Alcoholics Anonymous

NENY Area 48 District 5 Newsletter

Welcome to the NENY Area 48 District 5 Newsletter! This is a place for groups and committees to share their experience, strength, and hope. Please use district5newsletter@aahmbny.org for submittals and requests to receive this publication.

The District 5 Newsletter is published monthly. Feel free to forward a copy to those interested as we are unable to reach all our District 5 members via email. It is also available on the District Website https://district5.aahmbny.org . If you will like your contributions to be included in the newsletter, please e-mail us at district5newsletter@aahmbny.com by the 14th of each month. The District 5 Newsletter Committee will do its best to make this a valuable resource for communication, and to allow the members of our District to keep in touch with each other, further strengthening the unity of our fellowship. We ask Group Chairs and GSRs to bring this Newsletter to their Group Meetings.

Due to COVID-19, meetings are closed, virtual, or hybrid. Please check the area website and be advised as this information is constantly changing. Be sure to check online for all the meetings available. (See "Resources" page for links)

Flyer Contents: District, Area, & Regional Events – **p2**, District Committee Updates – **p3**, District Service Opportunities – **p4**, AA Principles of the Month – **p5**, Step 3 Benefits – **p6**, Resources – **p7**, Important dates in AA History – **p8**, Grapevine Virtual Story Hour Flyer – **p9**, Saratoga Springfest 2022 Flyer – **p10,** Connect with Area 48 Panel Delegate 72 Flyer – **p11**, Delegate's Day of Sharing Flyer – **p12** , 2022 SENY Convention – **p13**, Area 48 Fellowship Day – **p14**

Meeting Changes

For any changes – closures or additions, please e-mail

district5records@aahmbny.org, District5webmaster@aahmbny.org

that way all information can get updated accordingly.

Be sure to share this newsletter any way you can!!

YOUR SERVICE IS NEEDED!!

District meetings are the 1st Friday of every month and are hybrid. 7:00 pm at Saratoga Springs United Methodist Church,175 5th Avenue & Henning and via Zoom. Please check our website, https://district5.aahmbny.org for up-to-date information on meeting status, a list of online meetings, and other helpful information!

DISTRICT EVENTS

February 2022 District Meeting	Friday, March 4, 7:00 to 8:00 PM	Saratoga United Methodist Church 175 5th & Henning Saratoga Springs, NY	In Person & Zoom Meeting ID: 869 6085 2036, Passcode: 150240

OTHER EVENTS

AA Grapevine Virtual Story Hour	2nd Tuesday of the Month (March 8) – 7:00 – 8:00 PM	Via Zoom (See Enclosed Flyer)	Meeting ID: 834 1851 2300, Passcode: *Grapevine*
Connect with Area 48 Panel Delegate 72	Last Monday of the Month (March 28) – 7:00 – 8:00 PM	Via Zoom (See Enclosed Flyer)	Meeting ID: 824 1507 5353, Passcode: *Service*
Area Delegate's Day of Sharing	Save the date Saturday March 19, 2022 9:30 am-2:30 pm	Via Zoom (See Enclosed Flyer)	Meeting ID: 810 2362 1959, Passcode: *Delshare*
Saratoga Springfest 2022	March 25-27, 2022 (See Attached Flyer)	Embassy Suites 86 E. Congress Street, Saratoga Springs, NY	www.saratogaspringfest.org
2022 SENY Convention	Save the dates April 1-3, 2022 (See Attached Flyer)	Westchester Marriott Tarrytown, NY	https://www.aaseny.org/2022-convention
Area 48 Fellowship Day	Save the date Saturday April 9, 2022 9:00 am - 3:00 pm	Via Zoom (See Enclosed Flyer)	Meeting ID: 89908547152, Passcode: *Fellowship*

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A welcome to Skye as the Chair of the Newsletter Committee! Thank you for your service! Although people continue to volunteer for service positions, we still need your service … helping on a committee, as a Chair, or Co-Chair!! Open positions include; Alt Secretary, Accessibility Chair & Co-Chair, BTG Co-Chair, Grapevine Co-Chair, & Service Development Co-Chair. See the article in this month's newsletter on what some of these committees are about!

Committee	Update
District Committee Member (DCM)	DCM reports that she attended the Area 48 Meeting orientation meeting with the new delegates. It was good to see everyone. Learned that there is a new GSO address for donations; General Service Office, PO Box 2407, James A Farley Station, New York, NY 10116-2408 At the January D5 meeting, there was a concern raised regarding GSO utilization of a 3rd party to handle donations. Follow-up reports that it does not compromise confidentiality. Previously, the GSO was handling, sorting, and forwarding donations to the bank. In this new process, donations are going directly to the bank, bypassing the middleman, and saving the GSO the expense of personnel to do the sorting and forwarding.
Accessibility	No report this month. Accessibility is looking for a Chair, Co-Chair, and people to help!
Bridging the Gap (BTG)	No report this month.
(CPC/PI) Cooperation with the Professional Community & Public Information	The committee chairs went to the Area CPC meeting and report that it was interesting meeting new people, hearing their experiences, and their perspectives on the position. Learned about items such as videos that can be sent to professionals which could aid in the mission. To reach the CPC/PI committee, please email; District5cpcip@aahmbny.org
Corrections	We now have a women's corrections contact, and although we couldn't conduct an AA meeting in the facility in January, we hope that they should resume in mid-February. The Women's Corrections Committee is asking anyone who may have or is interested in, collecting old Grapevines to contact District5Secretary@aahmbny.org so we can make arrangements to pick them up and provide them to Correctional Facilities. Thank you in advance! The Men's Correction Committee reports that lockdown due to Covid continued through January, but keep on trying!
Functions	The Committee chair reports that Functions is on "hiatus" but gearing up for the busy summer season. No changes in finance in the past month, meaning no expenditures or donations. The balance is just under $1,700, but we can always use donations for the upcoming events; **Summer '22 Planned Events: Founders Day June 11th & Picnic in the Park August 14th.** – We are still looking for a new chef who can cook for events. The district 5 functions contact is district5functions@aahmbny.org – The Functions Co-Chair has been collecting a bunch of cooking paraphernalia for functions but we are still looking for some chafing dishes. – Lastly, functions are putting together a service manual "how-to" for Functions. Stay tuned!
Grapevine	For February the Grapevine has FREE SHIPPING!! Please go to https://store.aagrapevine.org for information and how to order. If you have any questions, the Grapevine Chair may be contacted at District5Grapevine@aahmbny.org
Literature	The Literature Committee is looking forward to events this summer where Literature will be available, we are looking forward to seeing you all there, and providing literature!
Newsletter	We are excited to welcome Skye as the new Chair of the Newsletter Committee. She may be reached at District5Newsletter@aahmbny.org
STAS	Michael – we have all the Saratoga Telephone Answering Service roles filled. Thanks! If you have any questions, please contact the committee at; district5Hotline@hmbny.org
Service Development	The Service Development Chair is looking for opportunities and ideas on how she can fulfill the mission of the Service Development Committee which is to ensure the A.A. message reaches people who may need it. The Committee's email is; district5servicedevelopment@aahmbny.org
Webmaster	Check out the District 5 Webpage! https://district5.aahmbny.org Please stay tuned for updates on any potential changes to meeting schedules! Information is constantly changing & this website is the best way to stay up to date. Please be sure to visit the site to get access to district flyers, this newsletter, and other content! If you have information and/or material that you like to post, please shoot us an email; District5Webmaster@aahmbny.org

What is AA District 5? What is service at the District? Who do I talk to & find out more?

Did you know that service at the district level is easy to get engaged with, fun, and is a great way for 12th step work?

Our AA district is a vital link between our groups and AA so we can stay sober and help other alcoholics achieve sobriety. Our district (# 5) is the AA service body that consists of groups from all of Saratoga and parts of Washington counties. The District is a vital link to the greater area and AA as a whole. It does service work to help the still suffering alcoholic that the individual or group alone may not have the resources to do. It supports Alcathons, functions, literature, works with treatment centers, correctional facilities, maintains our meeting list & website, and other works such as this newsletter.

But … it all can't be done without our time & talents! It's sometimes heard that people don't know what the district does. **What do I do if I'm interested? How I can help? Who do I contact?** Reach out to your group's General Service Representative (GSR), emails below, our District Committee Member (DCM, district5DCM@aahmbny.org), the district secretary (district5secretary@aahmbny.org), or this newsletter (district5newsletter@aahmbny.org). The district could use help in all committees and the following vacancies; **Accessibility Chair & Co-Chair, Bridging the Gap Co-Chair, Grapevine Co-Chair, Service Development Co-Chair, and Treatment Co-Chair**. A Service Manual from the GSO is available here, but some of the committees are;

Accessibility Committee - Explore, develop, and offer resources to alcoholics with significant barriers to receiving the AA message and participating in our program of recovery.[1] - District5Accessibility@aahmbny.org

Bridging the Gap - The BTG Committee facilitates important 12th step work by pairing alcoholics leaving a facility or institution with temporary A.A. contacts who take them to about 5 meetings. In addition, a temporary A.A. contact introduces them to literature, other members of the program, and acquaint them with the need for a sponsor and familiarizes them with the 12 Steps of AA.[2] District5BTG@aahmbny.org

Grapevine – Responsible for encouraging and supporting activities related to the distribution of the Grapevine Magazine. This committee encourages members to subscribe to the Grapevine & La Viña magazine and informs them of related books and other special items available. Takes Grapevines literature displays to events around the District.[3] District5Grapevine@aahmbny.org

Service Development - Performs outreach to the groups in the district. Promotes district meeting attendance, provides information, and renews interest in District, Area, and World Services. Hold periodic workshops for GSRs to educate each other about the 12 Traditions and assist other committees upon request. Also promote GSR training and development, and help "carry the message" through greater participation in district, area, regional, and worldwide AA fellowship efforts.[4] District5ServiceDevelopment@aahmbny.org

Functions – The Functions committee initiates, organizes, and executes all aspects of the Alcathons, social gatherings, and other activities across the groups. This includes raising funds, scheduling, planning, setup, clean up, and pretty much everything else involved in these events. Functions can always use volunteers, equipment, and funds! District5Functions@aahmbny.org

Corrections - Encourages A.A. members to assume responsibility for carrying the message to alcoholics behind the walls, reviews all aspects of service to A.A. groups in prisons, and makes recommendations for changes, and improvements. It is also concerned with clarifying what A.A. can and cannot do, within the Traditions, to help inmate alcoholics both inside and upon release.

[1] https://www.aa.org/accessibilities-committees
[2] https://www.area13aa.org/btg
[3] Modified from https://www.aaemassd25.org/service-positions
[4] Modified from the District 5 Service Manual.

AA Principles of the Month

- **Step 3** - Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.
- **Tradition 3** - The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.
- **Concept III** - To insure effective leadership we should endow each element of A.A. – the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives – with a traditional "Right of Decision."

Tradition 3 Checklist

1. In my mind, do I prejudge some new AA members as losers?

2. Is there some kind of alcoholic whom I privately do not want in my AA group?

3. Do I set myself up as a judge of whether a newcomer is sincere or phony?

4. Do I let language, religion (or lack of it), race, education, age, or other such things interfere with my carrying the message?

5. Am I over impressed by a celebrity? By a doctor, a clergyman, an ex-convict? Or can I just treat this new member simply and naturally as one more sick human, like the rest of us?

6. When someone turns up at AA needing information or help (even if he can't ask for it aloud), does it really matter to me what he does for a living? Where he lives? What his domestic arrangements are? Whether he had been to AA before? What his other problems are?

Concept 3 Checklist

- Do we understand what is meant by the "Right of Decision"? Do we grant it at all levels of service or do we "instruct"?

- Do we trust our trusted servants — G.S.R., D.C.M., area delegate, the Conference itself?

BENEFITS OF STEP THREE

Every man and woman who has joined A.A. and intends to stick has, without realizing it, made a beginning on Step Three. Isn't it true that in all matters touching upon alcohol, each of them has decided to turn his or her life over to the care, protection, and guidance of Alcoholics Anonymous? . . . Any willing newcomer feels sure A.A. is the only safe harbor for the foundering vessel he has become. Now if this is not turning one's will and life over to a newfound Providence, then what is it?

REPRINTED FROM TWELVE STEPS AND TWELVE TRADITIONS, P.35 WITH PERMISSION OF A.A. WORLD SERVICES, INC

It is when we try to make our will conform with God's that we begin to use it rightly. Too all of us, this was a most wonderful revelation. Our whole trouble had been the misuse of willpower. We had tried to bombard our problems with it instead of attempting to bring it into agreement with God's intention for us.

REPRINTED FROM TWELVE STEPS AND TWELVE TRADITIONS, P.40 WITH PERMISSION OF A.A. WORLD SERVICES, INC

When we saw others solve their problems by a simple reliance upon the Spirit of the Universe, we had to stop doubting the power of God. Our ideas did not work. But the God idea did.

REPRINTED FROM ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, P.52 WITH PERMISSION OF A.A. WORLD SERVICES, INC

The more we become willing to depend upon a Higher Power, the more independent we actually are.

REPRINTED FROM TWELVE STEPS AND TWELVE TRADITIONS, P. 36 WITH PERMISSION OF A.A. WORLD SERVICES, INC

On awakening let us think about the twenty-four hours ahead. We consider our plans for the day. Before we begin, we ask God to direct our thinking, especially asking that it may be divorced from self-pity, dishonest or self-seeking motives.

REPRINTED FROM TWELVE STEPS AND TWELVE TRADITIONS, P. 23 WITH PERMISSION OF A.A. WORLD SERVICES, INC

"A.A.'s Steps Lead to Spiritual Awakening"

GRAPEVINE FROM HAWKINS, NEW YORK, MAY 1967

"Spiritual awakening . . . begins with knowledge and acceptance of the truth about ourselves."

"I am learning, when looking for signs of spiritual awakening in myself, to look, not for bright lights or emotional upheavals . . . but for sobriety, stability, responsibility, meaning, satisfaction, joy. These are the marks of the beginning of spiritual awakening."

REPRINTED FROM SPIRITUAL AWAKENINGS WITH PERMISSION OF A.A. WORLD SERVICES, INC

RESOURCES

SARATOGA TELEPHONE ANSWERING SERVICE (STAS)
518 - 587- 0407

AA Capital District Central Office
For Confidential support 518-463-0906
https://aaalbanyny.org/

GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE NYC
http://www.aa.org/

GRAPEVINE WEBSITE
http://www.aagrapevine.org/

NENY AREA 48 WEBSITE – CONTAINS AREA MEETINGS AND OTHER HELPFUL INFORMATION
HTTPS://AAHMBNY.ORG
(FORMERLY A.A. Area 48 HMB Hudson Mohawk Berkshire)

NENY DISTRICT 5 – MEETING LIST TOO!!!
HTTPS://DISTRICT5.AAHMBNY.ORG
District 5 Home Page

ONLINE INTERGROUP
A MODERN VERSION OF TRADITIONAL "BULLETIN BOARDS"
https://www.aa-intergroup.org/

Important March dates in AA History:

March 1:
1941: Saturday Evening Post article by Jack Alexander created national sensation. AA membership quadrupled in one year from 2,000 to 8,000.

March 10:
1944: New York Intergroup was established.

March 16:
1940: Bill moved the Alcoholic Foundation office to 30 Vesey St., NY. (30 Vesey St., NY, was almost destroyed on September 11, 2001.)

March 21:
1881: Anne Ripley, Dr. Bob's wife, was born.
1966: Ebby Thatcher, Bill Wilson's sponsor, died sober.

March 22:
1951: Dr. William Duncan Silkworth died at Towns Hospital.

March 23:
1941: Sybil C.'s sobriety date. She was the first woman to enter AA west of the Mississippi.

Other events in **March**, for which I have no exact date:

1936: AA had 10 members staying sober. At end of 1936 A.A. had 15 members.

1938: Bill begins writing the book Alcoholics Anonymous. Works Publishing Inc established to support writing and printing of the book.

1941: Second printing of Big Book.

1941: 1st Prison AA Group formed at San Quentin.

1946: The Jefferson Barracks AA Group in Missouri was formed. It is thought to be the first ever in a military installation.

AA GRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous

VIRTUAL MONTHLY GRAPEVINE READING & DISCUSSION

STORY HOUR

Tuesdays

(second Tues. of each month)

7:00-8:00pm

(eastern)

Get in your PJs, your fluffy slippers, and cozy blanket, have your popcorn ready, and enjoy a bedtime story!

SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendars

ZOOM ID: 834 1851 2300

PASSCODE: Grapevine

Please do not post to general public

Contact: grapevine@aahmbny.org

Join us for our 2nd Annual

SARATOGA SPRINGFEST

A JOURNEY THROUGH AA's 12 STEPS WITH OUR SPEAKERS

March 25, 26 & 27, 2022 — Saratoga Springs, NY

Registration

$35. per Person for the Weekend

Register online at SaratogaSpringfest.org

Location

Embassy Suites Hotel

86 E. Congress St., Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

Book online at SaratogaSpringfest.org

Rate $149 — Use Code: SSF

Or, call the Embassy Suites directly at (518) 886-1109

Room Rate valid until 2/27/2022, unless sold out.

Contact

Email: SaratogaSpringfest@gmail.com

Info: SaratogaSpringfest.org

Speakers

Brenda J. - McKinney, TX
Carol L. - Amherst, OH
Hilda F. - Los Angeles, CA
Kent C. - Sandusky, OH
Martin A. - Toronto, ON
Polly P. - Jacksonville, FL
Scott T. - Herkimer, NY

Nearby AA Historical Sites

25 mi. - Albany Rural Cemetery, gravesite of Ebby T.
52 mi. - The Wilson House, boyhood home of Bill W.
145 mi. - Stepping Stones, home of Bill & Lois W.

Registration fee is $35.00 per Person (*Non-Refundable*)

Register online at *SaratogaSpringfest.org — Credit Cards & PayPal Accepted*

Or, mail below form with Check or M.O., payable to: "Saratoga Springfest" to:

Saratoga Springfest
c/o Debbie & Vince N.
632 Eastline Rd., Ballston Spa, NY 12020

Please enclose $35.00 Check or M.O. for each Registration you are purchasing or donating. Add additional names you are registering on back of form.

Name: _____ Cell Ph: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

I would also like to donate ____ registration (s) for the Committee to award to members in need.
(Please enclose $35.00 for each registration purchased and/or donated.)

Saratoga Springfest is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charity, funded by 12-Step member registrations and donations. No outside contributions accepted.

YOUR DELEGATE CONNECTION

YOU ARE INVITED TO CONNECT WITH YOUR AREA 48 PANEL 72 DELEGATE - TAMMIE E.

- GET THE LATEST AND GREATEST NEWS AS IT COMES HOT OFF THE PRESS FROM GSO
- ASK QUESTIONS
- LEARN MORE ABOUT GENERAL SERVICE
- SHARE YOUR CONSCIENCE - INDIVIDUAL, GROUP OR DISTRICT ON WHAT'S HAPPENING WITHIN THE FELLOWSHIP

THE LAST MONDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7:00 PM*

*Some dates may be affected by conferences and holidays.
Those date changes will be announced in advance.

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82415075353?pwd=OWFrbjNpTFgrZVZPcUk5WHZ2L1lQdz09

Meeting ID: 824 1507 5353
Passcode: Service
Dial by your location
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

This will be an informal chat session with individual participation encouraged

When logging in, please identify yourself by first name, last initial, and fellowship affiliation (service position, district, and/or home group)

You are also welcome at any time to contact me at:
panel72delegate@aahmbny.org

SATURDAY MARCH 19TH 2022

TIME	ZOOM ID:	AGENDA
9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM	810 2362 1959	
	PASSCODE: Delshare	TBA

2022 SENY CONVENTION
"A.A. COMES OF AGE 2.0"
PAST
PRESENT
FUTURE
BEGINNING
INFINITY
TIME MACHINE
BACK TO THE FUTURE
54TH ANNUAL IN-PERSON AREA 49 CELEBRATION
FRIDAY APRIL 1 - SUNDAY APRIL 3
WESTCHESTER MARRIOTT
670 WHITE PLAINS ROAD
TARRYTOWN, NY 10591
• A.A. • AL-ANON • ALATEEN • YOUNG PEOPLE IN A.A. •
• SPEAKER MEETINGS • WORKSHOPS • ALKATHONS •
• SPANISH LANGUAGE MEETINGS • SPANISH TRANSLATION •
• UNITY • INCLUSIVITY • DIVERSITY • ACCESSIBILITY •
• SATURDAY NIGHT BANQUET • HOSPITALITY •
• 12 STEPS • 12 TRADITIONS • 12 CONCEPTS •
• FUN • GAMES • ENTERTAINMENT •
LET'S GET THIS PARTY STARTED!
FOR MORE INFORMATION + TO REGISTER ONLINE
CLICK HERE OR VISIT
WWW.AASENY.ORG/2022-CONVENTION
UNIFIED IN LOVE AND SERVICE

Area 48 Fellowship Day

April 9th 2022

9AM – 3PM

ZOOM:

Meeting ID: 89908547152

Passcode: Fellowship