

# THIS DAY

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

*A message  
from your  
Area Delegate*



It's hard to believe that as you read this it's March already! My first year serving as your Delegate has been flying by. My service sponsor and the other Past Delegates have told me to enjoy every minute because these two years will go by quickly. Up to this point, I've given my first Delegate Assembly report, attended NER-AASA where I read the Area 44 highlights that I will read before the entire General Service Conference (gulp), reviewed all the background material for the 70 items on the Final Conference agenda for the 69th General Service conference, met with my alternate and the Past Delegates to set the Mini-Conference agenda, and delivered two Pre-conference Reports. If one of these reports was in your Section and you missed it, don't worry! We will be conducting four additional Pre-conference Reports in the other sections along with two Spanish Pre-conference Reports. Check the flyer on our website, [www.nnjaa.org](http://www.nnjaa.org), for dates and locations. There are some exciting items on the Mini-conference Agenda, so please talk about these items in your Groups and bring the group conscience to the Mini-conference Assembly on Saturday, April 13th.

My Conference assignment for the next two years is the Grapevine Conference committee. To me, that reinforces the concept that there are no coincidences in AA. I have had a Grapevine subscription from the beginning of my sobriety, have served as GvR for my Home Group and District, and participated in the Grapevine plays at our Conventions. The Grapevine and La Viña are incredible tools for carrying the message of recovery and hope. If you don't have a subscription, seriously consider getting one. You can also ask your Group to order one or more subscriptions. You might also want to participate in the Carry the Message program where you or your Group can provide money to fund Grapevine scholarships to fellow AA members who are incarcerated. For me, the online Story archives are a treasure trove of information

featuring every story ever written for the Grapevine. I'm sure that you would also like to see your story in the magazine, so consider writing an article.

The Grapevine also has a new publisher, Albin Z., who is well known in our Area. Albin takes over in this role following the departure of Ami B. from the Grapevine. Ami has done an amazing job over the past few years to return the Grapevine to profitability and to modernize the look-and-feel of the magazine and the website. She was also responsible for launching the new Grapevine YouTube channel. Please join me in wishing Ami well in her new endeavors and welcoming Albin in his new role within the organization.

Involvement in the Grapevine is one way to be of service to the Fellowship. You could serve as the GvR for your Group. As Delegate, one of my responsibilities is to work with the DCMs to have a GvR in every Group in our Area. But there are many other ways to serve. It amazes me how many of our fellow members do not know anything about service beyond their Home Groups. While being a greeter and coffee maker are important to the Group, we need your help beyond the Group level. In the Districts, we need your help to carry the message into jails and treatment facilities, to place Big Books and 12 & 12s in the libraries in your communities, to provide literature from your Groups, and to bring meetings into nursing homes through our Remote Communities committee. Doing service work at this level or at an Area level is another way to anchor your sobriety, and my service sponsor has often told me that she rarely, if ever, sees someone who does service work at the District or Area level go out. I'll close by informing you about an upcoming A.A. event that everyone would benefit from attending. Every two years, the General Service Office hosts a Regional Forum in each of the six Regions in the U.S. and two in Canada. In 2019, a Northeast Regional Forum (NERF) will be held from May 31st to June 2nd at the Westchester Marriott in Tarrytown, NY. Registration is free. Started in

*Continued on page 2*

*A message  
from your  
Area Chair*



It's January 1st – New Year's Day. My phone rang and I'm receiving a text. "Who is calling me on New Year's Day morning?" The outgoing Area Chair and Area Delegate, that's who! They called to offer me their well wishes in my new role as your Area 44 Chairperson that has now begun.

I am humbled and honored to have been elected to this position. Thank you!

My day continued with the preparation of agendas for the upcoming Officers' & Area Committee Meeting; finalization of the January Assembly Agenda and Standing and Special Committee Orientation; telephone calls, texts; and coordination of presenters for the assembly. My email inbox reflects another recommendation coming in and I'm reminded that I neglected to include a recommendation on an agenda for inclusion. I make my corrections.

My calendar is updated with the upcoming area events. I've set up reminders on my iPhone to remind me in advance of where I must be and when. I think I'm ready.

Then, my phone rings again. It's Night Watch. They have a woman near my home who has called for help. I call the woman back and she wants to go to a meeting but has no way of getting there. She's been drinking today and wants to quit. I call someone in my network and a sponsee. "Let's get ready ladies, I need you - we have a 12-step call to make!" I jump in the shower and get dressed. I check the NNJAA.ORG website to see where the alkathons are in our area. I find one that runs all day until midnight. Perfect! The ladies arrive at my home and off we go to pick up the prospect and go to an alkathon. I hand the barf bag to my sponsee in the back seat and give her instructions. "If she gets sick, give her this." We pick up our prospect and drive to the alkathon. As we travel, the smell of booze is so strong that we crack

*Continued on page 2*



There are many paradoxes in the A.A. program. One that strikes me is that when you help a fellow alcoholic you may gain more from the experience than the person you are trying to help.

For those of you not familiar with Nightwatch, Intergroup answers an 800 line during regular business hours, and afterhours and weekends are covered by Nightwatch volunteers. Individual A.A. Groups take up a week's commitment, usually about 12 8-hour shifts; this is a one-and-done commitment for each person.

A friend of mine, who recently volunteered for Nightwatch, took shifts on back-to-back nights. The first night he took a call from a person who was really struggling. He spoke to the man for a while and suggested that he may need to be hospitalized. Then, he called a 12th step contact and asked him to follow up. The next night, he got a call from the same person, who was in a hospital bed getting help.

Nightwatch at times can be rather mundane - finding a meeting for someone new to the program, etc. But sometimes, you are on the front lines making a difference. Talk about a win-win! For anyone interested, we could use an Area Coordinator in Union County. I have found it to be a very rewarding position, and not overly time consuming. You can contact us at [nightwatch@nnjaa.org](mailto:nightwatch@nnjaa.org)

Keep coming,  
Tom F.  
Area Coordinator, Sussex and Warren

## also inside

Area Treasurer's Report .....	2
Standing and Special Committee Reports .....	2-5
Speak Out .....	4-5
Intergroup News & Notes .....	5
Mini Conference Topics .....	6
District Service Meetings .....	11
Intergroup and Area Calendars .....	11

**Next Issue Deadline**  
**May 16, 2019**  
[newsletter@nnjaa.org](mailto:newsletter@nnjaa.org)

*Delegate Continued from page 1*  
 1975, by then-chairperson of the General Service Board, Jack Norris, the Regional forums are an excellent way to directly interact with Trustees, both Class A and B, the Grapevine board members and staff members from AAWS, and the Grapevine. Like NER-AASA, the Regional Forums that I've attended have been an incredible spiritual experience and have taught me so much about the General Service and Grapevine Boards, as well as how the funds that our groups contribute are used to provide the vital services and literature that we need to carry the message.

It is hard for me to put into words the gratitude I have in my heart for having been elected your Delegate to serve the Area and AA as a whole. Our Area is one that truly carries the message of love and hope through the service that we all perform, and I'm blessed to be able to play my part.

Yours truly in AA love and service,  
 Jeff B.  
 Panel 69 Delegate  
 Grapevine Committee

*Area Chair Continued from page 1*  
 open the windows slightly. We arrive at the meeting and get a beginner pack containing various pamphlets and a meeting book. The meeting begins and they're reading the Doctor's Opinion. Awesome! Dropping our prospect back home, we make some suggestions and provide her with our telephone numbers. Will she drink again? Will she get sober? Who knows? But this was the end of a perfect day and a perfect beginning to 2019.

This twelfth step call is exactly why we in service do what we do. To keep AA going for that next call from an alcoholic reaching out for help. Someone answered the call; someone else had their name on a list of available contacts: sponsorship; alkathons; literature. How did you get to AA? Through Treatment? Corrections? Intergroup? A doctor? Lawyer?

Area 44 needs you! We have various committees that need your help to carry the AA message in your community to be there so that when someone reaches out for help, the hand of AA is there. Will you answer the call?

<b>RUS SERVICE CORPORATION T/A NNJAA AREA 44</b>		
<b>YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON REPORT: 2017 AND 2018</b>		
<b>FOR PERIOD ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 2018</b>		
	<b>2017 - Nov.</b>	<b>2018 - Nov.</b>
<b><u>MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT (A)</u></b>		
<b>Balance as of January 1st</b>	<b>92,630</b>	<b>92,704</b>
Interest Received	68	64
Transfer (To) / From the Checking Account	0	(10,000)
<b>Balance as of November 30th</b>	<b>92,697</b>	<b>82,767</b> (C)
<b><u>CHECKING ACCOUNT (A)</u></b>		
<b>Balance as of January 1st</b>	<b>32,866</b>	<b>34,988</b>
Group, Individual and 7th Tradition Basket Contributions	80,778	79,215
Other Receipts (Intergroup, Literature & Grapevine Sales, etc.)	109,340	116,925
Budgeted Expenses (Standing & Special Committees, Officers, Office, etc.)	(87,060)	(89,339) (B)
Non Budgeted Expenses (Literature, Grapevine, Luncheon, etc.)	(105,511)	(117,592)
Transfer (To) / From the Money Market Account	0	10,000
<b>Balance as of November 30th</b>	<b>30,412</b>	<b>34,198</b> (C), (D)
Prior 12 Month Avg. Monthly Expenses Times Two. Finance Guidelines state the checking account balance should not exceed this amount.		
	<b>34,743</b>	<b>36,814</b>
<b>Account Balance Over / (Under) Guideline</b>	<b>(4,331)</b>	<b>(2,616)</b>
<b><u>PRUDENT RESERVE FUNDS</u></b>		
<b>Total Cash in Bank (Excluding Convention Account) as of November 30th</b>	<b>123,110</b>	<b>116,965</b>
Designated Funds (Jailbox Funds, Int'l Hospitality, Excess Funds, etc.)	(12,498)	(7,558) (D)
Checking Account Guideline (2 Months Average Expenses)	(34,743)	(36,814)
<b>Prudent Reserve as of November 30th</b>	<b>75,868</b>	<b>72,593</b>
<b>Prudent Reserve</b> (50% of the prior 12 months Operating Expenses)		
	<b>47,787</b>	<b>48,404</b>
<b>Account Balance Over / (Under) Guideline</b>	<b>28,081</b>	<b>24,189</b>
<b><u>FOOTNOTES</u></b>		
(A) Details of all income and expense items, as well as a comparison of Operating Expenses to the Annual Expense Budget are available from the Treasurer.		
(B) 2018 Expense Budget is \$115,386		
(C) November 30, 2018 Checking and Money Market Balances have been reconciled to the Bank Statements by the Finance Committee.		
(D) November 30, 2018 Designated Funds include: Jailbox--\$4,671.98 Int'l Hospitality Suite--\$2,886.49 and Excess Funds Approved Projects--\$0.00		
<b><u>SUMMARY OF OFFICIAL APPROVALS / REVIEWS</u></b>		
<b><u>Individual / Group</u></b>	<b><u>Action</u></b>	<b><u>Completed Through</u></b>
Treasurer	Approved	Nov. 2018
Alternate Treasurer	Approved	Nov. 2018
Finance Committee	Approved	Nov. 2018
Officers	Reviewed	Nov. 2018
<b>Area Committee Members</b>	Approved	Nov. 2018
<b>Area Assembly</b>	Approved	<b>Nov. 2017</b>

When I came to AA, I called Night Watch. They provided me with the location of a local meeting to attend. When I began service outside the home group, I chose to participate in Night Watch as my way of giving back. My participation in service grew from there. Have you considered what would have happened to you if that treatment center weren't there, or if it didn't have AA meetings brought in? Or if that doctor didn't know what AA is and is not? How about that lawyer? What would have happened if there were no AA meeting in that correctional facility? Or if the Judge sentenced you to jail instead of sending you to AA? Have you thought about the job, when not too long ago you were unemploy-

able? Or the kids, when not too long ago they wanted nothing to do with you, and your family, when not too long ago they weren't speaking to you! I know, I know... life is busy. But you're sober!! Thank God. And thank God for AA. But what if the person who brought you the message of AA was too busy with their job, kids or family?  
 I cannot tell you in words the enormous sense of gratitude I receive from doing this type of twelfth step work. I am a better employee, mother, spouse, family member and friend. I can only hope that there is something I can say to inspire someone to go out of their comfort zone and participate in service outside the

home group and feel what I feel. I promise you, you won't regret it, and neither will your family!  
 Thank you again for electing me as your Area 44 Chairperson! Wishing everyone a Very Happy, Healthy and Sober New Year!  
 Yours in love and service,  
 Maureen R.  
 Area 44 Chairperson

## Area Grapevine Committee

Greetings,  
My name is Jim O and it is my honor and privilege to serve you as your new Area Grapevine Chair. Many thanks to Marybeth, our previous chair. It was a pleasure to serve with her. At this point, I would like to promote the Grapevine. Yes, you heard me. Promote! There is a joke among some committee members that the Grapevine Committee is a bunch of "Shameless Promoters." Of course, this is all in good fun. It begs the question though. Isn't Alcoholics Anonymous a program of attraction and not promotion? Yes, for public relations purposes, Tradition 11 clearly states, "Our public relations policy is based on attraction and not promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films." I submit that we need to "promote" service within AA. We need to let others in the Fellowship know the opportunities for service and how AA as a whole needs us. From the Homegroup, The District, the Area and Intergroup all the way "down" to the General Service office. There is a litany of places where we can give what was freely given to us. Humility is key here, as it is the thread that is woven throughout the Steps. This is about Unity and keeping our Fellowship united. Okay, okay. Back to the Grapevine! We meet the first Saturday of the month at the Area Office in South Plainfield. Our committee is comprised of Homegroup Grapevine Representatives, District Grapevine Representatives and what we call Grapevine Enthusiasts (Interested AAers). We discuss how we let the Fellowship know about the Grapevine and La Viña and inform AA members how the Grapevine and La Viña can be used as a tool in our recovery. From those with days to those with long term sobriety, the Grapevine and La Viña can help

when a meeting or phone call is not practical. It can also be used in a meeting by reading a story and then sharing about it. The Grapevine and La Viña are also fresh resources for those who are incarcerated, keeping them connected to the Fellowship. AA Grapevine has a program called "Carry the Message" where members can donate subscriptions for members in correctional institutions. Within Area 44, you or your Group can also donate issues or subscriptions to the "Jail box" and help those in our Area's jails and prisons. At this point, I'm sure you've been wondering if anything new is coming out from Grapevine. YES! AA Grapevine just came out with a 75th Anniversary Toolkit which is a bundle of a one-year Grapevine complete subscription (Print, Online, 12 Audio Stories), Story archive access, Traditions Checklist, the Grapevine Book 'One On One' and some other materials, including STICKERS! Our latest book, 'One Big Tent—where atheist and agnostic AA members share their experience, strength and hope—has done very well since it was available last September. There is also a new book coming out in the upcoming months—a follow-up to "A Rabbit Walks Into a Bar". I do not know the details of this book yet, but am looking forward to seeing it. Lastly, our "Grapefest" workshop is coming up. It will be held on Saturday, May 4th starting at 10am. All are welcome. It is a great event with guest speakers and giveaways. And food. Never forget the food! If you would like to get involved with the Grapevine Committee, please come on down. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me (grapevine@nnjaa.org) or your Homegroup or District Grapevine/La Viña Representative.

## From the Newsletter Committee

Greetings from the Newsletter Committee!

My name is Marybeth H., and I am your new Area 44 This Day Newsletter Chair and Interim Intergroup Representative. Please let me know if you would be interested in filling the role of Intergroup Rep; in addition, we need an Alternate Area Newsletter Chair and a Newsletter Secretary. Our committee could use your help, as we are a very small group. New ideas and suggestions are always welcome, so please join us! We meet every third Thursday at 6:00 pm at the Area 44 Office in South Plainfield at 2325 Plainfield Avenue, 2nd floor, rear entrance.

Our summer newsletter edition is currently accepting articles, and we will be continuing the theme of how we use the Big Book in our recoveries, along with your stories of experience, strength, and hope. Area Officers, Committee Chairs, DCMs, GSRs, Intergroup Officers, and Intergroup Representatives are, of course, urged to write. Please don't think for a moment, however, that it is just their newsletter. It is YOURS! In 1946, Bill Wilson wrote the following: "...Grapevine will be the voice of the Alcoholics Anonymous movement..." The Grapevine magazine continues to be the voice of AA members everywhere. Likewise, our This Day newsletter needs to be the voice of ALL AA members from Area 44. This Day is your newsletter – the voice of AA members from Intergroup and Area 44.

This Day is your voice!  
This Day is my voice!  
From the farms of Sussex  
To the cities of Essex!  
From the hills of Watchung  
To the shores of Belmar!  
This Day was made for you and me!  
YOU AND ME!!

PLEASE LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!! Write an article...or two!!

Yours in fellowship and service,  
Marybeth H.  
Area 44 Newsletter Chair/Interim Intergroup Representative for This Day

## History and Archives Committee



If I look back to when I first got sober, I never could have imagined the gifts sobriety would give me through my Higher Power—and all I had to do was keep moving forward, even though sometimes I couldn't see what my next step was to be.

Nor could I have imagined reading any book, let alone a text book. That's what my sponsor told me the Big Book is when we sat at my table and started reading. Reading, to me, was a reminder that I was different. You see, I have been legally blind since birth. Just reading a page in any book took at least ten minutes and required me to be ½ inch from the page. It was a source of embarrassment since childhood and it's one of the factors that led me to seek alcohol as a way to fit in. But my "teacher" said this book was to be studied.

This year, I begin my next journey, as your History & Archives Committee Chair. I am looking forward in anxious anticipation to the opportunity to serve Area 44 and learn more about what God's plan is for me. I've found that my faith is nurtured by my willingness to walk forward in the dark, knowing that a light will be provided when I need it.

Not everyone knows how fortunate we are to live where we do. It's like the Cradle of Civilization for AA! Outside of Akron, The NY and Northern NJ Area

*Continued on page 4*



### GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS

Rumson Sunday Night, St. George #109185

Bag No Name

Wake Up and Smell the Coffee, St. Matt's District 24, Middletown

New Brunswick Friday Night Evergreen Lafayette

Men in Recovery, Newton #719284  
There is a Solution Group #125630

Sparta Meeting #000109200

Millburn - Sunday 1:00 Big Book

Newark - Daily Reflections

Verona - Monday 12:15 Closed Discussion

Verona - Hill Street Blues.

East Dover, Toms River, Monday 8:00 pm

There is a Solution, St. Stephens

Monday Night Vernon, Willing to Change Group

Topic for the summer issue:

How We Use the Big Book in Our Individual Recoveries.

*History Continued from page 3*  
is where the roots of Alcoholics Anonymous took hold. In fact, The Big Book was even written in Newark! Learning that was one of the things that attracted me to learning about the history of our Fellowship. These days, with the help of reading apps, I love to read about all things AA history.

I'm so grateful that our Fellowship has a goal to reach the still suffering alcoholic, no matter what his or her challenge. In fact, our Big Book was first translated into braille in 1940 by a blind member and can be purchased for the same price as our printed version, even though it's a much "bigger" book. Audio versions have been around since at least the early 70s and can be purchased through our Area 44 Literature Committee.

I listened as the pages of the book came to life through the narrator. My sponsor shared his experience and I identified as we read the book together. Slowly, but surely, I learned about my problem.

What a relief to know that the main problem of the alcoholic is in his mind rather than his body. I already knew I was crazy; I was afraid I wasn't 'alcoholic enough' based on the stories I heard. I remember reading the long paragraph on page 21 describing the "real alcoholic and his behavior. I was afraid I wouldn't make the cut because I hadn't done all those things. My sponsor reminded me the next paragraph says this was just a rough description. I learned that alcoholism isn't all about DWI's, rehabs and jail. In fact, I have learned that skid row was between my ears.

Then, there was that wonderful paragraph on page 44 that showed me what an alcoholic is. It reads, "If, when you honestly want to, you find you cannot quit entirely, or if when drinking, you have little control over the amount you take, you are probably alcoholic. If that be the case, you may be suffering from an illness which only a spiritual experience will conquer."

Finally, I knew I had the same problem as everyone else! I knew, by looking around that I was incapable of managing my own life and I was willing to believe something else could. The rest is—pardon the pun—history.

The idea that I would grow by serving others was impressed on me from the beginning. I didn't realize I would love it besides. We

have a motivated and active committee and are looking for anyone who is interested in getting involved. You don't have to be a history expert, just have a willingness to learn. This great big AA world of ours starts with individuals who form a group. It may be a worldwide fellowship, but it's local for each one of us. I encourage all AA's in Northern New Jersey to learn about our history on both levels. How old is your group? Where did it originate? Are there any long timers who have stories about the "old days"?

Our committee meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at The Intergroup Office. We would love to see you there. You can email us at archives@nnjaa.org

### Cooperation with the Professional Community

Greetings from CPC!

It is an honor and a privilege to serve the Area as your new Cooperating with the Professional Communities (CPC) chair, and humbling and amazing to rotate from a position (DCM of District 4/6) where I thought I knew what I was doing to a position (Area CPC chair) where there is room for much growth and much to learn. I attended the Area Committee Chair Orientation and plan to attend NERAASA in Hunt Valley, Maryland at the end of February 2019. At NERASSA, I plan to get ideas on how to make our area CPC committee a welcome place for alcoholics currently in the fellowship doing 12th step work and a vehicle for carrying the message of AA to professionals. Our area CPC committee informs professionals and future professionals about A.A. -- what we are, where we are, and what we can do. Our objective it to attempt to find simple, effective ways of cooperating with professionals without affiliating. It was a pleasure hosting a workshop as part of the Area Assembly in January, and I would like to thank Bobbi T. and Rich for helping with the presentation. We will be hosting a joint workshop with the P.I. Committee at the Area Office on Saturday, May 11th at 9 a.m. and invite anyone interested in either committee to attend. CPC meets the third Tuesday of the month at the Area Office and are always looking for volunteers representing districts, as well as interested A.A.'s, to help us carry the message to professionals in and around Area 44. Sincerely,  
Mark D.  
Area 44 CPC Chair

### GSR Mid-Winter Luncheon Committee



Thank you, Area 44, for allowing me to serve!

The 2019 GSR Mid-Winter Luncheon was again successful. Thank you all who attended. As I pass the mantle on to David E., I'm sure he will do a spectacular job for 2020. Any one who is looking for something fun to do, please join the luncheon committee. We have fun and the steps to a successful luncheon are laid out, tried and true. So, as I move on to the next service commitment, I thank the committee, David E., Barbara B.-R., and Laverne L. who faithfully made all our committee meetings and worked tirelessly to make this luncheon successful.

Thanks to all the hostesses who assisted on the day of the luncheon; with the help of those named and those not named, it would not have been a success without this support.

Thank you to our 2018 Area Delegate for finding two excellent speakers. And finally, Thank you, Area 44, for your continued support. We made the luncheon successful!

Thank you all for your service to A.A.

Anita C.

2019 GSR Mid-Winter Luncheon Chair  
02/23/2019



**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*

### "They Knew Something I Didn't"

By Sherry B., District 35

I can always find the answers to my problems in the Big Book. The

solutions are really in there, waiting for me to discover them, and all I have to do is open my heart and mind and read. So today, with no problem to solve, other than to write this article, I opened my Big Book randomly and found myself on page 461. At the top of the page were the words, "I found my purpose in life." That was interesting to me because I still haven't figured out what I want to be when I grow up. The title of the story was "Listening to the Wind." I've been practicing active listening lately, so I read on.

At first, the Native American woman's story was vastly different from mine. She eloquently described her poverty, prostitution, homelessness, and incarceration, but nothing resonated until she mentioned pride and lies. So, I read on. Suddenly at the bottom of the sixth page, one sentence grabbed my attention: "I felt as if they all knew something I didn't." Holy smokes! How many times did I think there was some secret code of conduct that everyone knew except me? That if only I were smarter, prettier, richer, faster, funnier, then I'd finally fit in. Fully engaged now, I read on. Her story continued with more jail, attempted suicide, more desperation and – at last! – the beginning of recovery. Now she really had my attention, because that's where I am at 21 months of sobriety. At the bottom of page 467, she gave me a vivid visual of the power of the program: "The Twelve Steps worked like a crowbar, prying into my dishonesty and fear." That's exactly what I'm experiencing right now as I work on my Fourth Step.

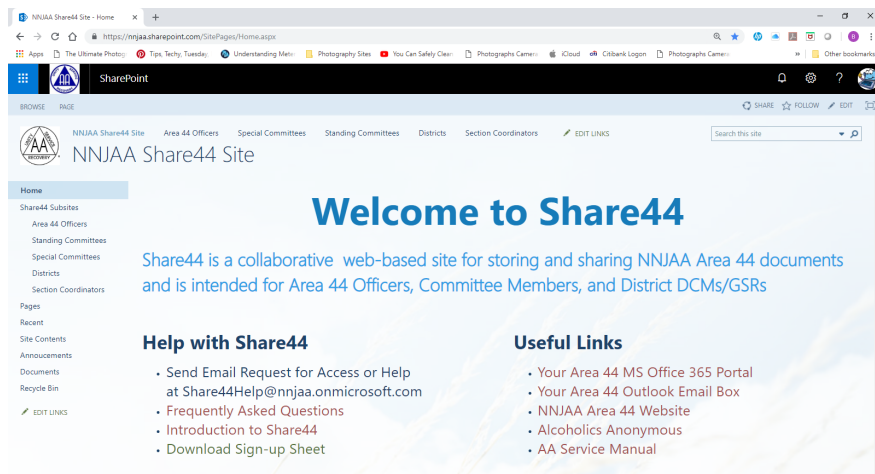
Every time I poke around in my Big Book, whether I'm idly wandering or actively searching, I find something that resonates with me and guides me on my happy journey of recovery. And that's exactly how I use my Big Book: to find the answers to whatever question I may have at any given moment. By paying careful attention, I can learn from those who have gone before me, seeking their answers in recovery. Identifying with them is highly reassuring, and it helps me find the strength to pick up my own crowbar and continue my own journey, one step at a time.

### Computer & Technology Committee



#### Share44 Has Arrived!

For those of you involved in service as an Area 44 Officer, Standing/Special Committee member, DCM, or GSR, this article is for you. **Share44** is a computer system that has been recently implemented by The Computer & Technology Committee. The purpose of **Share44** is to provide a cloud storage site for documents created by Area 44 Officers, committees, and Districts and also offers communication tools for Area 44 service members. **Share44** provides a way for those involved with Area 44 service to fulfill the primary purpose of helping the still suffering alcoholic achieve sobriety. This article is intended to provide a brief introduction to **Share44**.



Those involved with Area 44 service create documents, such as meeting agendas and minutes. Previously, these documents had to be stored on personal computers, shared by email, and handed out as printed copies at area and district meetings. These documents and emails are often lost when a person rotates from service. In December 2017, the Area 44 Computer & Technology Committee identified Microsoft SharePoint as the solution for centrally storing and sharing Area 44 documents.

#### What Is Share44?

**Share44** is the NNJAA Area 44 version of SharePoint, which is used for storing and sharing Area 44 documents. It also includes the Microsoft Office 365 applications Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneDrive, OneNote, Yammer, and Teams.

#### Who Can Use Share44?

Share44 is intended for the chairs and members of the AA Area 44 Office, Standing and Special Committees, District DCMs and GSR, Section Coordinators, and Intergroup members in joint committees and districts. It is intended for alcoholics who are involved in Area 44 service positions.

#### Why Use Share44?

**Share44** is used to store and share Area 44 documents, including meeting agendas and minutes, conference reports, budgets, AA pamphlet rack locations, treatment and corrections schedules, and registrar lists. Another important benefit is that documents and emails are saved and transferred to an Area 44 service member rotating into a new service position. It provides an email system for Area 44 members, so that personal email accounts do not have to be used. Finally, **Share44** offers both communication blog and chatting applications.

#### How Can I Access Share44?

Any Area 44 service AAer can obtain a Share44 ID based on a service role. Ask your Committee Chair or DCM to request Share44 access or send an email to [Share44Help@nnjaa.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:Share44Help@nnjaa.onmicrosoft.com), including your role (e.g. District 99 GSR Any Town Big Book Group). Once you receive a Share44 User ID and temporary password, go to <https://nnjaa.sharepoint.com> to log in. You will be given access to **Share44** as a site Owner, Member, or Visitor, based on your service role.

#### How Can I Help with Share44?

Computer Committee members have provided a lot of time to design and implement **Share44**. If you have SharePoint experience and would like to help, please contact the Computer Committee Chair at [computer-chair@nnjaa.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:computer-chair@nnjaa.onmicrosoft.com). Assistance is greatly needed!

Yours in service,

Bruce R.

Area 44 Computer & Technology Committee

## INTERGROUP NEWS 'N NOTES MEETING UPDATES FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2019

#### NEW MEETINGS & UPDATES!!!!!!!!!!

**ANNANDALE** - Wed. & Thurs. 8 pm(men) C-ST & C-D - Union Community Bible Church, 104 Allerton Road (formerly met in Lebanon)  
**BUDD LAKE** - Mon.,Wed.,Fri. 10:30 am - Christ Episcopal Church, 369 Sandshore Road(formerly met in Stanhope)  
**LAKEHURST** - Wed. 12:15 pm - O-D St. John's R.C. Church, 619 Chestnut Street (formerly met at Ocean County Evangelical Church)  
**MATAWAN** - Sat. 9:30 pm C-B First Presbyterian Church, 883 Route 34(formerly met at Trinity Episcopal Church)  
**NORWOOD** - Tues. 7:30 pm - C-D Church of the Holy Communion, 66 Summit Street (formerly met in Northvale)  
**RED BANK** - Mon. 7:30 pm - C-D(men) First Baptist Church, 84 Maple Avenue  
**WAYNE** - Wed. 7:15 pm - C-D St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, 395 Valley Road  
**WYCKOFF** - Tues. 8 pm - O-D Advent Lutheran Church, 777 Wyck-off Avenue (formerly met in Midland Park)

#### CANCELLED MEETINGS!!!!!!!!!!

**BRICK** - Wed. 7:30 pm (women)First Baptist Church, 1824 Route 88  
**FAIRFIELD** - Thurs. 8:30 pm - St. Thomas More Church, Hollywood & Horseneck Roads  
**KEARNY** - Fri. 7:30 pm - (women) Grace Methodist Church, 380 Kearny Avenue  
**CANCELLED MEETINGS (continued)**

**MONTCLAIR** - Tues. 7 pm O-BB First Lutheran Church, 153 Park Street  
**MONTCLAIR** - Mon. 8:15 pm - St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 73 S. Fullerton Avenue  
**NORTH BRUNSWICK** - Thurs. 12:15 pm - Christian Fellowship Church, 1212 Livingston Ave.  
**PASSAIC** - Mon. & Sat. 7:30 pm - First Presbyterian Church, 112 Washington Place  
**PASSAIC** - Mon. & Tues. 8 pm (Polish Speaking) Holy Rosary Youth Center, 1 Wall Street  
**PORT MURRAY** - Thurs. 7 pm - First Baptist Church of Anderson, 150 Jackson Street  
**RIDGEFIELD** - Tues. 7:30 pm - St. James Episcopal Church, 514 Abbott Avenue  
**RINGWOOD** - Sun. 8 am -C-ST Holy Name Friary, 5 Morris Road  
**THREE BRIDGES** - Thurs. 8 pm- Dutch Reformed Church, Main Street  
**TOMS RIVER** - Thurs. 8:30 pm(men) Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1500 Hooper Avenue  
**UPPER MONTCLAIR**- Mon. 1:30 pm(women) - Union Congregational Church, 176 Cooper Avenue  
**UPPER SADDLE RIVER** - Thurs. 7:30 pm - Church of the Presentation, 271 W. Saddle River Road  
**WARREN** - Tues. 5:30 pm Stonecrest Community Church, 11 Technology Drive  
**WARREN** - Sat. 8:15 pm Our Lady of the Mount, 167 Mt Bethel Rd.

## 2019 MINI-CONFERENCE TOPICS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

### TOPIC I COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY (CPC)

- A. Should the text "They may help arrange hospitalization" be removed from the pamphlet P-31 "Alcoholic Anonymous in Your Community"?
- (Final Conference agenda Item II-B)

### TOPIC II GRAPEVINE

- A. Should the "Alcoholism at Large" section be removed from the Grapevine? (Final Conference agenda Item V-B)

### TOPIC III LITERATURE

- A. Should a 5th Edition of the Big Book be developed?  
(Final Conference agenda Item VI-C)
- B. Should the Forward to the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions be revised to include a reference to the Concepts?  
(Final Conference agenda Item VI-M)
- C. Should the pamphlet "Twelve Steps Illustrated" be revised to use simpler, more direct language without losing the powerful message of the Steps? (Final Conference agenda Item VI-O)

### TOPIC IV PUBLIC INFORMATION

- A. Should a new Public Service Announcement (PSA) in video format be approved that utilizes full-face actors (not members of A.A.)?  
(Final Conference agenda Item VIII-C4)

### TOPIC V TREATMENT AND ACCESIBILITIES

- A. Should the pamphlet "Bridging the Gap" be revised to include related corrections activities?  
(Final Conference agenda Item X-A)

### TOPIC VI ARCHIVES

- A. Should the 1940s home movie of the Founders and their wives be added to the video "Markings on the Journey"?  
(Final Conference agenda Item XII-A)

## TOPIC I: COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY (CPC)

- A. Should the text "They may help arrange hospitalization" be removed from the pamphlet P-31 "Alcoholic Anonymous in your Community"?

### Background:

This request sent by Area 3, Arizona, with substantial unanimity asks that in the pamphlet P-31 the sentence "They may help arrange hospitalization" be removed. They felt that the word "They" was ambiguous and open to more than one interpretation. Did this refer to the individual A.A. member or A.A. as a whole? In the pamphlet P-31 in the section "What can you expect from A.A.," 3 out of the 4 answers start with "A.A. members". The big concern from Area 3 is if someone was considering coming to A.A. they might assume, from reading this pamphlet, that they would be hospitalized or if they came to A.A. they might expect A.A. to find treatment and pay the cost. In the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" in the section "Should a sponsor recommend hospitalization," it clearly states that "the important thing to remember is that hospitalization is not part of the A.A. program and that a doctor, not a sponsor, is the person who would say whether it is required".

### Pros:

By removing this line it would take away any confusion by the newcomer or anyone that A.A or an A.A. member is responsible for hospitalization or any kind of treatment.

### Cons:

A.A. members have tried to help the alcoholic who still suffers in many different ways. By helping the alcoholic access treatment who needs help it should be clear between the two that this does not mean that the A.A. member or A.A. as a whole has a responsibility for this treatment. As a result, there is no need to make this change to the pamphlet.

## TOPIC II GRAPEVINE

- A. Should the "Alcoholism at Large" section be removed from the Grapevine?

### Background:

Beginning in 1946 Grapevine published information from the general press about external research and treatments for alcoholism. Over the years was it expanded to include information on legal, social and medical aspects. It had various names and formats but became officially known as "About Alcoholism" and today "Alcoholism at Large" and informally as "The Gray Pages". The development of this section came as a response to readers request for more of this type of information. Over time, however, there also became a part of our fellowship that believed we should not be publishing this information for various reasons including the belief that these were outside matters to our program of recovery. Thus, began a see-saw of agenda items at a number of conferences as follows:

- 1946 – Began publishing this information under various names and formats.
- 1974 – It was decided that the "Gray Pages" stay in the magazine.
- 1984 – Again, it was decided that they stay in the magazine.
- 1991 – It was decided to take them out.
- 2007 – It was decided to put them back in.
- 2008 – Confirmed to keep them in.
- 2009 – Confirmed to keep them in.
- 2014 – Confirmed to keep them in.
- 2019 – Being asked again to take them out.

*Continued on page 7*

*Continued from page 6*

As noted above, the conference is being asked one more time to consider removing them from the Grapevine. In reviewing this request, things that could be considered:

Pros:

- Grapevine's charter and purpose includes a directive to publish written material that includes ..."means, methods, techniques and procedures available or proposed for the treatment, relief, rehabilitation and recovery of persons suffering from or potentially subject to alcoholism."
- There have been requests from the members of Alcoholics Anonymous to produce such information, so the need is there.
- Bill W. felt there was a need and stated "we are glad of any kind of education that accurately informs the public and changes its age-old attitude toward the drunk. More and more we regard all who labor in the total field of alcoholism as our companions on a march from darkness into light. We see that we can accomplish together what we could never accomplish in separation and in rivalry.
- The arguments against publishing these items has been reviewed by the conference on a number of occasions and has not found the need to remove them in the past 12 years. In fact, they have been produced in all but 16 of the last 73 years.

Cons:

- Some feel that the information has nothing to do with Alcoholics Anonymous and our primary purpose to help the alcoholic who suffers.
- Some also feel that the content relates to "outside issues" and is in conflict with Tradition 6.
- That by printing these articles in OUR meeting in print publication, it is an endorsement of the programs and treatments.
- That giving the Grapevine staff the authority to pick and select what programs or treatments are published, might result in selecting such items that have not been proven successful or safe. In fact there were some issues with those that Bill selected back in the early 60's during his own personal research

### **TOPIC III: Literature**

A. Consider requests to develop a Fifth Edition of the book Alcoholics Anonymous.

Background:

For reference purposes, here is a past history of the previous editions of the Big Book:

1st edition: 1939

2nd edition: 1955

3rd edition: 1976

4th edition: 2001

The time between each edition has been 16, 21, 25 years respectively, and it's been 18 years since the release of the current edition.

Pros:  
Starting the process now keeps in line with past editions. By the time it's ready for print, it will be close to 21 years for the debut of the current edition.

As in past editions, the main purpose of the new printing will be to bring the stories up to date with our current membership and personal lives. Over the past 17 years, modern society has experienced great changes in how we live, work and communicate. Likewise, our membership has experienced significant changes over the past 17 years.

\*The stories of the members are to represent a current cross-section of our membership. They are presented so others reading this book may relate and understand that they too may be alcoholic, and by doing so find the solution provided in these pages.

Cons:  
Can we, in this constantly changing and diverse world, keep the integrity of what the stories were originally meant to achieve? On Page 29 of the book, Bill writes, "Each individual, in the personal stories, describes in his own language and from his own point of view the way he established his relationship with God." At the end of the day, by creating another edition, are we still meeting this goal?  
Are we taking inclusivity too far? How many more different "types" of people do we need stories from? How far do we go with this? If one of the most important spiritual principles of Alcoholics Anonymous is that we don't care where you came from, nor does race, creed, or color of one's skin matter, then why do we need to keep adding more stories? Are we more concerned now with hurting feelings because we may have left someone out? Are we getting away from our philosophy that as long as one thinks they may be alcoholic, and has a desire to stop drinking, you are welcome, you fit in, and nothing else matters?  
Printing another edition will be costly. Do we really need to do this at this time? It's only been 17 years since the last edition....surely the stories are still relevant!  
Does your group think that we should start the process of developing a 5th edition of the big Book or is it too soon?

### **TOPIC III LITERATURE**

B. Should the Forward to the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions be revised to include a reference to the Concepts? (Final Conference agenda Item VI-M)

Background:

North Florida (Area 14) put forth a motion that a statement about the Twelve Concepts be added to the Forward of the book 'Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions' which could read:

"A.A.'s Twelve Steps are a group of principles, spiritual in their nature, which, if practiced as a way of life, can expel the obsession to drink and enable the sufferer to become happily and usefully whole."\*

"A.A.'s Twelve Traditions apply to the life of the Fellowship itself. They outline the means by which A.A. maintains its unity and relates itself to the world about it, the way it lives and grows."\*

"A.A.'s Twelve Concepts of World Service are an interpretation of A.A.'s world service structure. The Concepts provide guidelines for carrying the message to thousands of suffering alcoholics yet to come. They aim to record the "why" of our service structure. They may be found in the "A.A. Service Manual combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service."

\* Currently appears in the Forward

*Continued on page 8*

*Continued from page 7*

The “Twelve Concepts for World Service” were written by Bill W. in 1962. In his introduction, Bill noted: “These Concepts therefore aim to record the “why” of our service structure in such a fashion that the highly valuable experience of the past, and the lessons we have drawn from that experience, can never be forgotten or lost... These general principles can of course be used to good effect throughout our entire structure.”

Noting that they frequently come across members with significant sobriety who are not aware of the Concepts, Area 14 wrote: “Just as Bill wrote the Twelve Steps that make possible our Recovery, and just as he wrote the Twelve Traditions that promote and sustain the Unity of our Fellowship, he also wrote the Twelve Concepts to foster and strengthen our Third Legacy, that of Service. Since the 12 Concepts were not available until 1962, they were not around when the 12 and 12 was published in 1951.”

Over the years the Twelve Concepts have been consistently integrated into our literature and our fellowship. The following are relevant Conference Advisory Actions:

- 1962: The Conference voted unanimously to accept Bill’s manuscript on Twelve Concepts for World Service.
- 1971: The short form of the Twelve Concepts was approved.
- 1986: The pamphlet “The Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated” was approved.
- 1992: The Twelve Concepts for World Service (short form) should be included in all service pamphlets, wherever feasible.
- 2001: The Twelve Concepts (short form), with a brief introduction, is added to the Appendices Section in future printings of the Big Book.
- 2012: The short form of the Twelve Concepts is added to As Bill Sees It.
- 2015: The Conference Literature Committee considered an agenda item asking to develop a book combining “The Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and the Twelve Concepts (12x12x12)” and took no action.

Area 14 felt the absence of the Concepts in the Forward leaves the impression that we have a “two-sided” triangle and leaves our program incomplete.

Pros:

We should add this text to the ‘12 and 12’. It’s a widely distributed book and adding this will introduce more AA members to Twelve Concepts.

Adding the text will make it easier for sponsors and service sponsors to show sponsees that we have 36 spiritual principles in AA.

By introducing AA members to the Twelve Concepts in this popular book, we may encourage more members to participate in AA service work.

If the 12 Concepts had been existence when the ‘12 and 12’ was published, Bill would likely have included them in the Forward.

Cons:

We don’t need to change the Forward. The ‘12 and 12’ is about the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, not the twelve concepts.

This is one of our most popular books. It’s fine just as it is – if it ain’t broke don’t fix it.

The ‘12 and 12’ was written by Bill W. and we shouldn’t change it.

What does your Group think?

## Topic III: Literature

C. Consider request to update the pamphlet ‘The Twelve Steps Illustrated.’

Background:

At the July 2018 meeting of the trustees’ Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities (C.P.C./T.A.), the chair appointed a subcommittee to pursue efforts to support carrying the message to A.A. members who are deaf and hard-of-hearing. In addition, the subcommittee reviewed accessibilities literature, continuing an evaluation of support for accessibilities issues within the Fellowship. The subcommittee did a review of accessibilities literature and made proposals for changes to these pieces. They noted multiple requests for simplified language literature coming to G.S.O. and to the General Service Conference from various sources in the past years.

The committee felt that a new version of the pamphlet “The Twelve Steps Illustrated” is warranted to capture a simplified language that reflects the meaning of the Steps more effectively than the current version and that includes quality illustrations. The committee wants to ensure that any such simplified language product does not lose the powerful meaning of our steps/message, but that it becomes accessible to more individuals with low reading levels.

At their January 2019 meeting, the trustees’ Committee on C.P.C./T.A. accepted the report of the subcommittee and agreed to forward to the 2019 Conference Literature Committee a proposal that the pamphlet “The Twelve Steps Illustrated” be enhanced with additional language and illustrations that reflect the meaning of the Steps. The committee noted that the changes to service material proposed by the subcommittee will be implemented as these items come up for reprint.

Pros:

All pamphlets should be an easy read for everyone that reads our pamphlets. Literature should be all-inclusive, not exclusive, so everyone can understand what they are reading.

The illustrations are outdated and should be current with the times. Some of our members may not be able to read when they first come to us, and the illustrations may help them visually understand about the twelve steps.

A few other things to consider are:

- A new improved pamphlet may spark an interest to newer young people coming into A.A.

*Continued on page 9*



*Continued from page 8*

- The cover is boring. We need something bright and up to date; after all, it is 2019!
- The dress code is old fashioned.
- The pamphlet is simply outdated. It is time for a overall face lift.

Cons:

This pamphlet has worked well all these years. Having no complaints, it must be fine the way it is written. Also, do A.A members use this pamphlet to do twelfth step work? How important is this pamphlet really.

Shouldn't we encourage new members, and/or young people, to learn to study and have better reading skills? Doesn't "simplified" language encourage laziness? Isn't it better for new or young people to ask a sponsor for help? Doesn't this take away the need for sponsorship?

What will the cost be?

Should we just leave the existing pamphlet as is? The question to always ask is, "Is there a need?"

## TOPIC IV: Public Information

A. Should a new Public Service Announcement (PSA) in video format be approved that utilizes full face actors (not members of A.A.).

Background:

This request sent in by Area 6, Northern Coastal California, might sound familiar. In 2011, Area 44, considered a mini conference item to approve the General Service Board "Policy on Actors Portraying A.A. Members or Potential A.A. Members in Videos Produced by the General Service Board or its Affiliates." In order to understand the request lets understand the policy. This policy was adopted by the A.A. General Service Board, in January 2011, and approved by the 2011 General Service Conference. The timeline regarding this policy goes from 2008 to 2016 and is discussed between two different Trustee committees. One, Trustee Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities and the other being the Committee on Public Information. Discussion on this policy varied. It has been tabled, the committees have called for more information for future discussion and they even considered to discontinue the practice of showing full faces but not without collecting sharing from the Fellowship on this. Eventually, in November of 2009, the Trustee Committee on CPC/Treatment/Special Needs reviewed and discussed the sharing from the Fellowship and agreed, in preparation for a possible agenda item in 2010, to send this item on to the Trustees Committee on Public Information. As stated above the policy was adopted and was eventually approved by the 2011 General Service Conference.

In 2014 the Public Information Committee expressed concern about possible inconsistencies between retiring certain PSAs because of conflict with the current full face policy and posting content on AA.org that might be in conflict with this policy. The committee asked the A.A.W.S. board to consider offering the video "Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous" through local committees rather than on the AA.org website. In 2015 the Trustee committee on PI considered a request to rescind the 2011 policy and took no action and in 2016 reconsidered and agreed to send the request to the 2016 Conference Committee on Public Information. That committee took no action and noted that the current policy on the use of full face videos is adequate.

Some of the language in the policy states that an actor's full face will not be shown unless the video is consistent with the A.A Tradition of attraction rather than promotion and does not in fact or in appearance place personalities before principles. If you visit AA.org you will see that we have PSAs, videos for professionals and young people also full length videos. In all the videos where actors are portrayed there is a printed notice at the beginning and end of the film stating that actors are used to portray A.A. members. The conduct of all A.A characters portrayed in videos is consistent with our traditions.

Pros:

Area 6, in their findings and using PSAs from Australia (<http://bit.ly/AussiePSAs>) show that using full faces have so much impact. If you view these Australian PSAs, you will see drunkenness, fear and shame without a single word being said. The PSAs that we already show on AA.org are consistent with our Traditions and showing the full faces of actors who are not AA members would not be a violation of our Traditions.

Cons:

There are always concerns of what constitutes an anonymity break by a member under Tradition 11 and members become concerned when they see the full face on an individual on a public media. There is also concern whether the actor who is making a 12 step call or walking

## TOPIC V: Treatment and Accessibilities

A. Should the pamphlet "Bridging the Gap" be revised to include related correctional activities ?

Background:

The Delegate from Area 53, Central and Southeast Ohio, Frank G., served as the Panel 67 delegate from this area and served on the corrections committee. During his participation at the General Service Conference for these two years, there was discussion about the confusion of the term "Bridging the Gap" and whether it was related to alcoholics being released from prisons or whether it referred to alcoholics being release from treatment facilities or both. He was encouraged to share his thoughts and he has proposed that the titles of one pamphlet and 2 service pieces changed to be more inclusive. Specifically,

1. Pamphlet P-49 currently titled "Bridging the GAP Between treatment and A.A. through contact programs" be changed to "'Bridging the GAP between treatment, prisons and other confined institutions and through contact programs"
2. Changing the titles of the Service pieces F-183 and F-184 currently titled "A.A. Temporary Contact / Bridging the Gap Volunteer" be changed to "A.A. Temporary Contact/ Bridging the Gap for Prisons, Treatment Centers and Other Confined Institutions". The first service piece is for AA members on the inside and the second is for AA members on the outside.

*Continued on page 10*

*Continued from page 9*

In his letter, Frank G. also suggests changing the wording in the pamphlet. The P-49 pamphlet begins:

Part of Bridging the Gap between a treatment program and A.A. is the Temporary Contact Program, which is designed to help the alcoholic in an alcoholism treatment program make that transition.

He suggests changing the text from “treatment program” to “alcohol program or correctional program” to be more inclusive.

Pros:

In his letter, Frank G. points out that there is not a clear understanding of the wonderful phrase "Bridging the Gap". A definition of BTG is "to serve as or create a connection between two disconnected or disparate things", e.g. uneducated to educated, poor to rich, insanity to a connection to a higher power, inside to outside.

This is a valid point. The P49-pamphlet states that attending A.A. meetings is critical and that A.A. members have volunteered as temporary contacts to help bridge the gap and to introduce newcomers to Alcoholics Anonymous. This need exist for individuals leaving jails and prisons as much as it does for those leaving treatment centers and these changes would expand our services to include everyone who needs a temporary contact.

Making these changes would also clear up the confusion which exists in our Fellowship who work on the Treatment and Correctional committees.

In 2006, the Corrections committee reviewed their Kit and Workbook and noted that some local committees prefer the term "Bridging the Gap" when referring to pre-release contacts and included this in the Workbook. If some local committees prefer this term, why not broaden the term as suggested by making these changes.

Cons:

As we can see from the pamphlet P-49 and the service pieces, Bridging the Gap, is considered to be a program for Treatment centers. The Corrections committee has other tools like the Pre-release contact program which is similar.

In 1991, the Conference Corrections committee considered this issue. The Committee discussed the need for a bridging the gap pamphlet specifically for correctional facilities. Because of the existing A.A. prerelease contact programs and the availability of the service piece F-5, "Carrying the Message Into Correctional Facilities", the committee saw no need for a Correctional Facilities bridging the gap pamphlet at that time.

These programs and the service piece still exist so there does not seem to be a need to make these changes. The Corrections Conference committee reaffirmed this viewpoint in 1992 and 2003.

What do you and your Group think? Should we make these changes to end the confusion or be more inclusive or do you agree with the views of the Conference Corrections committee that the current information for correctional facilities is sufficient?

## Topic VI: Archives

A. Should the 1940s home movie of the Founders and their wives be added to the video "Markings on the Journey"?

Background:

In 2017, a 1940s film of the co-founders and their wives, filmed in the gardens at Stepping Stones (the home of Bill and Lois), was donated to the G.S.O. Archives and A.A.W.S. is the legal copyright owner. The film is a rare home movie, filmed in Kodachrome and about two minutes in length. As far as our Archivist, Michelle Mirza is aware, it is the only moving image of the co-founders and their wives that exists.

At the October Board meeting, the Trustees' Archives committee had a wide-ranging discussion on the use of this newly acquired film. The Committee agreed to forward to the 2019 Conference Committee on Archives a request to consider adding this footage to the Markings on the Journey video.

Markings on the Journey is a DVD which one can order from the General Service Office (DV-01, \$10) that is a both a tour of the GSO (General Service Office) Archives and a walk through of the history of A.A. In this video, the history of our Fellowship is told by Bill W., Nell Wang, the first A.A. Archivist, and others. Initially provided as a filmstrip, the format was changed to a VHS tape in 1987. The film was updated in the late 1990s as the both audio and quality had deteriorated during the conversion with a new version becoming available in 2002. In, 2013 a Conference Advisory action was passed to update the video. New Archives footage and additional material were added along with an update to the content. The revised video

Pros:

This newly acquired film would be a welcome addition to this video which talks about the history of our Fellowship. If it truly is the only existing movie of our Founders, Bill and Dr. Bob, and their wives Lois and Anne then the Fellowship would be very interested in seeing this footage.

The video was updated almost 5 years ago and technology has greatly improved. It's possible that the video could benefit from this improved technology.

Cons:

The video was updated only a few years ago. It may be too soon to consider the expense involved in updating this video again. While the Founders are popular figures, our history is not about personalities but about the events which led to the establishment and growth of our Fellowship. There may be a better venue than this video for showing this newly acquired footage of the Founders and their wives. In any event, we just received this new footage so why is there such a rush to use it? Let's consider the best use of this film.

**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; West Milford Library 2nd Floor, 1470 Union Valley 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, 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), 124 Park St, Ridgefield Park  
**District 13** - 2nd Tue. 7:30 pm, Wesley Meth. Ch., 225 Washington Ave, Belleville  
**District 14** - Last Tue. 7:00 pm, Barrow Mansion 83 Wayne St, upstairs, Jersey City  
**District 15/21** - 3rd Mon. 7:30 pm, Hunterdon Medical Center, Employee Cafeteria, Rt. 31 South, Flemington  
**District 16** - 3rd Mon. 7:00 pm Good Shepherd Luth Church, 160 Ridgedale Ave. Florham Park  
**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 Wednesday, 7:00pm, Presbyterian Church 140 Mountain Ave. Westfield  
**District 22** - 3rd Wed. 7:30 pm, Cook College, 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** - 3rd Thur. 7:00 pm, Christ United Meth Church, 300Ridge Rd, Fair Haven  
**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. 09:30 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 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

**NNJGS Area 44 Office Calendar**

**MARCH**

2 Grapevine Committee 10:00 AM  
 4 Mid-Winter Luncheon 7:00 PM  
 5 Officer's Meeting 7:00 PM  
 6 Mailing Committee Meeting 6:30 PM  
 6 Translation Committee 7:00 PM  
 9 Committee on Corrections 10:00 AM  
 10 Films Committee 9:00 AM  
 10 Area Com Meeting 10:00 AM  
 11 Computer Tech Comm 7:30 PM  
 12 Public Information Comm 7:30 PM  
 13 History & Archives@Interg 7:00 PM  
 13 Treatment Committee 7:30 PM  
 18 Literature Sales 6:30 PM  
 18 Literature Committee 7:30 PM  
 20 Convention Committee 8:00 PM  
 21 Newsletter Committee 6:00PM  
 21 Intr Hosp Suite Committee 7:00PM  
 25 Remote Communities Mtg 7:30 PM  
 25 Finance Committee 7:00 PM  
 28 Website Comm @ Area 7:30 PM

**April**

2 Officer's Meeting 7:00 PM  
 3 Mailing Committee Meeting 6:30 PM  
 3 Translation Committee 7:00 PM  
 6 Grapevine Committee 10:00 AM

8 Computer Tech Comm 7:30 PM  
 9 Public Information Comm 7:30 PM  
 10 History & Archives @Interg 7:00 M  
 10 Treatment Committee 7:30 PM  
 13 Mini-Conference 8:30 AM  
 15 Literature Sales 6:30 PM  
 15 Literature Committee 7:30 PM  
 16 CPC Committee 7:00 PM  
 17 Convention Committee 8:00 PM  
 18 Newsletter Committee 5:00PM  
 22 Remote Communities Mtg 7:30 PM  
 22 Finance Committee 7:00 PM  
 25 Website Committee @ Area 7:30 PM  
 25 P&A Committee 7:30 PM

**MAY**

1 Mailing Committee Meeting 6:30 PM  
 1 Translation Committee 7:00 PM  
 4 Grapevine Committee 10:00 AM  
 5 Films Committee 9:00 AM  
 5 Area Com Meeting 10:00 AM  
 7 Officer's Meeting 7:00 PM  
 8 History & Archives @Interg 7:00 PM  
 8 Treatment Committee 7:30 PM  
 13 Computer Tech Comm 7:30 PM  
 14 Public Information Comm 7:30 PM  
 15 Convention Committee 8:00 PM

16 Newsletter Committee 5:00PM  
 20 Literature Sales 6:30 PM  
 20 Literature Committee 7:30 PM  
 21 CPC Committee 7:00 PM  
 22 Website Comm @Area 7:30 PM  
 27 Remote Communities Mtg 7:30 PM  
 27 Finance Committee 7:00 PM

**JUNE**

1 Grapevine Committee 10:00 AM  
 4 Officer's Meeting 7:00 PM  
 5 Mailing Committee Meeting 6:00 PM  
 5 Translation Committee 7:00 PM  
 8 Area Assembly 8:30 AM  
 10 Computer Tech Comm 7:30 PM  
 11 Public Information Comm 7:30 PM  
 12 History & Archives@Interg 7:00 PM  
 12 Treatment Committee 7:30 PM  
 17 Literature Sales 6:30 PM  
 17 Literature Committee 7:30 PM  
 18 CPC Committee 7:00 PM  
 19 Convention Committee 8:00 PM  
 20 Newsletter Committee 6:00PM  
 20 Intl Hosp Suite Committee 7:00PM  
 24 Remote Communities Mtg 7:30 PM  
 24 Finance Committee 7:00 PM  
 27 Website Comm @Intergroup 7:30 PM

**Intergroup Calendar**

**MARCH 2019**

10 Bookers Exchange - Clark 6:00AM  
 13 History & Archives 7:00PM  
 14 Delegates Meeting, Clark 8:30PM  
 20 Nightwatch Committee 7:00PM  
 28 Joint Website Committee 7:30PM

**APRIL 2019**

4 Delegates Meeting, Clark 8:30PM  
 10 History & Archives 7:00PM  
 19 Holiday (Office Closed) Good Friday  
 25 Joint Website Committee 7:30PM

**MAY 2019**

2 Delegates Meeting, Clark 8:30PM  
 8 History & Archives 7:00PM  
 15 Nightwatch Committee 7:00PM  
 23 Joint Website Committee 7:30PM  
 27 Holiday (Office Closed) Memorial Day  
 28 Joint Unity Meeting 7:30PM

**JUNE 2019**

6 Delegates Meeting - Clark 8:30PM  
 9 Bookers Exchange - Clark 6:00AM  
 12 History & Archives 7:00PM  
 27 Joint Website Committee 7:30PM

**NEXT ISSUE MAY 16  
 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](mailto:newsletter@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"



**Area 44 Mini-Conference**

**April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

*"Our Big Book – 80 Years, 71 Languages"*

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

**GSRs: It is your responsibility to attend.....but every member has a voice and all are welcome!**



**Holy Innocents Church**

**3455 W. Bangs Ave., Neptune City, NJ 07753**

**Directions to Holy Innocents Church School:**

**FROM POINTS NORTH:**  
 Garden State Parkway South to Exit 100B to Route 33 East. Go approximately 1 mile to W. Bangs Ave., make a left turn and church is on the left.  
**FROM POINTS SOUTH:**  
 Garden State Parkway North to Exit 100 to Route 33 East. Go approximately 1 mile to W. Bangs Ave., make a left turn and church is on the left.  
**FROM POINTS WEST:**  
 Route 33 East to W. Bangs Ave., make a left turn and church is on the left.  
**FROM POINTS EAST:**  
 Route 33 West to W. Bangs Ave., make a right turn and church is on the left.

**www.nnjaa.org**

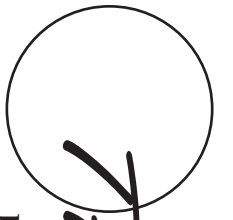
**Try it on your Smartphone**



**Your Northern New Jersey A.A. Website**



**Member area**  
 userid: alcoholic  
 password: onedayatatime



THIS DAY

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

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US POSTAGE PAID  
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PERMIT NO. 225

Spring 2019

Hooraay for  
SPRING!

**IT WAS ALL WORTH IT** –  
Donna B.

As I reflect on the last 25 years of my journey in AA, I think back to my early recovery. Within my first 90 days I became a single mom with two young children. My girls were only 7 and 4 and I asked myself, “How am I going to do this?” With the help of my sponsor, my support group of other young moms, and the program of AA, I succeeded, one day at a time. I went to several meetings a day, was on the phone constantly, did the Steps, and read the Big Book. And yet there were days when I kept wondering if it was all worth it. Was I short changing my children? Was I there for them enough? Did I give them the love and support young girls needed? I had faith in my higher power; I kept putting one foot in front of the other and doing the work.

The years flew by and my girls grew up surrounded by AA as I

did. I knew in some way they were proud of me and loved me, but not until my 21st celebration did I really get my answer. On the night of my celebration, my girls gave me my coin and they proceeded to read the letter they wrote to me. There was not a dry eye in the room, mine included. Here I was so worried if they were proud of me, but it was I who was so proud of them and the young women they had become.

This is the letter:

We don't really remember what she was like before AA. We really only remember what life was like after. My sister and I used to have a love/hate relationship with AA. We used to hate going 2-3 times a week to meetings and sitting there for an hour or two. Sometimes we even went on the weekends. Once we got a little older, she used to go without us and we would have a babysitter. When she was home, her beeper would go off and she would always be on the phone. At the time, my sister and I didn't un-

derstand, and we just want to say sorry because now we see why you needed a meeting or a phone call. And that brings us to our love relationship with AA. If it wasn't for all of that, there could have been a high chance our mom would not be with us at all. Thanks to AA, our mom is here. And not only is she a Mother and our friend, she's a Nana, but most importantly, she is a role model. She was in a dark place with two young girls who didn't understand. She raised us to be young women on her own by walking into the rooms of AA a few nights a week, picking up a phone to speak to someone instead of a drink. She was there to bring us to dance classes, softball practices, basketball practices, soccer practices, track practices, field hockey practices and being at as many games as she could. She was there for all our school meetings. She was there to help us with homework or to console us through a breakup. She created a foundation for us to grow and start our own lives. All because she went to meetings and made phone

calls. We are extremely proud to stand up here, to call you our mom and to give you this coin that you've worked so hard to achieve. We love you and so do all your grandchildren.

So each time I read this letter, which I do often, I am reminded that it was worth every Step and every sacrifice, to experience all the joy and pains of recovery and to continue on this journey - not only for myself and my children, but for the women who come after me.