

# THIS DAY

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

## A message from your Area Chair



**G**reetings from your Area Chair. As always it's been a busy time in Area 44. We recently held our October Election Assembly and again we had the opportunity to see our spiritual conscience in action. The turnout was excellent as was the participation and willingness of the body to stand for our officer positions. However, on our second ballot to elect an Alternate Treasurer we came up 1 vote short of quorum—that's why we all need to stay until the end—and had to suspend the voting. So we will be holding a special election for Alternate Treasurer at our January 2013 Area Assembly. What's unique about this situation is that we already had begun voting for two candidates, both who came through a DCM caucus. And although this will be an all new election in January, in keeping with the spirit of our traditions and our principle of inclusivity, this special election will be

open to all ACM members past and present, along with the two members who already have made themselves available in the previous balloting.

I'd like to thank you again for the opportunity you've given me to serve you and Area 44 as Chair – it's been a personal 'game changer.' When I came into A.A. over 15 years ago, the furthest thing from my mind was thinking one day I'll serve as Area Chair. So at our election assembly two years ago when you expressed your trust in me to serve you as chair, I was humbled and moved more than I ever could have anticipated. To think that a broken, wreck-of-a-man would end up in this position was overwhelming. I've also learned that we can't get too attached to the positions we hold, they are not ours to keep. They are only on loan and we are short-term stewards of these precious jobs. So, as I ready myself to rotate, I reflect warmly at how we've met the challenges of the past two years together, with a strong resolve and good spirit. I'm pleased at the direction our Area is heading, and confident in our ability to continue to

serve Area 44 and members effectively.

In closing, I want to thank all members for your support of our Area, with a special acknowledgement to those who participated in our recent assembly. And although conflicted as I leave you as Chair, I very much look forward to serving you as Alternate Delegate. I believe you will be in good hands, as I pass the gavel on to Lester in January.

Please feel free to write me at [area-chair@nnjaa.org](mailto:area-chair@nnjaa.org), I would love to hear from you.

*With A.A. Love and Service  
Jay E., Area 44 Chairperson*

## Mid-Winter Luncheon Committee



**A**s a newcomer I attended the GSR Mid-Winter Luncheon in February of this year (2012). I did not know what to expect, but as a suggestion I attended. I helped out with greeting and I even helped register. I did not have a clue as to what was going on but I am glad I attended. I listened to the GSR from my home group share his experi-

*continued on page 3*

### CONGRATULATIONS to...

#### Our Newly Elected Area Officers

Area Delegate ..... Linda K-K.  
 Alternate Delegate ..... Jay E.  
 Area Chair ..... Lester G.  
 Alt. Area Chair ..... Jeff B.  
 Recording Secretary ..... Marge K.  
 Registrar ..... Lori McC.  
 Treasurer ..... Wayne G.  
 Ex Officio ..... Wayne R.\*

Area 44 Candidate for U.S. Trustee At Large (4 year term) ..... Keith B.  
 \*(Past Delegates automatically rotate to Ex Officio.)

### ...and THANKS TO...

#### those who served us these past two years

Area Delegate ..... Wayne R.  
 Alternate Delegate ..... Linda K-K.  
 Area Chair ..... Jay E.  
 Alt. Area Chair ..... Lester G.  
 Recording Secretary ..... Jeff B.  
 Registrar ..... Anita C.  
 Treasurer ..... Chuck F.  
 Ex Officio ..... Cathie F.

## A message from your Intergroup Chair



**A**bout 17 years ago, I became involved in service for the first time. I was the alternate GSR for my home group. I thought it was boring and a waste of my time. I was glad when it was over and I avoided any kind of service for the next eight years. For the last nine years I've been continuously involved in service. Has my opinion changed? If someone asks, my response is, "It's the same thing over and over again, but once or twice a year there's always some kind of controversy."

Controversy jazzes things up. Maybe this article will be controversial. Nah, that will not happen. I thought my article on Intergroup's finances was going to put me in hot water. It didn't. In a past article, I asked people to come up to me and say "Hi." No one did! Another article, my proof reader added that

we were looking for volunteers. I was worried at first, but then I figured no one would volunteer. No one did, at least not that I've heard about. Maybe a seed was planted. I can dream can't I?

Where there's an open microphone, you quickly learn who always has something to say. At the Joint Day of Sharing, someone asked me, "I'm not asking if you agreed with what I said but I'm wondering if you understood what I was talking about?". I said, "Yes, but if I cannot get my friends to agree with what I'm saying. How can I expect others to agree with me." A few days later he came up to me and asked how I knew his friends wouldn't agree? I chuckled and said I wasn't talking about him, I was talking about me.

Being the Intergroup Chairperson, I hear many concerns from A.A. members and A.A. groups. With help, all these concerns are addressed. These concerns have become a great asset to my sobriety. I am forced to spend hours re-reading our service manual, A.A. pamphlets and our traditions. I

talk to experienced members and I call GSO. We must never take anything for granted. I know the answers are out there. We just need to find the best course of action. That is the best course of action for A.A., of course.

Explaining what we find is a volatile situation. I don't know if I always do this but I know I cannot express any negativity. Most situations blow out of control even when I'm at my nicest. I've learned in sobriety that there is nothing wrong with saying something is wrong, disagreeing with someone or venting my anger. My character defects start when I expect others to agree with me or I expect to get my way. Of course I would be disappointed, but that's O.K.

With so many people in service, I am not alone. I try my best and that's a reward all by itself. I may make mistakes along the way, but I see them for the mistakes they are and try to learn from them. I think for myself and I question the people I follow. We don't have to agree, to be friends. I would rather

have a friend who challenges me, than have a friend who always agrees with me. The point is that the more opinions on the table, the richer AA can be. I am honored to be part of that.

With twenty one years of sobriety, is it still possible to grow? When you realize the gift of sobriety is the present. The past is a joy and the future becomes a dream of a happy and purposeful life. There for let us live but "One Day at a Time."

*In Love & Service,  
Your Intergroup Chair, Scott K.*

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**NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE FEB. 15th  
NEWSLETTER@NNJAA.ORG**

*A Message from your Area Treasurer*



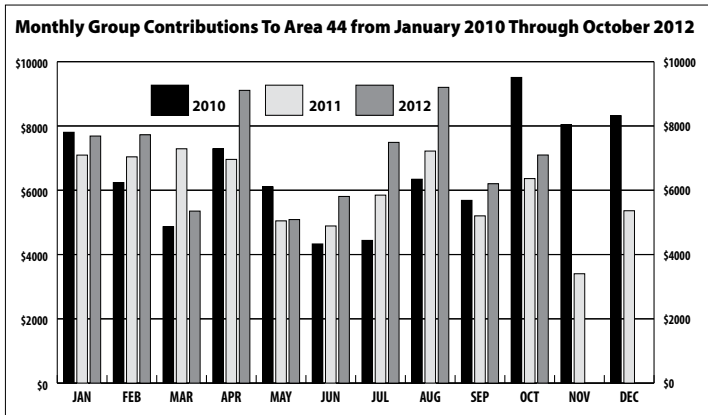
**Working Together**

Writing my last article as your Area 44 Treasurer is harder than I thought it would be. I cannot thank you enough for this wonderful opportunity to serve you and AA as a whole. I have learned a lot of things, but the main lesson is that Area 44's commitment to carrying the message to the still sick and suffering rocks!

About a year ago, the fellowship expressed their concerns over the area budget and expenses. Since then a new balanced budget process has been presented for 2013, expenses have been cut and the fellowship took responsibility for their 7th Tradition and increased contributions. Seeing the service structure work to solve a problem is amazing. From the Finance Committee through the ACM to the districts, the facts were presented and the groups took control. Look at the comparison chart showing where we

were in September 2011 vs. September 2012. We have gone from a \$20,000+ deficit (under guideline) to a \$7,000+ surplus (over guideline). That is the direct result of us working together, and I am completely blown away!

I would be happy to turn the reigns over to Wayne G. (your new Treasurer) and the rest of the incoming panel and say, "Here you go. Everything is set. You are in good shape." While we are in good shape today, we still need to be aware of what's going on around us and what we know is coming. Mother Nature has been flexing her muscles to interrupt and even close meetings after losing their space. We have been selling record amounts of literature, and those profits have been paying for the literature going out through the committees. What happens when the fellowship switches over to e-books purchased directly through GSO? We have to keep the message of the 7th Tradition out there and continue to work together to keep our primary purpose of carrying that message in mind. It saved my life and I am responsible to make sure the hand of AA is out there for others reaching out for help.



RUS SERVICE CORPORATION T/A NNJGS AREA 44 YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON REPORT: 2011 AND 2012 FOR PERIOD ENDED September 30, 2012			
	2011 - Sept.	2012 - Sept.	
<b>Money Market Account <sup>(A)</sup></b>			
Balance as of January 1st	\$42,993	\$41,261	
Interest Received	30	31	
Transfer (To)/From the Checking Account	(6,926)	1,013	
Balance as of September 30th	<u>36,097</u>	<u>42,305 <sup>(C)</sup></u>	
<b>Checking Account <sup>(A)</sup></b>			
Balance as of January 1st	\$18,796	\$18,268	
Group and Individual Contributions	60,980	70,383	
Other Receipts (Intergroup, Literature & Grapevine Sales, etc.)	82,572	93,747	
Budgeted Expenses (Standing & Special Committees, Officers, Office, etc.)	(71,938)	(70,156) <sup>(B)</sup>	
Non-Budgeted Expenses (Literature, Grapevine, Luncheon, etc.)	(79,388)	(68,529)	
Transfer (To) / From the Money Market Account, Net	6,926	(1,013)	
Balance September 30th	<u>\$17,948</u>	<u>\$42,700 <sup>(D)</sup></u>	
Prior 12 Months Avg Monthly Total Expenses Times Two. Finance Guidelines state the checking account balance should not exceed this amount.			
	<u>\$31,636</u>	<u>\$29,323</u>	
Account Balance Over / (Under) Guideline			
	(\$13,688)	\$13,377	
<b>Prudent Reserve Funds</b>			
Total Cash In Bank (Not Including Convention Act)	\$54,045	\$85,005	
Designated Funds (Jailbox Funds, etc.)	(2,552)	(2,954)	
Checking Account Guideline (2 months average expenses)	(31,636)	(29,323)	
	<u>\$19,857</u>	<u>\$52,728</u>	
<b>Prudent Reserve (50% of the prior 12 months Operating Expenses)</b>			
	<u>\$46,068</u>	<u>\$45,416</u>	
Account Balance Over / (Under) Guideline			
	(\$26,211)	\$7,312	

**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) 2012 Expense Budget is \$114,043.  
 (C) September 30, 2012 Checking and Money Market Balances have been reconciled to the Bank Statements by the Finance Committee.  
 (D) September 30, 2012 amount includes Designated Funds of \$2,954 of Jailbox Contributions.

Summary of Official Approvals / Reviews	Action	Completed Through
Individual / Group		
Treasurer	Approved	Sept 2012
Alternate Treasurer	Approved	Sept 2012
Finance Committee	Approved	Sept 2012
Officers	Reviewed	Sept 2012
Area Committee Members	Approved	Sept 2012

I have received three more invitations to come out and speak at some home groups. Some of these are at business meetings and others are speaking commitments with other members of the Finance Committee. We would love to come out to

your group too! Just let us know.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve you. It has been a tremendous honor and privilege!

*In AA Love and Service,  
 Chuck F., Area 44 Treasurer*

**NIGHT WATCH**

My name is Craig and I'm a happy alcoholic. I say that because before I stopped drinking I wasn't a happy person and didn't care about life. It was the day after the 4th of July, when I woke up and went outside in my backyard. I felt something come over me and I knew it was over. Now I enjoy starting my day at the dawn patrol meeting in New Providence. In the past 6 years I've come a long way. I am getting my feeling for life back. I have God back in my life and I don't make false promises to him or myself. My life's journey took a 180 degree turn for the better. I walked

my daughter down the aisle and in July was there to see my daughter give birth to twin boys. For some unknown reason my wife never left me and now our love grows stronger every day

I enjoy doing service work. I lead our morning meetings, organize the all important coffee committee, and am co-chairman for our group's Thanksgiving Alkathon. I enjoy attending speaker engagements where I get the pleasure of meeting different people and hear their stories.

Night Watch is a big part of my sobriety. The first time I did Night Watch I was very nervous. But after a couple of calls I became comfortable and couldn't wait for the phone to ring. I realized it wasn't very hard to do. I answered the phone, got some information and located a

person or meeting in their area. It's very rewarding knowing that you just helped someone. We did not get this far alone and there are many people who need our help. The Night Watch program helps bring together people in their time of need. You many never know who you will speak to. One time I spoke with a man late at night, and ended up sitting next to him at my morning meeting the next day.

Time had passed and it was our group's time to do Night Watch again. Tom D had asked me to "help" him with the commitment. Next thing I knew I was coordinating our groups Night Watch responsibilities. I realized that I enjoyed the phone calls and decided to get more involved. I am now the chairman of the Union County Night Watch

and coordinator for my group.

As chairman I have discovered that there are many areas with little support or outreach to get involved. I understand that it could seem time consuming and unimportant. However, without the help from all meeting groups, the Night Watch program will not be a successful program. A commitment entails only 13 members for one weeks service. This service work is a great way to involve all group members and help them be part of each others sobriety. If you are interested in participating in Night Watch please contact your county representative and they will be happy to speak to your group about Night Watch.

*Yours in service, Craig H.,  
 Night Watch Coordinator for Union County*



## A Full and Grapeful Heart

Serving on the Area Grapevine committee, first as a GVR, then Secretary, and for the last two years as Chair has really been good for my sobriety.

First of all it's widened my circle of AA friends and allowed me to meet some truly inspiring people. From Area Officers to DCMs to GSRs to my other committee chairs, I've met people who walk the walk, who practice these principles in all their affairs, and are tireless in their efforts to help the alcoholic who still suffers.

My fellow committee members are an extraordinary group of people who I simply would not know if I hadn't taken the leap and joined the committee a few years ago. We've had some great times brainstorming ideas, working tables together at Assemblies and Days of Sharing, and putting together plays that we hope are as

much fun for the audience as they are for us. One of the high points of my sobriety was getting to do one of our plays at the International Convention. We were all nervous, had no idea what to expect, and we got such a wonderful reaction it really was beyond our wildest dreams.

Service pushes me out into the world and I often need that little nudge. Last week I was coming off a week long business trip where I'd been surrounded by lots of drinking, and heading into another week of the same. The last thing I wanted to do was spend 4 hours at an Area Committee Meeting. However, 2 minutes into it I realized it was exactly what I needed. I saw lots of good friends, got to laugh, got to whine a little, and I was buoyed up by the spirit in the room.

That promise about the feeling of uselessness and self-pity leaving us - that comes true for me all the time thanks to service commitments. I'm starting to realize the things that make me happy are so simple: to be useful, to feel as if I belong, to be loved and appreciated - what more

## Mid-Winter Luncheon

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1  
ence, strength and hope and also heard two speakers from GSO share. What an exciting time. This year as a suggestion, I joined the GSR Mid-Winter Luncheon Committee. Guess what? I still don't know what's going on but I am happy to be of Service. I know I can look forward to going somewhere on the second Tuesday of each month and that's at the committee meeting at the area office in South Plainfield. I look forward to seeing you at this upcoming GSR Luncheon. For additional information please see the flyer on this page of the newsletter.

*Yours in Service, Karen S.,  
Brick Church E. Orange*

do I really need?

For once I won't go on and on about the latest Grapevine book, sing the praises of the Digital Archive, or try and get you to sign up for the Grapevine Quote (it's free you know.) I'll simply say thank you for the privilege and

N. N. J. G. S. AREA 44  
**Annual GSR Mid-Winter Luncheon**  
(Open to all AA Members, Family, and Friends)

**"The General Service Conference Takes its Inventory - Our Solution in Action"**

**Sunday, February 17th - 12-4 pm**

**Forsgate Country Club**

**375 Forsgate Drive\* Exit 8A on New Jersey Turnpike  
Monroe Township, NJ 08831  
Price - \$ 35.00**

Deadline for Sales: Monday, February 4, 2013

Tickets available through your DCM

(Advanced sale only - none sold at the door)

TIME: 12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. (Fellowship)  
Coffee, Crudités & Dip

LUNCH: 12:30 p.m. Menu: Salad, Chicken with Pasta,  
Chocolate Mousse Cake  
(Vegetarian Lasagna upon request)

LEADER: Jean L., Area 44, Luncheon Chair

SPEAKERS: John Fromson, Class A Trustee and a General Service Office Staff Member TBA

Need More Info e-mail: [luncheon@nnjaa.org](mailto:luncheon@nnjaa.org)

honor of getting to serve for two terrific years as your Area Grapevine Chair. And I'll see you on one side or another of a Grapevine table, hopefully for many years to come.

*With gratitude, Jeff W.,  
Area Grapevine Chair*

## Standing 'O' for "TIPPLER"

Play written by Jeff W. and Sharon G.

The Grapevine Committee presentation of Tippler on the Roof, an alcoholic instructive adaptation of the slightly more famous Fiddler original musical and movie, was performed at the Area 44 Conference at the Double Tree Hotel in Somerset, NJ on Friday night, September 21 and again on Saturday afternoon. This critic attended the Saturday performance which was standing room only. Listening to the music (Sound Coordinator: Wayne G) introducing the first scene, the audience waited with excitement and bated breath for the opening of the curtain and the entrance of Grapevine Thespian Players.

The story takes place in the Ukrainian ghetto village of Anatevka in 1905 where Tevye (played by Jeff W), a tavern owner who's severe alcoholic behavior is based on his theory that when you drink spirits, one gets spiritual and performing this "religious" experience on top of the roof of the tavern is nirvana. Being a leader of men and head of his household, he has convinced his wife Golde (Sharon G) and their daughters Tequila (Jeff B in drag - brilliant costume and makeup - you couldn't tell), Schnapps (Lori Mc), Brandy (Suzanne M), Rumica (Laura H) and Ginny (Gabby G) that being spiritual, the liquid sort, is a way of life. However, at

this point in the play, all seem to be systematically destroying themselves.

While the play addresses a very serious family addiction problem, the audience is held captivated with interwoven humor and song as well as drama. Some of the songs from the original Fiddler are adapted to fit the script such as the song 'Matchmaker, Matchmaker' as performed by Golde: 'Bartender, Bartender, Make me a drink, Buy me a beer, Act like my shrink...'

Enters Yente (Sandi W), who is the town Matchmaker... and a drunk. She brings news that Lazar Wolf (Roy S), the butcher, wants to marry Tequila the oldest and most beautiful daughter (Jeff B in drag - very funny). But alas, it is not to be. Tequila loves Shmendrik (Mike K), the Tailor, and he wins over Tevye, the father, because of his intense love for Tequila and tequila. A wedding soon follows with much merriment and more songs: "Brownouts, Blackouts..." performed to the melody "Sunrise, Sunset...". As the party continues, drinking turns into the expected excess drunkenness, wet and dry heaves.

Alas! A moment of clarity. Schnapps (the ugly duckling of the sisters played by Lori Mc, herself a beauty in real life, made unattractive through the miracle of Hollywood makeup) comes walking in with a cup of coffee and announces that she is giving up drinking after realizing that she is an alcoholic. Even though the scene takes place over a hundred years ago, Schnapps pulls out

a Smart Phone (I think it had a hand crank on it... for that period look) to go to the [AAGRAPEVINE.ORG](http://AAGRAPEVINE.ORG) site to find out more about AA. She then sings a rendition of "Leaving the Booze I Love" from the Fiddler tune "Far From the Home I Love." It is a lilting but stinging love song as she bids a permanent goodbye to her longtime and passionate lover, John Barleycorn. NARRATOR (Mike M): "Schnapps jumped right into the steps. She felt a new freedom and a new happiness."

At this point in the play, this writer could not keep up with the rapid activities going on the stage. Nine months or so pass. Schmedndrik and Tequila, the newlyweds, reappear and Tequila (Jeff B in drag - very funny) goes into labor and delivers a baby... a baby with a beard... on stage. A very humorous scene.

Everybody seemed to be positively affected by the redemption of Schnapps while living the life of sobriety and the AA way. After Tevye falls off of the roof in the process of having another "spiritual" experience, Golde persuades him to examine his life and have a real connection with God. He then goes through a 10 verse rendition of "If I Joined the Program" performed to the tune of "If I Were a Rich Man." It seems the whole cast makes a covenant to quite alcohol at this point and join the AA program with the aid of the GRAPEVINE monthly publication or the hand cranked electronic version. An AA meeting is held on stage. Enters

Perchik (Freddie H) with a Cheshire cat smile and announces that he is the GRAPEVINE Rep and has an affection for Schnapps. He explains to everyone that The GRAPEVINE is "...our meeting in print." The group then breaks out in an AA version of "Traditions."

The show concludes with a happy ending with everybody sober, working the steps and reading their monthly subscriptions of GRAPEVINE. Tevye and Golde convert their tavern to a coffee shop wondering who would ever spend "...3, 4, 5 bucks on a cup of coffee?" The finale brings everybody in the troupe together to sing with much gusto: "Subscribe! Subscribe! To GRAPEVINE." Placards are brought out and the audience joins in. The song and merriment builds to a crescendo and a "Standing 'O' for TIPPLER ON THE ROOF." Two thumbs up!

The cast achieved their goal of demonstrating to the audience how the GRAPEVINE can be a very positive part of living the AA life. As Perchik said it is "our meeting in print." So, the question remains, DO YOU SUBSCRIBE??? Why not try a free 7 day trial at [AAGRAPEVINE.ORG](http://AAGRAPEVINE.ORG) and a free AAGRAPEVINE "Quote of the Day" delivered to your email at 6 AM every morning. No computer? See your GRAPVINE Rep.

*Jack G., GVR,  
Netcong Monday Night  
Big Book Meeting*



The level of commitment of the Area 44 Corrections Committee is indeed inspiring. I say this as chair of a nationally recognized committee prominent in the recovery of alcoholism. Our committee is made up of 25 core members who are key components in facilitating vital 12th step work in the correctional facilities of Northern New Jersey. It is not out of the ordinary to have over 40 people at our meeting on a sunny Saturday morning at the area office. The meetings consist of AA members who share experience, strength, and hope about how and why we make this work

happen. All of the county jails (except one) in Area 44 have AA meetings brought inside and are in contact with our committee. The committee's purpose is to support local 12 step work and educate our fellowship about the work. The AA literature brought into facilities (in Area 44) is picked up at the regular Corrections Committee meeting on the third Saturday of the odd numbered months.(fourth Saturday in January.) This literature is funded by spare change collected in "pink cans" at many groups and meetings. In 2011 the pink can contributions were over \$10,000. All this money was used to bring AA literature to incarcerated AAs. We bring meetings into many halfway houses and lock down facilities as well. Some facilities currently do not have AA meetings for one reason or another

but we have contacts who bring AA literature inside. The "pink can" idea started about 30 years ago in California and was adopted and approved by our area after that. Our work would be greatly handicapped if the "pink can" money did not exist. All groups that contribute to the "pink can" are thanked in *This Day* (see below).

Any AA is welcome to join our committee. The sobriety time of our members ranges from less than a year up to 30 years. Everyone does what they can when they can. One of our members is responsible for booking over 1000 meetings per year brought into lock-down facilities. Others focus on their local county jail or state prison. We have members who have started meetings in prisons after years of being shut out. Many participate in corrections

correspondence; writing to incarcerated AAs in prisons across the country. The Corrections Committee is flourishing because of the hard work and dedication of our members and everyone who has participated in this work in area 44. I have spoken to other correction chairs whose committees are struggling with only 4 members. We should be proud and realize how lucky we are in Northern New Jersey. Invite us to speak at your home group or district event. Come to our next meeting on January 26. Everyone is welcome and plenty of service opportunities are available that do not require anything more than a desire to serve.

*In Service, Kevin T.  
Area Corrections Chair*



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

- |                                   |  |   |                               |                                   |                                       |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Atlantic Highlands<br>By the Book | Grapevine Meeting<br>District 1/2 Picnic | Fair Haven, We've Been Gifted<br>Franklin Groups District 1/2 | Metuchen, Monday Night        | Point Pleasant, Safe Harbor Group | Verona, Hill Street Blues             |
| Belleville, Recovery Hall         | District 24                              | Fri. Afternoon New Beginnings Grp                             | Millburn, Sunday 1:00 BB      | Pompton Plains, Daily             | Verona, Monday 12:15 C/D              |
| Boonton, Tues Nite O/D            | District 3 Meetings                      | Garwood Center Street Friday Night                            | Miltoown Women New Beginnings | Reprive Group                     | Verona Tuesday Night                  |
| Breakneck Group                   | District 20                              | Haledon, On A Different Footing                               | Montclair, Down to Earth      | Rahwah Monday Night               | Waldwick Fellowship Group             |
| Cedar Knolls, Oaks East           | District 34                              | Hillsborough Monday Night BB                                  | Morristown, Young People      | Sea Bright, Last Call Group       | Wantage, Saturday Night Big Book      |
| Cedar Knolls, Women               | District 35 Haven of Hope                | Keansburg, Crestview Group                                    | Netcong, Big Book Group       | South Orange Village Group        | Waretown, Journey to Recovery         |
| Clark, Saturday Night Live        | District 38                              | Keyport, Keepin It Real                                       | New Brunswick Friday Night    | Spring Lake Heights Group         | Waretown, We Care Group               |
| Clifton, Wednesday Night Step     | Drip Dry Group                           | Lavallette, C/S Meeting                                       | New Providence, Dawn Patrol   | Summit, Recovery Life Line Group  | W. Orange, Sun Nite Circle of Friends |
| Clifton, 3 Legacies Group         | East Brunswick, First Light Group        | Lincoln Park, Wed. Night Big Book                             | Oakland, Change is Good Group | Tell It Like It Is Group          | West Orange Women's BB                |
| Clinton, Became Willing           | East Brunswick, Give & Take Mon.         | Living & Learning Group                                       | Old Bridge Saturday           | Upper Montclair, Live & Let Live  | Westwood, Morning After Group         |
| Cranford Tuesday Night            | Edison Primary Purpose                   | Madison Group   | Morning Forum                 | Upper Ridgewood Group             | Whiting, There Is A Solution          |
| Denville, Union Hill              | Fair Haven, Early Risers                 | Maplewood, Drip Dry Group                                     | Old Tappan Day Group          | Vernon, Downtown Serenity Group   | Wyckoff Positive Thinkers             |
|                                   |  |   | Pattensburg Primary Purpose   | Vernon Sunday Night               |                                       |



The past two years serving as your History and Archives Chair has been one of the best experiences in my sobriety. Thank you for letting me serve, truly, this journey has helped me more than I can say. The experience of working with a dedicated group from various districts in Area 44 was a pleasure. From the very start when I joined them at the Intergroup Offices in Union, my education of AA grew.

Why we introduce ourselves as alcoholics at closed meetings. The first PA (Public Announcement) about Alcoholics Anonymous. Who was Marty M., Bobbie B., and Hank P? These names now have faces and their stories I will carry and share. "Primary documents" two very important words to a historian, and why. Everyone in our fellowship can and does contribute to our rich history here in Area 44.

We now have software that will help preserve our archives. My memories of the day we found a movie ticket from 1947, then what followed that discovery. The controversy that arose at our October Assembly. The same year we showed a movie at the convention: the inspiration to follow that with another. The true meaning of historical documents to one person may be different to another, and that both are

entitled to voice that opinion. Growth in our fellowship is not without some pain and a lot of shared laughter.

Traveling to New York City with committee members to visit our General Service Offices was a day filled with a shared awe. Speaking with the officers at GSO and how they do their jobs inspired a few of the new projects the committee is working on. The small things meant so much during that visit, like sitting on the same couch that Bill W owned and used. Seeing first editions of the Big Book, the pictures hanging on all the walls and what they represent. We even attended the open speaker/discussion meeting where over lunch we discussed spirituality lead by an agnostic.

The Home Group, why we need one and why we support our Home Group, has a new in-depth meaning to me. From the first 11 groups to the over 1200 groups we now have in Area 44. Thank you to all of the groups that sent in their group history forms to be archived. This is one of the on going projects that the committee will continue to work on. Please continue to send them in.

Discoveries.....I didn't think there was anything left to discover in my journey of sobriety.... was I wrong, I can't wait to see what is next.

Thank you to a wonderful committee, you helped make this service commitment a pleasure.

*Yours in AA service, Brenda D.  
History and Archives Chair*

**Garden State Young Peoples Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous Presents:**

**The 2013 Conference April 19, 20, and 21, 2013**  
Fairview Lake Conference Center - Stillwater, NJ  
*"YOUNG IS ANYONE WHO HAS GROWING TO DO!"*

**Fully Paid Registration does include the following:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| All Lodging and Meals, Soda, Coffee, Water | Recreational Activities                        |
| 3 Days, 2 Nights of Continuous Meetings    | (Boating & hiking along the Appalachian trail) |
| Bonfire Meetings                           | Great Fellowship                               |
| Saturday Night Speaker Meeting and Dance   | Serene setting on a Lake                       |
| Friday Night Ice Cream Social              |  |

To learn more about GSNYP check out our website at: [www.gsnyp.org](http://www.gsnyp.org)

Please mail the form below with your deposit to:

GSYPAA  
PO Box 219  
South Plainfield, NJ 07080-0219

Questions or Comments Contact?  
[chair@gsyp.org](mailto:chair@gsyp.org)

.....Please Detach Here Acknowledgement will be sent.....

Item	Size	Price	Qty	Total
Conference Deposit		\$ 50.00		
Donation to Scholarship Fund <i>(Help someone else go to the conference)</i>				
Total Payment				

\*\*\*ONCE THE PRICE IS SET, A REGISTRATION FORM WILL BE SENT REFERENCING THE DEPOSIT\*\*\*

PRINT -----Full Name \_\_\_\_\_  Male  Female

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Under 18 will need parental consent, signed and dated by parent or guardian)*

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ April Anniversary? \_\_\_\_\_ How Long? \_\_\_\_\_ Special Dietary Needs \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Topic Suggestions \_\_\_\_\_

Would you lead a meeting?  YES  NO First Conference?  YES  NO T/shirt size \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ I would like to room with \_\_\_\_\_

**FINE PRINT**

All cabin assignments are made by gender. If you give your spot away, please make sure it is to a member of the same sex. If you want to room with a friend, please note it on your registration and we will do our best to accommodate you. NO CAMPING, NO TENTS, NO BARBEQUE GRILLS. Thank You.



## Founders' Day Celebration, June 8 - June 10, 2012

It was the week before Founders' Day and my husband asked if I started to pack my bags yet. Of course I had not. I am of the persuasion that I do best the closer to the deadline I get. If I think too much I may talk myself out of doing the thing I really want to do such as a LONG drive to Akron, Ohio.

We drove out of New Jersey on the morning of June 6, 2012 and arrived to our hotel in Akron that evening. We checked in to our room, walked around the area of the hotel to find some food, and then settled in for the night. My husband and I planned to arrive early and head up to Cleveland on Thursday to experience the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. It is all it claims to be and a great preparation for our weekend with our fellows in AA.

Being there now, and remembering back to the summer of 1984, this day was in stark contrast. I remember back then wondering where the glory days went. Today I know the glory days are NOW as a sober recovering member of AA. I suddenly realized again how God is doing for me what I could never do for myself.

Friday we drove to Dr. Bob's house but it was locked up. People were milling around in preparation for the tour buses to come by on Saturday carrying

hundreds of sober recovering people who came to celebrate our phenomenal fellowship. It is written on page 164 of the Big Book that our founders will be with us in the "Fellowship of the Spirit." How blessed are we who are part of this great movement of people who have found purpose and meaning in life. "That feeling of uselessness and self-pity [has] disappeared" (page 82). I began to experience an immense feeling of gratitude for my life, for God, and for AA. I fell in love with this program all over again.

We drove into the University of Akron parking deck and disembarked to join in the festivities of the weekend. We attended an early 12 Step Panel to get started and then moved on to the AA Early Bird Meeting. One of the speakers of the day found AA by way of the roars of the motorcycles that were assembling for the procession to Dr. Bob's grave site. That eventful Sunday morning he was awakening out of a drunken stupor and he asked his father what all that noise was; he was promptly directed to AA. He was



19 at that time, but on this day he was speaking from the podium as a 21-year-old miracle of this program. Friday night we attended the Old Timers Panel and after that we were entertained by the Serenity Singers. It was a very full day for us followed by one more meeting of the night. Saturday also proved to be a very full day of meetings, a trip to Dr. Bob's house that included an outdoor backyard barbecue. We then went back to the campus for food and rest. The day ended with a huge meeting of 10,000 recovering people which took place in

the football stadium. The last time my husband and I attended Founders' Day was more than 10 years ago. The big meeting then was held in the basketball court which would only accommodate a fraction of 2012's attendees.

On this trip to Akron we did not attend the memorial service at Dr. Bob's grave site but the memory of the last time we did still touches me and fills me with emotion. I rode my own motorcycle that year in the procession to the grave site. Our journey back to New Jersey was peaceful. We listened to one of the CDs that we bought and chatted about how much we both love AA, how much AA has given to us, and how it is our responsibility to always be of service in the rooms that have given us both so much. As the Big

*continued on page 6*

This is Dr. Bob's recollection of his initial conversation with Bill W:  
*"Now, as he finished his story with these wry attempts at humor, watching to see if Bill 'understood,' something began to dawn on Dr. Bob S. Slowly, at first, then with sudden clarity, he understood. Bill Wilson had been able to control his drinking problem by the very means-- the Oxford Group-- that Bob himself had been trying to use...but there was a difference. 'The spiritual approach was as useless as any other if you soaked it up like a sponge and kept it to yourself.' The purpose of life wasn't to 'get,' it was to 'give': for all his dabbling in religion and philosophy, Dr. Bob had never before realized that simple and now obvious fact."*  
 Not God by Ernest Kurtz



**Pictured here is Dr. Bob's home at 855 Ardmore Avenue, Akron on the right. A Dr. Bob museum is in the house to the left.**

*"Never would Dr. Bob have us think him a saint or a superman. Nor would he have us praise him or grieve his passing. He can almost be heard saying, 'Seems to me you folks are making heavy going. I'm not to be taken so seriously as all that. I was only a first link in that chain of providential circumstances which is called AA. By grace and great fortune my link did not break; though my faults and failures might often have brought on that unhappy result. I was just another alcoholic trying to get along -- under the grace of God. Forget me, but go you and do likewise. Securely add your own link to the chain. With God's help, forge that chain truly.'"*  
 -- Bill W.



**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

### The Area Convention (What is with those happy people?)

I am killing a little time before the Convention Banquet starts. Another beautifully planned Area 44 Convention. It is so well organized, that you really want for nothing here. The only way it could be better, is if I were able to defy the laws of physics, and get to attend everything. I had to decide between seeing the Grapevine play, or seeing an historical AA film. Both sounded really good. Tough decision, the Grapevine Committee always delivers, and they did it again this year. Really great job guys, you out-

did yourselves again. I know to most, this problem would be a high-class one. I can either live in this problem, or in the solution. So next year, I decided to stay over Friday night, and attend Friday night's Grapevine performance. Obviously, freeing up time for something else on Saturday. Thinking like this comes easy to most, but I learned to think this way in AA.

Back home I am really involved in AA Service, and I know how much work goes into the smaller AA events. Days Of Sharing, Picnics, Alkathons, etc; they all take hard work. But this Convention is a massive undertaking,

and takes a lot of volunteers. Hours and hours of hard work and self-sacrifice, yet still everything is perfect. No one in AA has to tell me what the volunteers get from their hard work and self-sacrifice. Service work at this level of AA, is usually the result of gratitude for the program. The results from the hard work are usually always spiritual. Hard work for others, with no compensation, translates into spirituality.

I am soaking up the feeling of AA down here. The feel of AA back home is just not the same. Earlier in the week I was trying to explain to a sponsee,

*continued on page 6*

## SPEAK OUT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5



what it was like down here. I told him that first of all, people at the convention are very happy. They are also people that are very involved in AA service. Maybe I'm a little crazy, but do you think there might be some sort of connection there? I don't want to be accused of jumping to conclusions, or something even worse, of taking other member's inventory, but you can't hide the facts. So let's just say that the people down here have more items in their toolbox, to take a good inventory of. It is no surprise that the six or so people down here from our District, do the majority of the AA service work in our area. This probably holds true for most people at the Convention. These are the people who make AA work. Everybody else in AA gets to reap the benefit of the work they do. Action and service in AA, leads to greater humility, the humility to spirituality, the spirituality to increased serenity.

Like-minded people will always gravitate to each other. Just like problem drinkers hang out with people who drink just like they do. Or best case scenario, people who drink worse than them. This pattern seems the same at the

Convention. Service oriented people go to the Convention. They gravitate to where the service people are. Their opposites in AA, mostly hang out at our beloved discussion meetings. Conventioneers love The Traditions, they live in the Steps, and do service work. Sounds

like those Three Legacies in action!

When I got home today from the Convention, I felt somewhat rejuvenated. Being around like-minded people does that. Hearing your thoughts and ideas about program being reinforced by others, is a welcome change. Then reality hit hard, a sponsee asked me if I was going to our Sunday night discussion meeting. This was a tougher question to answer than normally. Did I want to risk losing some of this Convention feeling? Going from the Convention, directly to a discussion meeting, can be dangerous for your mental health. It is like coming home from a vacation, and going to work an hour later. It also didn't help that at this group's conscience last week, I took a little bit of a beating. Kinda got ganged up on, and got a little bullied. The real truth is AA got bullied and ganged up on that night. Addressing the presence of children at a closed meeting, and reinstating going around the room and introducing themselves, were two of the topics. This meeting is listed as closed, I have trouble understanding how we can tell if everyone in the room has a desire to stop drinking, if we don't introduce ourselves. Also on too many occasions, two or more children are at this meeting, just hanging around. I would not want to be a teacher, or anybody else, walking into this meeting trying to safeguard my anonymity? Well, we had success with the group introductions, but took a loss on the children thing.

Maybe next group conscience we should vote on setting up a play area in the corner? The group also voted NO to asking those in attendance, to try and keep the sharing to topics related to Alcoholism. Another victory for the discussion meeting! Enforce something like that, and what would some people have to share about? I know three or four people at that meeting that couldn't raise their hands then. They also just happen to be

the same ones who share every meeting, and share from five to ten minutes each. Sound familiar to anyone? Recently I attended that meeting, and the same couple of people were doing their close to ten-minute thing. A like-minded friend leaned over to me and said, "don't forget to thank the speakers after the meeting."

It must be hard to share about the solution, when you avoid Big Book and Step Meetings like the plague. Or maybe instead of getting the plague, they are afraid of getting some other AA illness. Maybe catching the AA bug is their big concern. You don't want that bug, it has been known to really interfere with life, especially TV. Some symptoms of this bug include, picking up multiple chairs, greeting newcomers, making very strong coffee, and setting up AA literature. Other symptoms include, sharing on topic, and in some very rare cases, greeting people at the door. Some sufferers have been known to get hurt diving head-first into the Big Book. In the most severe cases, people find themselves traveling down to Somerset, N.J. once a year, to attend an AA Convention. This is one really scary bug. Who would ever want to suffer from that? Not me, I think I will just stay in my cozy AA comfort zone, surrounded by all the AA things that I have fear of doing. Or maybe I will venture out, and take that new commitment opening up at the Sunday night Discussion meeting. Activities director/babysitter for all the children at the meeting!

Thank you everyone for your hard work at this years Convention. You did a wonderful job, and your work is so gratefully appreciated. Attending the Convention every year, just proves to me over and over again, that AA works, and who makes it work. I am so grateful to be surrounded by so many like-minded people.

*Yours in service,  
Walter B., District 1&2*

## So Many Times

So many times I tried to stop drinking only to find that my alcoholism was growing. It was growing from the very first drink until I finally stopped. It took many years for me to completely stop drinking. Periodically at times stopping for a week, a month, even a year, but alcohol was imbedded in my brain and I would start again. I did it all to stop drinking, changing brands, from scotch to bourbon, to beer, to just using small glasses, etc. No matter what I tried the drinking went on and on. Passing out then waking up to drink some more. Vomiting it all out and hoping that the next day would be a better day. I just couldn't put my finger on what was wrong with me. I thought that maybe I was just meant to live the miserable life I was living. Each day was worse than the last drifting away from family, friends, coworkers and becoming the loneliest man in the world. At least that's what I felt like.

Then one morning something happened. With the help of the God of my understanding I admitted I had become an alcoholic. I had the disease of Alcoholism. I had tried for so many years to beat alcohol and I now knew it couldn't be beat. I had to stop it with abstinence and changing my life. I realized that from that moment on the compulsion to drink was gone. I no longer had the desire to drink; instead I had the desire to live one day at a time without alcohol. Since that morning my life has changed for the better. I have been sober for over twelve years now and I have the life I was looking for. I no longer try to solve my problems with alcohol. I go to meetings almost every day, sometimes two. I pray every day and I ask the God of my understanding for help in living my life. I no longer try to beat alcohol and be miserable. I now accept the fact that I am an alcoholic and I am happy and grateful.

*In service, Ray, C., Roselle Sunday Night:*

## Founder's Day

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Book states - great events have come to pass in my life and in countless other lives who have cleared away the wreckage of their past and embraced the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous as the design for living for their lives. It is a simple program for very complicated people. To attend an event like Founder's Day is a reminder that I am not alone, that the hand of AA is everywhere, and that I am so lucky to be one of the many survivors of the fatal disease of alcoholism.

*Yours in the fellowship,  
Denise G., East Brunswick  
Monday Night Give  
& Take Group*

## District Service Meetings

**District 1&2** - 2nd Tuesday, 7:30pm, Lafayette at the Sunrise House Cafeteria.  
**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, 7pm, St. Mary's Church corner of High and Legion, Closter  
**District 8** - 2nd Tues. 7:30pm, Panther Valley Ecumenical Ch, Rt 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 Plaget Ave Rm A  
**District 12** - 3rd Fri. 7pm, 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. 7pm, St. Nicholas School Hall, 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. 7:30pm Hillsdale Pres. Ch. Ridgedale Ave, Cedar Knolls  
**District 17** - 3rd Fri. 8 pm, 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 7:00pm, 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 pm, Trinity Episcopal Church, Ryers Lane, Matawan  
**District 25** - Last Wed. 7:30 pm, Hope Lutheran Church, 21 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, Holy Cross Luth. Ch, Hooper Ave, Toms River  
**District 28** - 1st Tue. 7:30pm, 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, 77th Street & Broadway, North Bergen  
**District 32** - 3rd Thur. 7:00 pm, Bayonne Library, 31st St. & Ave. C., Bayonne  
**District 34** - 3rd Sat. 9:30am, 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, Trinity Episcopal Church, Trinity Lane, Woodbridge  
**District 37** - 3rd Wed. 7:00 pm, First Lutheran Church 153 Park St (basement), Montclair  
**District 38** - 3rd Thursday 7:30 pm, Presbyterian Church, 31 Fairfield Avenue, West Caldwell  
**District 39** - 1st Wed 7:00pm, 1st Presbyterian, 140 Mountain Ave., Westfield  
**District 40** - Last Sunday 10:45am, 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 9:30am, 52 Throckmorton Street, Freehold

## NNJGS Area 44 Office Calendar

### DECEMBER

3	Translation Committee	6:30 PM
3	Mailing Committee	6:30 PM
3	Remote Communities	7:30 PM
4	Officers Meeting & Standing	7:30 PM
6	Website Committee	7:30 PM
6	Computer Committee	7:30 PM
8	Grapevine Committee	10:00 AM
10	Convention Subcommittee	8:00 PM
11	Luncheon Committee	7:30 PM
11	Public Information Com	7:30 PM
12	Treatment Committee	8:00 PM
16	Garden State Young People	2:00 PM
17	Literature Sales	6:30 PM
17	Literature Committee	7:30 PM
18	History & Archives*	7:30 PM
18	CPC Committee	8:00 PM
19	Convention Committee	8:00 PM
20	Newsletter Committee	7:30 PM
24	Finance Committee	7:30 PM
27	Policy & Admissions	7:30 PM

### JANUARY 2013

1	Officers Meeting	7:30 PM
3	Website Committee	7:30 PM
3	Computer Committee	7:30 PM
5	Grapevine Committee	10:00 AM
7	Mailing Committee	6:30 PM
7	Translation Committee	6:30 PM
7	Remote Communities	7:30 PM
8	Public Information Com	7:30 PM
8	Luncheon Committee	7:30 PM
9	Treatment Committee	8:00 PM
13	Films Committee	11:00 AM
13	AREA COMMITTEE	12 NOON
14	Convention Subcommittee	8:00 PM
15	History & Archives*	7:30 PM
15	CPC Committee	8:00 PM
16	Night Watch Committee*	7:30 PM
16	Convention Committee	8:00 PM
17	Newsletter Committee	7:30 PM
19	Corrections Committee	10:00 AM
20	Garden State Young People	2:00 PM
21	Literature Sales	6:30 PM
21	Literature Committee	7:30 PM
28	Finance Committee	7:30 PM
31	Policy & Admissions	7:30 PM

### FEBRUARY

2	Grapevine Committee	10:00 AM
4	Mailing Committee	6:30 PM
4	Translation Committee	6:30 PM
4	Remote Communities	7:30 PM
5	Officers & Standing Com	7:30 PM
7	Films Committee	7:30 PM
7	Website Committee*	7:30 PM
11	Convention Subcommittee	8:00 PM
12	Luncheon Committee	7:30 PM
12	Public Information Com	7:30 PM
13	Treatment Committee	8:00 PM
15	THIS DAY DEADLINE	5:00 PM
17	Garden State Young People	2:00 PM
18	Literature Sales	6:30 PM
18	Literature Committee	7:30 PM
19	History & Archives*	7:30 PM
19	CPC Committee	8:00 PM

20	Night Watch Committee*	7:30 PM
20	Convention Committee	8:00 PM
21	Newsletter Committee	7:30 PM
22-24	NERAASA - Lancaster, PA	
25	Finance Committee	7:30 PM
26	Joint Unity Meeting	7:30 PM
28	Policy & Admissions	7:30 PM

### MARCH

2	Grapevine Committee	10:00 AM
4	Mailing Committee	6:30 PM
4	Translation Committee	6:30 PM
5	Officers Meeting	7:30 PM
7	Website Committee	7:30 PM
7	Computer Committee	7:30 PM
10	Films Committee	11:00 AM
10	AREA COM. MEETING	12 NOON

\*Intergroup Office, 2400 Morris Ave, Union

## Intergroup Calendar

### DECEMBER

3	Delegates Meeting, Clark	8:30 PM
6	Joint Website Committee	7:30 PM
9	Bookers Exchange, Cranford	7:00 AM
18	History and Archives	7:30 PM
25	(Office Closed) Christmas Day	

### JANUARY 2013

1	(Office Closed) New Year's Day	
3	Joint Website Committee*	7:30 PM
7	Delegates Meeting, Clark	8:30 PM
15	History and Archives	7:30 PM
16	Nightwatch Committee	7:30 PM

### FEBRUARY

4	Delegates Meeting, Clark	8:30 PM
7	Joint Website Committee	7:30 PM
18	Office Closed (President's Day)	
19	History and Archives	7:30 PM
27	Joint Unity Meeting*	8:00 PM

### MARCH

4	Delegates Meeting, Clark	8:30 PM
7	Joint Website Committee*	7:30 PM
10	Bookers Exchange, Cranford	7:00 AM
19	History and Archives	7:30 PM

\*Area Office, 2325 Plainfield Ave, South Plainfield



www.nnjaa.org/members  
password: onedayatime

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"

## DISTRICT DOINGS

**DISTRICT 1/2** — Our Service Committees continue to try and carry the AA message throughout our District. Several District 1&2 members attended our Area 44 Convention in September. The 4am Alkathon time slot commitment assigned by the Area was filled. District elections were held October 9th and all positions were filled except Alt. DCM. Our October 13th day of sharing was a success thanks to all who participated. The District 1/2 GSO bus trip was a lot of fun. About 50 went along for the 11am AA meeting at GSO followed by lunch then a tour of GSO. A few from our District attended the Area 44 elections assembly on October 20th. The reservation form for the work weekend was submitted and we are looking forward to the event. — *In Fellowship, Bill J., 1/2 DCM*

**DISTRICT 18** — Save the date!!! District 18 will be hosting its 3rd Annual Day of Sharing on Saturday February 23, 2013. Watch for details on the [nnjaa.org](http://nnjaa.org) website as we enter into the new year. We are looking forward to seeing you all there.

Our district has grown in size and in service in 2012. More groups are sending representatives to the district meetings. More commitments have been filled through Treatment and Facilities and Corrections. More groups have participated in Nightwatch. District 18 was a "dark" district just 3 years ago, and it is a joy to see the fellowship and service grow at the district level. Wishing you all a sober New Year filled with Unity, Recovery and Service. — *Terri D, Secretary District 18*

**DISTRICT 39** — The season of giving is here! District 39 hosts a twelve-hour Thanksgiving Alkathon where food, fellowship, and vital twelfth step work takes place. We invite all interested AA members and Al-Anon members to join us for this special day of thanks for the gift of life that we have been given through sobriety. The Thanksgiving Alkathon takes place on November 22, 2012 from 10am-10pm at St. Mary's Church—232 Central Avenue in Rahway. We would like to thank everyone who is donating food, funds, and service to make this event possible. If you are interested in getting involved, feel free to contact the DCM at [district39@nnjaa.org](mailto:district39@nnjaa.org) for more information. All food donations should be dropped off

### OVERHEARD AT A MEETING

**"Knowledge is knowing the tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is knowing not to put it in a fruit salad."**

by 9am at St. Mary's Church (no frozen turkeys please) and all monetary donations can be made payable to District 39. Please include "Alkathon" in memo section of check and mail to District 39 P.O. Box 231 Fanwood, N.J. 07023. Thank you all for your contributions, your donations, and your service to such a wonderful fellowship! Have a terrific holiday season! — *With Gratitude, Tricia L., DCM District 39*

**DISTRICT 40** — We held our elections on Sunday Oct 28th and no one stepped up for DCM. We asked the GSRs present to go back to their groups and let them know that as of Dec 31st they will have no district representation at the area meetings. Since I will be unable to attend to area's work weekend I will mention some of our district accomplishments here. We established a district budget which allowed us to help out any local alkathons and events. We provided pamphlets for groups and meeting books when needed. We printed district meeting list which are given to groups and used at local AA events and for PI and Treatment. We visited groups in our district to update meeting information and explained how to get involved at the district and area level. Friday Night Elizabeth "Progress Not Perfection" Group just completed their 2-year Treatment Committee commitment in Jersey City. We put out a PI Rack in the Elizabeth Library. We participated with districts 20 and 39 in annual Day of Sharing and Spirituality Breakfast. Our district was active in the Thanksgiving Alkathon in District 39 and the Christmas Alkathon in Cranford. The "More Will Be Revealed" Group held a group picnic which the whole district attends. The Flynn House holds events during the holidays and a summer barbeque that are open to all AAs. — *In Gratitude, Susanne M., DCM District 40*

The Working With Others Group of Alcoholics Anonymous Invites You To Join In Our

### 14th Anniversary Celebration

Cindy S. (AFG) San Angel, TX  
12:00 NOON

Vince V. (AA) New York, NY  
1:30p.m.

Heidi J. (AA) West Allenhurst, NJ  
3:00p.m.

John S. (AA) San Angelo, TX  
8:00 p.m.

"ALL FOR FUN AND FOR FREE"  
**Saturday, January 5, 2013**  
Grace, Church On The Mount  
US Highway 46 Netcong

### NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE FEB. 15th NEWSLETTER@NNJAA.ORG

This newsletter is produced four times annually by the Newsletter Committee, a joint committee of Northern New Jersey General Service Area 44 and Northern New Jersey Intergroup.

NOTE: This Newsletter will be published on our web site. The name and last initial of the author will be published unless otherwise requested.

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 directed to 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).

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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



Winter 2012

**"I get a big thrill out of looking over a vast sea of faces like this with a feeling that possibly some small thing that I did a number of years ago, played an infinitely small part in making this meeting possible."**

— Dr. Bob

## ALKATHONS

### Christmas

#### CRANFORD

36 HOUR CHRISTMAS ALKATHON  
Starting Monday Dec. 24th at noon  
through Sunday Dec. 25th at midnight at  
St. Michael's Church 40 Alden St, Cranford  
More info? [district20@nnjaa.org](mailto:district20@nnjaa.org)

#### DISTRICT 3

CHRISTMAS ALKATHON  
West Milford Municipal Building  
1480 Union Valley Road, West Milford  
Starting 4:00pm, Mon., December 24th  
Ending 8:00pm, Tue., December 25th

#### KEARNY GROUP

CHRISTMAS ALKATHON  
Trinity Episcopal Church, 575 Kearny  
Avenue, Kearny. Monday, December 24th  
starting at 8:30pm through Tuesday,  
December 25th - All Day

#### DISTRICT 41 - HOBOKEN

CHRISTMAS ALKATHON Our Lady of  
Grace School Hall, 5th St. & Willow Ave,  
Hoboken. Monday December 25th doors  
open at 8am. 9am-7pm meetings every  
2 hours. Dinner served at 2:00pm.

#### DISTRICT 15/21 - LAMBERTVILLE

CHRISTMAS MINI-ALKATHON - 12 Steps  
Lambertville Presbyterian Church, 31  
North Union Street, Lambertville.  
Meetings every hour on the hour  
Monday December 24: 11am to 11pm  
Tuesday, December 25: 10am to 6pm

#### DISTRICT 1/2 LAFAYETTE

CHRISTMAS ALKATHON  
Tuesday Dec. 25th 10am to 10pm  
Held at the Sunrise House, 37 Sunset Inn  
Rd, Lafayette. Meetings start on the hour  
and run 45 minutes. Last meeting: 9pm.  
A safe, sober, fun gathering & good food.  
More info? contact: [district1\\_2@nnjaa.org](mailto:district1_2@nnjaa.org)

#### DISTRICT 17

23rd ANNUAL HOLIDAY ALKATHON  
30 Hrs of Continuous Meetings  
Starting: Mon, Dec 24, @ 6pm  
Ending: Tue, Dec 25, @ 12 (Midnight) at  
the Alanon Assoc. 347 7th Ave, Newark  
A.A. & Grapevine Literature & Materials  
Will Be Available  
Chairperson: [REDACTED]  
Alt Chair: [REDACTED]

#### DISTRICT 22

HOLIDAY ALKATHON  
Monday Dec. 24th 9pm to Midnight  
Tuesday Dec. 25th 9am to Midnights  
Reformed Church of Highland Park  
19-21 South 2nd Avenue. For more info  
contact [REDACTED]  
or [REDACTED]

#### CHRISTMAS ALKATHON - DENVERLE

Union Hill Drop-In Center  
427 Franklin Road, Denverle  
Mon. December 24th 5:30pm through  
Midnight Tuesday, December 25 all day.  
Contact [district10@nnjaa.org](mailto:district10@nnjaa.org)

### New Year's

#### DISTRICT 15/21 - LAMBERTVILLE

NEW YEAR'S MINI-ALKATHON  
"The 12 Traditions"  
Lambertville Presbyterian Church  
31 North Union Street  
Lambertville  
~ All meetings are OPEN ~  
Every hour on the hour  
Monday December 31st from  
11:00am to 11:00pm. Tuesday,  
January 1st: 10am to 6pm

#### JERSEY CITY - DISTRICT 14

NEW YEAR'S ALKATHON  
Vietnam Vets Memorial  
(Pershing Field) Manhattan &  
Summit Aves, Jersey City  
Mon, December 31st from  
6:00pm to Tuesday January 1st  
4:00pm. Meetings every hour.  
Lunch at noon New Year's Day.

#### DENVILLE

NEW YEAR'S ALKATHON -  
Union Hill Drop-In Center  
427 Franklin Road, Denverle  
Mon. December 31st 5:30pm  
through Midnight Tuesday,  
January 1 New Year's Day @  
midnight. Questions?  
[district10@nnjaa.org](mailto:district10@nnjaa.org)

#### DISTRICT 36 - EDISON

ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S ALKATHON  
Monday, December 31, 2011  
(New Year's Eve) Doors open at  
4pm at St. Matthews Church, 81  
Seymour Avenue, Edison. Details  
to be announced. Contact infor-  
mation: [district36@nnjaa.org](mailto:district36@nnjaa.org)

#### DISTRICT 37 - GLEN RIDGE

ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S ALKATHON  
From Monday, December 31st,  
9pm through Tuesday, January  
1st, last meeting at 4pm. at the  
Glen Ridge Congregational  
Church Ridgewood Ave, and  
Clark St, Glen Ridge  
Please join us for food, fun and  
fellowship as we celebrate the  
New Year!! Please park on the side  
streets

#### DISTRICT 3

NEW YEAR'S ALKATHON  
West Milford Municipal Building  
1480 Union Valley Road  
West Milford. Starting Monday,  
December 31st 4:00pm through  
8:00pm Tuesday, January 1st