

Alcoholics Anonymous - Northeast Region
Hudson Mohawk Berkshire Area 48

DISTRICT 13 NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2013 (Website Version) (Page 1 of 6)

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

*Seen 'in the Rooms'
over the recent holidays...*



Yes, there is humor and laughter in the rooms of AA despite the fact that, left untreated, alcoholism is a fatal disease. How can this paradox of laughter and a fatal disease exist? Because sober AA members know, and newcomers who stick around soon find out, that **One Day at a Time, AA Works!**

Yes, AA works because its most important part - the AA Groups - have meetings where members gain strength from one another - and gain the sure and certain hope and knowledge that, together, we are able to do things that, alone are undoable.

But that raises the question: How does a newcomer or visitor to our local area find an AA meeting? Of course, we know that AA provides meeting lists locally, State-wide, nationally and even world-wide.

But how do these meeting lists 'appear?' in printed form? and on-line? It's not magic; it happens because dedicated AA members do the service work needed to prepare, regularly update and arrange for printing hard copies and for electronic on-line posting of this vital AA meeting list information!

Our District 13 Records Keeper is Paul G. He does a great job in AA service making sure correct group information, including for new groups and changes like meeting locations for existing groups all get recorded and reported not only within our Adirondacks' District 13 but through dedicated service by AA members at our HMB Area 48 which covers much of New York State and at AA's General Service Office (GSO) USA and Canada-wide. But Paul's Records service commitment ends later this year. In the important AA Tradition of rotation, **will someone be there to take his place?**

Yes, we often forget, there is much in AA needing done that is beyond the ability of any one AA group to handle. Meeting lists are just one example. There also are: 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.

Page 6 lists our District 13 service positions and, **sadly**, it shows that several positions are vacant. Won't you please consider serving in one of these vital AA roles? It may save the life of a newcomer! It's **not** hard work and **not** a lot of time is required. Just contact our District DCM Lou H., Sr. and he will show you how easy it is to do. AA service is a gift we give for our own sobriety. **Will you do it!?**

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The information below is from our January 2nd meeting. It includes the December-January Treasurer's Report and information on how we use important Group contributions in our District 13 AA service work. Recent Group contributions to District 13 are listed in our Newsletter; a thank you letter is sent to each Group.

Remember, proposed 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 meetings is not only informative but also important.

DCM, Lou H., Sr. chaired the Jan. 2nd meeting; welcomed all present; and opened with the Serenity Prayer.

Copies of the 11/7 meeting minutes were distributed by Secretary Kristen H, reviewed and approved. Copies of Jan. 2nd minutes will be available for review and approval consideration at the next meeting: 3/6/13.

Copies of Tom B's Dec.-Jan. Treasurer's Report were distributed to all present on Jan. 2nd. It was reviewed, discussed and approved. [copy included in this Newsletter.] The Report shows: an opening balance of \$508.09; income from only one Group contribution [There is a Solution Group for \$60.00] in the entire 2-month period; expenses of \$263.95 (including telephone hotline; Contact Communications; rent [\$25 Lake George Town Hall meeting space-only once every 2-months] and postage for newsletters mailings) leaving a closing balance of \$304.14. Subtracting the District's \$250 prudent reserve, leaves only \$54.14 available for further District 13 service work consideration and expenses [An additional much-needed \$100 contribution from the Suggested Program of Recovery Group also was received on Jan. 2nd and will be included in the next Treasurer's Report].

We thank Kristen and Tom for their dedicated service, respectively as Secretary and Treasurer but their two-year service commitments are ending. **Will someone be willing to fill their shoes?**

DCM Lou H. thanked all members who are doing AA service work in their own home groups - and beyond.

Lou briefly recapped activity over the prior two months and discussed some significant upcoming AA events. Lou participated in AA's HMB Area 48 Fellowship Day held in November in Utica at which members, including DCM's from almost all 18 Districts in Area 48, shared sober fellowship and AA service information.

Lou said he will participate [did participate] in Area 48's annual Inventory Day on Jan. 12th in Defreestville. Differing from a traditional AA Fellowship Day, Inventory Day is an opportunity for reflection - on what we are doing well in AA service - and what we could do to better carry the AA message. Lou described how participants break into several 'roundtables' in the morning, each examining a different aspect of AA service. One person from each roundtable acts as secretary and, after lunch, reports for all members present at Inventory to consider, the issues discussed and possible ideas for improvement. Lou emphasized the most important 'power/responsibility' in AA is in the individual AA Groups - the **top** of AA's 'inverted triangle' with service responsibility going **down** that triangle through the Districts, Areas and General Service Office.

Lou described how so much AA service work exceeds the ability of any one AA Group to handle and that is why service beyond the Group is so vital.

Lou noted the work of District 13 committees but pointed out with concern, the several vacant committee Chair positions which hinder AA's ability to help AA members and those yet to find our life-saving Fellowship. It was this concern, shared by others at our Jan. 2nd meeting, that led us to write **Will you do it!?** on page 1.

WELL, RESPECTFULLY, WILL YOU AT LEAST CONSIDER IT?

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The **new updated District 13 meeting lists** will be published in time for our **March 6th District meeting**. Please get all new group and existing group change info to Paul **by February 11th** so it can be included.

In the meantime, Paul reports there is a **NEW MEETING**:

7:30AM Monday, open discussion, New Beginnings Community Church, 487 Dix Ave., Queensbury.

Reports were given by, or on behalf of, Committee Chairs at the 1/2 meeting as follows:

Records: Records Keeper Paul G. was not present but Lou cited the thorough and timely work Paul is doing and Tom B reminded everyone to send information to Paul promptly on new groups or existing group changes so AA records can be updated. This ensures not only that printed and on-line meeting lists are correct but also so that each group receives useful free information made available by District 13, Area 48 and GSO.

Lou also mentioned that 'New Group' and Group 'Change Forms' are available at District 13's helpful website.

Bridging the Gap: Chairman John W. reported that a staff person from Warren County jail contacted him about BTG program information and on ways to better utilize this important AA service at that facility. John also is in discussion with Glens Falls Hospital doctor on how to better disseminate BTG information. The material John is using for BTG purposes has both our District P.O. Box and John's contact information;

Treatment: – Chair position vacant – no report;

Corrections – Chair position vacant – no report – but in meantime contact Don B. - [see page 6 for info];

CPC/PI [Cooperation with the Professional Community/Public Information]: Chair position vacant, no report;

Newsletter: Editor John D. reported the Newsletter is issued each month – and encourages e-mail distribution wherever possible because it saves the District postage for USPS-mailing of printed hard-copies. If you or your Group has AA information you would like to see in the Newsletter, including group anniversaries or activities, please let John know [see page 6 for contact info];

Grapevine: Chair Pete R. said, at the 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. In response to a question from Joan D, Pete 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 can also access this by a link on District 13's website. Pete also looks forward to more contact from Area 48's new Grapevine Chair.

John D. said if subscriptions to the print version of Grapevine dwindle too far, it might cease publication.

Lou suggested that Pete contact Keith D. who not only is our elected Area 48 Delegate but also has been serving on a special Grapevine committee of the USA and Canada-wide AA General Service Conference.

Archives: Chair Jenny H. was not present - no report; **Special Needs:** Chair position vacant – no report;

Alternate DCM: This is an open position - no report.

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Paul G. has reminded 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. And you may only get a few calls a year! Contact Paul to learn how to help.

→ The year 2013 Area 48 Meeting Book lists over 1,200 AA meetings each week in our large portion of New York. Area 48 prints and distributes some 30,000 of these books each year. They tell us shipments to those who ordered the 2013 books should occur by the end of January. Some extras are still available [30 cents each]. An Order Form is available at Area 48's website: www.aahmbny.org or by link on District 13 website.

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

Below is some interesting information from the January issue of HMB Area 48's Newsletter:

[To receive monthly e-mail copy of Area 48's Newsletter, contact the editor at: newsletter@aahmbny.org.]
[To receive monthly e-mail copy of District 13's Newsletter, contact the editor – see page 6 for info.]

We previously reported that Area 48's **historical AA Archives** suffered major damage from Hurricane Irene including loss of our complete collection of original Grapevines. We also reported with deep gratitude that a Vermont AA Area possessed two original sets of Grapevine and voted to donate one set to our HMB Area 48. We now report that the Area 48 Archives have been moved from Kingston to a better-protected location in the Albany area, a location giving better access for work by our Archive Committee. Reflecting on the efforts of AA members who worked so diligently to restore many of the other damaged artifacts, Area 48 Archivist Charlie C. said there still is much repair and restoration work ahead but he also wrote "I was filled with gratitude that so much of the collection had been saved from the flood. Thanks again to the members who took quick action as trusted servants." Charlie also wrote "The collection contains many wonderful artifacts, a collection of 'tramp art' and documentation of the Area's development." If you have a really rare early AA artifact, why not consider donating it to the Area 48 Archives for viewing by members and AA's yet to come! Charlie reports that a selected display of the Area 48 Archives will be brought to every HMB Area function.

If you want to see great items from AA's 77-year history and HMB Area 48 and Districts' role in that history, why not come to upcoming HMB Area 48 events. We'll keep you posted on dates and locations.

There will be a major day-long work session among New York State Corrections Department officials and staff and AA members in corrections and other service work. Goal of the event is to increase understanding of each other's roles and responsibilities and, hopefully, to better enable bringing AA meetings into NYS facilities. Both our 'upstate' HMB Area 48 and 'downstate' SENY Area 49 will participate. The event will be held in Albany on Friday, April 5th. If you are involved in corrections work or might like to know how to help, contact Area 48's Corrections Chair, Don S. at: corrections@aahmbny.org.

Our elected Area 48 Delegate, Keith D. will join with the 92 other elected Delegates in the USA and Canada for the annual General Service Conference to be held this spring. It is an intense, week-long effort which this year will see the Conference start the rigorous process of taking its Inventory. Keith soon will ask for input from Groups and Districts to help him in this serious Conference focus on how to prepare for AA's future.

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

There are almost 50 Groups in District 13 with some 76 AA meetings each and every week.

The Treasurer's Report below shows only one group made a contribution to District 13 in the past 2 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 the help!! All contributions are acknowledged by letters from District 13, Area 48 and GSO. District 13 also lists contributions in its Treasurer's Report.

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 & 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.**

HMB DISTRICT 13 - TREASURY REPORT - January 2, 2013

(Note: A copy of the January 2, 2013 District 13 Treasurer's Report is included in the confidential version of District 13's Newsletter issued to AA members. It is not included in this public version.)

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⇒ 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</u> (all lower case)
• 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]

'Rotation' in AA service positions is an important part of AA's Twelve Traditions. In addition to the vacant service positions shown above, several filled District service positions are due for rotation this year including DCM, Treasurer, Secretary and Records Keeper. Won't you please consider one of these positions?

District 13's NEW WEBSITE has some great AA information. Why not check it out!

DCM Lou H. Sr. reminds us the new District 13 website <http://district13.aahmbny.org> is 'up and running.'
Please visit the District 13 website to: find AA meetings; view AA and Grapevine literature catalogs; purchase AA & Grapevine literature; find out how to start a new group or change existing group information; make contributions to District 13; Area 48 and GSO; view and print copies of Area 48 and District 13 Newsletters and meeting list; and more! Find it all at our 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 and times and providing an opportunity for anyone struggling with alcohol to talk anonymously with a recovering sober member of AA. **The hotline telephone number is (518) 793-1113.**
Please don't hesitate to give this phone number to anyone you believe could use it!

Editor's Note: As always, we welcome your comments and reactions and especially ask you to **tell us about AA items you and your Group would like to see included in the Newsletter.** Thank you.

⇒ **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.