

THIS DAY

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

A message
from your
Area Delegate



Let's get right into it: Our Annual GSR Mid-Winter Luncheon was inspiring. We celebrated our GSRs and the speakers were awesome. Great job, MWL Committee. Next, Area 44's attendance at NERAASA in Hershey, PA was on full display, both of these events were held in February. Lastly, let's celebrate our own Laverne S., DCM from District 22 who was an amazing presenter on Panel 6: Safety in AA. Belonging in AA. We were amongst the 1,315 who were registered and approximately 580 banquet attendees.



NERAASA 2025 will be virtual and will be hosted by Area 45, Southern New Jersey. Stay tuned for ways to be of service.

Our 74th General Service Conference will be held at the New York Marriott - Brooklyn Bridge, Brooklyn, NY on April 14 – 20, 2024. The theme is: Connecting with Love, Unity and Service. Leading up to our Mini Conference Assembly on April 6, 2024, a few things take place before we get to the group conscience of the Area. I received the final agenda items on February 9, and the background material was made available in sections from February 16 through 23rd. On Saturday while at NERAASA was winding down, I received the final background material.

As shared at the January Assembly, one of the advisory actions of the 73rd General Service Conference would focus on a specific recommendation: To foster unity, trust, and transparency in the Fellowship, the members of the General Service Conference will meet outside of the annual meeting for general sharing sessions at least two times per year—the first GSC virtual sharing session was held on February 27 for approximately 2 hours. Here are some highlights:

- 74th GSC Members will have 2 hours to read and review the draft of the Plain Simple Language Big Book.
- We will have two sessions to share our Area's conscience on the Founders' Writings.

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NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE

May 15, 2024

newsletter-chair@njarea44.org

Please send images as attachments!

- Conference members will receive a list of Agenda Items that were not forwarded with the reasons and rationale provided.

Grapevine Fun Facts:

- App: 5000 subscriptions in the first five months
- Podcast: 750,000 downloads
- Instagram: GV: 11,600 followers and LV: 1,582 followers
- YouTube: 12,600 subscribers

GSO Public Information Desk: The 2022 Membership Survey results are available. For more information, the survey results are now available in a print pamphlet and on a new webpage on aa.org that also offers downloadable infographics. The page can be viewed at aa.org/membership-survey-2022. More than 6,000 AA members took part in a randomized membership survey that was conducted in 2022.

The Trustees' Literature Committee has opened a call for recovery stories in response to the 2021 General Service Conference advisory action regarding the pamphlet "A.A. for the Native North American Alcoholic." Deadline for submissions is April 30, 2024. You can submit your story using the following form [here](#).

Unaudited Summary for the Fourth Quarter, December 31, 2023 was shared at the March ACM (and uploaded to Share44). We all look forward to additional financials following the 74th GSC, which will be presented during the Picnic Table presentation and reported back during post-conference sessions. The purpose of the Quarterly Finance Report is to provide the Fellowship with regular updates on the financial status of its service entities—The General Service Board, ("GSB"), Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. ("AAWS"), and Grapevine, Inc. ("AAGV").

ALL interested AAs are welcome and encouraged to attend a Pre-Conference session (March 16, 19, 21, & 23) and our Mini- Conference (April 6). All flyers have been circulated via Share44, NNJAA.org and This Day. I thank you in advance for all your help in support of this process and look forward to seeing you at our events.

Save the Date

2025 A.A. International Convention: July 3-6, 2025

Marcheta B.

Gratitude In Action

Delegate Panel 73 | Agenda Committee

area-delegate@NJArea44.org



PRE-CONFERENCE REPORT INFORMATION

2024 Delegate's Pre-Conference Reports

Connecting with Love, Unity & Service



2024 Reportes del Delegado Previos a la Conferencia

Conectando con Amor, Unidad y Servicio



Schedule

Sat, March 16 @ 12:30 PM
Hybrid (Area Office)

Tues, March 19 @ 7 PM
Virtual Only (Polish)

Thurs, March 21 @ 7 PM
Virtual Only (Spanish)

Sat, March 23 @ 12 PM
Hybrid (Area Office)



Area Office

2325 Plainfield Ave #2J,
South Plainfield, NJ 07080



Zoom

ID: 834 2806 3255
PW: 2024

Cronograma

Sábado, Marzo 16 @ 12:30 PM
Híbrido (Oficina Del Área)

Martes, Marzo 19 @ 7 PM
Virtual Only (Polaco)

Jueves, Marzo 21 @ 7 PM
Virtual Only (Español)

Sábado, Marzo 23 @ 12 PM
Híbrido (Oficina Del Área)



Oficina del Área

2325 Plainfield Ave #2J,
South Plainfield, NJ 07080



Zoom

ID: 834 2806 3255
PW: 2024

Stay Connected To A.A.

DCMs please copy & distribute to all GSRs

All interested A.A.s are welcome!

Questions?

Please contact your Delegate, Marcheta B.

area-delegate@njarea44.org

Mantente conectado a A.A.

MCD Por favor copia y distribuye a todos sus RSG

Todos los miembros de AA son bienvenidos

¿Preguntas?

Por favor contacté a su Delegado, Marcheta B.

area-delegate@njarea44.org

NNJGS AREA 44

NNJGS AREA 44

2024 PRZED-KONFERENCYJNE SPRAWOZDANIA DELEGATÓW

ŁĄCZENIE Z MIŁOŚCIĄ, JEDNOŚCIĄ I SŁUŻBĄ



Harmonogram

SOB, 16 MARCA @ 12:30 PM
Hybrydowo (ODDZIAŁ TERENOWY)

WT, 19 MARCA @ 7 PM
Wirtualnie (POLSKI)

CZWARTEK, 21 MARCA @ 7 PM
Wirtualnie (HISZPAŃSKI)

SOB, 23 MARCA @ 12 PM
Hybrydowo (ODDZIAŁ TERENOWY)



ODDZIAŁ TERENOWY

2325 Plainfield Ave #2J,
South Plainfield, NJ 07080



Zoom

ID: 834 2806 3255
HASŁO: 2024

MAJĄ PAŃSTWO PYTANIA?

PROSIMY O KONTAKT Z DELEGATEM, Marcheta B.

area-delegate@njarea44.org

PROSIMY CZŁONKÓW KOMITETU OKRĘGOWEGO O PRZEKAZANIE TYCH INFORMACJI DO WSZYSTKICH PRZEDSTAWICIELI OBSŁUGI GRUPOWEJ ZAPRASZAMY WSZYSTKICH ZAINTERESOWANYCH CZŁONKÓW AA!

NNJGS AREA 44



NEW JERSEY GENERAL SERVICE AREA 44
NJGS • 2325 PLAINFIELD AVENUE • SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY 07080

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, "Connecting With Love, Unity and Service" will be held April 14-20. 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 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 6, 2024 – 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. There will be 4 choices with two translated into Spanish and Polish. Two of the 4 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 <https://www.njgsa.org> the 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 / 2023 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,

Marcheta B.
A44 Panel 73 Delegate
Agenda Committee
Email: area-delegate@njarea44.org

NNJAA COMMITTEE REPORTS & INFO

*A message
from your
Area Chair*



Hello Area 44,

Not being a wordsmith, I never know what to write for this newsletter report as Area Chair. You would figure that I would have this down pat, but surprise, I don't!

Depending on when this newsletter is published, I hope you all will have had the opportunity to attend or are planning on attending one of our Delegate's Pre-Conference reports. The information you and your groups bring to the Mini-Conference will inform our delegate of the conscience of Area 44 before the General Service Conference, which is a valuable asset.


I hope by the time of publication, our GSR/DCM Workshop Committee has scheduled a few workshops to help the new DCMs and GSRs understand their new service positions. These workshops can also benefit our second-year members.

As you may know, I have created a 2025 International Convention Hospitality Suite Ad Hoc Committee and asked Mike R, Past Area Literature Chair, to chair this committee for our area. Our Southern NJ Area 45 will be participating in hosting the suite. Mike has had an initial virtual meeting with a couple of their members, and a second virtual meeting will take place on March 28th at @7:00 PM on the Zoom platform. For more information, please e-mail Mike at 2025-ichs-chair@njarea44.org.


I know you have heard me before asking you to get with share44help@njarea44.org to get your Share 44 ID. Without it, you may not have received information related to service beyond your home groups. Don't forget to contact the Area Registrar at area-registrar@njarea44.org to get set up with GSO.

I look forward to serving the Fellowship for the remainder of 2024.

I am grateful to serve Area 44 and the Fellowship of AA,
Art B
Area Chair, P73



**NJ-AREA 44
AD-HOC COMMITTEE FOR
2025 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
HOSPITALITY SUITE
IS LOOKING FOR SERVICE VOLUNTEERS**



**WE MEET @ 7 PM
ON EVERY LAST THURSDAY OF ODD
NUMBERED MONTHS ON ZOOM:**

**LOGIN: 833 -5908- 4488
PW: 054045**

**THE 2025 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION IN VANCOUVER B.C.
90 YEARS OF – HAPPY, JOYOUS, AND FREE**



**Area 44 Mini-Conference
April 6th 2024**

“Connecting with Love, Unity and Service”

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

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

GSR's: It is your responsibility to attend but every member has a voice and are welcome!



**ST. AGNES SCHOOL, 55 SOUTH AVENUE,
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS, NEW JERSEY 07716**

DIRECTIONS:
Follow Garden State Pkwy S to NJ-36 in Hazlet, Take exit 117 from Garden State Pkwy S, Take exit 117 for NJ-36 S toward NJ-35/Hazlet/Keyport, Follow NJ-36 to South Ave in Atlantic Highlands.



The Nightwatch: A “Call” to Service

In our increasingly impersonal world, a text or electronic message is often not only sufficient but preferable to a phone call. Why take even one minute to make a call when the communication can be made instantaneously without having to speak to another person? Yet, when we really need someone else’s help, such as an emergency situation or when we need guidance, directions, or when we just need to vent, we still use the phone.

For decades, Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) has provided hotline numbers throughout the country where those that want release from the bondage of alcohol can find help. The Northern New Jersey chapter of AA operates a 24-hour, 7 days a week hotline that can be called any time, day or night, by an alcoholic in need: (908) 687-8566.

Pursuant to Tradition 8, our chapter has a fantastic team of employees, who operate our service center during the day and whose duties encompass answering the hotline during business hours. They are always there for an alcoholic in need, but we alcoholics are a desperate sort that often require assistance into the wee hours of the night, on the weekends, and even during holidays (well, especially during holidays). During these off-peak hours, we could just turn the hotline over to a service center or let the answering machine get it. But we know that there are hopeless people out there searching for our way of life who will never find it if a fellow alcoholic is not there to welcome this newcomer to the program.

Enter Nightwatch. We are a group of fellow alcoholics that volunteer to operate the Northern New Jersey AA hotline on Saturdays, Sundays, holidays, and from the hours of 6 pm to 8 am on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

During a typical shift, most calls we take are just an individual looking to find a nearby meeting or to chat for a couple of minutes with an empathetic alcoholic who can relate to their story. Many of these calls are from people with a “couple of 24s under their belt,” and might incidentally teach you, the volunteer, a thing or two about “staying stopped.” But we also occasionally get a call from a person that is desperate. When such a person calls, we act as a pseudo-greeter telling this prospect about our better path of life and hoping to find them someone from our 12-Step network that can further introduce them to the Steps.


The Big Book, our Steps, and our Traditions make clear that our primary purpose is to help the next alcoholic in need, and, as recovering alcoholics, we have the rare privilege of getting to pass this true freedom to another.

Join us,
Danny Mac and Chris G.

For further information about signing up for Nightwatch or to serve as a 12-Step contact, please contact Danny Mac at 908 578-4055 or Chris G. at 917-515-5052.

Committee on Corrections  **Hi Area 44!**

Here’s some news from your Corrections Committee! We are testing Zoom meetings into some facilities. The goal is to fill in where we are short on volunteers or where the administration won’t let us in physically. It is preferable to no meetings. YOU can help us carry the message



CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES COMMITTEE (CFC) ANNOUNCEMENT
 ~ DCM and Group Secretary please read at your meetings ~

THE CFC COORDINATES AA MEMBERS AND GROUPS IN CARRYING THE MESSAGE TO ALCOHOLICS WHO ARE IN COUNTY JAILS AND STATE PRISONS. THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO HELP AA MEMBERS IN CUSTODY:

- BRING MEETINGS AND AA LITERATURE TO FACILITIES.
- JOIN THE CORRECTIONS CORRESPONDENCE SERVICE.
- PARTICIPATE IN THE PRE-RELEASE PROGRAM.

You do not need a “rap sheet” to volunteer - they already know how to get to prison, they need to learn how to stay out!

CORRECTIONS VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN COUNTLESS LIVES AND THE INSIDE AA MEMBERS IN CUSTODY WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOURS. PLEASE SEE THE SECRETARY OR CHAIR AFTER THE MEETING TO TAKE A PICTURE OF THIS ANNOUNCEMENT, WHICH INCLUDES CONTACT INFORMATION.

YOURS IN SERVICE, AREA 44 CORRECTIONS CHAIR

Area 44 CFC website: <https://njjaa.org/service/cf>. The website will give you Frequently asked questions, the schedule of CFC meetings, Pre-release program link, Corrections Correspondence Service, correctional facilities in Area 44, Corrections Handbook, Link see the schedule of meetings.

Area 44 Corrections Chair email: cfc-chair@njjaa44.org

in person by volunteering to do in-person commitments on a regular basis. All open facilities require a clearance of some type therefore one-offs are no longer available to us.

We also need to get more volunteers to register to meet folks who are newly released to take them to meetings, introduce them around, and maybe temporarily sponsor. Scan the QR code below to go to the registration page.



Our next committee meeting is March 16 at the Area Office at 9.30 am.

Our workshop is May 18 at 10 am at the Area Office. We've got a speaker who is currently serving a long-term incarceration in Ohio as well as other dynamic speakers. You don't want to miss this one. Put it on your calendar, and we'll see you there!

In Love & Service
Dru Reynolds
Area 44 Corrections Alt Chair



As we begin this new year, let's remember our founders and the sacrifices that they made over their lifetimes. The History and Archives Committee tries to do this by bringing to life our AA history. The study of the founders, our history and the Fellowship show what it used to be like, what *really* happened and what's it's like now.

In these two talks by Bill and Dr. Bob, that were each given 3-4 months before their passings, we see the humility and grace with which they dedicated their lives. Bill talks about the importance of anonymity and Bob asks the Fellowship to remember the simplicity of our Fellowship, not to "louse it up," and to always strive for love and service to all in the program and reach out our hand to the newcomer.

That is simply what we all are still doing today.

Passing it On, with Love!
Area 44 History & Archives Committee





Bill's last message

My dear friends,

Recently an A.A. member sent me an unusual greeting which I would like to extend to you. He told me it was an ancient Arabian salutation. Perhaps we have no Arabian groups, but it still seems a fitting expression of how I feel for each of you. It says, "I salute you and thank you for your life."

My thoughts are much occupied these days with gratitude to our Fellowship and for the myriad blessings bestowed upon us by God's Grace.

If I were asked which of these blessings I felt was most responsible for our growth as a fellowship and most vital to our continuity, I would say, the "Concept of Anonymity."

Anonymity has two attributes essential to our individual and collective survival; the spiritual and the practical.

On the spiritual level, anonymity demands the greatest discipline of which we are capable; on the practical level, anonymity has brought protection for the newcomer, respect and support of the world outside, and security from those of us who would use A.A. for sick and selfish purposes.

A.A. must and will continue to change with the passing years. We cannot, nor should we, turn back the clock. However, I deeply believe that the principle of anonymity must remain our primary and enduring safeguard. As long as we accept our sobriety in our traditional spirit of anonymity we will continue to receive God's Grace.

And so—over more, I salute you in that spirit and again I thank you for your lives.

May God bless us all now, and forever.

*Ever Yours
Bill*

*Read by Bill at the annual dinner given to the Pine Park Intergroup Association in honor of Bill's 50th anniversary—October 26, 1974.



Dr. Bob's farewell talk

My good friends in A.A. and of A.A.,

...I get a big thrill out of looking over a vast sea of faces like this with a feeling that possibly some small thing I did a number of years ago played an infinitely small part in making this meeting possible. I also get quite a thrill when I think that we all had the same problem, we all did the same things. We all get the same results in proportion to our zeal and enthusiasm and stick-to-itiveness. If you will pardon the injection of a personal note at this time, let me say that I have been in bed five of the last seven months and my strength hasn't returned as I would like, so my remarks of necessity will be very brief.

There are two or three things that flashed into my mind on which it would be fitting to lay a little emphasis. One is the simplicity of our program. Let's not lose it all up with Freudian complexes and things that are interesting to the scientific mind, but have very little to do with our actual A.A. work. Our Twelve Steps, when hammered down to the last, resolve themselves into the words "love" and "service." We understand what love is, and we understand what service is. So let's bear those two things in mind.

Let us also remember to guard that erring member the tongue, and if we must use it, let's use it with kindness and consideration and tolerance.

And one more thing. None of us would be here today if somebody hadn't taken time to explain things to us, to give us a little pat on the back, to take us to a meeting or two, to do numerous little kind and thoughtful acts in our behalf. So let us never get such a degree of smug complacency that we're not willing to extend, or attempt to extend, to our less fortunate brothers that help which has been so beneficial to us.

Thank you very much.

Dr. Bob

*From Dr. Bob's (Winton) farewell address, July 1, 1956 at the Pine Park Intergroup, A.A. Intergroup, and Friends' Dinner.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS



AREA 44 AND NNJ INTERGROUP PRESENTS A JOINT COMMITTEE WORKSHOP WITH PI, CPC AND TREATMENT

**SAT. APRIL 20, 2024
9 A.M. - 3 P.M.
AREA 44 OFFICE
2325 PLAINFIELD AVE #2J
SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NJ**

JOIN US 

ALL AA MEMBERS WELCOME!

SAVE THE DATE
Area 44 GRAPEVINE COMMITTEE
INVITES YOU TO:

GRAPEFEST

A celebration of AA Grapevine & La Viña

Food, Fellowship & Fun!

Come in person or on the zoom format

Guest Speakers TBA

Also GVRs & LVRs sharing with door prizes

SATURDAY MAY 4th, 2024
10AM - 12PM
At the Area Office:
2325 Plainfield Ave. South Plainfield - 2nd Fl.
Parking and Entrance is at the back of the building.
Contact:
sm-gv-liaison@njarea44.org

NNJAA MINI-CONFERENCE TOPICS

2024 MINI-CONFERENCE TOPICS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

TOPIC I - COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

- A. Should we develop a pamphlet on the unhoused alcoholic in A.A.?

(Final Conference Agenda Item II-E)

TOPIC II - CORRECTIONS

- A. Should we develop a pamphlet on the transgender alcoholic in A.A.?

(Final Conference Agenda Items III-D)

TOPIC III - GRAPEVINE/LA VIÑA

- A. Is it effective or sustainable to continue printing LaViña?

(Final Conference Agenda Items V-C)

TOPIC IV - GRAPEVINE/LA VIÑA

- A. Should we develop a pamphlet on the Asian and Asian-American alcoholic in A.A.?

(Final Conference Agenda Items V-E)

TOPIC IV - INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS/REGIONAL FORUMS

- A. Consider options for closing the Big Meeting at the International Convention

(Final Conference Agenda Item XIII-D)

TOPIC 1: COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY (CPC)

(Final Conference Agenda Item II-E)

Should we develop a pamphlet on the unhoused alcoholic in A.A.?

BACKGROUND

Area 40, Montana, has proposed an agenda item to develop a pamphlet on AA and the Unhoused Person that specifically addresses alcoholism, what AA is and is not, and includes personal stories from AA members who have experienced homelessness. This agenda item was brought to the Area 40 assembly and passed with substantial unanimity.

By developing this pamphlet, Area 40 believes that it addresses a growing population with relatively high rates of alcoholism, reaches out the hand of AA to an underserved remote community, creates a resource for professionals working with this population, creates a tool for sponsorship for those working with unhoused individuals, and creates a space for formerly unhoused AA members to share their experience, strength, and hope.

While many pamphlets have targeted specific groups—for example, newcomers, Black and African American, Hispanic Women, LGBTQ and Young People —there is no pamphlet specifically written for the unhoused alcoholic. The only thing close to this type of pamphlet was from a 1957 recommendation which stated “Consideration be given to the possibility of developing material for a pamphlet to include case histories for the skid row alcoholic, a pamphlet that might be available in jails.” In 1958 at the GSC, it was expressed that “There is no need for a pamphlet to include case histories for the skid row alcoholic, which would be available in jails, at this time.”

In some of the background data provided by Area 40, “Homelessness is a broad term to describe someone who doesn’t have a permanent residence. While homelessness is often associated with living on the street, that is not always the case.

Homeless individuals may live in an emergency shelter, transitional housing, or a car. Alternatively, they may bounce around from place to place, staying with people they know. By definition, anyone who does not have 'a regular, adequate, and stable night-time residence' can be considered homeless. According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, in 2020, more than 500,000 people in the U.S. were considered homeless on a nightly basis.

Some additional facts and statistics about homeless people and addiction:

- Approximately 38% of all homeless people abuse alcohol
- Close to two-thirds of homeless veterans suffer from alcohol or drug abuse

Demographics most affected by homelessness and alcohol abuse are veterans, teenagers/young adults, women, and LGBTQ community.”

The hope is if this recommendation is approved a pamphlet will be developed for Alcoholics Anonymous and the Unhoused. This pamphlet can be used in both inward and outward facing capacities. Members from the AA Fellowship will have the opportunity to share their experience, strength, and hope with being homeless or unhoused as content for the pamphlet.

PROS

- The pamphlet will allow people from the unhoused population to see themselves in and on the front of some of our literature and know that they have a place in AA.
- Professionals will also be able to use this pamphlet as a resource specifically for the unhoused and homeless.
- The pamphlet could help the homeless with any barriers to sobriety.

CONS

- There are enough pamphlets already targeting the demographics that are cited in the recommendation.
- With GSO looking to cut costs, is it the right time to develop a new pamphlet along with the printing costs that will occur?

What does your home group think?

TOPIC II – CORRECTIONS*

(Final Conference Agenda Items III-D)

*This Literature item was added to the Corrections Committee agenda per the Equitable Distribution of Workload (EDW) plan

Should we develop a pamphlet on the transgender alcoholic in AA?

BACKGROUND

Alcoholics Anonymous has always tried to fulfill its responsibility to reach all alcoholics who need us. As stated in the Preface to the Fourth Edition, “All changes made over the years in the Big Book have

had the same purpose: to represent the current membership more accurately and thereby to reach more alcoholics.” This agenda item is in keeping with the spirit of this Big Book statement—should we produce a new pamphlet specifically geared for the transgender alcoholic.

Some recent history.

In 2015, at the 65th General Service Conference, the Conference Literature Committee recommended that “The trustees’ Literature Committee update the pamphlet “A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic” to include a wider range of AA recovery experience from members who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and gender nonconforming...” Approved by the full Conference as an Advisory Action, a call for stories was sent to the Fellowship. With an expressed need and response so overwhelming, in 2018, the pamphlet “Experience, Strength and Hope: LGBTQ Alcoholics in A.A.” (P-32) was published and distributed to our Fellowship.

Should we develop a pamphlet on the transgender alcoholic in AA?

The proposed agenda item (PAI) states, “Gender identity is different from sexuality, and the unique barriers of transgender, non-binary, genderqueer, gender-fluid, and gender non-conforming could be better addressed in a separate pamphlet.” In other words, being transgender is different than being gay or lesbian.

- In 2018, the Queer Femmes group from Oakland, California and their local District passed this motion with substantial unanimity.
- They were advised to wait for the forthcoming LGBTQ pamphlet to be published before moving this forward. After reviewing this new LGBTQ pamphlet, district members believed there still was a need for a separate pamphlet.
- In 2019, the motion was presented at California Northern Coastal Area 06 Pre-Conference Assembly. “A.A. has already acknowledged and registered this material need, and begun to address it. The recent pamphlet ‘Experience, Strength and Hope: LGBTQ Alcoholics in A.A.’ contains moving and inspiring stories from trans alcoholics in recovery”. Nevertheless, they felt a separate pamphlet necessary, citing unique and particular barriers that trans people face when trying to access recovery.
- This issue was then discussed at four separate assemblies over two years. In April 2021, the motion passed with substantial unanimity (166-5), and the Delegate submitted a PAI—the Trustees Literature committee reviewed but took no action.
- The proposal was submitted again in 2022 with the same result.
- During a 2023 Assembly, Area 06 again discussed the need for this pamphlet and voted with substantial unanimity to submit a PAI—and it was added to the 74th GSC agenda.

A closer look at the pamphlet, LGBTQ Alcoholics in A.A.

“Thirteen LGBTQ alcoholics chronicle their experience before and after joining Alcoholics Anonymous...stories by recovering alcoholics who self-identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and transitioning, and queer”. Three of the 13 stories are from transgender alcoholics who found sobriety in AA.

From Sammy (page 19) “When I first came to Alcoholics Anonymous, I knew I was transgender...I never felt like I belonged in the LGBTQ community, and for the longest time I wasn’t sure I belonged in AA...”

We need to consider whether the three stories from transgender alcoholics contained in this pamphlet are adequate.

A growing community.

The Area 06 2019 presentation cites 1.5 million trans people in the U.S. alone with extremely high rates

of alcohol addiction—and this community is proportionately underrepresented among our Fellowship. Recent studies are supportive:

- 2022: UCLA Williams Institute—more than 1.6 million people in U.S. identify as transgender
- 2022: Pew Research Center—5% of young adults in the U.S. say their gender is different from their assigned sex at birth
- 2021: Journal of American Medicine—transgender people had more than three times the alcohol abuse than cisgender adults

Conclusion

In final comments, Area 06 emphasized that they were resubmitting this item because the need for the pamphlet continues, stressing sexual orientation and gender identity are not the same thing. Their multi-year discussion at the Area level resulted in an informed conscience concluding that “an ever-growing and strongly expressed need warrants the creation of a separate pamphlet. Pamphlets are inexpensive to produce, serve as invitations to welcome new and potential members, and help educate their sponsors and others.”

PROS

- This is a growing community of people with unique issues that can benefit from a separate pamphlet.
- While the LGBTQ pamphlet includes stories from transgender alcoholics, it doesn’t go far enough to address the needs of trans alcoholic members and potential members.
- The transgender population continues to grow, has an extremely high rate of alcoholism, and is underrepresented in AA—a dedicated pamphlet may help trans alcoholics believe AA is for them too.
- Yes, we need it, gender identity is different than sexual orientation and should be treated as such.

CONS

- The LGBTQ pamphlet was just produced in 2018; let’s devote our resources elsewhere.
- There are already three stories from transgender AA members in our current pamphlet.
- We already have too many pamphlets in AA.

What does your home group think?

TOPIC III - GRAPEVINE/LA VIÑA

(Final Conference Agenda Item V-C)

Is it effective or sustainable to continue printing La Viña?

BACKGROUND

In 1995, based on an expressed need, the General Service Conference passed an Advisory Action to print a bi-monthly Spanish edition of the Grapevine. This was done on a 5-year experimental basis to determine whether such an endeavor was feasible. In 1999 and 2000, the Grapevine Conference committee stated the following:

“Being mindful of the demonstrated effectiveness of La Viña and the strong support expressed by the Hispanic community and considering its spiritual benefits as a Twelfth Step tool, the committee wishes to express strong support for its continued publication.”

Due to the "strong support" and "spiritual benefits," the Conference voted in 2001 to have the AA Grapevine Inc. publish *La Viña* bi-monthly and to provide support for this magazine as a service to the Fellowship. This permanently established *La Viña* but provided a different mechanism for its funding. The Grapevine is funded through subscriptions and the sale of other items like books while *La Viña* is funded as a service with an objective of being self-supporting but with no mandate to do so. In 2012, the format of *La Viña* was changed to bring it into spiritual parity with the Grapevine with *La Viña* being perfectly bound (with the staple removed so that they could be brought into prisons), with 68-pages in black-and-white. In 2018, color was introduced to once again be on par with the Grapevine. In 2020, the Conference recognized the importance of spiritual parity between the Grapevine and *La Viña* and renamed the Conference Grapevine Committee to the Grapevine & *La Viña* Conference Committee. Over the past 12 years, there have been several additional considerations from the Grapevine Conference Committee to stress the importance of *La Viña* attempting to be self-supporting even though it is a service and concern over the funding of *La Viña* as a service to the Fellowship.

The questions that this agenda item seeks to answer are: is there still strong support for *La Viña* from the Hispanic community and do the spiritual benefits of publishing *La Viña* bi-monthly outweigh the cost to the Fellowship.

The Potential Agenda Item (PAI) is from a member and focuses on the financial aspects of publishing *La Viña*. This individual does not recommend that we discontinue publishing *La Viña* but suggests that it would be prudent in light of concerns over the Fellowship's finances to have the discussion of whether the Fellowship can continue to sustain the losses from publishing *La Viña*.

The background material also includes the financial information from the past 6 years of publishing *La Viña*. This information is interesting and enlightening and shows the effect that the Pandemic has had on the finances of *La Viña*. Prior to the Pandemic, *La Viña* was produced at a loss of between \$150,000 and \$250,000 which represents roughly between 1% and 1.5% of the overall AA budget. Due to the Pandemic, subscriptions fell by 37% and expenses skyrocketed leading to fairly large deficits of over \$636,000 in 2022 and nearly \$750,000 for 2023. The 2024 budgeted amount predict a significant drop in the deficit to about \$570,000, a reduction in costs and a 22% increase in subscriptions.

PROS

In his Foreword to the Service Manual on page 1, Bill W. writes:

Concerning any given service, we therefore pose but one question: "Is this service really needed?" If it is, then maintain it we must, or fail in our mission to those who need and seek AA.

With regard to the spiritual nature of *La Viña* and the support from the Hispanic community nothing has changed. Therefore, as Bill states, maintain *La Viña* we must!

As far as the financials are concerned, a quarter of a million dollars is a large deficit especially at a time when the Fellowship is receiving letters from our General Manager and the General Service Board talking about monetary issues and a large overall deficit. However, this is exactly what our reserve fund is for. During the Pandemic, we had two rather larger drawdowns from the reserve fund to deal with lower contributions and a loss of revenue from literature sales. The Fellowship has responded and has been contributing in record amounts. In addition, if the budget forecasts for *La Viña* are accurate, then the financial situation of *La Viña* will be greatly improved this year and, hopefully, as we move further away from the Pandemic, the situation will continue to improve.

Regardless, keeping in mind what Bill W. said, about a service, it would seem that the spiritual nature and the experience, strength and hope shared on the pages of La Viña would outweigh the financial considerations.

CONS

The deficits for publishing La Viña over the past two years were quite significant. As opposed to pre-Pandemic times, a deficit of \$750,000 represents almost 4% of the overall AA Service budget. This comes at a time when AA as a whole is struggling financially as we have seen based on the letter from our General Manager and messages from the General Service Board from their talks at service assemblies and regional forums. While the 2024 budget projects that the financial situation for La Viña will improve, budgets have been known to be wrong. One can wonder whether the budget projections are accurate and sustainable. At this time, the Fellowship will not be able to ascertain the accuracy of these projections and if they are wrong, could lead to further drawdowns and erosion of our Reserve Fund.

While our Fellowship is a spiritual one, we have a business to run as described in Concept VI. The General Service Board has a fiduciary responsibility to the Fellowship to make decisions for the good of the Fellowship. Sometimes, these decisions like discontinuing publishing La Viña are difficult but necessary to make. Should La Viña cease publishing the General Service Board and the AA Grapevine would have to find more cost effective ways to provide the stories of Spanish alcoholics to the Fellowship.

What does your home group think?

TOPIC IV - GRAPEVINE/LA VIÑA (Final Conference Agenda Item V-E)

Should we develop a pamphlet on the Asian and Asian-American alcoholic in A.A.?

BACKGROUND

The Trustee's Literature Committee considered a request to develop a pamphlet for Asian and Asian-American alcoholics with stories of experience, strength and hope and agreed to forward to the 74th General Service Conference.

The Proposed Agenda Item (PAI) comes from Area 49 (Southeastern New York, SENY). The topic was discussed at their Area Assembly in 2023. It was seconded, there was a discussion, and then a vote. The Area supported this proposed agenda item with substantial unanimity (two-thirds vote) by a vote of 90 in favor of supporting with 2 opposed and no abstentions. The proposed agenda item is fully supported by an Area with substantial unanimity.

An Area 49 committee member who is an Asian in recovery wrote that the drinking culture is different for many Asian members in comparison to Western culture. Culturally, Asians don't believe that drinking alcohol is a problem; they have a mindset of having a sense of control. Their culture centers around the ideology of honor and shame. When one experiences a problem with drinking, it brings cultural shame to their family, and they are then shamed within their own society. Furthermore, he explains that during the COVID-19 Pandemic, some Asian-Americans experienced verbal and physical abuse on the streets, which deterred many from returning to AA and seeking help. It was also stated

that the Chinese translated Big Book only contains the first 164 pages of the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous, and there are no personal stories in the back. There is historically no record of any Asian representation in any of our Conference-approved literature nor the personal stories in any edition of the Big Book.

We have one primary purpose and that is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety. When that newcomer walks in the door, most of us know what to do. We greet them, hand them a cup of coffee, help them to a seat, and the magic begins to unfold once the conversation begins and we share our experience, strength, and hope. But, how well are we reaching the alcoholic that hasn't found their way to the door yet? The alcoholic who still suffers doesn't even know we are here yet. Is there more work that can be done to perhaps further and deepen our reach?

According to the 2022 Membership Survey conducted by the General Service Office, the Composition of Membership of Alcoholics Anonymous reveals that the majority of our membership are predominantly white members at 87.7%. The less represented populations include Asian at 1.2% (6% of the US population is Asian according to census.gov) and Pacific Islander or Hawaiian Native at 0.3%.

Currently, The General Service Conference has approved many pamphlets that help people identify their alcoholism and seek assistance in culturally relevant fashion. Pamphlets have been developed for members of the armed forces, those with mental health issues, older alcoholics, those with accessibility issues, persons in custody, LGBTQ+ alcoholics, teens, young people and women. In addition, the Conference has approved pamphlets directed towards those with spiritual concerns.

At this time, only three Conference-approved pamphlets deal with issues of race and ethnicity: AA for the Black and African American Alcoholic, Hispanic Women in AA, and AA for the Native North American. Omitted from this list is any pamphlet for Asian and Asian-American or Pacific Islander Alcoholics, the population with the least representation and composition of our membership. Pamphlets are often used as tools for committees such as Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) and Public Information (PI). This can be a useful asset not only to current and future Asian and Asian-American members to relate and identify, but also to bring awareness of Alcoholics Anonymous and to reach any organizations, hospitals, institutions and programs that focus on this population.

PROS

- This can help Asian and Asian-American alcoholics with the power of identification showing that others that come from similar backgrounds are able to get and stay sober in AA.
- Pamphlets are a useful tool to be given to treatment programs and medical organizations that focus on this population.
- Other pamphlets have already been created to help reach other alcoholics that are the least represented of our membership.
- Currently, there is no representation of Asian and Asian-Americans in any of our literature, including the personal stories in the Big Book. This pamphlet would historically be the first piece of literature to help reach this group.

CONS

- We already have many varieties of literature. Do we need to splinter ourselves more with special interests when the basic tenets of Alcoholics Anonymous caters to everyone?
- A pamphlet may not be the most effective tool to reach the Asian and Asian-American population. There may be better solutions to this problem, such as developing another form of literature or utilizing our digital and website assets.

- Can our resources be better allocated elsewhere to help carry out 12-Step work that would be more applicable to everyone.

What does your home group think?

TOPIC V - INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS/REGIONAL FORUMS

(Final Conference Agenda Item XIII-D)

A. Consider options for closing the Big Meeting at the International Convention

BACKGROUND

Over the years, there has been some concern by members that the use of the Lord's Prayer conflicts with our program's traditions, etc. that we are not allied with any sect, denomination, etc. in that the Prayer is viewed by many as a Christian prayer. One of the earliest addresses on the issue was a response Bill W. wrote to a concerned member in April 1959 defining the prayer's origins for being used in our meetings and wide spread use confirming "since this is the general consensus it seems only right that at least the Serenity Prayer and the Lord's Prayer be used in connection with our meetings." Accordingly, its wide use has continued over the years.

However, many members have also continued to question its use. In fact an agenda item regarding its use at the International Convention has been on the Conference agenda for the past few years, which culminated in a survey of the Fellowship on the issue being requested by the 2021 Conference Committee. The results were reviewed by the International Conventions and Regional Forums Trustee Committee prior to the 2023 Conference. The Trustee's Committee found that the results (summarized below) "did not reflect an overwhelming desire by the respondents to change the current practice (i.e., the chairs of the Big Meetings at the International Conventions have been invited to close with the Lord's Prayer, some closing with the Serenity Prayer and some closing with the Responsibility Statement."

When the Conference Committee on International Conventions and Regional Forums reviewed the report in Committee at the Conference in 2023, they determined in part "the consensus of the Committee was that we should keep with the current practice of closing the Big Meetings at the International Convention wherein the chair has the choice of closing the meeting with either the Lord's Prayer, the Serenity Prayer or the Responsibility Statement." Accordingly, no motion was brought to the Conference floor.

However, a floor action was brought forward stating, "The options for closing the Big Book Meeting at the International Convention be the Serenity Prayer or the Responsibility Statement." Because the Conference ran out of time for substantive discussion on the floor action, a motion passed to recommit this item to the Trustees' Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums. Hence the Trustees Committee has now returned the item for consideration to the Conference Committee.

Survey Summary Results

Q1. Would you prefer that we continue with the current practice of including the Lord’s Prayer as a choice?

English Respondents: 6,836
 Spanish Responses: 69

Response	English Responses		Spanish Responses	
	Percent	Count	Percent	Count
Yes	50.95%	3,483	43.08%	28
No	38.06%	2,602	55.38%	36
No Preference	10.99%	751	1.54%	1

Q2. Would you prefer that we continue with the current practice but substitute another option for the Lord’s Prayer?

English Respondents: 6,760
 Spanish Responses 69

Response	English Responses		Spanish Responses	
	Percent	Count	Percent	Count
Yes	39.16%	2,647	73.85%	48
No	47.63%	3,220	24.62%	16
No Preference	13.21%	893	1.54%	1

PROS

- For several coventions, the chairs of all 200+ meetings at the Convention have been invited to close in the manner of their choice, which has been The Lord’s Prayer, the Serenity Prayer, or a Moment of Silence. No major issues have occurred.
- As noted in the survey’s, there is no strong response to change the current practice.
- Leaving the choice up to the leader leaves it in the hands of the membership.
- Since we have AA members from different (or no) religious backgrounds, sticking to the common prayers (Serenity Prayer, Third Step Prayer and Seventh Step prayer) would be more inclusive.
- Removing the choice of the Lord’s Prayer would signal to the newcomer that we are not a religious program but rather a spiritual one.
- It is an International Convention; AA is open to all. The Lord’s Prayer may be foreign or offensive to the International Attendees.

CONS

- Removing the choice of the Lord’s Prayer would depart from one of our largest and most treasured customs.
- To many, it will signal a diminished importance of a hgher power in our program.
- Keeping the Lord’s Prayer in, the survey indicates that the wishes of half of our membership will be met. However, Bill has said decisions should be made by substantial unanimity to maintain unity.
- Since only 50% of the respondents want to keep the process unchanged, inclusion of the prayer will continue to be a large issue.
- Removing the prayer from the Convention could impact group meetings and raise more controversy.

What does your home group think?

INTERGROUP NEWS 'N NOTES & CASH FLOW



NORTHERN NEW JERSEY INTERGROUP March 2024 NEWS N NOTES



BOOKERS

The next Bookers is scheduled for Sunday
March 10, 2024

We will host **Bookers In-Person (5am -ish)** at Mother Seton Regional High, and the **Online Bookers (7am)**. **Flyers available on the website via the Calendar of Events.** 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

CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Our next meeting will be Saturday March 16 at 9:30am. Come to the area office that day and hear about our progress!! For more info, see their flyer in the handouts and visit the [CFC service page](#) or email cfc@nnjaa.org

COOPERATION with the PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

Our committee is active and welcoming new members! **Our monthly report is included in Delegates handouts.**

For more information, please email cpc@nnjaa.org.

HISTORY & ARCHIVES

WONDERFUL NEWS!

Our longtime archivist, John B. has been unanimously elected to the board of Stepping Stones! The full announcement is included in the Delegates handouts. We are always available to you at archives-chair@njarea44.org.

INTERGROUP OFFICE

NEW LITERATURE INVENTORY (AGAIN)

The office is now selling **large print Big Books!** They are soft cover and available for **\$12 per.**

AVAILABLE MEETING LOCATIONS

Occasionally pastors or administrators will call to let us know that they welcome A.A. meetings at

their establishment. We do our best to maintain a list of available locations. The most recent invitations come from the following cities:

- Newark
- Orange
- South Amboy
- South Plainfield

For a more complete list of cities or more information, please call the office, 908-687-8566.

IG SPEAKERS SERVICE AVAILABLE

Intergroup Speakers Committee will be represented at the next in-person Bookers on Sunday, March 10th! If you're interested in speaking on behalf of Intergroup, please email us at intergroup-speakers@nnjaa.org.

As of February 29, 2024, we show **1603 opened meetings** (Two more than last month) and **485 online meetings** (Two more than last month).

2023 MEETING BOOKS

We are selling Meeting Books at a healthy rate. The cost is \$9 per dozen. You can pick up the books at the office (cash or check only) or fill out an [order form](#) and send it along with your check or money order for home delivery.

GROUP INFORMATION UPDATES

One of our primary functions of Intergroup is to keep accurate records for Meetings, Groups, and 12th Step Contacts in northern New Jersey.

We rely on you for that information.

Here are **two ways to update your Group records** with us:

- Use the [Meeting Update form](#) for immediate changes, e.g., reopening, updating online meeting information, etc.

NEWS ‘N NOTES – MARCH 2024

- The [Intergroup Data Sheet](#) is necessary as the back up to the Meeting Update form *when those (or any) changes are permanent*. That includes:
 - ✓ **Changes in meeting location,**
 - ✓ **Updated Meeting ID/ Password,**
 - ✓ **New service contacts**
 - ✓ **Update in meeting day, time and/or format.**

IG SERVICE BELOW THE GROUP LEVEL

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

IG Office VOLUNTEERS ARE AMAZING!

We are so appreciative of the amazing volunteers who share their time with us each week. But we have room to appreciate a few more people!

We are most in need of support on Monday mornings! Catching up from weekend activity is easier with volunteers in the office.

We always anticipate adjustments to this schedule, so if you're interested, but don't see an opening that matches your availability, please give us a call! Monday-Friday 10am-6pm.at **908-687-8566**

Volunteer Schedule

- **Mon.** AM/PM – **Open / Open** /Lois
- **Tue.** AM/PM – Linda / Maureen / Abbey
- **Wed.** AM/PM – **Open** / Janet / **Open**
- **Thu.** AM/PM – Ed / Marge / **Open**
- **Fri.** AM/PM – Pete / **Open**

Shifts are roughly defined like this:
10a - 1p / 1p - 4p / 4p - 6p



INTERGROUP SPEAKERS

Intergroup Speakers Committee will be represented at the next in-person Bookers on Sunday, March 10th! If you're interested in speaking on behalf of Intergroup, please email us at intergroup-speakers@nnjaa.org.

NEWSLETTER – We are in the final stages of the Spring edition of *This Day*. It will be available on the NNJAA.ORG – Keep an eye out for the banner at the bottom of the website pages. This edition will include the mini-conference topics, which will be of importance to many home groups in the coming weeks!! We are always available for questions and content at newsletter@nnjaa.org.

NIGHTWATCH – Thank you to the Groups who step up and take the calls through the nights and weekends. Our next meeting is March 20th. The full flyer is in the Delegates handouts. Questions? Please contact us at: NightWatch@nnjaa.org.

PUBLIC INFORMATION – No update submitted. The committee meets monthly on the 2nd Tuesday at the Area office at 7:30 PM.

TREATMENT FACILITIES – No update submitted. The Committee meets on the 2nd Wednesday. To find out more, please email: treatment@nnjaa.org



NEW GROUPS / MEETINGS

Click the link for more information about the [New Groups/Meetings process](#). If you have additional questions, please call the office and speak to Mac about listing meetings on NNJAA.org.

NEW MEETINGS

Accepted into Intergroup, February 1, 2024

IN-PERSON

MONTCLAIR

SOS - Sober on Sunday

Sun-3:00 pm C-D

St. John's Episcopal Church
55 Montclair Avenue

NEW GROUPS / MEETINGS

continued

WALDWICK

The Full House Group

Tue-6:00 pm O-S-D

Tue-6:00 pm C-ST

Thu-6:00 pm O-S-D

Waldwick Community Alliance

7 Houston Ave

ONLINE ONLY

LAFAYETTE

Tuesday Women's Step

Tue-6:30pm C-ST(Women)

Check Online Meeting List for More Info

**FOR ALL COMMITTEE MEETINGS
INFORMATION, PLEASE CHECK THE
Committee Meetings Calendar**

AND...



THE INTERGROUP OFFICE STAFF
SENDS OUR SUPPORT TO THE MEMBER GROUPS
WHO LOST THEIR MEETING HOMES WITH
THE LOSS OF FRIENDSHIP HALL.

WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT YOU WILL FIND NEW
ACCOMMODATIONS IN SHORT ORDER.

MAC, MARIA, RHEA ANNE AND SEAN

NORTHERN NEW JERSEY INTERGROUP, INC.
Statement of Cash Flow
December 2023

Beginning Cash Balance Operating Account	\$ 21,548.51	
REVENUE		
Group Donations	\$ 8,662.42	67
Group Donation - PayPal	\$ 3,383.00	24
Literature Sales - AAWS Books	\$ 592.00	
Literature Sales - Meeting Book	\$ 1,045.00	

\$ 13,682.42

DISBURSEMENT		
Postage Meter Rental	\$ 79.00	
Answering Service	\$ 462.00	
Telephone	\$ 214.71	
Internet	\$ 348.02	
Office Expenses	\$ 311.53	
Wages	\$ 5,982.05	
Payroll Taxes	\$ 1,729.64	
Payroll Processing	\$ 261.06	
Health Insurance	\$ 120.50	
Rent	\$ 1,902.00	
Paypal Fees	\$ 79.13	

H&A Rent (1/2)	\$ 386.00	
Bookers	\$ 150.00	
Polish CF Rent Nov.	\$ 500.00	
Polish CF Rent Dec.	\$ 500.00	
Returned Check	\$ 160.00	
Returned Check Fee	\$ 12.00	
Bank Charge	\$ 1.50	

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$ 13,199.14

CHANGE IN CASH \$ 483.28

Ending Cash Balance **\$ 22,031.79**

Prudent Reserve Calculation	
Operating Expenses 20	\$ 161,571.00
Operating Expenses 21	\$ 154,924.00
Operating Expenses 22	\$ 174,942.00
Avg. 3 years	\$ 163,812.00
Target Prudent Reserve	
6 months (1/2)	\$ 81,906.00

Prudent Reserve	
Money Market	\$ 85,724.42
	\$ 85,724.42

TOTAL	\$ 107,756.21
(Checking, MM, CD's)	

<u>Groups via Check</u>	<u>Contribution</u>
Anonymous	\$ 20.00
Asbury Park Gay Men in Recovery	\$ 25.00
Belleville Group	\$ 10.00
Belleville Group	\$ 10.00
Belmar Meter Beaters	\$ 50.00
Bound Brook God is Good Tuesday	\$ 25.00
Bridgewater Step	\$ 75.00
Chatham Women A New Pair of Glasses	\$ 197.00
Dover Group	\$ 200.00
Eatontown 24 Hour a Day Eatontown Library	\$ 300.00
Englewood Noon	\$ 1,000.00

<u>Groups via PayPal</u>	<u>Contribution</u>
Anonymous	\$ 100.00
Anonymous	\$ 20.00
Anonymous	\$ 20.00
Anonymous	\$ 10.00
Anonymous	\$ 31.00
Beachwood Serenity Sisters Daily Reflections	\$ 25.00
Bloomfield Essex County Young People	\$ 214.75
Brick Fresh Start	\$ 100.00
Fords Enrichment Group	\$ 80.00
Highland Lakes Breakneck	\$ 50.00
Maplewood Women Living in the Solution	\$ 480.00

NORTHERN NEW JERSEY INTERGROUP, INC.**Statement of Cash Flow****December 2023**

Freehold Monday Night Women's	\$	100.00	Montclair Friday Night Light A Beginner's Meeting	\$	100.00
Freehold Nomads of Sobriety	\$	50.00	Montclair Morning Meditation and Nightly Discussion	\$	763.25
Green Pond Sunday Night	\$	25.00	Montclair Sixty Minutes	\$	50.00
Harrison Group	\$	100.00	Old Bridge Pathways to Sobriety	\$	150.00
Hightstown Early Birds	\$	19.80	Point Pleasant Safe Harbor	\$	50.00
Iselin Wednesday Night	\$	50.00	Pompton Plains Daily Reprieve	\$	345.00
Jersey City Primary Purpose	\$	132.67	Red Bank Wednesday Night Men's AA Step	\$	25.00
Kendall Park Thursday Night	\$	300.00	Saddle River 3 and 11 Steps to Hope	\$	100.00
Lambertville Eye Openers	\$	57.50	Skillman Rocky Hill Luncheon	\$	50.00
Livingston Monday Men's Step	\$	50.00	Toms River Came to Believe Wednesday	\$	45.00
Mahwah Friends of Bill W.	\$	75.00	Union City Early Risers	\$	433.00
Manasquan Break of Dawn	\$	245.00	Westfield Age of Miracles	\$	91.00
Marlboro Englishtown Group	\$	40.00	Westfield Group	\$	50.00
Martinsville Sunrise Sunset	\$	237.96			
Matawan Saturday Morning Live	\$	60.00			
Metuchen Men's 12 and 12	\$	100.00			
Millington New Horizons Stirling Survivors	\$	350.00			
Montclair Carry the Message	\$	100.00			
Montclair Mindful Meditation	\$	205.00			
Montclair Wednesday Night Big Book Gay	\$	75.00			
Morristown Women's Discussion	\$	25.00			
Mountainside Group - Extra Replacement for bou	\$	3.00			
Mountainside Group - Replacement for bounced	\$	145.00			
Mountainside Group - Replacement for fee for bc	\$	12.00			
New Brunswick First Light	\$	150.00			
New Brunswick Upon Awakening	\$	151.55			
Newton Serenity Seekers	\$	25.00			
North Arlington Knights of the Round Table	\$	80.00			
Norwood Sunday Night Candlelight	\$	33.33			
Oldwick Homecoming	\$	130.61			
Parsippany Pay-Troy	\$	100.00			
Plainfield Step by Step	\$	25.00			
Point Pleasant S.O.S. Sober on Saturdays	\$	300.00			
Pompton Plains Came to Believe	\$	20.00			
Ridgewood Finally Home	\$	1,050.00			
Ringwood Just Deal With It	\$	75.00			
Ringwood Monday Closed Discussion	\$	100.00			
River Edge Fellowship	\$	100.00			
River Edge Saturday Night	\$	75.00			
Saddle River Seven-A-Emers	\$	50.00			
South Orange Group	\$	250.00			
Stewartsville Bloomsbury Believers	\$	200.00			
Summit Pilgrim Group	\$	100.00			
Toms River In the Basement	\$	300.00			
Toms River New Light	\$	184.00			
Toms River Sunrise	\$	162.00			
Union Tuesday Men's Meeting	\$	50.00			
Vernon A Vision for Us	\$	30.00			
Vernon Monday Night Willing to Change	\$	58.00			
Waldwick Extravagant Promises	\$	100.00			
West Milford Reflections	\$	33.00			
West Orange Men's Firehouse Meeting	\$	75.00			

Groups via Check (Cont.)**Contribution**

Westwood Sunday Night	\$	25.00
Whiting Saturday Night Sober	\$	25.00
Woodbridge Big Book	\$	10.00
Wyckoff Group (online)	\$	125.00

NNJAA District Meeting List

District Meetings and Mailing Addresses

District 1/2

2nd Tuesday, 7:30 PM
Sunrise House (Cafeteria)
37 Sunset Inn Rd
Lafayette, NJ 07848

Mail: District 1/2
PO Box 293
Hamburg NJ 07419

District 3

3rd Friday, 7pm
West Milford Library 2nd Floor
1470 Union Valley Road
West Milford, NJ 07480
Zoom 843 476 41779 PW Grateful

Mail: Northern Cluster
PO Box 842
Hewitt NJ 07421

District 4/6

3rd Thursday, 7:30 PM
Upper-Ridgewood Community
Church
Hillcrest & Fairmount
Ridgewood, NJ
Zoom 856 1960 1457 PW service

Mail: District 4/6
P.O. Box 363
Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ 07423

District 5/7

4th Thursday, 7:30 PM
St. Mary's Church
Roger Troy Hall – School Building
Corner of High & Legion
Closter, NJ

Mail: District 5/7
P.O. Box 535
Westwood, NJ 07675

District 8

2nd Tuesday, 6:30 PM
Panther Valley Ecumenical Church
1490 Route 517
Allamuchy, NJ
Zoom 961 707 1174 PW Moongate

Mail: District 8 Area 44 AA
P.O. Box 680
Hackettstown, NJ 07840

District 9

3rd Tuesday, 7:30 PM
United Methodist Church
Route 183
Netcong, NJ
Zoom ID 847 2005 7518 PW 121212

Mail: District 9
P.O. Box 286
Stanhope, NJ 07874

District 10

2nd Tuesday, 7:00 PM
First Presbyterian Church
513 Birch St
Boonton, NJ 07005
Zoom ID 309 396 7491 PW 747067

Mail: District 10
P.O. Box 17
Pompton Plains, NJ 07444

District 11/33

4th Wednesday, 7:00 PM
Clifton Main Public Library
292 Piaget Avenue, Room A
Clifton, NJ
Zoom 829 3812 5348 PW 769422

Mail: District 11/33 Area 44
P.O. Box 2109
Clifton, NJ 07015

District 12

2nd Tuesday, 7:00 PM
St. Francis of Assisi Parish
(Basement Parish Life Center)
114 Mount Vernon Street
Ridgefield Park, NJ 07660

Mail: District 12 of NJ Area 44
P.O. Box 1238
Hackensack, NJ 07601
district12area44@gmail.com

District 13

2nd Tuesday, 7:30 PM
Wesley United Methodist Church
225 Washington Ave.
Belleville N.J.
Zoom 848 8614 3348 PW district

Mail: District 13/Area 44
P.O. Box 221
Kearny, NJ 07032

District 14

2nd Thursday, 7:00 PM
Barrow Mansion
Upstairs Meeting Room
83 Wayne Street
Jersey City, NJ

Mail: District 14
P.O. Box 13199
Jersey City, NJ 07302

District 15/21

3rd Monday 7:30 PM
Zoom ID 899 7518 9464 PW 278602

Mail: District 15
P.O. Box 206
Baptistown, NJ 08803

District 16

3rd Monday, 7:00 PM
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
160 Ridgedale Ave
Florham Park NJ 07932

Mail: District 16 / Area 44
PO Box 544
Florham Park, NJ 07932-9998

District 17

3rd Friday, 8:00 PM
Alanon Assoc.
7th Avenue and 7th Street
Newark, NJ

Mail: District 17
P. O. Box 7270
Newark, NJ 07107-7270

District 18

2nd Monday, 7:30 PM
Faith Lutheran Church
Library
524 South St.
New Providence NJ 07974
Zoom 83128812003 PW D18730pm

Mail: District 18
P.O. BOX 235
Liberty Corner, NJ 0793

District 19

Last Monday, 7:30 PM
Friendship Hall
New Market Road
Piscataway, NJ

Mail: District 19
PO Box 8366
Piscataway NJ 08855-8366

Meet Some of Us!



This new column was inspired by the statement in “A Vision for You” that states “you will surely meet some of us as you trudge the road of Happy Destiny.” It will feature conversations with various AA members about some of their experiences and thoughts. It’s another way to get to know folks in our Fellowship a little better.

Conversation with Rocco S by Atul D

There were a few things that finally made Rocco make the decision on 8/6/2022 to do something seriously about his drinking. There was a night—like others before it—where he started drinking with the intention of controlling his drinking. As the evening went on, he lost control of his drinking once again, and it ended up in the same place — blackout. He tried to control it for many years with the same result again and again and again. This time he also thought about the fact that his behavior might mean he would never see his wife and daughter again. Rocco realized that his efforts to moderate or stop on his own were not working.

During the first three to six months of recovery, the focus was just on staying sober—keeping it the number one priority. He kept telling himself that. His head was spinning with all kinds of thoughts, anxiety, fears. However, going to 90 meetings in 90 days helped a lot. He made it a point to be active in meetings. Going up to people, introducing himself, offering to help with meeting-related tasks kept him busy. Rocco soon got to know people and started to feel comfortable. He would make sure to ask people how they were doing and reach out and say hello to newcomers. On days he could not make in-person meetings, he made it a point to go to a virtual meeting. After 90 days, he signed up to lead meetings, go on speaking commitments and stay connected. Looking back, he thinks the emphasis on connecting with other alcoholics and staying in regular touch was a big help.

He feels his sobriety is strongly dependent on a few actions and attitudes he continues to emphasize and recommends these to newcomers. First, Rocco gave up trying to get sober his way. He was open to suggestions from those who had been successful in recovery, especially old timers. Second, he focused on the fact that alcoholism is a disease. This helps Rocco with not trying to deal with his alcoholism on his own, and he suggests others try it as well. Finally, he tried and built a bridge with a Higher Power as best as possible. He builds a relationship with his Higher Power by starting the day with a prayer, asking for the strength to stay sober. At night, he says thank you to his Higher Power for helping keep him sober that day. It is a start to a connection with a Higher Power.

There are definite ways Rocco feels his life has improved in sobriety. First, he is no longer looking over his shoulder, worried about what past behavior might catch up with him. Second, there is a definite joy in knowing that he is doing the right thing most of the time. This gives him serenity and peace of mind. Finally, he feels that he is now able to live in the present and enjoy it—not worry about the past or fear the future. He is very grateful for his sobriety!

From our Northern New Jersey AA 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



Experience, Strength and Hope and Prejudice

Good morning. I haven't had a drink since 1985, and I'm grateful to Alcoholics Anonymous and my Higher Power for making that happen.

I came to AA because I had tried stopping drinking, and I couldn't stay stopped. (Spoiler alert: I had kept thinking.) I was 29 ½ years old. I look back and see my Higher Power walking me gently into AA. She gave me the inspiration, information (find the phone number in the front of the phone book, and they will tell you where to find the next beginner meeting), and mysterious power so few people understand that I needed in order to develop the willingness to accept the AA way of life.

This morning I was looking for a topic for this article and found my current favorite there in our book *As Bill Sees It*, (formerly *The AA Way of Life*). Entry 328, "A New-Found Providence" talks about the support that I needed from AA when I came in: not arousing prejudice about spiritual terms. They told me to read the Big Book, so I read the whole thing. It aroused in me antipathy, because the language was both spiritual and Christian. I was not Christian, although I was definitely spiritual in my approach to the Spirit of the Universe. I had a strong relationship with my Higher Power and didn't want to be talked to in Christian terms. At the time, I was one of the many people who want to rewrite the Big Book to suit their point of view.

Luckily, I lived in a town where there was at least one AA meeting every day. So, I started my journey in AA: I made 90 meetings in 90 days.

Entry 328 quotes the Big Book, page 93: "There is no use arousing any prejudice he may have against certain theological terms and conceptions... Don't raise such issues no matter what your own convictions are." Religion is an outside issue, as discussed in our Tradition 10 "Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the AA name ought never be drawn into public controversy."

The 12 & 12, pages 176-177, states: "So long as we don't argue these matters privately, it's a cinch we never shall publicly. We do not enter into public controversy because we know that our Society will perish if it does." These parts of AA made me feel welcome at a time of social upheaval. And when isn't there a time of social upheaval?

I don't have to rewrite the Big Book anymore. It's a treasure described in the foreword to the first edition.

I live and love AA because it saves lives. It saved my life when I didn't know that I was in danger of dying from alcoholism. My doctor had told me that if I drank while taking the psychiatric medicines she had prescribed, I could have a heart attack. I kept thinking, so it took two more months for me to stay stopped. It took outside help for me to get to the rooms of AA. It took the Fellowship to get me to read AA literature. It took some crazy group chairman telling me (and 50 other attendees at my sponsor's

meeting home group) every week, “I love you, I love you, I love you.”

I’m grateful to my Higher Power for guiding me gently to AA, and I’m grateful to AA for accepting my Higher Power. Thank you for letting me share. I pass.

Kathy
Bridgewater, NJ

My Skewed Perspective Asking for What I Need: A Study in Self-Absorption

As sobriety rolls along, I am starting to dig deeper into my causes and conditions. One of the items that has popped up for me is that there is too much of “me” in many situations. Asking for what I need is one of those.



I must let go of the notion that I cannot ask for what I need, because I create problems with my jealousy and comparing instead of just stating what is going on with me. That hesitation is internal; it does not come from anyone else. “I’m not worthy or important,” I tell myself, but is it about wanting to be the center of attention? I hide in the corner, hoping to be noticed and singled out. I am creating a problem – or at least most of it – based on my ego, fear, and self-worth issues. My perception is off.

I need to let go of what others think of me (there’s the “me” again) and ask for what I need. It’s so simple, and yet I complicate it. When I don’t let go, I often create problems that don’t exist, especially when it comes to jealousy and comparisons. I need to stop worrying about proving myself, especially now that I am semi-retired, and focus on what I am doing.

That means staying in today. I have been receiving that message from several different sources lately. I have fears and problems with reality – at least partially – because my mind is often elsewhere, and not where my feet are. When I do that, I am like the actor in the Big Book who wants to be the director: writing scenarios, deciding how people should act, worrying about what will happen. The world according to Marybeth. My mind starts chattering, so OF COURSE I have trouble with reality. I focus on my discontent, which leads to hurt feelings, embarrassment, and self-centeredness.

Selfishness, self-centeredness. That’s what I see and can recognize today. I can ask my Higher Power to remove them because I cannot on my own. And then I need to let go. After that, I will be free to ask for what I need, and my Higher Power will be with me.

Marybeth H.
Early Risers, Rumson
District 26

The Pink Cloud

My AA friend and I travel a lot. We enjoy meetings in new environments and have met some colorful characters and enjoyed different local traditions.

In New Orleans there used to be a Sunday morning meeting between the Warehouse District and Garden District above a coffee shop named Mo Jo's. You can find it on top of a coffee shop named Mo Jo's. We knew we were in the right place when we saw a bunch of people casually standing by the door and sitting at bistro tables drinking coffee, some smoking, and talking and laughing at 8:15 on a Sunday morning (very annoying to anyone with a hangover!). We were led through Mo Jo's (after we got our coffee) to a small back door. When the door opened, there was no doubt that we were in New Orleans. We walked down a long, narrow alleyway with two stories of brick apartments on both sides. Wrought iron flower boxes decorated the windows. Small wrought iron chairs and tables were scattered on the stone walkway. Broken clay pots were among beautiful tall flowering plants that finally opened to a small courtyard. On the wall there was a sign pointing to rickety stairs with an arrow and another small sign: "AA meeting upstairs." Climbing up to the second floor on these old stairs we were pleasantly surprised to find a small club house setting.

We made our way to two empty chairs in an otherwise full room. Anyone coming in after us actually sat on the floor or found room on the windowsill. Looking out the window, the view was typical New Orleans: two story brick apartment buildings, small wrought iron balconies and wrought iron flower boxes.

Opening the meeting, the leader in a Louisiana Cajun accent chair asked for volunteers to read "What is AA" and "The Twelve Steps." When the chair asked who was visiting from out of town, a show of hands from San Francisco, Florida and, of course, New Jersey were raised. As newcomers to the meeting, my friend and I received a pink welcome chip. It read "Pass it On" on one side and "Pink Cloud" on the other.

I carried my chip in my wallet until my home group meeting in Bridgewater, NJ. We break up into two meetings: regular meeting in the front room and beginner's meeting in the rear room. That night, I joined the beginner's meeting and met an AA who was returning after a time "out there." After the meeting, I passed on the pink cloud chip and never gave it another thought.

Many months later, our group had a speaking commitment in Hunterdon. With a group of well-wishers after the meeting, a clear-eyed, happy young man identified himself to us. You see, I never saw that gentleman again after his first time at our Bridgewater meeting and didn't remember him. The young man held in his hand, you guessed it, the pink cloud chip. He was excited. It turned out HE couldn't remember where HE got it but was passing it on the next day to someone leaving the Freedom House! When he heard me speak that night, he connected the dots.

I hope that chip has a long, happy journey through our fellowship.

We still go back to New Orleans. A few weeks ago, we were there again. We raised our hands and identified ourselves as visiting. The leader said with a smile "no, this is your home away from home!" The beautiful part is that we felt it before he said it!

Jacquie D.

Creative Corner

‘Where Does Our Higher Power Live?’ By Tony P.

Where does our higher power live?
Does he float through the air
And circle the globe like
A fast racer?
Or does he fuel the gaseous heat of the sun?
Or creates the bright smile on the moon’s face?
Or does he live in the dark,
Deep forest, hidden in the dark green leaves?
Or does he swim like an Olympic swimmer,
Skimming the frothy waves,
The way one waves through
A dish of cold, chilled ice cream?
Possibly, he exists in the Northern lakes of England,
Or among the ruins of Tintern Abbey?
Maybe, he is the mysterious smile on the Mona Lisa’s face?
Or on Michelangelo’s naked figures of the Sistine Chapel?
Or the Duomo of Florence?
Yet he might be found in the Church of the Nativity,
Kashi, Kaaba, Mecca. And Masjd al-Haram simultaneously?
Also, he might live within the black ink of the Old and New Testaments,
Wasteland and The Great Gatsby?
Or is he living in the magic of technology,
Filming and streaming our fantasy lives like a newly made
Action film, making us the hero
Of the action?
Or maybe, he does he not exist at all, except
In the hearts of humans
Who choose to search for him,
giving him life.

Many thanks to ALL of our writers for *This Day's* Spring 2024 edition! We could not do this without you!!! Your words are beautiful and truly inspiring.
 Megan D., *This Day* Editor



NNJAA CALENDAR

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

1. Log on to 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? NNJAA could use your help!
 Check out our NNJAA Committee Virtual Meeting List on page 11!



Member area
 userid: alcoholic
 password: onedayatime

www.nnjaa.org

Try it on your
 Smartphone



Topics for the Summer 2024 Edition:

For this edition, please free-write: articles can be on any topic of your choosing related to alcoholism and Alcoholics Anonymous.

Next Edition Deadline:
 May 15, 2024

Send your articles of 800 words or fewer *in a Word doc* to: newsletter-chair@njarea44.org

Please send images as attachments!

Statement Of Purpose:

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

Editorial Policy:

Articles submitted from the Fellowship are encouraged, and should not exceed 800 words. The newsletter committee may edit submissions for grammar, readability, and content. Opinions expressed herein are not to be attributed to AA as a whole, nor does the publication of any article imply an endorsement by either AA General Services or Intergroup. Comments, questions, and articles may be mailed to the attention of the Newsletter Committee at NNJGS Area 44, Suite 2J, 2325 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield 07080, or emailed to: newsletter@nnjaa.org.