergroup Chairperson, Clay M., running the meetings and I thought to myself, "I could become the Intergroup Chairperson." So when it was suggested I run for Intergroup Chairperson, I didn't give it much thought. Of course, after I was elected, I was informed that the position also included my doing this and this and this...but luckily my predecessors stuck by my side and guided me—fellowship in its true form. Such thoughts gave me the insight for this article. It's both an acknowledgement and a thank you to everyone that helped me along the way.

Though it was my responsibility to oversee the Intergroup Office staff, they were the ones who helped me the most. Not only were Mac, Pat and Ruth great self-sufficient employees who kept our office running smoothly,

but they were also my "go to" people for every question I had about Intergroup. With years of experience in AA and at the Intergroup Office, they were able to share their wealth of knowledge with me. They were a godsend and they made my time as Intergroup Chairperson an enjoyable experience.

Next are our Intergroup Trustees (Aaron K., Brian D., Clay M., Jim S., Ken B., Rachel H., Ray M.) and Treasurer (Ted T.). Together we were able to handle anything that came up. We spent a great deal of time discussing and preparing for the future of Intergroup. This was where the axe met the grindstone and we got things done. Not only were they a great team to work with but they gave me the hope, support and enthusiasm I needed to perform as the Intergroup Chairperson. If I looked confident and steady, it was because they were the rock that I was able to stand upon.

Then comes, as it seems to be, the patient, understanding and guiding Delegates—my bosses so to speak. The people I had to answer to. They were the most important part of my experience as Intergroup Chairperson.

Explaining to them exactly how we were serving them and hoping they were satisfied with what we were doing was very rewarding and taught me about humility. I never knew how things were going to go and I stopped trying to figure it out. They were in charge and I was only to do as I was told. A very unique experience and I am thankful I did not miss it.

A behind the scenes thank-you needs to go out to Kate H. She has been my proofreader and editor on these articles. I would have been horrified to print my copies of these articles. I was drunk and slept through much of high school, so I didn't learn much. One article had two parts and I couldn't put them together; another one didn't have an ending. She helped with all that and more. The printed insanity was all mine and the well written part was all Kate. She gave me peace of mind and I could never repay that. I guess service is a lot like recovery, when you're doing really well, it's because there's a lot of people behind the scenes helping out. It's not really about how well I'm doing but about if I'm willing to ask

for and accept the guidance offered.

With all these great people around why would anyone be afraid to get involved? In May, we are holding Intergroup's election of officers. Chairperson, Treasurer, Recording Secretary and five Trustees are all up for grabs. Remember this is your Intergroup and we really need you. The best way to find out what is going on, is to experience it for yourself. Fresh faces bring fresh new ideas. Please help us help Intergroup. Get involved. Our sobriety and our lives depend on it.

*In Love & Service,  
Your Intergroup Chair, Scott K.*

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**NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE MAY 17th  
NEWSLETTER@NNJAA.ORG**

**A Message from your Area Treasurer**



**H**ello, I am extremely grateful to be writing to you for the first time as your new Area Treasurer. A little under 12 years ago, as I walked in to the only AA meeting I was ever going to attend, I would never have believed that I would be here today. It is truly an honor and a privilege to serve you and I look forward to an exciting two years.

When my service sponsor suggested that I stand for Area Treasurer, my first thought was that; I could ever do that. As the fears subsided it dawned on me that if I was elected,—big If—would most likely be as the alternate. Well I guess my Higher Power had other plans and for that I am grateful. Early in my sobriety I realized that the first part of this program that touched my life was the 7th Tradition. When I arrived at that first meeting, the door was open for me because the members inside had taken the responsibility to make sure of it through their own contributions. As time passed, I began to learn more about all the 12 Step work done in Area 44. Oldtimers taught me that I now shared in that responsibility of not only keeping the door open like it was for me, but supporting the committees who carry the message; but GSO which produces the literature that was teaching me to live a productive life, and so on. Although my part was very small, it was as necessary as any, and the many small parts make a greater whole.

Having spent one month now recording the contributions from the

groups in Area 44 this is more evident to me now more than ever. I am blown away every time I open the mail box at the Area office. My service sponsor many times has said Area 44 rocks, and is she ever right. Not only do all the 7th Tradition contributions amaze me, but also seeing how that money is used to reach the suffering alcoholic is mind boggling. The story of Ebby needing to use a little money to carry the message to Bill has really come to life right in front of my eyes and I am more in awe of the fellowship of AA than ever.

In the past year, the fellowship asked that the Area present a balanced budget. With a lot of work from the Finance Committee, Area Officers and Committee Chairs, this was achieved and passed at this year's January Assembly. The 7th Tradition contributions for the past year reversed a downward trend over the past few years. I would like to thank the members and the groups of Area 44 for every contribution received over the last year, but also encourage you to continue this support in the same manner in 2013. Your contributions allow the message of recovery to be carried into treatment facilities, schools, to professionals and jails to name just a few ways you make it possible to reach out to the still sick and suffering alcoholic.

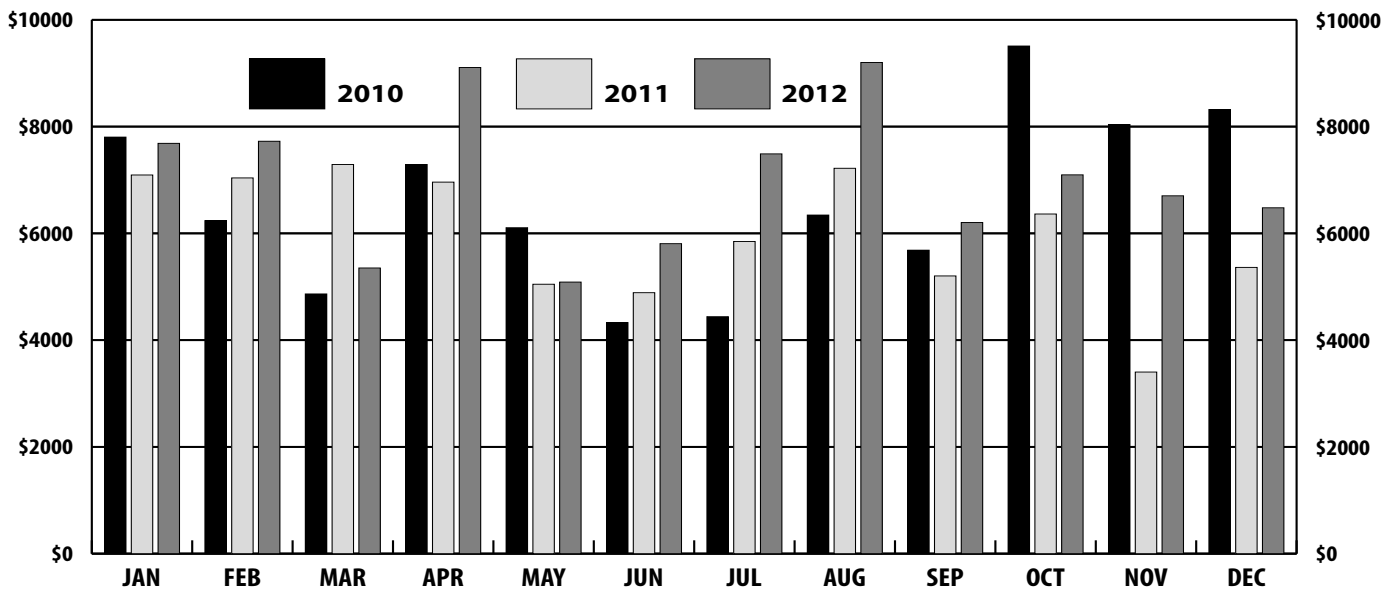
It is truly humbling to think of the trust instilled in the treasurer position. The next two years will be exciting and full of learning and growth for me, and for that I cannot find words to express my gratitude to Area 44. I know the Finance Committee and I would be happy to

RUS SERVICE CORPORATION T/A NNJGS AREA 44 YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON REPORT: 2011 AND 2012 FOR PERIOD ENDED November 30, 2012		
	2011 - Nov	2012 - Nov
<b>Money Market Account <sup>(A)</sup></b>		
Balance as of January 1st	\$42,993	\$41,261
Interest Received	36	39
Transfer (To)/From the Checking Account	(1,771)	6,451
Balance as of November 30th	<u>41,258</u>	<u>47,751 <sup>(C)</sup></u>
<b>Checking Account <sup>(A)</sup></b>		
Balance as of January 1st	\$18,796	\$18,268
Group, Individual and 7th Tradition Contributions	71,826	84,551
Other Receipts (Intergroup, Literature & Grapevine Sales, etc.)	108,076	114,257
Budgeted Expenses (Standing & Special Committees, Officers, Office, etc.)	(83,008)	(83,059) <sup>(B)</sup>
Non-Budgeted Expenses (Literature, Grapevine, Luncheon, etc.)	(96,779)	(91,043)
Transfer (To) / From the Money Market Account	1,771	6,451
Balance as of November 30th	<u>\$20,682</u>	<u>\$36,523 <sup>(C,D)</sup></u>
Prior 12 Months Avg Monthly Total Expenses Times Two. Finance Guidelines state the checking account balance should not exceed this amount.	\$31,517	\$30,440
<b>Account Balance Over / (Under) Guidelines</b>	(\$10,835)	\$6,083
<b>Prudent Reserve Funds</b>		
Total Cash In Bank (Not Including Convention Acct)	\$61,940	\$84,274
Designated Funds (Jailbox Funds, etc.)	(2,474)	(3,215)
Checking Account Guideline (2 months average expenses)	(31,517)	(30,440)
	<u>\$27,949</u>	<u>\$50,619</u>
<b>Prudent Reserve (50% of the prior 12 months Operating Expenses)</b>	<u>\$45,343</u>	<u>\$46,332</u>
<b>Account Balance Over / (Under) Guidelines</b>	\$17,394	\$4,287
<b>FOOTNOTES</b>		
(A) Details of all income and expense items, as well as a comparison of Operating Expenses to the Annual Expense Budget are available from the Treasurer.		
(B) 2012 Expense Budget is \$114,043.		
(C) November 30, 2012 Checking and Money Market Balances have been reconciled to the Bank Statements by the Finance Committee.		
(D) November 30, 2012 amount includes Designated Funds of \$3,215 of Jailbox Contributions.		
<b>Summary of Official Approvals / Reviews</b>		
<b>Individual / Group</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Completed Through</b>
Treasurer	Approved	Nov., 2012
Alternate Treasurer	Approved	Nov., 2012
Finance Committee	Approved	Nov., 2012
Officers	Reviewed	Nov., 2012
Area Committee Members	Approved	Nov., 2012
Area Assembly	Approved	Mar., 2012

come to your district or home group to speak. I thank you and look forward to serving Area 44 for the next

two years to the best of my abilities.  
*In Love and Service,*  
**Wayne G., Area 44 Treasurer**

**Monthly Group Contributions To Area 44 from January 2010 Through December 2012**



**Cooperation with the Professional Community**



**Greetings everyone**

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you all. My name is Lisa and I have been given the privilege and honor to serve you as the new Area 44 Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) Chair.

I never thought I would be writing an article for this newsletter, let alone serve as your Area CPC Chair. It has been a year of changes for me. Previously I was on the committee as the District 35 CPC Chair (it's still open if anyone is interested). I never expected to become the Area Chair.

When I was asked by the outgoing chairperson, I said I would check with my sponsor. In the meantime, I was in my head thinking; "I can't do this," "What if I fail?" and all the other excuses why I couldn't do this. When I finally discussed this with my sponsor I was totally expecting her to agree with me. Boy, was I surprised when she said it was a privilege and an honor to be asked, and she said she had confidence in me and would support me. She even joined the committee! I was too busy focusing on the negatives and the positive never entered my mind. This is a real eye opener for me and I am learning so much about service work

outside my home group. Who Knew? I am grateful for this opportunity and will do my best to serve you. Being on the CPC Committee has been very rewarding and also has enhanced my sobriety. I found myself thinking, "uh oh"; is this all there is to being sober? "I was stuck. I felt that I needed to do something in addition to just going to meetings. That's when my Higher Power stepped in and gently nudged me towards service work. I learned about all the other service committees when I decided to go to the District Meeting. It just so happened that there was an opening for a district CPC chair....Coincidence? I don't think so.

If you are wondering what CPC is all about and what we do, please come to a committee meeting. We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Area Office in South Plainfield at 8:00pm. We also can attend one of your district meetings and give a brief presentation about CPC and answer any questions, or speak at one of your AA meetings. I had no idea that this or any other committee existed until I attended my district meeting.

I can't say enough about what a great experience this is and I've met so many great people. I no longer think "Is this all there is to being sober?" A whole new world has opened up for me. If you are bored or feel "stuck" like I did, join a committee and try doing some service work.

*Yours in service and gratitude,  
Lisa S., Area 44 CPC Chair*

**Area Translation Committee**



I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as your new Translation Chair for Area 44. The gratitude for being able to be of service in this capacity could never be expressed in words. I am glad I was placed in this position. As with everything that happens in my life today, this is not what I expected and I am amazed how I'm always exactly where I'm supposed to be.

This is an exciting opportunity to include other communities into our Area 44 happenings by providing them a voice and a vehicle for their participation/involvement with the

Area. The Translation Committee is currently working on setting up some Committee Guidelines, which will include our purpose and the services we would like to offer the area.

As with any new Committee, there is a huge need for Committee members and volunteers to help out with translating Area 44 and General Service Conference related materials, and with verbal translation at our area events, in Spanish and maybe even Polish. If you or anyone that know is interested in providing translation services, please contact us at [translation@nnjaa.org](mailto:translation@nnjaa.org). As always, feedback and ideas are always welcomed.

*In Love and Service, Martha R., Area Translation Chair*

**Public Information Committee**



Hi. My name is Tom D. and I have the pleasure of serving you as the Public Information Chair for Area 44. I would like to tell you a little about me and how I got into PI. I came into AA on June 16, 2003. I got into service in the District 9 in 2008 as the GSR of my home group and became interested in Public Information in 2010 going to various assemblies and meeting people involved in the area. I joined the committee in 2011 and became the alternate chair in 2012. I believe my

passion for PI comes from how I got here on June 16, 2003. I found AA in the phone book. While people today do not use phone books any longer because of all the new technology in the world today, I believe I can help the still sick and suffering alcoholic utilizing the new technology. My committee is very enthusiastic and you will be hearing about various ideas that they have to reach the yet still sick and suffering and their families to carry the message of this wonderful program. If you have any questions about what we do as a committee or how you can help, please e-mail me at [pi@nnjaa.org](mailto:pi@nnjaa.org).

*Yours in service, Tom D., Area Public Information Chair*

**Area Committee on Corrections**



Greetings from your Corrections Committee. My first exposure to our committee came when I accompanied a sponsee to one of our bi-monthly Corrections meetings. He was interested in speaking at jails so I went along to "support him." It was mentioned at the meeting that the committee was in need of an Alternate Chair. At that point a "God moment" occurred. Out of the blue "Someone"

in my head asked "why not you?" I left the meeting as the Alternate Corrections Chair. That was almost a year ago. Our committee has some extremely dedicated and knowledgeable members and I am enjoying learning how best to serve as its Chair. Along with Beth C., our Alternate, and all the other committee members, we will continue to try and carry the AA message into Jails and Prisons in Area 44.

Our next committee meeting is 10am Saturday March 16th at our Area office, 2325 Plainfield Avenue, Suite 2J (rear entrance) South Plain-

field, NJ 07080. Be sure to look for our Corrections Conference announcement in this issue, its 10am Saturday May 18th at our Area Office. Last year we had corrections professionals, a judge and Corrections Committee members from other areas speak and answer questions. Be sure to check out our new "Video Display" at our next Area Assembly.

Finally, thank you to all who contribute to the Jail Box and Pink Can. Without your help we could not do our work.

*In AA Love and Service, Bill J.  
Area 44 Corrections Chair*

**NORTHERN NJ INTERGROUP & AREA 44  
2013 Corrections Conference  
Saturday, May 18th  
9am-12:30pm**

- Guest Speakers
- Local Commitments Available for all AAs
  - AA In Correctional Facilities DVD
  - Continental Breakfast & Hot Lunch
  - Committee Members & Corrections
  - Corrections Professionals Share
- at the  
Area Office  
2325 Plainfield Avenue, Suite 2J (rear entrance) South Plainfield  
for more information  
contact us at [ctc@nnjaa.org](mailto:ctc@nnjaa.org)



**The Corrections Committee would like to thank the following groups and districts for their Pink Can and Jail Box contributions**

- |   |  |  |   |                                   |
|---|--|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| Baptistown, Speak Your Peace  | Cedar Knolls Woman's Group             | Hawthorne, St. Anthony's Monday Nite   | Oakland, Change is Good Group           | Stanhope Group                    |
| Belleville, Forest Hills Group                                      | Chester Group                          | January 2013 Hawthorne Assembly        | Ogdensburg, Downtown Serenity Group     | Three Bridges, Thursday Miracles  |
| Belleville, Recovery Hall   | Clifton, 3 Legacies Group              | Jersey City, Friday Night Candlelight  | Pattensburg Primary Purpose             | Upper Ridgewood Group             |
| Belleville Thursday Night Group                                     | Cranford Tuesday Night                 | Keansburg Thursday Night Winners Group | Peapack Gladstone Group                 | Verona, Hill Street Blues         |
| Bogata, Sahara Club,  | Denville, Union Hill Grapevine Meeting | Keyport, Keepin' It Real Group         | Point Pleasant Beach Monday Night       | Verona, Monday 12:15              |
| Noon, Sunset, 10:10pm   | Districts 1 & 2 Alkathon               | Keyport, Road to Recovery Group        | Point Pleasant Beach, Safe Harbor Group | Vernon Monday Night               |
| Fri., 9am   | District 28                            | Linden, Friends of Bill W.             | Red Bank Friday Night                   | Verona Tuesday Night              |
| Sat. Mens, 12pm; Womens, 6pm; 10:10pm; 10:59; 11:30am Sun; 3pm Sun. | District 34                            | Madison, The Cedar Group               | Ridgewood, Saturday Nite Village Center | Vernon Reflections Group          |
| Bound Brook, Saturday Night   | East Brunswick - Give & Take           | Matawan Smog Lifters Group             | Ringwood, The Sky's the Limit Group     | Waldwick, Bagel Bash              |
| Caldwell Tuesday 6:45 Big Book                                      | Edison, Primary Purpose                | Millburn 1PM Big Book                  | Rockaway, Grapevine Group               | Wantage Big Book                  |
|   | Flemington, Serenity Seekers Group     | Newark, New Ironbound Group            | Rockaway, Union Hill                    | Westfield, I Am Responsible       |
|   | Freehold, Morning Miracles             | New Brunswick Wednesday Nite           | Rocky Hill Group                        | West Orange, Women's Step Meeting |
|   | Garwood Friday Night                   | New Providence, Dawn Patrol            | South Amboy, New Beginnings             | Westwood Morning After Group      |
|   | Haledon, On A Different Footing        | North Brunswick, Step Up To Sobriety   | South River Friday Night                |                                   |

### Mid-Winter Luncheon Committee



**M**archeta B, reporting from the NNJGS AREA 44 GSR MID-WINTER Luncheon which was held on February 17, 2013, at the Forsgate Country Club. I had the honor of serving as the Alternate Ticket Chair. Fortunately for me, I was working with an awesome team so my duties were minimal. It was suggested that I write a closing article and interview one of the Luncheon speakers. Here is an excerpt of my exclusive with Jim M., G.S.O. Staff Member, Group Services Desk.

**M:** Hi Jim, can you please tell me something about yourself?

**J:** Sure, my sobriety date is February 13, 2000. My home group is the Long Beach-High Noon/West End in Long Island, New York.

**M:** Jim can you tell me a something about your job at the General Service Office?

**J:** I am one of the special workers that A.A. employs, as written about in Tradition 8 – I handle correspondence and communication,

Q&A, DCM / GSR Kits and serve as a liaison between GSO and local offices in U.S. and Canada.

**M:** Jim at the beginning of your talk you conveyed so much gratitude and appreciation for AA.

Can you share with the readers one thing you are grateful for?

**J:** Everything, the past 13 years, I am grateful to God as I understand him and that even difficult times can be wonderful teaching tools. When I came into the program I heard men talking about things that I could relate to. As I work with others, doing step work and they share something, I find myself saying “me too,” and I am able to help them. As indicated in our literature and I paraphrase, “Our dark past is the greatest asset we have... We go from being useless to useful.”

**M:** Jim, you talked about the time when drinking was your solution; can you share how the GSR Mid-Winter Luncheon allows you to stay in the “new” solution?

**J:** A meeting allows us to work on our own personal recovery or to reach out and help another person. Service events, such as today’s Luncheon, is an opportunity to gather as a spiritu-

ally. The solution becomes how we can carry the message. Today, I heard a GSR mention that sometimes he feels alone or feels as if others might not be as interested in some of the concerns and information that a GSR has to convey as a service rep. The Luncheon is a time that is set aside to showcase GSRs. It epitomizes the solution – taking action as opposed to just talking about it. It also let’s all GSR’s encourage each other and reaffirms that they are not alone.

**M:** Very well said and as the GSR for my home group “Booze U Lose (shameless plug), I can definitely relate and agree with that. Jim any surprises during the Luncheon?

**J:** I had an opportunity to meet a woman at the corrections table who also submitted an article to the General Service Office. Her commitment to service and the chance to meet her was quite a surprise.

**M:** Jim, as we wrap up this interview, – can you tell me if this is your first GSR luncheon and did you have any expectations?

**J:** This is my first GSR Luncheon and I always have expectations from God as I understand him, whether he shows up through a baby, but-

terfly or a sober alcoholic. That was evident when alcoholics made a decision to show up at a planned event and they all showed up.

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### A Message From Next Year's Chair

**H**ave you ever wondered how AA events come together? Well they are planned by interested AA volunteers just like yourself.

The GSR Mid-Winter Luncheon is just such an event. The committee meets once a month. The day and time for the committee meeting are agreed upon, at the first meeting, by the new committee members for the upcoming year’s luncheon. At this first meeting the subsequent dates and times are agreed upon.

The first committee meeting, this year, will be held on July 9th at 7:30pm in the area office, 2325 South Plainfield Avenue, in Plainfield. So, if you are no stranger to service or if you are a novice and want to know what it is all about please join us.

*In love and service always,  
Patricia S., 2014 GSR  
Mid-Winter Luncheon Chair*

### Area Literature Committee



**M**y name is Maureen R. and I am honored and privileged to serve as your Literature Committee Chairperson. My home group is the Tuesday night Kinnelon Big Book meeting. I have a sponsor and a service sponsor. I want to thank Bobby B. and the entire committee for all their work over the last two years. You have done a great job I hope we can continue to serve Area 44’s literature needs.

Last year I was at NERAASA in Albany, NY and having lunch with a Standing Committee member when I asked how someone begins to get involved in service on the Area level. Taking a suggestion I was given—a few months after that lunch—I attended the Literature Committee Meeting and asked how I could help. I left that meeting as the Alternate Literature Chairperson and was quickly thrust into service for the Area. What a ride it has been in such a short time.

I have learned all about what Conference-Approved literature is and what it is not. The term “Conference-approved” describes written or audiovisual material approved by the General Service Conference for publication by GSO. This process assures that everything in such literature is in accord with AA principles.

Conference-approved material always deals with the recovery program of Alcoholics Anonymous or with information about the AA Fellowship.”

(Service Material from the General Service Office “CONFERENCE-APPROVED LITERATURE” [http://www.aa.org/en\\_pdfs/smf-29\\_en.pdf](http://www.aa.org/en_pdfs/smf-29_en.pdf))

The Area 44 Literature Committee distributes Conference approved literature to AA groups and members in Northern New Jersey. The Committee purchases literature in bulk and sells at list price. Proceeds support the 12 step work of your Standing Committees: Public Information, Cooperation with the Professional Community, Treatment Facilities and Correctional Facilities, by providing them with AA literature to help them carry the message.

The Literature Committee is made up of District Literature Representative (Reps) from all over Area 44. Currently, we have about 7 reps representing districts within Area 44 at our monthly meeting and are looking forward to meeting the remaining district reps next month. If your district does not have a literature representative, the Literature Committee is happy to visit with your district—by invitation—to bring information about our committee.

The work involved in servicing our Area needs people. We have

*continued on page 12*

### THIS DAY www.nnjaa.org from your newsletter committee

### Hey Gang...

**I**t seems the theme for this issue of *This Day* is “Greeting, my name is... and I am the new chair of...”

Well that won’t be the theme for this committee. You see we don’t have an area chair for *This Day* so John E., the past Area Chair, and I, the Editor will stay on until God sends us one. While we are on the topic I will be retiring and moving in a little over a year so the newsletter is also going to need a *This Day* Editor and graphic designer.

You see it doesn’t take much to be an “editor.” I went to school, I know good grammar and spelling—to be honest I know how to read, the computer knows how to spell—but you see there is a lot more than that to publish an issue of *This Day*.

I was also a graphic designer by trade and what a pleasure it was to be able to design a newsletter without having to answer to the complaints and bad suggestions from clients. The only rules I have to adhere to are AA’s Steps and Traditions.

Designing each issue includes typing articles that are sent—unless they are emailed—in which case they are already typed but need to be formatted

and fitted into the available space.

I then take all of the articles and place them into a page-makeup application on my computer. In 1995 it was PageMaker. Over the years I switched to Quark XPress and now use InDesign. The entire issue is assembled on the computer and after all edits the file is emailed to our printer in South Jersey who prints 5,000 copies.

When the copies are done I drive to South Jersey to pick them up to bring back to the area office. At the area office I receive mailing labels for all of the 1,200 groups in Area 44 to apply to the newsletters and prepare them for bulk mailing.

If any of this makes sense to you, you just might be a graphic designer/Editor/Pickup Service/Mailing Committee member.

I guess the most important skill that the area needs is a graphic designer who is familiar with the page-makeups software that I mentioned.

As I mentioned earlier, I will be around for the next year plus some, but after that will be preparing to head west in retirement. If any of this interests you, I invite you to join our committee. We meet every 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:30pm at the Area Office, 2325 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield. Or, you can contact me at our web address [newsletter@nnjaa.org](mailto:newsletter@nnjaa.org)

*Yours in service, Bill L., Editor*

## 2013 Area 44 Mini-Conference Topics and Discussion Items

### TOPIC I: COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

A. Should the proposed revisions to the text in the section Referrals From Court and Treatment Facilities in the pamphlet "If You Are a Professional..." be made to reflect current A.A. experience?

#### Background

The trustees Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community received a request to revise a section under the heading "Proof of Attendance at Meetings" in the pamphlet, *If You Are a Professional* to better reflect current AA experience and agreed to forward the suggestion to the 2013 Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community.

The request came from the delegate from Arizona. They suggested 3 changes:

1) to add the rewording, (*shown as follows in bold type*), to the first bullet point under the section titled "Referrals from Court and Treatment Facilities"

- **Each group is autonomous.** Some groups with the consent of the prospective member have the AA group secretary sign or initial a slip that has been furnished by the court. The referred person supplies identification and mails the slip back to the court as proof of attendance; the slip and reports back to the court as proof of attendance.

2 & 3) to reword the 2nd paragraph under the section titled "How to Make Referrals to AA" as shown below:

Or, you can also contact the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous for help and information. Write: at:

P.O. Box 459  
Grand Central Station  
New York, NY 10163  
Or phone: (212) 870-3400

Excerpt from "AA Guidelines"

Cooperating with Court, DWI and Similar Programs  
Item #MG-05 (1/12)

E. Proof of attendance at AA meetings.

It is important for the judge to understand that attendance at AA meetings does not guarantee anybody's future sobriety. Nevertheless, some judges require legal, written proof that offenders have attended a certain number of meetings. Often, when the court-ordered newcomer attends an AA meeting, the group secretary (or other group officer) is happy to sign their first name, or to initial a slip furnished

by the court saying so-and-so was at the meeting on a particular date. All involved recognize that neither the group or the members are "bound" in any way by the signature, nor does this courtesy signify affiliation of the group with any other program. It simply illustrates cooperation. In some areas, courts furnish cooperating AA groups with sealed, stamped envelopes addressed to the court. In general, the secretary of the group announces that anybody needing an envelope may get it after the meeting. The newcomer takes the envelope, privately writes his or her name and/or return address on it, and mails it. In other areas, each cooperating group has a sheet, furnished by the court, that the secretary announces is available for court ordered newcomers to sign after the meeting. The secretary mails the sheet (in envelopes furnished by the referring agency) to the office sending prospects to AA. Thus it is not the AA group, but the prospect's own signature which affirms he or she was at the meeting. It is important to note that an Advisory Action of the 1983 Conference Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community states "AA does not provide letters of reference to parole boards, lawyers, court officials, social agencies, employers, etc."

Although the above paragraph, *E. Proof of attendance at AA meetings*, is not part of the suggested changes, it was referenced when the suggested rewording was proposed. I've reproduced this information here because few AA groups have read the yellow guideline sheets that GSO has to offer on various topics. For your information *The AA Guidelines* are available for free and can be read or downloaded by going to [aa.org](http://aa.org), clicking on the tab "AA Literature," clicking on "AA Guidelines," and then selecting a guideline sheet that you would like to read. The paragraph, *E. Proof of attendance at AA meetings*, reprinted here is taken from GSO's yellow Guideline sheet entitled *Cooperating with Court, DWI and Similar Programs*  
Item #MG-05 (1/12).

#### Pros

- The 3 changes suggested by the area seem to be a no-brainer. The suggested new words "Each group is autonomous." to be added to the second bullet in the pamphlet *If You Area a Professional* lets the professional know that not all AA groups will wish to cooperate.
- The second and third suggested changes eliminate redundant words that makes contacting GSO more obvious.
- It eliminates envelope and mailing information which doesn't apply in all areas, i.e. Area 44.

#### Cons

I can't think of any reason why any AA would object to clarifying what AA does and doesn't do.

What does your group think? Does the rewording to the pamphlet *If You Area a Professional* improve the AA message of how we cooperate with professionals?

### TOPIC II: GRAPEVINE (LA VIÑA MAGAZINE)

A. Taking the 2012 assessment of the La Viña print magazine into account, should the requirement for the current format, i.e. 68 pages, perfect bound, etc. be discontinued?

#### Background

A 2010 Advisory Action recommended that *La Viña* be published as a bimonthly, perfect-bound, black-and-white, 68-page issue at an additional estimated cost of \$21,400 per year for one year beginning in 2011 followed by a year of review and assessment in 2012. The results of this review and assessment are as follows.

Highlights of the "2013 Office Report of *La Viña*" were:

- Management increased the freelance staff for the new *La Viña* from Jan/Feb 2011 to Nov/Dec 2012 issue, and actual circulation increased by 8.56%.
- The *La Viña* editor travelled to Spanish language Areas conducting many writing workshops across the US and Canada. Annual submissions increased from 204 in 2010 to 548 in 2012.

	2011	2012
Bimonthly	X	X
Perfect Bound	X	X
Black and White	X	X
68-pages	X	X
\$21,400	\$22,400	\$22,400
Circulation Growth	8,563	9,296 (+8.56%)

- *La Viña* expenses rose in 2012 due to salary adjustments and a \$29,000 increase in employee benefits.

	2010	2011	2012
Paid Circulation	8,741	8,982	9,157
Magazine Income	28,642	54,223	52,928
Cost & Expenses	126,802	140,451	181,285
Net Loss for Period	75,480	69,723	115,819

#### Yes, Discontinue the New Format

It is obvious that we can not afford to continue these losses. Let's go back to the previous format. Although the previous format was not perfect-bound and could not be brought into some jails and prisons.

#### Continue With the New Format

Lets continue with the new format. Don't look at the bottom line as a profit/loss. Sales have increased over the past couple of years which coincides with the changes made to the *La Viña* format.

What does your group think? With those statistics taken into account, should *La Viña* go back to the old non-perfect bound, less pages, etc. – to save some money – or stay as it is with the perfect binding and extra pages? Was the increase in sales based on the format change or some other reason? Do we risk losing sales if we go back to the old format?

### TOPIC III: LITERATURE

A. Should we replace language in the second paragraph of the dust jacket of the 4th Edition of Alcoholics Anonymous?

#### Background

At the 2012 Conference discussed the request to add text from the dust jacket of the 3rd Edition of the Big Book to the dust jacket of the 4th Edition and decided to take no action. The reason the conference

### Delegate Pre-Conference Report Schedule – 2013

- SECTION 1: Tuesday, March 12th @ 7:30pm. Abundant Life Reformed Church 475 Lafayette Avenue, Wyckoff. Hosted by Districts 4/6
- SECTION 2: Friday, March 22nd @ 7:30pm. Little Falls United Methodist Church, 139 Main Street, Little Falls. Hosted by District 11/33
- SECTION 3: Wednesday, March 6th @ 7:00pm. Panther Valley Ecumenical Church, 1490 Route 517, Hackettstown. Hosted by District 8
- SECTION 4: was Saturday, March 16th @ Hunterdon Medical Center (Auditorium) 2100 Wescott Dr, Flemington. Hosted by District 15/21
- SECTION 5: Wednesday, March 20th @ 7:00pm. Cook College Extension Center, College Farm Road, New Brunswick. Hosted by District 22
- SECTION 6: Wednesday, March 13th @ 7:00pm. Avon United Methodist Ch, 507 Garfield Ave. crnr of 5th, Avon by the Sea. Hosted by District 28
- DISTRICT 30: Sunday, March 24th @ 1:00pm. (Spanish-speaking) 256 Mulberry Street, 2nd Floor, Newark. Hosted by District 30

## Mini-Conference

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committee took no action was

- 1) "it was unclear to the committee whether the original language was to replace current language or be added"
- 2) "concern that such action would set a precedent for requiring conference approval of dust jacket text"

The original area re-drafted their agenda item to clearly state the placement of the suggested text and respectfully request that the Trustee' Literature Committee consider it at the 2013 Conference.

"To replace the second paragraph on the inside front flap of the dust jacket with the following:

"At the time of the third edition, in March 1976, the worldwide membership of AA was estimated at 1,000,000 or more. Copies of "Alcoholics Anonymous" in circulation exceeded 1,450,000. In 1995, the General Service Conference approved the recommendation: "The first 164 pages of the Big Book, "Alcoholics Anonymous," the Preface, the Forewords, "The Doctor's Opinion," "Doctor Bob's Nightmare" and the Appendices remain as is." (replace with: *The basic text (pages 1-164) remains unchanged. This is the AA message, just as it was introduced in the 1939 edition of Alcoholics Anonymous, the book that gave the young fellowship its name.*)"

### Pros

Area 26 Kentucky maintains that the book was written to ensure that our message would not become garbled; "To show other alcoholics *precisely how we have recovered* is the main purpose of this book." They continue, "The language that clearly defined where to find our message no longer appears on the dust jacket and since this may be the first thing one reads in the Fourth Edition of the *Big Book*, it is important that the dust jacket point exactly to where our message can be found."

And finally that the Conference should certainly consider that the text that appears on the dust jacket is in fact a part of the book and should be Conference Approved.

### Cons

It is all a matter of semantics. Either way, I won't drink over it. Most dust jackets of Big Books — that are used — become tattered and quickly disappear anyway. Those who want to read the Big Book in public—without announcing to the world that they are alcoholics—quickly remove the dust jacket anyway. If you are worried about your Big Book collecting dust, you are missing something anyway.

What does your group think? How important is the wording on the dust jacket to your group?

### B. Should we add "Nonalcoholics may attend open meetings as observers" to the end of the open meeting side of the Primary Purpose (blue) card?

#### Background

A request was made from Area 64, Tennessee to the Trustees Committee on Literature to add additional language to the Primary Purpose card that is read at the beginning of many AA meetings in order "to make the open meeting description be "Uniform" in all A.A. literature."

The primary purpose 'blue card' (F-17) was made available as a service piece by the 1987 General Service Conference. It contains suggested language

that groups may read before an open or closed meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. This request relates to the open meeting statement. The following is the text that appears on the primary purpose card with the suggested addition in bold.

*This is an open meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. We are glad you are all here — especially newcomers. In keeping with our singleness of purpose and our Third Tradition which states that "The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking," we ask that all who participate confine their discussion to their problems with alcohol. "Nonalcoholics may attend open meetings as observers."*

Where else does this message appear? In the pamphlet *The AA Group... Where It All Begins* (P-16) in the section: "The Difference Between Open and Closed A.A. Meetings."

*"The purpose of all A.A. group meetings, as the Preamble states, is for A.A. members to "share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism." Toward this end, A.A. groups have both open and closed meetings. Open meetings are available to anyone interested in Alcoholics Anonymous' program of recovery from alcoholism. Nonalcoholics may attend open meetings as observers."*

The 2012 Conference put forth an advisory action that a similar change be made to the pamphlet *A message to Corrections Professionals* (P-20)" in the section "Singleness of purpose and problems other than alcohol" — to include wording that is consistent with the description of the difference between Open and Closed meetings in the pamphlet *The A.A. Group*, to read as follows:

"Some professionals refer to alcoholism and drug addiction as "substance abuse" or "chemical dependency." Nonalcoholics are, therefore, sometimes introduced to A.A. and encouraged to attend A.A. meetings. Nonalcoholics may attend open A.A. meetings as observers, but only those with a drinking problem may attend closed A.A. meetings."

Our fifth tradition states "Each Alcoholics Anonymous group ought to be a spiritual entity having but one primary purpose—that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers."

The pamphlet *Problems other than Alcohol* (F-8) contains the following excerpts from a Grapevine article, (February 1958) by Bill W., representing principles which have been reaffirmed by the GSC (1969, 1970, 1972):

1. *Can a nonalcoholic pill or drug addict become an A.A. member? No.*
2. *"Can such a person be brought, as a visitor, to an open A.A. meeting for help and inspirations? Yes.*
3. *If so, should these nonalcoholic pill or drug users be led to believe that they have become A.A. members? No.*

### Pros

- Making this singleness of purpose statement consistent will avoid confusion and provide clear direction to all non-members and friends of AA.
- This supports our primary purpose while still remaining welcoming to all who are interested in Alcoholics Anonymous.
- Including this on our primary purpose card helps reinforce the 5th tradition at the group and meeting

level.

- This could help members who may not know how to handle a non-AA member in a meeting. Reading this statement before a meeting begins may avoid awkward moments during a meeting.
- If we aren't clear about the limits of a nonalcoholic's participation at an A.A. meeting aren't we leading the nonalcoholic into thinking that they are or can become an AA member?

### Cons

- Putting this phrase on the primary purpose card, which is read before most meetings, may have more impact and more weight, than when it's included in individual pamphlets.
- We may be preventing a newcomer, who may be confused about his or her alcoholism, or unwilling to admit to being an alcoholic yet from participating and becoming a 'part of the group'.
- Could adding this language unintentionally supersede the autonomy of groups guaranteed them in the 4th tradition?

### C. Should we add an index to the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous?

#### Recommendation

A request was received from a District in Canada supporting the creation of an Index to the Big Book. The suggestion came out of a home group and was widely supported by the District. It was noted that items could include key phrases, prayers, where to find the steps, etc. It was further clarified that the purpose was not to facilitate a quick fix but to make the study of, and reference to, our basic text more user friendly. The home group and district believe that this proposal should be considered by AA to assist in our study of our basic text.

#### Background

As support and background, the District noted that they reached out to the GSO Archivist and learned an attempt was made in the 1970's to create an index; however, it was created as a separate book and was published in small quantities. Upon further investigation with the GSO archivist, it was clarified that multiple copies of an index were distributed by an individual in the early 1970s. As there was interest in the work, the author sent a copy to the AAWS Board where it was copyrighted to prevent distribution while it was being evaluated. The general consensus of the review was that it "was of more value to scholars and not to the 'average recovering drunk.'" The Board was reluctant to publish any document which might tend to lend authoritarian force or rigidity to the "AA program."

The district also noted that they believed there was a need as the topic had come to the conference several times including being a Conference Consideration in 1999, but it did not make it out of committee. In the additional review with the GSO Archivist, the reply stated that "I could find no instances in which a proposed index had ever been forwarded as an Agenda Item to the General Service Conference. In the History and Actions of the General Service Conference Committee on Literature, the only mention of an index was in the Additional Committee Consideration which came out of the Committee on Literature in 1999. This was not a result of a proposed conference Agenda Item, as there was none in the background from that year or the previous year, either for the Trustees' Committee on Literature or the

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## Mini-Conference

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conference Committee on Literature. In the absence of any written details, one might assume it arose as part of the Conference Committee on Literature's discussion that year of the proposed Fourth Edition Big Book, and the Additional Committee Consideration as written was "The committee strongly suggested that no index be included in the Fourth Edition Big Book."

So at this time should we again consider the index?

### Pros

- Our book is called and referenced as our basic text—not just once but a couple of times throughout. So what do you do with a text book? Well you study it. You may form a study group. You start to highlight and underline all kinds of things—important things that mean something to you the reader. Would an index be helpful in this case? Yes, it would make it easy to find those items you highlighted and wanted to reference again at a later date.
- As a meeting chair you could find topics quick and easy.
- When sitting with the newcomer it could make it easy to find something or the newcomer could sit at home by themselves and go at this whole recovery thing on their own.
- As noted in the recommendation there are numerous index lists published externally supporting that there is a need/demand for one. This would put the index right in the Big Book eliminating the need for two separate documents.

### Cons

- Would this make it too easy in the study of our program?
- If we can easily find what we are looking for on our own, do we remove the fellowship of sharing what we found in the pages of the book that has saved our lives?
- Do we discourage reading the entire text only using it as a reference guide?

## TOPIC IV: PUBLIC INFORMATION

### A. Should A.A.W.S. use commissioned online stores to sell and distribute digital A.A. literature?

#### Background

The AA publishing company, AAWS, (Alcoholics Anonymous World Services), realizes that more and more of our members and potential members are looking for electronic versions of our literature. In 2009 they tried using Amazon to distribute a Kindle version of the *Big Book* and *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*. Unfortunately advertising shown around any purchase of the books gave the impression that we were affiliated with other titles and authors, advertisements and referrals and the books were removed from Amazon. Following the removal of the *Big Book* from sale on Amazon, AAWS continued to receive requests for an electronic version of the *Big Book* and other AA literature. In order to avoid the concerns voiced at the 2009 Conference, and in order to maintain digital rights management, the AAWS Board determined to create its own applications for both the IOS Operating System on Apple handheld devices and for handheld devices using the Android System (Apps). These Apps were to be sold directly from a newly created online store, removing any objections to third party sales. The budget called for \$411,000 to be allocated over two

years for development of the Apps, creation of the online store, and transfer of the texts to appropriate electronic formats. The IOS App was released in December of 2011. While functional, the App was less than ideal, and many users found it inferior to eReaders such as the iBooks, Kindle and Nook.

There were unexpected changes in technology, extensive development time and high costs to support these Apps. These areas were not fully anticipated when AAWS began the eBook project. These challenges delayed the releases of both a modified version of the IOS App specifically for the iPad and the Android version of the eReader. In the summer of 2012, AAWS conducted an intensive review of its work on the eBooks project. One of the conclusions of this review was that creating and maintaining AAWS eReader Apps was not going to be sustainable in the long run, due to the changes in technology, extensive development time and high costs to support these Apps. Over the course of 2011 and 2012, approximately \$248,000 of the budgeted \$411,000 was spent on the eBook effort to make it operational. Since the launch of eBooks, AAWS has sold 5,118 *Big Book* and 4,553 of the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*. Total sales income for both books was \$58,026.

As AAWS recognized that the cost and effort to maintain eReader Apps were much greater than originally budgeted, would not be recouped by sales of eBooks, and would drain other GSO resources, the question of what to do next arose. AA members with eReaders continued to regularly ask for AAWS to provide the service of digital literature that they could read on their devices. In 2011, the General Service Conference passed an Advisory Action giving AA Grapevine, Inc. permission to use third-party vendors to sell its material, and by this time several Grapevine eBooks were being sold this way.

### Pros

AAWS has determined that in order to make digital versions of A.A. literature available to the widest number of A.A. members and others interested, that selling through third-party vendors would be required. In coming to this conclusion, the AAWS Board agreed that selling through third-party vendors using currently standard practices in the publishing industry was not contrary to A.A. Traditions, and would maintain the digital rights management necessary to protect copyrights. They understand that on their sales sites, third-party vendors may let customers know what other people who bought an AA book also purchased, and may include reader comments about the book on the page. It was also understood that pricing for each third-party vendor may vary according to that vendor's contracting. Because of the previous unsuccessful attempt to sell through third-party vendors, AAWS determined to ask the General Service Conference to weigh in on this matter. They passed a motion to forward the following agenda item to the Conference: "Consider the request from AAWS for permission to use commissioned online stores to sell and distribute digital AA literature."

### Cons

The Fellowship voiced concerns in 2009 about the possible interpretation of endorsement or affiliation with other products or authors when then Kindle product was being sold. While these appearances on the screen are the way distributors increase their sales and most consumers understand they are marketing tools and not affiliation, do we want our Conference Approved literature shown alongside

other non-A.A. literature? While the AA Grapevine has been allowed to market this way, does our Basic Text fall in the same category as Grapevine anthologies? If we do not have the money or resources to enter into the digital landscape with our literature without using third-party vendors, perhaps we might do better to wait until clear, acceptable distribution channels and stable technologies emerge.

## TOPIC V: TRUSTEES

### A. Should the General Service Board's proposed plan for an "interlocking directorate" of the directors of the A.A.W.S. Board and the A.A. Grapevine Board be approved?

#### Background

What is an interlocking directorate? It is a Board structure whereby board directors serve on more than one board. It is deemed legal as long as the boards served by the directors are not competitive in nature or being. Thus, proposed use of an interlocking directorate by the General Service Board of A.A. for AAWS. and A.GV Boards is legal.

#### Pros:

- This set up aids in efficient operations and financial stability by exchange of information and ideas for improvements in operations.
- Reductions of cost by use of shared services; financial, technology, office space, design and development of products.
- Consistent accounting and reporting practices.
- Improved communications and transparency by sharing of Board Meeting minutes.
- Encourages collaborative actions.

#### Cons:

- Use of interlocking directorate by AA General Service Board has not reduced the number of Directors or participants. Total membership on corporate Boards remains at 17. Associated costs are retained (travel, hotel, meals, etc.). Potential cost avoidance not realized.
- Changes to corporate by-laws, AAWS, AAGV, AA General Service Board, should be identified and changed to the greatest extent possible, prior to start up and implementation of the plan.
- Decision should be made on if there will be 1 member serving as Chairperson on the Board or 2 prior to implementation of plan.
- Partial change will not reverse financial instabilities of AAGV Should be all or nothing change. One corporation instead of 2, shown as Option 2 in Plan; or separation of activities as described in plan by implementation of Option 3 describing use of AAWS Services Office and AA Media Services Office.
- Lack of suggested solutions or plans to address the major issue preventing AAGV from being profitable; lack of magazine subscriptions and lack of participation of membership to assist in resolving this issue.

## TOPIC VI: ARCHIVES

### A. Should A.A.W.S. publish a commemorative "75th Anniversary Edition" of the First Edition, First Printing of Alcoholics Anonymous in April 1944?

#### Background

AAs often ask how does a topic get added to the final Conference Agenda? This topic is a perfect example of just how a conference agenda item comes to be.

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## Mini-Conference

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An area Archives Committee had an idea that AAWS should reprint an exact duplicate (matching the size, color, and extra thick weight of the paper used in 1939 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the publication of the Big Book and release it to the public April 10, 2014 just as the original was in 1939. They took their suggestion to the area delegate who composed a letter to conference Archives trustees committee requesting that the conference consider the proposal.

The committee thought it would sell well initially and also could be sold at the 2015 International Convention which usually sells some sort of AA commemorative of attendance made especially for the Internationals.

The letter was received by the trustees Archives Committee, discussed, and passed onto the AAWS Director of Publications.

In an October letter the director wrote, "As Publications Director, I am strongly in favor of the concept of creating a 75th Anniversary Commemorative Edition of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, by publishing a replica of the First Edition. The purpose of this concept is twofold: a publication where recognition of the 75th anniversary of the Big Book and business mix."

A January 2013 letter to the Board by the new Director of Publications, Greg T.—who recently replaced the previous retiring director—agreed writing "Therefore, I recommend that in April 2014, coinciding with the anniversary of its publication, AAWS publish a commemorative edition of the First

Edition of Alcoholics Anonymous (The Big Book) that is faithful in production specifications to the original First Edition—and clearly marked as the "75th Anniversary Edition" of the 1939 book or facsimile dust jacket. The book will be offered for sale for a limited period of time from April 2014 through the 2015 International Convention period."

*Oh, did I forget to mention that this submission came from the Northern New Jersey Area 44 Archives Committee?*

### Pros

- AA members can experience what the First Edition, First Printing of the Big Book really looked like and felt like, and have their very own copy published by AAWS and not an outside entity.
- Members can learn an important part of our history and teach newcomers about it.
- This would be a great piece for an Area Archives Committee to work with and use for displays when visiting various A.A. events.
- Sales of the book (which would be from the period April, 2014 through the 2015 International Convention) will most likely result in substantial profit to A.A. For 100,000 copies, the print cost would be \$2.44 per book, and for 200,000 copies, the print cost would be \$2.41 per book. It is anticipated that the purchase price will be in the \$10 – \$15 range. Strong sales are projected.
- Since AA lost the copyright to the First Edition of the Big Book, this will allow us to "reclaim" what is "ours" in a spiritual and historical sense.
- Replicas of this First Edition, First Printing are already published, out there for sale. Why do we need to do this?

### Cons

- If AAWS is always needing to cut costs because only a small percentage of groups send in contributions, how can we justify spending either \$242,482 for 100,000 copies or \$481,402 for 200,000 copies?
- What if projections are wrong, and there's not much interest? Isn't this too much of a risk?
- Since we made the mistake of losing the copyright to the First and Second Editions of the Big Book, is this our way of trying to "save face" and regain control? We have to check our motives.

### B. Should we post archival audio recordings on G.S.O.'s AA Web Site?

#### Background

At a meeting late last year of the Trustees' Archives committee, there was a discussion about ways to make selected archival recordings more available to the Fellowship. One suggestion made at that meeting was to post these audio clips on the GSO website. The GSO

Archivist, Michelle Mirza, was asked to consider the proposal and gather the relevant background.

A proposal was prepared, reviewed and a recommendation was forwarded to the AAWS board. The Board approved the recommendation "that the concept of posting selected archival audio recordings on the GSO AA website be approved." At the February 3rd. Board meeting, this recommendation was sent to the Conference Archives committee for consideration at the 2013 Conference.

In reviewing the report, the AAWS Services committee noted that there was a need for clarification of a 2007 Conference Advisory Action that stated:

Any future proposed project involving widespread distribution of archival recordings be submitted to the Conference Archives Committee so that the Conference might provide guidance prior to production.

The Archives Guidelines, which is available on the AA GSO Website, state: "Like any other A.A. service, the primary purpose of those involved in archival work is to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous...it is the means by which we collect, preserve and share the rich and meaningful heritage of our Fellowship." This guideline also states that the Mission and Purpose of Archives is "...to make the history of the organization to AA members and other researchers..." and "...to promote knowledge and understanding of the origins, goals and programs of Alcoholics Anonymous." This guideline also expresses the "necessity for protecting the anonymity of AA members." This requirement for anonymity is discussed extensively in the Internet guideline.

We observe all AA's principles and Traditions on our Web sites. Since anonymity is "the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions," we practice anonymity on AA Web sites at all times. An AA Web site is a public medium, which has the potential for reaching the broadest possible audience, and, therefore, requires the same safeguards that we use at all levels of press, radio and film.

When we use digital media, we are responsible for our own anonymity and that of others. When we post, text or blog, we should assume that we are publishing at the public level.

### Pros


Having audio recordings available on the Website fits well with the mission and the purpose of the Archives committee. These recordings would help share the rich and meaningful heritage of Alcoholics Anonymous and help us better understand our history and origins. Hearing about our history from our Founders and the early pioneers in their own words is an excellent way of carrying the message of our Fellowship. Care would have to be taken to address any issues of anonymity with recordings.

### Cons

Anonymity is a key concern with the posting of these audio recordings. Can the Fellowship be assured that the recordings will be properly anonymized and that all last names will be redacted. If a mistake is made, someone's anonymity would be broken and, since we are talking about the Internet, there'll be no way to correct the mistake.

What do you think? Should we post these audio recordings on the AA Website?

*Yours in service, the This Day Committee*

garden state young people of alcoholics anonymous present:	
<b>THE 2013 CONFERENCE</b>	
> <b>we stopped in time</b> >	
April 19, 20 and 21, 2013 Fairview Lake Conference Center - Stillwater, NJ "YOUNG IS ANYONE WHO HAS GROWING TO DO!"	
<b>register and pay online at <a href="http://www.gsypp.org">www.gsypp.org</a></b>	
or mail this form and check payable to <b>gsypaa</b> at the address below.	
Full Name: _____	
Male <input type="checkbox"/>	Female <input type="checkbox"/>
Sobriety Date _____	Address _____
	City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____
Age _____	Special Dietary Needs _____
Meeting Topic Suggestions: _____	
Would You Lead a Meeting? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	Is This Your First Conference? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Tee Shirt Size (CIRCLE ONE) S M L XL 2XL 3XL	
E-Mail Address: _____	
Sweat Shirt Size (additional \$25.00) S M L XL 2XL 3XL	
I would like to room with: _____	
contact: _____	
(Attendees under 18 will need parental consent, signed and dated by parent or guardian)	
<small>FINE PRINT All cabin assignments are made by gender. If you give your spot away, please make sure it is to a member of the same sex. If you want to room with a friend, please note it on your registration and we will do our best to accommodate you. NO CAMPING. NO TENTS. NO BARBECUE GRILLS. Thank You.</small>	
<b>Fully Paid Registration is \$150.00 and includes the following:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Lodging and Meals, Soda, Coffee, Water</li> <li>• 3 Days, 2 Nights of Continuous Meetings</li> <li>• Bonfire Meetings</li> <li>• Friday Night Ice Cream Social</li> <li>• <b>THIS IS A CLOSED AA CONFERENCE</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Serene Setting on Fairview Lake</li> <li>• Great Fellowship</li> <li>• Recreational Activities (Boating &amp; Hiking along the Appalachian Trail)</li> <li>• Saturday Night Speaker Meeting and Dance</li> </ul>
Deposit (Reserve Your Spot!!)	<b>\$50.00</b>
Donation to Scholarship Fund (Help someone else go to the conference)	\$ _____
Sweatshirt	\$ _____
Total Payment	\$ _____
Balance Due at Registration	\$ _____
Please mail this form and your payment to: <b>GSYPAA</b> P.O. BOX 219 SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NJ 07080-0219	
Or register online at: <b><a href="http://www.gsypp.org">www.gsypp.org</a></b>	
	
Deposits are due by the 9th of April 2013. Cancellations after April 9th are non-refundable. Please make all checks payable to <b>gsypaa</b>	



# NIGHT WATCH

**M**y name is Rich and I am an alcoholic. When first going to meetings I listened, did what was suggested, and got a sponsor. I was told to get involved and was given a coffee commitment. They gave me the responsibility to open up the building, make coffee, and greet people I never met before. After a few months at a business meeting, an opening for Intergroup Delegate came up. In a quick group conscience vote I was given that position.

At my first Intergroup meeting, Night Watch Chair Russ S. gave his report. I thought that answering the phones after hours sounded very interesting. I took the idea back to my home group and they told me it's been a long time since the group had done Night Watch. So I got a week for my home group and became a Night Watch Leader.

I was given a telephone coverage schedule sheet to assign a group member to shifts to answer the telephones, Sunday through Saturday, including evenings when the Intergroup Office was closed.

I passed the schedule sheet around at our meeting and all the nightly and weekend commitments were quickly filled. I had to hand out Night Watch Binders to the volunteers which contained and introduction, step by step instructions, a map, a meeting book, and pages of AA volunteer telephone numbers in case the caller needed to

talk with another alcoholic or get to a meeting. The volunteer numbers were broken up into Area 44's 13 counties.

I took the first spot, Sunday 9am to 3pm. The answering service called to alert me that they were forwarding the calls to the Intergroup Office over to my phone number. This way the caller never has my phone number.

The calls I received were mostly people looking for meetings. The callers were so thankful that I was there, a voice on the phone to talk to, and give them directions for help. The feeling that I got, knowing I was helping someone by letting them know there is a solution to this disease of alcoholism, was very rewarding.

When I talked to the other volunteers who were involved they all enjoyed it greatly and had the same feelings of knowing they were helping someone in great pain and misery. When our week was finished and I started collecting the binders, everyone was wondering when the group could do it again.

I have since become night Watch coordinator for Sussex, Warren, And Hunterdon Counties. AA has given me a new life. Getting involved in service, from leading meetings to coffee-maker to GSR to Intergroup Delegate and now Night Watch Coordinator has been a great experience. I can give back what has been freely given to me...a new life. I am very grateful to the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous and glad to be of service.

*Rich B., Alive Again Group, Hopatcong and Night Watch Coordinator for Sussex, Warren and Hunterdon Counties*

## Area History and Archives Committee



**G**reetings from the History & Archives Committee.

My name is Paul and I am the new History & Archives Chair for Area 44. I am looking forward to serving the members of Northern New Jersey AA for the next 2 years.

The History and Archives Committee preserves the rich legacy of Alcoholics Anonymous with an emphasis on Northern New Jersey. We provide a variety of services to the fellowship including displays of AA

history to be used at Group Anniversaries, Days of Sharing, Assemblies and Conventions. We store documents and information relating to Northern NJ AA. We organize this information, preserving and cataloging it for our membership. We also provide knowledgeable speakers on AA history.

If you are interested in discovering and preserving our rich history please join us for our committee meeting held on the third Tuesday of each month at the Intergroup Office 2400 Morris Ave, Suite 106 Union, NJ 07083.

*Yours in AA service,  
Paul C., History & Archives Chair*

## Area Chair

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Reports. We have some great topics to discuss, and I'm looking forward to sharing about the area's functions (How It Works). If you haven't attended one of these reports, you're missing a lot! The dates are listed on the NNJAA web site.

Now, let me take a minute to talk about my real passion. No, I'm not going to talk about my wife... but History & Archives. As you may or may not know, I also have the privilege to serve Area 44 as your Archivist. This was my personal introduction to AA service. I just love what we do in that committee. We're always learning something new. The year 2014 will be the 75th anniversary of the publishing of the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous and we in the Archives

Committee thought that it would be appropriate to reprint the First Edition, First Printing as it was on April 10, 1939. So we passed this on to our delegate at the time, who then wrote a letter to the General Service Office, who then passed it on to the Trustees Archives Committee, who then passed it on to the Conference Committee on Archives! Hence, "The Path of A Recommendation." It may or may not be voted on at the conference, but whatever happens is exactly what a loving God does when He expresses Himself in our group conscience. This is the essence of our Tradition Two. I can't wait to see the results!

In closing, I am truly going to enjoy every second of this experience for the next two years! Thank you again for allowing me to serve you!

*In AA Love and Service,  
Lester G., Area 44 Chairperson*

## NERAASA 2013

**W**hat happens when you round up over a thousand recovering alcoholics, put them all in a resort in the middle of Amish country (don't forget to add in the pungent smell of horse apples), leaving them unsupervised to interact with themselves on a cold and rainy weekend in February 2013? Why that can only be NERAASA (North East Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly) 2013 hosted by Area 59.

Everyone had a great time. The host: Eastern Pennsylvania General Service Area 59 did a wonderful job of setting up and coordinating. The six panels that went all weekend were informative and very entertaining. Area 44 was privileged to be represented by Marge K. as she presented the topic "Qualities of Leadership" for Panel 1. Judy M. Area 44 was the moderator for Panel 2: AA and Technology - Opportunities and Challenges. Brenda D. Area 44 was the moderator for Panel 6:

Spirit of Rotation.

The service roundtable schedule included Session A on Friday Night and Session B on Saturday Night. The nightly roundtable sessions were followed up by an ice cream social/fellowship hour. Friday night ice cream was on

your own, Saturday night the ice cream was provided by Area 59.

As if that wasn't enough stimulation for a sober weekend getaway? There was a Trustee Report given by the Northeast Regional Trustee J Gary L. before lunch on Saturday. There was a banquet dinner, flag ceremony and a highly entertaining speaker meeting chaired by Marty S. Co-chair of NERAASA 2013. The speaker was J Gary L. Northeast Regional Trustee.



There were late night meetings Friday and Saturday night. There were early bird meetings on Saturday and Sunday morning. The hospitality suite was constantly manned and full of all kinds of goodies, from meat and cheese platters to muffins, danishes and fresh fruit. The coffee pots were full and fresh. The coolers were full of bottled water and sodas. Overall the volunteers from Area 59 did a fantastic job. The History and Archives

room was an experience in itself. Besides the wonderful displays set up the main attraction had to be the two hand written pieces of cardboard from ground zero, they had meeting listings for people helping out at ground zero who might need a meeting.

Sunday ended this wonderful event. There were Roundtable Report backs, Panel 63 Area highlights. The Ask It Basket questions were answered by Panel 62 & 63 Delegates; again Area 44 was represented by Linda KK (Area 44 Delegate).

If this sounds interesting and you have an urge to get your feet wet in service work, have no fear. NERF (North East Regional Forum) 2013 will be hosted by Area 11 Connecticut on June 7, 8 & 9 2013. NERAASA 2014 will be hosted by Area 61 Rhode Island on February 21, 22 & 23 2014. Do not forget that NERAASA 2015 will be hosted by the home of the BIG BOOK. Our very own AREA 44. Volunteers needed.

*Yours in service, Berney J., South River Friday Night Group*



**SPEAK OUT!** This Day Newsletter provides this forum for individual AA's viewpoints and opinions. The opinions expressed here are individual opinions only and not necessarily the opinions of This Day, Area 44, North Jersey Intergroup, or AA as a whole. We welcome your comments, opinions or viewpoints on anything found in this newsletter. — The Editor

The holidays are over and the groundhog says that we are six weeks away from spring. If you are like me, getting through Thanksgiving to the spring is like swimming the rip tide without a life jacket. If you fight the current you are going to go under. If you just ride the wave and go with the tide you will get through unscathed. Holidays can be especially rough on us alcoholics with the hustle and bustle of all the activities and demands that are made on us as well as those we make on ourselves.

The challenge each day for me has been to achieve a sense of balance and to remember that whatever joys or memories I make or have are mine to deep

as well as all the damages I may do to others or myself. Each day I pray that God, my Higher Power watches over me, keeps me in check, and when I am tired at the end of the day HE GIVES ME THE WISDOM TO KNOW that it is a meeting that will put me back on track.

It is very easy to lose the purpose of the holidays by placing expectations on our families, friends, and ourselves. Being an alcoholic and being a visionary of how things could or should be, I place myself in very precarious situations sometimes. I want to buy all these things, make everyone happy, be involved in all the activities going on around me and quite frankly drive myself crazy with all this stuff that runs around in my head. It can be pretty hard on my pocketbook too. When it's all over on January 2nd and I reassess the damages I can either agree that I worked the program during this time period or I got caught up in the spirit and was lucky I didn't pick up a drink or burn some more bridges in my sobriety. It is a daily retrieve from alcoholism that my Higher Power has given me and it is maintained by my not forgetting it.

All in all I spent a lot of time praying, meditating, visiting with friends, hanging out with my family members and remembering that the life I have today is only because of God and the fellowship of the spirit here in Alcoholics Anonymous. I reflect back on my first sober holidays and

I remember how I did not know what life held in store for me. I try to reach out to new people and encourage them to attend the alkathons, to get a home group and join in whatever group activities are happening. My first sober Christmas tree was a cactus plant in a bowl of sand wrapped in red foil. I got sober on November 22, 1984 on Thanksgiving Day when I ended up in Arizona on one of my many escapades. I was very glad for that simple first Christmas tree. It reminded me that I had just survived the war of a lifetime fighting this disease. By surrendering to you, my friends in AA, I gained a life worth living. There were no strangers here, just friends I hadn't met yet.

As I look forward to the spring and feel the sunlight on my face in the midst of the cold winter air, I get ready for another day of sobriety, another day to live a worthwhile life, victorious over alcohol because of you. In the Big Book on page 164 of the chapter "A Vision for You" it talks about experiencing the fellowship of the spirit and trudging the road to happy destiny. I have found that spirit and I am on that road. My responsibility for this gift is to maintain it and to pass the message on to others I meet along the way. So enjoy this day, be safe, and be sober.

*Yours in the spirit of the fellowship, Denise G., Monday Night East Brunswick Give and Take Group*

## If Nothing Changes... Nothing Changes!

I'm writing this not just to remind myself, but also for the woman who is in this very situation and feels stuck. I've been sober now for 3½ years and sometimes I still want to do things my way. I've always had to learn the hard way, instead of taking suggestions from other women and my sponsor.

I began dating another recovering alcoholic about a year ago. At first I was pretty adamant about not being in a relationship, but that wasn't what he was hearing. This relationship was very sick from the start but I always think I can fix other people to be just the way I want them to be. I forget sometimes that Step 1 tells me I'm powerless over all things.

This situation was probably the most painful because it was also very verbally abusive. I've been verbally abused my whole life and maybe I was comfortable with that. This relationship had me isolated from my friends, my sponsor, my meetings, and myself. There were numerous times when I left him, but I just kept

*continued on page 11*

## I Remember:

I remember when having a drink made me feel relaxed and even happy. It seems I didn't notice that after awhile alcohol started to take over my life. It started slowly and eventually building up to a complete takes over. I remember that when going out with friends I could, in the beginning I could say that's enough I'm going home. But that happened less and less over time and eventually I would be one of the last to leave the bar. After awhile alcohol started to take over my life and before long it became the most important thing in my life. For a lot of those years I was a functioning alcoholic, I had a job and went to work almost every single day. I drove a tractor trailer for all those years and for quite a few I drove a gasoline tanker. It's a miracle I didn't kill anyone or maybe a lot of people. It seemed that every problem that was happening in my life I solved with a drink. I didn't realize that every time I had a drink I had another problem that was solved by another drink. It took me a lot of years for me to face the fact that the biggest problem in my life was me. For a very long time I blamed everyone else for my drinking. It was always someone else's fault, and then one day I woke up and realized my biggest problem was me. I know today that if that day hadn't come I would be dead.

I look back now over my life and realize how foolish I was. I could have done great

things with my life, but ended up doing poor things once my drinking started. As with most of us life held great potential never realized because of drinking alcohol.

Then one day I woke up with the belief that I had to save my life instead of wasting it. I had to turn my life around and face it instead of running away from it. I had to make a decision as it tells us in the twelve steps I had to fix me because I was my problem. It didn't take long for me to realize that the first thing I had to do was admit to myself that I was an alcoholic and I needed help. So I took the first step and admitted I had the disease of Alcoholism and had to do something about it. I started talking to people who would listen and give me insight on what I had to do. I did as they said and started going to Alcoholic Anonymous meetings to learn about Alcoholism. I learned that it all began with not drinking one day at a time, go to a meeting, and help another alcoholic. As time went on and I followed the suggestions my life started getting better, and it has been getting better ever since. It is amazing to me that by not drinking one day at a time, going to a meeting, and helping another alcoholic, the thought of alcohol gets more distant from my mind. I am so grateful for the gift of Alcoholics Anonymous. I thank the God of my understanding for the renewal of my life.

*Ray, C., Roselle Sunday Night:*

## District Service Meetings

**District 1&2** - 2nd Tuesday, 7:30pm, Lafayette at the Sunrise House Cafeteria.  
**District 3** - 3rd Friday 7:00 pm; Hillcrest Community Church, 1810 Macopin Road, West Milford  
**District 4&6** - 3rd Thur. 7:30 pm, Upper Ridgewood Community Ch, Hillcrest & Fairmount, Ridgewood  
**District 5&7** - 2nd Thursday, 7pm, St. Mary's Church corner of High and Legion, Closter  
**District 8** - 2nd Tues. 7:30pm, Panther Valley Ecumenical Ch, Rt 517, Allamuchy  
**District 9** - 3rd Tues. 7:30 pm, Stanhope United Methodist Ch, Rte 183, Netcong  
**District 10** - 2nd Tues. 7:00 pm, 1st Presbyterian Church, 513 Birch St, (corner of Church & Birch) Boonton  
**District 11/33** - 4th Wed. 7:00 pm, Clifton Library, 292 Plaget Ave Rm A  
**District 12** - 3rd Fri. 7pm, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 113 Engle St Englewood 2nd floor Choir Room  
**District 13** - 2nd Tue. 7:30 pm, Wesley Meth. Ch., 225 Washington Ave, Belleville  
**District 14** - Last Tue. 7pm, St. Nicholas School Hall, 122 Ferry Street, Jersey City  
**District 15/21** - 3rd Mon. 7:30 pm, Hunterdon Medical Center, Employee Cafeteria, Rt. 31 South, Flemington  
**District 16** - 3rd Mon. 7:30pm Hillsdale Pres. Ch. Ridgedale Ave, Cedar Knolls  
**District 17** - 3rd Fri. 8 pm, Alanon Assoc., 7th Avenue and 7th Street, Newark  
**District 18** - 2nd Mon. 7:30 pm, Union Village United Methodist Ch, Mountain Ave. & Hillcrest Rd., Berkeley Heights  
**District 19** - Last Mon. 7:30 pm, Friendship Hall, New Market Road, Piscataway  
**District 20** - 2nd Tues 7:00pm, Trinity Episcopal, North & Forest Aves., Cranford  
**District 22** - 3rd Wed. 7:30 pm, Cook College Extension Center, College Farm Road, New Brunswick  
**District 23** - 2nd Thur. 7:30 pm, Saints Peter & Paul Orthodox Church, 9 Jefferie Ave, South River  
**District 24** - 3rd Mon. 8 pm, Trinity Episcopal Church, Ryers Lane, Matawan  
**District 25** - Last Wed. 7:30 pm, Hope Lutheran Church, 21 Elton-Adelphia Road., Freehold  
**District 26** - 3rd Thur. 7:30 pm, First Presbyterian Church (Tower Hill), 255 Harding Road, Red Bank  
**District 27/29** - 3rd Mon. 7:30 pm, Holy Cross Luth. Ch, Hooper Ave, Toms River  
**District 28** - 1st Tue. 7:30pm, St Margaret's Church, 3rd & Ludlow Avenue, Spring Lake  
**District 30** - 4th Sunday 12 Noon, 69 Green Street, Newark  
**District 31** - 2nd Thur. 6:30 pm, Immaculate Heart Of Mary Chapel, 77th Street & Broadway, North Bergen  
**District 32** - 3rd Thur. 7:00 pm, Bayonne Library, 31st St. & Ave. C., Bayonne  
**District 34** - 3rd Sat. 9:30am, Our Lady of Sorrows, 217 Prospect St, (Lower Church) South Orange  
**District 35** - 2nd Tue. 7:30 pm, Good Shepherd Lutheran. Church, North Richard Street and Union Avenue, in Somerville.  
**District 36** - 3rd Fri. 7:30 pm, Trinity Episcopal Church, Trinity Lane, Woodbridge  
**District 37** - 3rd Wed. 7:00 pm, First Lutheran Church 153 Park St (basement), Montclair  
**District 38** - 3rd Thursday 7:30 pm, Presbyterian Church, 31 Fairfield Avenue, West Caldwell  
**District 39** - 2nd Tues 7:00pm, Trinity Episcopal, North & Forest Aves., Cranford  
**District 40** - Last Sunday 10:45am, St. Joseph's Center, 120 Division St., Elizabeth  
**District 41** - First Thurs 7:00 pm, St. Matthew's Trinity Church, 8th & Washington Sts, Hoboken  
**District 42** - 2nd & 4th Sunday 9:30am, 52 Throckmorton Street, Freehold

## NNJGS Area 44 Office Calendar

### MARCH

11	Convention Subcommittee	8:00 PM
12	Luncheon Committee	7:30 PM
12	Public Information Com	7:30 PM
13	Treatment Committee	8:00 PM
16	Corrections Committee	10:00 AM
17	Garden State Young People	2:00 PM
18	Literature Sales	6:30 PM
18	Literature Committee	7:30 PM
19	History & Archives*	7:30 PM
19	CPC Committee	8:00 PM
20	Night Watch Committee*	7:30 PM
20	Convention Committee	8:00 PM
21	Newsletter Committee	7:30 PM
25	Finance Committee	7:30 PM
28	Policy & Admissions	7:30 PM

### APRIL

1	Remote Communities Com.	7:30 PM
2	Officers Meeting & Standing	7:30 PM
3	Mailing Committee	6:30 PM
3	Translation Committee	6:30 PM
4	Website Committee*	7:30 PM
6	Grapevine Committee	10:00 AM
8	Convention Subcommittee	8:00 PM
9	Public Information Com	7:30 PM
10	Treatment Committee	8:00 PM
13	AREA MINI-CONFERENCE	9:00 AM
15	Literature Sales	6:30 PM
15	Literature Committee	7:30 PM
16	History & Archives*	7:30 PM
16	CPC Committee	8:00 PM
17	Convention Committee	8:00 PM
18	Newsletter Committee	7:30 PM
20-27	GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE	
21	Garden State Young People	2:00 PM
22	Finance Committee	7:30 PM
25	Policy & Admissions	7:30 PM

### MAY

1	Mailing Committee	6:30 PM
1	Translation Committee	6:30 PM
2	Website Committee	7:30 PM
2	Computer Committee	7:30 PM
4	Grapevine – GRAPEFEST	9:00 AM
6	Remote Communities	7:30 PM
7	Officers Meeting	7:30 PM
8	Treatment Committee	8:00 PM
11	Corrections Committee	10:00 AM
13	Luncheon Committee	7:30 PM
13	Convention Subcommittee	8:00 PM
14	Public Information Com	7:30 PM
15	Convention Committee	8:00 PM
16	Newsletter Committee	7:30 PM
17	THIS DAY DEADLINE	5:00 PM
18	CORRECTIONS CONFERENCE	10 AM
19	Films Committee	11:00 AM
19	AREA COM. MEETING	12 NOON
20	Literature Sales	6:30 PM
20	Literature Committee	7:30 PM
21	History & Archives*	7:30 PM
21	CPC Committee	8:00 PM
26	Garden State Young People	2:00 PM
27	Finance Committee	7:30 PM
28	Joint Unity Meeting	7:30 PM
30	Policy & Admissions	7:30 PM

### JUNE

1	Grapevine Committee	10:00 AM
3	Remote Communities Com.	7:30 PM
4	Officers & Standing Com	7:30 PM
5	Mailing Committee	6:30 PM
5	Translation Committee	6:30 PM
6	Website Committee*	7:30 PM
10	Convention Subcommittee	8:00 PM
11	Public Information Com	7:30 PM
12	Treatment Committee	8:00 PM
16	Garden State Young People	2:00 PM
17	Literature Sales	6:30 PM
17	Literature Committee	7:30 PM
18	History & Archives*	7:30 PM
18	CPC Committee	8:00 PM
19	Convention Committee	8:00 PM
20	Newsletter Committee	7:30 PM

\*Intergroup Office, 2400 Morris Ave, Union

## Intergroup Calendar

### MARCH

4	Delegates Meeting, Clark	8:30 PM
7	Joint Website Committee*	7:30 PM
10	Bookers Exchange, Cranford	7:00 AM
19	History and Archives	7:30 PM
20	Nightwatch Committee	7:30 PM
29	HOLIDAY (OFFICE CLOSED)	

### APRIL

1	Delegates Meeting, Clark	8:30 PM
4	Joint Website Committee	7:30 PM
16	History and Archives	7:30 PM

### MAY

2	Joint Website Committee*	7:30 PM
6	Delegates Meeting, Clark	8:30 PM
15	Nightwatch Committee	7:30 PM
21	History and Archives	7:30 PM
28	Joint Unity Meeting*	8:00 PM
27	HOLIDAY (OFFICE CLOSED)	

### JUNE

4	Delegates Meeting, Clark	8:30 PM
6	Joint Website Committee	7:30 PM
9	Bookers Exchange, Cranford	7:00 AM
18	History and Archives	7:30 PM

\*Area Office, 2325 Plainfield Ave, South Plainfield



www.nnjaa.org/members  
password: onedayatime

Contributions are much needed, and always welcome! Make checks payable as indicated and always include your Area, District and Group ID number. Please send group and individual contributions to the addresses below:

NNJGS AREA 44  
2325 Plainfield Avenue, Suite 2J  
South Plainfield, NJ 07080  
Payable to "NNJGS Area 44"

NORTHERN NEW JERSEY INTERGROUP  
2400 MORRIS AVENUE, Suite 106  
Union, NJ 07083-5705  
Payable to "Northern NJ Intergroup"

GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE  
PO Box 459  
Grand Central Station  
New York, NY 10163  
Payable to "General Service Board"

## DISTRICT DOINGS

**DISTRICT 1&2** – Our Districts are doing very well. At our last meeting we had 14 GSR's in attendance, a few Alternate GSRs, and some interested AA members. We have a few towns with no GSR representation, but hopefully that will change in the near future.

We had another very successful Christmas Alkathon at Sunrise House in Lafayette this year. Attendance was great, meetings started and ended on time. We had more food than we could eat.

Our District elections went well, all positions except for Alternate DCM were filled.

We are hosting this year's Mini-Conference in April. The location will be at the Littell Community Center in Franklin. We recently received the approval of the facility by the Area. We look forward to seeing all of you there.

Our Districts attendance at the January Assembly was rather weak. We will continue to explain the importance

### If Nothing Changes...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10  
going back – for fear of being alone, I suppose.

My network all said, "You and this guy are poison for each other," but I couldn't see it. He cheated on me a few times and I actually thought that it could still work. I thought that if he loved me enough he would change.

Recently I finally made a decision to end it for good and it has not been easy. He has been showing up at all my meetings and saying threatening things that has me in fear for my life. But I took action and have filed for a restraining order, which also now made me the brunt of gossip. My life is feeling a little chaotic at times right now, but I know I made the right decision.

The point is that I've learned I have to take suggestions and trust that if ten people are telling me the same thing, they're probably right. This was the beginning of a relapse for me – I was spiritually bankrupt. I believe all things are lessons learned but if we practice our program these lessons don't have to be so hard. My lesson in this experience is that I have AA, God, my sponsor, and a network – and when I don't use those things in my daily life, I will always revert back to my old ways of tolerating abuse and chaos. I did not get sober to live that way anymore and I had to completely remove myself from the situation to see the sickness.

So, to the woman who can identify – please take suggestions from women who have gone through it. If nothing changes... nothing changes.

– Anonymous

of attending the Assembly to our GSRs. Also point out that their group's conscience is heard and recorded there. We also need to point out the option of sending an Alternate to vote for the group.

Group contributions, and our successful District events has left us a large surplus of funds. Another great opportunity for local 12-step work, and for our District to contribute up the service structure. – *In Service, Walter B., DCM*

**DISTRICT 39** – The district has been growing at a slow, but steady pace. As our fellowship prepares for the most vital part of the year, the General Service Conference, we still need willing AA members to step up and become General Service Representatives for each group in Rahway, Westfield, Scotch Plains, Clark, and Garwood. In doing so, we pass on an informed conscience to our delegate, who will attend the General Service Conference in April. This is a busy time for AA as a whole. We want to keep our fellowship and our district united as we consider the best course of action to take on vital issues affecting AA as a whole. In order to do this we need to hear the collective conscious decisions from the groups through their liaison, the GSR. If you have any questions, comments, or want to become a GSR, please contact the District DCM at [district39@nnjaa.org](mailto:district39@nnjaa.org). Thanks to all who keep the hand of AA outstretched to all who are sick and suffering in and out of your home groups. – *Yours in Service, Tricia L., DCM*

### DISTRICT 3

**Annual Day of Sharing  
Saturday, June 15th**

**Hillcrest Community Center  
1810 Macopin Road  
West Milford, NJ**

Look for the flyer on our web site calendar at [nnjaa.org](http://nnjaa.org)

### DISTRICT 35

**Annual Day of Sharing  
Saturday, April 27th  
9:00am – 2:30pm  
@ Good Shepard Lutheran  
300 Union Ave  
Somerville**

Great Fellowship  
Three Morning Workshops:  
• Importance of a Home Group.  
• Women in Sobriety.  
• Service and Your Recovery.

Breakfast and Lunch,  
After-Lunch Speaker

Contact: Mike S:

### NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE MAY 17th NEWSLETTER@NNJAA.ORG

This newsletter is produced four times annually by the Newsletter Committee, a joint committee of Northern New Jersey General Service Area 44 and Northern New Jersey Intergroup.

NOTE: This Newsletter will be published on our web site. The name and last initial of the author will be published unless otherwise requested.

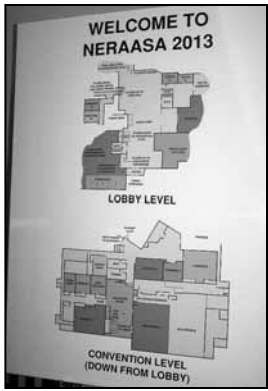
Opinions expressed herein are not to be attributed to AA as a whole, nor does the publication of any article imply an endorsement by either AA General Services or Intergroup. Comments, questions and articles may be directed to the Newsletter Committee at NNJGS Area 44, Suite 2J, 2325 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield 07080 or emailed to: [newsletter@nnjaa.org](mailto:newsletter@nnjaa.org).

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Joint News of NNJGS Area 44  
and Northern New Jersey Intergrupp  
2325 Plainfield Ave., Suite 2J  
South Plainfield, NJ 07080

Spring 2013



## NERAASA 2013



### Delegate's Report

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1  
All interested AAs are welcome and encouraged to attend these sessions. I want to hear from everyone. At the Mini-Conference all will have a voice and input, but should any floor votes be taken, your GSRs will be the only ones who can vote. Please come out and participate and see how it works. It is an amazing process. A copy of the flyer and event information has been mailed to every group in Area 44. Well, the excitement continues

tomorrow as I am off to NERAASA where I will meet with the other Delegates from our region who will be attending this year's conference. Hopefully, I will be seeing you there. Don't know what NERAASA is? Just ask me. Again, I thank you and my Higher Power for this opportunity to serve you and the privilege to do so.  
*With Gratitude, Linda KK.,  
Delegate Panel 63 Area 44  
PI Conference Committees and  
International Conventions/Regional Forums delegate@nnjaa.org*

### Literature

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4  
monthly meetings at the Area office on the 3rd Monday of every month, beginning at 7:30pm. We also sell literature to the public prior to the meeting from at 6:30pm – 7:30pm. Literature sales also occur quarterly at Bookers Exchange, at Inter-group Delegates Meeting in Clark the first Monday of each month, Area 44 Convention in September, Area Committee Meetings, Days of Sharing and other Area and District

events. Help is needed transporting and selling literature as well as performing inventory four times a year. The Literature Committee is working on ideas on how we can make literature available to you and has an email address available for you to communicate with us. Remember, we serve you and we welcome your ideas as well as literature orders in advance and invite you to contact us at [literature@nnjaa.org](mailto:literature@nnjaa.org) anytime.  
*Yours in Service, Maureen R.,  
Area Literature Chair*

### Mid Winter Luncheon Interview

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M: So we covered surprises and expectations why don't we end with a highlight of the Luncheon for you?  
J: The highlight for me was seeing

the double line of GSR's to see NNJ in action, showcasing their GSR's. It showed what happens when alcoholics help other alcoholics. It showed that you can count on hopeless alcoholics in AA.  
M: Jim thank you for taking the oppor-

tunity and allowing me to interview you for the article. Is there anything else you would like to add about your experience at the Luncheon?  
J: It's amazing that because of this program alcoholics are living useful and happy lives.

M: Jim on behalf of the entire 2013 Mid-Winter Luncheon Committee, a sincere and a heartfelt thank you for doing service and for sharing your experience strength and hope.  
*Submitted, Marcheta B., Alt Ticket Chair 2013 Mid-Winter luncheon.*

**DISTRICTS 20, 39, & 40**  
18TH ANNUAL DAY OF SHARING  
**Taking Inventory:  
Our Solution in Action**  
Saturday March 23rd  
8:00 am to 2:30 pm  
Mini-Conference Topic Presentations • Committee Presentations • Oldtimer Interview • Breakfast • Lunch and • Fellowship  
**St. Joseph the Carpenter**  
3rd Ave & Walnut St., Roselle

**DISTRICTS 18 AND 19**  
DAY OF SHARING  
**AA's Roots In New Jersey**  
Saturday April 6th  
6:30 am to 12:30 pm  
Al-Anon Speaker • Committee Presentations • Oldtimer Speaker • Lunch and Fellowship to close the Day of Sharing  
**Faith Lutheran Church**  
524 South Street  
New Providence

**HEARD AT NERAASA 2013**  
Area 11, Connecticut held a contest for the best quote about AA's Seventh Tradition. The winning entry was:  
**"With respect to AA's Seventh Tradition...  
I no longer give a buck!"**  
I like the slogan and plan on putting it to use in my personal contributions and plan on passing it on.