

# THIS DAY

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

*A message from your Area Delegate*



As I sit here to pen this article, the thought that is prominent in my mind is.....How is it that I am on this side of my first Conference already? It seemed like a minute ago that my mind was racing with anticipation about getting there. Well, all that nervousness has passed, as it always does in God's realm!

I showed up at the Rye Brook Hilton early Saturday afternoon trying to present myself like I didn't have a worry in the world. Those who knew me there were very aware of the truth. If they were Panel 66 Delegates, they were there last year and knew exactly how I felt!

The first order of business was the "Delegates Only" Meeting, which, to me, was meant to be the ice-breaker. You instinctively put your hand out to 92 other delegates and do what comes naturally, so indeed, I started to feel like a part of the herd. Sunday was the official opening of the Conference. Roll Call was as emotional as I was warned it would be. The tears were flowing as I responded "Present" to the sound of my name. As someone who loves the history of Alcoholics Anonymous, it hit me hard that I was a small part of a brief moment in the history of this beautiful thing we have. How delicate that all seemed, but looking around the room, I sensed that the future of A.A. was in good hands. As the upcoming week would prove, we got busy and did the work that we were all prepared to do.

The Opening Dinner will never be forgotten! Our table laughed so hard that it hurt. Thank you to the Louisiana contingent (you know who you are!).

By Tuesday, my committee work (Report & Charter) was in full swing. We were meeting for the second time and making some fast head way. Then came that part of the week which I was cautiously apprehensive about. I had to read my Area Highlights! Up until that point I was there, but there was something missing. After the Highlights, there was no more questioning the fact that I was part of the General Service Conference and representing Area 44!

Wednesday was Election Day.

The Northeast Regional Delegates met for lunch (as did all the other regions in the U.S.), and chose a candidate from our region to be presented to the full conference for the Trustee at Large – U.S. election. This was the first order of business after lunch. Congratulations to Newton P. from Area 51, North Carolina!

The next few days were all about committee reports, Advisory Actions, Additional Considerations, and Floor Actions. I was much moved by the amount of work that was done at this conference. It was an experience that will always be a very big part of me as I move forward on this road to happy destiny. Saturday morning was the Closing Brunch. It was time to say good bye to some very good friends of A.A. that have served with honor and dignity -- Terry Bedient, Class A Trustee and Chair of the General Service Board; Bob W., Trustee at Large – U.S.; Billy N., General Service Trustee; Chet P., Southwest Regional Trustee, and Bill F., East

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*A message from your Area Chair*



Five months into this commitment and its unbelievable how fast the time is going. We've already had two assemblies, a couple of Area committee meetings, pre-conference reports and we are getting ready for the June Assembly and the post conference reports.

Our Mini Conference was held on April 8th in Brick N.J. and was very successful. We had over 350 attendees and the participation was great. Area 44 gave our Delegate, Lester, the Area conscience and wished him well on his first General Service Conference. Thanks to all who participated and especially to District 27/29 for their hard work and hosting a wonderful event.

Our June Assembly will be held on June 10th in Jersey City. As most of you know June 10th is also Founders Day in which Alcoholics Anonymous will be celebrating 82

years of existence. Our Assembly will be holding its usual business and our six Committee workshops. We will also be doing something new by having a speaker in the afternoon session. We are pleased to have Area 44's own Beau B. Beau is a Non-Trustee Director at A.A.W.S. His presentation will be on "Carrying The Message In The Modern World" and the conversations going on at GSO concerning communications and carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Post-Conference reports are getting ready to roll out to the Sections. Our Area 44 Delegate Lester will be visiting all the Sections to inform the fellowship of the results from the General Service Conference that was held in April. GSR please be sure that this information is shared with your groups.

Finally, I'd like to talk about the participation of our GSR's especially at our Assemblies. Many years ago I heard someone complaining about those people in New York and their decisions. Being ignorant of what service was all about I co-signed on what I heard. I'm embarrassed by my ignorance but thank God I was brought into the truth of service work. Our GSR Assemblies are the one way that we can ensure the groups that they are on top of the inverted triangle and that our groups will continue to run A.A. and not those mythical creatures "those people in New York". I hope that we can continue to build interest in our Assemblies and have GSR's participate because isn't that what our groups expect?

Grateful to Serve,  
Jimmy A.  
Area Chair

Convention Contact Information:  
908) 731-7714 or Convention@nnjaa.org

ASL Interpreters for the  
Hearing Impaired will be available

## NORTHERN NEW JERSEY GENERAL SERVICE

### 61st Annual Area 44 Convention



September 22, 23, & 24th 2017

Plays • Young-People's Speaker Meeting • Friday Night Karaoke  
Saturday Night Banquet • Live Band Saturday Night • Guided Meditation Meeting  
Alkathon • Young-Timer/ Old-Timer Meeting

**NEW!** Scholarships are available  
Individuals and Home Groups can contribute to Scholarships!

THE DOUBLETREE HOTEL  
200 ATRIUM DRIVE, SOMERSET, NJ 08873

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**NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE AUGUST 18**  
NEWSLETTER@NNJAA.ORG

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Central Regional Trustee. Thank you for all that you've done!

I thank you, Area 44, from the bottom of my heart for the opportunity you've bestowed upon me to represent you as your Delegate. I know for certain that the experience I had serving at the Conference leaves me with a strong conviction that A.A. is good hands!

With A.A. Love and Gratitude,  
Lester G., Delegate Panel 67  
Area 44, Northern New Jersey

**RUS SERVICE CORPORATION T/A NNJAA AREA 44  
YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON REPORT: 2015 AND 2016  
FOR PERIOD ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 2016**

	2015 - Nov.	2016 - Nov.	
<b><u>MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT (A)</u></b>			
Balance as of January 1st	\$79,266	\$89,335	
Interest Received	\$63	\$66	
Transfer (To) / From the Checking Account	\$10,000	\$0	
<b>Balance as of November 30th</b>	<b>\$89,329</b>	<b>\$89,401</b>	(C)
<b><u>CHECKING ACCOUNT (A)</u></b>			
Balance as of January 1st	\$49,104	\$34,985	
Group, Individual and 7th Tradition Basket Contributions	\$77,813	\$87,565	
Other Receipts (Intergroup, Literature & Grapevine Sales, etc.)	\$123,519	\$110,575	
Budgeted Expenses (Standing & Special Committees, Officers, Office, etc.)	(\$88,326)	(\$86,040)	(B)
Non Budgeted Expenses (Literature, Grapevine, Luncheon, etc.)	(\$122,520)	(\$113,463)	
Transfer (To) / From the Money Market Account	(\$10,000)	\$0	
<b>Balance as of November 30th</b>	<b>\$29,590</b>	<b>\$33,622</b>	(C), (D)
Prior 12 Month Avg. Monthly Expenses Times Two. Finance Guidelines state the checking account balance should not exceed this amount.			
	<b>\$36,436</b>	<b>\$35,272</b>	
<b>Account Balance Over / (Under) Guideline</b>	<b>(\$6,846)</b>	<b>(\$1,650)</b>	
<b><u>PRUDENT RESERVE FUNDS</u></b>			
Total Cash in Bank (Excluding Convention Account) as of November 30th	\$118,919	\$123,022	
Designated Funds (Jailbox Funds, Int'l Hospitality, Excess Funds, etc.)	(\$7,754)	(\$13,868)	(D)
Checking Account Guideline (2 Months Average Expenses)	(\$36,436)	(\$35,272)	
<b>Prudent Reserve as of November 30th</b>	<b>\$74,729</b>	<b>\$73,882</b>	
Prudent Reserve (50% of the prior 12 months Operating Expenses)			
	<b>\$48,580</b>	<b>\$46,394</b>	
<b>Account Balance Over / (Under) Guideline</b>	<b>\$26,149</b>	<b>\$27,488</b>	

**FOOTNOTES**

(A) Details of all income and expense items, as well as a comparison of Operating Expenses to the Annual Expense Budget are available from the Treasurer.

(B) 2016 Expense Budget is \$109,370

(C) November 30, 2016 Checking and Money Market Balances have been reconciled to the Bank Statements by the Finance Committee.

(D) November 30, 2016 Designated Funds include: Jailbox--\$4,137.90 Int'l Hospitality Suite--\$2,886.49 and Excess Funds Approved Projects--\$6,844.00.

**SUMMARY OF OFFICIAL APPROVALS / REVIEWS**

<u>Individual / Group</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Completed Through</u>
Treasurer	Approved	Dec. 2016
Alternate Treasurer	Approved	Dec. 2016
Finance Committee	Approved	Dec. 2016
Officers	Reviewed	Dec. 2016
<b>Area Committee Members</b>	Approved	<b>Nov. 2016</b>
<b>Area Assembly</b>	Approved	<b>Nov. 2016</b>



**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*

**“Are these extravagant promises? We think not. We see them happening all around us, sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly. They will always materialize if we work for them.”**  
**Alcoholics Anonymous, p. 84.**

In my early days of recovery, AA seemed like a mystical cult. The people I saw at meetings were ordinary enough. It was what they said that was other-worldly.

For example, they kept saying, “Fake it till you make it.” That was really strange. It was like being hypnotized on stage before

an audience, where you knew exactly what you were doing, but just went along with the hypnotist's instructions for the good of the show.

So I did what they told me to do at meetings – arrived early, stayed late, set up and took down tables and chairs, made coffee, reached out my hand to others – even though I had little faith that anything good would come of these actions.

Actually, I did begin to feel a little better after following these simple instructions for a while. At least I wasn't drinking, and it didn't seem to bother me as much as I feared it would.

“Just bring the body, and the mind will follow.”

There was another spooky AA slogan. How could that be? I felt like one of the “pod people” in that old movie, *The Night of the Living Dead*. Was this a subtle form of brainwashing?

At early meetings I began to see myself as one of the characters in *The Manchurian Candidate*

who had wandered into a meeting of the women's garden club, knowing I didn't belong there, but enduring the proceedings, while in reality a much more serious scene was taking place. Before I knew it, I started enjoying the discussions and felt like I actually belonged there. Maybe there was something to these slogans after all.

However, there was one slogan I thought I could never buy:

“Don't give up before the miracle occurs.”

Get real! Was I supposed to hang around this program until some sort of burning bush appeared? I'd seen all the Cecil B. De Mille movies, and nothing like that was ever going to happen to me.

Then something changed my mind on that score. I saw other newcomers walk through the doors of AA who were totally a mess. “He'll never make it!” I would say to myself about a particular AA novice. A few months later I would see the same person

again who was hardly recognizable from the guy I saw at his first meeting.

I remember one man in particular who looked like the typical Bowery bum at his first few meetings. He couldn't put two words together, but I did understand him to say he hadn't slept in a bed for three years.

Three years later he spoke at an anniversary meeting. He looked and spoke like a distinguished college professor. There was no burning bush, but it was the closest thing to a miracle I ever saw.

Now I take the various slogans to heart. If they're working for others, they must be working for me. I'm going to keep coming until they all materialize.

Chuck M., Freehold Daily Re-  
prieve

*Speak Out Continued on page 5*



**Heard it through the Grapevine...**

Happy summer! The Grapevine Committee has had a busy spring and summer, headlined by our fantastic GrapeFest on May 6! Jon W., Senior Editor of AA Grapevine, was our featured speaker, and we also heard from Pam B. and Kevin I., two very vital Grapevine Representatives in our committee. Annemarie and Kathleen, along with their many helpers, did a fantastic job decorating and organizing the event, and the “count-down” was especially moving. Our “oldest” member had well over forty years, and our newest attendee eleven days; both ladies received a Grapevine book of their choice. The food and fellowship were tremendous, and there were plenty of leftovers.

As always, we are a very active group, and our committee members have been attending many events. These commitments include the following: Assemblies and Mini-Conferences; Days of Sharing; Spirituality Breakfasts; Intergroup Delegates’ Meetings; Corrections Committee meetings; Bookers’ Exchanges; and speaking commitments. We are also in the process of planning our famous and hilarious Grapevine play for the Area Convention in September. The Grapevine Committee is charged with being a liaison between the groups of Area 44 and AA Grapevine, so we always promote Grapevine literature and

let everyone know what is happening. Our committee is always looking for Grapevine representatives (GvRs) at both the district and home group levels. The Grapevine Committee meets on the first Saturday of the month at 10:00 at the Area Office: 2325 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, Suite 2J; however, when there is a holiday we meet on the second Saturday. Our summer meetings are on June 3, July 8, August 5, and September 9.

One of the tools we use to keep our committee members informed is the Grapevine website, [www.aagrapevine.org](http://www.aagrapevine.org). They then pass on the information to their Districts and home groups. AA Grapevine has a new drive, 4 Seasons of Service with Grapevine and La Viña, and we are promoting this throughout our Area. AA Grapevine is always looking for stories (particularly on the Traditions), illustrations, and photographs. Visit [www.aagrapevine.org/share](http://www.aagrapevine.org/share) for details.

Let your groups know that you can give a subscription to use as a door prize at your event, and we have two free subscription gift certificates per District for Days of Sharing. We look forward to seeing you at our table at the next Area or District event and perhaps at our next Grapevine Committee meeting!

In love and service,  
Marybeth H.  
Your Area 44 Grapevine Chair



My name is Phyllis McN. and I am your 2017 Area 44 Convention Chairperson. It's been my honor and privilege to be a part of this committee for more than 15 years. I am especially pleased to be the Chairperson of this year's 61st Annual Convention, as we have had many changes over the past few years, and new and exciting changes occurring this year as well. This year's convention will be held September 22 to September 24 at the same wonderful location - the Doubletree Hotel in Somerset.

First, I'd like to share a little about how I came to be involved in service. From the very start of my journey in this program of recovery, I knew helping others was an important part of “How It Works”. Our book tells us so. I got involved in the home group by making coffee, chairing the meeting, giving the secretary's report, and so on. Then I began to get involved in service beyond the home group as a GSR. Wow... was I scared! I didn't know what was expected, but it was a great experience. I got involved in my district, chaired the Soberfest, served as secretary and then became the treasurer. Me, a drunk that came homeless from the streets, was entrusted with the district's money! I continued to keep my speaking commitments and sponsor people and stay within that circle and triangle. I eventually made it to the Area by getting elected Alt. Recording Secretary, and I also become involved with the Area 44 Convention for a few years. At that time, I was diagnosed with breast cancer and had to step down. I almost checked

out of A.A. altogether, but my network and members of A.A. would not let me. I continued to work the program but didn't do much service work at that level. When I was cancer free, I returned to the Convention Committee. I was ready to serve! So here I am again as Convention Chair, entrusted with a huge responsibility of overseeing its operation. But I must say, this is not a one-man show. I thank God for all our subcommittee chairs and their alternates, because this is a “we program”, and all through our service structure we do it together, or at least I would suggest and hope that it's run that way.

So I say - - Greetings from your Convention Committee!! Now, let me share with you what's in store for you all this year: We've instituted a new Scholarship program for those members who would like to contribute to our members who cannot afford the convention weekend registration fee. We also put in place a means for those who need to apply for those scholarships. The convention is also for our families. Al-Anon has a great schedule of events throughout the weekend, including a guest Al-Anon speaker on Saturday morning. All of our guest speakers offer a great opportunity to show our families what great lengths we have all gone through, what our founding members have put in place, and what we'll do to continue that legacy. We've added a Morning Meditation on Saturday and Sunday mornings, and some Young Peoples/Long-Timers meetings. We've even created some sober game shows! Fun, fun, fun!! Of course, we have our favorites, like our Saturday afternoon Old Timers march and meeting of 25 years of

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- Group Name**  
Landmark Group  
Nutcracker Suite  
Daily Reflections  
Monday 12:15 Closed Disc Middletown Morning Meeting  
Daily Reprieve Group  
Middletown Clearview Group  
Bagel Meeting  
District 9  
District 34  
Dawn Patrol Group  
Sunrise Group

- The Chester Group  
Just For Today  
Stepping Stones (Denville)  
Holmdel Life Line  
Jailbox Contributions  
Oaks East, Cedar Knolls  
Morning Miracles  
Hill St Blues  
Monday 12:15 Closed Discussion Daily Reflections  
Lost & Found  
Sky's the Limit  
Metuchen Saturday Morning Serenity Union Hill Drop In Center  
Union Hill Drop In Center  
Three Legacies Group  
Verona Tuesday Night Group  
Middletown Morning Meeting  
Live & Let Live Group  
Fri Noon Step Meeting  
Circle of Friends  
Pompton Plains Thurs Night Group Jailbox Contributions  
New Vernon NJ Women's Meeting Steps to Dignity & Grace Meeting

- Vernon Breakneck Group  
Step by Step  
Recovery Lifeline  
Friday Night Bridge Back to Life  
Hill St Blues  
Monday 12:15 Closed Discussion Sunrise Group  
AA Eye Openers  
Monday Night Big Book Group  
Stepping Stones to Sobriety  
Roseland Step Meeting  
Daily Reflections  
We Care Group  
Union Hill Drop In Center Metuchen Mon AA  
Three Legacies Group  
Sunrise Group  
Westfield Clear the Air  
Clark Saturday Nite Live  
Barn AA Group  
Serenity Group  
Down to Earth  
Verona Tuesday Night Group A Vision for You  
Hill St Blues  
Middletown Morning Meeting

*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”

# The Third Founding Moment

By John B. Area 44 Associate Archivist

Last quarter we talked about the Second Founding Moment in the History of Alcoholics Anonymous. We've talked about "Synchronicity", The Providential Hand that is back of the founding of the AA movement as well as the basis for "Carry this Message"! Let's see how we can continue to use AA History and the Four Founding Moments to Carry AA's Message.

The third founding moment was Bill's "White Light" experience in the Town's Hospital.

Ebby carries the Oxford Group tenants of sharing, surrender, restitution and guidance to Bill and shows that sobriety is possible through spirituality.

"My ideas about miracles were drastically revised right then. Never mind the musty past; here sat a miracle directly across the kitchen table. He shouted great tidings."

"Thus was I convinced that God is concerned with us humans when we want Him enough. At long last I saw, I felt, I believed. Scales of pride and prejudice fell from my eyes. A new world came into view." (Bill has gained a willingness to listen and lay aside spiritual prejudice He was "convinced.") Bill has "come to believe

"Upon a foundation of complete willingness (to believe in the Power of God as I understand God) I might build what I saw in my friend."

But Bill still didn't like the idea of a "Personal God". Ebby had come carrying the message of Jesus in the context of First Century Christianity as practiced by the Oxford Group but Bill's mind snapped shut to such ideas. But gradually Bill began to realize the fatality and futility of his situation. He began to compare his alcoholism to a fatal cancer. He realized that if someone handed him a cure for that fatal malady he would follow it and accept it unconditionally, yet here he was rejecting the solution that Ebby was bringing because it offended his "sensibilities". Thank God Bill was desperate! He wanted to know more, so he sought out Ebby at the Calvary Rescue Mission the following Sunday. Bill took the subway to Manhattan and in true alcoholic fashion he got

off the train at the wrong stop. He walked across 23rd street stopping at many of the Gin Mills. Along the way he made friends with a Finnish fisherman named Alec Johnson. After a few drinks together Bill took Alec in hand and told him we are off to meet "The Fishers of Men."

When they arrived at the Calvary Mission Bill was so drunk and loud they almost didn't let him in to the Mission but Ebby showed up and settled Bill down with some coffee and a plate a beans. Bill sat and listened to the testimony of many reformed drunks. When it came time for the altar call Bill shuffled up with the group of repentant sinners and made his surrender at the rail. Later, Bill couldn't remember what he had done or said but Ebby told he had given his life over to God. Several days later Bill checked into the Towns Hospital for his fourth and final detox. After repeating the familiar Belladonna and Hydrotherapy treatment (Puke and Purge) Ebby came to visit Bill. Bill feared the expected evangelism but Ebby did no preaching. Instead he waited for Bill to ask "Ebby, what was that neat little formula you told me about?" Ebby repeated the message of the life-changing program of action; the actions he had undertaken with the Oxford Group that led to his own recovery:

- He admitted that he was powerless to manage his own life.
- He became honest with himself as never before; made an "examination of conscience."
- He made a rigorous confession of his personal defects and thus quit living alone with his problems.
- He surveyed his distorted relations with other people, visiting them to make what amends he could.
- He resolved to devote himself to helping others in need, without the usual demand for personal prestige or material gain.
- By meditation, he sought God's direction for his life and the help to practice these principles of conduct at all times.

...and then Ebby left. Bill sank

into the darkest depths of depression that he had ever encountered. He found himself crying out "If there be a God show Himself! I am ready to do ANYTHING! ANYTHING AT ALL!" Bill described what happened next in "AA Comes of Age."

"Suddenly the room lit up with a great white light. I was caught up into an ecstasy which there are no words to describe. It seemed to me, in the mind's eye, that I was on a mountain and that a wind not of air but of spirit was blowing. And then it burst upon me that I was a free man. Slowly, the ecstasy subsided. I lay on the bed, but now for a time I was in another world, a new world of consciousness. All about me and through me there was a wonderful feeling of Presence, and I thought to myself, so this is the God of the Preachers."

So the work is complete – in just the twinkling of eye, old things pass away and all things begin anew. For a while Bill enjoys the new peace and happiness but then the thinking mind begins to reassert itself and Bill fears for his sanity.

Bill calls for Dr. Silkworth...

"But soon my so-called reason returned, my modern education took over. I thought I must be crazy, and I became terribly frightened. Dr. Silkworth, a medical saint if ever there was one, came in to hear my trembling account of this phenomenon. After questioning me carefully, he assured me that I was not mad, that I had perhaps undergone a psychic experience which might solve my problem. Skeptical man of science though he then was, this was most kind and astute. If he had said, "hallucination," I might now be dead. To him I shall ever be eternally grateful."

Dr. Silkworth tells Bill whatever it is you've found you better hang onto it, you are so much better then you were just 2 hours ago. With these words Bill Came to Believe and would find further reinforcement from other great men who had "Come to Believe"

Bill remembered...

"More light on this came the next

day. It was Ebby, I think, who brought me a copy of William James' Varieties of Religious Experience. It was rather difficult reading for me, but I devoured it from cover to cover. Spiritual experiences, James thought, could have objective reality; almost like gifts from the blue, they could transform people. Some were sudden brilliant illuminations; others came on very gradually. Some flowed out of religious channels; others did not. But nearly all had the great common denominator of pain, suffering, and calamity. Complete hopelessness and deflation at depth were almost always required to make the recipient ready. The significance of all this burst upon me. Deflation at depth—yes that was it. Exactly that had happened to me. Dr. Carl Jung had told an Oxford Group friend of Ebby's how hopeless his alcoholism was and Dr. Silkworth had passed the same sentence on me."

Bill through his reading of William James and the Story of Rowland Hazard and Carl Jung came to truly know the problem and the solution. The Spiritual Malady. While lying in the bed in the Towns Hospital he would be graced with a "Vison for You" where he could see one alcoholic carrying the message to another in an ever widening circle.

Bill though VRE would come to understand the necessity for:

Deflation at Depth

That there was a "Variety" of Religious Experiences

That many were sudden but still more were gradual

That the only cure for dipsomania was Religiomania

That self-surrender was the vital turning point.....

"That God could and would if he were sought!

See you in the Fall for the Fourth Founding Moment!

God Bless!



Hello fellow AAs. Just stopping by to thank you all for your service and support and to report on what's happening with the Nightwatch committee these days. We had our bi-monthly meeting on May 17th at the Intergroup office and I have to say we had a ton of fun while getting our Nightwatch work done. Nothing like a healthy dose of laughter and some good AA fellowship to calm the mind and soul after a hard day in the real world. We really are fortunate being able to share our sober and sometimes off-beat way of life with each other one day at a time. As we went through the weekly group commitments for the next two months, I couldn't help but think how amazing it is that the weeks get filled and the daily shifts covered by home groups and AA members from across our northern New Jersey area; from Newton to Toms River, Flemington to Englewood, and so many communities and groups in between. Nightwatch has become a labor of love and service for so many groups and dedicated AA members over the past 26 years. It starts with the spark of a sincere appreciation and gratitude for the precious gift of sobriety and life, and our willingness to serve as a group of fellow survivors in carrying the message of hope and recovery to the next suffering alcoholic.

In many ways, Nightwatch is simply an extension of what we do every day in our local meetings and sober lives. We meet the alcoholic who comes looking for us where they are, and let them know we are here with information, inspiration and support as they come searching for a solution to the dilemma alcoholism has wrought in their lives. We're there at the door with a welcoming handshake and a word of encouragement, passing along a meeting book with local meetings circled and explained, as a sober example of how and why our program of recovery, fellowship and service really does work. It could be someone looking for their first AA meeting or an out of town visitor looking for a meeting after a family or business event. It could be an AA member looking to check out a new meeting or to check the time and place of a speaking commitment they signed up for. It could be someone close to the person with the alcoholic problem, looking for a simple explanation, understanding and some guidance on how best to help their loved one and maybe

even help themselves.

And then there is the man or woman who may be at or near that jumping off place, ready to ask for help and willing to take a return call from one of our local 12th Step contacts. It is at these times that AA is at its best. We are most useful when we are able to use our individual experience, strength and hope to gain the trust of the suffering alcoholic and connect him or her to a local AA community where the fellowship and program can work its healing and transforming power.

The principle and purpose on which Nightwatch began and continues, is to be there when someone calls looking for help when the Intergroup office is closed. Our Nightwatch groups and volunteers make that possible 7 days a week, 52 weeks a year. We are grateful to the groups that have made Nightwatch an annual group service commitment and the many AA members, both long time and first time volunteers, who step up to answer the call each and every day. Nightwatch is not an easy or convenient commitment. But there is a wealth of experience and support behind each and every shift; from the Intergroup office, through the local Nightwatch coordinator and group leaders, to each volunteer and 12th Step contact. Together we have pointed countless numbers of AAs to their first or next meeting, provided empathy and resource information to concerned family and friends, and endured obnoxious and obscene callers at all hours of the day and night. Through it all we continue to learn the extent, as well as the limits, of our human ability to be of service to the suffering alcoholic, and the truth of the saying that we only carry the message, so that God can deliver it.

Intergroup and the Nightwatch committee say thank you again for your faithful and continuing support. If your group is interested in a Nightwatch commitment, contact the Intergroup office at [Intergroup@nnjaa.org](mailto:Intergroup@nnjaa.org) or the Nightwatch committee chairman at [Nightwatch@nnjaa.org](mailto:Nightwatch@nnjaa.org). We are especially in need of groups from Hudson, Morris, Middlesex, Somerset and Union Counties to cover weeks through 2017 and into 2018. Talk about Nightwatch at your next group conscience or business meeting. If your group doesn't have enough volunteers to cover a week (11 shifts), think about joining up with another local group to cover the full commitment. Also encourage group members who are willing and able to volunteer and serve as local

12th Step contacts. Our experience and that of most Nightwatch groups and volunteers over the years is that it is worth the time and effort, and has a positive and enduring benefit both individually and collectively.

Peace and serenity one day at a time.

Your brother in service,  
Joe F.

Nightwatch committee

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*Convention Continued from page 3*

sobriety or more, and our Sobriety Countdown, which now takes place right after the Old Timers Meeting. We have workshops, Big Book and Alkathon marathons that offer experience, strength and hope, which are all inclusive. Everyone is encouraged to participate! Our plays offer a chance to laugh; laugh at ourselves and find humor in some sometimes not so funny situations. We find strength in the common bond that we share. We also have a moving and powerful History Presentation, put on by members of the Area 44 History & Archives Committee, for those who have a passion or interest in how it all began, which takes place on Saturday afternoon as well. We end the weekend with a wonderful Spirituality Meeting of three local guest speakers. We have committee members with personal talents who volunteer their gifts to the committee. The saying "it takes a village" is especially true for this convention. We are much like a family; a family that doesn't always agree, but comes together in the end with what is right and in the best interest of all concerned. Our committee always wants to make the convention better and stronger. We have come together to make some positive changes in a changing world with a future in technology. Our purpose is to put on an event that offers Recovery, Unity and Service in a way that's fun, inspiring, and enhances one's sobriety. During the convention weekend we dance, laugh, cry, learn and fellowship.

I personally am very grateful for all who have lent their hand, shared their voice, and offered a suggestion. Without all of you, we can't. For me, it has come down to "I can't, we can". If you haven't attended our convention, I would strongly suggest you do, with a visit, sitting and listening, and hopefully to stay a while. And to those of you who have attended our convention over the years, thank you so much!! Please come and see the new and exciting changes we have made!

Yours in Love and Service,  
Phyllis McN.

*Speak Out Continued from page 2*

### TAKING THE FIRST STEP

I am an alcoholic. I never understood what that meant until I joined the fellowship of AA. I never understood a lot of things until I joined AA. I started drinking in college when I was eighteen and kept at it steadily until April 26, 2011 when I crawled into my first meeting at the age of 58.

My life, up until that night, was the story of "I". They say the heart of a sentence is the verb but I suspect it's really the subject, the "I" demanding all the attention it can claim, "I want, I need." And by the end of my drinking it really was just me and, of course, a bottle. When I finally collapsed in a bar (where else?), bleeding from a gash in my forehead after hitting the floor, I was completely alone. There was no one around to shovel me onto the stretcher except the ambulance drivers or so I was told later by an overworked cop at the scene. I was unconscious at the time. Everyone else in my life, it seemed, had had enough.

And then AA happened. Of course, in the early days, I felt at once put upon, arrogant, angry and scared. I was even convinced that I could lick this minor dilemma by myself. How wrong I was involved the gradual shift from "I" to "We." In AA I learned I was not the smartest person in the room. I learned about patience, understanding and kindness all of which were shown to me even when I was at my most obnoxious and, seemingly irredeemable.

Eventually I got a sponsor, a home group, and began the AA 12 Steps. And things did get better but something was always nagging at me. I stayed clean but the urge for a drink clung to me. I couldn't shake it. It was maddening. My sponsor suggested I revisit the Steps but that made me feel put upon, arrogant, angry and scared. And then something happened. About a year into the program I was at a meeting on a cold January night. I didn't want to be there. I was getting tired of the routine and felt myself slipping backwards. Across the table from me, two young men sat like mirror images of myself back when I was active. They had to be at this meeting as part of a rehab program to which they had been sentenced. It was clear they would rather be somewhere else. They looked put upon, arrogant, angry and scared. As the meeting opened and members were reading the AA Preamble, the Steps, and Traditions, I was given the page entitled "How

*Continued on page 10*

Convention Contact Information:  
(908) 731-7714 or [Convention@nnjaa.org](mailto:Convention@nnjaa.org)

ASL Interpreters for the  
Hearing Impaired will be available

**NORTHERN NEW JERSEY GENERAL SERVICE**

# 61st Annual Area 44 Convention



## September 22, 23, & 24th 2017

Plays • Young-People's Speaker Meeting • Friday Night Karaoke  
Saturday Night Banquet • Live Band Saturday Night • Guided Meditation Meeting  
Alkathon • Young-Timer/ Old-Timer Meeting

**NEW!** Scholarships are available  
Individuals and Home Groups can contribute to Scholarships!

THE DOUBLETREE HOTEL  
200 ATRIUM DRIVE, SOMERSET, NJ 08873

## **Frequently Asked Questions:**

**Q: I'd like to do service during the weekend; are there volunteer opportunities available?**

**A: Absolutely!** There are many types of volunteer assignments needed throughout the weekend and we welcome all to participate! If you're interested in volunteering, contact us at [convention@nnjaa.org](mailto:convention@nnjaa.org) or use the back of this form.

**Q: May I pay by credit card?**

**A: Yes,** you can use your credit card to register online at [nnjaa.org/convention](http://nnjaa.org/convention) and pay for the hotel rooms and Convention meal plans. Credit cards will also be accepted on site at the convention. There are additional merchant's fees for paying by credit card. To avoid these fees, feel free to submit your registration form via regular mail. If you submit your payment through the regular mail, a check or money order is required.

**Q: May I mail my registration in?**

**A: Yes,** simply fill out the form on page 3 and mail it to PO Box 457, Montclair, NJ 07042, along with a check or money order.

**Q: May I request a scholarship to the convention?**

**A: Yes.** Requests for scholarships MUST be made by pre-registering by mail, online or by calling the Hotline at (908) 731-7714. They will be handled on a first-come, first-served basis as contributions are made.

**Q: May I or my Home Group contribute to scholarships to help those who cannot afford to attend?**

**A: Yes!** However, scholarships are for weekend registration only; no meals. Scholarships can

be contributed at the hotel the weekend of the convention for this year, but will carry over to next year.

**Q: Is the Saturday banquet included in the meal plan?**

**A: The Saturday banquet is included in the price of Meal Packages 1, 2, or 4.**

**Q: I'd like to sit with my friends at the Saturday banquet-is that possible?**

**A: Yes,** just list their names on the last page of this form, and we will do our best to accommodate!

**Q: How do I sign up for the Old-Timer's Luncheon?**

**A: If you have 25 more years of sobriety (sobriety date prior to 9/24/1992) AND you purchase any registration package (#1- #5) on the next page, then the Old-Timer's Luncheon is included in the cost of your registration. However, you MUST indicate your intention to attend the luncheon by providing your name, home group, and sobriety date in the OLD TIMER'S LUNCHEON REGISTRATION section of this form.**

**Q: Who do I contact about my hotel room reservation?**

**A: You should contact the hotel directly about your room reservation at (800)222-8733.**

**Q: What if I still have questions?**

**A: If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer, you may reach us via email at: [Convention@nnjaa.org](mailto:Convention@nnjaa.org) or call the Convention Hotline:**

(908) 731-7714

## **Hotel Room Reservations:**

### **ROOM RATES:**

**Single/Double: \$117.00\* (Per Night)**

**Triple/Quad: \$127.00\* (Per Night)**

**\*Plus 15% Occupancy Tax**

**These special convention room rates will only be available when identifying attendance at the "A44" group rate.**

**Reservations must be received on or before September 15, 2017 in order to guarantee availability and rate. Cancellations must be received 72 hours prior to your scheduled arrival, or you will be charged for the room.**

***PLEASE NOTE: Whether you use our website, or whether you book your hotel room through another vendor, please inform the hotel that you're participating in the Convention. The Area gets credit towards its minimum quota for all rooms booked during the Convention weekend. If you have any questions, please contact us at (908) 731-7714.***

### **TWO WAYS TO MAKE HOTEL RESERVATIONS:**

**1) BY PHONE – Call the hotel at 1-800-222-8733 and make a reservation with a credit card. The conference name is "A44." You must mention this code when registering in order to get the special Convention room rate. It also helps us to reach our quota so please make sure that you use that code when you book your room.**

**2) BY THE INTERNET – Go to online to our web page at: [www.nnjaa.org/convention](http://www.nnjaa.org/convention). When you book online, you will be able to purchase your meal packages in addition to your hotel room reservations. Don't forget to use the promotion/offer code "A44" when booking online.**

### **Al-Anon Invites You!**

The members of Al-Anon cordially invite you, the relatives and friends of those affected by the family disease of alcoholism, to Al-Anon's participation in the 61st Annual Area 44 General Service Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Please join us in sharing our experience, strength and hope in finding happiness, even contentment, whether the alcoholic is still drinking or not.

For more information call North Jersey Al-Anon Information Service at 973-744-8686.

### Area 44 Convention Registration Packages (\*Banquet is limited to the first 500 registrants)

**MEAL PACKAGE #1:**

$$\$144.00 \times \frac{\text{# of People}}{\text{# of People}} = \$ \text{_____} \text{ Minus } \$ \frac{\text{Deposit}}{\text{Deposit}} = \$ \frac{\text{Balance Due}}{\text{Balance Due}}$$

*Includes Weekend Registration, Saturday breakfast, Saturday lunch, \*Saturday Banquet, and Sunday breakfast.*

**MEAL PACKAGE #2:**

$$\$125.00 \times \frac{\text{# of People}}{\text{# of People}} = \$ \text{_____} \text{ Minus } \$ \frac{\text{Deposit}}{\text{Deposit}} = \$ \frac{\text{Balance Due}}{\text{Balance Due}}$$

*Includes Weekend Registration, Saturday lunch, \*Saturday Banquet, and Sunday Breakfast (NO SATURDAY BREAKFAST).*

**MEAL PACKAGE #3:**

$$\$98.00 \times \frac{\text{# of People}}{\text{# of People}} = \$ \text{_____} \text{ Minus } \$ \frac{\text{Deposit}}{\text{Deposit}} = \$ \frac{\text{Balance Due}}{\text{Balance Due}}$$

*Includes Weekend Registration, Saturday breakfast, Saturday lunch, Sunday Breakfast and (NO SATURDAY BANQUET).*

**MEAL PACKAGE #4:**

$$\$77.00 \times \frac{\text{# of People}}{\text{# of People}} = \$ \text{_____} \text{ Minus } \$ \frac{\text{Deposit}}{\text{Deposit}} = \$ \frac{\text{Balance Due}}{\text{Balance Due}}$$

*Includes Weekend Registration and \*Saturday Banquet ONLY.*

**WEEKEND REGISTRATION PACKAGE # 5:**

$$\$31.00 \times \frac{\text{# of People}}{\text{# of People}} = \$ \frac{\text{Total}}{\text{Total}} \quad \textit{Weekend Registration ONLY.}$$

**CONTRIBUTION TO SCHOLARSHIP REGISTRATION PACKAGE # 6:**

$$\$31.00 \times \frac{\text{# of People}}{\text{# of People}} = \$ \frac{\text{Total}}{\text{Total}} \quad \textit{Weekend Registration ONLY.}$$

**Other Amount** = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**OLD-TIMER'S LUNCHEON:**

Pre-registration is required to attend the Old-Timer's Luncheon. The Luncheon is included in the cost of your Convention registration if:

- You have 25 or more years of sobriety (sobriety date prior to 9/24/1992) and
- You purchase any meal or registration package (#1-#5).

You must register your intention to attend the luncheon by providing your name, home group, and sobriety date below.

Seating is limited to the first 225 Old-Timers who register for the luncheon before the Convention registration deadline Sept. 15, 2017. Reserved seating is not permitted.

Name	Home Group	Sobriety Date
Name	Home Group	Sobriety Date
Name	Home Group	Sobriety Date
Name	Home Group	Sobriety Date
Name	Home Group	Sobriety Date

SEE BACK OF THIS FORM FOR BANQUET SEATING INFORMATION

**REGISTRATION BY MAIL:**

1. If you prefer not to pay in full at this time for the meal packages, you can choose the deposit option of \$60.00 for each person in your party, and pay the balance at the event.
2. Make all checks or money orders payable to:  
**NNJGS Area 44 Convention**
3. Fill out this page of the form and mail to:  
**NNJGS Area 44 Convention  
PO Box 457  
Montclair, NJ 07042**

Please check either Home Address or Email as to where you would prefer your confirmation be sent to:  
 Home Address or  E-mail indicated below

\_\_\_\_\_ Last Name; First Name

\_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address

\_\_\_\_\_ Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_ City State Zip

\_\_\_\_\_ Telephone

- Check here if you...
- AA Member  Al-Anon Member  Need ASL Interpreter
- By checking here, you are indicating that you would like to receive future Convention information:  
 Mail  E-mail

**ALL MAIL-IN PAYMENTS MUST BE POST-MARKED ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 15, 2017**

**REGISTRATION ONLINE:**

1. To register for a meal package online go to:  
**[www.nnjaa.org/convention](http://www.nnjaa.org/convention)**
2. Follow the directions, answer the questions, and supply your credit card information.
3. Confirmation of your transaction will be emailed to you.
4. Upon completion of the payment for your meal package, you will be offered the option of reserving a hotel room by clicking on the button "Reserve a Room." This action will take you to the hotel's web page, which has been set up specifically for our convention.

**THE DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION FOR THE OLD TIMER'S LUNCHEON IS SEPTEMBER 15, 2017**



## Group Secretary, Please Read the Following:

If you're interested in serving on the Convention Committee, meetings are held at 8pm on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at the Area Office, 2325 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield (entrance is in the back of the building).

If you're interested in helping out during the Convention, you may volunteer by adding your name and telephone number to the space provided below, or contact us at [convention@njaa.org](mailto:convention@njaa.org). Please mail this list to the attention of the "Convention Committee," no later than September 15, 2017 to:

**NNJGS Area 44 Convention Committee  
2325 Plainfield Avenue  
South Plainfield, NJ 07080**

Have Any Questions? Call (908) 731-7714

NAME	NO. OF HOURS YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER	TELEPHONE
NAME	NO. OF HOURS YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER	TELEPHONE
NAME	NO. OF HOURS YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER	TELEPHONE
NAME	NO. OF HOURS YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER	TELEPHONE
NAME	NO. OF HOURS YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER	TELEPHONE

## Saturday Banquet Seating Request:

*Please complete the following and return it with your mail-in registration:*

**THE BANQUET IS LIMITED TO THE FIRST 500 REGISTERED!**

Saturday's banquet will have pre-arranged seating based on the date of receipt of your registration form.

Tables can accommodate ten people. To reserve a full table, or to be seated with a group of people, your registration forms and deposits must be received together in one envelope. This will be the only way to assure seating together based on the availability of seats at the time your registrations are received. We will try our best to honor parties and keep you together, but such seating will be based on availability of tables...SO...get group registrations in as early as possible!

People purchasing banquet tickets at the convention will be assigned seating at that time, based on the availability of the remaining seats.

You **MUST** include the full names of attendees at your table. Please note the banquet is **SMOKE FREE & VAPING FREE.**

1. _____	6. _____
2. _____	7. _____
3. _____	8. _____
4. _____	9. _____
5. _____	10. _____

*Continued from page 5*  
It Works.”

I don't know what came over me but I read that brief summary to those two young men as if they were the only ones in the room. Midway through I paused, pointed at them, and said, "If you have decided you want what we have and are willing to go to any length to get it – then you are ready to take certain steps." I had read or heard those words nearly a thousand times since my first meeting. The funny thing was this time I meant it. When I said, "If you want what "WE" have," I finally understood what this was all about. "WE admitted WE were powerless over alcohol." I thought to myself, "My God, I'm really in this thing. And I can't do this without these other guys."

After the meeting, my sponsor asked me how I was getting on. "Great," I said. "I just finished taking my first step."

Martin F.

**“What does ‘we’ mean in your recovery? Discuss your views on unity.”**

I wouldn't have believed anything AA has to offer if it didn't come from another drunk who knew suffering like I knew suffering. My typical alcoholic defiance, posturing, self-pity, and bravado reliably formed barriers between my hurting self and the message from non-alcoholics (often professionals) who surely had information that I could have used. If the help wasn't delivered by a drunk who had stories I could relate to, I wasn't interested in hearing it – at least in the beginning of my recovery.

Part of the magic of AA is that each member is a living, breathing testimony of what should be impossible for an alcoholic: a daily reprieve from picking up a drink and the misery that accompanies our malady. I belonged to the segment of AA's who, instead of denying their alcoholism, adopted the belief that we were too sick for AA. Beyond help. But when I was desperate enough to sit in meetings, none of my explaining could argue with the fact of my sitting in a room with some certified hopeless cases who weren't hopeless anymore.

I didn't have any reference point or framework to understand spiritual principles when I came in, so I had to hold on to the collective experience. Coming from a place of deep distrust of myself and the world, my survival now depended on trusting the experience of these once-hopeless cases. When

I did start to understand spiritual principles, I saw how humility, for example, was at work in keeping me sober through the service of other AA's. The humility of people with time in sobriety to listen to my pain and say "me, too" and "there's a solution" saved my life. The very fact of knowing that I wasn't alone made the fight more bearable.

As I progress in sobriety, I value having a diverse network. Recognizing earlier versions of myself in newcomers is a great motivator for practicing First Things First, no matter what. On the other end, being able to run my brilliant ideas by people whose long-term sobriety I respect has saved me from disastrous consequences more times than I can count.

These days, with my life practically bursting with fulfillment (still much to my own surprise), my most successful efforts result from trying a suggestion someone shared at a meeting.

Service has always been a cornerstone of my sobriety, and I see the wisdom in the suggestion to stay in the middle of AA. Without unity there's no middle to stray from; no chance for my survival, let alone my successes. My gratitude for the program, and the gift of my anonymous place in it, doesn't come from the naturally defiant alcoholic state I started with.

That miracle was passed on to me through the shared experience of fellow sufferers, and I couldn't have met my higher power, my true self, or a meaningful existence without it.

Rachel D.  
Drip Dry, Maplewood



**37<sup>th</sup> Annual Picnic**  
Come Celebrate Unity, Service & Recovery

Hosted by District 15/21 of the NJ General Service Area 44

**Date:** Saturday, August 26, 2017 Rain or Shine

**Time:** 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m.

**Place:** Deer Path Park, - Cedars Pavilion at 1020 State Route 31, Lebanon, NJ 08833

**Come & Enjoy:** Fun, Food and Fellowship. (Food provided includes hamburgers, hotdogs, and beverages. Fun includes Howie's jammin' music, games, 50/50, sobriety countdown.)

**DIRECTIONS TO PICNIC GROUNDS:**

**FROM CLINTON / I-78:** Take route 31 south about 6.4 miles from Interstate 78. Turn left onto West Woodschurch Road (Jug handle Right), following signs for DEER PATH PARK and DEER PATH YMCA. Proceed about 0.7 miles on West Woodschurch Road (passing Deer Path Road on the right) to the joint entrance to DEER PATH PARK and the YMCA, on the right. Turn right into the entrance; a second immediate right is the entrance to the YMCA. The park entrance road continues straight, passing a supplementary parking lot on the left and ending at the main parking lot near the rest rooms.

**FROM FLEMINGTON (Circle - junction of Routes 31, 202 and 12):** Take Route 31 north about 4 miles from the Flemington Circle. Turn right (Jug handle on right) onto West Woodschurch Road, following signs for Deer Path Park and the YMCA. Proceed about .7 miles on West Woodschurch Road to the park entrance on the right.



**Speaker Meeting at 3:00 p.m. with**

**Jonathon O., Bloomsbury Believers Friday Night Group  
&  
Sue J., North Branch Saturday Night Group**



**Please Bring:**

- Snack, salads, desserts or buffet items to share.**
- Lawn chairs and/or blankets**
- Musical instruments and/or your voice to join in the musical festivities**

Your support is requested:

- There is no charge for the picnic - Our picnic is financed by your donations from AA groups in District 15/21. If you would like to make a donation by mail, please send a check made out to District 15/21 to the following address:
- Donations are suggested and the 7<sup>th</sup> tradition basket will be passed.
- Your support is requested. Volunteers welcome. All physical and financial support is very much appreciated.

Please ask you to please respect and practice Tradition 12 regarding personal anonymity. Remember the 2<sup>nd</sup> A in AA:  
**NO CAMERAS, PHONE CAMERAS/VIDEO/VOICE RECORDINGS PLEASE**

For more details and information please contact: [district15\\_21@nnjaa.org](mailto:district15_21@nnjaa.org)  
subject: Picnic

**DISTRICT 15/21 ANNUAL FRIENDS OF BILL PICNIC**  
Sunday July 16th  
12-6pm with an AA Speaker at 5pm  
Rain or shine  
AA Service Committee Tables

**FAMILY FUN**  
Includes:  
DJ, volleyball, egg toss,  
water balloon toss,  
wiffle ball, horseshoe pit,  
indoor games  
& lots of other  
fun stuff!

**MENU**  
Hot dogs,  
hamburgers,  
chicken,  
corn on the cob,  
drinks and  
much more!

Bring your favorite dish, salad, dessert, casserole etc.  
NO PETS PLEASE  
[district 1\\_2@nnjaa.org](mailto:district 1_2@nnjaa.org)  
Franklin Fireman's Park Pavilion Parker Street, Franklin **MAP ON BACK**

**District Service Meetings**

- District 1&2** - 2nd Tuesday. 7:30 pm, Sunrise House Cafeteria, 37 Sunset Inn Road, Lafayette
- District 3** - 3rd Friday 7:00 pm; Hillcrest Community Center, 1810 Macopin Road, West Milford
- District 4&6** - 3rd Thur. 7:30 pm, Upper Ridgewood Community Ch, Hillcrest & Fairmount, Ridgewood
- District 5&7** - 2nd Thursday, 7:30 pm, St. Mary's Church corner of High and Legion, Closter
- District 8** - 2nd Tues. 7:30 pm, Panther Valley Ecumenical Ch, 1490 Route 517, Allamuchy
- District 9** - 3rd Tues. 7:30 pm, Stanhope United Methodist Ch, Rte 183, Netcong
- District 10** - 2nd Tues. 7:00 pm, 1st Presbyterian Church, 513 Birch St, (corner of Church & Birch) Boonton
- District 11/33** - 4th Wed. 7:00 pm, Clifton Library, 292 Piaget Ave Rm A, Clifton
- District 12** - 2nd Thur. 7:00pm, St. Francis of Assisi Parish Center(basement), 124 Park St, Ridgefield Park
- District 13** - 2nd Tue. 7:30 pm, Wesley Meth. Ch., 225 Washington Ave, Belleville
- District 14** - Last Tue. 7:00 pm, St. Nicholas School Cafeteria, 122 Ferry Street, Jersey City
- District 15/21** - 3rd Mon. 7:30 pm, Hunterdon Medical Center, Employee Cafeteria, Rt. 31 South, Flemington
- District 16** - 3rd Mon. 7:30 pm Hilldale Park Pres. Church, 85 Ridgedale Ave, Cedar Knolls
- District 17** - 3rd Fri. 8:00pm, Alanon Assoc., 7th Avenue and 7th Street, Newark
- District 18** - 2nd Mon. 7:30 pm, Union Village United Methodist Ch, Mountain Ave. & Hillcrest Rd., Berkeley Heights
- District 19** - Last Mon. 7:30 pm, Friendship Hall, New Market Road, Piscataway
- District 20** - 1st Tues 7:30 pm, Trinity Episcopal, North & Forest Aves., Cranford
- District 22** - 3rd Wed. 7:30 pm, Cook College Extension Center, College Farm Road, New Brunswick
- District 23** - 2nd Thur. 7:30 pm, Saints Peter & Paul Orthodox Church, 9 Jefferie Ave, South River
- District 24** - 3rd Mon. 8:00 pm, New Monmouth Baptist Church, 4 Cherry Tree Farm Rd, Middletown
- District 25** - Last Wed. 7:30 pm, Hope Lutheran Church, 211 Elton-Adelphia Road., Freehold
- District 26** - 3rd Thur. 7:00 pm, Christ United Meth Church, 300Ridge Rd, Fair Haven
- District 27/29** - 3rd Mon. 7:30 pm, St. Luke's Parish, 1674 Old Freehold Road, Toms River
- District 28** - 1st Tue. 7:30 pm, St Margaret's Church, 3rd & Ludlow Avenue, Spring Lake
- District 30** - 4th Sunday 12 Noon, 69 Green Street, Newark
- District 31** - 2nd Thur. 6:30 pm, Immaculate Heart Of Mary Chapel, 2nd Floor, 77th Street & Broadway, North Bergen
- District 32** - 3rd Thur. 7:00 pm, Bayonne Library, 31st St. & Ave. C., Bayonne
- District 34** - 3rd Sat. 09:30 am, Our Lady of Sorrows, 217 Prospect St, (Lower Church) South Orange
- District 35** - 2nd Tue. 7:30 pm, Good Shepherd Lutheran. Church, North Richard Street and Union Avenue, in Somerville.
- District 36** - 3rd Fri. 7:30 pm, St. Luke's Church, 17 Oak Ave & Route 27, Metuchen
- District 37** - 3rd Wed. 7:00 pm, First Evangelical Lutheran Church 153 Park St, Montclair
- District 38** - 2nd Mon. 7:00 pm, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 271 Roseland Avenue, Essex Fells
- District 39** - 1st Wed. 7:00 pm, Presbyterian Church, 140 Mountain Ave., Westfield
- District 40** - 4th Sunday 10:45 am, St. Joseph's Center, 120 Division St., Elizabeth
- District 41** - First Thurs 7:00 pm, St. Matthew's Trinity Church, 8th & Washington Sts, Hoboken
- District 42** - 2nd Sunday 9:00am, 103 Bayard Street, Suite B-12, New Brunswick

**NEW !**



Member (click on logo)  
userid: alcoholic  
password: onedayatatime

**NNJGS Area 44 Office Calendar**

**JUNE**

- 3 Grapevine Committee 10:00 AM
- 6 Officer's Meeting 7:00 PM
- 7 Mailing Committee 7:30 PM
- 7 Translation Committee 7:00 PM
- 10 Area Assembly 8:00 AM
- 12 Computer Tech Comm 7:30 AM
- 13 Public Information Com 7:30 PM
- 14 Treatment Committee 8:00 PM
- 14 History & Archives Comm. 7:30 PM
- 15 Newsletter Committee 7:30 PM
- 19 Literature Sales 6:30 PM
- 19 Literature Committee 7:30 PM
- 20 CPC Committee 7:00 PM
- 21 Convention Committee 8:00 PM
- 22 Newsletter Committee 7:30 PM
- 22 P&A Committee 7:30 PM
- 26 Remote Communities 7:30 PM
- 27 Finance Committee 7:30 PM
- 28 Ad Hoc Communications 7:00 PM

**JULY**

- 5 Mailing Committee Meeting 6:30 PM
- 5 Translation Committee 7:00 PM
- 8 Grapevine Committee 10:00 AM
- 9 Films Committee 9:00 AM
- 9 ACM - Alternates Month 10:00 AM
- 10 Mid-Winter Luncheon 7:00 PM
- 10 Computer Tech Comm 7:30 PM

- 11 Public Information Committee 7:30 PM
- 12 History & Archives @Intergr 7:00 PM
- 12 Treatment Facilities Comm 7:30 PM
- 15 Committee on Corrections 10:00 AM
- 17 Lit Com Meeting 7:30 PM
- 18 CPC Committee 7:00 PM
- 19 Convention Committee 8:00 PM
- 20 Newsletter Committee 7:30 PM
- 24 Remote Communities Mtg 7:30 PM
- 25 Finance Committee 7:00 PM
- 27 Website Committee @ Area 7:30 PM
- 27 P&A Committee Meeting 7:30 PM

**AUGUST**

- 1 Officers & Standing Commi 7:00 PM
- 2 Mailing Committee 6:30 PM
- 2 Translation Committee 7:00 PM
- 5 Grapevine Committee 10:00 AM
- 7 Mid-Winter Luncheon 7:00 PM
- 8 Public Information Comm 7:30 PM
- 9 History & Archives @Intergr 7:00 PM
- 9 Treatment Committee 7:30 PM
- 15 CPC Committee 7:00 PM
- 16 Convention Committee 8:00 PM
- 17 Newsletter Committee 7:30 PM
- 18 This Day Deadline
- 21 Lit Com Meeting 7:30 PM
- 21 Finance Committee 7:00 PM

- 22 Joint Unity Meeting 7:30 PM
- 24 P&A Committee 7:30 PM
- 24 Website Comm@ Interg 7:30 PM
- 28 Remote Communities 7:30 PM

**SEPTEMBER**

- 5 Officers Meeting 7:00 PM
- 6 Translation Committee 7:00 PM
- 6 Mailing Committee 6:30 PM
- 9 Grapevine Committee 10:00 AM
- 10 Films Committee 9:00 AM
- 10 Area Committee Meeting 10:00 AM
- 11 Mid-Winter Luncheon 7:00 PM
- 11 Computer Tech Comm 7:30 PM
- 12 Public Information Comm 7:30 PM
- 13 History & Archives@Interg 7:00 PM
- 16 Committee on Corrections 10:00 AM
- 18 Lit Com Meeting 7:30 PM
- 19 CPC Committee 7:00 PM
- 20 Convention Committee 8:00 PM
- 21 Newsletter Committee 7:30 PM
- 22 Area Convention Somerset, NJ
- 23 Area Convention Somerset, NJ
- 24 Area Convention Somerset, NJ
- 25 Remote Communities 7:30 PM
- 26 Finance Committee 7:00 PM
- 28 P&A Committee 7:30 PM
- 28 Website Comm @ Area 7:30 PM

**Intergroup Calendar**

**JUNE**

- 1 Intergroup Delegates Meeting, Clark 8:30PM
- 11 Bookers Exchange, Clark 6:30AM
- 14 Archives Committee 7:00PM
- 22 Joint Website Committee 7:30PM

**JULY**

- 4 Holiday (Office Closed) Independence Day
- 6 Intergroup Delegates Meeting, Clark 8:30PM
- 12 Archives Committee 7:00PM
- 19 Nightwatch Committee 7:00PM
- 27 Joint Website Com - Intergroup Off. 7:30PM

**AUGUST**

- 3 Intergroup Delegates Meeting, Clark 8:30PM
- 9 Archives Committee 7:00PM
- 22 Joint Unity Meeting Area Office 7:30PM
- 24 Joint Website Committee 7:30PM

**SEPTEMBER**

- 4 Holiday (Office Closed) Labor Day
- 7 Intergroup Delegates Meeting, Clark 8:30PM
- 10 Bookers Exchange, Clark 6:30AM
- 13 Archives Committee 7:00PM
- 20 Nightwatch Committee 7:00PM
- 28 Joint Website Com - Intergroup Off. 7:30PM

**NEXT ISSUE AUGUST 18 NEWS - LETTER@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).

**The theme for the Fall edition of This Day:**

Tell us about your experience at previous Area Conventions.

**Deadline: August 18**

*We are not a glum lot ...*

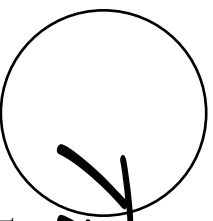
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# THIS DAY

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

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### AA Service Questionnaire (For AA Group Members)

Purpose: Gain perspective on how AA members learn about and get involved in AA Service; better understand what factors influence and motivate AA members to volunteer for AA Service.

- Do you belong to an AA Group? **Yes** \_\_\_ **No** \_\_\_
- Does your Group have a GSR? **Yes** \_\_\_ **No** \_\_\_
- Does your GSR inform the Group about AA service opportunities outside the Group? **Yes** \_\_\_ **No** \_\_\_

a. What type of AA service opportunities has the GSR discussed?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

• Have you ever done AA Service outside your Group? **Yes** \_\_\_ **No** \_\_\_

a. Please describe briefly what type of AA service you perform outside the Group.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b. Please describe briefly what made you decide to do AA service outside your Group.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

• If you have not done any service outside your Group, please explain briefly what has kept you from volunteering for this type of AA Service.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

• Time (months or years) in AA: \_\_\_\_\_

• Time a member of your Group: \_\_\_\_\_

• Time doing Service for your Group: \_\_\_\_\_

• Time doing Service outside your Group: \_\_\_\_\_

• Do you have a Service Sponsor? : **Yes** \_\_\_ **No** \_\_\_



Summer 2017

Please mail the completed form to NNJGS Area 44, Suite 2J, 2325 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield 07080 or give to your GSR or DCM to bring to the Area Committee.

March 31, 2017