

Alcoholics Anonymous - Northeast Region
Hudson Mohawk Berkshire Area 48

DISTRICT 13 NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2013 (Website Version) (Page 1 of 4)

**We ask Group Chairs or GSR's to bring this Newsletter to their Group Meetings.
Please share the information.**

(If you want extra copies for use at your meetings, please contact Newsletter Editor (See page 4))

HERE IS INFORMATION WORTHY OF YOUR ATTENTION

District 13 publishes its new AA meeting list in March, July and November.

**The new March 2013 meeting lists are expected to be available
at next Wednesday's, March 6th, District meeting.**

There are new meetings – now totaling 80 meetings each week!

GSR's or Group representatives attending on 3/6 can get the Group's copies.

We wrote in last month's Newsletter that publishing up-to-date meeting lists is just one example of **AA service that is beyond the ability, or responsibility, of any one AA Group to handle.**

There also are, for example: BTG [Bridging the Gap] linking local AA members with someone coming home from rehab, hospital or jail; CPC [Cooperation with Professional Community]; Treatment; Corrections; our District 13 Telephone Hotline where anyone can call and talk anonymously with a sober member of AA 24-hour a day/7 days a week; and, so much more.

The Twelve **Steps** help individual AA members in their daily journeys of sobriety and sober living.

The Twelve **Traditions** help AA as a whole remain strong for current members and those yet to come.

AA service beyond the Group level is vital to AA's ability to serve current and incoming members.

AA's District 13 serves a very large area of northern New York.

The District has five (5) vacant AA service positions - and others soon to become vacant.

The 80 AA meetings each week in District 13 probably see about 1,000 attendees each week.

We respectfully ask each AA member to reflect on AA's Traditions and possibly consider serving in one of these important vacant AA positions. [See page 4 for list of vacant positions.]

Won't you please consider service to AA in District 13?

You can find out how easy it is to help, and how little time actually is required, by contacting our District 13 DCM, Lou H., Sr. [See page 4 for Lou's contact info] or at our March 6th District meeting.

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District 13 meets on the first Wednesday of every other month: January; March; May; July; September; and, November. **The next meeting is this coming Wednesday, March 6th.**

Copies of minutes from our last [January 2nd] meeting will be available for review and approval consideration at that Wednesday, March 6th District meeting.

Copies of our Treasurer's latest Report also will be available for review and approval consideration at that Wednesday, March 6th District meeting.

Remember, proposed AA service expenditures are discussed and voted on at District meetings. **Each Group has a vote.** That's just one of the reasons why attendance at District 13 meetings is both informative and important.

We say 'informative' because it's amazing how much significant news about AA activities you can hear in our one-hour District 13 meetings.

Did you know, for example?

- AA's HMB [Hudson Mohawk Berkshire] Area 48 serves the largest geographic portion of all New York State - with 18 AA Districts including our District 13. Area 48 Chairperson Pat L. is a very active, dedicated individual as is our District DCM Lou H., Sr. who reports on AA activity at our District 13 bi-monthly meetings;
- As we're writing this Newsletter, Area 48 is participating in the intense, multi-States Northeast Regional AA Service Assembly [NERAASA - February 22nd thru 24th] at which almost 1,000 AA volunteers share with each other practices that have worked well in providing AA service to members and those 'yet to enter the rooms' and practices proven not so effective.

To quote Area 48's elected Delegate, Keith D, at NERAASA, "There is roundtable discussion for almost every service job you can think of - and maybe some you had no idea of - that AA provides. It is definitely a working weekend but I guarantee you leave very energized"

- On March 6th thru March 8th, Area 48 will have an AA information/resource table at the New York Association of Drug Treatment Court Professionals being held in Saratoga Springs. Area 48 AA volunteers will be there to help better inform the more than 800 participating professionals in these fields on what AA is, does, and does not do and how the AA Program can be a valuable, even life-saving, answer for some of their 'clients';
- On Saturday April 20th, Area 48 will host the 'Corrections Connection,' an event bringing together officials and staff of New York State's correctional facilities and AA members already in, or interested in, AA service work in these New York State correctional facilities. Get details on this important event to be held in Rensselaer - at our March 6th District meeting.

You can talk with folks on March 6th about how you can bring an AA meeting into NY State correctional facilities [in Comstock in District 13] and Washington or Warren County jails.

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Want to hear more - and get the new District 13 meeting lists?

Just come to our March 6th District meeting - 7pm - 1-hour - same location as always:

Lake George Town Center [rear entrance], 20 Old Post Rd., Lake George

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There is one other upcoming AA event worthy of special mention - for your consideration:

On **Saturday, March 23rd**, HMB Area 48 holds its **Day of Sharing/Delegate's Day** in Hudson, NY. At that event, AA members get to provide feedback to our Delegate Keith D. as he prepares for the annual United States and Canada-wide General Service Conference to be held in NYC on 4/21-4/27.

At Conference, Keith will join with the 92 other elected Delegates serving the almost 64,000 Groups and 1.4 million AA Members in the U.S.A and Canada for this intense, week-long effort at which the Conference starts the rigorous process of taking its own AA Inventory [see 3/23 flyer attached].

Prior to the March 23rd Delegate's Day, Keith will ask for input from Members, Groups and Districts to help him in this serious Conference effort to ensure that AA remains strong for future generations.

We'll get Keith's information request to you as soon as we receive it, possibly at our March 6th meeting.

Remember the Grapevine: Chair Pete R. says, at meetings he attends, he brings copies of past months' Grapevines and encourages others to do the same. He also suggests that group members take a Grapevine home, read it and pass it on at the next group meeting. Pete also reminds everyone that both on-line and hard-copy subscriptions to Grapevine are available along with great hard-cover books and soft-cover literature published by Grapevine. Just go to **www.aagrapevine.org**. You also can access this by a link on District 13's website **http://district13.aahmbny.org**.

Please remember: District 13 maintains a **24 hours a day/7 days a week telephone 'hotline'** providing AA meeting locations, days & times and providing **an opportunity for anyone struggling with alcohol to talk anonymously with a recovering sober member of AA.** **The hotline phone number is (518) 793-1113.** **Please give this phone number to anyone you believe could use it!**

District Records Keeper, Paul G. reminds us that **answering AA hotline calls is very important and it is easy.** You take the call on your home phone or cell phone whichever you prefer. And, since all calls come through our confidential Hotline operator - who will first ask you if it's convenient for you to take the call - the caller never sees your caller ID or any other information about you. You may only get a few calls a year! Contact Paul to learn how to help [Paul's contact info is on page 4].

Year 2013 Area 48 Meeting Book lists over 1,200 AA meetings each week in our large part of New York. Area 48 prints/distributes 30,000 of these each year. **These books already have been shipped.** If you ordered but have not received them, contact Tammie E. at **altreas@aahmbny.org**.

Some extras still are available [30 cents each]. An Order Form is available at Area 48's website: www.aahmbny.org or by link on District 13's website: <http://district13.aahmbny.org>.

Remember, you also can find AA meetings on-line at the Area 48 and District 13 websites.

[To receive free monthly e-mail copy of Area 48 Newsletter, contact editor at: **newsletter@aahmbny.org**.]

[To receive free monthly e-mail copy of District 13's Newsletter, contact the editor – see page 4 for info.]

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District 13 is deeply grateful to the Groups and Members who contribute to our AA service work.

There are 60 Groups in District 13 now with 80 AA meetings each and every week.

The Treasurer reports very few Group contributions to District 13 in recent months.

Paul G. also noted recently that total contributions to GSO last year equaled only **16 cents per AA member!**

Times are tough but AA really could use your help!! All contributions are acknowledged by letters from District 13, Area 48 and GSO. District 13 also lists contributions in its Treasurer's Report and Newsletter.

As possible help to members and Groups, it was voted at prior District meeting to include the addresses for mail and contributions in newsletters & meeting lists. Historical contribution share has been 60% District; 30% Area & 10% GSO.

The addresses are:

District 13	P. O. Box 4335, Queensbury, NY 12804;
HMB Area 48	118 Polar Plaza #114, Route 30, Amsterdam, NY 12010; and
General Service Office (GSO)	P. O. Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163

GSO contributions also can be made on-line at: www.aa.org and click on 'contributions' icon.

And remember, unlike many Districts, our District 13 members pay for all expenses, including travel, for their participation [not only in Area and State Conventions but also for Area and State service workshops and even NERAASA] - out of their own pockets - with no District 13 reimbursement. Importantly, this means **all contributions from Groups and members to District 13 go directly to AA service work.**

The need for your financial support continues to be very real so we respectfully request, if your Group hasn't helped out recently, that you please consider a much-needed early contribution to District 13 in any amount your Group conscience considers appropriate. **Thank You.**

Need to talk to someone at District 13? Committee Chairs - and contact information - are as follows:

[But you will see many positions are vacant! **Won't you please help AA and consider service in one of these?**]

<u>Committee:</u>	<u>Chairperson</u>	<u>e-mail address (all lower case)</u>
• DCM	Lou H., Sr.	(e-mail: district13dcm@aahmbny.org)
• Alternate DCM	*Vacant *	Please consider this AA service opportunity
• Secretary	Kristen H.	
• Treasurer	Tom B.	
• Records	Paul G.	(e-mail: district13@nycap.rr.com)
• Bridging the Gap	John W.	
• Corrections	*Vacant *	[Please consider this AA service opportunity]
	[in interim call Don B.	
• CPC/PI	*Vacant *	[Please consider this AA service opportunity]
• Treatment	*Vacant *	[Please consider this AA service opportunity]
• Newsletter Editor	John D.	(e-mail: district13newsletter@sprynet.com)
• Grapevine	Peter R.	
• Archives	Jenny H.	
• Special Needs	*Vacant *	[Please consider this AA service opportunity]

NOTE: A CONFIDENTIAL VERSION of the District 13 Newsletter is issued for inside AA use only.

This **Public Version** of the District 13 Newsletter is for posting on Area 48 and District 13 Websites.

Editor's Note: Each month, we say "We welcome your comments and especially ask you to tell us about AA items you and your Group would like to see included in the Newsletter."

Here's the text of a wonderful article just submitted by Ed B. of the Chestertown Group. Thank you, Ed.

AA birthplace gets national historic landmark status

Akron, Ohio - Legal News Reporter Newspaper - Sherry Karabin

Published: January 25, 2013

It is the place where thousands come each year to pay tribute to the ideals and program that has helped so many to regain their sobriety, and recently Dr. Bob's home at 855 Ardmore Ave. in Akron was designated a National Historical Landmark.

The home where Dr. Robert and Anne Smith lived from 1916 to 1950 was one of 27 sites designated on Oct. 17, 2012 by the U.S. Department of the Interior. It is considered the birthplace of Alcoholics Anonymous since it is where Dr. Robert Holbrook Smith got sober with the help of New York businessman, Bill Wilson (Bill W.), who had been struggling with his own sobriety.

"The house is held in the highest regard by all, even a mecca for some alcoholics, and people travel the world to come here and see where it all began" said Harmon V., chairman of the board of Dr. Bob's Home Inc., and a sober member of Alcoholics Anonymous since July 10, 1987. "Dr. Bob and Bill Wilson met on Mother's Day weekend in 1935 and Dr. Bob took his last drink on June 10, 1935, which is considered the founding of Alcoholics Anonymous.

"Bill Wilson stayed in the house with Dr. Bob and many of the ideals for 12-step programs were hammered out in the kitchen and living room of the house," said Harmon. "With Bill's help Dr. Bob started the first AA group in Akron."

Dr. Bob died in Akron in 1950, and 15 years of uninterrupted sobriety. Today Alcoholics Anonymous has over 2 million members; many make it a point to tour Dr. Bob's house and visit the gift shop next door at 859 Ardmore Ave.

"The bulk are members of AA, but we also have those who support them, and members of other 12-step groups as well," said Wayne B., who is a four-year AA member and one of the many volunteers who conduct tours and help maintain the home. "On Founder's Day in June we have over 7,000 people lined up all the way down West Exchange Street.

"I have been doing this for about a year-and-a-half now," said Wayne. "I consider it my service work. Service work is one of our principles. It's not just that I'm sober now; I have to pass on what I have to those who are still sick and suffering. It is about attraction rather than promotion. It is our job to be active examples.

"I suspect I have a couple alcoholics in my own family and I'm waiting for a call but, they have to hit their rock bottom first. Everyone goes through his or her own journey. When they are ready I can take them to a meeting and help them get a sponsor but that is all I can do. I cannot get them sober, they have to do the work."

Dr. Bob's home is the second national historic landmark in Summit County. Akron's Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens, the Seiberling estate, already held the status. Among the other sites designated on October 17 was Stepping Stones. Located in Katonah, New York, the house was once owned by Bill and Lois Wilson, co-founders of AA and Al-Anon Family Groups.

"There are only 71 national historic landmarks in Ohio, and 2,494 in the United States so it is a pretty big honor," said Harmon. "On Mother's Day we will be unveiling the plaque during a ceremony. The lieutenant governor is expected to be here."

The home's journey to national historic landmark status actually began many years after Dr. Bob's death when a small group of Akron AA members decided they wanted to preserve it. At the time a student at The University of Akron owned the structure. Since AA is prohibited by its traditions from purchasing property, a nonprofit foundation was created in the mid-1980s to purchase and maintain Dr. Bob's home as a museum.

In October of 1985, Dr. Bob's home was named a state historical site by former Gov. Richard Celeste, and later U.S. Congressman John Seiberling got the home listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Harmon said in 2011, the house underwent a \$95,000 restoration, which was done by professional contractors, who specialize in historical preservation.

Since the number 12 is key to the program, there are 12 steps leading to the front door of Dr. Bob's home.

"The original house had 11 corner slats in the floor of the dining room and 13 in the living room and now there are 12 in both rooms," said Wayne. "This change was made as a labor of love by another one of the volunteers at the home. The house has some unique features including a gas fireplace, servants' quarters, indoor garage and a bathroom off the kitchen."

"We only have one part-time employee; the rest is done by volunteers," said Harmon, who has been chairman of Dr. Bob's Home Inc. since 2008.

"Personally I would be dead without AA." said Harmon. "What's so mind boggling about the program is how far reaching one person's sobriety can be. Before I got sober, I had lost my wife, four children and a career at a Fortune 500 company.

"The program reunited our family and helped me get back into the workforce. As a result my children were able to go to the college of their choice, which is where they met their spouses, and they've had children. My children all work in fields that help others. I believe this is a direct result of their exposure to the fellowship, and who knows what lives their children will change."

HMB Day of Sharing / Delegate's Day

When: Saturday, March 23, 2013

Where: First Reformed Church
52 Green St
Hudson, NY

Hosted by District 17 and the Hudson Valley Cluster

Registration, Coffee, and Treats @ 9 AM

Meeting from 10 AM until 3 PM

Lunch will be served

Tentative Agenda:

- **Brief Area Reports**
- **Roundtable discussions of selected 2013 General Service Conference Topics**
- **Reports from Roundtables**

Please join HMB Area 48 in sharing an informed Area conscience with our Delegate for the 2013 General Service Conference.

Info: althmbchair@aahmbny.org