

THIS DAY

www.nnjaa.org
News & Notes from NNJ General Service Area 44 and Northern New Jersey Intergroup



“Our Spiritual Way of Life: Steps, Traditions and Concepts.”

It’s hard to believe that I am writing you just ahead of my second General Service Conference. Again, I am filled with gratitude, excitement and a sense of awe as I represent you as your Delegate. With a grateful heart I thank you for trusting me with this position as I am committed to serve you to the best of my ability.

This year I am honored to serve as the Chair of the Conference Literature Committee. Recently all Delegate Chairs were invited to the Winter General Service Board Meeting in New York. For four days I mixed with our Trustees, Directors, Staff and other Delegate Chairs. I had the opportunity to share and observe the Trustees’ Committee Meetings as well as the General Service Board Meeting. I was invited to participate in the Trustees Literature Committee Meeting – wow! I am very pleased to report back to you that although we in AA are facing many big issues, we are in loving and capable hands!

So you see, I’ve already begun preparation for our Area Pre-Conference Reports (check out the schedule in this issue), Mini-Conference (April 9), and General Service Conference (GSC). As I’m awaiting delivery of the final Conference agenda and background, it seems like a good time to reflect on how we got here.

At our 1955 Convention in St. Louis Bill W.’s resolution was adopted, authorizing our General Service Conference to act as the permanent successor to our founders. It was there that our GSC inherited all responsibilities and duties from our founders so A.A. would always have the means to function, as long as we are needed. In other words, A.A. became ours. We are all in this together, and together we are responsible for Alcoholics Anonymous. What an honor, and what a responsibility!

By the time this article is published, I will have met with your

Alternate Delegate Lester G., and our Past Delegates to choose the topics we will discuss at this year’s Mini-Conference. Selected from the full Conference Agenda, we believe these topics will represent the more compelling issues affecting A.A. today and those that may be the most interesting to Area 44 members. I, along with Lester, your Area Chair Jeff B., and your Treasurer Mike S., will travel around the Area in March delivering seven pre-conference reports. We will present the background material to our GSRs so they can have meaningful discussions with their groups and then carry their group conscience to our Area Mini-Conference on April 9.

It’s so important for all GSRs to attend a pre-conference meeting and participate in our Mini-Conference. We need to know what you and your groups think. And of course, all interested A.A.s are welcome at both. We want to hear from all!

If any of what I’ve written sounds unfamiliar or confusing, please reach out to me, I welcome the opportunity.
Continued on page 2



Many Service meetings open with the Responsibility Pledge (“I am responsible when anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A., always to be there. And for that I am responsible.”) and close with the Declaration of Unity (“This we owe to A.A.’s future to place our common welfare first, to keep our Fellowship united. For on A.A. unity, depend our lives and the lives of those to come”).

When I was in rehab I heard people say “To keep it; you need to give it away.” I had no idea that “it” was the “gift of sobriety”. From the beginning, I was being told that I need to give back to the program that saved my life and that is teaching me, one day at a time, how to live my life better. I realize that I am a work in progress and that there is still much to learn.

I was also blessed with the gift of service. Very early in my sobriety, my Higher Power steered me into service work outside my Group. This has allowed me to serve as

a District Literature chair and Secretary, the first GSR for my Home Group, a DCM and an Area Officer. Our Delegate, Jay E., asks me to point out that this was done without being able to drive a car for 12 years so where there is a will there is a way. For the past 14 months, I’ve had the honor and privilege of serving you as your Area Chair. I can’t thank you enough for electing me to this position where I can help facilitate 12th step work (the true aim of any A.A. service work) and visit the Districts to see all the service work that we are doing here in Area 44 to give back to this program. You don’t need to do your service for A.A. the way that I’ve done mine. But I’m a firm believer that you do need to give back and be of service to our Fellowship. As the Responsibility Pledge states, we are responsible. What are you doing to give back?

There is a lot of service work to be done in our Home Groups: coffee maker, meeting chair, Group Treasurer, greeter, etc. Most people never go beyond this level of service and there is nothing wrong with that. I make sure that I am always being of some service to my Home Group. I’d like to challenge you to go beyond that and be of service to your District or the Area. Most people do not know and, in many cases do not care, that there is service outside their group or meeting. We need “boots on the ground” as our Treasurer Mike S. is fond of saying. Sponsor a rack in a library; go on speaking com-
Continued on page 2



News and notes from northern New Jersey Intergroup. First of all my name is Aaron and I’m an alcoholic. I’m serving as YOUR, Intergroup chairman. If anyone voted for me reading this article thank you for this amazing opportunity, to give back. We are glad to report that Intergroup as a whole is doing well. It’s all because of the continued financial support of the groups and individuals. Not to mention the delegates that represent the groups, (the voice of AA). Lastly our passionate board of trustees, that help guide Intergroup as well. I urge anyone to take the

next step to get involved on other levels of service. The rewards you’ll receive are to numerous to count. Just like our program of recovery I can only share my experience. I can tell you thing for certain, it’s not politics it’s passion. To ensure AA will be there in the future to help those who need us. As I did. I’m pleased to announce the Intergroup road show, is heading to your district. We’re contacting the district DCM’S to ask for 5/10 minutes at there district meeting. So we can thank them, and share the services Intergroup provides for AA as a whole. Along with our joint committee work with the area. I can’t we can not only for our recovery but our 12step work. I’ve also had the opportunity to attend service events throughout the country. When I proudly share the our Intergroup and area work together heads turn. It seems other areas aren’t as fortunate as we are. I do admit it’s hard to keep me ego in check when I share adopt how blessed we are. I try to remember not brag but how can we help. Francis our current trustee chair had a great idea. Try to end our trustees meeting 10/ 15 early so we can introduce ourselves to the delegates. We are always there for the fellowship. In closing we meet the first Thursday of every month at the polish cultural foundation in Clark at 8:30. The address is on the website under the Intergroup tab. Just another reason to view our amazing website. There’s an opportunity to purchase meeting books as well as AA and grapevine literature. Thanks again to all those that serve. Aaron K Northern New Jersey Intergroup Chair. Any comments questions or concerns see me or any other trustee at our meeting. Or contact me at Intergroup-chair@nnjaa.org.

also inside

- Area Treasurer’s Report 2
- Standing and Special Committee Reports 2-10
- Mini-Conference Topics & Discussion Items 5-9
- Speak Out 10
- District Service Meetings 4
- Intergroup and Area Calendars 12

NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE MAY 27
NEWSLETTER@NNJAA.ORG



Hello again from your Area Treasurer. It is an honor and privilege to serve our fellowship.

Thanks for showing your gratitude for sobriety with the time you volunteer and the contributions you and your groups send to support the Area's primary mission to "Carry the Message." This loving, spiritual expression of the 7th Tradition enables our message to reach the sick and suffering alcoholic in need of recovery as well as those of us on our recovery journey. Thank you!

Recently, I was asked why the Groups should continue to donate to the Area when the Prudent Reserve (PR) funds are greater than the calculated target. The most important reason is to support Area 44's work to "Carry the Message" to the sick and suffering alcoholic, our Primary Purpose. This vital work requires continuous inflows of contributions and volunteers supplying their ideas, time and energy. Using some of the Prudent Reserve when necessary is appropriate but our Reserve is cannot fully support 12-Step work in place of ongoing contributions. In 2015, despite total expenses exceeding total income, your Area continued to fulfill its Primary Purpose thanks to the basket money and time you donated. This essential support is greatly appreciated.

As many of you know, our Group contributions are on a declining trend: for all 2015 they are about \$2,100 or 3% lower than what was received for the same period in 2014, which in turn was \$3,600 or 4.2% less than 2013 Group contributions. Hopefully your contributions going forward will reverse this pattern.

Delegate Continued from page 1
portunity to discuss this with you, and I will surely meet some of you as we trudge the Road of Happy Destiny through our Pre-Conference season.

Again, from my heart I give thanks for this opportunity to serve you; it truly is a privilege.

With AA Love and Service,
Jay E.
Delegate Panel 65, Area 44
Chair, Literature Conference Committee
delegate@nnjaa.org

Area 44's Prudent Reserve target of six (6) months Budgeted Activities expenses is a modest amount of money that you asked the Area to set aside to primarily to ensure our 12-Step work continues in periods of financial weakness or to meet an unplanned necessity. It can be deployed for many reasons: funding 12-Step work when the 7th Tradition Basket contributions decline or paying for an unplanned initiative to help the sick and suffering alcoholic or buying a one-time, necessary piece of equipment, to mention a few. By way of comparison, GSO's Reserve fund holds about 11 months of operating expenses.

When there are some funds above the Prudent Reserve (PR) target, as is the case presently, your Area looks carefully at ways to use these funds to "Carry the Message." While Bill advised us that there is danger in having too much money, it is also not prudent to rush to judgment when spending the amount above the PR target. Fortunately your Area initiated an ad-hoc committee to seek ideas and specific proposals on how best to use these funds for 12-Step work. This committee continues its careful work.

Meanwhile please be assured that group contributions and volunteer time are still essential for the Area to continue its 12-Step work. Those resources are treasured and used prudently to fulfill our Primary Purpose. Thank you for your commitment to the 7th Tradition---giving your time and basket money!

In Gratitude, Love, and Service,

Mike S, Area 44 Treasurer
treasurer@nnjaa.org

Area Chair Continued from page 1
mitment to a local High School; or take a meeting into a jail or Treatment center. You could also serve as the GSR or Alternate GSR for your Group and connect your Group to A.A. as a whole. Some of our Districts are not well represented and truly need your help. And what of A.A.'s future? The Declaration of Unity reminds us that we are also responsible for A.A.'s future and through unity we can make sure that this program that was here when we needed it, will be here when the next alcoholic or potentially our grandchildren need the love, support and guidance that we found. There is

**RUS SERVICE CORPORATION T/A NNJAA AREA 44
YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON REPORT: 2014 AND 2015
FOR PERIOD ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 2015**

	2014 - Nov.	2015 - Nov.
MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT (A)		
Balance as of January 1st	\$59,391	\$79,266
Interest Received	\$47	\$63
Transfer (To) / From the Checking Account	\$0	\$10,000
Balance as of November 30th	\$59,438	\$89,329
CHECKING ACCOUNT (A)		
Balance as of January 1st	\$43,492	\$49,104
Group, Individual and 7th Tradition Basket Contributions	\$78,849	\$77,813
Other Receipts (Intergroup, Literature & Grapevine Sales, etc.)	\$143,999	\$123,519
Budgeted Expenses (Standing & Special Committees, Officers, Office, etc.)	(\$79,515)	(\$88,326)
Non Budgeted Expenses (Literature, Grapevine, Luncheon, etc.)	(\$127,170)	(\$122,520)
Transfer (To) / From the Money Market Account	\$0	(\$10,000)
Balance as of November 30th	\$59,655	\$29,590
Prior 12 Month Avg. Monthly Expenses Times Two. Finance Guidelines state the checking account balance should not exceed this amount.		
	\$36,416	\$36,436
Account Balance Over / (Under) Guideline	\$23,239	(\$6,846)
PRUDENT RESERVE FUNDS		
Total Cash in Bank (Excluding Convention Account) as of November 30th	\$119,093	\$118,919
Designated Funds (Jailbox Funds, Int'l Hospitality, Excess Funds, etc.)	(\$10,637)	(\$7,754)
Checking Account Guideline (2 Months Average Expenses)	(\$36,416)	(\$36,436)
Prudent Reserve as of November 30th	\$72,040	\$74,729
Prudent Reserve (50% of the prior 12 months Operating Expenses)		
	\$45,322	\$48,580
Account Balance Over / (Under) Guideline	\$26,718	\$26,149

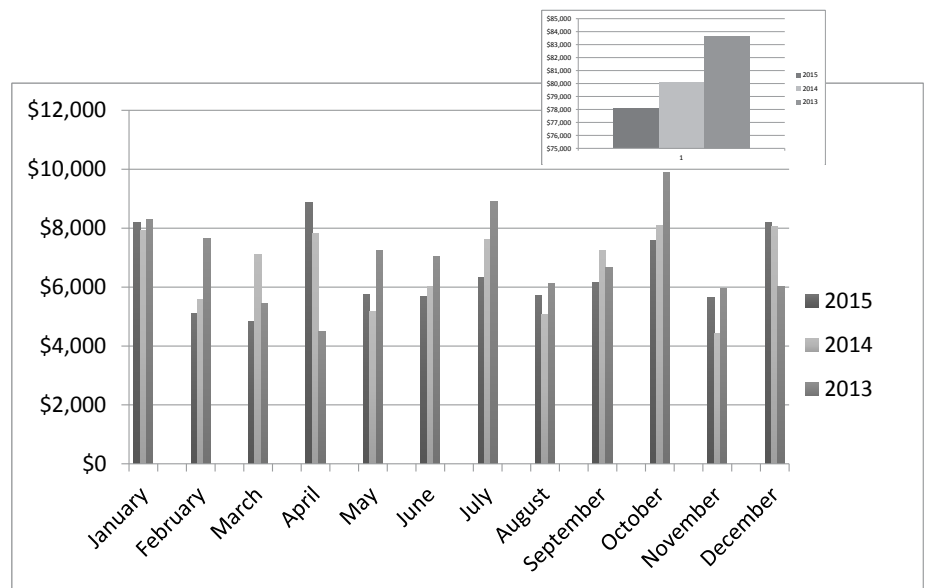
FOOTNOTES

- (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) 2015 Expense Budget is \$109,833.
- (C) November 30, 2015 Checking and Money Market Balances have been reconciled to the Bank Statements by the Finance Committee.
- (D) November 30, 2015 Designated Funds include: Jailbox--\$1,883.88, Int'l Hospitality Suite--\$2,886.49 and Excess Funds Approved Projects--\$2,983.29.

SUMMARY OF OFFICIAL APPROVALS / REVIEWS

Individual / Group	Action	Completed Through
Treasurer	Approved	Nov. 2015
Alternate Treasurer	Approved	Nov. 2015
Finance Committee	Approved	Nov. 2015
Officers	Reviewed	Nov. 2015
Area Committee Members	Approved	Nov. 2015
Area Assembly	Approved	Nov. 2015

Monthly Group Contributions to Area44 for the years 2015-2014-2013



a great deal to be concerned about, though. Our membership is not growing and group contributions are leveling off. The latest Membership surveys show that we are not attracting young people and that minority membership in A.A. is well below their representation in Society as a whole. What are you doing to help ensure the future of our Fellowship? I heard someone at NERAASA (Northeast Regional A.A. Service Assembly) this past weekend say that she did not know how to relate to the young people coming into her meetings. I wanted to go up her and tell her that we relate by remembering that they are alcoholics and that we need to treat them the same way as any newcomer at a meeting. Another way to demonstrate an interest in our future is to show your care and concern about the items for this year's Mini-conference Assembly on April 9th that your GSR will

present at an upcoming Group Conscience meeting that they will schedule. Listen to the items and the background information that your GSR obtains at the Pre-conference report that they attend and let your GSR know what you think. Your opinion on these items helps inform our Delegate on how to represent our Area when he attends the 66th General Service Conference in New York in late April. For example, give us your opinion on what you think about revising the pamphlet for Young People in A.A. (P-4) or whether we should translate the Big Book into a "plain language" version. If we don't hear from you, don't worry; we'll make all the decisions for you and your Group. Yours truly in A.A. love and service,
Area 44 Chair, Panel 65



Hi my name is Sue and I am an alcoholic. I am involved in Corrections due to the dedicated AA members who brought a meeting to Middlesex County Jail when I was incarcerated there. I knew these women from meetings before I was arrested. When they saw me in jail, they didn't judge me or talk down to me. They just hugged me, said hello and asked what I needed while I was there. What I needed was AA literature and meetings, and that's what those women and the Corrections Committee brought me. I am so grateful for all the help AA brought me while I was incarcerated. In turn, I was able to help women in the pod* who didn't go to the meeting due to a limited number of people allowed to go. The reason for my article is to ask people to get involved in Corrections. People think that they had to

have been in jail for an inmate to identify with them. You only have to be an alcoholic for people in jail to identify. There are many misconceptions about going into a county or state facility. It's not as complicated or as scary as people make it out to be. It's not like TV and movies where all these hardened criminals are there waiting to harm you. They are alcoholics desperately waiting for a meeting to identify with another alcoholic. Ask yourself, as an alcoholic who didn't go to jail YET, "Did I do anything that I should have gone to jail for or been arrested for?" "Did I drink and drive? Did I have my children in my custody while intoxicated?" Those are things that put you in jail. If you drank, the incarcerated alcoholic identifies with you. Some of the exciting things that happen when being involved with Corrections for me is knowing that the meetings and literature are getting where it is needed, and seeing a person at an outside meeting

once they are released. I am one of those people who went to meetings in jail and stayed when I got out. To see the women's faces when we are at a meeting, after having that jail meeting bond, is a priceless feeling of love and gratitude. There are other ways to get involved in Corrections without going into the jails if you are not comfortable with that part of it. We have the Pink Can fund. Several groups that I belong to had a group conscience meeting and decided that any loose change from our 7th tradition basket goes to the spare change Pink Can to help buy literature to go to the jails. Clean out your old Grapevines and books you aren't going to read or have read and pass them on. There are plenty of grateful alcoholics waiting to read them. Come to our Corrections meetings and just see if it may be something you may be interested in. There are also several contact and "pen pal" writing commitments that go through GSO.

The local contact commitment is to get an inmate to a meeting when they come out. Again, not as scary as you think. You don't know the newcomers background when you give them a ride, this is the same thing. Please don't think it is too scary or dangerous or that no one will identify because you weren't ever in jail. Prisoners know how to get to jail. They need to identify with the problem and how to get sober, stay sober and live productive lives without going back to jail. That's what they need to identify with. Please get involved. They need you. I needed you and you were there for me. That is why "I am responsible when anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA to always be there. And for that I AM RESPONSIBLE!!!" Please join us. Thank you for letting me share. Sue D.

*group of cells



Group Name	Town
Back to Basics	Andover, NJ
Speak Your Peace	Baptistown, NJ
River Runs Dry	Bayville, NJ
Belmar Saturday Night	Belmar, NJ
Bergenfield Young at Heart	Bergnefield, NJ
Dawn Patrol	Berkeley Heights, NJ
Bloomfield Men's Thursday Night Group	Bloomfield, NJ
Sick as Your Secrets	Boonton, NJ
Friday Afternoon	Bridgewater NJ
Cedar Knolls Women's Group 7:30 Mon	Cedar Knolls, NJ
Oaks East	Cedar Knolls, NJ
Saturday Night Live	Clark, NJ
Clifton Monday Night Big Book	Clifton, NJ
Three Legacies Group	Clifton, NJ
Friday Grapevine Group	Denville, NJ
1st Lite Group	Edison, NJ
Edison Inn Group	Edison, NJ
Florham Park 5:30 Group	Florham Park, NJ
On A Different Footing	Haledon, NJ
Stepping Stones to Sobriety	Hawthorne, NJ
Attitude of Gratitude	Highland Park, NJ
New Monmouth Middleton Clearview	Keansburg, NJ

Union Monday Night AA Group	Kenilworth, NJ	Mt Fer Monday Night	Randolph, NJ
Kinnelon Big Book Tues 7:30PM	Kinnelon, NJ	Upper Ridgewood Women's Group	Ridgewood, NJ
Landmark Group	Lakehurst, NJ	Sky's the Limit	Ringwood, NJ
Drip Dry	Maplewood, NJ	Serenity Porch	Rockaway, NJ
Maplewood Group	Maplewood, NJ	Union Hill Drop In Center	Rockaway, NJ
Maplewood Thursday Night	Maplewood, NJ	Roseland Saturday 12-Steps Group	Roseland, NJ
Step by Step	Maplewood, NJ	Saturday Morning Step Meeting	Roseland, NJ
Ryers Lane Group	Matawan, NJ	Rumson Sunday Night	Rumson NJ
Metuchen Sat Morning Serenity Group	Metuchen, NJ	Seven A. Embers	Saddle River, NJ
Middletown Morning Meeting	Middletown, NJ	New Beginnings	South Amboy, NJ
Sunday Milburn BB	Milburn, NJ	B Village Group	South Orange, NJ
Milton Sunday/Thursday Group	Milton, NJ	District 34 Meeting	South Orange, NJ
Down to Earth Group	Montclair, NJ	District 34 Spirituality Breakfast	South Orange, NJ
Friday Noon Meeting	Montclair, NJ	New Day	South River, NJ
Live and Let Live Group	Montclair, NJ	Daily Reflections	Stockton NJ
Montclair Literature Topic Group (Gay)	Montclair, NJ	The Recovery Lifeline	Summit, NJ
St. Pete's Friday Night	Morristown, NJ	Homer Group	Toms River, NJ
Design for Living	Neptune, NJ	Sunrise Group	Toms River, NJ
Week that Was	Netcong, NJ	Downtown Serenity Group Beginners Mtg	Vernon, NJ
New Brunswick Fri Night	New Brunswick, NJ	Hill Street Blues	Verona, NJ
Dawn Patrol	New Providence, NJ	Monday 12:15 Closed Discussion	Verona, NJ
Daily Reflections	Newark, NJ	No Psycho-Babble Group Sunday 11 AM	Verona, NJ
Nutcracker Suite	North Brunswick	Sunday 11AM Verona	Verona, NJ
Step Up to Sobriety	North Brunswick	Sunday Down to Earth Group	Verona, NJ
Serenity Seekers Group	North Haledon, NJ	Verona Tuesday Night Group	Verona, NJ
Change is Good Discussion Group	Oakland, NJ	Waldwick Bagel Bash Group	Waldwick, NJ
Pattenberg Friday Night	Pattenberg, NJ	Wayne Womens Big Book	Wayne, NJ
Pattenberg O/S Wed Night	Pattenberg, NJ	Pleasant Valley Group	West Orange, NJ
Booze U Looze	Plainfield, NJ	West Essex Night Owls	West Orange, NJ
Point Pleasant Mon thru Thurs	Point Pleasant, NJ	West Orange Group Monday 12:45PM	West Orange, NJ
Daily Reprieve Group	Pompton Plains, NJ	Circle of Friends Sunday Night	West Orange, NJ
Pompton Plains Thursday Night Group	Pompton Plains, NJ	Monday Noon	West Organge, NJ
Pompton Plains Women's Step Meeting	Pompton Plains, NJ	Morning After Group	Westfield, NJ
Just for Today Women's	Randolph, NJ	Wyckoff Positive Thinkers	Westwood, NJ
Randolph Meetings	Randolph, NJ		Wyckoff, NJ
St Matts Group	Randolph, NJ		



Greetings From This History and Archives Committee!

Thank you to all who came out to our Convention Presentation this past September! We presented "The Rockefeller Connection; Myths and Legends in AA History."

We had a lot of fun preparing for this and an even better time sharing it with all of you. We shared letters from some of Rockefeller's close contacts and some of AA's earliest friends!

If you did not get a chance to see the presentation we do have a new tri-fold that coincides with our presentation. So if you are out at a Day of Sharing or and Area Assembly, stop by and take a look at what we have. We would love to have a conversation with you!

This past year at Convention we had the chance to have our displays there like we have done in the past. Many people stopped by and there was a lot of great talks about early AA in New Jersey.

We have been continuing our project with the Reel to Reel Conversion. We now have several reels converted. One-by-one committee members are listening to

them and categorizing what is on each tape as we work to bleep out some last names. We are early on in our process but have certainly made a big dent in this large project. Thank you to the fellowship for your support with this!

The Committee also is talking about our Old Timer Interviews. We do sit down interviews with members of AA that have 40 or more years of sobriety. We are working on spreading this message and getting out to do more interviews. You may have heard our announcement about these interviews read at some of the meetings you attend. It is important to have the Old Tim-

ers' messages heard as there is so much history and many lessons to be learned from those who have been doing it for so long. If anyone knows of an Old Timer with 40 years or more and would like to do this interview, please help us to get in contact with them. You can email the committee at archives@nnjaa.org or archivist@nnjaa.org and let us know about any of those Old-Timers out there! We look forward to hearing from you!

In AA love,
Eavan J.
History & Archives Chair

NNJGS Area 44 2016 MINI-CONFERENCE Saturday April 9, 2016

Holy Innocents School, 3455 West Bangs Ave, Neptune, NJ



“Our Spiritual Way of Life: Steps, Traditions and Concepts.”

GSRs, come and share your group’s conscience on the topics to be discussed at General Service Conference this year. Ensure your Delegate attends the Conference well informed of your group’s views!

Registration & Coffee: 8:30 am – 9:15 am
 GSR Orientation: 8:45 am – 9:15 am
 Mini-Conference: 9:15 am – 3:30 pm
 Lunch will be provided



GSRs it is your responsibility to attend... but every member has a voice & all are welcome!

Going South On Garden State Parkway
 Exit 100B (Bradley Beach/Ocean Grove) - Route 33 East. Go approximately 1 mile, through 2 lights; at third light make left onto West Bangs Ave. School is on left.

Going North On Garden State Parkway
 Exit 100 - Route 33 East. Go approximately 1 mile, through 2 lights; at third light make left onto West Bangs Ave. School is on left.

From Route 18
 Take Route 18 to exit for Neptune/Freehold - Route 33 heading west. Go approximately 1 mile. Turn right at third traffic light (W. Bangs Ave). School is on left.

Delegate Preconference Report Schedule

Section 1: Wednesday March 9 @ 7:30 PM
 Bolger Community Center
 445 Godwin Avenue
 Midland Park, Hosted by District 4/6

Section 2: Tuesday March 8 @ 7:30 PM
 Wesley United Methodist Church
 225 Washington Ave., Belleville
 Hosted by District 13

Section 3: Tuesday March 15 @ 7:00 PM
 Stanhope United Methodist Church
 Rt. 183, Netcong,
 Hosted by District 9

Section 4: Saturday, March 19 @ 12:00 PM
 Hunterdon Medical Center (Auditorium)
 2100 Wescott Dr.
 Flemington, Hosted by Districts 15/21

Section 5: Monday March 21 @ 7:30 PM
 New Monmouth Baptist Church
 4 Cherry Tree Farm Road

Middletown, Hosted by District 24

Section 6: Saturday March 5 @ 10:00 AM
 St Gabriel's Roman Catholic Church
 100 N. Main Street
 Marlboro, Hosted by District 25

Districts 30 & 42 (Spanish-Speaking):
 Sunday, March 20 @ 10
 NNJGS Area 44 Office
 2325 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield

District Service Meetings

- District 1&2** - 2nd Tuesday. 7:30 pm, Sunrise House Cafeteria, 37 Sunset Inn Road, Lafayette
- 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, 7:30 pm, St. Mary's Church corner of High and Legion, Closter
- District 8** - 2nd Tues. 7:30 pm, Panther Valley Ecumenical Ch, 1490 Route 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, Clifton
- District 12** - 2nd Thur. 7:00pm, St. Francis of Assisi Parish Center(basement), 114 Mount Vernon St, Ridgefield Park
- District 13** - 2nd Tue. 7:30 pm, Wesley Meth. Ch., 225 Washington Ave, Belleville
- District 14** - Last Tue. 7:00 pm, St. Nicholas School Cafeteria, 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. 7:30 pm Hilldale Park Pres. Church, 85 Ridgedale Ave, Cedar Knolls
- District 17** - 3rd Fri. 8:00pm, 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** - 1st Tues 7:30 pm, Trinity Episcopal, North & Forest Aves., Cranford
- District 22** - 3rd Wed. 7:30 pm, Cook College Extension Center, College Farm Road, New Brunswick
- District 23** - 2nd Thur. 7:30 pm, Saints Peter & Paul Orthodox Church, 9 Jefferie Ave, South River
- District 24** - 3rd Mon. 8:00 pm, New Monmouth Baptist Church, 4 Cherry Tree Farm Rd, Middletown
- District 25** - Last Wed. 7:30 pm, Hope Lutheran Church, 211 Elton-Adelphia Road., Freehold
- District 26** - 1st Mon. 7:00 pm, First Presbyterian Church, 255 Harding Road, Red Bank
- District 27/29** - 3rd Mon. 7:30 pm, St. Luke's Parish, 1674 Old Freehold Road, Toms River
- District 28** - 1st Tue. 7:30 pm, 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, 2nd Floor, 77th Street & Broadway, North Bergen
- District 32** - 3rd Thur. 7:00 pm, Bayonne Library, 31st St. & Ave. C., Bayonne
- District 34** - 3rd Sat. 10:00 am, Our Lady of Sorrows, 217 Prospect St, (Lower Church) South Orange
- District 35** - 2nd Tue. 7:30 pm, Good Shepherd Lutheran. Church, North Richard Street and Union Avenue, in Somerville.
- District 36** - 3rd Fri. 7:30 pm, St. Luke's Church, 17 Oak Ave & Route 27, Metuchen
- District 37** - 3rd Wed. 7:00 pm, First Evangelical Lutheran Church 153 Park St, Montclair
- District 38** - 2nd Mon. 7:00 pm, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 271 Roseland Avenue, Essex Fells
- District 39** - 1st Wed. 7:00 pm, Presbyterian Church, 140 Mountain Ave., Westfield
- District 40** - 4th Sunday 10:45 am, 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 Sunday 9:00am, 103 Bayard Street, Suite B-12, New Brunswick

2016 Mini-Conference This Day Articles

Grapevine

1. Should Grapevine publish a compilation book of stories by Atheist and Agnostic A.A. members?

Background

A 2002 Advisory Action recommended that the Conference Committee on the Grapevine annually review a list of proposed related items in advance of possible production, so that the Conference might provide guidance, recognizing that the committee may request more than one year to review some proposed items.

The requests for this agenda item came from a GSR, and member in Area 10 Colorado, the Panel 64 delegate Area 58 Oregon, a member from Area 58, and the current Panel 65 delegate from Area 53 Ohio.

So let's look at the first proposal from a GSR in Area 10. This GSR felt that a book on this subject would have the potential to reach and attract a significant number of alcoholics who otherwise might not find the doors of A.A. and/or achieve sobriety. He felt the suggestion that our recovery program required a traditional belief in a higher power (God) might represent the single biggest obstacle to reaching and helping many suffering alcoholics in need.

Reading stories of those who stayed sober in the rooms without relying on a belief in a traditional form of a higher power, or in some cases without belief in any form of a higher power at all, might be just the thing that makes the difference for scores of active and newly sober alcoholics to get and stay sober.

He felt this type of publication would receive an especially wide readership. Agnostics and atheists are a rapidly growing population, both in and out of A.A. He believes that A.A.'s and potential A.A.'s would have a great interest in such a collection of stories.

This type of publication would be not be out of the ordinary for the GV, which has a tradition of publishing collections of special population stories. The GV tradition, along with the GV magazine itself, serves a great purpose; giving voice to the tremendous diversity of experience among A.A.s all over the world, without altering, in any way, the core General Service Conference-approved literature published by AAWS; literature that is important to so many of us (our Big Book, the Twelve & Twelve, Living Sober, and many more). These two sources of A.A. literature together provide the perfect balance between maintaining a traditional unchanging and permanent vision for recovery, and giving voice to a diverse ever-changing set of personal experience around staying sober in A.A. over many years.

Here's an excerpt of a letter sent from a member of the Colorado Free-thinkers Group (30 members) to our GV staff:

"For some time, long term, nonreligious members of A.A. have been requesting that the Grapevine publish a book of stories by agnostics, atheists and freethinkers." The writer continues "Because of the delay in offering such a collection, our active group in the Denver metro area has found it necessary to look largely outside of A.A. and Grapevine for resources to which nonreligious newcomers and others may relate".

Another point made was that GV has published many excellent stories in the book for LGBT's, and how that allows this population to share their experience, strength and hope.

One more important piece of information from a member in Area 58: "You will recall that last year members of a website community, aaagnostica.org, requested that GV publish a book of 40 stories previously published in the GV since 1962 by agnostic, atheists and freethinkers. This was made after our request for permission to self-publish these stories for distribution to attendees of the first International A.A. Conference for Agnostic, Atheists and Freethinkers held in November 2014. It was denied and the group was provided with information on how to start the process of requesting that such a book be published by GV.

So here we are, Area 44, ready to discuss this at our Mini Conference!

Pros

- Let's look at Tradition Three: "The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking" – nothing about believing or not! In it, it states you are an A.A. member if you say so. Nobody can keep you out, we can't deny you A.A. Do we believe that or not?
- Tradition Five states "Each group has but one primary purpose; to carry its message to the alcohol who still suffers." At the end of this tradition in our Twelve & Twelve it says "my sponsor sold me on one idea, and that was sobriety."
- Our agnostic and atheist A.A.s must be made to feel that A.A. is welcoming to them just as 'believers' do. We are open to all who have the desire to stop suffering.
- Our Responsibility Pledge offers that we are here for you, always, it doesn't state we're here for you if you believe the way we believe.
- Are we allowing others to have their own experience, their own beliefs, or not?
- One last point Our Membership Survey has shown for several years that our membership has declined. Is this one of the reasons?

Cons

- Are we forgetting Tradition Ten, which states that "Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues?" Is this an outside issue?
- Are we being divided into believers and non-believers? Are we forgetting we are all just alcoholics?
- How many different books or pamphlets do we need? We already have a chapter in our Big Book – Chapter Four "We Agnostics".
- In Grapevine's book, "Language of the Heart", Bill wrote on Pages 201 and 273 "we all should have an open mind when it comes to a higher power." Do we need more on this subject?

And finally, a few questions to ask your home group: Are we telling people they must believe to be sober? Do we really mean what it says in our "I Am Responsible" pledge? Are we open minded to all that attend our meetings, even if they think differently from us? And the most important question is, is there a need for this book? What does your group think?

Literature

2. Should we develop a plain language version of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous?

Background

There is an interest in developing a plain language translation of the book Alcoholics Anonymous. The background letter comes from an individual A.A. member in Inuvik, NT, Canada, Area 78 with the support of the Alt. Delegate. Reference is made to a presentation he gave at the International Convention (which will be in the Delegate's full pre-conference report) and the positive feedback he received. Also given was a list of Conference Advisory Actions for simplified literature from 1974 to 2001.

According to the Plain Language Association International, "a communication is in plain language if the language, structure, and design are so clear that the intended audience can easily find what they need, understand what they find, and use that information."

PROS

- We have to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous any way we can, always keeping Tradition Five fresh in our minds - "Each group has but one primary purpose – to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers."
- We already have a committee in Alcoholics Anonymous that tries to reach out to alcoholics in "remote communities" (anywhere where it's difficult to carry the message because of language, culture or geography). This simplified book may be effective in that work.
- We hear a lot of talk about the lack of membership growth in A.A.. Are we leaving out those potential members with reading disabilities, or who are functionally illiterate, or those who speak English as a second language?
- If an alcoholic goes through the steps using the "Plain Language" version and has a spiritual awakening, thus opening the heart and mind to the rich history of our fellowship, it could bring about the desire to

study and better appreciate the original version.

- We have a history of working to simplify our literature when there's an expressed need from the fellowship; it's why the pamphlet Twelve Traditions Illustrated was developed and published.

CONS

- This version would cause yet another divide in A.A., putting Tradition One in jeopardy – “Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.”
- We should conform to A.A. principles. A.A. should never conform to the easier, softer way. We all grow through the challenge of studying and learning.
- We have to keep in mind the 1995 Conference Advisory Action, that “The first 164 pages of the book, Alcoholic Anonymous, the Preface, the Forewords, “The Doctor’s Opinion,” “Doctor Bob’s Nightmare and the Appendices remain as is.” There has always been strong sentiment in the fellowship not to change the book. So even though this proposed “plain language” version would not change the existing book, it may negate it in certain ways and send a message that it’s being changed.
- There have been many conference actions from 1974 to 2008 that have addressed this topic and did not pass. We should do the research to get the background on why. What does your group think?

3. Should we revise the pamphlet “Young People and A.A.”?

Background

In 1953, at the 3rd General Service Conference, there was an Advisory Action to prepare a new pamphlet for young alcoholics, including a few personal stories. Over time, this pamphlet, “Young People in A.A.” (P-4), has been revised and the number of stories has grown to include 19 stories. These stories are from young alcoholics who attended their first A.A. meeting with ages ranging from 13 to 25. This pamphlet was last updated in 2005 when 8 new stories were added to the 11 existing stories.

At the September 2015 board meeting, the Alcoholics Anonymous World Services (A.A.W.S.) Board considered a request from Area 27 Louisiana to create a new A.A. Guideline for Young People in A.A. The A.A.W.S. Board did not feel that there was sufficient need for such a guideline. However, the Board did forward a suggestion to the Trustees’ Literature committee to review the “Young People and A.A.” pamphlet and consider the inclusion of information about young people’s conferences. At the January 30, 2016 meeting, the Trustees’ Literature committee reviewed this suggestion and forwarded a request to the 2016 Conference Literature committee to include information about young people’s conferences.

Pros

- Attracting young people to A.A. is important for our future. Young people’s conferences like ICYPAA and organizations like Garden State Young People (GSYP) in our Area are an important way to attract and involve young people in the program.
- Currently there is no information about these organizations in the pamphlet
- None of the current stories mention young people who were introduced to sobriety through a young people’s conference or whose sobriety was enhanced by their involvement in young people organizations like GSYP.
- Agreeing to revise the pamphlet would have one other major benefit. Even though the suggestion from the Trustees’ Literature committee was to add information about young people’s conferences to the pamphlet, once a Conference Committee takes a look, a full review of the entire pamphlet could be initiated.
- While this pamphlet does contain a number of excellent personal stories, at 47 pages it is too long. Young people will not take the time to read these stories. The information could be formatted in a manner more consistent with how young people consume information today.
- The pamphlet has not been updated since 2005 and the world for young people has changed considerably since that time. A revision could include young members’ experience with social media, which is missing in the current stories,
- It’s also possible that young members’ experience with drug use, which is rising among today’s young alcoholics, could be explored. These topics need to be addressed for our program to be attractive to and be considered relevant by today’s young people.

Cons

- The current pamphlet “Young People and A.A.” provides a number of excellent stories, which are organized by order by the age that the young A.A. member came into program.
- These inspirational stories allow a young person between 13 and 25 to pick a story from a person their own age and read a personal account. For example, a 13 year old could read Tina’s story which includes the following: “Very quickly, though I started getting into trouble. Going into sixth grade was getting in the way of my life, which at this point consisted of getting drunk as much as possible.” A 15 year old might read Laura saying “I began associating with people labeled the bad crowd, and prided myself on drinking more than the older kids” while an 18 year old could read Bob’s statement that “By the time I was 18, I drank or drugged daily.” In all of the stories, the young person who’s telling their story shares how they were introduced to the program of Alcoholics Anonymous and how they were able to get sober.
- This pamphlet has been continually improved since its introduction in the late 50’s with new stories from young people in the Fellowship being solicited and added. For example, in 1992, John’s story was added to the pamphlet to show how a young person can join A.A. while in prison.
- This pamphlet already has the number and types of stories that young people in A.A. need to read to identify with our program and stay sober. There is no need to incur the cost associated with soliciting new stories and revising this pamphlet.

Does your group think that we should revise this pamphlet just to include information on young people’s conferences or should the revisions to the pamphlet be more extensive? Or, after reviewing the pamphlet, do you think that the current pamphlet meets the need of attracting young people to A.A.?

4. Should we update the pamphlet “Twelve Traditions Illustrated”?

Background

This recommendation came from the Delegate for Area 07, California Northern Interior, on behalf of their assembly, which approved this recommendation with substantial unanimity on November 21, 2015. The original request came from the Stockton Group, who then brought the issue to their local District 37, and the district recommended the update.

The group submitted a document titled “Results of Discussion of ‘The Twelve Traditions’ Illustrated”, which set forth numerous items with suggested changes. The delegate, in the 12/9/15 submission letter, made note that these items and suggested changes are for discussion purposes only, and made clear that they are not suggesting any specific approach to the revision of the pamphlet; that if approved by the trustees Literature Committee to go to the Conference Literature Committee, final approval would be in the hands of our fellowship through the General Service Conference process.

The group noted that the pamphlet was written and illustrated in 1971, and but for a small change in Tradition Three, it has not been given a review since.

PROS

- The most obvious is that the pamphlet basically hasn’t been given a full review since 1971!
- Like the stories in the back of our Big Book, which are updated to better reflect our membership, our other literature should periodically be updated to reflect the current membership of our fellowship as well. This pamphlet shows women wearing dresses and men wearing ties to A.A. meetings, which certainly does not reflect our membership today.
- If this is supposed to be a simple, easily understood, quick view of the traditions, there is too much text to read. We have other literature that explains the traditions in more detail.
- We don’t want something like “it’s a selfish program” in our literature. Experience has taught us that the twelve steps are all about it being a “selfless” program.
- Pictures of hippie-type, flower children in Tradition Four? Really?
- Is that a typewriter near the woman in Tradition Five? We better get a computer, laptop or iPad in there!
- In Tradition Eight, what is that thing on the wall that the man is

using to make a phone call? Oh...it's an old rotary pay phone! Let's get cell phones in there, shall we?

CONS

- How important is having current pictures when it comes to studying the traditions? Isn't the basic idea, and spirit of the tradition, more important than being politically correct?
 - It's not all about young people identifying. What about members with long term sobriety, or members older in age, who are just getting into the traditions? Would these changes interfere with their ability to easily identify?
 - It's worked well all these years, having heard no complaints from service sponsors as they work with their sponsees in this pamphlet. It must be fine just the way it is!
 - The evolution of our twelve traditions has so much to do with understanding A.A.'s precious history, what A.A. looked like back then, and how far we've come. This pamphlet gives us the "feel" of the traditions, not just the "black and white" of it. We must never forget where we came from!
- What does your group think?

Cooperation with the Professional Community

5. Should we discontinue the pamphlet "Three Talks to Medical Societies by Bill W.?"

Background

At the 2015 General Service Conference, the Conference on Cooperation with the Professional Communities (CPC) sent an Additional Consideration to the Trustees' CPC committee asking that they review the pamphlet, "Three Talks to Medical Societies by Bill W." (P-6). At the November Board meeting, the Trustees' CPC committee forwarded an item to the 2016 Conference CPC Committee that this pamphlet be retired because the pamphlet is too lengthy, the material is out-of-date and is not relevant to modern day medical professionals.

The three talks presented in this pamphlet include two that were the first presentations about the Fellowship ever delivered to a Medical society: a May, 1944 presentation to the Medical Society of New York on Neurology and Psychiatry and a May, 1949 talk to the American Psychiatric Association's 105th Annual meeting in Montreal, Quebec. The third talk, which is slightly more recent and took place in April 1958, was a given to the New York Medical Society on Alcoholism. The pamphlet begins with information describing A.A.'s debt to medicine, contains comments by Foster Kennedy, a New York City-based Neurologist, who was an early Medical friend of A.A. and statements from two other doctors offered as their assessment of what Medical authorities think about A.A.

Pros

- The Trustees' CPC committee is correct in their assessment of this pamphlet. At 48 pages, the pamphlet is quite lengthy. The average length of all A.A. pamphlets is 24 pages and there are only 4 pamphlets that are longer and 2 of those are in large print.
- However, of greater concern than the length, is the content which contains several issues. The first issue relates to the some of the outdated language used by Bill W. in these talks such as: "Few people know that the first taproot of A.A. hit paydirt...in a physician's office" or "For the A.A.-to be this was a ten-strike" or "That seemed as plain as a pikestaff."
- In addition, some of the medical references such as, "Supposing medicine said carcinoma was your trouble you would not turn to Pond's Extract." are outdated. Several references to alcohol as "Barleycorn" are also made. Medicine has changed significantly in the years since these talk were given and many of the statistics that are provided from that time are updated through footnotes.
- In these talks by Bill W., much time is spent discussing alcoholism as a disease. Additional information about the disease concept is also included. This was a new concept 60 to 70 years ago that is readily accepted by modern medicine today.
- For these reasons, this pamphlet should be retired and removed from the CPC Handbook. Our cooperation with the medical community is of paramount importance and more relevant materials for today's medical professionals should replace this outdated pamphlet.
- Any relevant information contained in the three talks would be

included in other CPC material. And although retiring this pamphlet from CPC use, we would certainly preserve these talks in our Archives.

Cons

- From the beginning, Bill W. and our Society has looked to cooperate with the medical community. In fact, in this pamphlet Bill states: "Therefore I would like to make a pledge to the whole medical fraternity that A.A. will always stand ready to cooperate, that A.A. will never trespass upon medicine, that our members who feel the call will increasingly help in those great enterprises of education, rehabilitation and research which are now going forward with such promise."
- In reviewing these talks, one might conclude that much of the information is still relevant to a medical professional today. Some of the language is indeed outdated but there is not too much of that in the pamphlet. Statistics are included from the time when these talks were given but there are footnotes and updates with statistics from just a few years ago.
- In the pamphlet, Bill provides the history of where how our Society originated and the basics of how the program works. The basic message of our program is as relevant today as it was 60 or 70 years ago.
- The talks contained in this pamphlet are also of great historical significance. One possibility would be to retire the pamphlet from the CPC Handbook but continue to make the pamphlet available through Archives.

After reviewing the pamphlet, does your Group think that these talks are still relevant to today's medical professional or should we include more relevant, up-to-date information in the CPC Handbook? The main consideration: is this pamphlet an effective CPC tool for us to reach and inform medical professionals?

Report and Charter

6. Should we revise text in the Concept Eleven essay regarding male/female distinctions in the Twelve Concepts for World Service?

Background

It will be the responsibility of the 2016 Conference Committee on Report and Charter to discuss this agenda item and if presented to the General Service Conference as a whole it will become the Delegates' responsibility to discuss and vote on the topic based on its merits. Always easier said than done. But first it needs discussion and participation at our group level. Your General Service Conference should know what our groups think of this agenda item.

The request for the agenda item came from the Panel 64 Delegate Area 68 Southwest Texas and Panel 65 Delegate Area 10 Colorado. One main concern came as an outgrowth of attempts to identify potential candidates for Class A, non-alcoholic trustees and the associated problems; another felt that these statements portray our General Service Office (GSO) in a poor light and could possibly even be contrary to our 10th tradition.

The request references an additional Committee Consideration to Concept XI from the 65th General Service Conference Committee on Trustees. This consideration posed a question; were the two paragraphs you are to consider for this agenda item possibly giving potential trustee candidates a view of Alcoholics Anonymous showing the fellowship as an outdated and out of touch organization depriving the fellowship of the "very best in leadership" that is available? What is being proposed is to completely remove the two paragraphs from Concept XI, pgs. 58 & 59 in the 2014-2015 printing of the A.A. Service Manual and show them under changes noted in footnotes at the end of the concept for historical purposes. The two paragraphs follow:

Women workers present still another problem. Our Headquarters is pretty much a man's world. Some men are apt to feel, unconsciously, that they are women's superiors, thus producing a reflex reaction in the gals. Then, too, some of us – of both sexes – have been emotionally damaged in the area of man-woman relations. Our drinking has made us wrongly dependent on our marriage partners. We have turned them into our "moms" and "pops" and then we have deeply resented that situation. Perhaps maladjustment has taken still other turns which leave us with a hangover of hostility that we are apt to project into any man-woman relatedness that we undertake.

It is possible for these forces to defeat the good working partnerships we would like to have. But if we are fully aware of these tendencies they can be the more easily overcome, and forgiven. We can be aware also that any sound working relation between adult men and women must be in the character of a partnership, a non-competitive one in which each partner complements the other. It is not a question of superiority or inferiority at all. Men, for example, because they are men, are apt to be better at business. But suppose we replaced our six women staff members with six men? In these positions could the men possibly relate themselves so uniquely and so effectively to our Fellowship as the women? Of course not. The women can handle this assignment far better, just because they are women. 10

Area 68 presents that this writing in the Concept affirms that there are innate differences in abilities of males and females to perform various roles effectively, “an assertion that is impossible to interpret into contemporary usage without generating needless controversy.” Do the paragraphs send this message? Some say yes and point to the fact that other A.A. Literature is more clear on the subject of male/female relationships and easier to read and thus portray the basic principles of our program in a better light. Others, while agreeing that other literature is more concise, argue the two paragraphs being considered should not be removed because they embody an explanation of character defects that should be dealt with by alcoholic members at all levels of service. It should be noted that in this section of Concept XI Bill was talking about paid staff workers. GSO staff workers were female until the late 1970’s when the first male staffer was hired (see footnote 10, pg. 59). It should also be noted that over the years, A.A. has been served by Class A and Class B Trustees of both genders and in paid positions of management at GSO. All have proved to be wonderful resources to the Fellowship.

Pros

- Some members feel removal of these paragraphs is necessary because they are barriers to A.A. in working with others and participating in General Service.
 - These two paragraphs preclude or discourage many women from being willing to be of service in the General Service Structure, particularly Class A Trustees.
 - This section may not honor the spirit of Tradition 10.
 - The principles contained in these paragraphs are covered repeatedly and more effectively by Bill in other essays in the Concepts.
- Cons
- By removing the paragraphs we will lose the general principles contained within, such as relating with humility to others and associated spirituality.
 - Even if these principles are covered elsewhere, those against removal of the paragraphs might point to our principles being repeated in many areas and writings of Bill and throughout A.A. Literature written by others using the position, “you can’t get too much of a good thing.” Repetition is a major part of obtaining and maintaining recovery.
 - Other members point to the fact that over the years women have and do serve as Class A and Class B Trustees, General Manager of the General Service Office, Staff Members, Directors, etc. and the retention of these paragraphs did not preclude them from working in A.A.’s Service Structure.

This is not an easy decision. It should be discussed with open minds and hearts in order to attain a group conscience needed for presentation at your 2016 mini-conference. Your groups’ voice is important.

Public Information

7. Should we implement a Google-Not-For-Profits account and a Twitter account for carrying the A.A. message to the Public?

Background

Over the course of the past year, a PI Subcommittee was organized to review the 2015 Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan. One output from this subcommittee was an addendum addressing the Conference Committee’s (largely the Conference’s Delegates) request to explore specific questions regarding the exploration of new avenues for presenting AA Information which included six suggestions. The first suggestion was that the trustees’ P.I. Committee forward to the 2016 Conference Com-

mittee on P.I. a recommendation that a proposal be developed for the implementation of both a Google-For-Non-Profits account and a Twitter account for carrying the message of A.A. to the public.

NEED

Many would ask if there would be a need at this time to explore avenues for presenting our AA Information. What many of our members do not realize is that the membership numbers have not been keeping up with the overall population and our demographics are still very limited (see the 2014 Membership Survey). This tells us that we are not reaching the many still sick and suffering that may desperately need our program. This recommendation is one way the subcommittee felt we could reach those who need us.

WHY SOCIAL MEDIA

In doing their research, the subcommittee learned that while only 2.3% of North Americans watch an average of 4 hours of TV a day, 86% of them are on the internet at least 6 hours per day, and only 15% of Americans do not use the Internet. Accordingly, this is where folks are today.

Pros

- As stated above, it is where the highest concentration of our population can be found and reached, remember this is for our Public Information Committee.
- There are numerous groups and individuals today identifying as AA on social media sites that may or may not be carrying our message. This would give us our opportunity to put our message out there.
- While not all sites would conform to our traditions, many offer ample avenues for us to put our message out there without violating our traditions. It also would allow us to link to our AA.org site which today is an open site and available to the general public. Hence even our own site is utilizing Social Media already.
- While an original study done a few years ago found that one social media site (Facebook) at that time did not address all our concerns, there are many more options today that do allow us the needed controls. And as each day goes by, social media continues to evolve – giving us an opportunity to continually review our position and adjust accordingly.
- The number of PSA “views” on our site vs other recovery video views on social media is substantially lower. This would give us access to those who do use social media to view such videos – and may not be aware of us or our site.
- Promotion and affiliation - The subcommittee also felt that this would be no different than many other efforts to work with the public that we do today, e.g., visiting treatment facilities, talking in schools and to professionals, etc. It would just be another avenue to let the public know who we are and what we do and not do.

Cons

- Are Google Not-for-Profits and Twitter effective Public Information tools.
- While it is each of our own individual responsibility to treat our Anonymity according to our 11th and 12th Traditions, we cannot always be sure that our membership will act responsibly.
- Promotion and affiliation – while the subcommittee felt this would be similar to other efforts currently in use by our fellowship, there could be misinterpretations by those connecting or posting to our posts and links.
- While we currently have some presence (e.g., YouTube), can we ensure the reader can filter through what is really AA and what is not.

So the question is, should we start to develop a plan for our use of these platforms? What does your group think?

Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities

8. Should we change all references to “Special Needs – Accessibilities” to “Accessibilities” including the Conference Committee name?

Background

As a result of the 2015 General Service Conference the Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities asked the Trustees to consider how to better realize the commitment to make A.A. more readily available to all and

suggested changing all references to “Special Needs-Accessibilities” to “Accessibilities,” including the trustees’ and Conference Committee names. A subcommittee was formed which produced the following result:

They recommended to the General Service Board that ‘Special Needs’ be removed from the name of the trustees’ Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities and throughout the committee’s Composition, Scope and Procedure. The committee agreed to forward to the 2016 Conference Committee on Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities a suggestion that “Special Needs” be removed from their committee name and throughout their Composition, Scope and Procedure.

The background supplied to the Conference Members includes various requests from a few areas asking that the “Special Needs” reference be removed. Their reasoning is supported as follows:

The first line in the Special Needs/Accessibilities Workbook states; “While there are no special A.A. members there are many members who have special needs”. This statement contradicts itself. If there are no special members of Alcoholics Anonymous, then how can our needs be special? Members of A.A who need the services of this committee are just that, members of Alcoholics Anonymous. They are not special; they are equal to the rest of the membership.

The first line of the third paragraph on the first page in the Special Needs/Accessibilities Workbook states; “Some Special Needs/Accessibilities Committees serve parents with young children who may have limited access to A.A. meetings.” This proves that the services this committee provides are quite broad and inclusive.

The research indicated that many external organizations and government agencies had removed the phrase “special needs” and one even indicated that they used “diverse” instead. One research item from a governmental agency in developmental services noted that:

“This website was developed in compliance with State Government Code Section 11135 that requires all electronic and information technology which is developed or purchased by the agency be accessible to people with disabilities. Web accessibility encompasses all disabilities that affect access to the Web, including visual, auditory, physical, speech, cognitive and neurological disabilities. Abilities can vary from person to person... Our goal is to make the information on this website accessible to all visitors.”

Pros

- As noted in the supporting documentation, the label “Special Needs” indicates not only do we have special members, but it also may not be in line with today’s common language.
- The current terminology might seem limiting to what the committee does and represents and removal may indicate a broader spectrum of service.
- If we broaden the scope to ‘Accessibility’ we may be able to provide services to more people who need this committee’s help.

Cons

- By eliminated ‘Special Needs’ some who need us may not recognize the committee’s intended purpose.
- While it might appear more in line with today’s accepted advocate terminology, Special Needs does indicate that the committee serves beyond the standard Corrections, Treatment, and Professional Community. Taking this out to some may be limiting for some.
- As this committee does work with external professionals, facilities and organizations, it might be better understood by them.
- This committee and its literature are relatively new; do we really need to change the name this soon?
- The term Special Needs is understood today and is part of a wide variety of our literature. The Trustees and Conference committees will need to make sure they identify all references and ensure all new wording is updated as new printings occur. Is it worth the effort?

Do we think change the name will help? What does your group think?



The job of the Registrar is to keep the records of the groups in Area 44 up to date and as accurate as possible. This would be an overwhelming task if we did not get

help from the DCM’s and Section Coordinators. The importance of this work is never clearer than at this time of our AA calendar year, as we prepare our Delegate to attend the General Service Conference. The delegate needs to be able to get all the pre conference material into the hands of the GSR’s who in return discusses that material with his or her group. The GSR then takes that group conscience to the area mini conference to share with our Delegate.

“By choosing its most qualified man or woman as G.S.R., a group helps secure its own future—and the future of A.A. as a whole.”

When you’re a G.S.R.

You are linking your home group with the whole of A.A. In 1950, a new type of trusted servant, “group representative,” was suggested to help in the selection of delegates to the newly-formed General Service Conference. By 1953, the job of ‘group representative’ was also seen as a good means of exchanging up-to-date information between individual groups and “Headquarters” (now the General Service Office). That’s still an important side of your work. But now, as general service representative, you have an even bigger responsibility: You transmit ideas and opinions, as well as facts; through you, the group conscience becomes a part of “the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship,” as expressed in the General Service Conference. Like everything else in A.A., it works through a series of simple steps. (For the complete picture in detail, read The A.A. Service Manual.)

Here is a list of some of our incoming GSR’s

Carl T.	Sunday Night Open Speakers Group	Woodridge
Ann Mc.	Steps to Serenity Group	Cliffside Park
James B.	Happy Destiny Group	Montclair
Peter C.	G.U.T.S Group	Franklin
Donna T.	Ruby Red Relapse Prevention Group	Garwood
Ray P.	Miracle Factory Group	Nutley
Jim F.	Westfield Mon-Wed Nite Group	Westfield
Kevin K.	Big Book Believers Group	Hoboken
James T.	Rainbows in Recovery Group	Jersey City
Susan T	Woman’s Stay on the Steps Group	Pequannock
Jim C	Farmingdale Steps Out of the BB Group	Farmingdale
Patrick R.	Start the night right Group	Summit
Brain H.	Change is Good Group	Oakland
Marta S.	Milltown Strictly AA Group	Milltown
Cathy K.	Wayne Valley Group	Wayne
Liz C.	Joy Of living Group	Sayreville
Dan S.	Friday Night Group	New Brunswick
Thom B.	Wisdom Of the Wall Group	Manasquan
Howard R.	Fog Lifters Group	Hoboken
Susan K.	Englewood At Noon Group	Englewood
Mike R.	Fort Lee Saturday Nite Group	Fort Lee
Mike K.	Primary Purpose BB Study Group	Ocean Grove
Kathy L.	Clearview Group	New Monmouth
Sharon B	Woman’s Group	Dumont
Andrea Z	Jernee Begins Group	Old Bridge
Mike K	Serenity by the Sea Group	Avon
Sarah F	Bridgewater Step Group	Bridgewater
Eric B	Morning After Group	Westwood
Margaret M	Keypoint Keeping it Real Group	Keypoint
Joe H	Matawan Group	Matawan
Fiona Mc	Great Fact Group	Neptune
John W	Sharing and Caring Group	South River
Emily W	Woman’s New Beginnings Group	Milltown
Ken R	By the Book Group	Atl. Highlands
Collen B	Spring Lake Group	Spring Lake
Kyle S	A Vision for You Group	Freehold
Lenny T	Throckmorton Street Group	Freehold
Edward H	Bergen Lafayette Group	Jersey City
Kevin D	Friday Night by Candlelight Group	Jersey City
William S	5 Corners A New Beginning Group	Jersey City
Tony V	New Hope New Life Group	Jersey City
Mike O	Haskel Group	Haskel
Cari R	Happy Destiny Big Book Study Grp	Chatham
Kevin R	By the Book Group	Atl. Highlands
Michael M	Kearny Group	Kearny
Al H	Serenity Porch Group	Rockaway

Continued on page 10

GSR Mid-Winter Luncheon Committee



When I was asked to write this article (voluntold), I had no ideal what to write or where to start. So, here goes. Coming into sobriety I followed all the suggestions to the best of my willingness at that time. I did 90/90, got a sponsor, and a home group. As a result, I got involved in service as the Alternate GSR in my home group Brick Church.

I was asked to (attend) a committee meeting for the GSR Mid-Winter Luncheon. As a result, I became a Greeter the first year. This allowed me to meet people and gave me an opportunity to smile. Keep in mind I had less than 90 days of sobriety so, smiling was the last thing on my mind. However, it gave me a sense of worth, confidence and peace. I walked women and men to their tables with pride and grace and they would thank me with a smile. I began to feel hope coming into my spirit and a sense of belonging. The next year I went to the GSR Mid-Winter Luncheon committee meeting again. Now I have one year of sobriety still not having high self-esteem. But I have the willingness to get outside myself and I started raising my hand and asking questions. So, now I get "voluntold" to be the Chairperson of the Flower Committee, which entailed getting prices on affordable winter arrangements and corsages for the guest speakers. It's like, "Wow, they trust me!" - giving me a responsibility, which helped build my self-esteem.

It was a joy to see how A.A. operates and to see an event through from beginning to end. To work with a group of women with different personalities and different opinions come together on one accord and agreement for the greater good of A.A. is teaching me how to build relationships without a motive or

agenda. It has shown me how to express an honest opinion about something to others knowing it's okay to be wrong or disagree. All in all, it is helping build my character and allowing me to grow into a woman of dignity and grace while staying sober one day at a time. So, here I am for the third year at the committee meeting. This time I was eager to return in July for the first committee meeting. One more time I have been "voluntold" (smile). I'm the Treasurer and Flower Chairperson for the 2015-2016 GSR Mid-Winter Luncheon and it gives me great pride and honor. For once in my life this is pride expressed in its rightful manner. Who would have thought Octavia being willing to be told to do anything and actually doing it? It's the result of practicing and making the program of AA my lifestyle. I am grateful with 23 months of sobriety, the sky has no limit with God in me and AA around me all things are possible with an open mind and a willingness to change. Thank you for allowing me to be of service.

By: Octavia M.
Alternate GSR Brick Church



Hello to all.

It is my honor and privilege to serve you as your Area 44 Grapevine Chair. This was a busy and fantastic year for the committee and me.

Our committee is made up of our alternate chair, secretary, booker, Grapefest co-chairs, district & groups reps. If you are interested in doing this fun service work, see your DCM, GSR or email me.

We had the honor to host NERASSA this past February in our area. It was an outstanding and learning event for me. We got to sit in on two workshops with the Grapevine Staff from NY. In

the workshops they shared what's going on there and we shared our experiences and concerns. It helped me to serve you much more as your chair.

We had our Grapefest in May in which one of the staff members shared his experience and hope. We gave away gift subscriptions and pocket planners as door prizes.

I got to be in my first play at our September convention. What an experience! I saw firsthand the work and "nothing but fun" that the GV Players had doing this. I would like to publicly thank them for the work they did and for showing me how much fun we can have in recovery.

What's new in Grapevine literature? Even though the book "The Home Group" was recently retired, it is still available on CD and downloads on your tablet. Good news is that there is a new book called "Forming True Partnership" that is about relationships with your partner, friends, family, work and even your pets.

Our committee is doing a better job staying in contact with the Spanish Districts by having LaVina magazines and other Spanish literature at all the events. LaVina will be celebrating 20 years in 2016.

As far as the coming year: On our Area website the GV price list has been updated and now you can order your Grapevine literature on-line from us just like the AA literature to make it easier for you. You can still see us for GV literature before the Intergroup Delegates Meeting every 1st Thursday of the month, and at every assembly or mini-conference.

The Grapevine committee meets every first Saturday of the month @ 10:00am at the area office (unless there is a change due to holiday concerns or other). Please come join us and get active.

Keep the faith and have a good 24.

In Love of Service,
Mike D,
Your Area 44 Grapevine Chair.
Email: grapevine@nnjaa.org

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"



From Our Liaison to GSYYP:

Garden State Young People of Alcoholics Anonymous (GSYPAA) is a liaison committee to Area 44, offering support to the younger fellowship. We've been carrying the message to young adults in Princeton House on the first Monday of every month. We're also hoping to be of service to the young people in the Area.

If you know of any groups in the area that have a number of young people, we'd love to hear about it. Our main goal is to bring the AA message to the recovering alcoholic at our annual conference. However, we also try to host monthly events which are open to anyone who is looking for sober fun. We're always looking for help on our Committee, so please encourage young people to come to our business meetings to see how they can get involved in service! Business meetings are held at the Area office on the third Saturday of the month at 5pm.

Recent GSYYP events:

December 12, 2015 - Pins & Pizza in North Arlington

January 9, 2016 – Board Game Night and Spaghetti Dinner in Belleville

February 13, 2016 – Valentine's Roller Skating Night in Florham Park

Upcoming events:

March 19, 2016 "Shake Your Shamrock!" dance in South River

April 1-3, 2016 GSYYPAA Annual Conference Weekend in Stillwater

April 2, 2016 6 PM Open Speakers Meeting & Sobriety Countdown

8 PM "Beyond Our Wildest Dreams" Dance (\$10.00) 2016 Conference:

We're excited to announce that our 2016 Conference will be held April 1- 3rd at the Fairview Lakes Conference Center in Stillwater, NJ. Registration is open now - you can register via mail or online at www.gsyyp.org for only \$160 for the entire weekend (includes all activities, lodging and meals). We've reserved the entire campground for this event.

Also, in the late spring, GSYYP will be hosting our first ever Young People's Post Conference Report with Jay, our Area Delegate. Service positions needed:

- Website Chair
 - Graphics Chair
 - Outreach Chair
 - More Committee Members!!!
- Dan G., GSYYP Service Liaison
serviceliasion@gsyyp.org

Registrar		Continued from page 9	
Dan M	Alive Again Group		Landing
Dan G	Living Sober Group		Metuchen
Janette D	Netcong Mon. Night Big Book Study Group		Netcong
Tom D	Dover Group		Dover
Adam K	New Brunswick Time To Share Grp.		New Brunswick
Margarita K	A Way Out Group		Bayonne
Olga B	A way Out Group		Ridgewood
Elizabeth S/H	Carry this Message Group		Wayne
Jaun Pablo R	Grupo Nuevos Horizontes		Plainfield
Hector D	Leonia- Teaneck Group		Teaneck

Thank You For your Service and good luck in Your New Position, if you are a new GSR and should be on this list please let me know. You can now update Group information on the Area 44 website, or e-mail it to area-registrar@nnjaa.org

Your In Service
Bobby B
Area 44 Registrar



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*

My name is David and I'm an alcoholic. I am a grateful member of A Design for Living Group in Neptune where I serve as the Alternate General Service Representative. I am also privileged to serve as the Secretary for District 28.

When I got sober, life became very busy with new opportunities at work, new hobbies and new sprees. Use your imagination. My first year found me completing step 5, and seeing no need to rush into the rest of the steps, I quickly coasted downhill into a valley of depression and fear, which almost led me back to a drink at 3 ½ years sober. AA had become very optional for me, and the results of joining a 12-Step fellowship and not working the 12 Steps were glaring. God put a new sponsor in my life that guided me through the 12 Steps as outlined in the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*. I most definitely had a spiritual awakening, that is, my thinking changed along with many driving forces in my life.

Service at the District Level was always very mysterious to me until one day I was guided to my first District meeting. District meetings are opened to all "interested AAs" which is exactly how you should introduce yourself. Districts are geographic areas and the District committee is mostly comprised of General Service Representatives from groups in that district. The great part about Districts is that they always need help in carrying the message to the "still suffering alcoholics".

Now it is common to follow that "still suffering alcoholics" phrase with "both inside and outside of the rooms". However, truth be told, it is the mission at this level to focus on those who are outside of the AA rooms. The fact that a large number of suffering alcoholics do not even know that AA exists is a tough concept to accept. The mission is to get the message out via the various service committees: Public Information (PI), Treatment, Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC), Literature and Corrections. I was taught that everyone in AA, without exception, arrived at the door of AA due to the work of one

or more of the Service Committees.

Who has time for all of this? Once I had a spiritual awakening from these Steps, I found myself driven into sponsoring men, which is actually Step 12, not some extra credit activity. I received two promotions at work, finished my bachelor's degree and started graduate school. Being involved in service at the District level frustrated me because at the time I worked rotating shifts and went to school. I found myself regretfully having to resign from my position with the District. God always provides and a few years later armed with a steadier schedule I was able to get involved again. A current non-trustee director of the General Service Board kindly reminded me that I did not have to do all of my AA service at once.

Exciting things are happening in District 28! Our CPC committee is interacting with various medical societies in order to be able to speak about AA at their professional conferences. CPC has reached out to all churches in the District. A current focus is working to leverage AA members who work in various professions to get the message out in those professions. We recently voted in new chairs for PI, Corrections, and Treatment. More members now attend our district meeting than in any recent years. We have a Day of Sharing scheduled for April 30, 2016 with the theme of "A Pep Rally for Service." We are always looking for any interested AA member to attend our meeting to help give us new ideas on how we can get the message to those who still suffer, yet don't know even AA exists. You can't keep it if you don't give it away. Investing time in service at the District level will pay dividends to your sobriety.

David G.

A Design for Living Group – Neptune – District 28

Service Comes Full Circle

Greetings from District 1 & 2! I just returned home from our district's Day of Sharing, and I wanted to share my day and my gratitude for the Three Legacies of our program.

I'm grateful to have a sponsor who got me involved early in recovery. Besides his normal responsibilities, like taking me through The Steps and getting me connected, he also got me into service from the beginning. From being a greeter to helping out with tables and chairs, it helped me feel a sense of belonging.

When I had about a month sober, he invited me to take a ride

to pick up a History and Archives display at a meeting in South Orange for our Day of Sharing, which was coming up that weekend. It was my first time at an out of town meeting and I was a nervous newbie, hanging around with guys who obviously knew what they were doing.

One of the speakers at that meeting was our Area's Co-Archivist, John B., who gave us all a great history lesson. He talked about our early days of our fellowship, explaining how the phrase "God as we understand him" came about in our program and many other details about the writing of the Big Book. I was immediately interested in the history of AA.

As time went on, my involvement kept growing and had me going to our district's monthly meeting as a GSR. This brings us to last month's meeting. As plans were being made for today's Day of Sharing, it was decided to make History one of our meeting topics. When they asked for volunteers to chair the meeting, I found my hand raised (without my permission) as has often been the case.

At first, my search for a topic to present was a challenge. Focusing on the first 20 years of our fellowship gives so many options, how could it be covered in a short presentation? I was given a suggestion to focus on New Jersey's role in AA history, after all, the Big Book was written here! I researched various topics, from "Jersey Lightning" to the 90 day pin, to Williams Street, to Bill and Lois' summer in Green Pond, which is close to our district.

In my quest, I came across a post on Green Pond from a guy named Russ S. It just so happens, I receive a morning devotional email that comes from a Russ S. I decided to email him, asking if the post was his, to see if he had any info.

He told me that search had run into a dead end, but he had other information on The Pyramid Club, a social club in our district that held meetings for 46 years and had closed almost two decades ago. I've always heard local old-timers talk about this place with reverence and have wanted to learn more about it. It seemed like my Higher Power was at work!

Well, long story short, emails were exchanged, pictures and documents were graciously shared, phone conversations were had which led me to Bill N, from the area H & A committee. We did a lot of detective work on the origins of Recovery in Sussex County in the 40s and 50s. I got to hear the experience of several local long time members, whose stories of the fellowship made the picture of

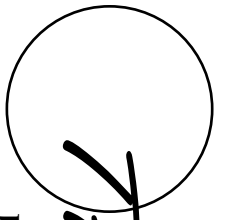
the group's Unity more clear. I was able to prepare a presentation on "The Newton Groups" and "The Pyramid Club", which came off without a hitch.

God's work in my life has been so inspiring that I feel called to raise my hand to represent our district at the area level. But what really made the circle complete for me was an afternoon speaker from today's Day of Sharing, Area 44 Co-Archivist, John B.

Anonymous

Last Sunday, February 21, I had the privilege of attending the GSR Mid-Winter Luncheon. The event was held at Forsgate Country Club in Monroe, NJ. In attendance were around 500 Alcoholics from the Northern New Jersey Area that were privileged to have been able to honor and celebrate the hard work that many of our group's GSRs do in helping to keep the information flowing in regard to the opportunities and challenges that our Society faces. When, during my first year in recovery, my sponsor "suggested" that I become my home group's GSR, I didn't want to do it. "I'm not ready", I told myself, and "Can't someone else do it? It's just politics, dances, and barbeque planning". I easily forget and neglected acknowledge the many thousands of men and women, since 1935, who have worked tirelessly in keeping AA alive for the day when I finally gave up on the delusion that I could tackle my drinking problem on my own. Early on in my role as GSR, when I started getting involved at my District's monthly meetings and started attending the quarterly Area assemblies, I realized that they were talking about important items that needed our attention. This year's topics that will be covered at the General Service Conference are no exception. Two new books, a plain language Big Book and a new Grapevine book (it seems like everyone in AA gets their own pamphlet or book nowadays) are at the top of the list. Also, questions on AA having a Twitter account? What to do about the declining revenue from literature sales?! How do we keep our message alive for the Alcoholic, born today, that hasn't had his first drink? More than ever AA needs our help. My question to you – is your group going to be the one inside the wagon, taking pictures of the flowers and trees, with your new sobriety camera? Or are you going to get out and help push with us?

Anonymous DCM, Area 44 NNJ

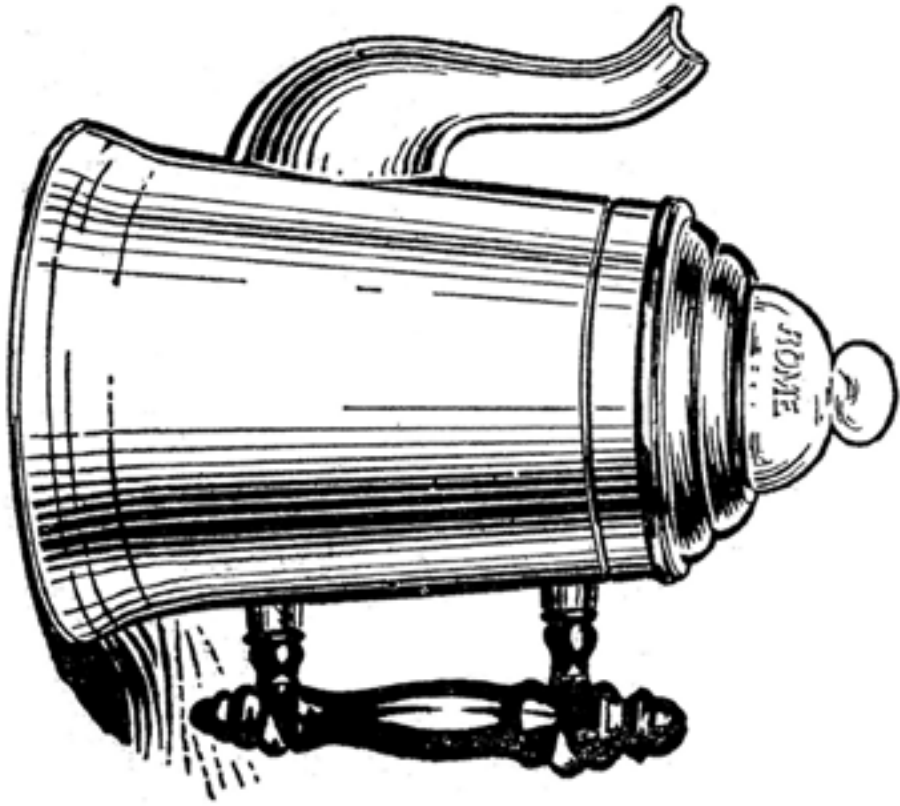


THIS DAY

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

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Spring 2016



Intergroup Calendar

- MARCH**
- 3 Delegates Meeting, Clark 8:30 PM
 - 13 Bookers 6:00 AM
 - 16 Nightwatch Committee 7:30 PM
 - 24 Joint Website Committee 7:30 PM
- APRIL**
- 7 Delegates Meeting, Clark 8:30 PM
 - 28 Joint Website Committee 7:30 PM
- MAY**
- 5 Delegates Meeting, Clark 8:30 PM
 - 21 Joint Unity Day of Sharing 9:00 AM
 - 26 Joint Website Committee 7:30 PM
- JUNE**
- 2 Delegates Meeting, Clark 8:30 PM
 - 12 Bookers 6:00 AM
 - 23 Joint Website Committee 7:30 PM


NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE MAY 27
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 may 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 | 1 Officer's Meeting 7:00 PM | 4 Remote Communities Com. 7:00 PM | 18 Convention Committee 8:00 PM |
| 2 Mailing Committee 6:30 PM | 5 Officer's Meeting 7:00 PM | 19 Newsletter Committee 7:30 PM | 21 Joint Unity Day of Sharing 9:00 AM |
| 2 Translation Committee 7:00 PM | 6 Mailing Committee 6:30PM | 21 Corrections Committee 10:00 AM | 23 Finance Committee 7:30 PM |
| 5 Grapevine Committee 10:00 AM | 6 Translation Committee 7:00 PM | 24 Joint Unity 7:30PM | 25 Computer Tech Comm 7:30 PM |
| 5 Pre-Conf Rpt Sect 6 10:00 AM | 9 AREA 44 MINI CONFERENCE 7:00 PM | 25 Computer Tech Comm 7:30 PM | 26 Joint Website Committee* 7:30 PM |
| 8 Pre-Conf Rpt Sect 2 7:30 PM | 12 Public Information Com 7:30 PM | 26 Policy & Admissions 7:30 PM | 27 This Day Deadline |
| 8 GSR Luncheon Committee 7:30 PM | 13 History & Archives Comm. 7:30 PM | | |
| 8 Public Information Comm. 7:30 PM | 13 Treatment Committee 8:00 PM | | |
| 9 Pre-Conf Rpt Sect 1 7:30 PM | 16 Corrections Committee 10:00 AM | | |
| 9 Treatment Committee 8:00 PM | 17 Garden State Young People 5:00 PM | | |
| 13 Films Committee 9:00 AM | 18 Literature Sales 6:30 PM | | |
| 13 AREA COMMITTEE MTG 10:00 AM | 18 Literature Committee 7:30 PM | | |
| 15 Pre-Conf Rpt Sect 3 7:30 PM | 19 CPC Committee 8:00 PM | | |
| 15 CPC Committee 7:00 PM | 20 Convention Committee 8:00 PM | | |
| 16 Convention Committee 8:00 PM | 21 Newsletter Committee 7:30 PM | | |
| 17 Newsletter Committee 7:30 PM | 25 Finance Committee 7:30 PM | | |
| 19 Pre-Conf Rpt Sect 4 12:00 PM | 28 Joint Website Committee* 7:30 PM | | |
| 19 Corrections Committee 10:00 AM | 28 Policy & Admissions 7:30 PM | | |
| 19 Ad-Hoc Area Excess Funds 7:00 PM | 29 Ad-Hoc Area Excess Funds 7:00 PM | | |
| 20 Pre-Conf Rpt Spanish 10:00 AM | | | |
| 20 Garden State Young People 5:00 PM | MAY | | |
| 21 Pre-Conf Rpt Sect 5 7:30 PM | 3 Officer's Meeting 7:30 PM | | |
| 21 Literature Sales 6:30 PM | 4 Mailing Committee 7:30 PM | | |
| 21 Literature Committee 7:30 PM | 4 Translation Committee 7:00 PM | | |
| 24 Joint Website Committee* 7:30 PM | 7 Grapefest 10:00 AM | | |
| 24 Policy & Admissions Com. 7:30 PM | 10 Public Information Com 7:30 PM | | |
| 25 Pre-Conf Rpt Sect 3 7:30 PM | 11 History & Archives Comm. 7:30 PM | | |
| 28 Finance Committee 7:30 PM | 11 Treatment Committee 8:00 PM | | |
| 30 Computer Technology 7:30 PM | 14 Corrections Committee 10:00 AM | | |
| | 15 Garden State Young People 5:00 PM | | |
| | 16 Literature Sales 6:30 PM | | |
| | 16 Literature Committee 7:30 PM | | |
| | 17 CPC Committee 7:00 PM | | |
| APRIL | | | |
| 2 Grapevine Committee 10:00 AM | | | |



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