

# THIS DAY

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

A message  
from your  
Area Delegate



As I sit at my desk to write this article, I'm reflecting on the "new norm" in Alcoholics Anonymous. The virtual world has exploded and many of our meetings, our committee work, ACM's and assemblies have taken place in an online platform. Even our Area newsletter has been delivered virtually. As the virtual world has taken root in Alcoholics Anonymous, I look forward to my second year as your delegate. It has been an unbelievable and rewarding experience. As I get ready to morph into "conference mode," much needs to be done before I head to Brooklyn for the 72nd General Service Conference, which will be held in person at the end of April.

By the time this article comes out, I'll have attended the General Service Board weekend as the chair for my conference committee, received all the background material for the General Service Conference, met with the past delegates to decide which agenda items to present to the area, attended NERAASA in Pittsburgh, PA, and started preparation for the pre-conference reports.

All of this leads up to our very important Area 44 Mini-Conference on April 9th. This is where we gather to hear the collective group conscience of our Area on the selected agenda items. I can't stress how important it is for the GSRs to keep their groups connected and for their participation in this process.

My first year at the General Service Conference was filled with some nervousness and fear, praying I could adequately represent my Area. This time around is completely different. While there is some fear, I know what to expect. I look forward to being the Conference Chair for Treatment and Accessibilities. While there is some apprehension associated with that, I'm surrounded by a good committee and supported by many new friends I met both virtually last year and at the General Service Board weekend at the end of January.

Board weekend was an unbelievable experience for me and the other twelve conference committee chairs. It was a weekend of going over the preliminary agenda items for each committee, a general sharing session, the 1728 meeting, and most importantly, interaction with our twenty-one trustees, non-trustee directors, ACMs and staff. The work that gets done by the trustees throughout the year for us, the delegates, is incredible. The conversations and openness of everyone was inspiring, motivating, and most importantly, unifying. I wish every AA member could experience both Board Weekend and the General Service Conference.

The suggested Spring 2022 "This Day" topic asked us to pick a tradition and explain why it's important. For me, that's a no brainer: it's Tradition 1 and unity. My collective experiences at conference last year, our delegate meetings this year, and our Area 44 ACMs and assemblies is that, just like when we did meet in person, the feeling of unity and our common bond in the virtual world has been paramount. Groups have needed to determine if they are going back in person or staying virtual. While this has the potential to split a group, we must remember the new person who shows up at our door or our virtual door. We are a group of people who have an answer for what he or she is suffering from: alcoholism.

Jimmy A.  
Area 44 Delegate

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NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE

May 9, 2022

newsletter@nnjaa.org



NEW JERSEY GENERAL SERVICE AREA 44

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[www.nnjaa.org](http://www.nnjaa.org)

**Group Secretary: Please pass this important information to your GSR!**

Dear A.A. Friends,

Each year our Area participates in a process to help prepare our Delegate to serve us at the annual General Service Conference (GSC) in New York. This is where important matters affecting A.A. are discussed and the business of A.A. is conducted. This year the GSC with the theme, "A.A. Comes of Age 2.0: Unified in Love and Service" will be held April 24-30. I along with 92 other delegates from the US and Canada will represent approximately 1.5 million members from 70,000 groups at this year's Virtual Conference.

**As your current Delegate, I am asking for your assistance in preparing me to represent you at this year's GSC.**

#### HOW IT WORKS

- At the Pre-Conference Reports I will provide you with the background material to review with your groups, and in turn bring an informed group conscience to our **Area Mini-Conference on April 9<sup>th</sup>** – all which helps ready me to serve you effectively at the General Service Conference (GSC).

#### GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE AND AREA MINI-CONFERENCE AGENDA TOPICS

- General Service Conference Agenda Topics** – The full GSC agenda contains too many items for us to cover at our Mini-Conference. Your Delegate, Alternate and Past Delegates meet to select those topics that are most relevant to our Area. Many topics from the full agenda have either already been discussed by us in recent years or they do not lend themselves to discussion at these sessions.
- Mini-Conference Topics** – These selected topics from the full GSC Agenda will be presented at the Pre-Conference sessions and discussed at the Mini-Conference. You can see these are important matters and as your Delegate, I strongly encourage your group's participation so I can be fully informed when attending the GSC.

#### AREA EVENTS – PRE-CONFERENCE REPORTS AND MINI-CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY

- Pre-Conference Flyer** – The Pre-Conference Report meetings are where your Delegate will outline the selected GSC topics that will be discussed at our Mini-Conference. Each group's General Service Representative (GSR) should attend a Pre-Conference Report, but all interested AA's are welcome. Background information provided at these sessions should be taken back to your group for discussion to develop a group conscience on each topic. Since all sessions are virtual there will be 6 choices with two translated into Spanish and Polish. Two of the 6 will also be Hybrid and will be held at the Area Office. The Pre-Conference flyer has been emailed out but you can find on [njaa.org](http://njaa.org) with dates and times.
- Mini-Conference Flyer** – The Mini-Conference is our Area Assembly where each group expresses its conscience on the selected topics through their GSR. Topics are discussed and group consciences are reported to the Delegate. It's critical that informed GSRs attend the Mini-Conference. ALL members have a voice and vote during the assembly's 'roundtable' discussions and are encouraged to participate in this process, but only the GSRs may participate in an official vote taken on the floor of the Area Mini-Conference assembly (should one be needed).

When conducting your group conscience meetings, you may find following literature items helpful:

- A.A. Service Manual – 12 Concepts for World Service / 2021 Final Conference Report (Booklet)
- Twelve Traditions Illustrated / Twelve Concepts Illustrated / A.A. Tradition and How It Developed (Pamphlets)
- A.A. Comes of Age (Book and Audio CD) / Advisory Actions of the General Service Conference (Booklet)

As your Delegate, I want to hear from all of our Area. **Please be sure to read both flyers at your meetings.**

**ALL** interested A.A.s are welcome and encouraged to attend a Pre-Conference session and our Mini-Conference. I thank you in advance for all your help in support of this process and look forward to seeing you at our events.

Grateful to Serve,

Jimmy A.  
 A44 P71 Delegate  
 Treatment & Accessibilities Committee  
 Email: [area-delegate@njarea44.org](mailto:area-delegate@njarea44.org)

**Check out Pre-Conference Report flyers and other Pre-Conference Information starting on page 11.**



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**Secretario/a de Grupo: ¡Por Favor Distribuye Esta Información A Su RSG!**

**Estimados Amigos en A.A.,**

Cada año, nuestra Área participa en un proceso para ayudar a preparar a nuestro Delegado para que nos sirva en la Conferencia de Servicios Generales (CSG) anual en Nueva York. Aquí es donde los asuntos importantes que afectan a A.A. se discuten y el negocio de A.A. es conducido. Este año, la CSG con el tema "AA Llega a Mayoría de Edad 2.0: Unidos en Amor y Servicio" se llevará a cabo del 24 al 30 de abril. Yo, junto con otros 92 delegados de los Estados Unidos y Canadá, representaremos aproximadamente a 1,5 millones de miembros de 70.000 grupos en la Conferencia Virtual de este año.

**Como su delegado actual, le pido su ayuda para prepararme para representarlo la CSG de este año.**

#### **CÓMO FUNCIONA**

- En los informes previos a la conferencia, les proporcionaré el material de antecedentes para que los revisen con sus grupos y, a su vez, llevaré una conciencia de grupo informada a nuestra **Mini-Conferencia de área el 9 de abril**, todo lo cual me ayudará a prepararme para servirles eficazmente en la Conferencia de Servicios Generales (CSG).

#### **TEMAS DE LA AGENDA DE LA CONFERENCIA DE SERVICIO GENERAL Y MINI CONFERENCIA DE ÁREA**

- **Temas de la agenda de la conferencia de servicios generales:** la agenda completa de la CSG contiene demasiados temas para que los cubramos en nuestra Mini-Conferencia. Su delegado, su delegado suplente y sus delegados anteriores se reúnen para seleccionar aquellos temas que son más relevantes para nuestra Área. Hay muchos temas en la agenda completa ya han sido discutidos por nosotros en los últimos años o no se prestan a ser discutidos en estas sesiones.
- **Temas de la Mini-Conferencia:** estos temas seleccionados de la agenda completa de la CSG se presentarán en las sesiones previas a la conferencia y se debatirán en la Mini-Conferencia. Puede ver que estos son asuntos importantes y, como su delegado, recomiendo encarecidamente la participación de su grupo para que puedo estar completamente informado cuando asisto al CSG.

#### **EVENTOS DE ÁREA - INFORMES PREVIOS A LA CONFERENCIA Y ASAMBLEA DE MINI CONFERENCIA**

- **Folleto previo a la conferencia:** en las reuniones del informe previo a la conferencia, su delegado describirá los temas seleccionados del CSG que se debatirán en nuestra Mini-Conferencia. Los representantes de servicios generales de cada grupo (RSG) deben asistir a un Informe Previo a la Conferencia, pero todos los AA interesados son bienvenidos. La información de antecedentes proporcionada en estas sesiones debe llevarse a su grupo para discutirla y desarrollar una conciencia de grupo sobre cada tema. Dos de las seis reuniones serán híbridas y se realizarán en la oficina del área. El folleto de la Pre-Conferencia se envió por correo electrónico, pero puede encontrarlo en [nnjaa.org](http://nnjaa.org) con fechas y horas.
- **Volante de la Mini-Conferencia:** Volante de la Mini-Conferencia - La Mini-Conferencia es nuestra Asamblea de Área donde cada grupo expresa su conciencia sobre los temas seleccionados a través de su RSG. Se discuten los temas y se informa al delegado de las conciencias del grupo. Es fundamental que los RSG informados asistan a la Mini-Conferencia. TODOS los miembros tienen voz y voto durante las discusiones de la 'mesa redonda' de la asamblea y se les anima a participar en este proceso, pero solo los RSG pueden participar en una votación oficial tomada en el piso de la asamblea de la Mini-Conferencia del Área (en caso de que sea necesario).

Al llevar a cabo sus reuniones de conciencia de grupo, puede encontrar útiles los siguientes artículos de literatura:

- A.A. Manual De Servicio: 12 Conceptos Para El Servicio Mundial / Informe Final De La Conferencia De 2021 (folleto)
- Doce Tradiciones Ilustradas / Doce Conceptos Ilustrados / A.A. La Tradición Y Cómo Se Desarrolló (folletos)
- A.A. Llega A La Mayoría De Edad (libro y CD de audio) / Acciones Recomendadas De La Conferencia De Servicios Generales (folleto)

Como su delegado, quiero escuchar a toda nuestra Área. **Asegúrese de leer ambos folletos en sus reuniones.**

**TODOS** los A.A. interesados son bienvenidos y animados a asistir a una sesión previa a la conferencia y a nuestra Mini-Conferencia. Les agradezco de antemano toda su ayuda en apoyo de este proceso y espero verlos en nuestros eventos.

Grateful to Serve,  
Jimmy A.  
A44 P71 Delegados  
Comité de Tratamiento y Accesibilidades  
Email: [area-delegate@njarea44.org](mailto:area-delegate@njarea44.org)



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**Sekretarz grupy: Prosimy o przekazanie tej ważnej informacji przedstawicielom Służby Generalnej.**

**Drodzy przyjaciele A.A.,**

Każdego roku nasz Obszar uczestniczy w procesie, który pomaga przygotować naszego Delegata do służenia nam podczas corocznej Konferencji Służby Generalnej (GSC) w Nowym Jorku. To tam omawiane są ważne sprawy dotyczące A.A. i prowadzona jest działalność A.A.. W tym roku konferencja na temat "A.A. Wchodzi w świat 2.0: Zjednoczeni w Miłości i Służbie" odbędzie się w dniach 24-30 kwietnia. Wraz z 92 innymi delegatami z USA i Kanady będą reprezentować około 1,5 miliona członków z 70,000 grup na tegorocznej Wirtualnej Konferencji.

**Jako Twój obecny Delegat, proszę Cię o pomoc w przedstawieniu mnie na tegorocznym GSC.**

**JAK TO DZIAŁA:**

- Podczas Sprawozdań Przed-konferencyjnych dostarczę Państwu materiały pomocnicze do przejrzania z Waszymi grupami, przyniosę świadome sumienie grupy na naszą Mini-Konferencję Obszaru **9 kwietnia** - wszystko to pomoże mi przygotować się do efektywnego służenia Wam podczas GSC.

**TEMATY PORZĄDKU OBRAD KONFERENCJI I MINIKONFERENCJI DOTYCZĄCYCH POSZCZEGÓLNYCH OBSZARÓW**

- **Tematy obrad GSC** – Pełny porządek obrad GSC zawiera zbyt wiele punktów, abyśmy mogli je omówić podczas naszej mini-konferencji. Twój Delegat, Zastępca i Poprzedni Delegaci spotykają się, aby wybrać te tematy, które są najbardziej istotne dla naszego Obszaru. Wiele tematów z pełnego porządku obrad było już omawianych przez nas w ostatnich latach lub nie nadają się one do dyskusji na tych sesjach.
- **Tematy Mini-Konferencji** – Te wybrane tematy z pełnej agendy GSC zostaną przedstawione na sesjach przed-konferencyjnych i omówione na Mini-Konferencji. Są to ważne sprawy i jako Państwa Delegat, gorąco zachęcam Państwa grupę do udziału, abym mógł być w pełni poinformowany podczas obrad GSC.

**WYDARZENIA ZWIĄZANE Z OBSZAREM - SPRAWOZDANIA PRZED-KONFERENCYJNE I MINI-KONFERENCJA**

- **Ulotka przed-konferencyjna** – Na spotkaniach Sprawozdania Przed-konferencyjnego Twój Delegat nakreśli wybrane tematy GSC, które będą omawiane na naszej Mini-Konferencji. Przedstawiciel Służby Generalnej (GSR) każdej grupy powinien uczestniczyć w spotkaniu sprawozdawczym przed konferencją, ale wszyscy zainteresowani członkowie AA są mile widziani. Informacje ogólne dostarczone na tych sesjach powinny być zabrane z powrotem do waszej grupy w celu przedyskutowania, aby rozwinąć sumienie grupy na każdy temat. Ponieważ wszystkie sesje są wirtualne, będzie 6 do wyboru, w tym dwie tłumaczone na język hiszpański i polski. Dwie z tych sześciu sesji będą również hybrydowe i odbędą się w Biurze Obszaru. Ulotka przedkonferencyjna została rozesłana pocztą elektroniczną, ale można ją znaleźć na stronie [njaa.org](http://njaa.org) wraz z datami i czasami sesji.
- **Ulotka Mini-Konferencji** – Mini-Konferencja jest zebraniem, gdzie każda grupa wyraża swoje sumienie na wybrane tematy poprzez swojego GSR. Tematy są dyskutowane, a sumienia grup są przedstawiane Delegatowi. Bardzo ważne jest, aby poinformowani GSR uczestniczyli w Mini-Konferencji. WSZYSCY członkowie mają głos i możliwość głosowania podczas dyskusji przy "okrągłym stole" i są zachęceni do uczestnictwa w tym procesie, ale tylko GSR mogą uczestniczyć w oficjalnym głosowaniu na forum Mini-Konferencji Obszaru (jeśli takie będzie potrzebne).

W prowadzeniu grupowych spotkań pomocne mogą okazać się następujące pozycje:

- A.A. Service Manual – 12 Concepts for World Service / 2021 Final Conference Report (Broszura)
- Twelve Traditions Illustrated / Twelve Concepts Illustrated / A.A. Tradition and How It Developed (Pamflet)
- A.A. Comes of Age (Book and Audio CD) / Advisory Actions of the General Service Conference (Broszura)

Jako Wasz Delegat, chcę porozmawiać z wszystkimi z naszego Obszaru. **Proszę upewnijcie się, że przeczytaliście obie ulotki podczas waszych spotkań. WSZYSCY** zainteresowani członkowie A.A. są mile widziani. Zachęcam do udziału w sesji przed-konferencyjnej i naszej mini-konferencji. Z góry dziękuję za wszelką pomoc i wsparcie i mam nadzieję, że zobaczymy się na naszych spotkaniach.

Wdzięczny za służbę,

Jimmy A.  
Delegat A44 P71  
Komitet ds. traktowania i dostępności  
E-mail: [area-delegate@njarea44.org](mailto:area-delegate@njarea44.org)

## AREA 44 COMMITTEE REPORTS & INFO

*A message  
from your  
Area Chair*



Dear Friends:

Greetings from your Area chair, and welcome to a new year in Area 44. We hope this article finds everyone in good health and good spirits.

The new year always brings new opportunities to better serve our constituents in Area 44 by bringing the message of recovery,

and this year is no different. In fact, we are all hopeful that 2022 is the year we return to a “new normal.” How can we return to a new normal you might ask? Simply put, our new normal will consist of both pre-pandemic tried and true actions to engage our districts and committees to carry the message to the sick and suffering as well as other ways to get the word out learned throughout the pandemic. We saw how to reach the needy in new and inventive ways, including our virtual meetings and other resources.

Among our new resources, we now have a private Facebook group for members of the recovery community inside and outside of Area 44. This group already has over 1,000 members and carries useful information about our recovery resources every day.

We are currently in what might be the most exciting time in our AA year, as we enter our own version of March Madness. Our Delegate, Jimmy A., along with the Area 44 officers, will be hosting 6 Pre-Conference Reports. This is where the team shares on several key topics to be considered at this year’s General Service Conference. All of these meetings will be available virtually with two being offered as hybrid events. Schedule is available on the Area 44 website.

We are again planning our first in-person assembly of 2021 for April since our January assembly was reverted to a virtual event thanks to the Omicron surge. Our April assembly is our annual Mini-Conference, where our GSRs come together with the whole of Area 44 to share their group’s conscience with our delegate. This sharing is aligned with selected topics that will be on the agenda at this year’s General Service Conference. This allows our delegate, Jimmy A., to attend the conference as an informed representative for Area 44. All AAs are welcome to take part in this important event on April 9th, which will be hosted by District 5/7.

Regarding the Spring topics from our newsletter, I would share that Tradition 2 seems to be one of the places that we return to again and again for guidance and assurance in helping us do the right thing for both the sick and suffering and for AA in general. This Tradition speaks of the “group purpose,” which relates to our fellowship and cohesiveness as well as the “ultimate authority.” This ultimate authority is usually a higher power of our individual understanding and can be the group itself in many instances. As importantly, it reminds us that we are all trusted servants and do not own the “governing” of AA. It speaks to humility while encouraging leadership by example. All great lessons and guidelines.

We are looking forward to a very active Spring in Area 44: lots of meetings opening, lots of district and committee activities, and lots of opportunities to share your experience, strength, and hope with those in need inside and outside of Area 44. We hope you will take advantage of many of these activities in helping to carry the message of recovery.

Finally, today we once again share our HELP WANTED sign with all the readers. Our districts and committees are gearing up to carry the message of recovery in a post-pandemic setting and are in desperate need of your help. You can find more information on all our twenty-one service committees at the Area 44 website at: Northern New Jersey AA Service Committees ([nnjaa.org](http://nnjaa.org))

George L.,  
Area 44 Chair

Newsletter  
Committee



“The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking

I have been sober for the past five years thanks to the AA program. Going to meetings, creating close relationships, and reading the Big Book have taught me many things about alcoholism. First, I learned that alcoholics have a physical allergy to drinking alcohol. For example, I discovered how the alcoholic’s acetone levels increase as he drinks, and therefore, he is incapable of knowing when he has had too much to drink. Second, alcoholics



also possess a mental obsession when it comes to alcohol, and as time passes, his disease becomes more and more progressive: "Alcohol becomes the rapacious creditor, bleeds him of all self-sufficiency..." (Step 1, p. 21). Third, I discovered that alcoholism runs in families. My brother was an alcoholic and died in 1987 from this disease. Hence, this understanding leads me to assert that Tradition Three is the most important tradition of the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous because if one does not have a strong desire to stop whatever is causing him damage, no program will work to convince him. As noted in an article entitled "What Is the AA Success Rate," this notion is especially consummated in the fact that only "five to ten percent of alcoholics stay sober" (Eudaimonia Homes).

Whenever a non-alcoholic asks an alcoholic "Why can't you just stop drinking?," the non-alcoholic is wasting his breath. Until the alcoholic finally realizes that he has a problem and becomes willing to do something to solve his issue, the drinking will continue. Hence, committing to a desire to stop drinking is at the heart of recovery. Unfortunately, most alcoholics must hit bottom before they come to this conclusion. They often must lose their family, their friends, their spouses and children, and finally their livelihoods before they make this commitment to not drink.

For me, I had to face a cancer scare—this health issue was my bottom. I drank for forty years and never admitted that my life was unmanageable or that I had a problem with alcohol, although I knew deep down that I drank too much. We alcoholics are very good at living in a delusional existence. However, faced with my mortality, I became ready and willing to do something about my drinking.

When I came into the rooms five years ago, I was spiritually bankrupt. This lack of belief is quite ironic since I had had an all-Catholic education and even taught secondary English at an all-boy Catholic prep school. When I was done with cancer, my primary-care physician, for the very first time, asked me if I had a problem with alcohol. I responded in the affirmative for the very first time. My doctor then informed me that she had another patient who was in AA and had long-term sobriety, and they had always told her to refer any patient who wished to recover from the sting of alcoholism to him. I told my doctor to give this patient my number. The rest is history: I entered AA with a sponsor and a home group, and I have been sober ever since one day at a time. I now accept that my higher power was protecting me and had been for years. After all, I had never received a DUI or was never in jail and the like. I no longer ask questions such as "Why does God help this person and not that person?" I leave such unanswerable, complex questions to my higher power who is in control. I am not in control of the universe, although I used to think that I was the boss.

Therefore, Tradition Three is extremely important to accept if one is to attempt getting sober and remaining sober. This tradition is the key to sobriety. Human beings cannot be forced to do anything that they do not wish to do. As the old adage states, "You can lead a horse to water, but you cannot force him to drink." Until the alcoholic throws away his delusional thinking and becomes completely honest with himself, he will not have a chance at recovery.

Tony P.  
Area 44 Newsletter Chair



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

"This Day" is Area 44's quarterly newsletter, keeping the Fellowship informed about what's happening at GSO and in our area, districts, service and special committees, and more. We also LOVE hearing from our groups and members.

We need your help!!!




We need a face lift.  
We want to be more relevant.  
We want to gain more readers.  
**So what can we do?**

Tell us!

Please take our survey!

To participate, scan the QR Code OR go to:  
<https://praqr7jf9xr.typeform.com/to/LVtmkc5W>

GSR Mid-Winter Luncheon Committee



M

y first thoughts about the Mid-Winter Luncheon (MWL) were along the lines of, "It will be a nice gathering of positive people who love AA. How can that not be a great time?"

After hearing a home group member, whose sobriety I really admired, speak of how inspiring the invited speaker was that year, I was definitely interested in attending. He described how even though the speaker served on numerous committees in her area, she still derived so much joy from carrying the message into correctional institutions in her state.

As a new GSR, by the time I went to my first MWL, the fun of being with other GSRs in my district, our DCM, and some of their spouses was multiplied by the surprise of seeing a dear home group member who had moved out of the area. I didn't expect to have a mini-reunion with people who were so important in my early years of sobriety. My home group friend had given all her sponsees a tiny turtle toy with a tiny little bobbing head as a reminder to nurture a "slow, steady sobriety." She even had a turtle teddy bear safety-buckled into the back seat of her car, another

er little image reminding her to protect her sobriety. Anyone who knows her is familiar with the little turtle teddy bear!

So fast forward. The years have sped by and it's not exactly a big room full of strangers anymore. More faces are familiar. I have attended a few luncheons now, and every year I look forward to the sheer uplift of being with so many people who love AA and love being active in service. I especially love hearing the story of how a non-alcoholic trustee became enamored with AA and with deep gratitude found a place to serve.

At this event, I get to see people I've had the chance to work alongside, while attending and planning assemblies, taking trips to GSO, sitting with during work weekends, and planning movie nights. So much fun on top of sharing our sober journeys.

I get to see the joy of new GSRs who are so excited to represent their home groups. I could go on about the other "god-moments" which have happened, but to suffice, every year I have attended the GSR Mid-Winter Luncheon, it has felt like an enormous hug. From the generous welcome, to the excitement at the tables and the meaningful speakers, the committee sets the stage for this lovely event.

It was with all of this in mind that I was moved to be among the people on the MWL committee, who arrange this beautiful event every year, even if just to help greet people. I want what they have!! HAHA!! I got to attend their committee planning meeting and personally witnessed each member practicing these principles in all their affairs! Every member worked graciously and diligently, minding every detail from nametags to speaker's seats to counting corsages, arranging committee tables, and making sure tickets sales are followed up on. All is accomplished while our committee members gently and faithfully adjust to and accommodate everything this pandemic has thrown their way, making sure every last detail is in place, with every positive thought and plenty of support for each other and lots of laughter! What better way to enjoy something you love already than to jump in and multiply the joy by getting to help behind the scenes!

Maureen K.  
District 18 Dawn Patrol Group of AA

## SAVE THE DATE

### September 23-24-25, 2022

AREA 44 PRESENTS

## THE 66TH ANNUAL CONVENTION



**AA COMES OF AGE 20: UNIFIED IN LOVE & SERVICE**

**The Doubletree Hotel**  
200 Atrium Drive • Somerset, New Jersey 08873

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Workshops</li> <li>▲ Alkathon</li> <li>▲ Young People's Speaker Meeting</li> <li>▲ Young Timer / Old Timer Speaker Meeting</li> <li>▲ Friday Night Speaker Meeting</li> <li>▲ Old Timer's Meeting</li> <li>▲ Guided Meditation</li> <li>▲ Alanon Speaker &amp; Meetings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Sobriety Countdown</li> <li>▲ Saturday Night Banquet &amp; Banquet Speaker</li> <li>▲ Entertainment Friday &amp; Saturday Night</li> <li>▲ Sunday Morning Spiritual Meeting</li> <li>▲ Grapevine Play</li> <li>▲ History &amp; Archives</li> <li>▲ Standing Committee Workshops</li> </ul>
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Out of desperation, I came to Alcoholics Anonymous when I was 19—not even of age to drink—when alcoholism had taken me by the throat. When I started going to meetings, I couldn't believe that I had actually convinced myself that I needed to be there and was identifying with speakers who ranged in age from 5 to 50 years older than me. I never thought I needed to work a program or contribute in service work because I was younger than most of my peers and often thought, "What could I possibly offer to these men and women who have been drinking as long or longer than I had lived?" This was my own ego, wanting me dead but settling for miserable. My mind was clouded with the belief that I was so different from everyone and that no one would understand, but we have all been there. I got a sponsor and began working the Steps almost immediately after settling in with a homegroup.

After many months of attending my homegroup and working on the Steps, I learned about the 9th Step Promises—something we have all heard a million times over—where it finally clicked, realizing that I was amazed before I was half way through. I finally was able to see outside my own mind and see my own role in the tornado of alcoholism. I felt my perspective on life changing and it was an eye opening experience, but I then soon hit a wall. I was right back where I had started, and my sponsor told me of this thing called "service work." I did not like the sound of that. However, I had made tremendous progress in my recovery over the years and was truly grateful for this second chance at life. Yet, I was very resistant to doing service work because I'm an alcoholic and didn't want to do anything I didn't want to do. I couldn't see how it was going to help me in my recovery.

Eventually, I was convinced to take a position for the Area 44 Convention Committee. I thought to myself, “It’s only once a month. I can put up with that.” I showed up every month and fulfilled my role, but a month before the convention I was struggling with outside circumstances and was wrapped up in my own head. Even with this predicament, I needed to be present at the Convention Committee meeting that night, as I had made a commitment to the position. I spent the meeting fuming in my own pity, but I did what I needed to do and left the meeting feeling almost neutral. I was able to see how just taking the time to be accountable for the things I’m committed to was not going to change my outside circumstances and it got me out of my own head and the snowballs that grew inside there seemed to melt a little. I was able to look at my situation with what seemed like a fresh set of eyes; us alcoholics will allow ourselves to get lost in anything troubling, stressful, or even joyful because it is all a familiar feeling. We are always used to feeling the comfortable sadness or the joy we had when drinking; we are not used to feeling neutral and going about the average day.

After fulfilling my commitment for the year of 2021, I ran for the same position and another, which made me feel great to be of service and to help put together such a great convention for all of us. I could never wrap my mind around how doing service work would help keep me sober, but it truly did in an odd way. You can only experience this feeling of strength through hard work and balancing all sides of the triangle. While I am still young, I am beyond grateful to have found Alcoholics Anonymous. I have grown up in the rooms and it is so exciting for me to witness progress in my life because I know it would not be possible without the people, committees, and events held frequently; it’s a nice reminder to have to understand that I belong here. We are continuously working on future conventions and it’s a great way to become introduced to service work. We are all very excited to move forward with the 2022 convention and are looking forward to meeting in person soon.

McKennah H.  
Convention Committee



## Heard It Through the Grapevine

Hello to everyone, and Happy Spring! Our new season ushers in some exciting news for the Area 44 Grapevine/La Viña committee. First and foremost, we will be having our first-ever hybrid Grapefest on May 7 at 10 am at the Area office. You can also join us online. Check out [nnjaa.org](http://nnjaa.org) for more information. Our committee is available to attend your district events throughout the year. Please contact Marcheta B, our chair, at [grapevine-chair@njarea44.org](mailto:grapevine-chair@njarea44.org). Our social media liaison, Mike D, will be posting information about our activities on Area 44’s Facebook page, and Carlos L, our Spanish liaison, is busy reaching out to the Spanish community. We are a lively, diverse, and active group, and would love to have you join us. Our hybrid meeting is on the first Saturday of the month at 10 am.

AA Grapevine has updated its website, [aagrapevine.org](http://aagrapevine.org). There is now an ePub edition of the Grapevine magazine, and we have a podcast. In addition, you can follow AA Grapevine and La Viña on Instagram. But most importantly, the Prayer and Meditation book is back in stock. You can order it directly from Area 44 by filling out the form on the website.

Please check out both [nnjaa.org](http://nnjaa.org) and [aagrapevine.org](http://aagrapevine.org) for more information. I have been a member of this group, including chairing for two years, for quite a bit of time now, and participating in their activities has been a high point in my sobriety. Why not give it a try?

Marybeth H.  
District 26  
Grapevine/La Viña Committee Member

**Save the Date!**

The Area 44 Grapevine Committee’s  
*Grapefest*  
A Celebration of the AA Grapevine & La Viña



**Lunch will be provided!**

You’ll laugh; you’ll cry; you’ll want a subscription!

Saturday, May 7, 2022, 10am-12pm

At the Area Office: 2325 Plainfield Ave., S Plainfield, NJ

For more info email us: [grapevine-chair@njarea44.org](mailto:grapevine-chair@njarea44.org)





# REMEMBER: AREA 44 NEEDS YOU!

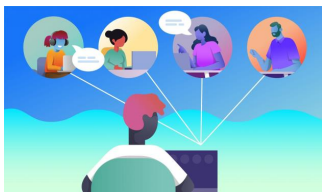
**The Finance Committee is currently looking for new members.** If anyone is interested in serving on this valuable committee, please contact me. A background in finance is a plus, but not necessary. We can use your help! We are also without an Alternate Chair. I would very much like to help groom someone for this position before I rotate out at the end of next year.



We meet on the 4th Monday of each month at 7:00 pm. Currently, we are meeting on Zoom. We've found the type of work we do can be handled just as effectively without having to travel to Piscataway for our meeting. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Yours in service,  
Jon C., Finance Chair  
[finance@nnjaa.org](mailto:finance@nnjaa.org)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR  
STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES,  
PLEASE CHECK OUT:  
WWW.NNJAA.ORG >> SERVICE >> SERVICE  
COMMITTEES**



## NORTHERN NJ COMMITTEE MEETINGS VIRTUAL AND HYBRID



\* Denotes Joint Committee of Area and Intergroup

Revised 11/23/2021

COMMITTEES	MEETING DAY	TIME	SERVER	MEETING ID	PASSWORD	CONTACT AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
<b>STANDING COMMITTEES</b>						
Cooperation w/ Professional Community*	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	7:00pm	ZOOM	831 67410763	(n/a)	Roe T-B – <a href="mailto:cpc-chair@nnjaa.onmicrosoft.com">cpc-chair@nnjaa.onmicrosoft.com</a> No password, Waiting Room Feature enabled by host
Corrections Facility Committee*	3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday	10:00am	ZOOM	850 3466 8699		Susan P-C – <a href="mailto:cfc-chair@nnjaa.onmicrosoft.com">cfc-chair@nnjaa.onmicrosoft.com</a> ... Meeting on ODD number months only
Grapevine	1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday	10:00am	ZOOM	820 1459 9915	AAGV	Marcheta B – <a href="mailto:grapevine-chair@nnjaa.onmicrosoft.com">grapevine-chair@nnjaa.onmicrosoft.com</a> Rotating Hybrid and Virtual Only every other month, Please contact Chair if you plan on attending at the Area Office
History and Archives*	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday	7:00pm	ZOOM	917 6976 2213	474109	Frank F – <a href="mailto:archives-chair@nnjaa.onmicrosoft.com">archives-chair@nnjaa.onmicrosoft.com</a>
Literature	3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday	7:00pm	ZOOM	672 0988037	889464	Mike R – <a href="mailto:literature-chair@nnjaa.onmicrosoft.com">literature-chair@nnjaa.onmicrosoft.com</a> ... This is a HYBRID meeting, with Social Distance observed at Area Office ; Literature Sales at 6:00pm
Public Information*	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	7:30pm	ZOOM	821 7687 5697	2945766	Sandra P – <a href="mailto:pi-chair@nnjaa.onmicrosoft.com">pi-chair@nnjaa.onmicrosoft.com</a> This is a HYBRID Meeting, with Social Distance observed at the Area Office
Treatment*	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday	7:00pm	ZOOM	812 51569162	16273	Elise B – <a href="mailto:treatment-chair@nnjaa.onmicrosoft.com">treatment-chair@nnjaa.onmicrosoft.com</a>
<b>SPECIAL COMMITTEES</b>						
Computer and Technology Committee	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday	7:00pm	Teams			Bruce R – <a href="mailto:computer@nnjaa.onmicrosoft.com">computer@nnjaa.onmicrosoft.com</a>
Convention Committee	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday	7:30pm	ZOOM	833 2357 7907	197229	Chris L - <a href="mailto:convention-chair@nnjaa.onmicrosoft.com">convention-chair@nnjaa.onmicrosoft.com</a>
Films Committee	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	9:00am	ZOOM	851 6081 2392	DVc6cm	Paul L – <a href="mailto:films-chair@nnjaa.onmicrosoft.com">films-chair@nnjaa.onmicrosoft.com</a>
Finance Committee	4 <sup>th</sup> Monday	7:00pm	ZOOM	591 535 5531	112590	John C – <a href="mailto:finance-chair@nnjaa.onmicrosoft.com">finance-chair@nnjaa.onmicrosoft.com</a>
GSR/DCM Workshops	N/A					Tim R – <a href="mailto:gsc-workshop-chair@nnjaa.onmicrosoft.com">gsc-workshop-chair@nnjaa.onmicrosoft.com</a>
Mailing Committee	1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday	6:30pm	n/a			Sara G – <a href="mailto:mail-chair@nnjaa.onmicrosoft.com">mail-chair@nnjaa.onmicrosoft.com</a> Currently not meeting due to lack of mailing needs for the Area
GSR Mid-Winter Luncheon Committee	1 <sup>st</sup> Monday	6:30pm	ZOOM	891 0985 8973	077175	Laverne S. – <a href="mailto:lunch-chair@nnjaa.onmicrosoft.com">lunch-chair@nnjaa.onmicrosoft.com</a>
Newsletter*	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday	6:00pm	ZOOM	815 3922 8687	thisday	Tony P – <a href="mailto:newsletter-chair@nnjaa.onmicrosoft.com">newsletter-chair@nnjaa.onmicrosoft.com</a>
NYPAA	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	10:30am	ZOOM	264 995 272	service	
Policy and Admissions Committee	4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday	7:30pm	ZOOM	532 271 5919	074811	Mark D – <a href="mailto:policy-chair@nnjaa.onmicrosoft.com">policy-chair@nnjaa.onmicrosoft.com</a> Virtual Only meeting. Meets on EVEN months
Remote Committees	4 <sup>th</sup> Monday	7:30pm	ZOOM	882 3015 7060	6054	Michael M – <a href="mailto:remote-chair@nnjaa.onmicrosoft.com">remote-chair@nnjaa.onmicrosoft.com</a>
Social Media Committee	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday	7:30pm	ZOOM	846 7849 8287	511520	Kristen A – <a href="mailto:sm-chair@nnjaa.onmicrosoft.com">sm-chair@nnjaa.onmicrosoft.com</a>
Translations Committee	1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday	7:00pm	n/a	836 7972 7434	330508	Felix E – <a href="mailto:translation-chair@nnjaa.onmicrosoft.com">translation-chair@nnjaa.onmicrosoft.com</a>
Website Committee*	4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday	7:00pm	Teams	<a href="#">Click to Join</a>		Bonnie M – <a href="mailto:website-chair@nnjaa.onmicrosoft.com">website-chair@nnjaa.onmicrosoft.com</a>

### Social Media Committee



Rey Covery Admin Just now · 📷

▲ What's Up with "NNJAA" Area 44's FB Group? ▲

~~~~~

😎 Currently, over 1,000 AAs are members!

...

👉 Look out 👁️ for your District's "Shout Out" post! Like or comment to show your support!

•

📷 Send a picture of your home group to Social Media Committee for posting in the "Heartbeat in AA" 💕 home group picture collage posts!

•

? 📌 Check out the "What's Up" Committee Posts! Learn what they do & how to get involved!

•

▲ Pre-Conference Report will be livestreamed to the FB Group! 📅 Date TBD!

•

✅ Contact the Social Media Committee to join NNJAA.

•

▲ Support NNJAA by reacting 👍 to posts & please comment 💬 when enabled!

•

😊 Tell us what you think!

•

✉️ [socialmedia@njarea44.org](mailto:socialmedia@njarea44.org)

•

😬 The FB Group is both private and hidden.

•

▲ All members of Alcoholics Anonymous are welcome.

**POSTPONED**

NNJGS AREA 44

**SOCIAL MEDIA**  
2022  
**COMMITTEE**

**LIVE**

**AREA 44 FACEBOOK GROUP LAUNCH PARTIES**

**TUES, JANUARY 18TH**  
& **SAT, FEBRUARY 12TH** @ 10:00 MET

**POSTPONED**

**JANUARY 12TH**  
SHANE S.  
AREA 64 PANEL 70 PAST DELEGATE

**ZOOM**  
**ID: 828 0250 0887**  
**PW: 720488**

**COMMITTEE PRESENTATION, SPEAKER & Q&A**

Get your invite to the FB Group and get your questions answered, anytime, by emailing us at [socialmedia@njarea44.org](mailto:socialmedia@njarea44.org)

# AREA 44 PRE-CONFERENCE REPORTS INFO





NNJGS  
AREA 44

## 2022

AA COMES OF AGE 2.0:  
UNIFIED IN LOVE & SERVICE

# DELEGATE'S PRE-CONFERENCE REPORTS

HYBRID & VIRTUAL

SAT, MARCH 5TH - 12PM (HYBRID - AREA OFFICE)

MON, MARCH 7TH - 7PM (VIRTUAL)

TUES, MARCH 8TH - 7PM (VIRTUAL - POLISH TRANSLATION)

FRI, MARCH 18TH - 7PM (VIRTUAL - SPANISH TRANSLATION)

SUN, MARCH 20TH - 10AM (HYBRID - AREA OFFICE)

TUES, MARCH 22ND - 7PM (VIRTUAL)

AREA OFFICE

2325 PLAINFIELD AVE #2J,  
SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NJ 07080

ZOOM

ID: 859 4842 1312  
PW: 123456

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN](#)

DCMS PLEASE COPY & DISTRIBUTE TO ALL GSRs  
ALL INTERESTED AAS ARE WELCOME!  
QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT YOUR DELEGATE, JIMMY A.  
AREA-DELEGATE@NJAREA44.ORG

### 2022 MINI-CONFERENCE TOPICS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

#### TOPIC I COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

- A. Should a new pamphlet be created designed to help C.P.C. committees reach as many doctors as possible?  
*(Final Conference agenda Item II-D)*

#### TOPIC II CORRECTIONS

- A. Should we reconsider using the term "person in custody" in A.A. literature?  
*(Final Conference agenda Item III-E)*

#### TOPIC III EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION - MULTIPLE COMMITTEES

- A. Should we consider requests to limit, change slowly, add historical disclaimers, footnotes or discuss changes to the book Alcoholics Anonymous and the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions?
  1. Limit changes to the book Alcoholics Anonymous
  2. Change literature slowly with A.A. primary purpose in mind
  3. Historical disclaimers to front of 12&12
  4. All changes in 12&12 be footnoted  
*(Final Conference agenda Items III-C&D & IV-B&C)*
- B. Should the chapter titled "The Doctor's Opinion" be returned to page one, as it was in the First Edition?  
*(Final Conference agenda Item IX-E)*

#### TOPIC IV GRAPEVINE

- A. In light of A.A. Unity, should we reaffirm the change to the Preamble?  
*(Final Conference agenda Item V-D)*

#### TOPIC V REPORT AND CHARTER

- A. Should the G.S.R. preamble be added to the pamphlet "G.S.R.: Your Group's Link to A.A. as a Whole."  
*(Final Conference agenda Item IX-D)*





NNJGS  
ÁREA 44

## 2022

AA LLEGA A LA MAYORÍA DE EDAD 2.0  
UNIDO EN AMOR Y SERVICIO

# REPORTES DEL DELEGADO PREVIOS A LA CONFERENCIA

HÍBRIDO Y VIRTUAL

SÁBADO, MARZO 5 - 12 PM (HÍBRIDO - OFICINA DEL ÁREA)

LUNES, MARZO 7 - 7 PM (VIRTUAL)

MARTES, MARZO 8 - 7 PM (VIRTUAL - TRADUCCIÓN A POLACO)

VIERNES, MARZO 18 - 7 PM (VIRTUAL - TRADUCCIÓN A ESPAÑOL)

DOMINGO, MARZO 20 - 10 AM (HÍBRIDO - OFICINA DEL ÁREA)

MARTES, MARZO 22 - 7 PM (VIRTUAL)

OFICINA DEL ÁREA

2325 PLAINFIELD AVE #2J,  
SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NJ 07080

ZOOM

ID: 859 4842 1312  
Contraseña: 123456

[HAGA CLICK AQUÍ PARA UNIRSE](#)

MCD POR FAVOR COPIA Y DISTRIBUYE A TODOS SUS RSG  
TODOS LOS MIEMBROS DE AA SON BIENVENIDOS  
¿PREGUNTAS? POR FAVOR CONTACTÉ A SU DELEGADO, JIMMY A.  
AREA-DELEGATE@NJAREA44.ORG

### TEMAS Y PUNTOS DE DEBATE DE LA MINICONFERENCIA 2022

#### TEMA I COOPERACIÓN CON LA COMUNIDAD PROFESIONAL

- A. ¿Debería crearse un nuevo folleto diseñado para ayudar a los comités de la C.P.C. a llegar al mayor número posible de médicos?  
*(Agenda final de la Conferencia Punto II-D)*

#### TEMA II CORRECCIONES

- A. ¿Deberíamos reconsiderar el uso del término "persona detenida" en la literatura de A.A.?  
*(Agenda final de la Conferencia Punto III-B)*

#### TEMA III DISTRIBUCIÓN EQUITATIVA - COMITÉS MÚLTIPLES

- A. ¿Debemos considerar las solicitudes para limitar, cambiar lentamente, añadir avisos históricos, notas a pie de página o discutir los cambios en el libro Alcohólicos Anónimos y los doce pasos y las doce tradiciones?
  1. Limitar los cambios en el libro Alcohólicos Anónimos
  2. Cambiar la literatura lentamente teniendo en cuenta el propósito principal de A.A.
  3. Avisos históricos al frente de 12&12
  4. Todos los cambios en el 12&12 deben ser anotados a pie de página  
*(Agenda final de la Conferencia Puntos III-C&D & IV-B&C)*
- B. ¿Debe el capítulo titulado "La opinión del médico" volver a la página uno, como en la primera edición?  
*(Agenda final de la Conferencia Punto IX-E)*

#### TEMA IV GRAPEVINE

- A. A la luz de la Unidad de A.A., ¿debemos reaffirmar el cambio en el Preámbulo?  
*(Agenda final de la Conferencia Punto V-D)*

#### TEMA V INFORME Y CARTA

- A. ¿Debería añadirse el preámbulo de la R.S.G. al folleto " R.S.G.: El vínculo de su grupo con A.A." como un todo?  
*(Agenda final de la Conferencia Punto IX-D)*



**2022**  
AA WCHODZI W ŚWIAT 2.0:  
ZJEDNOCZENI W MIŁOŚCI I SŁUŻBIE  
**PRZED-KONFERENCYJNE**  
**SPRAWOZDANIA DELEGATÓW**  
HYBRYDOWO I WIRTUALNIE

**SOB, 5 MARCA - 12PM (HYBRYDOWO - ODDZIAŁ TERENOWY)**  
**PON, 7 MARCA - 7PM (WIRTUALNIE)**  
**WT, 8 MARCA - 7PM (WIRTUALNIE - TŁUM. NA JĘZYK POLSKI)**  
**PT, 18 MARCA - 7PM (WIRTUALNIE - TŁUM. NA JĘZYK HISZPAŃSKI)**  
**NIEDZ, 20 MARCA - 10AM (HYBRYDOWO - ODDZIAŁ TERENOWY)**  
**WT, 22 MARCA - 7PM (WIRTUALNIE)**

**ODDZIAŁ TERENOWY**  
2325 PLAINFIELD AVE #2J,  
SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NJ 07080

**ZOOM**  
ID: 859 4842 1312  
HASŁO: 123456

[KLIKNIJ, ABY DOŁĄCZYĆ](#)

PROSIMY CZŁONKÓW KOMITETU OKRĘGOWEGO O PRZEKAZANIE TYCH INFORMACJI DO WSZYSTKICH PRZEDSTAWICIELI OBSŁUGI GRUPOWEJ  
ZAPRASZAMY WSZYSTKICH ZAINTERESOWANYCH CZŁONKÓW AA!  
MAJĄ PAŃSTWO PYTANIA? PROSIMY O KONTAKT Z DELEGATEM, JIMMY A.  
AREA-DELEGATE@NJAREA44.ORG

**2022 TEMATY MINIKONFERENCJI I PUNKTY DO DYSKUSJI****TEMAT I WSPÓŁPRACA ZE ŚRODOWISKIEM ZAWODOWYM**

- A. Czy należy opracować nową broszurę, która pomoże komitetom tomograficznym dotrzeć do jak największej liczby lekarzy?  
(Program Konferencji Końcowej punkt II-D)

**TEMAT II KOREKTY**

- A. Czy powinniśmy ponownie rozważyć używanie terminu "osoba aresztowana" w literaturze A.A.?  
(Program Konferencji Końcowej punkt III-B)

**TEMAT III SPRAWIEDLIWY PODZIAŁ - WIELE KOMITETÓW**

- A. Czy powinniśmy rozpatrywać prośby o ograniczenie, powolną zmianę, dodanie historycznych zastrzeżeń, przypisów lub omówienie zmian w książce Anonimowi Alkoholicy oraz Dwanaście Kroków i Dwanaście Tradycji?
1. Ograniczyć zmiany w książce Anonimowi Alkoholicy
  2. Powoli zmieniać literaturę, pamiętając o głównym celu A.A.
  3. Umieszczenie historycznych zastrzeżeń na początku 12&12
  4. Wszystkie zmiany w 12&12 powinny być opatrzone przypisami  
(Program Konferencji Końcowej punkty III-C&D i IV-B&C)

- B. Czy rozdział zatytułowany "Opinia lekarza" powinien wrócić na stronę pierwszą, tak jak to było w wydaniu pierwszym?  
(Program Konferencji Końcowej punkt IX-E)

**TEMAT IV WINOROŚL**

- A. Czy w świetle Jedności A.A. powinniśmy potwierdzić zmianę w Preambule?  
(Program Konferencji Końcowej punkt V-D)

**TEMAT V RAPORT I KARTA**

- A. Czy preambuła G.S.R. powinna zostać dodana do broszury "G.S.R.: Związek Twojej grupy z A.A. jako całością"?  
(Program Konferencji Końcowej punkt IX-D)

## AREA 44 MINI-CONFERENCE TOPICS

### TOPIC I COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

A. Should a new pamphlet be created designed to help CPC committees reach as many doctors as possible?

(Final Conference agenda item II-D)

#### BACKGROUND

A GSR from Area 18, Idaho, submitted a recommendation to create a new pamphlet to help CPC reach as many doctors as possible. You might be saying to yourself: "Didn't we do that last year?" At last year's General Service Conference, a pamphlet was approved, but it was targeted specifically for the mental health professional. What this submitter is asking for is a pamphlet that's geared towards more of a one-on-one conversation with your doctor to initiate a more personal engagement, rather than just handing him or her a pamphlet like "AA as a Resource for the Healthcare Professional" (P-23). There is much content under the CPC purview that is geared to the professionals, but this request is very specific in nature for CPC committees or any recovering alcoholic reaching out to doctors individually to have a specific pamphlet available to talk to their physicians. An example of this pamphlet is available in the background material.

#### PROS

In no way is this a Tradition violation in any way. It's simply a pamphlet designed to engage your doctor with some general statements about the alcoholic, questions for the doctor, and possible actions that can be taken. The pamphlet's simplicity gets right to the point rather than having the doctor read the more lengthy pamphlet "AA as a Resource for the Healthcare Professional". Since doctors are on the frontlines dealing with alcoholics, providing information about Alcoholics Anonymous is invaluable.



## CONS

There are enough pamphlets, service pieces, videos and AA guidelines already addressing professionals and the healthcare field. Many doctors are already informed that AA exists. CPC committees have contacted them for years.

What does your home group think?

## TOPIC II CORRECTIONS

A. Should we reconsider using the term “person in custody” in AA Literature?  
(Final Conference agenda item III-B)

## BACKGROUND

The committee discussed the request to reconsider using the language of “person in custody” to describe an inside AA member in AA literature and agreed to forward this item to the 2022 General Service Conference. The 2021 General Service Conference has recommended changing the language in our AA literature from “inmate” and “convict” to “person in custody” (PIC). What problem does this proposed item address?

The initial motion to change the language was to be focused on how “inside” AA members are described in our literature. “Person in custody” (PIC) is not recognized nor used in Canada’s judicial system. It is okay to describe them as “inmates” or “convicts” when our literature is directed to professionals?

This is from Area 79 in District 45:

The language for how to describe Inside AA members was discussed with:

- Kent Institution (Max Security)
- Open the Gates to Freedom Group
- Kwikwèxwelhp Healing Village (Min Security)
- Blueberry Hill Group
- Mountain Institution (Med Security)
- Keep It Straight Group
- Ford Mountain Provincial Correctional Center Living Right

All of these prison groups are registered with GSO. District 45, Area 79 voted in favor of this motion.

## PROS

The pamphlets F-162 and F-163 already have on their front cover: “Connecting an Inside AA Member to the Outside AA Community.” The wording “person in custody” (PIC) is not used in Canada and not used broadly in prisons or jails in the USA. All of AA literature is meant to welcome all and wording is very important to include and not exclude anyone outside or inside the prison walls. Both of the pamphlets (F162 and F163) are very welcoming and helpful to our AA members inside the walls. When this was discussed with the groups inside the walls, they voted on “Inside AA Members, Offenders, Inside Members, and Members on the Inside.” See last page of background material.

## CONS

Are we getting too politically correct? Tradition 10 states “Alcoholic Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues, hence the AA name ought never be drawn into public controversy.” Are we getting too involved with outside issues?

What does your home group think?

### TOPIC III – EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION – MULTIPLE COMMITTEES

*Note: The following are literature items, but as a result of the Conference Equitable Distribution of Workload program (EDW,) the first two are on the agenda of the Conference Corrections Committee and the next two are with the Conference Finance Committee.*

A. Should we consider requests to limit, change slowly, or add historical disclaimers or footnotes to the books *Alcoholics Anonymous* and the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*?

1. Should we limit changes to the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*? (ITEM III-C)
2. Should we change literature slowly with AA's primary purpose in mind? (ITEM III-D)
3. Should we add a historical disclaimer to front of the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*? (ITEM IV-B)
4. Should all changes to the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* be handled in footnotes? (ITEM IV-C)

(Final Conference agenda items III-C&D & IV-B&C)

#### BACKGROUND

These are four related but individual agenda items. Each will be voted on separately at the NNJAA Mini-conference. All four are in direct response to actions taken by the 71st Conference concerning literature changes.

As we discuss these items, your group may want to consider whether it's a good idea to reverse decisions made by the most recent Conference and might also think about the privileges, responsibilities, and limits afforded us by Concepts 1 and 2 (AA Service Manual, C3-C8).

a. Concept 1 gives the groups ultimate authority for our World Services through their collective conscience, and Concept 2 gives the groups delegate responsibility for the active work to the Conference—so the Conference is “for nearly every practical purpose, the actual voice and effective conscience for our whole society.”

b. In a nutshell, our Founders said to the groups: ‘You own it; AA is yours’...and the Groups said to the Conference, ‘Here’s what we need, here’s what we think, now go do your thing.’ The Conference (and trustees) make these decisions on our behalf and do this work for us so the we are not distracted from our 12th Step work.

#### 1. SHOULD WE LIMIT CHANGES TO THE BOOK ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS? (GSC ITEM III-C)

Last year, two advisory actions from the 71st General Service Conference recommended the following in respect to a fifth edition of the Big Book:

*Advisory Action 16. A Fifth Edition of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, be developed, including an update of stories to better reflect current membership, keeping in mind the 1995 Advisory Action that: “The first 164 pages of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, the Preface, the Forewords, ‘The Doctor’s Opinion,’ ‘Dr. Bob’s Nightmare,’ and the Appendices remain as is,” and that a progress report be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.*

*Advisory Action 17. Pending its development, the draft Fifth Edition of the Big Book would include a new foreword, an updated preface and updates to expand on existing ideas in Appendices III and V.*

In response, the following two items were proposed and added to a single agenda item for the 72nd Conference.

1. the first, “follow the 1995 advisory action regarding the first 164 pages of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* and update Appendices III and V via additional information immediately following the existing text of the respective appendix”
2. the second “keep the first 164 pages of the Big Book as well as all the Appendices, the Medical Opinion, Doctor’s Opinion, and the Religious Opinion the same, except for updating stories”

So, the question is, should we limit changes to the Big Book? And what does “limit changes” mean?

The first request, originated from a small home group, their district and area committee. They stated it could not be brought to an area assembly due to submission deadlines. They felt that prior to the 71st Conference, Bill W’s writings were protected from change by the conference. They wrote:

In regard to “Bill Wilson's writings, interpretation and essays...we believe that Bill Wilson's writing should not be changed.”

They cite the 1995 Advisory Action noted above and contend this advisory action was “undone” by the 71st GSC.

**It should be noted that no Conference advisory action is binding on future advisory actions, so your group may want to consider whether it’s a sound argument to reference the 1995 advisory action as if it was permanent.**

For example, a 2014 Conference advisory action addressed a correction to an inaccurate statement on page xi in the Preface of *Alcoholics Anonymous* regarding the addition of appendices.

“The second edition added the appendices, the Twelve Traditions, and the directions for getting in touch with AA”

was replaced with:

“The second printing of the first edition added the appendix ‘Spiritual Experience’; in the second edition, the appendices on AA Tradition, the ‘medical view’ and ‘religious view’ of AA, the Lasker Award and information on how to contact AA were added, and the appendix on the Alcoholic Foundation was discontinued.”

The second request for this agenda item was from an AA group. They feel there should be no changes to the Big Book whatsoever, other than updating the stories. This group cites Tradition 10 as the reason for their submission, contending that changing of AA literature is an outside political issue. The following are direct statements from this group:

“The AA name should not take sides in this matter per the literature and Traditions”.

“Cancelling the pronouns is only the beginning. The next target will be the ‘harsh’ language of the literature. They will be coming for all the "musts" in the Big Book. When they get done extracting the teeth out of our literature and "normalize" a form of communicating that is "gentler" and "softer," then they will go after what they really wanted all along, to eradicate God from Alcohol-

ics Anonymous.”

The group goes on to paint a dire outcome culminating with the “end of Alcoholics Anonymous”.

It should be noted, that neither of the 2021 Advisory Actions involve changes to ‘pronouns or musts’; but rather state that 1) a 5th edition project will commence under the spirit of the 1995 Advisory Action and 2) that this 5th edition would include a new foreword, updated preface, and updates to two of the appendices.

Your group may think that some of this group’s visions are exaggerated, and while it may be difficult to draw a correlation to Tradition 10, in his writings, Bill spoke of giving all sides, even our critics, careful consideration.

### **Some additional background.**

In 1955, when the second edition of the Big Book was published, it contained more than 100 changes to the basic text, an updated Preface, and added the appendices.

In 2001, the Preface to the new Fourth Edition was updated from the third edition and even uses the phrase “largely untouched” to describe the changes made in the course of preparing the second, third and fourth editions. The fourth edition added the Twelve Concepts for World Service to the appendix.

### **Things to Consider.**

- To what extent if any should we limit changes to the Big Book?
- Do we understand that AA has a history of making prudent updates to each edition of the Big Book?
- Are the two advisory actions that are targeted to be rescinded, within the reasonable scope of producing a fifth edition?
- Does my group understand that Conference advisory actions are not meant to be permanent and can be modified or changed by any future Conference?
- Do we trust the General Service Conference to represent us and respond to the needs of all of AA?

### **PROS**

- Our Big Book will stay preserved exactly as it is.
- It’s not our place to change Bill W’s writings.
- The Big Book as it is now, worked for me, my sponsor and those I sponsor.

### **CONS**

- The 1995 advisory action is not meant to be permanent. No Conference action is binding on any future Conference. If changes are needed to the Big Book, we should make them as long as the Conference approves.
- We make necessary changes for every edition, and the fifth edition project is no different.
- If we don’t make necessary changes to the Big Book, we may not reach the newcomers who need us.
- We are moving too fast to reverse the most recent Conference’s decisions. We should give it time to see how it develops.

What does your home group think?



## 2. SHOULD WE CHANGE LITERATURE SLOWLY WITH AA'S PRIMARY PURPOSE IN MIND? (GSC ITEM III-D)

This agenda item was submitted by an individual member who stated that “perhaps because of Covid-19 the group conscience was not addressed or given the chance to talk about changes.”

While the item suggests AA should make changes to literature slowly, **in the submission itself, the member states that making any changes to the Big Book (or any literature), while the world is challenged by distance due to the pandemic, is a mistake.**

There are no examples presented in the submission that would indicate our literature has been changing too rapidly or that our primary purpose has been ignored, nor are there any suggestions for a different path forward.

The background goes on to quote *Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers* particularly focusing on a passage where Dr. Bob elaborates on his keep-it-simple theme—that the steps are simple and workable by any person with a sincere desire to seek sobriety. It's not immediately clear how this excerpt from Dr. Bob relates to the member's concern about making changes to literature during a pandemic.

It would appear that the issue to consider is, during the pandemic, have AA group members had an opportunity to participate in pre-conference assemblies—to form an area conscience—and to inform their delegate ahead of the General Service Conference.

It's an interesting question, and one could perhaps make a case that the virtual platforms have made participation even more accessible to more group members.

### Things to Consider.

- Do we know of instances where the Conference or our Publication Department are making changes to literature without considering our primary purpose?
- Are we moving too fast with literature changes or are we responding to the needs of the Fellowship in a timely manner?
- If I don't like changes that are being made does that necessarily mean that the changes are wrong?
- Did the pandemic really cause a disconnect between the groups and their delegate—or were groups able to effectively connect to the General Service Conference through their delegate via the numerous online opportunities and virtual assemblies?

### PROS

- If we move slowly and consider our primary purpose, we are less likely to make bad decisions.

### CONS

- AA already does move slowly with our primary purpose in mind.
- If we don't make the necessary changes to our literature during the pandemic, we will stagnate.
- If we allow the pandemic to halt changes to the Big Book or other literature, we will stop responding to the needs of AA.

What does your home group think?

### 3. SHOULD WE ADD AN HISTORICAL DISCLAIMER TO FRONT OF THE BOOK *TWELVE STEPS AND TWELVE TRADITIONS*? (GSC ITEM IV-B)

The first two items referenced changes to the Big Book. These next two are in response to proposed changes to the text of the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*.

The changes to the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* that were passed by substantial unanimity at the 71st General Service Conference were:

*Advisory Action 18. A revision be made to page 117 in the book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, replacing the phrase “opposite sex” with the word “partner” as follows, and that a footnote be added to provide context to the change as it relates to inclusivity. The text on page 117 which currently reads: “Nearly every sound human being, experiences at some time in life, a compelling desire to find a mate of the opposite sex with whom the fullest possible union can be made—spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical. This mighty urge is the root of great human accomplishments, a creative energy that deeply influences our lives. God fashioned us that way .... ”*

*Be revised to read: “Nearly every sound human being, experiences at some time in life, a compelling desire to find a partner with whom the fullest possible union can be made—spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical. This mighty urge is the root of great human accomplishments, a creative energy that deeply influences our lives. God fashioned us that way .... ”*

*Advisory Action 19. The sentence which includes the phrase “lustful enough to rape” in paragraph one on page 66 in the chapter “Step Six” of the book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, be revised to refer to the Seven Deadly Sins without specific mention of examples that are severe in nature as follows, and that a footnote be added to provide context as to the basis for the change: The text on page 66 which currently reads: “No one wants to be angry enough to murder, lustful enough to rape, gluttonous enough to ruin his health.”*

*Be revised to read: “No one wants to commit the deadly sins of anger, lust or gluttony.”*

*Advisory Action 23. The Long Form of each Tradition be included at the end of each essay for that Tradition in the book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, and that the complete set of Traditions at the back of the book be retained as is.*

The General Service Office received 40 requests to reverse or rescind one or more of these advisory actions. Each suggested a desire to preserve, unaltered, the text of the "Twelve and Twelve" as originally published. Some requests were similar, with some having content that were exact duplicates.

It should be noted that some proposed agenda items also included requests to undo other actions from the 71st GSC. For this purpose, we'll focus only on the those related to the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions.

The proposed agenda items regarding the "Twelve and Twelve" fell broadly into four categories referencing:

1. the 1995 advisory action that no changes happen to the Big Book (even though this is about the "Twelve and Twelve"),
2. the “slippery slope” concern, that these changes could lead to endless future changes,
3. that the COVID pandemic, or other issues, didn't allow for a fully informed group conscience,
4. that the changes are the result of outside issues and therefore not in keeping with Tradition 10.

These submissions included suggesting additional/new disclaimer text, handling changes in footnotes,

and denying any proposed change to any of Bill's writings (based on the 1995 Advisory Action and the strong sentiment that Bill Wilson's writings remain unchanged).

As previously stated, the 1995 Advisory Action reads: The first 164 pages of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, the Preface, the Forewords, "The Doctor's Opinion," "Doctor Bob's Nightmare," and the Appendices remain as is.

A 2002 Advisory Action states "The text in the book, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, written by Bill W., remain as is, recognizing the Fellowship's feeling that Bill's writings be retained as originally published."

**It should be noted again that no Conference advisory action is binding on future advisory actions, so your group may want to consider whether it's a sound argument to reference the 1995 or 2002 advisory actions as if they were permanent.**

The primary submission (PAI-76) being considered in this agenda item, suggests that a disclaimer be added to the front of the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, as follows:

"While the language in this text may seem dated, please remember that Bill W. wrote in the language and custom of his times. Bill was very tolerant of different individuals and members. All alcoholics were and are now welcomed cordially into AA. Were Bill to write this book today, it may be worded differently in some places. Society may change, but the basic spiritual principles of Alcoholics Anonymous are classic and eternal. We hope that this book continues to broaden and deepen the understanding of the Twelve Steps as written in the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*."

The originator of the submission states that they have discussed this with groups and districts, and it is being floated around their area, but there is no reference to group, district or area consciences.

Their concern is that even small changes to the "Twelve and Twelve" can alter the meaning of the original text. At first glance this may seem like a sound suggestion to address a perceived issue some may have with outdated language. But as we dig deeper into the background, your group may have questions regarding the motive for this submission.

The submission seems to express several controversial sentiments such as:

"Factions within AA are pushing their agenda to alter Bill's writings."

"We need to stop trying to change the past to please a vocal minority in AA."

"Programs at universities don't change the readings to fit the current students."

"Newcomers are not entitled to anything in AA, especially to change AA to fit their whims."

The submission originator states their hope is "to maintain the program of Alcoholics Anonymous as it was originally written and to give future fellows AA the same chance we were given". And they conclude "The vocal minority has awoken the silent majority."

Your group may find some of the content in this submission disconcerting. But, as Bill wrote many times (check out *Language of the Heart*), all points of view are worthy of our consideration. And it's quite possible that putting a disclaimer in the front of the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* may

be an effective addition to one of AA's most important pieces of literature.

### Things to Consider.

- Is maintaining the literature without alteration the only way to give future members the same chance we were given?
- We have a history of making appropriate changes to our literature, should we stop this practice?
- Does this proposed disclaimer meet the needs of the Fellowship?
- Does my group understand that a Conference advisory action is not permanent, and can change to meet the needs of the Fellowship of AA?

### PROS

- Our "Twelve and Twelve" stays preserved as originally written.
- The disclaimer is an effective way to qualify any archaic or offensive language.

### CONS

- A disclaimer won't work because most people won't read it.
- If we prohibit all changes to our literature like the "Twelve and Twelve," we may not reach all the people who need us.
- If we don't update our literature to meet the needs of the entire Fellowship, we won't be as inclusive as the original author, Bill W., intended AA to be.

What does your home group think?

### 4. SHOULD ALL CHANGES TO THE BOOK *TWELVE STEPS AND TWELVE TRADITIONS* BE HANDLED IN FOOTNOTES? (GSC ITEM IV-C)

This agenda item (PAI-80) is submitted by a GSR and DCM, on behalf of the group conscience of their district. Their recommendation is:

“To maintain the integrity and historical accuracy of the publication *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, that all proposed changes be handled in footnotes rather than in a revision of the actual text.”

When your group discusses this agenda item, consider all of the background material presented in item 3. The originators have many of the same concerns expressed in the previous agenda item, but they have proposed a different method to handle changes to the "Twelve and Twelve."

They believe that by handling any and all changes with footnotes, the text will remain historically accurate and faithful to the original writer's intention. While many across AA have felt that thoughtful changes to our literature might help reach more people in need, this district is concerned that revisions to our literature will make the AA message less effective. They say:

“The revisions to the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* approved at the General Service Conference set a dangerous precedent for changes to what we consider sacred texts in the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous.”

This district continues to state that the text in our "Twelve and Twelve" is a part of our history and collective memory. They feel that "suppressing" even its outdated expressions will “negate the growth that has taken place in us as a fellowship”. As your group ponders this point, you may also want to consider whether our Fellowship has in fact continued to grow (in 1990 our worldwide membership was ap-



proximately 2.1 million and thirty years later in 2021, we estimate approximately 1.9 million members (SMF-132)

### Things to Consider.

- Should text, even AA text, be considered sacred?
- Isn't our text meant to be a tool to educate, inform, and help—is it the hammer or the carpenter?
- Will prudent changes to our literature help reach more people?
- Is the use of footnotes a good mechanism to handle proposed changes to the "Twelve and Twelve"?

### PROS

- The literature and text of the "Twelve and Twelve" will remain true to Bill W's original writing.
- Changes will be acknowledged and adequately addressed in the footnotes.

### CONS

- If footnote says something different than the body of the text, it may create confusion and negatively impact the integrity of our message.
- Footnotes can make the text very lengthy, cumbersome and difficult to use.
- Nobody reads footnotes, so changes will go unnoticed.
- If the necessary changes aren't prominent, we may lose the opportunity to reach the people who still need us.

What does your home group think?

## TOPIC III EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION – MULTIPLE COMMITTEES

B. Should the chapter titled "The Doctor's Opinion" be returned to page one, as it was in the First Edition?

(Final Conference agenda Item IX-E)

### BACKGROUND

In the publication of the first edition of the Big Book, the Doctor's Opinion was included within the text (now called the first 164 pages) of the Big Book starting with page 1. Since the publication of the second edition, it has been put outside of the 164 pages and is now placed in the section with roman numerals, which include the Preface and four Forewords from each edition.

While essentially nothing has changed in the Doctor's Opinion as it is protected by Conference Advisory Actions stating that the Preface, Forewords, Doctor's Opinion, Dr. Bob's Nightmare, Appendices and first 164 pages should remain the same and not be changed, the recommendation is not about protecting the language but more about bringing it into a newcomer's study of the Big Book. To clarify, many feel the newcomer reading the book without the help of a sponsor or mentor will skip the roman numeral pages and begin on page 1, thus not discovering the only medical explanation of the disease presented in the text.

### PROS

- Hundreds of people created the first edition of the Big Book and placed The Doctor's Opinion as page 1. Returning it to page 1 would be in line with the format of that edition and the importance our original members put on it. There is no historical evidence that Bill sought the wisdom of the group when the change was made.
- As it would be part of the fifth edition process approved by the 71st GSC, and not include any

wording or formatting changes, the cost would be little or none to make the change.

- We take the chance of keeping those alcoholics we are currently losing to the disease because it has been observed that many start the book at page 1, bypassing the roman numeral pages. How many have already left AA without answers to vital medical (physical, mental, spiritual) questions contained within this life-sustaining chapter?
- Newcomers many times do not afford themselves of a sponsor or mentor immediately when getting to our rooms that will direct them to the Doctor's Opinion and, again, may leave before they learn of this vital information, which contains the medical explanation of our disease to understand the physical component of our malady.
- The physical location stays the same, only the page indicators change from roman numerals to page numbers.

## CONS

- It would conflict with the 1995 Conference Advisory Action which states "The first 164 pages of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, the Preface, the Forewords, 'The Doctor's Opinion,' 'Doctor Bob's Nightmare' and the Appendices remain as is."
- Some members well versed in the first 164 pages would be against the change as they would have to memorize new page numbers for their studies, sponsees, etc. As this recommendation is really about the newcomer, should this really be an issue? We did survive the page 449 acceptance change. That is "And acceptance is the answer to all my problems today" page, and we all adjusted just fine from referencing page 449 in the 3rd edition to page 417 in the 4th edition.
- In line with the above bullet, very few of our current members have learned the program using it in this format as the second edition was printed in 1955.
- Today many sponsors first recommend their sponsees read the Doctor's Opinion. It might to a small degree lessen the importance of needing that direction and its importance.

What does your home group think?

## TOPIC IV GRAPEVINE

- A. In light of AA Unity, should we reaffirm the change to the preamble?  
(Final Conference agenda item V-D)

## BACKGROUND

The latest request to change the Preamble for greater inclusivity by changing the wording in the first sentence from "Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women..." to "Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people..." was first made in December 2018 by a home group from Area 29, Maryland for consideration at the 69th General Service Conference. At that time, there were ongoing discussions about gender neutrality in AA literature and the Grapevine Board requested that the Preamble be included in those discussions.

The Board, therefore, did not forward this item to the Grapevine & La Vina Conference Committee in 2019 for their consideration. A year later, there were numerous requests from several areas to make this change to the Preamble, especially from Area 13, Washington D.C. and Area 29, Maryland. The Grapevine Board considered these requests and combined them into two items, one to simply make that change and another to make the change for the purpose of gender neutrality. These two items were to be considered at the 70th General Service Conference which became the first virtual General Service Conference due to the pandemic. With only 45 minutes to bring items to the Conference floor in 2020 for discussion, the Grapevine & La Vina Conference Committee did not have enough time to bring this recommendation to the full conference, took no action, and passed this item on to the 71st Conference for consideration. At the 71st Conference last year, the Grapevine and La Vina Conference Committee

was asked to consider one item: that the committee review suggested changes to the Preamble for gender neutrality. The Committee considered this item and took no action. However, 3 floor actions were made and two different versions of the Preamble were approved by substantial unanimity: one version removed the phrase a "fellowship of men and women" completely, and another, which changed the first sentence to "Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people..." The latter version is the one that ultimately prevailed and in meeting after the Conference, the Grapevine Board approved the change to the Preamble, which started with changes in the published version of the Grapevine in July, 2021 and in *La Vina* in their July/August issue.

As the Fellowship began seeing the changes to the Preamble in the Grapevine and *La Vina* magazines and in other Grapevine printed literature, there were many members who were upset over this change and asked why they and their groups had not been consulted. The fact is that this has been a topic of discussion in our area since 2020 when this item was included on our Mini-Conference agenda. The area discussed this change and vote 175 to 84 in favor of the change, which achieves substantial unanimity at 67.6%. The issue is that many groups and individuals are not aware of their Concept I responsibility and are not familiar with the ongoing changes proposed each year that become Final Conference agenda items. For this year's conference, several items to rescind the change to the Preamble were submitted. The Grapevine Board could have chosen to take no action on these items and let the change to the Preamble stand. However, the Grapevine Board listened to the Fellowship and placed an item on this year's agenda as follows: "Discuss the wide-ranging impact the Preamble change has had on our AA Fellowship." This change boils down to one question: Should we let this change to the Preamble stand or should we revert to the previous version of the Preamble?

There is a very interesting letter from the chairperson of the AA Grapevine Inc. Board, Josh E., dated Jan. 27th, 2022 that was included in this year's background material. He points out that there has been considerable feedback both in support of the change and from those opposed, and he goes on to provide a summary of that feedback. As part of the summary, Josh discloses how each side uses the Traditions to support their argument.

## PROS

For the members of the Fellowship who approved of the change, their main arguments are the ones that led to this change in the first place. Changing the wording from "men and women" to "people" provides a gender-neutral solution and is more inclusive to the non-binary among us who do not identify as either sex. In addition, for the youngest members of our Fellowship still in their teens, they may not yet identify as a man or a woman but still may prefer the terms "boy" and "girl," which makes "people" more inclusive for these individuals as well.

Those in favor of the change also cite Tradition 1: "Our common welfare comes first," which means that we should always be as inclusive as possible. They also point out that Tradition 4 states that groups are autonomous and that they had begun changing the Preamble to "people" even before last year's advisory action. Tradition 4, they argue, would also allow groups to disregard the change, if they so desire, and continue reading the Preamble using the prior version.

## CONS

Members who oppose this change believe that the Preamble is very familiar to most alcoholics since it is read in the opening of many, many meetings, and changes to the Preamble are disturbing to many alcoholics who do not care for changes to a program of recovery that has been working for them. They see this change and the disturbance it has caused as not upholding the spirit of Tradition 1: Our common welfare comes first. These members also point out that this change is not in keeping with Tradition 10, which states that issues like politics and sociological issues are outside issues.

What does your group think? Should we revert to the previous version of the Preamble or is this even necessary as each group is autonomous and can choose to accept a change in our literature or slogans or not?

## TOPIC V REPORT AND CHARTER

A. Should the GSR preamble be added to the pamphlet “GSR: Your Group’s Link to AA as a Whole”?  
(Final Conference agenda item IX-D)

### BACKGROUND

This recommendation comes to us from the “How it Works” group in District 14, Southern Illinois, Area 21, which then passed unanimously at their assembly and was forwarded to the Conference for consideration.

The GSR Preamble reads as follows:

“We are the General Service Representatives. We are the link in the chain of communication for our groups with the General Service Conference and the world of AA. We realize the ultimate authority in AA is a loving God as he may express himself in our group conscience. As trusted servants, our job is to bring information to our groups in order that they may reach an informed group conscience. In passing along this group conscience, we are helping to maintain the unity and strength so vital to our Fellowship.

Let us, therefore, have the patience and tolerance to listen to others share, the courage to speak up when we have something to share, and the wisdom to do what is right for our groups as a whole.”

The GSR Preamble got its start in Southern California, Area 9, where someone came up with the Preamble to be read at area meetings and it was printed in their May 1988 issue of that area’s newsletter. The GSO staff picked it up and printed it in the August/September 1989 issue of Box 459. The Preamble is being used in many areas throughout the US and Canada today.

The submitter is of the opinion to add the GSR Preamble to the GSR: Your Group’s Link to AA As a Whole (P-19) as the GSR Preamble is a clear-cut directive to GSRs regarding their responsibility; therefore, including it would provide consistency and thus unity across AA as a whole and would affirm Conference approval when read at district and area functions.

### PROS

- The GSR Preamble has a spiritual tone, and as such, can make clear to home group members the importance of the role of a GSR, perhaps allowing that person the time and attention to provide a cohesive report to the group.
- GSR Preamble makes clear to the GSR the importance of his or her role and responsibility to the group.

### CONS

- GSR Preamble has not been widely been used over the years.
- GSR Preamble could be confused with the AA Preamble.

What does your home group think?



# INTERGROUP NEWS & NOTE FEB 2022

## BOOKERS x 2

The next Bookers is scheduled for Sunday, **March 13, 2022**. Given the number of online speaker meetings, we will host Bookers in-person (5am) at Mother Seton Regional High and online (at 7am). The flyers for the different sessions will be distributed at the March Delegates meeting and linked to the NNJAA.org/Calendar in early March. If you would like to be added to the Bookers email list – or if you have additional questions, please email us at [Bookers@NNJAA.org](mailto:Bookers@NNJAA.org).

## COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS –

Committee is at a standstill until they receive information about the programs restarting inside the facilities.

## COOPERATION with the PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY –

No update submitted. If you are interested in finding out more about CPC, visit the [CPC service page](#) on NNJAA.org. Meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month.

**HISTORY & ARCHIVES** No update submitted. Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month. Contact the Chair for online meeting information.

## INTERGROUP OFFICE

**As of February 1st, we show 1389 reopened meetings.** To help you identify those meetings quickly, we added a large ★ **Red Star to their listings in our Meeting Finder.** We suggest using the search option: **Near a Town** – so you can quickly find as many nearby open meetings as possible.

**Our Status Unknown meetings have dropped from 900 to 223!** To help us collect and track meeting updates, please use the [MeetingUpdate form.](#) \*

\* We are still asking for 5 business days to complete the requested updates

**NIGHTWATCH** – Nightwatch commitments are held by the Groups and rotate on a weekly basis. If your Group is interested in participating, please contact your group Nightwatch Coordinator or check the website for more information. The Committee meets virtually, every other month; meeting information is available on the website.

As the list of Status Unknown meetings shortens, the Meetings Books are that much *more accurate!!* **2020 Meeting Books** are available for the reduced rate of **\$4 per dozen.**

**Intergroup Office Volunteers Needed!** The increase in emails, phone calls, meetings closing and re-opening, moving online and back to in-person and vice versa...means that the Intergroup Office is buzzing with activity! We are so grateful to the amazing volunteers who currently commit their time to us each week. As you can see, there are still opportunities to be of service to Intergroup:

- **Mon.** AM/PM – Marybeth/**Open**
- **Tue.** AM/PM – Al / Maureen
- **Wed.** AM/PM – **Open/Open**
- **Thu.** AM/PM – Ed / Marge
- **Fri.** AM/PM – **Open**/Janet M (Toni D)

If you've got some free time and some sober time and are interested in helping answer phones in the Intergroup office, please call to find out more: 908-687-8566.

**12<sup>th</sup> Step Contact Shortage!** We are taking inventory of the towns in need of local contacts for newcomers who are interested in connecting to AA near them. **Hudson County** has a population of 672,391 with 129 active meetings and only 24 12<sup>th</sup> Step Contacts that could be considered current. Here is a list of Hudson County towns that have ZERO 12<sup>th</sup> Step Contacts:

- Harrison
- Secaucus
- West New York
- Union City
- Weehawken

**12<sup>th</sup> Step contact sheets must be updated annually** We request yearly updates from each Group as a way to confirm willingness to serve the newcomer. If your Group would like to update their contacts, We have included a 12<sup>th</sup> Step Contact Sheet with this month's edition!

If your Group Delegate is not receiving the email alerts regarding the Delegates Meeting, please, include your *Group Name, Town, Day, Time, Delegates Name, eMail and Phone Number* in an email to: [IGDelegates@nnjaa.org](mailto:IGDelegates@nnjaa.org)

If you are unsure of your *Meeting's Status*, how to use the *Meeting Finder*, have questions regarding the *Meeting Update* or *Data Sheet* forms, or are dying to *serve as an IG Volunteer*...please call the office at **908.687.8566** Monday-Friday 10a-6p.

# Area 44 District Happenings & Reflections

## The Old-Timers' Meeting was Right on Time for This Ole Gal

The Old-Timer's Meeting on Dec 24th, hosted by District 17/Area 44, kicked off this year's 32nd Annual Holiday Alkathon. Before I share the highlights, let me begin by clarifying just who we're calling an old-timer. This is a title reserved exclusively to alcoholics who've maintained 25 or more years of continuous sobriety. At this year's event, the cumulative years of sobriety totaled 3,081 years!!!

As a co-host, I had the distinct honor of speaking directly with old-timers, who shared a wealth of experience with me on how they've stayed sober through the holidays and kept their programs green.

In preparation for the event, the Old-Timer's Committee met regularly to ensure we reached out and connected with as many old-timers as humanly possible. Kris Kringle could not have checked his list any better! Before it was said and done there were 95 old-timers in attendance.

The significance of seeing such a large group of old-timers in one room allowed me to see living proof that this program works and that long time sobriety is possible for me as well. As an alcoholic who can easily default to isolation and stray from the herd, these alkathons are a lifeline for my sobriety, particularly during the holiday season.

This year I was grateful to see how technology was embraced to adapt to changing times. While AA may have begun in the days of cobblestone and horse and buggies, with the use of today's technology a bunch of alcoholics were able to host an entire alkathon via the Zoom platform, allowing us to stay connected, get outside of ourselves through participation in service, and carry the AA message no matter what.

Special thanks to this year's chairperson Carol McK and alternate chairperson Barbara B-R, who exemplified what this program and a life dedicated to service is all about. As someone still early in her journey of sobriety, it was an honor to be invited to join them, along with firstborn Kimberly and Khadijha D. (both Zoom babies) who have immersed themselves in service.

Dare I say, it felt like a night out on the town? I am grateful that this year, I remembered what happened the next day!

One of the many highlights for me was seeing and hearing from Ms. Liz B. with 69 years of sobriety. What an inspiration! I mean, she's been sober my entire-life (and then some) and still shows up! Hearing from her was quite inspirational and heart-warming. In fact, I wish she could be added to the promises (that we'll all get to live as long and have a fulfilling life as she)! OK, maybe I'm asking too much of the program, but that was just one of many moments that stood out.

The Area 44 Grapevine skit was a real suspense-thriller riddled with plot twists that had me at the edge of my seat (sweating and panting), anxiously pleading for the host to (privately) reveal the antagonist to me! Gosh darn it! I needed to know... who done it???

The sobriety countdown was such a unifying experience for me, when we collectively turned off our cameras, starting with the most sobriety at 69 years and counting down incrementally until the final day counter with 6 days remained. The committee gifted newcomer Bryce with his first publication of the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous.

So, while the setting of AA may have changed—why, with no drafty basement stairs to climb, and no dusty ashtrays to wipe clean, and no industrial-sized coffee pots to brew and clean—somehow, the very spirit of Alcoholics Anonymous resonated as loudly as ever through the voices and over the beautiful, diverse faces of alcoholics who all chose to make a meeting and stay sober with me Christmas Eve 2021.

So, for this and many more reasons, I am truly grateful for the program of Alcoholics Anonymous and the opportunity to be of service at the 2021 Alkathon and Old-Timer's meeting.

Wishing Everyone a Safe and Sober Journey in 2022.  
Yolanda M.



## District 16

**“Our Traditions and More”**

**Workshop**

**Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday -- 17 JAN 2022**

**6:15 to 6:45 PM 21 FEB 2022**

**21 MAR 2022**

*(before our District Meeting at 7 PM)*



We welcome you  
to stay for the District Meeting too!

**Zoom ID: 919 9826 5497**

**Passcode: A44D16**

## From our Area 44 Fellowship



**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

### Topics

*Choose one of the Twelve Traditions of AA and discuss why the Tradition is an important one to the AA community.*

*Discuss why sobriety works best when it has a spiritual aspect.*

### A Desire to Stop Drinking

Any person of my vintage will recall the Groucho Marx remark that he'd never join an organization that would have him for a member. That may have been the opinion of some early AA groups. I enjoyed a reading of the "Twelve and Twelve," where Bill discussed the membership requirements of the early groups. They were seeking the highest class of alcoholics. The Third Tradition inculcates the concept of inclusion.

There seems to be some confusion between the Third and Fifth traditions. The Third Tradition touts inclusion; whereas the Fifth, by the interpretation of singleness of purpose, leads some groups to be exclusive. I certainly understand the need for the newcomer to identify with other alcoholics. I personally cannot identify with a gambler who after losing his car bets his home as well. But by discouraging the talk of other addictions, we forget that we are frequently beset by more than one demon. I find a little humor in a story where a person describes the most disgraceful actions when intoxicated, then apologizes because he or she also smoked pot.

The hallmarks of modern AA are inclusion and tolerance. We must never forget that alcoholism cuts a wide swath across every class, religion, ethnicity, education, sexual orientation, and profession. Each person deserves the opportunity to receive the gift that some of us have been given. We must also never forget that being sober is not a requirement for membership. I've been to meetings where someone would point out a person who is a little under the weather. My response and that of all of us should be to reach out to that person and tell him that we're glad he came. I came across a website that had over 400 slogans attributed to Alcoholics Anonymous. One that always stays in my mind is that "the only time you look down at another alcoholic is when you extend your hand to help them up."

Frank H.

### Traditions 11 and 12 The Significance of Anonymity

The principle of anonymity was considered so important that it is featured in two Traditions: Tradition 11, which deals with anonymity at the public level, and Tradition 12, which deals with anonymity at the personal level.

In the early days of AA, the principle of anonymity had very practical implications. As stated in the forward to the first edition of the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous, "It is important that we remain anonymous because we are too few, at present to handle the overwhelming number of personal appeals which may result from this publication. Being mostly business or professional folk, we could not well carry on our occupations in such an event." (p. XIII)

The words of Tradition 12, "Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities," are commonly shared at the beginning or end of every AA meeting. We often add something like "what is said here and who you see here, let it stay here." This creates an atmosphere in which it feels safe to share openly and honestly, knowing that what is said in the rooms of AA will stay in those rooms. It also provides protection for all members from identification as alcoholics outside the rooms. This is a safeguard that is often particularly important to newcomers. Many of us remember searching for meetings outside of our home towns for fear that we would run into friends or acquaintances too close to home. We laugh about those concerns years later, understanding that everyone in the rooms is in the same boat.

Our founder, Bill Wilson, made it clear that each of us has the choice to break our own anonymity. He states: “No AA need be anonymous to family, friends, or neighbors. Disclosure there is usually right and good. Nor is there any special danger when we speak at group or semipublic AA meetings, provided press reports reveal first names only.” (B. Wilson, AA Grapevine, Jan. 1955) Of course, we are never free to break the anonymity of anyone else.

Tradition 11 suggests that we do not disclose our membership in AA at the public level. “Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.” (*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*— p. 180) This prohibition is interpreted very broadly to mean that the face and last name of members should not be included in any public media. We have to avoid placing anyone in AA on a pedestal, as humans are fallible and if they fall it impacts all of AA.

Far more significant than these practical implications, the spiritual substance of anonymity, expressed by sacrifice and humility, is at the root and heart of all the Traditions.

“Because AA's Twelve Traditions repeatedly ask us to give up personal desires for the common good, we realize that the sacrificial spirit—well symbolized by anonymity—is the foundation of them all.” (*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*—p. 184) Self-sacrifice is expressed by what we as members of AA give up and also by what we give away. True sobriety requires not only that we give up alcohol, but also that we give up “big shot-ism, phony thinking, self-justification, self-pity, anger, personal prestige, big bank balances, and blaming others for our sorry state.” Bill Wilson states that “...we see anonymity at the general public level as our chief protection against ourselves, the guardian of all our Traditions and the greatest symbol of self-sacrifice that we know.” (B. Wilson, AA Grapevine, Jan. 1955)

We ensure that other people benefit by our sacrifice through our 12th Step work, which requires that we give away our time, energy, and often our own resources. We give to others with no expectation of anything in return, except the maintenance of our own spiritual condition. In Bill Wilson's words, “We began to know about the kind of giving of ourselves that had no price tag on it.” (B. Wilson, AA Grapevine, Jan. 1955)

The program of AA asks its members to develop a genuine humility. We identify our defects of character and we humbly ask the god of our understanding to remove them. We share in AA meetings our experience, strength and hope. We use no honorifics (Hon., Dr., Father, etc.). We are all equal and just one drink away from being drunk. The program keeps us “right sized” and focused on our primary purpose, which is to help the next sick and suffering alcoholic. “We are sure that humility, expressed by anonymity, is the greatest safeguard that Alcoholics Anonymous can ever have.” (*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*—p. 187)

To paraphrase Bill Wilson, it is AA's proved willingness to act in this spirit of sacrifice and humility that gives people their high confidence in our future.

Shelley

### **Tradition 12: Principles Before Personalities**

**I** like quirky people, especially the kind, generous-of-spirit, quirky people I meet in AA. Probably because it reminds me that this program works for all kinds of people--even terminally unique people like me!

I have never been a part of any group of people as welcoming and open to diversity as AA. It says on page 17 of the Big Book: “We are people who normally would not mix.” That has been my experience, and I am so grateful to be a part of this diverse group.

Frankly, if the room I had wandered into for my first AA meeting had been filled with people who looked like me, I might not have come back. At that point in my life, I didn't like spending time with me, much less a room full of “mes.” Fortunately, they were more like me than I could have possibly imagined--in the ways that truly mattered. They understood me, they told my story, they offered me hope. I felt safe and at home with them. I still do, no matter what room I walk into.



But as much as the diversity of personalities comprising the Fellowship matters to me, the wise founders of AA understood that principles mattered more. Tradition 12 tells us “...we are to place principles before personalities; that we are actually to practice a genuine humility... our great blessings may never spoil us.”

Wow.

I suspect I’m not fully grasping the essence of this tradition, probably because I don’t think I give principles much thought. I work my program by primarily focusing on staying sober. When I help another alcoholic, I’m doing it so I can stay sober. When I do service, I’m strengthening my program.

And I don’t think I really want to be principled. That sounds too elite even for an egotist like me. If anything, I’d rather aspire to be just another bozo on the bus. But I can focus on the part about practicing humility. And I suspect I’ll eventually find some if I keep sloshing around with my fellow meatballs in the gravy of life. What a delicious gift this sobriety has been for me!

Sherry B.

Bridgewater, NJ

### Tradition 3: NO REQUIREMENTS

I was certain when we pulled into the parking lot of Christ Lutheran Church in Paramus, NJ on February 11, 1991 that I’d hit an all-time low. I was 30 years old, barely surviving on Massachusetts welfare and food stamps, malnourished at 112 pounds, and self-consciously covering clumps of missing hair under a floppy black hat from Goodwill. My kind and loving parents, more nervous than I about what we’d encounter when the big, wooden door to the rectory closed behind us, were incredulous. Following the sign to Al-Anon, they kissed me, walking with purpose toward a classroom. The AA sign pointed to the gym. It was loud and smoky, filled with men. Would I be asked to introduce myself the way I’d heard in the movies? “I’m so and so and I’m an alcoholic.” Turning back toward the direction of the door, I was intercepted by a tall man who greeted me warmly.

“Welcome! I’m Frank!” “Debbie,” I told him, rifling through my purse for something, anything to get me out of me. “I saw your folks heading to the classroom. My wife’s in there too.” Before I could bolt, Frank led me to a seat in the front row.

On the wall were signs; signs that meant something to them, but not to me: Easy Does It. First Things First. Turn IT Over (with the IT upside down?) Two long canvas scrolls hung from the beams. I assumed they were the AA Ten Commandments, but looking closer, I read The Twelve Steps and The Twelve Traditions. Would there be a test? Three men sat at a long folding table, busy with important laminated papers. Terrified of being acknowledged, I avoided eye contact at all costs, focusing on the laces on the leader’s work boots. How was it possible I’d gotten to a place where my impressive business card title would be replaced by the Scarlet Letter? A for Addict. A for Alcoholic. A for Ashamed.

Two days prior, my dad, a secondary school principal who regularly suspended kids for smoking cigarettes, had rented a U-Haul to move me, my four cats, and my belongings back to the home of my youth. The goal was to travel from Boston to NJ within the window of time allotted to get the U-Haul back within one day, avoiding overnight charges. So much is fuzzy about that time of my life, but the clarity of that day is sealed in my memory: what I’d chosen to take, what I’d chosen to leave, the urgency of escaping my present circumstances, the embarrassment of failure, and the look on my dad’s face as we pulled onto the Mass Pike. I could no longer seek refuge in pills or bottles, nor could I deny that I’d hit a degrading bottom. There was nowhere else to turn. My dad was eager to assuage my mounting guilt. “Let’s go get you some help.”

With the trip behind us, the cats sacked out from the trauma of the ride, the U-Haul returned, things stored for another healthier time, my dad, my mom and I opened the phonebook to the Yellow Pages. Locating the number for Alcoholics Anonymous, I told the woman I was seeking a meeting nearby. She gave me some options. Fumbling for paper, my mom handed me a pad, the one that said “From the Desk of... [my dad’s name.]. Never in my life did I think I’d be using his personalized notepads to record the truth



about who I'd become.

After a good night's sleep in my childhood bed and a promise to attend a meeting that evening, I surveyed the liquor cabinet. There was nothing of interest; just old, dusty bottles of gin, rum and vermouth, some decanters filled with Chablis, and a half-opened bottle of Manischewitz Concord Grape. My parents weren't drinkers. Somehow I'd broken the mold. Sick with shame, I checked my watch, anticipating the moment we'd arrive at the church. My poor parents were unprepared for their grown daughter in crisis to move home in such a hurry.

For some time, I remained uncomfortable introducing myself at meetings. There was a marked difference in my intonation for the "I'm an alcoholic" part of my introduction. I was much more at ease with "My name is Debbie." Often, people couldn't hear me, and I'd have to repeat myself, making my greeting more noticeable. It took a while to believe, and even longer to accept, that I really was an alcoholic. After a week of attending meetings with the same cadre of people, when I said "I'm Debbie," one of the guys would enthusiastically call out: "Miss Debbie!" It was silly, but it made the remainder of the sentence easier. It made me feel I belonged.

It's been 30 years since walking into that church with my parents in tow. It's hard to conceive of the close-minded stigma I'd once associated with the A word. The pride and conviction I feel about being in recovery is palpable. While it took a while to admit my powerlessness over alcohol and the unmanageability of my life, I am forever grateful for the chance to join a fellowship of people who have never enforced a thing. All it took to make a beginning was to have a simple desire, one day at a time, to stop drinking.

DJB

Wyckoff, NJ

### Tradition One and the Declaration of Unity

Tradition One (long form): *"Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. AA must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward."*

Declaration of Unity: *This we owe to AA's future;*

*To place our common welfare first;*

*To keep our Fellowship united.*

*For on AA unity depend our lives,*

*And the lives of those to come.*

I am but one grain of sand on the beach of Alcoholics Anonymous. Thankfully, my ego knows it is not the entire beach. The ego has the capability to destroy the unity of a group, district, or area. The beauty of this tradition is that I am reliant upon AA. I will die if AA fails to exist. No group, district, or area will die without me. I'm just not that powerful. Thank God. If recovery is the basis of individual recovery, then unity is the basis of a group being in harmonious action to carry the message to the next sick and suffering alcoholic.

Unity and harmony go together. We can't have discord and unity at the same time. We can agree to disagree, but we can't be pulled apart and pulled together in the same exact moment. I am either contributing to the health of a group or am contributing to the group's demise through my ego. I need to keep myself in

check. It can be very easy to enable an AA group. Remaining in a position for too long enables the group and stops newcomers or any other alcoholic from stepping up and being able to learn that position.

It's very difficult to give up a position we like, enjoy, or get a spiritual benefit from. We want to be wanted. We want to belong. It helps fill the hole in our souls. Recently, I was able to witness the ego of an old-timer who helped further the destruction a group. Not fully to extinction, yet, but it seems to be on its way. It's sad because it doesn't have to be that way. Growth happens not just when we need it, but when we want it as well. We have to accept a group's united front to change. When any member's motives begin to erode the unity of the group, it begins to erode AA as a whole. This can potentially lead to one less group an alcoholic might attend, one less group an alcoholic may be attracted to, one less chance to carry the message to the sick and suffering alcoholic.

One more time we fail in our primary purpose.

Tradition One (short form): "Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon AA unity."

By Aim C.  
The Legacies Group; District 16 Secretary

Many thanks to ALL of our writers for This Day's Spring 2022 edition! We could not do this without you!!!  
Your words are beautiful and truly inspiring.  
Please scan the QR code below to take our survey, so we can better serve you and our Fellowship!

Megan D., Area 44 Newsletter Editor



"This Day" is Area 44's quarterly newsletter, keeping the Fellowship informed about what's happening at GSO and in our area, districts, service and special committees, and more. We also LOVE hearing from our groups and members.

### We need your help!!!



We need a face lift.  
We want to be more relevant.  
We want to gain more readers.  
**So what can we do?**

**Tell us!**  
Please take our survey!

To participate, scan the QR Code OR go to:  
<https://praqr7jf9xr.typeform.com/to/LVtmkc5W>



### Suggested Summer 2022 Issue Topics:

1. Do you think that the ninth step promises are or are not extravagant ones?
2. Choose a passage from the "Big Book," about a paragraph or two, and explain why this passage is so meaningful to you.

Submit your articles to [newsletter@nnjaa.org](mailto:newsletter@nnjaa.org)  
Deadline May 9, 2022

Articles should be between 200-800 words.

Please use WORD format as a separate document that can be edited. Posters can be in a PDF format. Include your town, home group, or district.

### Thinking about a service commitment?

Join the Newsletter Committee meeting the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 6 pm on Zoom. Please contact [newsletter@nnjaa.org](mailto:newsletter@nnjaa.org) or check the Area calendar for further information.



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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).

**District Meetings**

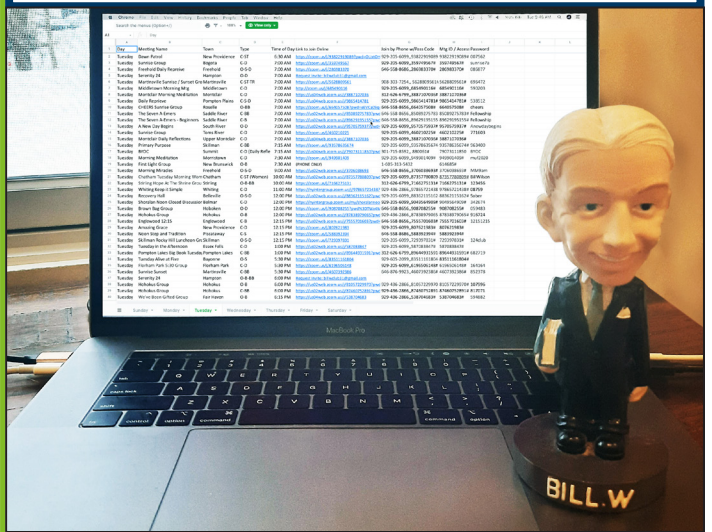
*(When in person meetings resume)*

- 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 - Last Thursday 7:30 pm, St. Mary's Church, Roger Troy Hall School Building, (corner of High & 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) 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, Upstairs, 83 Wayne St, 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, PO Box 7270, Newark, NJ 07107
- District 18 - 2nd Mon. 7:30 pm, Union Village UM Church, 1130 Mountain Ave., Berkeley Heights
- District 19 - Last Mon. 7:30 pm, Friendship Hall, New Market Road, Piscataway
- District 20 (with former District 29/30) - 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 Jafferie 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. 7:00 pm, Ocean Christian Community (Parish House Basement) 405 Washington St., Toms River
- District 28 - 1st Tue. 7:30 pm, St Margaret's Church, 3rd & Ludlow Avenue, Spring Lake
- District 30 - 4th Sunday 12 Noon, 256 Mulberry 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 Public Library, 31st St. & Ave. C., Bayonne
- District 34 - 3rd Sat. 9:30 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, Somerville.
- District 36 - 3rd Fri. 7:30 pm, St. Luke's Church, 17 Oak Ave & Route 27, Metuchen
- Districts 37 & 38 - 3rd Wed. 7:00 pm, First Evangelical Lutheran Church, 153 Park St, Montclair
- District 41 - First Thurs 7:00 pm, St. Matthew's Trinity Church, 8th & Washington Sts, Hoboken
- District 42 - 2nd Sunday 9:00am, 120 Jersey Ave. 2nd floor, New Brunswick

# AREA 44 CALENDAR

To access Area 44's monthly calendars, please do the following:

1. Log on to [www.nnjaa.org](http://www.nnjaa.org)
2. Click the "NEWS & EVENTS" header
3. In the drop down menu, click "Calendar"



Interested in joining a Standing or Special Committee? Area 44 could use your help!

Check out our Area 44 Committee Virtual Meeting List on page 9

**ALONE WE CAN DO SO LITTLE;  
TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH.**  
- HELEN KELLER

Member area  
userid: alcoholic  
password: onedayatime

[www.nnjaa.org](http://www.nnjaa.org)

Try it on your  
Smartphone



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OR

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May 9, 2022

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