

THIS DAY

www.nnjaa.org

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

Greetings from your Area Chair! Thank you so much for the opportunity to serve you and Area 44. It really is an honor and a privilege!

A message from your Area Chair



The January Area Assembly was a big success. Participation was plentiful, with 260 AAs signed in at the gavel. District 28 hosted the assembly in Neptune and they did an exceptional job. Thank you!

The GSR Mid-Winter Luncheon was also a big hit on February 16th, with over 300 in attendance. Our two speakers, Clay R. from the General Service Office and J. Gary L., your Northeast Regional Trustee, were great. A great big thank you goes out to them for their message of recovery and service, and also to the Luncheon Committee!

Pre-Conference Reports will have started by the time you read this. It's that time of year that our Area 44 Delegate visits your Section to inform the fellowship of the conference agenda items to be voted on at your home groups so that your group's voice will be heard at the General Service Conference in April. GSR's – please be sure that this information is shared with your group to discuss and bring your voice to the Area 44 Mini-Conference on April 5th in Old Bridge. Without the voice of our groups, AA could never function in an effective manner!

MARK THE DATE!! The Joint Day of Sharing to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the printing of our beloved Big Book is Saturday, April 12th! The event will start promptly at 5pm. It will be held at Raritan Valley Community College, 118 Lamington Road, in Branchburg. There will be great speakers sharing about how the Big Book came to be, and great fun and fellowship! This is a once in a lifetime event that you won't want to miss. Please contact Debbie T., our Day of Sharing Chairperson, if you have questions or would like to help!

Be on the lookout for the "Peach Cans"! Contributions for the 2015 International Convention Hospitality Suite in Atlanta, GA are now being accepted! We are down to 17 months until the convention. That might sound like a long time, but with all the planning involved, it's really not. We in Area 44 have hosted a Hospitality Suite at the previous two conventions in San Antonio and Toronto, which were hugely successful! The Ad Hoc Committee for the Hospitality Suite has been up and running. Contact Paul C., your Area 44 Archives Chair, for more information on the upcoming meetings. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate!

See you on the road of Recovery, Unity and Service!

In A.A. Love and Service, Lester G., Area 44 Chairperson

A message from your Area Delegate



Are You Ready GSRs?

Well as many of you know from my visiting your district meetings over the past six months, we are now in the beginning of the 2014 Conference "season". This is when you have the opportunity (and responsibility) to share your group's conscience with your Delegate to take to the 64th General Service Conference through your participation in the Pre- and Post-Conference sessions. It is actually the most important thing you will do in what Bill W. described as "what could be the most important job in AA." The process starts with your attending one of the 7 scheduled Pre-Conference sessions throughout our Area. The dates and locations are on our website, included in this edition of *This Day* and included in a flyer your groups will be receiving. You can attend any one of them. This is where you will hear about the topics that will be discussed at the Conference. Myself and your Alt-Delegate, Jay E., will be providing you with the pertinent background information to discuss with your groups to determine their group conscience on each item. You will then attend the Mini-Conference on April 5th at St. Thomas Church

in Old Bridge, bringing that group conscience with you. It is an amazing process to watch.

You are the link to that conference and this is how the communication occurs. Remember – the AA groups are at the top of the inverted triangle. Without hearing from you, the group, how can the conference know how the groups feel?

There are some important issues being discussed this year that you will find pros and cons on within this publication to help you talk to your groups as well. The topics will include a suggestion to change the conference charter as it relates to the voting process to change a Tradition, numerous suggestions for changes in our literature and more. So please be sure to be that active link in the chain for your group. I'm looking forward to seeing you at both a Pre-Conference session and the Mini-Conference. (And then again after the Conference at a Post-Conference – but more to come on that later.)

In the meantime, please reach out to me with your questions at any time. Keep checking our members only website area for continual updates as the season continues. And finally, as always, thank you for your trust and confidence in allowing me to represent your groups at the Conference. It is an honor and a privilege.

With Gratitude, Linda KK, Panel 63 Area 44 Delegate

Delegate Pre-Conference Report Schedule – 2014

SECTION TWO	Tuesday, March 11 @ 7:30 P.M. Wesley United Methodist Church 225 Washington Ave., Belleville Hosted by District 13
SECTION ONE	Wednesday, March 12 @ 7:30 P.M. Abundant Life Reformed Church 475 Lafayette Avenue, Wyckoff Hosted by District 4/6
SECTION FOUR	Saturday, March 15, @ 1:00 P.M. Hunterdon Medical Center (Auditorium) 2100 Wescott Dr., Flemington Hosted by District 15/21
DISTRICTS 30 OFFICE (Spanish) To Be Determined	256 Mulberry Street, 2nd Floor Newark, NJ 07102 Hosted by District 30

A message from your Intergroup Chair



Now that we are well in to the New Year, I would like to offer one more review of 2013. You may want to file this under "Gratitude" or maybe "Service Well Done."

As you may know, Northern NJ Intergroup is a not-for-profit corporation supported entirely by donations from

groups and individuals. For 2013, there were over 1,200 donations that totaled over \$150,000. This tremendous support kept our office in Union thriving, paid for the phone lines, (answered 24x7), and funded the numerous committees. Donation amounts ranged from \$10 to \$3,000. All are received gratefully and used with great care.

Each month the Intergroup Delegates meet to review and approve the financials for the last month. They receive a cash flow statement that

reflects the previous months donation receipts and expenses related to work that many consider 12 Step activity at its finest. This financial situation is closely watched by both the Intergroup Treasurer and the Trustees.

The Intergroup Office in Union is staffed by one full time individual, (Mac), and two part time, (Pat and Ruth), as well as number of volunteers. During each work day they field calls, sell meeting books and literature and otherwise provide an AA presence in the community.

Outside of office hours the intergroup phone is answered

by "Nightwatch." The Nightwatch Committee's work is carried out by AA group individuals who volunteer their time to pick up the phone and field a variety of calls. These range from questions about meeting locations to help for the still suffering in making a contact to get to that first meeting. In 2013, there were a total of over 6,000 calls to the office and about 4,200 Nightwatch responses.

Each year your group is asked to provide a Data Sheet to Intergroup. This information is the basis for the meeting book and a meeting database. In 2013, over 50,000 meeting books were sold by the Intergroup Office and over 200,000 queries of the Northern NJ Website database were generated.

Our Northern NJ Website (www.nnjaa.org) was particularly active. In the average month, there are over 20,000 unique visitors with about 85% of these accessing the meeting finder. The website also posts meeting/event notices and supports the work of the many committees with overview pages, forms, and the distribution of material.

And there is Bookers. Meeting 4 times a year, the Bookers Exchange supports groups in their

speaking commitments and provides an opportunity for the sale of literature and meeting books.

All of this activity is publicized through mailings. With 5-6 mailings a year to over 1,200 groups, this activity spreads the work and keeps the fellowship informed about both Intergroup activities and events of interest.

2013 was a good year for Intergroup and for 12 Step work in Northern New Jersey. For myself and the Intergroup Trustees, I would like to express a sincere appreciation for the opportunity to serve.

Jim S., Intergroup Chair

BEGINNING THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2014
The Intergroup Delegates Meeting will be THE FIRST THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH

POLISH CULTURAL FOUNDATION
 177 Broadway, Clark
 Exit 135, Garden State Parkway

Go around circle to Valley Road going East
 Holiday Inn Hotel on the left
 Turn right at light onto Broadway.
 Polish Cultural Foundation is a school building approximately 2 blocks on the right.



FOR INFO CALL INTERGROUP AT 908-687-8566 OR 800-245-1377

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NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE MAY 16th
NEWSLETTER@NNJAA.ORG

A message from your Area Treasurer



Hello again from your Area Treasurer. I can't believe that a whole year has passed since I became your treasurer. It is perplexing how it can seem to have passed so quickly, yet at the same time, I think I have learned more about gratitude and the joys of service than I did in all my prior years of service. As the second year of my term begins, it is with great anticipation that I look forward to the rewards of serving Area 44.

With the January Assembly now behind us and the 2014 budget having passed, I can now look back at the whole process. I am amazed as I reflect on the amount of work done by the various Area Committee Chairs and your Officer's in the budget process. All of these trusted servants worked very hard to be as prudent as possible while not sacrificing one bit on the responsibility they have to carry the message as each is charged when submitting their budgets to the Finance Committee. Being a part of the Finance Committee, I was blown away by the dedication of its members in crunching the numbers to present a balanced budget at the Area Assembly. The

time put in by all those I have mentioned has truly been a great lesson and example of the spirit of sacrifice.

One of the best experiences I will always carry with me from this first year is being allowed to watch so many who live our responsibility pledge. For me, I have always believed that "the hand of AA always to be there" went far beyond the welcome of a greeter to a newcomer. The amount of time and effort our Standing/Special Committees put in to reach the still suffering alcoholic is something I have a far greater appreciation for having seen a year of the expenses they submit for the work they are doing. Having been privileged to serve on several of these committees I knew they are so very active, but seeing what is being done cumulatively through all the committees is something I don't think I may have ever truly appreciated had you not allowed me to serve in this position. All I can think is WOW and thank you for a gratitude greater than I may have ever known had my service sponsor not suggested I make myself available to serve you as your treasurer.

I would be remiss not to point out that you, the AA member, are the people who make this all possible. It has been through your support by showing your gratitude as the basket

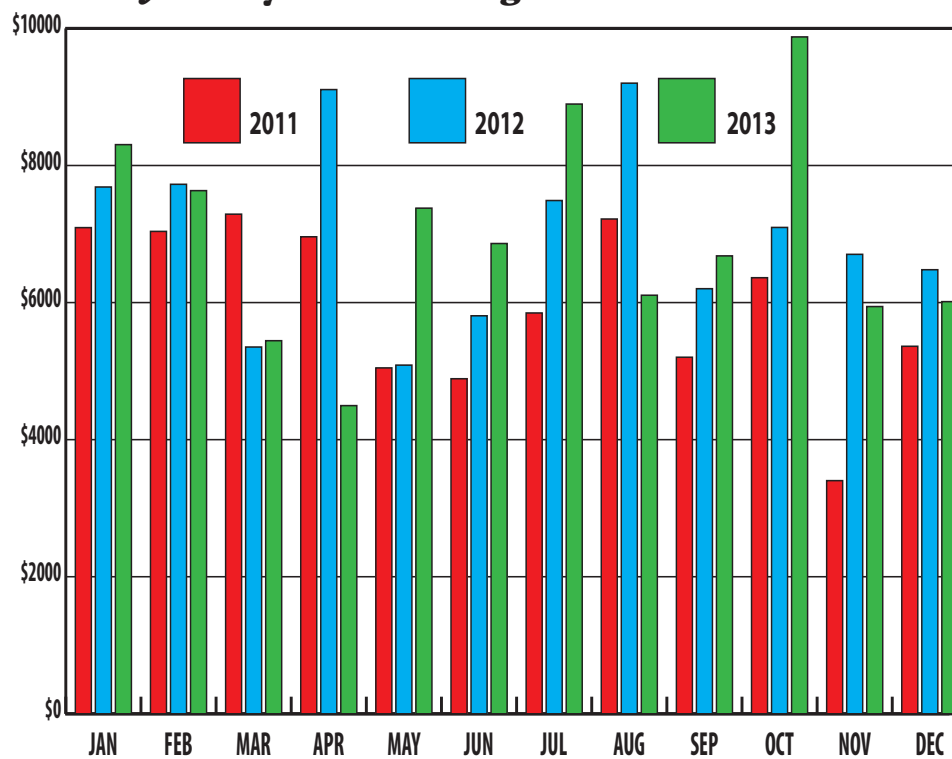
is passed at your home groups that all this work is made possible. I have to thank you and tell you I am in awe of the groups of Area 44 for the continuing support of our service structure both spiritually and financially.

Lastly, I can only encourage you to continue to be generous in the basket at your home groups so that Area 44 can continue with the same zeal and dedication to carrying the message as we have shown in the past. I believe that today our committees and the various ways in which they work, are today's version of the picture of the two men at the bed we see in so many meetings. They are the front lines in our outreach to those living

in misery and loneliness that only we know. As it says in our literature, it takes a lot of time and a little money to carry the message. Our continued support from home groups is vital to the work we do. If your group already supports the service entities, please continue to do so and if not, please consider doing so in the coming year. The doors were open when we all first arrived on AA's door step because those who came before us understand the spiritual nature of our 7th Tradition, and now that is the responsibility we all carry to those yet to come. Thank you again for allowing me to serve.

*In Love and Service,
Wayne G., Area 44 Treasurer*

Monthly Group Contributions To Area 44 January 2011 Through December 2013



RUS SERVICE CORPORATION T/A NNJGS AREA 44 YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON REPORT: 2012 AND 2013 FOR PERIOD ENDED NOVEMBER 30, 2013

	2012 - Nov.	2013 - Nov.
Money Market Account ^(A)		
Balance as of January 1st	\$41,261	\$52,756
Interest Received	39	53
Transfer (To)/From the Checking Account	6,451	483
Balance as of November 30th	<u>\$47,751</u>	<u>\$53,292 ^(C)</u>
Checking Account ^(A)		
Balance as of January 1st	\$18,268	\$35,019
Group, Individual and 7th Tradition Basket Contributions	84,551	85,251
Other Receipts (Intergroup, Literature & Grapevine Sales, etc.)	114,257	111,815
Budgeted Expenses (Standing & Special Committees, Officers, Office, etc.)	(83,059)	(73,997) ^(B)
Non-Budgeted Expenses (Literature, Grapevine, Luncheon, etc.)	(91,043)	(119,475)
Transfer (To) / From the Money Market Account	(6,451)	(483)
Balance November 30th	<u>\$36,523</u>	<u>\$38,130 ^{(C),(D)}</u>
Balance should not exceed this amount	(\$30,440)	(\$36,148)

Account Balance Over / (Under) Guideline \$6,083 (\$1,982)

Prudent Reserve Funds		
Total Cash in Bank (Not Including Convention Account)	\$84,274	\$91,422
Designated Funds (Jailbox Funds, etc.)	(3,215)	(6,124)
Checking Account Guideline (2 months average expenses)	(30,440)	(36,148)
	<u>\$50,619</u>	<u>\$49,151</u>

Prudent Reserve (50% of the prior 12 months Operating Expenses) \$46,332 \$40,203

Account Balance Over / (Under) Guideline \$4,287 \$8,948

FOOTNOTES

- (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) 2013 Expense Budget is \$90,580
 (C) November 30, 2013 Checking and Money Market Balances have been reconciled to the Bank Statements by the Finance Committee.
 (D) November 30, 2013 amount includes Designated Funds of \$6,023.30 of Jailbox Contributions.

Summary of Official Approvals / Reviews

Individual / Group	Action	Completed Through
Treasurer	Approved	Nov. 2013
Alternate Treasurer	Approved	Nov. 2013
Finance Committee	Approved	Nov. 2013
Officers	Reviewed	Nov. 2013
Area Committee Members	Approved	Nov. 2013
Area Assembly	Approved	Nov. 2013

Mid-Winter Luncheon Committee



What an experience to be a part of something from the beginning to the end!

My named is Linda C. and I am a member of Alcoholics Anonymous. I was invited by a sister in recovery to join the Mid-Winter Luncheon Committee. This sister happened to be on the Committee. I was going through some emotional issues when this invitation was extended. I knew enough to know that I needed to get busy so I could get better. I accepted the invitation.

I didn't know what I was going to face because I had never experienced working on my recovery in this area of service. I learned, once again, that by getting out of my head, I was able to take life on life's terms. I learned that this is one of the joys of recovery.

Going into the first meeting I felt less

than. I felt inadequate. I didn't know what to expect or if I would be able to get the job done. With the support and encouragement from the sisters on the committee I was able to overcome my fears and accomplish the tasks assigned to me.

I felt my recovery go up to another level. I was able to embrace the experience with joy. I gave of myself and received so much more than what I was expecting in return.

The Mid-Winter Luncheon was a wonderful and exciting experience. It was my first time seeing a project from the beginning until the end. Everyone's hard work and team work paid off. It was a beautiful, organized and spiritual event.

It was inspiring to see all of the GSRs and committee members gathered together all with the same purpose – to make sure AA will continue to be there for the next suffering alcoholic.

I am looking forward to being part of the Mid-Winter Luncheon event again next year!

In Love and Service, Linda C.

THIS DAY www.nnjaa.org from your newsletter committee

Greetings Northern NJ! By the time you read this many of you will be focusing your attention on the Mini-Conference questions that we have put together in this spring issue. This was my first experience being involved with the inner workings of the pre-conference happenings – I've learned a lot, but there is always so much more to learn!

As we venture into 2014 the Newsletter Committee has been working on a number of new ideas. We welcome all AA's to join us at 7:30pm on the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Area Office to help us make this committee and this newsletter awesome! We had our first joint Writer's Workshop in January with the Grapevine Committee, we continue to incorpo-

rate your suggestions from our recent questionnaire, and we are currently working on a new endeavor to increase awareness in North Jersey about *This Day*.

Lastly, it is with bittersweet gratitude that we thank Bill L. for his years of service to the Newsletter Committee and to the Area as a whole. This spring issue was his last issue as Editor, and though his absence will be felt as he embarks on a new journey; he leaves us in the very capable hands of our new Editor, Wayne R. Change is something that most of us avoid – despite the joys that are born from taking that leap of faith, getting to the metamorphosis stage is where many of us struggle in our cocoons. But once we have the courage to change, we produce the most magnificent colors in our tapestries. Happy spring issue and thank you, Bill L., for all your years of service!

Keira H., Newsletter Chair



The Public Information Committee in November 2012 started to discuss the goals for 2013. We came up with 7 ways to reach the still sick and suffering and their families:

- NJ Transit/Path placards placed in the train cars
- NJ Transit/Path one sheet posters placed on the platforms
- AOL Patch
- Billboards
- Pandora
- Newspapers
- Digital

After extensive research and discussions we as a committee decided to try bullet 2. One sheet posters on the platform of NJ Transit stations. We then with the help of past PI Chairs came up with a proposal to present to the fellowship in July of 2013 at the ACM (Area Committee Meeting). After a lengthy discussion the Area Committee asked to send it back to the PI Committee for more work. We tweaked a

few things and worked on reducing the amount it would cost and presented it again at the September 2013 ACM. The Area Committee asked for the proposal to be sent to the Area Assembly in October 2013 for GSR approval. We presented the proposal to the Assembly body and it was approved to give the PI Committee \$1,000 for this project.

Since we are a co-chaired committee with Intergroup, and ½ the funding for our budget comes from Intergroup, we then went to the November 2013 Intergroup Delegates meeting to ask for the other \$1,000 to start the project. Intergroup voted unanimously to give the PI Committee the other \$1,000 for this project.

While this was a long process to go through, we as a committee and I, as the chair, learned a lot about how AA works. If you give all the information to the fellowship so they understand what and why we are doing these projects, the group's GSRs and Intergroup Delegates are very receptive to helping the still sick and suffering alcoholics.

The posters went up on December 23, and were supposed to come down on January 20, 2014. To our surprise,

they are still up in most of the stations so the message is still being sent out. I am writing this at NERAASA right now in Rhode Island, and the poster was shown and well received by the other 17 area PI chairs. They

were asking questions about how to do something similar in their area. I am proud to be Area 44's PI Chair. Thank you all for your support.

*Yours in service,
Thomas D., Area 44 PI Chair*

Happy 75th Birthday, Big Book!

Did you know that the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous will be 75 years old on April 10, 2014? Come help celebrate the birthday of our beloved basic text on Saturday, April 12th, when Area 44 and Intergroup will be hosting a Joint Day of Sharing at Raritan Valley Community College in Branchburg, from 5:00 to 9:00 pm!

This is a once in a lifetime event, and so very special to us here in Northern New Jersey because this is where the *Big Book* was written. It will be like nothing you have ever experienced before, with an exciting panel to get things going, and then some unique and powerful guest speakers

who will be sharing AA history that we're sure you've never heard before. And there will be surprises too!

If you have any questions, please feel free to email or call me. The flyer for the event is in this newsletter, and also posted on our website at www.nnjaa.org.

So we hope to see you at the 75th Anniversary of the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous on April 12th. How blessed are we to be the home of the Big Book? This night will be a very exciting way to put our gratitude in action!

*With AA love & gratitude,
Debbie T., Planning Com. Chair*



Greetings Area 44! I am Freddy and I am your Area 44 Grapevine Committee chair! I want to start by welcoming all the new Grapevine Representatives, (GVRs), to the committee. This is my second and last year as your chair. The last year was an amazing experience. This year we are already busy attending the events that we have been invited to throughout the Area.

We got started right away in the month of January with the Intergroup Delegates meeting, the Area 44 Assembly, District 23's Spaghetti Dinner, and Correction Committee Meeting.

In February, the Intergroup Delegates meeting was cancelled due to the weather. We were able to attend the District 42, (Spanish District), GSR/DCM Workshop, which was an amazing event to be a part of. Thank you very much to Luke H. for inviting us and all of the other trusted servants who helped put that together. The committee has been invited to and will be attending the District 3 Traditions Workshop on February 15th and the GSR Mid-Winter Luncheon on February 16th.

The Grapevine and Newsletter Committees held a Writers Workshop on February 1st at the area office in South Plainfield. The workshop was from noon to 2pm and it was awesome! I really didn't expect to enjoy it so much because it was about writing – one of my least favorite things to do. I really enjoyed the simple

exercises that were given in order to help writers get started and get past their fears of writing. I want to thank all of the presenters who were so helpful in sharing their experience with us. People from our Area spoke who have contributed to the Grapevine and the *This Day* Newsletter.

I also want to thank Jeff W. for chairing the workshop and the committee who helped put together an amazing afternoon. Judging from the attendance and responses from attendees it is possible that there could be another workshop next year.

In March we will be busy with invitations to the Hightstown Winners Group Anniversary, Districts 20, 39, and 40's Day of Sharing, and District 13's Day of Sharing.

Last but not least, I want to share with you that the AA Grapevine Magazine is turning 70 in June of 2014. There will be a special June Grapevine anniversary issue and a celebration at Founders' Day in Akron, Ohio. There is a Grapevine Anniversary Kit available online on aagrapevine.org that could be useful for celebrating locally in your group or district. The Area 44 Grapevine Committee will be celebrating Grapevine's 70th anniversary at our Annual Grapefest on Saturday May 3rd so please save that date.

Looking forward to seeing you all at some event throughout our Area that we will be attending. If you would like to become part of this amazing committee, we meet on the first Saturday of each month at the area office in South Plainfield at 10am.

*Yours in service, Freddy H.,
Area 44 Grapevine Chair*

SAVE THE DATE!

NORTHERN NEW JERSEY INTERGROUP AND AREA 44
PRESENTS

A 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
of the First Edition of "The Big Book," *Alcoholics Anonymous*

Saturday evening, April 12, 2014
at the Raritan Valley Community College
Branchburg, New Jersey
from 5:00 to 9:00pm

Guest Speakers will include AA Historians, Archivists, past and present Area Delegates, and other Trusted Servants.
A One-time event you won't want to miss.
For more information email archives@nnjaa.org



Report from the NERAASA Corrections Roundtable

I attended the NERAASA, (North East Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly), in Rhode Island on February 21-23.

NERAASA is a once a year assembly of the service workers in the northeast's 14 states and 18 areas to discuss this year's conference agenda items. There are two roundtable sessions for service workers, in a particular committee, to attend and share on the activities in their areas. As the Area 44 Chair of the Corrections Committee, I attended the 2 Corrections Roundtables to share what Area 44 does and learn how the other 17 areas carry the message behind the walls. Here are some of the issues that were discussed.

Our moderator, Tom R., of Area 29, (Western Massachusetts), opened the session saying that, "Taking the AA message to the sick and suffering alcoholic in the correctional facilities is among the most gratifying work in the fellowship." Most attendees nodded in agreement. He recounted his involvement with Corrections and shared with us that Area 29's Corrections Committee Chair and Alternate Chair positions are both open at this time and the Area Chair would welcome volunteers if anyone is ready and willing to serve.

The biggest frustration expressed by most panel participants was that every correctional facility has its own rules governing access to their site. Requisite certification and approvals are based largely on the institution security level. Some ideas offered over the weekend to expedite the process were to: 1) Host special workshops on AA Recovery, inviting probation officers, correctional staff. 2) Establish relationships with correctional officers. Inquire about their literature restrictions and most effective way to get literature into the hands of the inmate.

Recruiting enough people, especially men into the Corrections Committee, can be a major challenge. Some ideas: 1) Lead by example, encourage your sponsees to serve a rotation on the corrections committee. 2) Often people are intimidated from serving on cor-

rections, especially if they have never served time. Advise him or her that for local/state agencies it's often just a check for outstanding warrants. Most of the time a 3 or 4 hour orientation is required. 3) Assure the candidate that serving in corrections does not mean that you have to talk or behave like the inmates; it's just one drunk talking to another. 4) Invite corrections committee members to speak at Group, District, and Area meetings and sharing the rewards that they derive in serving. 5) Facilitate Orientation or certification seminars frequently so you keep a good list of candidates in the pipeline. 6) Assure your new people that TB test, finger prints and urine checks are required only for the high security or Federal sites. 7) Ask GSRs to share with their home group the corrections committee activities to raise awareness.

Getting inmates willing to participate in AA meetings behind the walls can be a problem. Some solutions: 1) Have good speakers and word gets around that these meetings are worth it. 2) Have inmate(s) whose reason for incarceration involves alcohol on an "Inmates whose crime was in part or whole a by-product of alcohol," added to the AA meeting list. 3) Support them in any way you can, and send literature for them.

Most Areas Corrections Committees handle Pre Release Contact Forms that are received from GSO and facilitate the released inmates getting into the rooms right away. Much of the contact process has been streamlined with the advent of email notifications. We should conduct follow ups to make sure that the person assigned to facilitate the inmate's first "outside" meeting attendance occurs. Again, we AAs need to be dependable. What can be done with some Corrections volunteers who refuse to rotate out as the chair? It was suggested we send these people to speak on behalf of the AA program so that they can "sell" the benefits in participating in Corrections Committee.

Questions posed to our panel for guidance

Q: Do other states print out a "Where & When" for the meetings behind the walls?

A: Most participants stated that since only people with prior approval were allowed to go into those meetings, it did not make sense to print the meeting lists; however

NORTHERN NEW JERSEY INTERGROUP & AREA 44

2014 CORRECTIONS CONFERENCE



Saturday, May 17th 2014 9am - 12:30pm

GUEST SPEAKERS

LOCAL COMMITMENTS AVAILABLE FOR ALL AA'S

AA IN CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES DVD WILL BE SHOWN

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST & HOT LUNCH WILL BE SERVED

COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND CORRECTIONS PROFESSIONALS SHARE

More Info. cfc@nnjaa.org

At the Area Office (NNJGS), 2325 Plainfield Avenue, Suite 2J (rear entrance) South Plainfield, NJ 07080

one group said that if the facility did not require advanced access approval for AA members, they print their own "Where & When" for State Correctional Facilities.

Q: How do you get greater cooperation from the Corrections Facility staff? How do you get prison representatives to schedule the AA meetings without conflicts such as "yard time" and availability of showers?

A: Educate prison officials on our 12 Step Program. Some areas cluster CPC, Treatment and Corrections workshops with a 3 year program. 2) Demonstrate AA's commitment to the initiatives with good workshop attendance, and with as little AA volunteer turn over as possible. 3) Acts of humility 4) Conduct said workshops on weekdays for greater facility staff participation. 5) Remember we are volunteers.

Q: Does anyone take Spanish speaking meetings into the meetings?

A: Our roundtable participants shared

that they took Spanish literature into the facilities, but no one actually took a Spanish speaking meeting in.

Q: How to get literature into the hands of the inmate, and not just added to the facility library?

A: Often it's a good idea to make arrangements with the Inmate Services Specialist, (ISS), in order to have literature sent directly to the facility and the ISS may dispense literature upon your directions. 2) Pass a special collections can for inmate literature support. One question was, is this literature drop, often thousands of dollars, considered charity? The answer given was no, individual groups, districts and areas pay for Grapevine subscriptions delivered directly to facilities.

It was noted that a large print *Big Book*, without the stories in back, will be coming soon from the Literature Committee.

Yours in service, Bill J., Area 44 Corrections Chair

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



Area Committee Meeting, Sept.
Area 44 Convention
Area Committee Meeting 1/12
Area Assembly, October
Area Assembly January 18
Area Work Weekend
Asbury Park. Friday Rainbow Grp

Baptistown Meeting
Baptistown Speak Your Peace
Belleville Forest Hills Group
Belleville Thursday Nite
Belmar Saturday Nite
Belvidere Gift of Sobriety Group
Bloomfield Friday Nite
Bogota Noon Group
Bogota Sunrise Group
Bogota Sunset Group
Booze U Lose
Bunnvale Thursday Night Meeting
Califon 5th Chapter Group
Carteret Men's
Cedar Knolls Women's Group
Challenge to Change Tuesday
Change is Good Discussion Group
Chester Group

Clark Saturday Night Live Group
Clifton 3 Legacies Group
Clifton Wednesday Night Step Group
Corrections Meeting 1/25/14
Cranford Tuesday Nite
Daily Reflections
Design For Living
District 3
District 34
Down to Earth Group
East Brunswick Monday
Night Give and Take
Edison Monday Night Madness
Edison Primary Purpose
Edison Sunday Step
Elephants Graveyard
Forest Hills
Fair Haven Early Risers
First Light Group
Fort Monmouth at Shrewsbury Wed. Nite
Franklin Guts Group
Franklin Monday Night Group
Glen Gardner Hill Road Sunday Night
Hackettstown We Will Know a New Peace
Haledon On A Different Footing

Haskell Group
Hawthorne Stepping Stones to Sobriety
Highland Lakes Breakneck Group
Hillsboro Haven of Hope Mon
Hill Street Blues
I Am Responsible Wednesday Night
Lambertville Tuesday Nite
Lincoln Park Big Book Wednesday Night
Live & Let Live Group
Lyndhurst How & Why Group
Lyndhurst Saturday Night
Maplewood Drip Dry Group
Maplewood Thursday Night Group
Matawan Smog Lifters Group
Metuchen Monday Night
Metuchen Saturday Morning Serenity
Millburn Sunday Big book
Monday 12:15 Closed Discussion
Montclair Friday Noon Meeting
Montclair Thursday Night Gay
New Brunswick Attitude of Gratitude
New Brunswick Friday Nite
New Brunswick Thursday Night Big Book
New Brunswick Wednesday Night Group
New Providence Dawn Patrol Group

New Vernon Sharing Group No Butts
Nutley Legacy Group
Nutley Unity Group
Palisade General
Passaic New Traditions
Pattensburg Primary Purpose
Plainfield Sunday Night
Pleasant Valley Group
Rahway Men's Monday
Ramsey Towne Group
Randolph Groups
Randolph Mt. Fern Monday
Randolph Women Just for Today Sat.
Ridgewood Saturday Nite Live
Ringoos Freedom Thru Acceptance
Recovery Hall
Recovery Lifeline
Rockaway Serenity Porch
Rockaway Union Hill Grapevine Meeting
Roselle C.H.E.E.R.S. Clubhouse
Rumson Safe Harbor Group
Rumson Sunday Night
Saturday Morning Bagle Bash
Saturday Nite Live
Secaucus Just For Today

Secaucus Sunday Night Open Speaker
Soberest
South Orange Village Group
South River Friday Nite
Spring Lake Saturday AM
Step Up to Sobriety
Sunday Sundowners
Three Bidges Thursday
Miracles 3 Bridges
Toms River Sunrise Group
Upper Ridgewood Group
Vernon Mon. Nite Speaker Disc.
Vernon Friday Womens Mtg.
Vernon Saturday Reflections
Vernon Tuesday Beginners
Waldwick Monday Nite Mens
Wantage Saturday BB
West New York Saturday Night Group
West Orange Circle Of Friends
Woodbridge Big Book Group
Wyckoff Monday Nite
Wyckoff Positive Thinkers

2014 Area 44 Mini-Conference Topics and Discussion Items

TOPIC I: GRAPEVINE

A. Should we approve a request “to reaffirm the Right of Decision of the AA Grapevine Board to make formatting decisions for the AA Grapevine and La Viña Magazines?”

(Final Conference Agenda Item V-F)

Background

As background for this agenda item we need to first look at Conference Advisory actions from 2001; that “*La Viña continue to be published by the AA Grapevine and supported by the General Service Board as a service to the fellowship*” and “*La Viña continue to be published utilizing AA Grapevine resources in order to achieve efficiencies in production and distribution.*” The General Service Conference has also been asked, over the last several years, to consider addressing the current format of La Viña; find solutions to the La Viña deficit; and explore spiritual parity between La Viña and the AA Grapevine magazines. This agenda item arises out of an attempt to address what appears to be two “contradictory Additional Committee Considerations “from at the 63rd General Service Conference Committee on AA Grapevine. One asked the Grapevine Board to submit a proposal on how to reduce the La Viña deficit and the other asked The General Service Conference to look at formatting issues regarding La Viña, with the thought that by changing formatting, it would reduce costs.

The current agenda item proposes to resolve the contradictions of the previous recommendations and considerations and to rescind a 2010 General Service Conference Advisory Action which places responsibility of formatting decisions to be with the Conference and not the AA Grapevine Board.

The Pros

Support of this agenda item would result in placing formatting decisions for La Viña with the AA Grapevine Board. The fellowship would comply with Tradition 2, trust our trusted servants. It would take a step towards spiritual parity between the magazines by treating each equally, the Grapevine Board can make decisions quickly without needing to come to the fellowship via the General Service Conference for every decision regarding La Viña, and place us in greater alignment with our spiritual principles, in particular, Concept III, Right of Decision; “We ought to allow our responsible leaders to decide within the framework of their duties, how they will interpret and apply their own authority and responsibility to each particular issues as it arises. In short, we would allow La Viña to be handled in the same manner as we allow the Grapevine Magazine to be handled relative to formatting and editorial decisions.

The Cons

Some members state that implementation of this action would result in costs of La Viña being increased in an attempt to achieve parity between the magazines. Others point to removing responsibility of decisions regarding La Viña from the General Service Conference cuts the fellowship out of all future decisions regarding La Viña. Still others may feel implementation of this action would result in lower quality of La Viña production.

How does your group feel?

TOPIC II: LITERATURE

A. Should we approve the suggested changes to the pamphlet Questions & Answers on Sponsorship? (Final Conference Agenda Item VI-D)

Background

The pamphlet entitled *Questions & Answers on Sponsorship* is a popular one. Many members of our Fellowship have strong opinions on how these questions on sponsors and their answers should be presented to this pamphlet’s readers. For this year’s Conference, numerous suggestions were made for changes to this pamphlet. These changes came for an individual member, a few Districts, one Delegate directly and two Delegates with the backing of their Area through an Assembly vote.

At a meeting in July, 2013, the trustees’ Committee on Literature briefly discussed the many suggested changes to the pamphlet. Due to the scope of the suggested changes, a subcommittee was formed, which included 4 Trustees, with Christine H., as chairperson, and a member of the Publications staff as a resource. At the October, 2013 Board weekend, the subcommittee presented their report to the trustees’ Literature Committee on the numerous changes suggested and was asked to bring a final report back to the Committee meeting on February 1, 2014. At that meeting, the final report was presented and the trustees’ Literature Committee sent 4 changes to the pamphlet *Questions & Answers on Sponsorship* to the 2014 Conference. Extensive changes sent in an email by one District and 9 other suggested changes, including one for lengthening the Section on Service Sponsorship, were not forwarded to the Conference.

Three of the changes forwarded to the Conference were in the Section titled “*What does a sponsor do and not do*”:

- The First suggestion seeks to strengthen the language to help a newcomer decide if they are an alcoholic.
- The 2nd suggestion provides more emphatic language about taking a newcomer through the Steps

- The Third suggestion relates to the delicate role of the sponsor when helping a sponsee deal with their issues and realize the consequences of their actions
- The Fourth suggestion is in the Section titled “*When newcomers resist ‘the spiritual’ side of the program, what can sponsor do?*” This change is rather extensive but one component of the revised language suggests pointing the newcomer to the chapter “We Agnostics” in the *Big Book*; the current language makes no mention of the *Big Book*.

For the exact wording of the changes and to see the current language in this pamphlet, please refer to the materials presented by our Delegate and Alternate Delegate at the Pre-conference report.

The Pros

The suggested changes recommended by the trustee’s Literature Committee seems quite reasonable. They provide clarifications for sponsors on these issue and a better way to handle these critical situations with their sponsees. The trustees spent a great deal of time, forming a separate subcommittee, to determine which of the changes to the pamphlet which were submitted should be brought forward and we should trust our trusted servants in this regard. One of the suggestions for dealing with sponsees which are having difficulty with the spiritual side of the program to turn to our trusted source, the *Big Book*, where an entire chapter is dedicated to this issue.

The Cons

The *Questions & Answers on Sponsorship* pamphlet was reviewed and revised in 2010. Is there really a need to review and revise this pamphlet again? While it is important for us to not blindly accept our literature, we should not always be looking to change the literature to be more to our liking. The question should always be: is there a need for this? Are the changes being proposed sufficient to require the cost of changing and reprinting this pamphlet?

GSO and AAWS produce some excellent pamphlets including this one for sponsors and sponsees alike. Please make sure to read through this pamphlet as you prepare to discuss this item at your Group Conscience meeting for discussing the Mini-conference agenda items.

TOPIC II: LITERATURE

B. Should we approve the suggested Changes to Living Sober? (Final Conference Agenda Item VI-E)

Background

There was only three pages of background material on this subject. The literature staff member at GSO received a letter dated October 2, 2013 from a GSR in Louisiana, Area 27, District 8, requesting that a statement found in the book *Living Sober*, be deleted, on Page 5. Some of the letter says:

*“Doctors who are experts on alcoholism tell us that there is a sound medical foundation for avoiding the first drink. It is the first drink which triggers, immediately or some time later, the compulsion to drink more and more until we are in drinking trouble again. Many of us have come to believe that our alcoholism is an addiction to the drug alcohol; like the addicts of any sort who want to maintain recovery, we have to keep away from the first dose of the drug we have become addicted to. Our experience seems to prove this, as you can read in the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* and in our *Grapevine Magazine*, and as you can hear wherever AA members get together and share their experiences.”*

Concerns about the language in the underlined sentence are a part of AA Conference Approved Literature. It supports the thinking that is sweeping our country right now that alcohol and drugs are the same thing. It supports the rising support from within our fellowship that it is time for AA to open its membership to anyone regardless of their problem.

This statement language sounds exactly like what is said at the beginning of most NA meetings about alcohol being a drug.

Does this sentence open the door for those who identify as addicts to talk about drugs and alcohol in AA meetings? If they read the book

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You and I Are Responsible for A.A. – Concepts I & II

Recently, I attended the GSR/DCM workshop for Sections 4 and 5. Luke H., the Area’s current GSR/DCM Workshop Chair, discussed with the assembled GSRs and DCMs how AA history led us to the establishment of the Area to elect a Delegate to attend a “General Service Conference” through the “General Service Representatives (GSRs) who represent the Groups. One key driving factor which led to setting up this structure for A.A. was the realization by Bill W. and Dr. Bob that they would not always be there to guide our Fellowship. This fact was driven home in 1948 by Dr. Bob’s contracting cancer and dying in 1950.

After five experimental General Service Conferences from 1951 to 1955, on July 3, 1955, Bill W. on behalf of the founders, AA’s old-time leaders and the Trustees of the General Service Board turned over responsibility for AA world services to the Fellowship. To you and me. This is the essence of Concept I where final authority and ultimate responsibility will lie with our entire Fellowship. The same resolution which turned over the responsibility of AA to the Groups stated that the General Service Conference would be made the permanent successor to the Founders and the mechanism for our Society to govern its affairs, which is Concept II.

In our Area, it is our responsibility to help prepare our Delegate, who is currently Linda K-K., for the upcoming General Service Conference being held in late April this

year. The GSR, who is your Group’s representative and the link to our Area and AA as a whole, should attend a Pre-Conference report where they will learn about the items that the Delegate is looking to hear your Group’s conscience on; there are 8 such items this year. The GSR will receive the background material on these Conference items which they bring back to your Home Group and hold a Group Conscience meeting to discuss after you’ve had a short time to review the materials. Then, your GSR will attend the Area’s Mini-Conference assembly, which is on April 5th this year, to hear presentations on each of the Conference items, further discuss these items and state your Group’s conscience on each item. Our Delegate then hears the feedback from these discussions in preparation to take the Group conscience from you, me and the Groups in our Area to the General Service Conference. The Mini-Conference assembly can be attended by any member of our Area and is not just limited to GSRs.

Attendance by your GSR or someone from your Home Group at a Pre-Conference report is essential. This is a useful and necessary step for being able to intelligently discuss this year’s Conference items with your Group. The future of AA lies in our hands and this process of expressing your opinion on the Conference items is an important way for you to accept that responsibility on behalf of yourself, your Group, your Area and A.A. as a whole.

Jeff B., Bound Brook Friday Night

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and are aware of this sentence, they could refer to AA literature to show that it is ok for them to speak of both. Why can't I? Your literature does!

It became apparent that this sentence is a contradiction to the message in other literature pieces being published."

Counselors in the addiction field use this book to help their clients identify about their alcoholism. Will this statement be misleading? Newcomers are confused already not knowing what their problem is – alcohol, or drugs, or both.

Does this current text add to confusion regarding AA's Singleness of Purpose? Should this sentence be removed from the book?

History of Living Sober

Living Sober was published in 1976. A few changes have been made since then. In 1997, the Conference Committee on Literature made several recommendations that the suggested changes to *Living Sober* be approved with modification. The recommendation was tabled, and a floor action was submitted but failed. In 1998, several recommendations to the book were made which did not result in Conference Advisory Actions, however, a floor action regarding the addition of sections from the pamphlet *The AA Members Medications and Other Drugs* as an appendix to *Living Sober* was approved as a Conference Advisory Action. In 2009, a group in San Francisco wrote, "We believe that the relevance of the book *Living Sober* should be enhanced with some updating. For example, there is no reference to the internet or social networking sites. In 2010 a recommendation for the General Service Conference. Consider request to review the booklet *Living Sober*. "Advisory Action: It was recommended that the trustees' Committee on Literature review the booklet *Living Sober* and present a report to the 2012 Conference Committee on Literature. At the 2012 Conference final revisions of the *Living Sober* booklets with changes to outdated language or practices was approved.

The Pros

What is stated in our literature would contradict what is stated in Tradition 5 regarding our singleness of purpose.

AA members should understand that the AA's job is to carry the message of their alcoholism to the still sick and suffering.

Newcomers will be confused by the statement "a drug is a drug." This should not be in our literature. Alcoholism is not addiction. It is alcoholism! We are not addicts. We are alcoholics!

All of our literature should be consistent, stating the same message.

Most of all, people will stay in the right fellowship and will not die because of a wrong message.

The Cons

This book is given to a lot of newcomers. Reading this might help them to at least admit they have a problem and keep coming back. They can then find out if they are an addict or an alcoholic.

It may be expensive to remove this sentence from our book.

What does your home group think?

TOPIC II: LITERATURE

C. Should we use the circle and triangle as an unofficial AA service mark on Conference-approved literature? (Final Conference Agenda Item VI-F)

Background

At the International Convention celebrating AA's 20th anniversary in 1955, a circle enclosing a triangle was accepted as the symbol of Alcoholics Anonymous. The symbol was registered as an official AA mark that same year.

In 1979, a distributor of recovery novelty items requested permission to use our logo, and that permission was denied by the AAWS Board.

In 1983, someone who planned to market bumper stickers asked for permission, and that was denied as well.

In 1984, a treatment center was using the circle and triangle on some of its material, and we asked them not to use it and sent them a copy of the registration duly processed by the U.S. Patent Office.

In the 1990-1991 edition of the *A.A. Service Manual*, under the heading, "Use of A.A.'s Trademarks and Logos," text was added pursuant to a 1990 Conference Advisory Action regarding our registered trademarks: "Use of these marks on goods or services which do not emanate from AA, and have not been approved by AA, both infringes upon and dilutes AA marks, in legal terms. The resulting harm is that the marks and AA itself, since AA is what the marks symbolize, will come to be associated with a variety of products and services which are not part of AA, and which are not consistent with our purpose. This will cause the marks to lose their meaning and significance as a symbol of AA, eventually placing them in the public domain for anyone to use on anything they please."

Only after many attempts at persuasion had failed were legal actions considered. Of approximately 170 unauthorized users contacted, two suits were filed, both of which were settled at a very early stage. However, litigation is very costly and time-consuming, and AAWS felt that this could no longer be justified.

During the 1993 post-Conference meeting of the General Service Board, the trustees accepted AAWS's recommendation to discontinue protecting the circle and triangle symbol as one of our registered trademarks. The board agreed with AAWS that this will finally avoid the suggestion of affiliation with outside entities (our Sixth Tradition).

On 1/11/2013, a letter was sent to GSO by the Panel 62 Delegate representing Area 64, Tennessee, requesting the conference agenda item: "*That the circle and triangle with the words recovery/unity/service be (re)considered for use at AAWS as an unofficial service mark.*" It was sent to the trustees Literature Committee on 11/14/13 and became an agenda item for the 2014 General Service Conference.

The Pros

The circle and triangle has a very special meaning in the hearts of AA members, signifying our three legacies of recovery, unity and service within the circle of the fellowship.

Seeing the three sides of the triangle again in our literature would educate, and get AA members involved in, our twelve steps, twelve traditions, and twelve concepts.

Just because we don't own the trademark anymore doesn't mean we can't use it.

We could make clear a new policy of its use on any literature where it appears.

Many members of the fellowship are still upset that we had to give up our beloved trademark, so using the symbol would be a way to "take it back" and make it our own again.

The Cons

What are the legal risks, if any? We know that the circle and triangle is in the public domain, but we must be certain that legal concerns are not an issue.

This could become very confusing to AA members, and the public as well, as to what is Conference-approved literature. Other publishers outside of AA use the circle and triangle too. Would this create never-ending questions and debate within our fellowship? Bill W. said that sometimes "good is the enemy of the best."

Where do we put the symbol on our literature? Does it need to be away from the statement that says "This is A.A. General Service Conference-approved literature?"

Do we put it on all Conference-approved literature, including pamphlets? Service material is not any less important.

What does your group think?

TOPIC II: LITERATURE

D. Should we create a pamphlet for alcoholics with mental illness? (Final Conference Agenda Item VI-G)

Background

At the 62nd General Service Conference in 2012, the Treatment/Special Needs/Accessibilities Committee put forth a recommendation to expand the new *AA for the Alcoholic With Special Needs* pamphlet (P-83) to include additional stories of alcoholics with mental illness. The committee felt that the one story included in the pamphlet

dealing with the issue was insufficient in assuring that sufferers of mental illness can get sober with the program of Alcoholics Anonymous, and that stories in other pamphlets deal with medications and not the challenges faced by the mentally ill.

After discussion the recommendation was defeated by substantial unanimity (greater than two-thirds of the votes), however, a Floor Action was made to develop a separate pamphlet for the alcoholic with mental illness as this topic suggests. During ongoing discussion of the Floor Action, a motion to 'Call the Question' was made even though many delegates were still at the microphone waiting to speak on the issue. The Call passed and the voting of the Floor Action fell one vote short of substantial unanimity in favor of creating the pamphlet.

Traditionally voting greater than one-half, but less than two-thirds is considered a strong suggestion, however, creation of a new pamphlet requires an Advisory Action which in-turn requires greater than two-thirds majority in favor.

Pros

The development of a new pamphlet would allow alcoholics suffering from mental illness to identify with sober alcoholics who have been able to overcome the barriers that mental illness often brings to recovery from alcoholism. It would also allow those in AA who do not suffer from mental illness to read about the symptoms of mental illness that produce barriers to recovery and may assist in reducing some of the prejudice that can be experienced by mentally ill alcoholics.

Cons

While the sales of pamphlets will cover printing costs, the development of a new pamphlet can cost many thousands of dollars. The pamphlet *The A.A. Member – Medications and Other Drugs* (P-11) has six stories of AAs with mental illness who are taking medication, and those stories should be enough to show that alcoholics with mental illness can get and stay sober. There are also some in the Fellowship that say too many pamphlets are already being utilized and that we should not create any more.

What does your group think??

TOPIC III: PUBLIC INFORMATION

D. Should we approve the addition of two new questions to the proposed 2014 AA Membership Survey? (Final Conference Agenda Item VIII-C)

Background

The Public Information Committee will conduct the Triennial, (every 3 years), AA Membership Survey. The initial step involves approving the Survey Questionnaire. The 2014 Conference is being asked to consider the suggested changes to this year's Survey Questionnaire.

This year's committee recommended that two new questions be added.

1. Are you aware that AA publishes the Grapevine, recognized as the International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous. (Respondents can check "yes" or "no" boxes.)
2. Are you aware of the services provided by the General Services Office in New York? (Respondents can check "yes" or "no" boxes.)

The Pros

Every 3 years the conference asks the membership questions about age, sex, marital status, and race. There are 16 questions in all, such as, when did you come to AA, do you have a sponsor, do you have a home group, how often do you attend meetings in a week, what influenced your decision to come to AA, what is the nature of your employment, was AA recommended by a treatment counselor, psychiatrist, or priest, and does your doctor know that you are in AA?

The reasons for the survey are to inform AA members of the characteristics of their Fellowship; to identify trends in membership characteristics; to provide information about AA to the professional community; and to inform the general public.

These 2 new questions would help the conference to understand if the fellowship is aware of the AA Grapevine and if they understand all of the services that are provided by the General Service Office. Are

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the Grapevine Magazine and the services useful tools to the membership? The information would help the General Service Office to plan for the future of AA.

The Cons

Two of the reasons for the survey are to provide information about AA to the professional community; and to inform the general public about AA. Why would the professional community or members of the general public be interested in whether AA members are aware of the services provided by the General Service Office or read the Grapevine?

What does your group think?

TOPIC III: PUBLIC INFORMATION

B. Should we approve the suggested revisions to the Anonymity Card (F-20)? (Final Conference Agenda Item VIII-E)

Background

District 22 in Area 30, (Eastern Massachusetts), participated in a Public Information Survey on the effectiveness of the Long Form of the 11th Tradition. Their sharing session ended with an agreement that the long form was effective for the public but thought something more might be useful for the fellowship. It was presented and approved at their January Assembly to be forwarded to the 2014 Conference.

They requested changes to the wording of GSO's service piece, *AA Anonymity Card* (F-20), by extracting language from the pamphlets *The A.A. Group* and *Understanding Anonymity* to emphasize current media where anonymity may be broken.

The *AA Anonymity Card*, (White Card), is in much the same format as our *Blue Card – Open and Closed A.A. Meetings* and our *Green Card – Self-Support*. The intention would be to provide AA groups with the option of incorporating the reading of the card as part of their meeting format or make the cards available to their members.

History of General Service Conference Actions Concerning the AA Anonymity Card

In 1970 it was recommended that a brief statement be prepared, no longer than the AA Preamble, explaining why AA retains the Tradition of Anonymity at the media-film level.

The Conference approved the Anonymity Statement presented by the trustees' PI Committee in 1971.

It was recommended that a reference to photographs be added to the Anonymity Card in 1983.

The Conference Committee on Literature considered developing a statement to be read prior to our meetings regarding anonymity, specifically written for AA meetings rather than public meetings, but took no action in 1986.

In 1995 it was recommended that the revised Anonymity Statement Card used at public meetings include anonymity reminders regarding videotaping, and full names on audiotapes be approved.

(See below for copies of the current card and the proposed revisions.)

The Pros

In their request Area 30 said that it realizes that it is too costly and process-prohibitive to suggest an unnecessary change to Tradition 11 itself, and too costly to produce another pamphlet when the current

pamphlets are adequate. But a service piece printed on a card would be easily updated as new media is introduced. Note that the intention stresses the reading at all AA meetings as a reminder to AAs of our Tradition of Anonymity.

The Cons

How many opening readings can we do before getting to our meeting? The Preamble, Open/Closed Meeting Statement, How It Works, Steps, Traditions, Concepts, (does any group read those?), Self-Support Statement Card, and AA announcements how much time is left for the meeting?

What is wrong with "What you see here and what you hear here, let it stay here, hear, hear." Do we need to include "what you tweet here" and "what you text here?" With the constant development of new media it will be an endless task to keep up. Do we still need to be reminded about anonymity when videotaping? It seems the media of videotape is rapidly becoming anonymous itself.

What does your group think? Do the group members understand our principle of anonymity and its importance in AA? Do they feel it is the sponsor's job to teach their sponsees about anonymity? We have new members coming to our meetings every day who need to learn about anonymity.

TOPIC IV: REPORT AND CHARTER

A. Should we approve the recommended modification to Article III of the Current Conference Charter? (Final Conference Agenda Item IX-B)

Background

This agenda item was presented by Shawn H., DCM District 4, Area 30, Eastern Massachusetts on behalf of the "Principles Before Personalities" Group.

The Group noted that due to the recent discussions about potential changes to the Eleventh Tradition, there has been a good bit of study of the Conference Charter leading to questions regarding the interpretation of Article 3 of the Charter which talks about what would be required to change the Steps, Traditions and Warranties of Article XII.

The Group further suggested that there exists a 'fatal flaw' in the usage of the words "who respond" in the 1955 Resolution governing these requirements to make a change to the Steps, Traditions or Warranties. They are referring to the portion of the Resolution that states "And before any such Conference action can be taken, there must first be received in writing with the time allotted the consent of at least three-quarters of all those registered groups who respond to such proposal."

The concern is that under the current Conference Charter, it is conceivable that if a proposal were made to change the Steps, Traditions or Warranties, even with proper notice given and proper time allotted, that if only 100 groups responded – and 75 of those 100 voted in favor of the proposed amendment, then by virtue of the language in the Resolution, our Steps, Traditions or Warranties could be changed based on the consent of these 75 groups. This is the 'fatal' flaw identified, not in the spirit of the First Tradition, and the crux of the problem as this Group sees it.

Admitting that the relationship between the Charter and Resolution makes drafting a motion to change difficult, this group believes that their proposed change to the language in Article 3 will clarify the

issue and bridge the gap between the two documents.

Change from:

"But no change in Article 12 of the Charter or in the Twelve Traditions of AA or in the Twelve Steps of A.A. may be made with less than the written consent of three-quarters of the AA groups, as described in the Resolution adopted by the 1955 Conference and Convention."

Change to:

"But no change in Article 12 of the Charter or in the Twelve Traditions of A.A. or in the Twelve Steps of A.A. may be made with less than the written consent of three-quarters of the A.A. groups who have been notified, as described in the Resolution adopted by the 1955 Conference and Convention."

Although this change would clarify that Article 3 in the Current Charter refers to "groups who have been notified," Article 3 still references the Resolution, which maintains the language "those groups who respond." Unfortunately this still may create confusion – so even with the change, which is it: 3/4 of the groups who were notified or 3/4 of the groups who responded?

Below is the full Resolution referenced in Article 3. It was offered by Bill W. and adopted at the 20th Anniversary Convention of AA in 1955, St. Louis, Missouri, July 3, 1955. This Resolution authorized the General Service Conference to act for Alcoholics Anonymous and to become the successor to its Co-founders.

A Resolution

"And it is understood: That neither the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous nor the warranties of Article XII of the Conference Charter shall ever be changed or amended by the General Service Conference except by first asking the consent of the registered AA groups of the world. [This would include all A.A. groups known to the general service offices around the world.] These groups shall be suitably notified of any proposal for change and shall be allowed no less than six months for consideration thereof. And before any such Conference action can be taken, there must first be received in writing with the time allotted the consent of at least three-quarters of all those registered groups who respond to such proposal."

Pros

Changing the language will help clarify Bill's intention to require 3/4 of all groups in the world to agree in writing before any change could be made to the Steps, Traditions or Warranties.

If we don't make the change then it's possible that a very small number of groups could change a Step or Tradition and therefore alter AA.

Cons

Maybe Bill's intention was to create room for interpretation regarding this matter, after all these are spiritual principles we are working with, not rules.

It's not our job to try to interpret what Bill intended. It's been working so far, let's leave it alone.

The change suggested doesn't go far enough to solve the problem. The language in the Resolution still creates a conflict with the suggested change.

What does your group think?

We hope to hear your group's voice on these issues at the Mini Conference. — **The This Day Committee**

A.A. ANONYMITY

(ANNOUNCEMENT FOR READING AT MEETINGS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)

There may be some here who are not familiar with our Tradition of personal anonymity at the public level:

"Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films."

Thus, we respectfully ask that A.A. speakers and A.A. members not be photographed, videotaped, or identified by full name on audiotapes and in published or broadcast reports of our meetings, including those reports on new media technologies such as the Internet.

The assurance of anonymity is essential in our efforts to help other problem drinkers who may wish to share our recovery program with us. And our Tradition of anonymity reminds us that "A.A. principles come before personalities."

F-20

The Current Card (F-20)

A.A. ANONYMITY

(ANNOUNCEMENT FOR READING AT MEETINGS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)

There may be some here who are not familiar with our Tradition of personal anonymity at the public level:

"Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films." **In 2013 the General Service Conference affirmed that anonymity breaks on the Internet, social media and all other forms of public communications are contrary to our Tradition of personal anonymity at the public level. When we break our anonymity at the public level, we may inadvertently break the anonymity of others, and adversely affect AA as a whole.**

~~Thus, we respectfully ask that~~ **In keeping with this spiritual principle,** A.A. speakers and A.A. members ~~ought~~ not be photographed, video **recorded,** or identified by full name on audio recordings, and in published or broadcast reports of our meetings, **including online resources accessible by the public,** ~~including those reports on new media technologies such as the Internet.~~

The assurance of anonymity is essential in our efforts to help other problem drinkers who may wish to share our recovery program with us. And our Tradition of anonymity reminds us that "A.A. principles come before personalities."

The Proposed Draft Revisions (Strikethrough=deleted; Highlighted=added/changed)



Will You Be the Hand of AA?

The Northern New Jersey Intergroup is committed to ensuring alcoholics either living or visiting in the area are able to speak to another alcoholic to find out where meetings are or get connected with an alcoholic for a 12 Step call. As the Essex/Hudson Counties Nightwatch Coordinator, I have been asked questions on what to expect, so here is some basic information.

What is Nightwatch in Northern New Jersey? The Northern New Jersey Intergroup Office operates in Area 44. The AA number that people can call to find meetings, ask questions about AA, or to speak to another alcoholic. The phone number is the same as the Intergroup Office but is answered by volunteers when the Intergroup Office is closed. The phone is simply transferred to the volunteer's phone. The volunteer doesn't have to go anywhere special to answer the phone – just stay near their own phone, have an up-to-date meeting schedule on hand, or use the meeting finder on our website. www.nnjaa.org.

Who can volunteer to answer the Hotline? No experience is necessary; all that is required is a telephone and a desire to help other alcoholics.

What happens when someone doesn't take the phones? The Intergroup Office pays for a professional answering service, so they can take the calls, refer alcoholics to meetings.

What should I expect when I take the Hotline? Answering the phone typically involves answering simple questions, such as where meetings are and simple questions about sobriety. It is important to have an up-to-date schedule on hand as most questions/calls can be answered by referring to the meeting book and www.nnjaa.org meeting finder.

Volunteers should not do extensive 12-step work with people asking for help, for this ties up the phone line. The volunteer is asked to get the callers first name, phone number, and city and tell the caller that someone will call them back shortly. Then, by calling people on the provided "12

step" list, the volunteer finds someone listed in the caller's city that will commit to calling them back.

Nightwatch does not arrange rides although the 12-step list includes some people willing to give rides in an emergency situation. Callers interested in information about AA are referred to the Intergroup office during regular business hours. AA meeting places often have fliers and information concerning AA activities. It doesn't hurt to be aware of the time and place of any special events that are being held around the time you volunteer. (Intergroup Office hours of operation: Monday through Friday from 10 AM till 6 PM)

AA does not affiliate itself with any outside agency. Therefore, Nightwatch volunteers should not give referrals to any specific agencies while representing AA. When answering calls, you are representing AA.

How should I answer the phone? It is important that a caller know right away that they have reached the right number without having to ask if they've called the AA line. Always answer politely and professionally, preferably with "AA, how may I help you?"

How can I volunteer? Many AA groups have volunteered to take responsibility for answering the line on certain weeks.

Check to see if your home group or group you often attend does this and contact the coordinator of that group to see what times might be available. Volunteers are always welcome. There are always openings, either on a regular basis or as a substitute for a regular volunteer.

If your group hasn't volunteered to provide this service, find out why and perhaps volunteer to become your leader and organize others in your group to help out.

Sometimes all that is needed is someone to take the lead. If your group is interested in volunteering, you can volunteer by calling the office or email nightwatch@nnjaa.org to have a Nightwatch Coordinator get back to you.

Nightwatch is always willing to come to groups to answer questions if your group is interested in taking a week. We are always looking for volunteer groups.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Merle F., Essex/Hudson Counties Nightwatch Coordinator

My name is Shawna and I am an alcoholic. It is my current privilege to serve as Public Relations and Promotions Chair for the NERAASA 2015 Committee. While you are reading this, NERAASA 2014 in Rhode Island has already passed, and I am sure we did a great job of "Getting Our Jersey On" and letting everyone know we are hosting NERAASA in 2015. I want to let you all know this is an extremely exciting and unique opportunity for service in our Area.

The last time we hosted a NERAASA was 1998, long before I ever made it to Alcoholics Anonymous and became active in service work. A result of getting sober and getting active in AA lead me to District meetings and Area Assemblies where I often heard of NERAASA but was not sure what it was. Over the years I have learned NERAASA stands for North East Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly. It consists of panel presentations on current hot topics in AA and round table discussions for service positions such as GSRs, DCMs, and many more, along with our standing committees such as Grapevine, Corrections, Treatment, etc. It gives members involved in service the opportunity to discuss and interact with other members in Areas within the North East Region to share ideas and talk about what works and what might not be working. Overall it allows us to connect with our fellowship within the 3 sides of our triangle Recovery, Unity and Service, and together grow towards effectiveness.

Area 44 is very excited to be hosting NERAASA in February of 2015 at the Doubletree Hotel in Somerset. If you are interested in service and are looking for something unique within our Area, the committee meets on the 3rd Friday of every month at 7:30pm at the Area Office in South Plainfield. We hope you will join us as there will be a lot to accomplish from now until next February. If you are looking for more information, please contact our Chair at chair@neraasa2015.org.

In love and service, Shawna S., NERAASA 2015 Committee.

From your Area Convention Committee



Greetings from your 2014 NNJGS Area 44 Convention Chair! As sometimes occurs within our fellowship, all the duties and responsibilities associated with a position may not be fully appreciated at the start of our term. Somewhere, in the back of my mind, was the knowledge that one of the chair's responsibilities is writing a series for our *This Day* newsletter. Now here it is, a week from deadline already: Am I fully prepared and inspired? The honest answer is no. The good news is neither of those conditions is necessary in order for me to do the work. So here goes.

My first convention experience was a mixture of fear and hope. A sea of unfamiliar faces, most of them smiling and appearing comfortable in the company of others—far from the nervous newcomer I was at that time. With less than 90 days between me and my last drink, feeling overwhelmed in social situations was typical and a good portion of those first hours at the Doubletree were spent fighting the urge to flee. Finally, a familiar face from my home group appeared in the crowd. Thierry B. did what most sober members of Alcoholics Anonymous

do with a newcomer: he helped me.

He took the time to stay with me, show me around, and explain what was going on. Giving away what was freely given to him, he performed service and worked with another suffering alcoholic: helping to create the conditions for me to tolerate my discomfort long enough to discover a tiny bit of the freedom that comes with walking through fear. The weekend's festivities made quite an impression on me and continued to fan the tiny flame of hope that "it" could actually get better.

Some years and a few conventions later, a few members of my home group invited me to attend the monthly Convention Meeting. I did the most important thing I've ever done in AA—said yes—and left the meeting as the Alternate Public Relations Chair. And here it is, some twelve years later, still participating in planning one of the best get-togethers of the year, still growing and still sober. I've met a lot of wonderful people throughout those twelve years, seen a lot of wondrous things, and heard just what I needed to hear to keep the light of hope alive. Would love to share this experience with you— if you have a desire to give back, come and join us. We meet at the Area office, the 3rd Wednesday of every month, at 8pm.

In Love and Service- Bill Z., Area Convention Chair

Area Finance Committee



As I write this, the January Assembly has approved the budget for 2014 and so Area 44 is in good shape going into the new year.

I'd like to say again that we all appreciate the support given by all of the groups. Nobody at Area would be able to do Area's vital 12th Step work without your contributions – both financial and in-person.

Our budget process has changed over the past couple of years. 2013 was the first year in which we operated with the "Balanced Budget" approach, which was a redesign that Finance Committee put together

at the request of our Assembly.

2013 revealed some challenges which we had already anticipated. Tradition 7 doesn't necessarily lend itself to a "balanced budget" idea, our function is really about balancing the needs of a budget with the needs of encouraging and supporting service participation. The long form of our 7th Tradition states "Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority." In my own experience, this dispute can just as easily arise from having too little "property, money, and authority" as it can from having too much. Perhaps this is why the 12 Concepts for World Service are so important. They help to clarify how we need to function.

So within Finance, our task is not

to sit looking at numbers as though we've forgotten to get a life, but is more about looking at the underlying message of how we can be effective in supporting you, the AA member, in getting or staying involved in service at the Area level. It's also about offering all of us members some reassurance that our 7th Tradition contribution is effective in helping our Committees to carry the message at the Area level. To that end, Finance becomes one touch-point for every Committee and Officer in the Area, and we raise any concerns with the ACM, (Area Committee Meeting), as and when they arise.

For example, one of our goals this year is to review Area's guidelines for how or when mileage reimbursement would happen, and perhaps suggest proposed guideline

changes to those we serve – your ACM. These can be sensitive questions about which many members have an opinion; when it comes to Area's finances, an informed group conscience is the order of the day.

On that note, I would like to invite interested AAs to join the Finance Committee. We meet on the 4th Monday of every month, 7.30pm at the Area office in South Plainfield. We want new thoughts, new ideas, new input.

Meanwhile, if anyone has any questions, or suggestions about how we could better serve and inform, please feel free to contact me. Just head on over to the "Contact Info" link at nnjaa.org and select the link for Finance Committee.

In Service, Ian S., Chair, Area Finance Committee

A Peek into the History of Our Area: An Old Timers Interview with Stan B. (55 yrs) and Louise T. (37 yrs)

I came into the program of Alcoholics Anonymous in 1998 at twenty-four years of age. I had no idea where this journey would take me, and, at the time, I didn't care. I didn't want to stop drinking; I wanted to stop all the pain, shame, fear and overall misery that was my existence as an active alcoholic. Through this journey I was able to complete my education and to build a career. I listened and learned. I followed the advice, (most of the time), of those who came before me, not because I put them on a pedestal, but because I knew that my way hadn't been working so there couldn't be anything more to lose. And now, fifteen years later, my program has propelled me into a life of "giving back that which was freely given" through service commitments I never knew existed.

It was in my capacity as the Newsletter Committee Chair this past September that I bumped into Stan B. and Louise T. on Saturday evening of the Area 44 Convention. I was giddy with the excitement of the weekend, had my "roving reporter" digital tape recorder in hand, and I asked them how their weekend was going. Stan and Louise were so willing to share with me that night and, since I didn't want to take up too much of their time at the Convention, they agreed to meet with me the following week. I present to you now, in this spring issue, Part One of excerpts from that interview.

Keira: So, the first question I have is what is your memory of how *This Day* started?

Stan: A fellow by the name of Jim Mc. was the newsletter man for many years. He was a graphic artist and he started it. When he passed away somebody else took it and then it just went on. But it was only a one page, both sides, and then later on it became an extra page, and then it got bigger and bigger.

Keira: Do you know about when it started?

Louise: It was around 1979 or 1980.

Stan: The late 1970's.

Louise: Because that's when we were doing the Convention at the same time. I don't know who was before Jim Mc. Didn't John H. print it?

Stan: He was the printer. John H. used to print *This Day*.

Meeting with Stan and Louise was an honor and a joy. They set me at ease and helped me think of questions to ask. It was beautiful to learn about our Area's history, and the history of this program, through the first-hand account of two people who were so connected in time that they spoke as if in unison. When I asked them about the history of the Area and the Convention they shared with me an essay that Stan wrote, which clarified that in 1951 Area 44 had one delegate for all of New Jersey. Then, in 1953 and 1954, we became a two delegate state, represented by Area 44 and Area 45 in South Jersey. I had always wondered

how Area 44 and Area 45 were divided and according to Stan's essay, "New Jersey had 2 telephone area codes. Groups in the "201" area code were included in Area 44, groups in the "609" area code were included in Area 45, and 'borderline groups' had a choice to join whatever Area they chose." Stan proceeded to explain to me the early years of how our Convention grew.

Stan: When I became delegate I started going to New York and Pennsylvania, all around and I saw what they had and I said, "Why don't WE have something like that?" Well, they said, "We got a big one day Convention!" And I said, "The heck with the one day Convention. Let's do something else!" And that's what happened.

Louise: And for the banquet you would stand in line and you got a hamburger and a hotdog, and that's when he decided, we're not gonna have this! And they were all up against it when you told them you were going to have it in a hotel like the other people did.

Stan: Yeah, and I went to the Marriott and I sat down with them and they asked what they could do for us. It had a very small hall, and I looked around and I said, "We'd like to have a Convention here." And he says, "Who?" And I says, "AA." And he says, "Who?" And I says, "We would like to have it." And he says, "You got that many people?" And I says, "Well, we'll wait and see." So anyway, he tells me he's gonna call this guy in Wash-

ington, this guy who owns the hotel who's in Washington and this guy is in AA and he turns around and tells him, "Anything he wants he can have." And so we had our first Convention.

Louise: It was three days.

Stan: Three days!

Louise: On Memorial Day weekend.

I spent almost an hour interviewing Stan and Louise. We can read about history in a book, but there is something to be said about the value of oral history. The written word cannot adequately express those memories that are revealed when we're talking to someone face to face about another time. The way Stan and Louise shared their memories with me was absolutely precious. Near the end of the interview I asked them for feedback on *This Day* and if they had any advice for me:

Stan: I think the Newsletter is now about the best we've had. I would just keep doing what you're doing!

Louise: I like the Newsletter, too.

Stan: It's got a lot of information, a lot of people are interested in it, and the people that do it are pretty smart people.

Louise: I like it because you know all the people – the Chair, the Delegate, and you get to know what's going on in the Area. I think the Newsletter is very good now.– it's really nice.

Stan: It's pretty good now.

I like it. I read it!

Well, that's it for now. I hope you enjoyed reading these excerpts from my interview.

Thank you Stan and Louise!

Keira H., Newsletter Chair



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**

Can't give away something you haven't got!

This expression we hear over and over again in AA, and it get's truer the longer I work the program. When I first came to AA my first sponsor did Big Book work with me. We sat at his kitchen table, and we went through the book line by line. He explained as we went along, and he had me highlight and underline certain parts. Great gift to be given, every time I subsequently read those parts I was reminded of what they meant. It made it so much easier to then sponsor someone. All I had to do was make the time, sit down with them, and pass it on. It was all right there for me in black and white, and hard to mess up, as long as I kept myself out of the equation.

The first thing he had me do was to take an AA coin, trace the coin, and then draw the AA triangle in it. He then explained to me the three legacies of

AA: Recovery, Unity and Service. He had me write the 12 spiritual principles that corresponded to each legacy: the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts. Then it was explained to me that all three of these legacies are the AA program. Going to meetings was just fellowship, the unity side of the triangle. The part of my disease it treated was the body. The recovery side treated the mind.

The service side treated the spirit. He said if I practiced all three sides of that triangle equally, that I would be safe in that triangle, and therefore safe from a drink. A lot of information to swallow when you're new, but more valuable AA information I never received. I have come to truly understand and believe those words today.

I have never had any problem attending meetings. After 14 years I still go almost every day. Service, too was never an issue. I was told to have two service commitments every rotation, and because of that I was bitten by the service bug. I now have about ten years of service outside of the AA group. I am a part of the AA service structure. Now we come to the crick in the armor, the recovery side of my triangle. I stayed with that sponsor up until it was time to do my 4th step. He never saw me at his kitchen table again. I subsequently went on practicing the two other legacies, until the emotional pain became so great I had to write a fourth and do a fifth. I then did six and seven. Some of my defects were obvious, some were a bit of a revelation. This sponsor did not follow me through the rest of the steps. He didn't make sure I did all my amends. So I couldn't benefit totally from steps ten, eleven and twelve. I wasn't thorough, I was still blocked somewhat. Well, this program works

to its fullest when you do it, and doesn't when you don't. So there are some holes in my recovery side of the triangle. If I am the dot inside that triangle, there is room for me to slip through. That makes me vulnerable to a drink. It is no surprise that because of this, I don't have a strong conscious contact with my higher power. So you

can't give something to your sponsees that you don't have yourself.

I recently had a sponsee of 6 years decide to get a new sponsor. The good news is that he has a very strong program, strong two legacies, a weaker recovery one. He wanted to make his program stronger, and

continued on page 12

Step Four: When And Why

The top paragraph of page 64 tells us: "Though our decision was vital and crucial step, it could have little permanent effect unless at once followed by a strenuous effort to face, and to be rid of, the things in ourselves which had been blocking us. Our liquor was but a symptom. So we had to get down to causes and conditions." This important paragraph not only tells when to begin Step Four, it tells why we are to do Step Four, and get on with the rest of the program of action!

When?: I found it vitally important to begin Step Four 'at once' per instructions because if delayed the immediate enthusiasm may well begin to diminish, e.g.: Depending on the outcome of the Friday night high school football game I would be either elated, talkative and cheerful... or sad. But a few days later this "great effect" would disappear (see page 63 – bottom). Immediately following the Third Step Prayer I was willing to be as honest as I could be, but a few days later, Well, you know how it is... emotions wax and wane.

Why?: Perhaps the most important of the wonderful rewards of Step Four is that we learn tools

explaining how to face and be rid of the things in ourselves which had been blocking us. (Remember in the Third Step Prayer we asked to be relieved of the bondage of self?). In the following few pages we learn tools to help rid us of resentment and needless and illogical fear. We also come across tools that teach us to discover when we have been selfish and dishonest.

This great news should encourage all of us to look forward to this step with glee, rather than the usual fear and dread so often heard around the tables. This is one reason that I never allow sponsees to do Step Four alone—they need sponsor guidance right from the beginning! I have them pray to God, asking for knowledge of their defects and shortcomings, then write them down as they spontaneously come to mind. This may take a few days of prayer and scribing, but it exonerates much of the panic. This is because the writing comes spontaneously without having to think it out—God has provided the information automatically! Of course, later, they may add as they see fit, but never subtract. After this we go through the Fourth Step process as laid out in the Big Book on page 64 thru 71.

Bob S., Richmond, IN

The 12 Steps were presented in a deep and peppy production December 7 by the Garden State Young People in Belleville. Collectively, the audience and panel demonstrated a fascination with sharing about AA's principles, and a devotion to learning more.

Twelve speakers, (three at a time on four panels), each spoke of their experience with their assigned step. (First Panel: Steps One, Two, Three; etc.) Then, each panel took questions from the moderator and the audience, broadening the collective thoughts of the panels. Speakers were well prepared, through their own deep review or experience in speaking. They held the group's attention throughout the day of sharing.

"When you're in for years, it's good to mix it up," said Maureen P. of Dunellen. In

GSPY Serves Up 12-Steps Panel

getting all 12 steps in one day, "you get a different perspective," she said, admiring the format.

Each panelist spoke from a different background in learning about and using their assigned step in their life. Some referred to exact processes with their sponsor or sponsors. Some cited specific books--the Big Book, the Red book, and the 12&12. Different processes all led to love of and confidence in, the steps building one's program of recovery.

Of special AA events, retreats, and days of

Garden State Young People "Young: is anyone who still has growing to do."

sharing, Maureen P. said, "You can drop in on a meeting, but you don't go to these things unless you are committed. The people who go--recovery is important to them."

And there were a few laughs, as usual when speakers qualify about their intoxicated insanity. An element of someone's story might be stunningly bizarre, while gaining laughter and identifying nods of the head. So, even if not everyone carried the meat cleaver around, we could all identify with damage that fell on our souls or on "the dining room furniture," as it says in our literature.

Many thanks to GSPY's service, building AA's "we" as, together, we trudged the road of happy destiny.

Kathleen M., Bridgewater, District 35

As the snow begins to melt, GSPY's efforts to put on our annual conference ramp up into overdrive. There are t-shirts to make, logos to approve, meetings to organize, and scores of registrations to collect. Our committee is working fast and furious to get this done, and bring the best conference we possibly can to Northern New Jersey and beyond.

Those of you who attended last year's conference may have noticed some differences between the way the conference ran in years past, and the way it was run last year. Generally, those who hadn't been to a GSPY Conference enjoyed the changes, while those who'd been coming for many years didn't care for them as much. Our program committee, comprised of two of our most seasoned members, is putting together a program that will take the best out of both old and new. Both of our Saturday night speakers are lined up, and we will have some panel discussions along with the discussion meetings. However, many of the meetings that our attendees have come to love over the years will be back, including the traditional topic for our Saturday night/Sunday morning bonfire meeting.

While this work is going on behind the scenes in preparation for May, it is also important that we keep up the energy and enthusiasm

of GSPY year 'round. We've had three amazingly successful events since the last issue; our first 12-Step Workshop in December, a Bowling Night in January, and a roller skating evening in February. Three very different events, to be sure, but all were well attended, and we were able to bring a message of fellowship, recovery and service to many, many young (and formerly young) alcoholics. Yes, proceeds from these events help defray much of the cost of putting on our conference, but as I looked around at the attendance, and saw the joy in our attendees' faces, I understood how truly secondary the money is. The primary purpose of any group is to carry its message to the still suffering alcoholic, and through our events, we are able to do just that.

We have two more events in store for you before May: first, we're back to our more traditional dances with a **Spring Dance** on **March 22nd** in **Highland Park (Meeting 7-8, Dance 8-midnight)**, and on **April 5th** we're hosting a **Spaghetti Dinner/Game Night**, at which we'll have **speakers from the early days of GSPY**. These speakers will share their experience, strength and hope about the fellowship in GSPY, and why our committee and conference have been important components of their sobriety.

All of this is leading up to our Conference; **May 2-4** at the **Fair-**

view Lakes YMCA in Stillwater. If you've never been, register and be prepared for the most spiritual weekend your sobriety has ever seen. A couple of miles outside of town, on roads no GPS has ever seen, and barely within cellphone range, we take over the YMCA camp. We stay in cabins (with heat and hot water!), eat in the dining hall, have meetings in the arts and crafts cabin and the program lodge, and spend our Saturday afternoon on the lake. Saturday night we have our big meeting with sobriety countdown, and dance into the wee small hours of the morning. The conference closes with a kick-out meeting where we sing Amazing Grace, and find ourselves slowly returning to the world as we wind down Route 206. **To register**, go to **www.gsyp.org**, find the "Click Here and Register Online" button at the top right corner, and **register**. It's that simple. Your \$160 registration covers lodging, all meals and conference events -- including our Saturday night dance. We also have a registration flyer suitable for downloading on our website, as well as below in this issue of *This Day*. We look forward to seeing you there!

As always, if you have questions, comments, concerns or complaints about your local YPAA, I'd be happy to answer them for you. Please contact me at chair@gsyp.org.

In love and service, Christopher D., Chair, GSPYAA.

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 Center, 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 Piaget 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 Jerfferie 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. 7:30pm, 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** - 1st Wed 7:00pm, 1st Presbyterian Church, 140 Mountain Ave., Westfield
- 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 St, Freehold



Garden State Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous
present the 2014 Conference:

"A New Freedom"

May 2- 4, 2014
YOUNG is ANYONE who still has room to grow!

Register & pay online at:
www.gsyp.org
or mail registration to:
"GSPYAA"; PO Box 219;
South Plainfield, NJ 07080

Total cost of the conference is \$160.00 which includes the following:

- All lodging & meals
- Recreational activities
- Soda, coffee, water
- Hiking along the Appalachian Trail
- 3 days & 2 nights of continuous meetings
- Canoeing on the lake
- Bonfire meetings & s'mores
- Fun & fellowship
- Saturday night speaker meeting & dance

Questions or Comments: chair@gsyp.org cochair@gsyp.org registration@gsyp.org

THIS IS A CLOSED CONFERENCE OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

-----CUT HERE & MAIL THE BOTTOM HALF WITH YOUR PAYMENT-----

GSPY Conference 2014 Registration Form
(You can also register online at www.gsyp.org)

FIRST NAME _____	LAST NAME _____	AGE* _____	<input type="checkbox"/> MALE	<input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE
STREET ADDRESS _____	CITY _____	STATE _____	ZIP CODE _____	
PHONE NUMBER _____	EMAIL ADDRESS _____	SOBRIETY DATE _____		
T-SHIRT SIZE _____	SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS _____			
REQUESTED ROOMMATE _____	SUGGESTED MEETING TOPIC _____			

*Under 18 requires parental consent, signed, and dated by parent or legal guardian.

Would you like to reserve a sweatshirt? <i>(Available for purchase at the conference)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES	If yes, what is your sweatshirt size?: _____
Is this your first GSPY conference?	<input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES	Want to Chair a meeting?
Deposit Amount:	\$50 minimum deposit; or \$160 to pay in full	\$ _____
Scholarship Amount:	Give what was so freely given to you & support the registration of someone in need!	\$ _____
Total Enclosed:		\$ _____

All cabin assignments are made by gender. If you give your spot to someone else, make sure it is to a member of the same gender. If you want to room with a friend, note it on your registration form & we'll do our best to accommodate. NO CAMPING, TENTS, or BBQ GRILLS. Checks should be mailed by April 18, 2014- No refunds after that date- Cash only accepted at the Conference.

Intergroup Calendar

MARCH		
3	Delegates Meeting, Clark	8:30 PM
6	Joint Website Committee*	7:30 PM
9	Bookers Exchange, Cranford	6:30 AM
19	Nightwatch Committee	7:30 PM
APRIL		
3	Delegates Meeting, Clark	8:30 PM
18	GOOD FRIDAY (Office Closed)	
24	Joint Website Committee	7:30 PM
MAY		
1	Delegates Meeting, Clark	8:30 PM
21	Nightwatch Committee	7:30 PM
22	Joint Website Committee*	7:30 PM
26	MEMORIAL DAY (Office Closed)	
27	Joint Unity Meeting*	7:30 PM
JUNE		
5	Delegates Meeting, Clark	8:30 PM
8	Bookers Exchange, Cranford	6:30 AM
26	Joint Website Committee	7:30 PM

*Area Office, 2325 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield

www.nnjaa.org

Try it on your Smartphone



Your Northern New Jersey A.A. Website



www.nnjaa.org/members
password: onedayatatime

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"

NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE MAY 16th
NEWSLETTER@NNJAA.ORG

Statement Of Purpose:
This Day is published quarterly as a joint newsletter for Northern New Jersey General Service Area 44 and the Northern New Jersey Intergroup. *This Day* functions to promote communication between the groups in Northern New Jersey and to provide members with service-related information. *This Day* is also a forum for the diverse opinions of the Area 44 Fellowship through shared experience, strength, and hope in all three of AA's legacies: Unity, Service, and Recovery.

Editorial Policy:
Articles submitted from the Fellowship are encouraged, and should not exceed 800 words. The newsletter committee reserves the right to edit submissions for grammar, readability, and content. 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 mailed to the attention of the Newsletter Committee at NNJGS Area 44, Suite 2J, 2325 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield 07080, or emailed to: newsletter@nnjaa.org.

NNJGS Area 44 Office Calendar

MARCH		
9	Films Committee	11:00 AM
9	AREA COMMITTEE	12 NOON
10	Convention Subcommittee	8:00 PM
11	Public Information Com	7:30 PM
12	Treatment Committee	8:00 PM
13	International Hospitality Com	7:30 PM
15	Corrections Committee	10:00 AM
16	Garden State Young People	2:00 PM
17	Literature Sales	6:30 PM
17	Literature Committee	7:30 PM
18	CPC Committee	8:00 PM
19	Convention Committee	8:00 PM
20	Newsletter Committee	7:30 PM
21	NERAASA 2015 Committee	7:30 PM
24	Finance Committee	7:30 PM
26	History & Archives	7:30 PM
APRIL		
1	Officer's & Standing Com	7:30 PM
2	Mailing Committee	6:30 PM
2	Translation Committee	6:30 PM
4	Policy & Admissions	7:30 PM
5	MINI CONFERENCE Old Bridge	
7	Remote Communities	7:30 PM
8	Public Information Com	7:30 PM
9	Treatment Committee	8:00 PM
10	International Hospitality Com	7:30 PM
12	Grapevine Committee	10:00 AM
12	75th Anniversary BB Branchburg	5-9 PM
13	Garden State Young People	2:00 PM
15	CPC Committee	8:00 PM
16	Convention Committee	8:00 PM
17	Newsletter Committee	7:30 PM
18	NERAASA 2015 Committee	7:30 PM
21	Literature Sales	6:30 PM
21	Literature Committee	7:30 PM
24	Website Committee*	7:30 PM
27-May 2	GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE	
28	Finance Committee	7:30 PM
30	History & Archives	7:30 PM
MAY		
2	Policy & Admissions	7:30 PM
3	Grapevine Committee	10:00 AM
5	Remote Communities	7:30 PM
6	Officer's Meeting	7:30 PM
7	Mailing Committee	6:30 PM
7	Translation Committee	6:30 PM
8	International Hospitality Com	7:30 PM
10	Corrections Committee	10:00 AM
14	Treatment Committee	8:00 PM
15	Newsletter Committee	7:30 PM
16	NERAASA 2015 Committee	7:30 PM
16	THIS DAY DEADLINE	5:00 PM
17	CORRECTIONS CONFERENCE	9:00 AM

18	Films Committee	11:00 AM
18	AREA COMMITTEE	12 NOON
18	Garden State Young People	5:00 PM
19	Literature Sales	6:30 PM
19	Literature Committee	7:30 PM
20	CPC/PI Workshop	8:00 PM
21	Convention Committee	8:00 PM
22	Website Committee*	7:30 PM
22	Computer Committee	7:00 PM
26	Finance Committee	7:30 PM
27	Joint Unity Meeting	7:30 PM
28	History & Archives	7:30 PM

JUNE		
2	Remote Communities	7:30 PM
3	Officer's & Standing Com	7:30 PM
4	Translation Committee	6:30 PM
4	Mailing Committee	6:30 PM
6	Policy & Admissions	7:30 PM
7	Grapevine Committee	10:00 AM
10	Public Information Com	7:30 PM
11	Treatment Committee	8:00 PM
12	International Hospitality Com	7:30 PM
14	AREA ASSEMBLY District 10 & 16	
15	Garden State Young People	2:00 PM
16	Literature Sales	6:30 PM
16	Literature Committee	7:30 PM
17	CPC Committee	8:00 PM
18	Convention Committee	8:00 PM
19	Newsletter Committee	7:30 PM

*Intergroup Office, 2400 Morris Ave, Union

DISTRICT DOINGS

DISTRICT 1&2 – Since last you heard from our District, we have been pretty busy. We have helped the town of Sparta host a Thanksgiving Alkathon, which went off wonderfully.

We hosted our yearly Christmas Alkathon at Sunrise House in Lafayette, N.J. We had about a twenty five percent increase in attendance at the hourly meetings. We were short on food donations this year, but it looks like just a fluke.

We just got done hosting the Section 1's GSR/DCM Workshop on February 1st, which was a success. We picked up a couple of good prospects for future GSRs, definitely Alt. GSRs. The attendance from the other Districts in our Section was extremely low.

We are floating around the idea of having a day of sharing in May of this year, before our Picnic in July. But only if we see more individuals volunteering for the actual work, will we move ahead with that. That is it, and thanks for letting me be of service. – *Walter B. District 1/2*

DISTRICT 23 – held our Annual Spaghetti Dinner and meeting on January 25th. We will also be hosting the Mini Conference on April 5th at St. Thomas Church in Old Bridge. We look forward to seeing you all then. – *Berney S., Alt. DCM*

ONE BREATH AT A TIME

11th Step Meditation/Discussion
Closed Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous
Group's 2nd Anniversary
Saturday, May 31st

9:00am: Doors Open
9:30am: Beginner's Yoga
10:00am: Meditation/Discussion Mtg
11:00am: Potluck Brunch

Bethany Lutheran Church
262 Joralemon Street, Belleville

DISTRICT 24

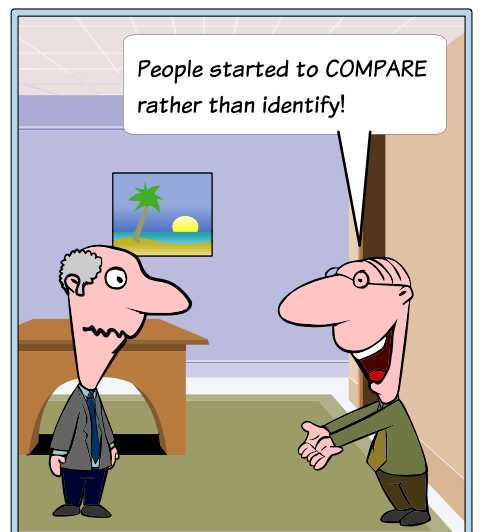
DAY OF SHARING
Save this Date!

Saturday, May 3rd
New Monmouth Baptist Church
4 Cherry Tree Farm Road
Middletown

9:00am – 2:00pm
Coffee, bagels and lunch will be provided
Contact district24@nnjaa.org for additional information

JERSEY FRESH

By: Wayne R.



A message from your GSR/DCM Workshop Chair



This may be an outside issue but I have to say that I AM DONE WITH WINTER! Anyway, on to our topic at hand.

This is a very busy and very important time for all GSRs and DCMs. Our Delegate will be attending the Annual Conference in NY in late April. Since our Area 44 Delegate serves Area 44, she will go to the Conference to express the collective voice and vote of Area 44 on many important issues. She will find out what Area 44 thinks about these issues at our Mini-Conference on April 5th, in Old Bridge, NJ. PLEASE attend the Mini-Conference.

The challenge for GSRs and DCMs is huge. Let's spell it out. First we should all attend a pre-conference report. This is where our Delegate and Area Officers come to every Section and give us all the details about some of the important topics to be voted on at the Conference. They will explain the top-

ics to us and we should make sure to ask questions and get all the handouts. Please check to see the schedule of Pre-Conference dates and towns and if you can't make the one in your section, please come to another one. They are open to all interested AA members.

The next part of the challenge is to take this information and schedule a time for your group to discuss these topics. It is their voice that we need to hear. You may need to schedule two meetings and only do half the topics at a time. You may want to give out some background info (and copies of *This Day*) ahead of time so your group is informed. Everyone knows how hard it is to get people to stay longer or come earlier or on another day; but it is so important! It is truly the way we make sure that the AA members have final responsibility for AA itself. As difficult as it is, it can also be a great experience for individual members and groups to truly be a part of this great process. Have a great time with it and thank you for your service.

Yours in Service, Luke H., GSR/DCM Workshop Chair



NERAASA 2014 WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND



Spring 2014



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

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From the Editor

Exactly 19 years ago I received a phone call from Kathy K., the *This Day* Newsletter Chair, who asked if I would attend the next *This Day* Newsletter meeting. It seems they had seen an article that I had written, "Who Is This Group's GSR?" for the District 20 Courier, a small district newsletter that I had started. They were interested in reprinting it in *This Day*.

What an honor, of course they could reprint it, also would I attend the meeting to discuss it. The committee was small, area and intergroup cochairs, and 2 other writers. They asked if I was also interested in joining the committee, I thought I would give it a try.

I attended the next two monthly meetings and observed how they planned the content for the upcoming summer 1995 issue. I volunteered that I was a computer graphic designer, and had experience using the same software for page makeup that they were using. They asked me if I would like to try my hand at laying out the summer issue. Of course I would.

The summer issue went smoothly. At the July meeting, they congratulated me on a job well done and told me that they had been doing the newsletter for some time now and that it was time for them to rotate. They were sure I could handle it from here on.

I was too busy accepting the praise to realize that I was now a committee of one. I moved the

monthly newsletter meeting to the third Thursday of the month. You see, I was also the Area's Literature Chair and they met on that night. I thought I could kill two birds with one stone.

For the next eight years the Literature Committee met at 7:30pm and the *This Day* Newsletter Committee was scheduled to meet at 8:30pm. One night when the Literature Committee meeting was over I was putting on my coat to leave when a young lady asked me, "Where does the newsletter committee meet?" "Why do you want to know?" I asked. "Because I'm interested in joining the newsletter committee!" she said. Wow, I've got a committee!

I was well aware that a one-person committee putting out a newsletter was a dangerous undertaking. In time, the committee built up to six or eight volunteers. We wrote the first guidelines for the committee. In the guidelines, we created a new non-rotating position of Newsletter Editor, to be a separate position from the rotating Area Newsletter Chair.

In 2000, we changed the size and stock that the newsletter was printed on from 8 1/2 x 11" to 11 x 14" printed it on "newsprint" paper. The larger size allowed for more articles and printing on newsprint allowed for the job to run on a web press at less than 1/2 the cost of offset printing. The Fall 2013 issue was changed to 11 x 17" to accommodate new postal regulations for mailing. This meant even more room for articles.

Over the years there have been some highlights. The idea to print

"background information" on the "Pre-Conference Topics" our delegate asked our groups, would be included in each Spring Issue. This idea was well received in the area.

Over the years I had been asked many times if a map of Area 44 existed. In an effort to get more DCM participation we started a "District Profile" column. Each issue we would highlight a district. I would draw a map, and ask the DCM to write about his/her district. As soon as we went to the larger 11 x 14" format we printed the first map of Area 44 in the centerfold in the Winter Issue of 2000.

A substance abuse counselor called to ask permission to reprint an article run in a column called "Our Basic Text" for use with his rehab clients. A text from the Alaska Area Delegate asking permission to use our "background information" for a presentation to his Mini-Conference in Alaska. I was surprised to learn at an area assembly that an article I wrote in *This Day* "What Do I Tell My Patients?" had been reprinted in Box 4-5-9 under the CPC banner.

Of the seventy-six issues I've worked on, we have only missed one deadline. My computer died the day before going to press.

This will be my final issue of involvement on the newsletter committee. I am going to be leaving the area this summer, moving to Northern California Coastal Area 6.

I wanted to show my gratitude to the fellowship that gave me a new life 21 years ago. What better way than to contribute to such an active area, that God gifted me with - Area 44. Speaking of gratitude, I want to thank all the AA members, area of-

ficers, and delegates with whom I have worked over the years and who have contributed their time and experience toward making this newsletter something the area can be proud of.

I want to wish our new editor Wayne R., the best of luck. He won't need it; he is a most capable and qualified AA. As was told to me 19 years ago, "I'm sure you can handle it from here." At least he has a good committee to help him.

***Yours in service, Bill L.,
Retiring Editor, This Day***

SPEAK OUT

CONTINUED FROM PAG 9
obviously met someone who had something he wanted. So he went for it. We are still very close, I love the guy. We never fully talked about the reason he was changing sponsors. I didn't have the courage to ask. My guess was that he was on a more spiritual quest. I couldn't give him something he felt I didn't have.

Just yesterday I was talking with another sponsee, and he pointed out that in the two years I have been sponsoring him, we have talked about God and our higher powers very little. Even though he has a good conscious contact with his, and brings his life situations to him, I very seldom suggest that to him. Ouch, does anyone else see a pattern here?

Well the good news is that we learn just as much from our sponsees as they learn from us. What a great lesson! So in closing, if I want to give it away, I better well have it. This is one AA article I most definitely will be signing anonymously.

Yours in service, Anonymous

