

# THIS DAY

www.nnjaa.org

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



## Celebrating 80 Years of Recovery, Unity, and Service: The Foundation for Our Future

It's hard to believe that my first General Service Conference has already come and gone. I have to say that it was beyond my expectations. The mission, the work, the spirit, the service and especially the people were all extraordinary. I feel humbled to report that the 65th General Service Conference achieved a true spirit of unity expressed through actions intended to deliver accessibility and inclusivity.

Crowne Plaza, Times Square: Saturday afternoon. I had arrived. I was a bundle of emotions. Not fearful exactly, and naturally I was excited, but I felt a bit tentative and a little nervous. Of course I found out later that I wasn't alone. Soon the Delegates' Only meetings began, and a good bit of that apprehension wore off as the people I met were so warm, generous and engaging; especially the 2nd year Delegates.

On Sunday the Conference formally opened and I started to warm up. Roll Call signified

the official start of the Conference. My name was called and I was visibly moved (translated that means openly crying). As each additional name was called this feeling intensified. J. Gary L., our Northeast Regional Trustee, delivered the Keynote Address, and it was one of the most insightful and touching talks about A.A. that I've heard (I'm going to include the address as part of our Post-Conference meetings. So to learn more about how we meet the challenges facing A.A. today and other great things that happened at our General Service Conference, I urge you to attend one of our upcoming Delegates' Post-Conference reports).

By Tuesday morning all Conference Committees were meeting for the second time and it was there, looking around the room at my fellow Literature Committee members, that I believed I was really becoming part of this thing.

On Wednesday the committee reports and recommendations came to the Conference floor. I went to the microphone for the first time to share on an issue I'm especially passionate about, and I felt like a full participant. For the next 2-1/2 days we discussed, debated and voted on so many important issues.

When the Conference came to a close on Friday evening, and again during Saturday morning's rotating Trustee farewell talks, I knew I had just been part of something very special, and perhaps had the most important spiritual experience of my life.

My transformation from apprehension to belonging happened so swiftly that I almost didn't notice. Not dissimilar to my experience of coming to A.A., meeting a sponsor, taking the steps, and having a spiritual awakening...although that spiritual experience took more than a week!

After our Area elections last October I thanked you for this opportunity, but I didn't even know what I was thanking you for. Now I know. With all my heart I want to express my gratitude for the opportunity you've given me to serve you as your Delegate. I want you to know that with you at the helm guiding me and the other members of the General Service Conference, we can rest assured that A.A. is in good hands.

With A.A. Love and Service,  
Jay E.

Your Delegate, Panel 65 Area 44 Northern NJ



## Lessons from the Traditions

A few weeks ago a friend of mine texted me. He was speaking at a meeting and no one was available to go with him. He asked if I could come for support. It turned out that I was available and could attend to support him and the other speaker. My friend and the other speaker, who just happened to be in the area for a picnic, both spoke about how our common welfare was so important to their sobriety as well as how that principle saved their lives on several occasions and helped one of their groups through a crisis.

I hadn't thought about Tradition 1 in a while. I was reminded that this selfish alcoholic has to also focus on my group to ensure that we are carrying the message. In my group, we do this by making sure that newcomers who arrive at our meeting on a Friday night are welcome, given a meeting book with phone numbers and know who is available to serve as a temporary sponsor. Our Group also sends speakers to other meetings to carry our message of recovery to them and has incoming speakers so that we can hear their message.

We also make sure that our Home group has a GSR that attends the District meeting and Assemblies and is the voice of our Group at these meetings. We provide feedback on recent items like how our Group felt about fully funding the

Delegate to attend the General Service Conference. I wish there was a greater level of interest about these matters but there are many AA members who do not care about AA beyond their groups. They do not understand how these issues affect our common welfare and AA as a whole.

I then turned my thoughts to the other Traditions. We have 12 Steps for Recovery, 12 Traditions for Unity and 12 Concepts for Service. These legacies are guides for us. As I've progressed in my sobriety, I have come to realize that the phrase "practice these principles in all my affairs" for Step 12 covers all 36 of these principles.

In the early 40's as AA grew, our Fellowship experienced a number of growing pains. Earl T., an early, influential AA in Chicago, suggested to Bill W. that he codify the principles by which our Groups could follow a spiritual path. Our 12 Traditions were originally referred to as "Twelve Points to Assure Our Future". In fact, many organizations like the Washingtonians have disappeared because the way that members relate to one another was never identified and they strayed from their primary purpose. This will hopefully never happen in AA as we have Tradition 5 which reminds us that our primary purpose is to help the still suffering Alcoholic inside and outside the rooms.

Perhaps the most important Tradition for me is Tradition 2. I constantly need to be reminded that it is not important what I think because I would always want things done my way; a more spiritual path must be taken. Any business item in my Group is thoroughly discussed and a

group conscience is arrived at. This must happen at levels in our Fellowship: in my Home Group, at my District meetings, at the Area Committee level and at the level of the General Service Conference. To be truly spiritual, we must be able to listen to all viewpoints including those of the people who truly annoy us and then be able to accept the Group Conscience even when we vehemently disagree with what has been decided.

It's the other half of Tradition 2 that is equally important for me. I still remember my attitude and the hubris that I had when I was rotating in several years back as DCM. I was going to be the best DCM that my District had ever seen because I knew how to run a District the right way. It has taken a lot of hard work and numerous lessons in humility to realize that I need to keep my ego in check and that as a leader I am a trusted servant, I do not govern.

Jeff B.  
Area Chair

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**NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE AUG 21**  
**NEWSLETTER@NNJAA.ORG**



It is a privilege and honor to serve the fellowship. What an exciting first five months...my gratitude continues to grow as I see the spirituality of our 7th Tradition in action through the time and energy the Area's volunteers contribute and the generous contributions the fellowship's groups and members continue to make, enabling our Area to "Carry the Message." Without this loving generosity our message would not reach as many sick and suffering alcoholics. Thank you!

At this year's NERAASA Treasurers roundtable, as each attendee gave an overview of what is going on in her/his Area or District, the breadth and depth of what Area 44 and its many active committees continues to do was quite apparent. From the Literature inventory we can afford to have on hand and make available for sale to members at numerous meetings, to the amount of Literature and Grapevine materials we transfer to Corrections using JailBox contributions, to CPC outreach to a variety of professional constituencies, to Public Information's Adopt a Rack Program, to Remote Communities efforts to reach those not able to come to meetings, to just mention a few.... and there are many more examples I could cite, it is clear that our Area is most fortunate to have the resources and the willingness to help the sick and suffering alcoholic who is recovering and those seeking our help. Much of March was spent attending all eight Pre-Conference sessions and briefly sharing about the 7th Tradition, discussing the 12-Step work the Area continues to perform, and providing

information about overall Area contribution history. This was a fabulous experience. The turnout was outstanding as was the interest in our 7th Tradition. Somewhere close to 300 Treasurer's packets containing material about where Money and Spirituality mix were distributed along with handouts presenting how groups in Northern NJ donate to GSO, NNJ Intergroup and NNJGS-Area 44. By the end of every session, almost every packet was gone and handout taken.

As summer approaches, the Finance committee will begin its work collaborating with Special Committee Chairs, Standing Committee Chairs and Officers to develop a balanced budget for 2016 so the Area can continue its 12-Step work. Each member of the Finance committee will be assigned as a "Budget Buddy" to assist and support the efforts of specific committee chairpersons and officers as they plan and budget for next year. More information will be coming soon from Finance committee chair Jim H. Thank you for the time and thought that will be focused on this effort.

While our Area is very active, there are still numerous opportunities to volunteer and serve on one of the Area's Standing or Special Committees to "Carry the Message." Member participation is most welcome and encouraged. Any interested AA can look at our website [www.nnjaa.org](http://www.nnjaa.org) to view the Area calendar of committee meetings and the committee chair contact information.

Thank you all for what you have done in the past, what you are doing in the present and for your continuing support.

In Gratitude, Love and Service,

Mike S., Area 44 Treasurer

the future.

At the Mini-Conference in April the GSR orientation was very well attended. There was very little standing room left, and that was very encouraging.

At the present time we have held workshops in all the Sections but two. We are doing our best to get things started in those two Sections.

Anyone interested in participating in a Workshop or in joining the committee, please let us know. Keep in mind that if your District is interested in hosting a Workshop, just reach out and let us know.

Walter Benz (Workshop Chair)

### Balance Sheet

RUS SERVICE CORPORATION T/A NNJAA AREA 44						
YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON REPORT: 2014 AND 2015						
FOR PERIOD ENDING MARCH 31, 2015						
				2014 - Mar.	2015 - Mar.	
<b>MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT (A)</b>						
	Balance as of January 1st			\$59,391	\$79,266	
	Interest Received			\$14	\$15	
	Transfer (To) / From the Checking Account			\$0	\$10,000	
	Balance as of March 31st			\$59,405	\$89,281	(C)
<b>CHECKING ACCOUNT (A)</b>						
	Balance as of January 1st			\$43,493	\$49,104	
	Group, Individual and 7th Tradition Basket Contributions			\$20,808	\$19,569	
	Other Receipts (Intergroup, Literature & Grapevine Sales, etc.)			\$50,858	\$44,611	
	Budgeted Expenses (Standing & Special Committees, Officers, Office, etc.)			(\$29,420)	(\$22,018)	(B)
	Non Budgeted Expenses (Literature, Grapevine, Luncheon, etc.)			(\$62,988)	(\$50,444)	
	Transfer (To) / From the Money Market Account			\$0	(\$10,000)	
	Balance as of March 31st			\$22,751	\$30,822	(C), (D)
	Prior 12 Month Avg. Total Monthly Expenses Times Two. Finance Guidelines state the checking account balance should not exceed this amount.			\$39,577	\$32,487	
	Account Balance Over / (Under) Guideline			(\$16,826)	(\$1,665)	
<b>PRUDENT RESERVE FUNDS</b>						
	Designated Funds (Jailbos Funds, etc.)			\$82,156	\$120,103	
	Checking Account Guideline (2 Months average total expenses)			(\$39,577)	(\$32,487)	(D)
				\$36,913	\$76,843	
	Calculated Prudent Reserve (50% of Prior 12 months Budgeted Activity Expenses)			\$45,359	\$40,396	
	Account Balance Over / (Under) Guideline			(\$8,446)	\$36,447	
<b>FOOTNOTES</b>						
(A)	Details of all income and expense items, as well as a comparison of Operating Expenses to the Annual Expense Budget are available from the Treasurer.					
	2015 Expense Budget is \$109,833.					
(C)	March 31, 2015 Checking and Money Market Balances have been reconciled to the Bank Statements by the Finance Committee.					
(D)	March 31, 2015 amount includes Designated Funds of \$5,623.28 of Jailbox Contributions and \$5,149.48 of Int'l Hospitality Suite Contributions.					
<b>SUMMARY OF OFFICIAL APPROVALS / REVIEWS</b>						
	Individual / Group		Action		Completed	
	Treasurer		Approved		Through	
	Alternate Treasurer		Approved		Mar. 2015	
	Finance Committee		Approved		Mar. 2015	
	Officers		Reviewed		Mar. 2015	
	Area Committee Members		Approved		Mar. 2015	
	Area Assembly		Approved		Nov. 2014	
	Email Questions and Requests to: <a href="mailto:treasurer@nnjaa.org">treasurer@nnjaa.org</a>					

### Group Contributions 2015, 2014, 2013

Month / Year	2016	2015	2014	2013	2014 vs 2013	2014 % +/-	2015 vs 2013	2015 % +/-
January		\$8,176	\$7,929	\$8,304	\$247	3.1%	-\$375	-4.5%
February		\$5,107	\$5,590	\$7,633	(\$483)	(8.6%)	-\$2,043	-26.8%
March		\$4,841	\$7,109	\$5,444	(\$2,268)	(31.9%)	\$1,665	30.6%
April			\$7,831	\$4,497			\$3,334	74.1%
May			\$5,167	\$7,238	-\$5,167	-100.0%	-\$2,071	-28.6%
June			\$6,010	\$7,041	-\$6,010	-100.0%	-\$1,031	-14.6%
July			\$7,625	\$8,896	-\$7,625	-100.0%	-\$1,271	-14.3%
August			\$5,086	\$6,107	-\$5,086	-100.0%	-\$1,021	-16.7%
September			\$7,225	\$6,681	-\$7,225	-100.0%	\$544	8.1%
October			\$8,085	\$9,876	-\$8,085	-100.0%	-\$1,791	-18.1%
November			\$4,427	\$5,942	-\$4,427	-100.0%	-\$1,515	-25.5%
December			\$8,047	\$6,025	-\$8,047	-100.0%	\$2,022	33.6%
					YTD Comp			



Since the last publication the committee has put on three Section workshops. We had a Section 4 Workshop at the Area Office on the 21st of March. On the 28th of March a Section 3 Workshop, hosted by District 10, in Boonton, N.J. The third workshop was on the 25th of April, hosted by Districts 4/6, in Hohokus, N.J. All three workshops had just around 20 in attendance. A nice turnout, good enthusiasm, and good participation from all attendees. We also received some good suggestions from evaluation sheets, on how we might improve the workshops in



Bringing an AA Meeting to the Women in the County Jails

The only thing I can say about why I got involved with service in the jails is that it was on my mind, and I kept thinking about it. I have never been in jail, and I never personally knew anyone else who had been in jail prior to when I began this service.

Bringing an AA meeting to one of the county jails is indeed a very special experience. The women that attend an AA meeting in jail are truly a cross section of society, just like a regular AA meeting. Young, middle-aged and older, garden-variety alcoholics, dual-addicted, married, unmarried, some are parents and some were living with their parents prior to their time in jail.

The sadness, anger and sense of victimization is palpable in the room. Denial is also quite palpable at most of the jail meetings I've attended.

I try my best to keep my focus on 3 things:

1. conveying what my last days of drinking were like in terms of failing health, depression and hopelessness
2. sharing how drastically my life has changed so that my sense of hope and gratitude becomes a palpable energy in the room
3. express how deeply I believe one must ask God for help, and how considering the spiritual solution can be the most amazing turning point in life

Quite often the anger of the prisoner is directed at themselves "for being stupid, etc." This is the golden moment to remind the ladies about the disease nature of alcoholism - that it is not a moral issue. Hitting this cord frequently results in the tears starting to flow. I think that is a good sign. And then the other magic moment arrives . . . a little bit of laughter, and then more laughter. I believe that is where much of the healing and love of AA emerges - in the laughter. Its great to hear laughter in jail, specifically AA laughter that is ripe with understanding and compassion.

Frequently I'll mention how alcoholism will bring us to the "last house on the block". The "last house on the block" has 3 doors: 1 for mental institutions, 1 for jail and 1 for the cemetery. I'm surprised how many women in jail have never heard that expression despite the fact they say they went to meetings before their jail days. Perhaps they just don't remember. Going into a jail and simply saying out loud "You are worth recovering from alcoholism, you are worthy of all the love, understanding and peace of mind that is truly available", saying that out loud is liberating for me. It is liberating because it is true. Its wonderful to speak encouragement, love and hope to our fellow humans.

At the very beginning of my sobriety, AA was a safe place for me to have my feelings and share my confusion and pain. I also listened to people share hope, laughter, love and compassion. It is a privilege to do the same for others. It is invigorating and fills my spirit with gratitude and joy to be the person who can spread the message of recovery.

Susan T.



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

Alive Hopatcong  
Anonymus  
Atlantic Highlands by the book  
Attitude of Gratitude Sat 7pm  
BB Tue Knights of the Round Table  
N. Arlington  
Bevelle Thursday Night  
Belleville Thur Night  
Belmar Sat Night

Bergenfield Young at Heart  
Bunnvale Group  
Change is Good Discussion Group  
Clifton Mon Big Book  
Clifton Wed Night Step Meeting  
Daily Reflections  
District 3 Groups  
Drip Dry Group  
E.H. Early Riser  
E.H. Early Risers  
First Lite  
Florham Park 5:30 Group  
Friday Get With The Program  
Friday Night Candlelight  
Friday Noon Montclair Meeting

Gift of Sobriety Group  
Greenwich Hot Dog Meeting  
H.O.M.E.R Group  
Hamburg Mon/Wed Night  
Haskill Sunday Night  
Highland Park Monday Night  
Hill Street Blues  
Hill Street Blues  
Landmark Group  
Lebanon Township Group  
Linden Thurs Night  
Live and Let Live Jersey City  
Lyndhurst Sat Night  
Maplewood Group  
Matawan Smog Lifters Group  
Metuchen Sat Morning Serenity Group  
Middletown Clearview  
Millburn Sunday Big Book  
Milltown Strickly  
Milton Sunday/Thursday Group  
Mon - Wed Hamburg Meeting  
Monday 12:15 Closed Discussion  
Morning Miracles  
Morristown Friday Night  
Mount Fern

Mt. Arlington Group  
Mt. Fern Randolph  
N Brunswick Friday Night  
Neptune solution by the shore  
New Brunswick Friday Night  
New Brunswick Thur Night BB  
New Brunswick Friday Night  
New life hopatcong  
No Butts Group  
Nutley DOS  
Oakridge Friday Night  
On A Different Footing  
Pay out to treasure  
Pompton Plains Thursday Night Group  
Randolph Mt Fern  
Randolph Women's Group  
Recovery Hall  
Recovery Lifeline  
Rumson Sunday Night  
Sat morning spring lake  
Sat. Wantage BB  
Saturday Night Belmar 7 PM  
Saturday Vernon Reflection  
Serene Sister hopatcong  
Serenity Porch

Seven A. Embers  
Start the night right group (Union)  
Sunday Night Design for Living  
Sunday Nite Step  
Sundown to Sobriety  
The Sky's the Limit Group  
Three Legacies Group  
Tranquility Back To Basics Group  
Tues Womens Step Lafayette  
Tuesday Vernon Beginners  
Union Hill Drop In Center  
Upper Ridgewood  
Upper Ridgewood Women's Group  
Verona Tuesday Night  
Wake Up And Smell The Coffee Group  
Waldwick bagel bash  
Waldwick Bagel Bash  
Whiting there is a solution  
Tuesday Vernon Beginners  
Union Hill Drop In Center  
Upper Ridgewood Women's Group  
Verona Tuesday Night  
Waldwick Bagel Bash  
Wake Up And Smell The Coffee Group



Wow the year is moving so quickly! I'm excited to have gone to Forsgate Country Club to meet with the banquet coordinator and to begin the preplanning for our next GSR mid winter luncheon. It is scheduled for February 2016. The GSR's are a vital part of our body as they represent the home groups as a whole. Guess what? I'm nervous, excited and looking forward to being the Alternate Chair to our wonderful chairperson Deb G. I take suggestions today, especially from my sponsor Barbara B. R. who strongly suggested I face my fear of computers, emails and service work. So it was so profound when I read the Big Book and learned that faith and fear cannot coexist. There is no room for fear if I have faith! I'm so grateful to be in the fellowship of Alcohol Anonymous and to meet so many beautiful people who have become my new family members. The committee was able to secure Forsgate Country Club at the same price as last year's luncheon despite the roller coaster economy. The timing of last year's luncheon went very well with Marcheta B. as chairperson and it will run smoothly again this year. It has been very interesting to see how the ACM meetings are held and what transpires. All I can say is WHEW! So, the bottom line is, I'm looking forward to growing with all of you in service of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Truly Yours,



**Pam B.**  
We are so happy to be starting this year off with a bang. We attended NERAASA 2015, which the our Area hosted, and had a blast! We received such wonderful compliments from so many people on our Displays! Our Area is so rich in History and it was a pleasure to be able to share that with the rest of the Northeast Region. Plus our Displays are beautiful! If you have a chance and are going to Atlanta please make sure to visit Area 44's Hospitality Suite which will have all the goodies! The International Hospitality Suite Ad-hoc committee has some wonderful things planned. The Archives Committee has now started the Reel to Reel Conversion project. We have 110 known reel to reels that are deteriorating over time and because of the fellowships wonderful contributions and the acceptance of this years budget we are able to start converting those reels into a digital format so that we don't lose some history from deterioration. Thank you all for the opportunity to preserve New Jersey's History. We have several speakers from all over and look forward to hearing what message they have. This year at our Area 44 Convention we plan on playing some of these goodies in our Archives room so plan on stopping by! The committee has also started planning our presentation for the Convention this year!

We are traveling all over the Area in the next couple months, we will be at your Days of Sharing, Group events and movie nights so please come and see us, and ask us some questions!

Gratefully In Service,  
Eavan J. History and Archives Chair





As an Intergroup delegate and member of the Nightwatch committee, I'm always amazed and inspired by the level of commitment and enthusiasm demonstrated by everyone doing Nightwatch. The Intergroup office staff and our area coordinators do an amazing job working together and with their local AA groups to cover and support the weekly Nightwatch schedule. Their experience and commitment bring it all together each and every Friday night. But Nightwatch could not continue without the faithful support of every group and AA member who steps up to answer the call and share their time and experience as a phone volunteer or 12<sup>th</sup> step contact. It's a power much greater than the sum of all our individual efforts that makes Nightwatch the labor of love and service it has become over the past 24 years.

The Nightwatch program began on St. Patrick's Day weekend in 1991 and since then has provided groups and members with a valuable opportunity to serve and carry the message of recovery. On duty when the Intergroup office is closed for the night and on weekends, Nightwatch volunteers answer calls forwarded to their phone at home. For the most part, we provide callers with information about the time and location of AA meetings or phone numbers for other New Jersey Intergroup offices or related help, such as Al-Anon/Alateen or NA. But Nightwatch is at its best when we're able to provide a local 12<sup>th</sup> Step contact to someone calling for help with his or her drinking problem. Being able to share AA's message of hope when most needed, and connect a fellow alcoholic with their local AA community for help and support is Nightwatch's primary purpose.

There are two ways that a group can participate in Nightwatch. The first and most familiar is by taking a week-long commitment where group members take turns answering the phone during the 11 available shifts. A group leader is designated and takes responsibility for scheduling the volunteers and distributing the Nightwatch manuals. The manuals have step by step guidelines for answering most types of calls and include the 12<sup>th</sup> step contact listings. Many AA groups have made Nightwatch an annual group service commitment, and our members have gained valuable Nightwatch experience over the years. We encourage group members to share their questions and concerns with their area coordinator, group leader and each other, and work closely with first-time volunteers to pass on best practices and helpful encouragement. Our shared Nightwatch experience is ever growing and serves as a powerful guide as

we become more and more effective in our 12<sup>th</sup> step work.

The second but just as important way groups participate in Nightwatch is by providing a list of members willing to serve as local 12<sup>th</sup> step contacts. These lists are included in the Nightwatch manual by county and town and are used by the phone volunteers to find a local 12<sup>th</sup> step contact who will return a call to someone reaching out for help. The contact lists are updated annually from completed forms returned by the groups to the Intergroup office. The form used for our 12<sup>th</sup> step contact lists was mailed to all groups in early spring and to date about 150 forms have been returned. The form can be downloaded from the Nightwatch page at [www.nnjaa.org](http://www.nnjaa.org) and submitted to the Intergroup office at any time.

Over the years, so many of us have taken on the commitment to serve as a 12<sup>th</sup> step contact and be there to extend the hand of AA. How often have we heard a speaker share how calling the AA number and having an understanding AA member call back was the beginning of their sober journey? It is so important for us and our groups to stay mindful of the importance of being available as local 12<sup>th</sup> step contacts. Our phone volunteers often report they have a difficult time finding a local contact available to return a 12<sup>th</sup> step call. I understand there are probably as many reasons as there are AA's for why this is, and truthfully I have been the reluctant and unavailable contact more times than I care to admit. But by God's grace and the support of my AA co-workers, I'm learning through experience that the commitments I make greatly shape and define the path of my sober life. It has become important for me to understand and accept the responsibility I've signed up for as a Nightwatch contact, and answer my phone after 6 pm, even when I don't recognize the caller ID number. It just might be the Nightwatch phone volunteer calling to ask me to return a call to someone nearby who just so happened to become my most recent sponsee. It's amazing how that works.

I see Nightwatch more and more as a valuable group service opportunity that is most dynamic and effective when practiced by AA groups from both ends of the line: as an annual week-long commitment to answer the call and as a committed group of 12<sup>th</sup> step contacts willing and available to return the call when an alcoholic in need reaches out for help. Thank you again for your enthusiasm and support of Nightwatch. You continue to encourage and inspire me in recovery, unity and service, and for that I pray I will remain forever grateful. Peace, love and happiness always. Together in service. Joe F, Nightwatch Committee This Day- Summer 2015

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

Hello Area 44 & Intergroup! GSYPA would like to thank all who came out to our 33rd annual conference at the Youth Retreat Center in Kearny, NJ this past April 10- 12, 2015! Our theme, The Best is Yet to Come, was chosen to reflect the fact that Alcoholics Anonymous gives us hope. We had the courage to change this year, and the hope that the changes we made would bring more young people to our conference. It was an amazing weekend and we are already working on planning for next year! We are also grateful for the support of the Service Committees and helping us to share with young people all the great service work that is done in Area 44.

That being said, we're looking forward to the 2016 Conference year. We had our first post-conference event on May 30th- a Road Trip to Stepping Stones. Our next event was the Camping Trip June 26- 28th in Columbia, NJ. We also have a Beach Party & Dance in Belmar scheduled for August 8th, and our annual Halloween Dance in Rockaway scheduled for October 24th. We have an exciting year lined up and lots of surprises so check us out at [www.gsypp.org](http://www.gsypp.org) for updates.

We still need all the help we can get, and anyone can join us at anytime throughout the conference year. We are still in need of the following positions:

- Website Chair
- Graphics Chair
- Service Liaison
- Alt. Registration
- Alt. Treasurer
- more Committee Members

Please join us at any time at our monthly committee meetings, which are typically held at 5:00pm on the 3rd Sunday of the month at the Area office. All are welcomed! And remember, young is anyone with room to grow!

Keira D. - GSYPP Chair



*Public  
Information  
Committee*



HELP WANTED  
HELP NEEDED  
HELP PLEASE

This is the same headline as last edition of This Day for my article from the Public Information Committee. We can use some help. So perhaps it is best to share what we do and what we would like to do.

It has been a rewarding experience to go into a school and speak with the students and staff on what AA is all about. They may need to know for themselves, their parents, family members, or friends. Sometimes the best thing that we do is to "plant seeds". There is a chance that at sometime in the future the alcoholic problem that has plagued so many of us will enter into their world. When it does it would be great for them to be able to recall the time when some people from AA can and spoke to them. "Maybe it can help me too" is what my wish is for them to say. There are more invitations to schools and community health fairs then we can currently fill as a committee. What a shame! We are invited into a community or a school and we do not have enough people to be able to say "yes we will be there, Thank you for inviting us" We are not living up to the I am Responsible Pledge. People are reaching out their hand for help and we are not always there. Please consider joining our committee. We need both newcomers and old-timers and all in-between. We meet one a month on the second Tuesday at the Area office. You can e-mail me at [pi@nnjaa.org](mailto:pi@nnjaa.org) or call me at 201-446-7812. Thank you for your time.

HELP WANTED-HELP NEEDED- HELP PLEASE

*Luke Higgins Area 44 PI Chair.*



My name is Karole and I am an alcoholic. I am also the GVR serving District 10. I began service back in 2011 as a GSR, and have also served as DCM with my rotation ending in December of last year. While searching for a way to continue service, it was brought to my attention that we still have a vacancy for a GVR rep. I also had met Mike D, our Area Chair, at an earlier presentation at our District meeting. So I went to my first area meeting this February.

And boy, what a lively group of service people! It was a lot of great energy for a Saturday morning. I was able to understand and appreciate how much time and effort is given to see that our "meeting in print" gets into the right hands. There was so much dedication and discussion of what we can do to carry the message.

On Saturday, May 2nd, the Grapevine Committee held its Annual Grapefest, a celebration & workshop that took place at the Area Office in South Plainfield. The tables were draped in purple, and purple balloons in the shape of vines, decorated the sunny hall. Grapevine Literature was available to purchase for those that needed it.

We started promptly at 10:00 with two GVR reps sharing their experience with Grapevine. Steve T was one of them, I had the privilege of being the other.

Our keynote speaker was Eugene O'B, Comptroller of the Grapevine Magazine. He shared his story with us, the happenings of Grapevine & La Vina, and there was a question and answer session afterward. It was also shared that there is "Language of the Heart" available on audio, as well as a 2015 Subscription challenge. Grapevine is also doing a play for the International Convention in Atlanta. Door prize raffles for magazine subscriptions were done afterwards. We followed up with a nice lunch and great conversation amongst our well-attended group.

Even though I've only been in this committee a short time, I'm happy to say that its been a positive experience. I'm looking forward to a continued journey of service. Please consider becoming a GVR for your District, and come and join us the first Saturday of each month. For more information with regard to the 2015 Subscription Challenge & how to subscribe, please visit [WWW.AAGRAPEVINE.ORG](http://WWW.AAGRAPEVINE.ORG)



**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

**TO KEEP IT YOU NEED TO GIVE IT AWAY**

My AA experience has been nothing but a miracle. If it hadn't been for my higher power, I call God, I would have never found the rooms of AA. It was a divine intervention, "I was plucked from hell and put into heaven."

God did for me what I could not do for myself. For that, I will be forever grateful. In an instant, my life changed forever. One moment I was a drunk, broken and desperate in my own hell. The next, I was being saved by the fellowship of AA with love. AA taught me how to heal and have hope. I walked into the AA meeting absolutely terrified but 3 1/2 years later, I am living a life I had always dreamed of. The key word being LIVING. The gift of sobriety taught me how to run to life instead of from it, pushing through fear, pain and shame to get to the other side. I made it to that side and the sunlight of the spirit shines on me each and every day. This doesn't mean, I don't have to deal with life on God's terms, but the fellowship taught me how to deal with the terms.

I had 3 things pushing me into sobriety when I came in; the gift of desperation, my mother was in Stage 4 cancer with me being her caregiver and God. Failure was not an option. I had to succeed to suit up and show up for myself, my mother and God.

So I took the deep dive. I surrendered, turned it over and Let Go and Let God

I listened for the first time in my life. I followed my marching orders, suggestions as my sponsor called them. Service work was a part of them. I learned, "To keep it, you need to give it away." I definitely wanted to stay in heaven and never go back to that hell again. So I started my service work. First, as a greeter, then the dreaded speaking engagements

that taught me how to get over the fear of public speaking, then leading my home group meeting, I wanted to say no. But was told you never say no. Plus I always felt God was asking me. I didn't want to disappoint him after he was kind enough to forgive, save and bless me. Though my mother's condition worsened, I accepted the 3 month commitment. In looking back, I truly believe leading that meeting was God's way of keeping me sane and sober through the hardest time of my life, watching my mother die. But the true gift was me being "present" She was able to let go knowing I was sober. She loved AA and was so impressed with the organization. As she said, who would have thought alcohol, which she despised, ending up bringing me to the life she had always wanted for me.

After she passed, I took a leap of faith and moved to the Jersey Shore. The loss of my mother was life changing for me. Now that I was sober, I wasn't going to waste anymore of my precious life. Every day mattered. I had a dream.

With that came my next service commitment. As I was sitting in the Spring Lake 10 am Saturday meeting, I heard, we need someone for the GSR position, There was my God moment again. He was saying this will help you with your grief. Get out of yourself and go help someone. What a great experience it has been for me. I have attended all sorts of conferences, workshops, took a bus trip sponsored by the district to the General Service Office in NY. Most recently, I have now become a CPC chair. I look forward to this role of educating the professionals about AA.

When it comes to service work for me, I must always remember I am here to help the sick and suffering alcoholic. I cannot forget what has been given to me. I also must always remember to not allow the gifts of sobriety keep me away from AA. I need to make the time. For without my sobriety, I wouldn't have any of these gifts. So, I serve when I can.

I have heard, Don't leave before the miracle happens. The miracles have been countless. I am joyous, happy and free and living the dream. Thank you AA and God!

So, I am going to Keep Serving!

Yes, God may I have another?

Lisa G

GSR Spring Lake Sat am

CPC District 28

Pictures from GYSP's Trip to Stepping Stones Historic home of Bill and Lois Wilson



### From your Area Registrar's Office



Well we have been talking it about it for a long time, but its here now and ready to go. The group change/ new group fillable form is done and should be up on the website as you read this article. The form will allow groups to update their group information, such as a new GSR, meeting address change, group name change, group mailing contact changes. The form will also allow groups who are looking to register with GSO, or are new to obtain a group number. The fillable form will be on the Area website on the members password protected side. The form can be filled out and E mailed directly to the Area registrar and the groups DCM. This will allow quicker updating of group information, and help keep group informed. I would like to thank everyone who helped put this form together, it is going to be a big help in keeping our groups connected to the Area as well as GSO.

**How a Group Becomes Active-** The first time that group information is forwarded for listing with the GSO we list the group as "pending active" (the 1990 General Service Conference recommended the General Service Office delay processing new A.A. group information forms for 30 days to allow

the local A.A. structure to participate in the process). This process remains in place today whether the group information is received hard copy or entered by the area registrar via FNV.

The database automatically assigns a six digit group service number that is unique to the group and different from that of any other A.A. group listed with the GSO; however that 6 digit service number should not be relayed to the group until the 30 day pending period has expired.

That six digit service number is never reassigned, even if a group disbands. Once the 30 day pending period has passed the status of the group is upgraded from "Pending Active" to "Active". The group, area delegate, and registrar are advised of the group's service number and a New Group Kit is ordered and sent to the mail contact listed on the group's record within 7-10 business days after the 30 day pending period expires.

**How a Group Becomes Unknown-** When a group's status changes from Active to Unknown it does not mean that the group is inactive. It means the GSO does not have a mail contact attached to the group's record to receive the communications that are sent from the GSO.

A group can also become "Unknown" because of returned mail. The Records department makes every attempt to contact the person to attain a new mailing address, however if that new information cannot be attained the contact's information is

removed from the record and the group's status is changed to "Unknown". If there is a secondary contact on the group's record the mail will default to that person and the group's status remains active.

**Incomplete** - Indicates a group record was added to the database without all of the information necessary to show up on the Records departments' daily "New Group" report. The status remains incomplete until the registrar receives the remaining required information from the group or when the Registrar queries the database for "Incomplete" groups and reaches out update and completes the record. Until then the "New Group" remains in limbo.

A group's record can also become "Incomplete" when and if the contact and/or meeting information in the record is removed and not replaced.

Thank You all For your Service and Good Luck in Your new postion.

If I have missed anyone on this list please let me know. This is the info that has come to me, there may be other new GSRs information that was sent Directly to GSO.

Yours in Service

Bobby B Area 44 Registrar

#### Here is a list of new GSRs since March

Scott Mc.	Hazlet Happy Hour Group
Nathan B.	Holmdel Back to Basics Group
Shannon Mc.	Holmdel Group
Issac C.	Matawan group
Jolynn K.	Young at Heart Group (Matawan)
Eli H.	Circles of Friends Group (West Orange)
Jim L.	Tuesday Nite One Day at a Time Group (Point Pleasant)
Micky D.	Hudson Group (Jersey City)
Hector G.	Grupo La Providencia (Asbury Park)
David D.	Hills Street Blues Group (Verona)
George D.	Amazing Grace Group (Summit)
Dee B.	Woodbridge Primary Purpose Group
Rich C.	Lambertville Tues Night Group
Laverne L.	Woman in AA Group (Newark)
Stephen S.	Hillsdale Saturday Reflections Group
Janet G.	Old Tappen Day Group
Matthew D.	Damarest Candlelight Group
Joe P.	Livingston Group
Melvin D.	Perth Amboy Friday Nite Group
David C.	Recovery Hall Group (Belleville)
Gina R.	Westside Story Group (Jersey City)
Anne Marie C.	Primary Purpose Group (Jersey City)
Thomas B.	Serenity Seekers Group (North Haledon)
Bob G.	Helmetta Stepping Stone Group
Charles B.	Sayerville New Beginnings Group
Jay M.	Red Road to Recovery Group (South Amboy)
Ray P.	A Days Begins Group (Old Bridge)
Michelle C.	Duck Pond Wed B/B Thur Step Group (Waretown)

Scott K.  
John D.  
Steve C.  
Tom P.  
Gary S.  
Sue C.  
David R.  
Christine P.  
Ann E.  
Charlene D.  
Frank S.  
Thomas Z.  
Brad K.  
Lisa S.  
Cecilia S.  
Douglas S.  
Danelle O.  
Adam K.  
Ed T.  
Kimberly W.  
Colleen W.  
Gina I.  
Chris H.  
Lucy K.  
Nicholas B.  
Pete V.  
Charles H.  
Chris B.  
William U.

Give and Take Discussion Group (East Brunswick)  
New Pair Glasses Group (Boonton)  
Bob's Boys Group (Little Ferry)  
Reality Group (Bloomfield)  
Pompton Lakes Sun Morning Group  
Morning Miracles Group (Freehold)  
Great Fact Group (Westfield)  
Westfield Mon. Clear The Air Group  
Attitude of Gratitude Group (New Brunswick)  
Brick Church Group (East Orange)  
Kendall Park Group  
Friday Night Group (New Brunswick)  
South Orange Village Group  
Sun Sundown Sobriety Group (New Brunswick)  
Monday 12:15 Closed Discussion Group (Verona)  
Turning Point Big Book Study Group (Atlantic Highlands)  
Ridgefield Park Young Peoples Group  
As Bill Sees it Group (Phillipsburg)  
Lakehurst 12 Steppers Group  
Daily Reprieve Group (Pompton Plains)  
Pilgrim Group (Summit)  
Safe Harbor Speaker Disc. Group (Rumson)  
Fort Monmouth Wed. Nite Group (Sherwsbury)  
Mansion at 12:15 Group (Jersey City)  
Friday Night Group (Jersey City)  
Jersey City Dwntrwn Sun Nite Group  
Live and Let Live Group (Jersey City)  
Beginners Break Group (Jersey City)  
Plainfield Sunday Morning Group

Then come out and get together with us



**When:** Saturday August 15<sup>th</sup> 8:30 am - 2 PM  
**Where:** Our Lady of Fatima  
501 New Market Rd, Piscataway Piscataway,  
NJ 08854  
(Across the street from Friendship Hall)

**AA Speaker Meeting - Alanon Meetings**

**Discussions on current items of  
Interest to our program!!!**

**Fun, Food, Fellowship!!!**

**Recovery, Unity and Service  
all in one day!!!**



91-7714 or convention@nnjaa.org

Hearing Impaired

NORTHERN NEW JERSEY GENERAL SERVICE  
**59TH ANNUAL  
AREA 44 CONVENTION**



*One Day at a Time!*

Friday, Saturday, & Sunday  
**SEPTEMBER 25, 26, & 27TH 2015**

*New Program!*

Speaker Meetings • Plays • Friday Night DJ Dance  
Banquet • Live Band Saturday Night • Alkathon  
The Doubletree Hotel  
200 Atrium Drive, Somerset, NJ 08873

**DISTRICT 22 ANNUAL SOBERFEST**  
*"Working with Others  
80 Years Later...  
One day at a time"*

**AUGUST 22, 2015  
11AM - 5PM**

Speaker at 3pm  
**Jay E.**

Area 44 Delegate - 18 Years of sobriety  
from the: Bergenfield NJ Young at Heart Group

**\$8.00 per person**  
Children 12 and under Free

**Interactive Games • Children's Activities  
Horseshoes • Softball • Crafts  
Basketball • Fun & Games for all  
Food, Fun & Fellowship!**

Ticket & Information Available through your GSR  
Any questions contact: Chair - Mike V.O. at district22@nnjaa.org or

**Location: Reichler Park**  
540 Ridge Road, Monmouth Junction, NJ 08852  
(Behind So. Brunswick Municipal Complex)

### District Service Meetings

- District 1&2** - 2nd Tuesday, 7:30 pm, Sunrise House Cafeteria, 37 Sunset Inn Road, Lafayette
- District 3** - 3rd Friday 7:00 pm; Hillcrest Community Center, 1810 Macopin Road, West Milford
- District 4&6** - 3rd Thur. 7:30 pm, Upper Ridgewood Community Ch, Hillcrest & Fairmount, Ridgewood
- District 5&7** - 2nd Thursday, 7:30 pm, St. Mary's Church corner of High and Legion, Closter
- District 8** - 2nd Tues. 7:30 pm, Panther Valley Ecumenical Ch, 1490 Route 517, Allamuchy
- District 9** - 3rd Tues. 7:30 pm, Stanhope United Methodist Ch, Rte 183, Netcong
- District 10** - 2nd Tues. 7:00 pm, 1st Presbyterian Church, 513 Birch St, (corner of Church & Birch) Boonton
- District 11/33** - 4th Wed. 7:00 pm, Clifton Library, 292 Piaget Ave Rm A, Clifton
- District 12** - 3rd Fri. 7:00pm, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 113 Engle St, Englewood 2nd floor Choir Room
- District 13** - 2nd Tue. 7:30 pm, Wesley Meth. Ch., 225 Washington Ave, Belleville
- District 14** - Last Tue. 7:00 pm, St. Nicholas School Cafeteria, 122 Ferry Street, Jersey City
- District 15/21** - 3rd Mon. 7:30 pm, Hunterdon Medical Center, Employee Cafeteria, Rt. 31 South, Flemington
- District 16** - 3rd Mon. 7:30 pm Hilldale Park Pres. Church, 85 Ridgedale Ave, Cedar Knolls
- District 17** - 3rd Fri. 8:00pm, Alanon Assoc., 7th Avenue and 7th Street, Newark
- District 18** - 2nd Mon. 7:30 pm, Union Village United Methodist Ch, Mountain Ave. & Hillcrest Rd., Berkeley Heights
- District 19** - Last Mon. 7:30 pm, Friendship Hall, New Market Road, Piscataway
- District 20** - 2nd Tues 7:00 pm, Trinity Episcopal, North & Forest Aves., Cranford
- District 22** - 3rd Wed. 7:30 pm, Cook College Extension Center, College Farm Road, New Brunswick
- District 23** - 2nd Thur. 7:30 pm, Saints Peter & Paul Orthodox Church, 9 Jefferie Ave, South River
- District 24** - 3rd Mon. 8:00 pm, Thinity Episcopal Church, Ryers Lane, Matawan
- District 25** - Last Wed. 7:30 pm, Hope Lutheran Church, 211 Elton-Adelphia Road., Freehold
- District 26** - 3rd Thur. 7:30 pm, First Presbyterian Church (Tower Hill), 255 Harding Road, Red Bank
- District 27/29** - 3rd Mon. 7:30 pm, St. Luke's Parish, 1674 Old Freehold Road, Tom's River
- District 28** - 1st Tue. 7:30 pm, St Margaret's Church, 3rd & Ludlow Avenue, Spring Lake
- District 30** - 4th Sunday 12 Noon, 69 Green Street, Newark
- District 31** - 2nd Thur. 6:30 pm, Immaculate Heart Of Mary Chapel, 2nd Floor, 77th Street & Broadway, North Bergen
- District 32** - 3rd Thur. 7:00 pm, Bayonne Library, 31st St. & Ave. C., Bayonne
- District 34** - 3rd Sat. 10:00 am, Our Lady of Sorrows, 217 Prospect St, (Lower Church) South Orange
- District 35** - 2nd Tue. 7:30 pm, Good Shepherd Lutheran. Church, North Richard Street and Union Avenue, in Somerville.
- District 36** - 3rd Fri. 7:30 pm, St. Luke's Church, 17 Oak Ave & Route 27, Metuchen
- District 37** - 3rd Wed. 7:00 pm, First Lutheran Church 153 Park St (basement), Montclair
- District 38** - 2nd Mon. 7:00 pm, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 271 Roseland Avenue, Essex Fells
- District 39** - 1st Wed. 7:00 pm, Presbyterian Church, 140 Mountain Ave., Westfield
- District 40** - 4th Sunday 10:45 am, St. Joseph's Center, 120 Division St., Elizabeth
- District 41** - First Thurs 7:00 pm, St. Matthew's Trinity Church, 8th & Washington Sts, Hoboken
- District 42** - 2nd & 4th Sunday 9:00am, 103 Bayard Street, Suite B-12, New Brunswick

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

Try it on your Smartphone



Your Northern New Jersey A.A. Website

## NNJGS Area 44 Office Calendar


<b>JUNE</b>	1 Remote Communities Com. 7:00 PM	13 Ad-Hoc Area Office Space 7:30 PM	25 Joint Unity Meeting 7:30 PM
	2 Officer's Meeting 7:30 PM	14 Public Information Com 7:30 PM	26 History & Archives 7:30 PM
	3 Mailing Committee 6:30 PM	15 Convention Committee 8:00 PM	27 Joint Website Committee* 7:30 PM
	3 Translation Committee 7:00 PM	16 Newsletter Committee 7:30 PM	27 Policy & Admissions Com. 7:30 PM
	7 Grapevine Committee 10:00 AM	18 Corrections Committee 10:00 AM	
	8 Ad-Hoc Area Office Space 7:30 PM	19 Garden State Young People 5:00 PM	<b>SEPTEMBER</b>
	9 Public Information Com 7:30 PM	20 Literature Sales 6:30 PM	6 Remote Communities Com. 7:00 PM
	10 Treatment Committee 8:00 PM	20 Literature Committee 7:30 PM	1 Officer's Meeting 7:30 PM
	13 AREA ASSEMBLY 8:00 AM	21 CPC Committee 7:00 PM	2 Mailing Committee 6:30 PM
	15 Literature Sales 6:30 PM	21 GSR Luncheon Committee 7:30 PM	2 Translation Committee 7:00 PM
	15 Literature Committee 7:30 PM	23 Computer Committee 7:00 PM	8 GSR Luncheon Committee 7:30 PM
	16 CPC Committee 8:00 PM	23 Joint Website Committee* 7:30 PM	8 Public Information Comm. 7:30 PM
	17 Convention Committee 8:00 PM	25 Policy & Admissions 7:30 PM	9 Treatment Committee 8:00 PM
	21 Garden State Young People 5:00 PM	27 Finance Committee 7:30 PM	12 Grapevine Committee 10:00 AM
	22 Finance Committee 7:30 PM	29 History & Archives Comm. 7:30 PM	13 Booker's 6:00 AM
	23 Ad-Hoc Area Excess Funds 7:00 PM	31 Ad-Hoc Area Excess Funds 7:00 PM	13 Films Committee 9:00 AM
	24 History & Archives Comm. 7:30 PM		13 AREA COMMITTEE MTG 10:00 AM
	25 Joint Website Committee* 7:30 PM	<b>AUGUST</b>	14 Ad-Hoc Area Office Space 7:30 PM
	25 Newsletter Committee 7:30 PM	1 Grapevine Committee 10:00 AM	15 CPC Committee 7:00 PM
	25 Policy & Admissions 7:30 PM	3 Remote Communities Com. 7:00 PM	16 Convention Committee 8:00 PM
		4 Officer's Meeting 7:30 PM	17 Newsletter Committee 7:30 PM
<b>JULY</b>	1 Mailing Committee 7:30 PM	5 Mailing Committee 7:30 PM	18 Ad-Hoc Area Excess Funds 7:00 PM
	1 Translation Committee 7:00 PM	5 Translation Committee 7:00 PM	19 Corrections Committee 10:00 AM
	2 Int'l Convention - Atlanta	10 Ad-Hoc Area Office Space 7:30 PM	20 Garden State Young People 5:00 PM
	3 Int'l Convention - Atlanta	11 GSR Luncheon Committee 7:30 PM	21 Literature Sales 6:30 PM
	4 Int'l Convention - Atlanta	11 Public Information Comm. 7:30 PM	21 Literature Committee 7:30 PM
	5 Int'l Convention - Atlanta	12 Treatment Committee 8:00 PM	23 Computer Committee 7:00 PM
	7 Officer's Meeting 7:30 PM	16 Garden State Young People 5:00 PM	23 Joint Website Committee* 7:30 PM
	8 Treatment Committee 8:00 PM	17 Literature Sales 6:30 PM	23 Policy & Admissions Com. 7:30 PM
	11 Grapevine Committee 10:00 AM	17 Literature Committee 7:30 PM	25 NNJ Area Convention
	12 Films Committee 9:00 AM	18 CPC Committee 7:00 PM	26 NNJ Area Convention
	12 AREA COMMITTEE MTG 10:00 AM	19 Convention Committee 8:00 PM	27 NNJ Area Convention
		20 Newsletter Committee 7:30 PM	
		24 Finance Committee 7:30 PM	

\*Intergroup Office, 2400 Morris Ave, Union

### Intergroup Calendar

<b>JUNE</b>	4 Delegates Meeting, Clark 8:30 PM
	14 Bookers Exchange, Cranford 6:30 AM
	25 Joint Website Committee 7:30 PM
<b>JULY</b>	2 Delegates Meeting, Clark 8:30 PM
	3 HOLIDAY - OFFICE CLOSED
	15 Nightwatch Committee 7:30 PM
	23 Joint Website Committee* 7:30 PM
<b>AUGUST</b>	6 Delegates Meeting, Clark 8:30 PM
	25 Joint Unity Meeting* 7:30 PM
	27 Joint Website Committee 7:30 PM
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	3 Delegates Meeting, Clark 8:30 PM
	7 HOLIDAY - OFFICE CLOSED
	13 Bookers Exchange, Clark 6:30 AM
	16 Nightwatch Committee 7:30 PM
	24 Joint Website Committee* 7:30 PM

\*Area Office, 2325 Plainfield Ave, South Plfd



[www.nnjaa.org/members](http://www.nnjaa.org/members)  
password: onedayatime

**NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE AUG 21**  
[NEWSLETTER@NNJAA.ORG](mailto:NEWSLETTER@NNJAA.ORG)

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

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

## WORD SEARCH

### Summertime Traditions

P E N T E R P R I S E V  
C R E S P O N S I B L E  
J O O Q O U X X T P L O  
J R M F G P R I M A R Y  
O G W M E S R P N V T J  
U A O W I S U K O I M I  
T N R M C T S P L S D T  
S I K C O E T I P H E D  
I Z E W C N C E O O U B  
D E R L E A E X E N R E  
E D S X F R D Y I S A T  
S P R O P E R T Y W Y L

COMMITTEES ENTERPRISE FACILITY  
MONEY ORGANIZED OUTSIDE  
PRIMARY PROFESSIONAL PROPERTY  
PURPOSE RESPONSIBLE SUPPORT  
WORKERS

### HELP WANTED!

#### NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

- Alternate Area Chairperson
  - Alternate Intergroup Chairperson
  - Alternate Editor
  - Proofreaders
  - Roving Reporters
- Everyone is welcome.

We meet the 3rd Thursday of every month at the area office.

*Contributions are much needed, and always welcome! Make checks payable as indicated and always include your Area, District and Group ID number. Please send group and individual contributions to the addresses below:*

**NNJGS AREA 44**  
2325 Plainfield Avenue, Suite 2J  
South Plainfield, NJ 07080  
Payable to "NNJGS Area 44"

**NORTHERN NEW JERSEY INTERGROUP**  
2400 Morris Avenue, Suite 106  
Union, NJ 07083-5705  
Payable to "Northern NJ Intergroup"

**GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE**  
PO Box 459  
Grand Central Station  
New York, NY 10163  
Payable to "General Service Board"

THIS DAY

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

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Summer 2015



## DIVERSITY

The topic of my discussion was on diversity. Diversity understanding and recognizing that each individual case can be somewhat different. Why? These differences cover the dimensions of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, economic status, age, physical abilities, and religious beliefs. It is the exploration of these differences in a safe, positive, and nurturing environment. It is about understanding that each one of us suffer in a common way and our purpose is to embrace sobriety. We are not all alike but diversity is natural in our existence, which includes people.

Diversity in the program of Alcoholics Anonymous starts with the right of choice of a Higher Power, or God, which is used in our literature. Some would consider this approach religious like, other might say it sound like a cult. This approach seems to allow the alcoholic to focus on their problems of drinking first, then choosing what source of power that works for them best. It's about our drinking problem first and then the focus becomes our coping with life on life terms.

It's not surprising to find diversity among our fellowship and program; simply because our literature tells us that we are people who would not normally mix in our drinking days. Not only have some of our personalities been affected, the program explains that some of us are sicker than others, unfortunately. For this reason, we need to work together to arrest this disease of alcoholism. There are times when someone is sharing their experience strength and hope they will refer to their culture background, for example, I hear often, a person may say "I'm CIA" Catholic Irish alcoholic, I am

a female African American, and we all drink alcoholically.

We soon learn that the suffering and disease is the same even though we were raised or bought up in different cultures. For this reason, many of us may perceive matters slightly different in some cases, but if we stay in the program, we then understand it's whatever it takes to stay sober. Diversity is encountered on every level of the program, from the group level into every other level of service. This is where the existence of the (36) principles, the Steps, Traditions, and the Concepts come in, a means of protection from ourselves. We vote on changes that can better support our program and the groups which allows for a God like conscious to prevail.

After being in the fellowship for a time, it did not take long to accept and respect other individual's differences. Individual's differences in race, culture, gender, physical abilities, religion, and those with different ideas, they all played a very large and important part in my recovery. The diverse fellowship of AA helps us stay sober one day at a time.

When I introduce myself, I introduce myself as an alcoholic. When I needed help and the hand of AA was there, I knew I couldn't pick and choose where my help was coming from. I could not afford to say "this person is not like me and therefore, can't help me". I came into Alcoholics Anonymous and it was suggested "get a Higher Power of your understanding" and that is still working for me today. Interacting with sober people who are different helps me grow in knowledge, understanding new things, acceptance, regardless of their diff-

erences.

That's a part of the unity of the fellowship. Sometimes this diversity is overshadowed by a person's own bigotry and intolerance. There are of course, those meetings that are exclusive to certain people. Just like each individual and our society as a whole, Alcoholics Anonymous has biases. Only by the Grace of God, we are able to acknowledge and work past them. Thankfully, there are so many meetings today, if you feel uncomfortable in a meeting, you can find another one, unlike in the past days of A.A.

In conclusion: In our Big Book There is a Solution on page 17: "all sections of this country and many of its occupations are represented, as well as many political, economic, social, and religious backgrounds. We are people who normally would not mix. But there exists among us a fellowship, a friendliness, and an understanding which is incredibly wonderful". "The tremendous fact for every one of us is that we have discovered a common solution. We have a way out on which we can absolutely agree, and upon which we can join in brotherly and harmonious action. This is the great news this book carries to those who suffer from alcoholism."

In the rooms we strive to protect and appreciate diversity in all of its forms. Let's not forget to also respect and value the differences in our fellowship. Without it our vision would be very narrow and we would be limited by only having our own mistakes and breakthroughs, or those by others like us, to learn from.

Bertha M