

DISTRICT 13 NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2013 (Website Version)

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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 5))

HERE IS INFORMATION WORTHY OF YOUR ATTENTION

District 13 publishes its new AA meeting lists in March, July and November. New March 2013 meeting lists were distributed to all Group representatives attending the Wednesday, March 6th, District meeting.

There are new meetings: now 80 meetings each & every week in our District!

Did you know you can download a printable pdf copy of the meeting list (legal size - 8.5 x 14") simply by going to our District 13 website <http://district13.aahmbny.org>, click on 'District 13 meeting finder' icon and then click on: March - June 2013 [or hold down 'control' key and click on either in this text]. Of course, you can always make your own extra copies of the meeting list you already have.

Here's meeting information two Groups have asked us to mention in this Newsletter:

- The Top of the Morning Group meets every Monday through Friday morning 7:30 AM at The Quarry House, 138 Upper Platt St. Glens Falls. The Group needs and welcomes your support.

Since the March list was published, there is this brand new meeting:

- Sisters in Sobriety [women only] closed/literature/discussion - Thursdays, 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM St. Isaac Joques Parish Center, 86 Riverside Drive, Chestertown, NY 12817 [starts Thurs., April 4th]

We welcome your comments and suggestions on the Newsletter and especially ask you to tell us about AA items you or your Group would like to see included in future Newsletters. Thank you. [See the Editor's observations on AA - today and in the future - on page 6.]

A brief recap of items covered at the March 6th District 13 meeting is included in this Newsletter.

Some good news: AA members offered, and were elected on 3/6, to these District service positions:

- Lou H. Sr. - as new District 13 Website Chair [Lou is completing his 2-year term as DCM];
- Tom B. - as new District 13 Secretary [Tom B's 2-year term as Treasurer and Kristen H's 2-year term as Secretary have ended];
- Everett V. - as new District 13 Treasurer [replacing Tom B].

We offer our gratitude to those members just completing their dedicated AA service to District 13 and to those members who have stepped-up to fill these important AA service positions.

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Some not so good news: we have [or soon will have] the following District 13 AA service vacancies:

- **DCM** [District Committee Member] - since Lou H., Sr. is 'rotating out of his 2-year term;
- **Alternate DCM** - position vacant for some time now [fills in when DCM is unavailable];
- **CPC/PI** [Cooperation with Professional Community/Public Information] also too-long vacant; we need to fill this service position, e.g. upcoming mailing of AA meeting lists to hotels/motels;
- **Records Keeper** – **Paul G's** 2-year term ends later this year; a replacement will be needed;
- **Treatment** - several members have expressed interest in serving in the Treatment position;
- **Special Needs** - a very rewarding opportunity to be of AA service - too often overlooked;
- **Corrections** - vacant **far too-long** - we **really** need to fill this important AA service position. [Please, I ask you, see a personal observation from the Editor on page 6 of this Newsletter.]

Did you know: AA has printed '**Guidelines**' with full information on each AA service position?

Copies are available on-line at www.aa.org ['for members' icon] or ask Newsletter Editor for copies.

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!?**

District 13 meets on the first Wednesday of every other month: January; March; May; July; September; and, November. **Here is some other information from our March 6th meeting:**

Copies of the January 2nd meeting minutes were provided to all attending, reviewed and approved;

Copies of the March 6th Treasurer's Report were provided to all attending, reviewed and approved. [copy included in confidential/members' version of this Newsletter. It shows how limited the funds are for District 13 AA service work and why member and Group contributions are so important.

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

At the March 6th District 13 meeting, DCM Lou H., Sr. reported on recent and upcoming AA events:

On February 22nd thru 24th, Area 48 AA members participated in a multi-States Northeast Regional AA Service Assembly [NERAASA] at which over 800 AA volunteers shared ways to better provide AA service to current members and those 'yet to find the rooms.' Possible restructuring of AA's General Service Office and Grapevine was discussed and will be examined at the General Service Conference.

On March 6th thru March 8th, members staffed an AA information/resource table at the New York Association of Drug Treatment Court Professionals in Saratoga Springs. Area 48 AA volunteers were there to help better inform the hundreds of participating professionals in these fields on what AA is, does, and does not do - and how the AA Program can be a life-saving answer for some of their 'clients'.

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

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On Saturday April 20th, Area 48 will host the 'Corrections Connection,' an event bringing together officials and staff from 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, being held in Rensselaer, in Area 48's March Newsletter - or see the enclosed flyer.

Contact our DCM Lou H., Sr. to learn how you can bring an AA meeting into NY State correctional facilities [in Comstock in District 13] or Washington or Warren County jails, even if just once a month.

On Sunday May 19th, Area 48 holds its Assembly at which Delegate Keith D. will provide a full 'report-back' on the United States and Canada-wide General Service Conference. We'll have details on that Assembly in next Month's Newsletter but see next item on the General Service Conference.

Here's something really important we ask each AA Member and Group to consider:

At the AA General Service 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 work effort at which the Conference starts the rigorous process of taking its own AA Inventory. There will be major discussion on possible AA restructuring to better serve current and new members.

Keith has asked for input from all Members, Groups and Districts to help him in this serious Conference effort to ensure that AA remains strong for future generations. You can tell Keith anything you believe is important to AA - today and in the years ahead - for the home group and AA as a whole.

Keith even prepared a Delegate's Questionnaire you can use to tell him what you think is important. We distributed copies at the 3/6 District 13 meeting and e-mailed copies on 3/11 to all members on our District 13 e-mail list. **If you still need a copy, please contact Newsletter Editor** [see page 5].

Keith needs your input by April 14th latest so he has time to reflect and prepare for the Conference. You can give your info to him personally at the April 14th HMB Area 48 Fellowship Day in Utica or by e-mail to HMBArea48Delegate@hvc.rr.com. **Please take this opportunity to help AA.**

Have you seen 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 or access this by a link on District 13's website <http://district13.aahmbny.org>. [See more re the Grapevine on page 6.]

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!**

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

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(Note: A copy of the March 6, 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.)

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

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

The Treasurer's Report above does show, however, that the District currently is below its prudent reserve. 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.**

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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 [See Paul's contact info below].

Paul also asks everyone to please send information to him 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. 'New Group' and Group 'Change Forms' are available at District 13's website: <http://district13.aahmbny.org>.

⇒ Need to talk to someone at District 13? Committee Chairs - and contact information - are as follows:
[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>Telephone</u>	<u>e-mail address</u> (all lower case)
• DCM	Lou H., Sr. [term ending]	(e-mail: district13dcm@aahmbny.org)	
• Alternate DCM	*Vacant *		Please consider this AA service opportunity
• Secretary	Tom B. [elected 3/6/13]		
• Treasurer	Everett V. [elected 3/6/13]		
• 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]
• District Website	Lou H., Sr. [elected 3/6/13]	(e-mail: district13dcm@aahmbny.org)	

Several AA members recently expressed interest in possibly filling the Treatment Chair service position.

⇒ AA members interested in filling any vacant service position should attend the next District 13 meeting: **Wednesday May 1st, 7 PM** - Lake George Town Center [rear entrance], 20 Old Post Rd., Lake George.

District 13 thanks **Area 48 Newsletter Editor William T.** for his timely and informative Area Newsletters and thanks **Area 48 Webmaster Bill W.** and his 'helpers' for timely posting of District 13 Newsletters and for maintaining the Area website with its new AA meeting finder listing meetings in much of New York State. We are equally grateful to our own **DCM Lou H., Sr.** for establishing and maintaining District 13's website.

[To receive free monthly e-mail copy of Area 48's Newsletter, contact Editor at: newsletter@aahmbny.org.]
[To receive a free monthly e-mail or hard copy of District 13's Newsletter, contact the Editor - see above.]

⇒ **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.

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A personal observation from the Editor:

At the March 23rd Delegate's Day, the **Grapevine** table had a great assortment of books, CD's and other wonderful items published by the Grapevine [see catalog at www.aagrapevine.org or get a free catalog by calling 800 631 6025. You also can get a mailed or e-mailed subscription by calling that same number.]

At the table, I bought [\$1.50] a facsimile of the first **Grapevine** - Volume 1, No. 1 - published June 1944.

That same week, the April 2013 issue of the **Grapevine** arrived in the mail. Yes, almost 70 years later, **Grapevine** staff still works hard to truly sustain "**AA's Meeting in Print.**" And, its cover page title:

"Just Released, What Now? Leaving a treatment program or institution can be overwhelming. AA can help" and with a special section on *Bridging the Gap* - that 'slippery slope' time for a newcomer after leaving but before he or she 'gets connected' with local AA members and a home group. Powerful reading!

Also last week, I received a copy of **Box 459**, AA's General Service Office quarterly publication on matters of wide interest to AA members [free by e-mail from www.aa.org or by mail [just \$3.50 a year].

And which article struck me in that spring 2013 issue of **Box 459?** "**Who Does Prison Service Help?**"

Here is the text of that article – courtesy of the hard working staff at AA's General Service Office:

■ Who Does Prison Service Help?

Taking A.A. meetings into prisons, jails, and institutions has been a primary focus of A.A. service throughout the Fellowship for many years — and one greatly appreciated, not only by inmates inside who need the message and those outside A.A.s who are willing to bring it in, but quite often most notably by those nonalcoholic professionals charged with running such institutions.

What to do with alcoholics has long been an issue for professionals in the corrections field, as this April 1963 excerpt from the Grapevine article "Keep A.A. Alive in Our Jails!" by Austin H. McCormick, former nonalcoholic Class A trustee on the A.A. General Service Board, expresses: "There can be no denying the fact that American jails are places into which little light ever penetrates... In most of the county jails of the country, no ameliorating influence of any sort, no application of either humanity or science, no effort to salvage the inmates is ever seen, with one exception — when A.A. comes in and stays in.... A.A. has brought some light into this dark picture, and must steadily bring more and more."

It is a sentiment similar to that expressed by Clinton H. Duffy, Warden of San Quentin Prison, one of the first penal institutions to open its doors to A.A., who wrote about that adventure in a 1942 paper titled "A Prison Program for the Rehabilitation of Alcoholics": "It was with some trepidation that this was done. We knew very little about the organization or how it could be adapted as part of our rehabilitation program. None of the Prison Administration were associated with A.A. We were therefore forced to go into the matter without benefit of any experience whatsoever."

As the experiment proceeded, wrote the Warden, "Into the room comes a group of outsiders — smiling, happy, well-dressed men, some of whom had motored from distances as great as 100 miles from the prison. One by one, these men told the inmates, in words that only real alcoholics could use and understand, of their experiences with the program which was being studied.

"The Chinese say a picture is worth one thousand words. That was a picture. For the inmates it meant a new vision of real help when they needed it most, *before* the first drink, for these men were not preaching something out of books. They were pouring out their hearts and souls. They were not preaching. They were assuring and re-assuring.

"I attended many of the meetings. I heard Mr. Anonymous Lawyer, Doctor, Banker, Truck driver, Ship fitter publicly acknowledge his former state of absolute degradation. I heard him state he had been able to regain his self-respect and the respect of his fellow citizens as a result of the influence and application of the program our men are studying, together with a fellow Alcoholics Anonymous member. I received letters from men and women offering to help in any way to rehabilitate an Alcoholics Anonymous member of San Quentin. Their offers were active promises, fulfilled whenever called upon....

"The unselfishness of the A.A.s is an inspiration not only to the inmates of the institution, but to the Prison Administration as well. Their wholehearted cooperation has enabled us to expand the program here in California. Recently the first inmate secretary of the A.A. group in San Quentin volunteered for transfer to Folsom Prison, the maximum security prison in this state, in order to organize an Alcoholics Anonymous group there. It is contemplated that similar groups will be started at the California Institution for Men at Chino, California, in the near future, for we here in California believe we have found the solution to one phase of our problem of rehabilitation."

Simply put, prison service helps us all.

(Note: Additional 'personal observation' text from the Editor is included in the confidential version of District 13's Newsletter issued to AA members. It is not included in this public version.)

Corrections Connection Workshop

Saturday, April 20, 2013 - 9:00AM - 3:00 PM

Blooming Grove Reformed Church Fellowship Hall
706 Bloominggrove Dr. Rensselaer, NY

What is Corrections Connection?

AA Meetings in Correctional Facilities, Bridging the Gap,
Correspondence with Alcoholic Offenders.

Speakers, Discussion, Panels

Guests from NYS DOCCS to speak on Volunteer
Programs and the process

Learn how AA helps the alcoholic offender

Work on improving the relationship with prison authorities.

Help AA understand the needs for particular security protocols.

“Your job now is to be at the place where you can be of maximum helpfulness to others, so never hesitate to go anywhere if you can be helpful. You should not hesitate to visit the most sordid spot on earth on such an errand. Keep on the firing line of life with these motives and God will keep you unharmed”.

Pg 102 Alcoholics Anonymous

For more info or to volunteer email –

corrections@aahmbny.org