

"We have found much of heaven and we have been rocketed into a

Fourth Dimension

of existence of which we had not even dreamed."

[Big Book, "There is a Solution," page 25]

*a newsletter for Southern New Jersey
Area General Service Assembly, Alcoholics Anonymous*

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Spring Message from the Alternate Delegate

By Rosemarie

Hi Everyone. This is actually my very first Newsletter Article, so I hope you find this interesting.

I thought I would write to you about some of my recent experiences as your Area 45 Alternate Delegate. As most of you know I am not new to Area 45 Service and served on the panel as Secretary and Treasurer of Panel 44 & 46, and Registrar and now Alternate Delegate of Panel 64 and 66. I know a 20-year gap, but I was serving General Service in other areas until I moved back to Area 45, where it all began. So, let's get back to my recent experience.

First of all, I would like to quote from the Area 45 handbook one of my major duties as your Alternate Delegate. "The Alternate Delegate serves as assistant to the Area Delegate. In the event the Delegate cannot fulfill his/her duties, the Alternate Delegate immediately assumes the Delegate's responsibilities." OMG! I need to prepare for the conference just in case I would need to attend. (Andrew please stay healthy ☺) I experienced this in my previous years on the Area 45 Panel 44 when Ike T was unable to attend the conference in 1994 and our Alternate Delegate, Sally L attended. So I knew I needed to prepare. Then I received the 2017 Agenda Background material to read, all ~ 1200 pages. So, let the reading begin.

Next I was then fortunate to attend NERAASA February 24th-26th. It was held in Framingham, Massachusetts, not too far from Boston. Now I attended my first NERAASA in 1994 in Niagara Falls, NY. I remember John K. was driving the van in a snow and ice storm. When we got there, we went and visited the frozen Niagara Falls. I sure never knew they froze, what a site I will never forget. Format was similar, but now I needed to listen intently to help me to prepare, just in case.

There were panels on topics such as

Communication, Safety, Literature, Outreach, and Spirituality & Money. These panel topics set the framework so General Service Conference agenda items could be discussed. Each panel had 3 presenters and then afterwards people from the floor could comment at the mike. Our own Trish T was on the panel presenting on "New Opportunities for Group and Individual Contributions."

I was also able to attend the roundtables for delegates and alternate delegates, which were held Friday and Saturday nights. The first night each NE Panel 66 delegate shared their experience and suggestions for the incoming Panel 67 delegates – what to expect at the conference and how to pace yourself there, what to bring, how to prepare in advance and how to report back on what happened afterwards. The second night the northeast Panel 67 delegates were each given a chance to ask any questions they had. There was also discussion about what alternate delegates could do to best support the delegates – offer to help them, pray for them, do what you say you'll do to help them, and then offer to help them some more.

Saturday afternoon our NE regional trustee made a report on how the past year has gone at AAWS and Grapevine. Last year alone 8 million pieces of literature or audio material were shipped out and there were 12 million hits on aa.org. Overall, we had a very good year financially. Literature sales were down, but contributions were up by 10% and expenses were down by 5%. The full Power Point report he gave can be found at www.neraasa.org/from-the-trustee.html.

Sunday morning the Panel 67 delegates each gave a 2-minute presentation on the highlights of their Areas.

So on to more reading before attending NERD.

I attended my first Northeast Re-
(Continued on the next page.)



Alternate Delegate's Article

(Continued from the previous page.)

gional Delegates Conference (lovingly known as NERD) the weekend of March 10th-12th, 2017. It was held in Greenwich, Connecticut and was attended by current and past delegates, current alternate delegates, our regional trustee and a US trustee at large. It helped to bond the northeast delegates who will be attending the General Service Conference together in April and allowed past delegates to share their experiences to help the current delegates. Literally every kind of advice you can imagine.

Friday night half of Panel 66 NE delegates shared their stories and Sunday morning the other half went. Friday and Saturday nights ended with all the current delegates and alternate delegates meeting with the regional trustee and it was an opportunity to ask any questions.

Saturday morning, we alternate delegates had breakfast together and shared what our duties were and how we review the conference agenda background material in our Areas. I was blown away by how differently some other Areas are structured!!

Saturday morning was the business meeting and the regional trustee was just back from a meeting at GSO and had good things to report: this January was the best January in the history of AA for contributions, and out of 1,800 PSAs in the US, AA's PSA "Doors" is ranked 26th!

Saturday night Bob W, a US trustee at large, was the main speaker. It was great to hear of his many trips abroad trying to spread this program of recovery.

At both NERAASA & NERD I heard panel 66 delegates share their experience with conference along with past delegates at NERD. This really assures panel 67 delegates and all alternate delegates we are not alone and everyone will help and support us.

Ok, now back to reading.

As stated above it is my turn to help the delegate. I was able to order the printing of the Mini Conference Mailing, helped with the stuffing, and

took the mail to the bulk mail postal facility. Next I will get the copies made for the mini conference next week and sort them to place on the tables. Can't wait for the mini conference.

Andrew has also invited me to attend the dinner on Sunday Night of the Conference. So, I will get to see all my new friends that I met at NERAASA and NERD.

Thank you, Area 45, and my higher power for allowing me to be of service.

In Love and Service,
Rosemarie



Area 45 Mini Conference

Date: Saturday, April 8, 2017

Time: Registration begins at 8:30am
Mini-Conference from 9:00am

Place: Elmer Grange Hall
535 Dare Town Road
Elmer, NJ 08318

LIGHT BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PROVIDED

The 67th General Service Conference Theme:
"Supporting Our Future"

The purpose of the Area 45 Mini Conference is to provide a forum for Area 45's GSR's, DCM's, Panel Officers, and Committee Leaders to discuss the General Service Conference agenda items and related issues affecting Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole. The Mini Conference will also provide our Area 45 Delegate to the General Service Conference with an informed Area conscience. Thus, affording an opportunity for AA members to exercise their "Right of Participation" (Concept IV) in the business and direction of Alcoholics Anonymous.

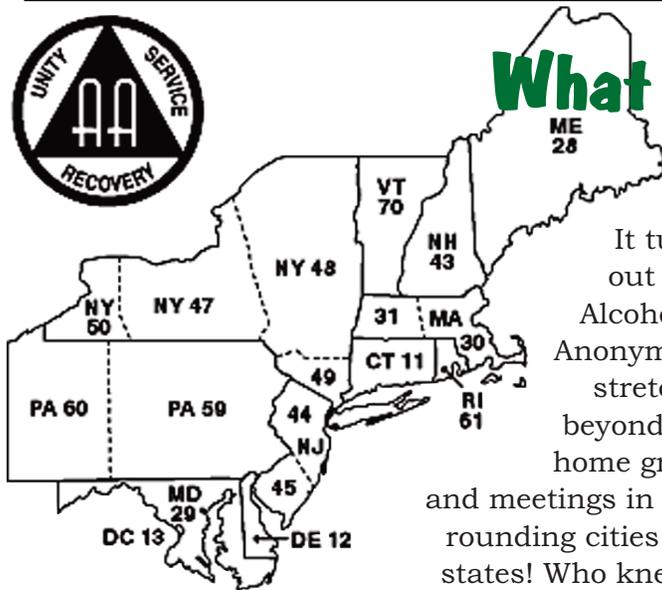
The Mini Conference is open to all interested AA members.
Everyone who attends will be a participant. Everyone will have a vote.





What is NERAASA anyway???

By Jessica S.



It turns out that Alcoholics Anonymous stretches beyond our home group and meetings in surrounding cities and states! Who knew??

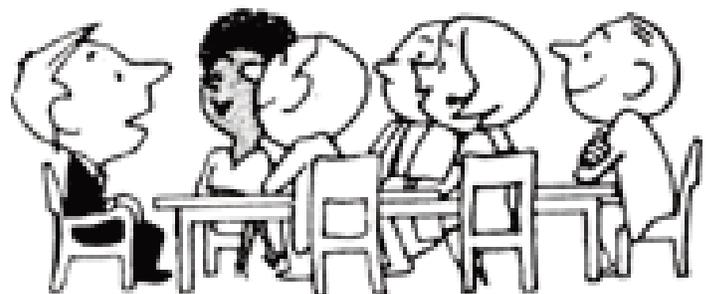
When I first became a member of AA, my knowledge of it consisted of the meetings within a 50 mile radius of my home, my home group, and the service I happily provide to them. I never comprehended AA on the worldwide level at which it actually exists and operates along with the many responsibilities and tasks to be maintained to keep it running smoothly until I attended my first NERASSA in 2013.

NERAASA is the Northeast Regional AA Service Assembly. According to its website, “the purpose for NERAASA is General Service Representatives (GSR’s), District Committee Members (DCM’s), Area Officers, Area Committee Members, District Committee Members, and Intergroup/Central Office Representatives of the Northeast Region to discuss General Service Conference related issues and concerns affecting A.A. as a whole, as well as pertinent aspects of recovery, unity and service common to the areas of the Northeast Region.” “NERAASA is a weekend of Panel Presentations and Floor Discussions on Issues Affecting A.A. Today; the Northeast Regional Trustee’s Report; Saturday Dinner followed by an A.A. Speaker Meeting. In addition, there are several Round Table Sharing Sessions throughout the weekend. They include (but are not limited too); General Service Representatives (GSR’s), District Committee Members (DCM’s), Archives, Cooperation With The Professional Community (CPC), Public Information (PI), Correctional & Treatment Facilities (CTF), Grapevine, Area/Panel Officers, Central Office/Intergroups, Website, Alternate & Area Dele-

gates.” It is held annually on the last weekend in February and rotates through Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Vermont, Massachusetts, Maryland, Delaware, Connecticut, and the District of Columbia which comprise the Northeast Region.

At the first NERAASA I attended in 2013, my eyes were opened up to a whole new level of AA and service whose function is to make sure AA is available for all future alcoholics and that the fellowship stays true to how it was first envisioned by Bill and Dr. Bob with its primary purpose being to help the next sick and suffering alcoholic. NERAASA allows all members to openly share their experience, strength, and hope on important issues which affect AA as a whole and its many functions such as printing and preparing new literature and pamphlets, correctional and treatment facilities which reach out to the sick and suffering in jails, and cooperation with professional communities and public information which inform public institutions like judges, doctors, nurses, teachers, etc. what AA really is and what services it does and does not provide. At this assembly, AA members come together to share their experiences of AA in their hometowns to improve how all of AA functions and advise against actions taken which have failed in their areas. We share our growing pains and successes and learn from one another to keep AA alive and well throughout the world. This year we heard presentations from two AA members from our own area on “Safety in AA” and “Tradition 7,” two very important topics.

(Continued on the next page.)



About NERAASA *(Continued from the previous page.)*

You do not have to have a service position to attend NERAASA. All AA members are greatly encouraged to attend. Although it is a very busy weekend with lots of workshops and panels to attend, it will open your eyes to AA beyond our home groups and to the network of members that it truly is worldwide. It is an inspiring weekend when we really see how much service and hard work goes into maintaining AA and the love and humility with which it is preformed all with the wellbeing and recovery of the next sick and suffering in mind.

I have attended NERAASA each year since my first attendance in 2013 and look forward to it every year. This assembly, our area assemblies, and other service functions like district events and conventions keep my sobriety and enthusi-

asm to stay in service rejuvenated and alive! I leave all these events feeling grateful and a part of. I have since gotten involved in general service and find that it keeps me accountable, involved, grateful, and out of trouble! And it has always kept me connected to AA as well and out of self in tough times too. I hope that everyone gives service events like NERAASA and our area assemblies a chance with an open mind to see the true awe of Alcoholics Anonymous and just how far it reaches and how many alcoholics it helps! I am grateful every day, even when providing service to AA becomes "inconvenient", to be part of such a beautiful and amazing fellowship!

**In love and service,
Jessica S.
Area 45 Registrar**



Birds eye view of the **53rd Convention**

Hi, my name is Cindy.

As a recent transplant from Minnesota to Burlington, I went to my first ever AA convention. I loved it! I walked through the doors and got an awesome hug from a hospitality person.

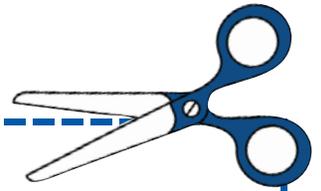
My sponsor came with me and she knew a lot of people, that I got to meet. Everyone was very nice and welcoming.

There was a lot of laughter and love. I felt at home. The open mic was great. The karaoke was great; my first time doing it Sober! No one booted me, lol. And did some dancing to the DJ. I didn't make many meetings, but did go Saturday night to hear the speaker; he was awesome! He had quite a story.

The tables selling books and such were pleasant to talk with and friendly. Next year we will be renting rooms and do more meetings.

I felt blessed to be able to go to the convention and be a part of something great.





A Reading of the Traditions Play!

Where? St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
158 Warren St, Beverly

When? Sunday, May 21st
3:15 pm

...following the 2 pm Fellowship Group meeting....& just before the District 3 monthly meeting...

Stay for all! Stay for just the play!

See what our district meeting is all about!

Important Information to Clip & Save

- **Southern New Jersey Area 45**

P.O. Box 3724
Cherry Hill, New Jersey 08034
www.snjaa.org

- **Central Jersey Intergroup**

P.O. Box 4096
Trenton, New Jersey 08610
(609) 656-8908 -or-
(609) 656-8900
www.centraljerseyintergroup.org

- **South Jersey Intergroup**

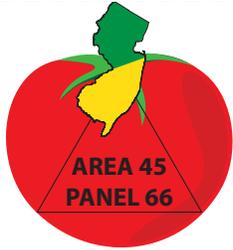
P.O. Box 2514
Cherry Hill, New Jersey 08034
(856) 486-4444
www.aasj.org

- **Cape Atlantic Intergroup**

P.O. Box 905
Pleasantville, New Jersey 08232
(609) 641-8855 or
(800) 604-HELP (4357)
www.capeatlanticaa.org

- **AA World Services, Inc.**

P.O. Box 459,
Grand Central Station
New York, New York 10163
(212) 870-3400
www.aa.org



Southern New Jersey - Area 45 Panel 66

"Principles before Personalities"

Calendar of Events

| Date | Event | Location |
|-------------------|--|--|
| April 23-29, 2017 | General Service Conference | Rye, NY |
| May 21, 2017 | Area 45 Spring Assembly Registration begins 8:30am DCM/GSR Orientation 9:00am Assembly 10:00 am Committee Meeting to Follow | Section III Elmer Grange 535 Daretown Rd. Elmer, NJ 08318 |
| August 20, 2017 | Area 45 Summer Assembly Registration begins 8:30am DCM/GSR Orientation 9:00am Assembly 10:00 am Committee Meeting to Follow | Section I To be determined |
| November 19, 2017 | Area 45 Fall Assembly Registration begins 8:30am DCM/GSR Orientation 9:00am Election Assembly 10:00am Committee Meeting to follow | Section II To be determined |



Minutes from the February 19th Area Meeting

AREA PANEL OFFICERS

Delegate:

Welcome

Good morning everyone my name is Andrew L. and I am an alcoholic. I have the honor and privilege to serve you as the Panel 66 Delegate to the General Service Conference.

I want to extend a warm welcome to all the new GSRs and anyone else new to the Assembly this morning. I am glad you are all here. Additionally, I want to thank Section 4 and all the Districts for hosting today's Assembly and Committee meetings. It is nice to be in a new location.

GSO

On January 27-30, 2017, I was in New York City to take part in Board Weekend. Since I am the Delegate Chairperson of the Conference Committee on Public Information I joined the other Delegate Chairs in attending the orientation and a meeting with the Committee's secretary and staff person Clay W. During the weekend, I attended several Trustee Committee meetings and got to experience the way in which the agenda for the Conference is developed. Sharing sessions during the weekend included topics that focused on Transparency, decision making in service and Concept 6. Additionally, I spent time with 2 other North East Region Delegates and the North-East Region Trustee as they were all in attendance and the delegates are conference committee chairs. The weekend proved to be full of useful information and provided me with a good basis to start to prepare for the conference.

I received an email from staff person Rick W. that the Delegates Communications package was available on the dashboard and that I could start completing the necessary paper work needed to attend the conference. The General Services Conference is scheduled for April 23-28th. On Tuesday of this week I received a note from the General Service Office stating that the Conference Background information and Agenda are available for distribution. Since then I have been reviewing this information.

To repeat something that I mentioned in my last report; "It has been reported by the North East Regional Trustee that the fellowship has responded very positively to the financial issues outlined in my Conference Report. Many new contributions have been received by GSO and several thousand people are now participating in the online reoccurring contributions that go directly to GSO. The average amount of online reoccurring contributions is \$5.00 a month. If you are interested in making these types of contributions, please follow the link to <https://ctb.aaws.org/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fdefault.aspx%3flang%3den&lang=en>. The transaction is secure and contributions can be made by using a credit card."

On Thursday January 26th, the General Service Office release service material smf-209_en titled Safety and AA: Our Common Welfare. This important piece of service material discusses how groups and individuals can keep themselves safe in the rooms and explains how AA and the law interact during situations that require assistance from the authorities. Please go to AA.org and read, download, and share this information, email or text easily distributes this service piece.

On February 2, 2017 I received an email from AA Agnostics announcing that the Toronto Intergroup has stepped back from their position of being a religious organization and will once again start to list agnostic and atheist meetings in the Greater Toronto Meeting list. This ends nearly 5 years of sometimes public controversy over a misunderstanding of what is an AA meeting and the ability for a group to have autonomy.

North East Region

NERAASA 2017 – is being held this year in Farmington Massachusetts on Feb. 24 – 26 and is being hosted by Area 30. I know that several people from Area 45 are registered and planning to attend. I am looking forward to our own Tish T. presenting on Saturday afternoon on the Panel about Spirituality and Money. If you are attending, please join me in supporting Tish during this workshop. The purpose of NERAASA is for members to discuss General Service Conference related issues and concerns affecting AA as well as pertinent aspects of recovery, unity, and service. Usually this is the first opportunity for this year's Conference Agenda to be widely distributed in our Region.

I am looking forward to attending the North-East Region Delegate reunion on March 10-12 in Connecticut. This weekend

(Continues on the next page.)

is always a valuable time for delegates and alternate delegates to help prepare for the Conference.

NERF June 2-4 Mars Pa.

Area 45

I have been in contact with all the Panel Members and several committee's chairs and several District Committee Members since November. Just a note to all DCM's – I truly appreciate those of you the email me your minutes and reports from your monthly meetings. Please include the rest of the Panel members on your correspondence as this information is valuable and important to all the panel.

I joined the Panel in attending the Cape Atlantic Intergroup Waves of Sobriety Roundup where we hosted a workshop on anonymity and played Anonymity Jeopardy. All who attended had a fun time and we learned a lot about anonymity. If you were not able to attend, there will be an encore of this workshop at the upcoming Area 45 convention. Don't miss it. The prizes and awards will keep you coming back.

On Saturday January 21, I helped host the first Area 45 Grape Jam, where several people told recorded anecdotes about their sobriety for the purpose of sending these messages to the Grapevine Audio Project. There were speakers in three different languages and the recordings were welcomed by Grapevine staff when I delivered them during board weekend. I would like to thank everyone that attend this event and a special thanks to the Grace Speakers Meeting for hosting the event.

Upcoming events that I am looking forward to include the Area Convention on March 24-26th and the mini-conference on April 8th. Rose S and I and the rest of the Panel will be preparing a mailing to send out before the mini-conference and I look forward to all of your participation that day.

I continue to regularly attend my home group and invite all of you to visit, if you get a chance. The Collingswood Lifeline Group meets on Monday's at 8:00pm at the Fellowship Community Church on Collings and Richie Ave. We have our group anniversary tomorrow and look forward to seeing all of you there. Food starts at 7:00pm and speakers start at 8:00pm.

Thank you, In Loving Service,

Andrew L.

Area 45 Delegate

Panel 66

Alternate Delegate:

Good Morning everyone. My name is Rose and I am an alcoholic. I am privileged to serve as your area 45 Alt Delegate. Thank you, Section, II for hosting today's assembly.

I have been busy visiting all the Intergroups each month. As I have said before, I am really having a great time attending and getting to know all the hard-working members of each of the Area 45 Intergroups.

I attended the Grape Jam last month and recorded a 7-minute story. It was a great event and look forward to more folks being able to do this at the convention. There is going to be a booth area setup at the convention to record 7 min story to send to the Grapevine. I also provided a Grapevine Table, which contained Grapevine Display and literature.

The Intergroups have also asked that I make sure and bring to them all District Events. Please email me all info, including the flyer. My email and address are on the Area Contact Sheet.

In Love and Service

Rose

Chair:

Chair's Report

2/19/17

My name is Rich and I am an alcoholic. I am privileged to serve as chair for Area 45 Panel 66. Thanks to Section 4 for hosting the assembly & to District 14's Greg C. for presenting on the issue of district service.

(Continues on the next page.)

Since last assembly I've participated in various meetings with the Panel and with the Convention and Finance Committees, visited with the new Archives chair at our storage facility, logged over 100 individual emails and text messages, driven over 200 miles, and had over two dozen phone conversations related somehow to Area 45. So, it's been a little slow this quarter.

The Convention is less than 34 days away, March 24th, 25th, 26th 2017 at the Crowne Hotel in Cherry Hill NJ. I hope you are making plans to attend, if even for one of the three days. Even better, get a room and spend the weekend.

On a related topic, I had asked Rose S. our alternate delegate to investigate other locations for upcoming conventions but have determined that at least in the short term we're better off working with the management at the Crowne in Cherry Hill to work out a better deal for Area 45 than starting over in a new, untested location. Better the devil you know than the devil you don't.

The North East Regional A.A. Service Assembly is next weekend. The purpose of NERAASA is for AA service representatives of the Northeast Region to discuss General Service Conference related issues and concerns affecting A.A. as a whole, as well as pertinent aspects of recovery, unity and service common to the areas of the Northeast Region. If you're attending please text or email me.

Quick show of hands on who has read the most recent online Fourth Dimension? I have received the survey results for ideas for a shorter hard copy of the newsletter and will be passing them onto the Newsletter chair. I hope we can roll out something before the next assembly.

Thanks for your attention, Rich

Treasurer:

Area 45 Treasurer's Report

Winter 2017 • February 19, 2017

Panel, Committee Chairs, Members and Representatives,

First, I want to thank Section IV for hosting today's Assembly. Printed copies of this report are available at the registration table. Included you will find a final summary of 2016 financial activity, and a first look at January of this year. I am happy to answer questions during breaks. Next to my printed report you will find pre-addressed envelopes for correspondence and sending contributions to the Area. Please spread the word that contribution acknowledgement letters will be mailed to groups quarterly starting in April.

Summary of 2016 Financial Activity for Area 45

Balances as of December 30, 2016

| | 2016 Budgetted | 2016 Actual | Variance | Treasurer's Comments |
|---------------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--|
| Contributions (INCOME) | \$ 28,000.00 | \$ 35,936.55 | \$ 7,936.55 | 28.3% more than expected |
| Convention (INCOME) | \$ 1,500.00 | \$ (7,645.57) | \$ (9,145.57) | |
| Area Operations (EXPENSE) | \$ 8,010.00 | \$ 7,554.02 | \$ (455.98) | 5.6% under budget |
| Committees (EXPENSE) | \$ 5,675.00 | \$ 2,419.76 | \$ (3,255.24) | 57.3% under budget (i.e. available but not used) |
| Events/Panel (EXPENSE) | \$ 15,700.00 | \$ 15,019.64 | \$ (680.36) | 4.3% under budget |
| Total | \$ 115.00 | \$ 3,297.56 | \$ 3,182.56 | 12% increase in available funds since January 1, 2016 |

| Account | Balance |
|------------------|--------------|
| Area 45 | \$ 29,580.75 |
| Convention | \$ 3,649.36 |
| Corrections/LIPS | \$ 4,811.48 |
| Prudent Reserve | \$ 26,230.27 |

January 2017 Financial Activity for Area 45

| | 2017 Budgetted | As of 1/31/2017 |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Contributions & Interest (INCOME) | \$ 27,012.00 | \$ 3,981.78 |
| Area Operations (EXPENSE) | \$ 8,010.00 | \$ 171.24 |
| Committees (EXPENSE) | \$ 5,675.00 | \$ 119.91 |
| Events & Panel (EXPENSE) | \$ 15,700.00 | \$ 829.11 |
| Total | \$ (2,373.00) | \$ 2,861.52 |

| Account | Starting Balance | As of 1/31/2017 |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Area 45 | \$ 29,580.75 | \$ 28,975.76 |
| Prudent Reserve | \$ 26,230.27 | \$ 30,000.00 |
| Convention | \$ 3,649.36 | \$ 7,274.86 |
| Corrections/LIPS | \$ 4,811.48 | \$ 4,521.69 |
| Total | \$ 64,271.86 | \$ 70,772.31 |

In grateful service,

Justin S.

(Continues on the next page.)

Registrar:

Registrar Report: Jessica S.

Good morning. My name is Jessica and I am an alcoholic. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Area 45 Registrar. Thank you section 4 for hosting today's assembly. Over the past few weeks I was able to attend the panel meeting, convention committee meetings, Grapejam, New Year's Day Alcathon, and district three workshop on corrections. They were all great events. Thank you to the delegate, District 22/23, and District 3 for organizing them. I am looking forward to attending NERAASA, the Area 45 convention, and the mini-conference in upcoming months. It was wonderful meeting all the new GSRs in orientation this morning. Please try and get your paperwork to me today before you leave so I can get you and your group registered with GSO and you can receive your orientation packets as soon as possible. We currently have 546 active groups in Area 45. You may remember last year updating group information for the AA Directory. It is important that group information stays updated. We have some groups which are inactive and pending. This may mean the groups may be missing information such as locations or times or have no group contact or GSR. I would like to make an effort to make sure all groups are up to date and will be sending out group information to all DCMs to pass down to GSRs and update group information if necessary. I look forward to meeting and working with all of you to update our information with New York. Thank you for coming today and I hope you enjoy the assembly. And thank you again for allowing me to be in service and all your service as well.

In love and service,

Jessica S.

Area 45 Registrar

Secretary:

Hi! My name is Tammy and I am a grateful, recovering alcoholic. I am honored to serve as the Secretary for Area 45, panel 66. I haven't been able to participate in many things coming up to this assembly due to many physical ailments. Thank goodness I was able to have my shoulder replaced on February 6th. This is why I have not been able to be with you all today. I do look forward to attending NERAASA and the 53rd Area 45 Service Convention in the coming weeks, among other activities, as my strength increases.

Thank you!

Tammy C.

Area 45

Panel 66

AREA COMMITTEE CHAIRS**Archives:**

2/19/17 – Winter Assembly

Area 45

Archives Report

Hi. My name is Rob M. and I am an alcoholic. I have the honor and privilege to serve as Archives chair for area 45.

I took over as Archives chair in November. I am looking forward to the opportunity and the challenge to serve the area as the Archives chair. I would like to thank both Christian V. and Roy C. for volunteering to help with this endeavor. We are in the process of sorting through the items we have in a storage unit in Egg Harbor Township to see what is and isn't relevant to area 45 history. We are preparing to have a display ready for this year's convention in Cherry Hill in March.

I would like to thank our area Chair Richard H. for helping me get started with the Archives.

In Love and Service,

Rob M., Archives chair, Area 45

(Continues on the next page.)

Audio:

My audio report is as follows:

On January 21st, I ran audio for and recorded "Grape Jam," the Grapevine Audio Project in which several AA members recorded 7 minute clips of experience, strength, and hope to be shared online.

-Josh K

Budget & Finance:

Budget and Finance Committee Chair Quarterly Report

Area 45 Winter Assembly

Sunday, February 19, 2017

Budget and Finance

Good morning, my name is John T and I serve as the Budget and Finance Committee Chair.

Since the fall assembly, events involving the budget and finance committee include conference calls that were held on December 19 and January 16 with area panel members and area committee representatives to discuss and review area financial activities. During these calls, topics discussed included income and expense updates provided by the Area Treasurer. Discussions also included review of incoming contributions and potential allocation of funds for specific uses by committees. These conference calls will continue to be scheduled, generally on a monthly basis. District treasurers or any interested groups are welcome to participate. If you contact me, I can provide conference call date/time and call-in number.

The Area Treasurer and I will schedule to meet and conduct an audit of the area financial records in accordance with the Area 45 service handbook, as well as to ensure compliance with IRS requirements with preparation of income tax filings.

The budget and finance committee has had no budget expenditures since the last quarterly report. Thank you.

Convention:

Convention Report

Area 45 February Assembly 2017

Good morning. My name is Kelly W. and I am an alcoholic and I am privileged to serve as your 53rd Area 45 General Service Convention Chair. I am also privileged to give you my final report as the current convention chair. Phew!

Registration has been officially open for over a month now and they are flying in. Thus far we have had 81 people pre-register, 66 hotel nights booked, 28 Saturday Banquets sold and our most recent bank balance was \$8013.31, which will of course help us begin the process of paying installments to the hotel.

We are all set for speakers, workshops, and tables in the Promenade that include Literature sales from Central Jersey Inter-group. We are very excited that the Grapevine Audio Project will be with us to get 7-minute audio recording of folks telling their story which may at some point be transcribed and included in the Grapevine in print or online.

We are also extremely excited for our very first Friday Night Ice Cream Social and so far about 8 acts have asked to be part of our first Open Mic Night. The ice cream will consist of ice cream novelties that can be purchased for \$4 on site or in advance for those pre-registering. If you or anyone you know is interested in performing at Open Mic please contact Ted W. whose information is on the front of the flyer. Or see me because I'm married to him.

Our Co-Chair, Angela has found some awesome mementos and mugs. [Al B. has put up on our web site the menus for Friday Dinner and our New Orleans themed Saturday Banquet for your convenience.](#)

At this point Marathon meeting slots are all filled with many people standing by as back-ups. Our Program Chair, Jen G. has also worked hard at finalizing the Program which is ready and will soon be up on our web site.

[Our big pre and onsite Registration Packet stuffing party is tentatively scheduled for 11:30 AM, on March 5th, just prior to our regular monthly meeting at the Hammonton Presbyterian Church.](#) If you are able and willing to help out, please join us!

Lastly, thus far we have not received many contributions toward our scholarship fund with the exception of a very generous

(Continues on the next page.)

pledge from District 22/23. These funds help us to hold this event as fully self-supported by own contributions and the ability to let folks in who lack the funds is made possible only through these pre-paid scholarships. Please consider going back to your home groups or your districts and if the additional funds are there and you are so inclined, we are happy to facilitate the process of your sponsoring a specific AA member or setting aside scholarships that can be used by anyone in need. Our Registration Chair Laura, Angela our co-chair or myself are happy to tell you more about how to do that.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly W.

CPC/PI:

Good Afternoon, I am Randi, Alcoholic.

I'd like to thank Section IV for hosting our assembly and providing our meals.

The following are my activities for the Cooperation with Professional Community (CPC) and Public Information (PI) committees since our last assembly:

I wrote a proposal asking for a compensated booth for the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA) conference on November 9 - 10 2017.

I wrote a motion to increase the CPC/PI budget for 2017 which I will propose at the committee meeting today.

We were turned down by two conventions (the New Jersey Student Nurses Association and the New Jersey Social Workers Association), which each had an \$850 booth entrance fee. They would not negotiate with us for a compensated space, or admission for a non-profit \$200 fee, although there was some mention of a waiting list.

On a positive note, we have been invited by the General Service office to attend the National Association of Veterans Program Administrators Conference in October and GSO will pay the entrance fee and send materials.

Committee Meetings were held in December and January and minutes sent out to committee members and the Area 45 panel.

I purchased an AA Public Information banner to be used at booths at events, and a small first aid kit hand out for CPC convention booths.

In December, we picked our next project, which is now moving along. The project is to hold a luncheon for all the clergy of Mercer County, and talk about what AA is, and is not. The date is set for Thursday March 30th and Noon. We have rented a hall and the invitation has been drafted.

In January's meeting we stuffed more "Sponsor your Doctor" envelopes, which are available, please see me.

I participated in the Budget and Finance Calls in December and January.

I continued with my Maximum-security prison commitment at Edna Mahan Facility.

I attended my home group quarterly business meeting, and made coffee the first week of January and February for my home group which meets six days a week.

Corrections:

CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT – 2/19/17

Good morning. I am Kathleen F. I am an alcoholic and I am privileged to serve as the Corrections Committee chair with Judy K. as co-chair.

Since our last reporting in Oct., contribution income was \$6964.61. We owe a great deal of gratitude towards our donor meetings for their generous support and continued interest in promoting the effort to carry the message of recovery to our confined membership populations.

Literature orders filled and expense reimbursement during this period totaled \$6621.29. I continue to encourage our correction volunteers to order generously.

One reimbursement was made to Steve H. for holding a corrections workshop in Oct., for the literature and expenses incurred. The workshop was well received and we appreciate Steve's effort to promote corrections service.

(Continues on the next page.)

Planning for the convention in March has been underway by Judy and myself. Orders have been placed for our literature table and plans have been made for a Corrections workshop. The theme for our workshop is "Hope Behind the Walls". Unfortunately, our speaker had to cancel due to a schedule conflict and I am currently in the process of procuring another one-two speakers.

I have been contacted to attend the first National Corrections Conference in St. Louis, MO on Nov. 10-12, 2017. The purpose of this weekend is for AA members involved in correction work behind the walls to come together, share experience, exchange information, and hear from corrections professionals, former inmates and other trusted servants throughout the US and Canada. I am very interested in attending this conference and hope to gain insight on increasing the numbers of our corrections volunteers. Basic expenses for this trip will be approximately \$740 which is for air fare, hotel, registration and one banquet meal. I would like to submit a request for approval to cover these expenses.

Our corrections account balance as of 2/18/17 is \$3566.69.

In grateful service, & respectfully submitted

Kathleen F.

Corrections Chair

DCM/GSR Orientation:

Here is the report for GSR/ DCM Orientation.

Hi my Name is Andrew and I am Alcoholic. I am happy to report that over 20 people attended today's orientation.

All Panel Officers were introduced and had the opportunity to provide a small description of how they serve.

Thank you,

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew L.

Grapevine:

JalCon:

sorry I couldn't make it.

jalcon 2017 is July 28, 29, 30

we need 7 volunteers to chair the AA mtgs at the alanon convention.

we're in the process of picking mtg topics.

Policy & Charter:

Registration:

My report is:

- 2 Past Delegates
- 0 section leaders
- 10 DCMs
- 4 Alternate DCMs
- 54 GSRs
- 3 alt GSRs
- 2 Intergroup Chairs
- 11 Visitors
- 10 Committee Chairs
- 5 Panel members
- 101 total people

Thanks

Matt

(Continues on the next page.)

Accessibility/Special Needs:

Website:

Workshop:

Newsletter:

Adhoc – Website:

Adhoc – NERF:

Young People:

INTERGROUP CHAIRS

Cape Atlantic Intergroup:

Central Jersey Intergroup:

South Jersey Intergroup:

Chair Report from South Jersey Intergroup to Area 45

February 19, 2017

Greetings from South Jersey Intergroup:

1. Finances are positive at the moment, thanks to all groups contributing to SJIG.
2. Our Social Events Committee has scheduled another trip to the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Sunday April 2, 2017. We will be meeting up at the Intergroup office in Pennsauken. See our website for more information.
3. Look for more events on our events page coming up including Camping, Tubing and our annual Founders Day Picnic in June.

Yours in service,

Brett

Chair - SJIG

AREA SECTION LEADERS and DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBERS (DCM's)

Section I Leader:

District 03:

District 3 Report

Winter Assembly

(Continues on the next page.)

District 3 held a corrections workshop on Saturday February 4th, it consisted of a video from GSO on corrections and two speakers one a presenter and the other from the inmates point of view. We have meetings the second Sunday of each month and are planning to do a presentation of the traditions play along with our regular District meeting. As of February 12, district 3 had a checking account balance of \$549.78 and am planning on attending the convention in March.

DCM District 3,
Robert P

District 04:

Districts 22 & 23:

Thank you to Section 4 for hosting. I am happy to serve as DCM for District 22/23 hosted the NY Eve Alkathon. Meetings were held hourly and chaired by local groups. There was plenty of food beginning with breakfast and pizza, hoagies and desserts. More than 100 people attended throughout the day.

Donated 12 scholarships to convention.

On January 21 I attended the Grape Jam event held in Haddonfield NJ. The purpose was to create 7 minute audio excerpts for a digital newsletter. Anyone can do it from the comfort of their own homes with their own phone. There will also be an opportunity to do it in person at the convention in Cherry Hill. It was hosted by Area 45. Thanks Andrew for making this opportunity possible.

On February 4 I attended the Corrections workshop hosted by District 3. [It featured a movie done by GSO and discussed the need for service at that level.](#) It depicted what it was like from the perspective of the inmates and those who took meetings in and the difficulties faced by both. The two speakers who followed the video represented an inmate and an AA member currently doing corrections commitments. This event encouraged others to consider providing service of this type.

District 22/23 is collaborating with District 25 and CJI in planning a Unity picnic for July to be held in Mercer County Park. I attended the first meeting to brainstorm ideas and discuss what worked and what didn't work as well from last years event. [More information will be discussed in District meetings beginning tomorrow.](#)

I am registered with other District members and GSRs to attend NERAASA in MA this upcoming weekend. I am looking forward to this event and eager to learn even more about this amazing program of Alcoholics Anonymous and how it works. Thank you again for hosting this Assembly today and all of you for being of service.

In Service.
Cherie S.

District 24:

District 25:

Districts 30 & 31:

Section II Leader:

District 06:

District 07:

District 08:

(Continues on the next page.)

District 8 – Section 2

My name is Chuck M. and I am an alcoholic. I am the DCM for District 8.

Our treasury balance is \$980.00

Our monthly meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 6:30pm at Trinity Episcopal Church in Moorestown.

We are currently discussing future workshops and social events.

Thank you for the opportunity to be of service,

Chuck M.

District 09:

District 10:

District 26:

District 27:

Section III Leader:

District 12:

District 13:

District 14:

District 20:

District 21:

District 28:

District 29:

Section IV Leader:

District 15:

2/19/17 – Winter Assembly

Area 45, District 15, Section 4

DCM Report

Hi. My name is Rob M. and I am an alcoholic. I have the honor and privilege to serve as DCM for district 15.

We hold our district meeting the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm at Holy Spirit Episcopal Church on Route 9 in Tuckerton. We have been averaging around 6 to 8 GSR's in attendance, as well as myself, the alt DCM, secretary and treasurer.



(Continues on the next page.)

Our current treasury balance is around 1600.00. Our treasurer Jim C. had to step down as treasurer and we elected Daryl M. as our new treasurer. Thank you to Jim for his service and thank you to Daryl for his willingness to serve. We also elected a new secretary, Melissa S. Thank you to Melissa for her willingness to serve.

We had our annual Holiday Speaker Dinner Dance event on 12/4/16. It was very well attended by more than 100 people. It was a huge success and was a fun time for everyone. Thank you to our Delegate Andrew L. for being our guest speaker.

We did a district inventory in January to see if we are meeting needs and how we can better serve our district. Thank you to all the GSR's who participated.

I registered and am looking forward to attending NERAASA in Massachusetts next weekend.

In the next few months we are going to focus on reaching out to groups without GSR representation and verifying active groups in the district.

In closing I would like to thank our section 4 leader, Steve Mc, for selecting district 15 to have the honor and privilege of hosting this year's winter assembly. I would like to thank all the members of district 15 who showed up today to help with the coffee and set-up. I would like to thank district 18 for providing breakfast, district's 16&17 for providing lunch and district 19 for providing drinks.

In Love and Service,

Rob McL, DCM, District 15

Districts 16 & 17:

2/19/17 Area 45 Assembly Meeting District 16/17 Report

It's my privilege to serve as DCM for District 16/17 I'd like to welcome our newest GSRs who are attending the assembly meeting today....Brian (Trudgers) Eva (Women Living Sober) and Gail (Margate) Our district has become increasingly active over the last few years and we average about 12 or more GSRs at our monthly meetings. [We hold our meetings on the first Monday of each month, 6 PM, at the Church of Epiphany on Franklin Blvd Pleasantville, NJ](#)

We hosted a **Bus trip to GSO** on Jan 20th It was a huge success and tickets were sold out within weeks.

I attended a workshop given by my home group (ACYP) "**Our Primary Purpose, Problems Other Than Alcohol**" was an excellent presentation followed by a short question/answer period. The workshop grew out of concerns/controversy over the growing numbers of attendees at our meetings who are identifying themselves as "addicts" or "addict-alcoholic"... even in closed meetings. The workshop was very educational and unifying.

District 16/17 will be holding their next workshop in the Absecon/Galloway area. Topic will be "**Emotional Sobriety: Dealing With Loss**" Date and time TBD

I also want to introduce Rachel, who is the Cape Atlantic Intergroup Special Needs chair (as well as our GSR (South Jersey Newcomers) Thanks to Tressa from Cape Atlantic Intergroup who brought sale literature to this assembly.

Gratefully submitted,

Jeanmarie T 2/19/17

District 18:

Thanks Tish T. DCM District 18

Good Morning,

Thank you Section IV for hosting today's assembly.

We in District 18 are discussing ideas for an upcoming workshop and looking at the last two weeks of April to secure a location and date.

We will update website as soon as we are sure on a date and theme.

Our budget to date is \$2,180.00

I will be heading to NERAASA along with past Delegate Joe O and it is my honor to have been asked to present on the Panel of " Spirituality and Money" # 3 New Opportunities for Groups and Individual Contributions.

(Continues on the next page.)

In my conversation with the North East Regional Trustee Rich P. in preparing for the panel he asked if we GSR's could spread the word about online contributions to GSO and if paying by check to put the group # on check to assure efficiency.

His enthusiasm is contagious for the Self Support progress GSO has made by groups and group members of the NorthEast Region.

He kept referring to the "Spiritual Handshake" a phrase I had never heard.

He shared with me a lovely story of the first AA Meeting in Rwanda Africa that got its first year support from a group in Westford, Massachusetts USA.

From a traveling nurse who was asked by a patient with the gift of desperation to get sober in Rwanda Africa where there was no existing AA she called home to her hometown parish. The clergy put her in contact with the local AA meeting and there 7th Tradition contributions sponsored the literature for the first AA meeting in Rwanda Africa and their membership has grown to 100 members. So there we have the "Spiritual Handshake" to quote Rich P "You never know where your contribution in the basket will end up in helping carry the message to the alcoholic that still suffers."

Thank you for the opportunity to serve

Tish T DCM

District 19:

General Service District 19

Po box 452, Rio Grande, New Jersey 08242-0452

REPORT FOR AREA 45 ASSEMBLY • February 19, 2017

Good Afternoon:

My name is Joe C and I am an alcoholic and the DCM for District 19.

I am pleased to report that the District is functioning well.

The District is continuing to hold 4 events throughout the year that are focused on carrying the AA message and at the same time providing an opportunity for fellowship.

Currently, the District has two events scheduled on the AA Twelve Steps and the AA Twelve Traditions. The first is scheduled for March 18, 2017 and will cover Steps 1 to 7 and Traditions 1 to 6. The second event is scheduled for April 22, 2017 and will cover AA Steps 8 to 12 and AA Traditions 7 to 12. Both events are scheduled for a Saturday afternoon from noon to 4:00 PM at the Crest Community Church, Crocus & Pacific Avenues, Wildwood Crest, New Jersey. Both events will include a period of guided meditation. Light refreshments will be provided and those attending are asked to bring a covered dish.

Flyers describing the events are posted on the Area 45 website and the Cape Atlantic InterGroup website. Flyers are also available at this Assembly meeting. All are invited and most welcome to attend.

The District continue to receive continuing financial support from the individual groups which has permitted us to include these events which have been attended by both District 19 Groups and many others.

The District is engaged in ongoing efforts to encourage more groups to actively and financially participate in District events and activities.

I also want to thank Area 45 and groups from other districts for your support of District 19's efforts and activities.

Yours in service,

Joe C.

DCM – District 19

For further information please contact: Joe C. DCM for District 19 at 856-287-5640 – email: somciro@aol.com

(Continues on the next page.)

AREA BUSINESS

Assembly

Motion: (by Andrew L.)

A Motion to be placed on the Agenda for the Assembly to consider starting a Pilot Program for a period of 6 months for the use of A Twitter Account to enhance communication between the Area and the fellowship.

Motion was voted on by the assembly and passed by 67% (45 for 21 against). Minority opinion was heard. 2 votes were changed by minority opinion. The assembly voted not to revoke.

Motion (by John K.)

A Motion asking the conference to permanently maintain the tradition of hiring an alcoholic member of AA as the General Service Manager and the Chairman of the Board to be a Class "A" Trustee. (Tabled from 11/20/2016)

Motion was voted on by assembly and did not pass.

Area Committee

Motion (by Randi J)

A Motion asking to grant CPC/PI committee an extra \$500 to the 2017 budget for continued work on projects and conventions.

\$500 or less can be voted on by the committee that day. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion (by Kathleen F)

Motion to make approval for money for purpose of attending a national corrections conference in November in Missouri not to exceed \$1000.00.

Amended by Justin and supported by Andrew.

Passed unanimously will appear on May agenda.

Motion to close the meeting.

Motion Second

Close with the Responsibility Pledge

Southern New Jersey Area General Service Assembly Alcoholics Anonymous

SNJ Fourth Dimension

area45newsletter@gmail.com

AREA 45 THEME: "Principles Before Personalities"

Editorial Policy: With readership in mind and our limited space, we suggest that article submissions not exceed 500 – 750 words and focus on our shared AA experience, strength, and hope. No specific philosophy or opinion will dominate Fourth Dimension pages, and in determining content, the editors rely on the principles of the Twelve Traditions. The Newsletter Committee reserves the right to edit articles for the purpose of clarity, length, and style.

We will make every effort to include the broadest viewpoint of our membership. Understanding that degree of latitude, the Newsletter Committee will exercise its right to accept or decline submissions with the greatest degree of care possible. Opinions expressed are those of the reader and not necessarily those of the editors or of Area 45 as a whole.

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