

"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

Delegates Post-Conference Report 59th General Service Conference

April 26- May 2, 2009

Crowne Plaza Times Square · New York, NY

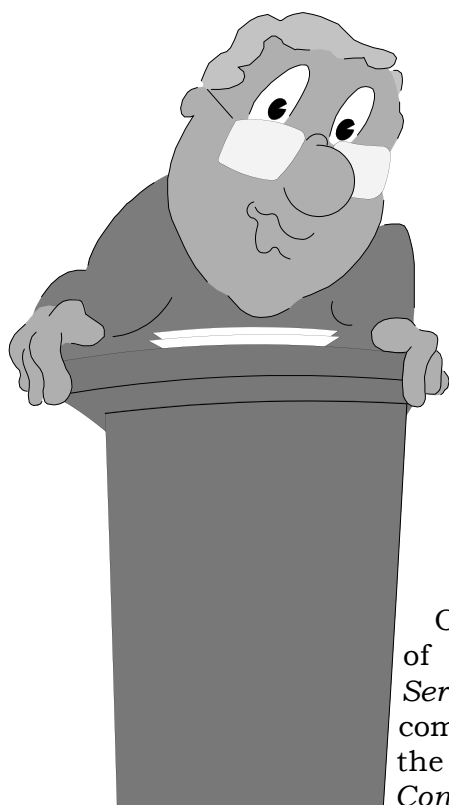
*Our Commitment to Carry A.A.'s Message
-- Enthusiasm and Gratitude in Action*

Fred E

Panel 58 Delegate

Area 45, Southern New Jersey

Conference Committee on Finance



On page S52 of the A.A. Service Manual combined with the *Twelve Concepts for*

World Service, I am to describe "what I saw and heard and felt" at the Conference.

It is passed on from Delegate to Delegate to "have your own Conference experience."

Just like last year, the Conference experience began with NERAASA '09. This is where I got a sense of what would be the agendas for the Conference. This is also where I got the opportunity to meet the Panel 59 Delegates for the first time and welcome them officially to the Delegate family. I think it was during NERAASA that I realized that this was my second and last Conference as a Delegate. The 58s were now the senior Delegates, and we were preparing the 59s for their first conference. The Northeast Regional Delegates, henceforth known as NERDs, began to bond during the two roundtables and lunch. Next, we were off to the NERD's reunion.

My focus this time is not like the previous year, questioning myself, am I ready, do I belong here, etc. This time, my focus is on reassuring the 59s that they are ready and that they were chosen by their higher power to be here.

The next step in preparation for the Conference was the Mini-Conference. I got a sense of the Area on a variety of agenda topics. The Area got a chance to be part of the process and to experience the Conference on a much smaller and subdued scale. Thanks to all who were a part of and supported the event.

Saturday: April 25th we arrived at the Crowne Plaza Times Square in NYC. As soon as we enter the lobby, I encounter some fellow Delegates, but no one has name tags on. Some I remember, some I do not. The room is not ready again this year, so we visit the hospitality room for a few minutes and then decide to take a walk around town until the room is ready. Little did I know that I would only get out one more time during the Conference, and that would be Sunday.

The unofficial start of the Conference kicked off with the Delegates-only meeting at 7pm. After the introductions, we had a moment of silence for Joe S. (Panel 58, Area 12, Delaware) who passed away just before the Conference. Then it was down to business. Joe B. (58/09 Mid-South California) chaired the meeting. We had a presentation on the overview of the Conference week by Suzanne W. (58/56 Southwest Ohio). Al D. (58/61 Rhode Island -- which is neither a road nor an island) spoke on the committee process. The full conference process was presented by Lee W. (58/07 Northern Interior California). Helon H. (58/37 Mississippi) closed out the session with a presentation on the Delegates report.

Sunday: We kicked off the morning

with the Remote Communities, which is not part of the Conference. I served as one of the seven co-chairs of the committee. After the welcome, we had presentations; the topics were: Culture, Language, Geography, and more on remote communities.

We then break off into three panels for discussion on culture, language and geography. I had the pleasure to moderate the culture roundtable. (See my sharing in the remote communities' communicator.)

We then had lunch by regions to take care of regional business. NERAASA 2012 will be hosted by Area 49 HMB (Hudson, Mohawk, Berkshire).

We opened the 59th General Service Conference at 1:30pm with a welcome by Leonard B., Chairman General Service Board. Phyllis H., General Manager, called the roll. As she got closer to my name, I could feel my heartbeat increase, as my name was called I arose to answer "present." I was officially seated as the Panel 58 Delegate to the 59th General Service Conference from Area 45, Southern New Jersey.

Joe B. gave us a warm welcome and an inspiring talk. Dorothy W. (rotating) Trustee-at-large U.S. delivered the keynote address.

The pace begins to pick up as we met in the joint Trustee and Conference committee meeting. We reviewed the conference committee composition, scope and

(continued on page 6)

Rocket inside to find...

- 46th Convention Infopage 2
- Unity Breakfast.....page 4
- Grapefestpage 5
- CAIG Rounduppage 7
- May meeting minutespages B1-4
- Aug. Assembly directions.....page B2





What does the Area do?

The Convention Committee

As a part of the Southern New Jersey Area 45 General Service Assembly, the Convention Committee is charged with making the annual convention experience enjoyable as well as effective in carrying the A.A. message of recovery.

The purpose of the annual convention is well outlined in the Area 45 *Service Handbook*:

The Convention committee is established each year to organize and make all arrangements such as: program planning, registration, entertainment, public information, unity, and Al-Anon participation.

The overall nature of the Convention is always centered on "General Services" to broaden each participant's A.A. knowledge. The Area 45 Convention is a weekend of A.A. fellowship, service oriented workshops, speaker meetings, marathon meetings, and a banquet.

The goal of this committee is to make the annual Convention a spiritual and uplifting experience, as well as a fun and entertaining weekend for everyone - from our old friends to our newest members.

The planning process begins before the last convention has even ended with the appointment by the Area 45 Chair of the new Convention Chair who serves for a one year convention term. Then the Steering Committee is chosen -- the Co-chair, Treasurer, Program Chair, Registration Chair and Hospitality Chair.

Then come the invaluable sub-committees -- Banquet, Setup and Security, Entertainment, Public Information, Marathon Meetings, Merchandise Sales, Data Entry, Audio, Website, Secretary and Unity -- whose chairs are appointed by the Convention Chair with help from the Steering Committee.

The committee is big because they are all needed to do all of the planning from the fun of selecting a theme and logo to special meetings set up to select meeting topics and from the design of flyers to helping set up the registration desk at the convention. Other planning needs include selecting the weekend's speakers and workshop chairs, selecting volunteers to chair marathon meetings, selecting and booking entertainment, banquet centerpieces, selecting mementos, designing fliers, envelope stuffing parties, checking inventory and equipment, informing Box 459 and the Grapevine and this newsletter, organizing volunteers for registration, hospitality and the list goes on and on.

The committee's activities aren't drudgery at all, though. Its members serve with gratitude for the opportunity to do so and have lots of fun ways to get together in a spirit of unity. The committee has a pool party each summer, an annual trip to the birthplace of Bill W. in East Dorset, VT, and there is talk of a winter party and perhaps even a day trip up to Stepping Stones. In keeping with our Seventh Tradition, each committee member pays his or her own way in all the committee's extracurricular activities.

The success of the convention depends on everyone -- everyone. Financially, it has been harder throughout the years to continue as expenses grow and efforts are made to keep costs low. The committee has taken on the most difficult task of registering the hotel rooms to save the attendees a few dollars, and the meals have been kept elegant and are offered within pennies of cost. But just like any good Twelve Step work, it comes in many different ways. Some can and will attend convention committee meetings and help all the way through the planning process. Some will volunteer to help out with a skit or workshop or greet for a while at the convention or take a marathon meeting commitment. Other members will help out by making sure that their home groups have copies of the convention registration flyer. For all, your mere presence, paid attendance of course, is a great help in keeping the Area 45 General Service Convention going for another 45 years.

Members who wish to volunteer to help, the convention website is www.snjaaconvention.org. There you will find links to the convention committee planning meeting calendar and directions, email addresses to contact the committee and of course online registration and a link to download and print flyers to bring to home groups or other conventions.

Thank you and God bless you,
Pat M.
 Committee Chair, 46th Annual Southern New Jersey Area 45 General Service Convention
chair@snjaaconvention.org
www.snjaaconvention.org

Declaration of Unity

This we owe to A.A.'s future:
 To place our common welfare first;
 To keep our fellowship united.
 For on A.A. unity depend our lives,
 And the lives of those to come

Reprinted from The A.A. Service Manual, (c)1999, with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

Convention Committee meetings are held on the first Sunday of each month at 1pm at Hammonton Presbyterian Church, 326 Bellevue Avenue, Hammonton, NJ 08037. All persons interested in being a part of the exciting process leading up to the convention are welcome and encouraged to attend.

- Sunday, August 2nd 2009 at 1:00 PM
- Sunday, September 6th 2009 at 1:00 PM
- Sunday, October 4th 2008 at 1:00 PM
- Sunday, November 1st 2009 at 1:00 PM
- Sunday, December 6th 2009 at 1:00 PM
- Sunday, January 3rd 2010 at 1:00 PM
- Sunday, February 7th 2010 at 1:00 PM
- Sunday, March 7th 2010 at 1:00 PM



"To serve is to live." ~ Language of the Heart, pgs. 129-130

Southern New Jersey - Area 45 Calendar of Events 2009

Date	Event	Hosted by/Location
Sunday, Aug. 9 th	Area 45 Summer Assembly • Registration: 8:30am • New GSR/DCM Orientation: 9am • Assembly: 10am • Lunch: 11:45am • Workshop: 12:30pm • Area Committee: 1pm	Section I Carslake Community Center 209 Crosswicks Street Bordentown, NJ
Saturday, Oct. 10 th	Corrections and Treatment Conference Starts 9am	CTF Committee Lambs Road Cathedral 190 Lambs Rd • Sewell, NJ 08080
Saturday, Oct. 24 th	Day of Sharing Starts at 9am	CAIG Absecon Methodist Church Church & Pitney Roads Absecon, NJ 08201
Sunday, Nov. 15 th	Area 45 Fall Assembly Area 45 Elections • Registration: 8:30am • New GSR/DCM Orientation: 9am • Elections: 10am • Lunch: TBD	Section II Collingswood Senior Center 30 Collings Ave. Collingswood, NJ 08108

Directly Following Elections, The Fall Assembly and Committee meeting will begin.

46th ANNUAL SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY AREA 45 GENERAL SERVICE CONVENTION

MARCH 26th 27th and 28th 2010

The Crowne Plaza Hotel 2349 Marlton Pike (Rte 70) Cherry Hill, NJ 08002

REGISTER ONLINE!

<http://www.snjaaconvention.org>

For Mail-in Registration, please complete the form entirely.

Mail to: Area 45 Convention, PO Box 292, Sicklerville, NJ 08081

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (inc. area code) _____ Cell _____

E-mail _____

Total Amount (from table below) \$ _____

Check or Money Order enclosed: Amount \$ _____
(Payable to Area 45 Convention)

Or Charge my Credit Card below: Amount \$ _____

American Express Visa MasterCard Discover

Credit Card Number _____ Expiration Date ____/____ (mo/yr)

3- digit security code on back of card _____ Name on Credit Card _____

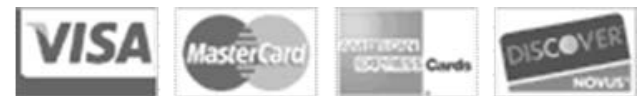
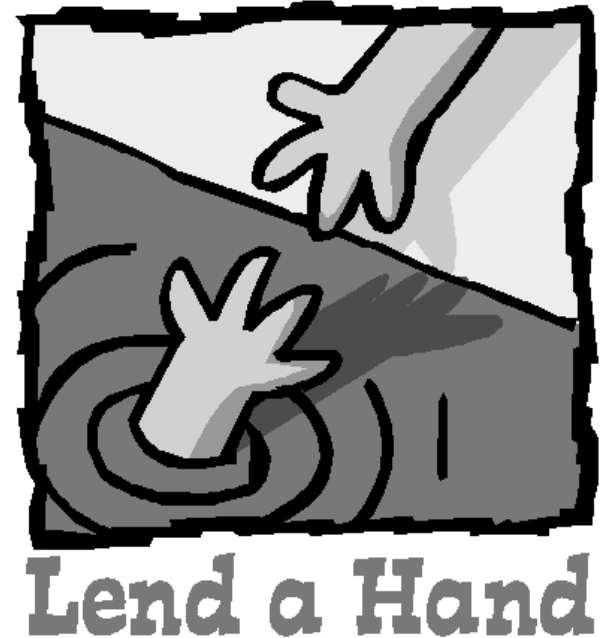
Name if different than on Card _____

Credit Card Payments may be divided into 2 or 3 equal payments over two or three consecutive months. No divided payments will be accepted after November 15th 2009. All payments must be complete by January 15th 2009. First payment will be charged when registration is received.

Charge the entire amount in one payment. Split my total into 2 credit card payments. Split my total into 3 credit card payments.

For additional information, e-mail questions to: registrar@snjaaconvention.org

* All reservations must be received by March 14, 2010, in order to guarantee the below reduced prices. *



All Packages Include Convention Registration	SINGLE	DOUBLE	TRIPLE	QUAD	INDICATE SELECTION BY FILLING IN AMOUNT IN THIS COLUMN
Package #1 -- For Those Staying All Weekend -- Includes guestroom for Friday & Saturday nights, Friday Dinner, Saturday & Sunday Breakfast Friday Dinner Choice: <input type="checkbox"/> Fish <input type="checkbox"/> Beef <input type="checkbox"/> Chicken <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetable	\$362	\$238 per person	\$204 per person	\$182 per person	\$ _____
Package #2 -- For those arriving late Friday -- Includes guestroom for Friday & Saturday, Breakfast Saturday & Sunday	\$320	\$197 per person	\$163 per person	\$141 per person	\$ _____
Package #3 -- For those staying Friday night -- Includes guestroom for Friday night & Saturday Breakfast	\$177.50	\$116 per person	\$99 per person	\$88 per person	\$ _____
Package #4 -- For those staying Saturday night -- Includes guestroom for Saturday night & Sunday Breakfast	\$177.50	\$116 per person	\$99 per person	\$88 per person	\$ _____
Package #5 -- Guestroom for Friday & Saturday nights only -- <i>No meals included</i>	\$281.50	\$158.50 per person	\$124.50 per person	\$102.50 per person	\$ _____
Package #6 -- Guestroom for Friday night only -- <i>No meals included</i>	\$158.50	\$96.50 per person	\$80 per person	\$68.50 per person	\$ _____
Package #7 -- Guestroom for Saturday night only -- <i>No meals included</i>	\$158.50	\$96.50 per person	\$80 per person	\$68.50 per person	\$ _____
Registration only (only if no Package selected)	\$35				\$ _____
Add Saturday Evening Banquet (not included in any Packages)	\$40 Choose one please: <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetable <input type="checkbox"/> Chicken <input type="checkbox"/> Beef				\$ _____
Add Hooded Zippered Logo Sweatshirt (avail. pre-order only)	\$40	Circle Size: S M L XL XXL			\$ _____
Add 2010 Logo Tee Shirt	\$10	Circle Size: S M L XL XXL			\$ _____
Total	Add Package Amount + Banquet + Merchandise (if applicable) This is Amount to remit with registration.				\$ _____

If you are registering for a Double, Triple, or Quad, please provide the first and last names of your roommates (Please print clearly)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

All occupants of each guestroom will be required to check-in at hotel front desk. Payment for all incidental charges will be required at checkout. Incidental charges will not be split among roommates unless all occupants are present at checkout. There will be no refunds for charges after 5:00 p.m. on March 14th 2010. There will be no refunds for missed meals and meal tickets cannot be exchanged for other meals. **Check-in Time is 4:00 p.m. Checkout time is 11:00 a.m.**

Register for Old-timer's panel (20 years continuous sobriety or more as of 3/27/10) Years sobriety as of 3/27/10 _____

Name desired on badge _____ Home Group _____ Other _____

5th Annual Unity Breakfast

Presented by the Cape Atlantic Intergroup

...is set for **Sunday 9/20/2009 @ 8:00 AM** at the Grand Hotel of Cape May, 1045 Beach Avenue, Cape May, NJ 08204

This Years Guest Speaker is: **Valerie D**
From Richmond, Virginia

\$23.00 per person

~ Price includes all you can eat breakfast buffet-coffee-free parking and gratuity
~ Breath taking panoramic view from the 5th floor ballroom

~ Doors open @ 8:00 am

~ Breakfast begins @ 9:00 am

~ Preamble @ 10:00 am

Pre-registered ticket sales only!! No Walk-ins ~500 Person Limit
Tables of 8 are available for \$184.00

Ticket sales deadline September 16, 2009

Absolutely No Refunds!!! ~ CD's available following the event

DIRECTIONS:

Take the Garden State Parkway South to the end at Cape May. Continue straight through traffic light and over a large overpass and small canal bridge into the City of Cape May. You are on Lafayette Street. Continue to the first traffic light (Madison Avenue); turn left and continue straight to the beach. At the "T" intersection (Beach Avenue), turn left. The Grand Hotel of Cape May is down the block on the left; the Atlantic Ocean is on the right.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL:

Vinnie K @ 609-992-6227 Steve G @609-501-4785

Make check payable to Cape Atlantic Intergroup and send check to: The Unity Committee, P.O. Box 1724 Pleasantville, NJ 08232

Name: _____ Phone No: (____) _____

Number of Registrants: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____

(Your cancelled check or money order is your receipt)

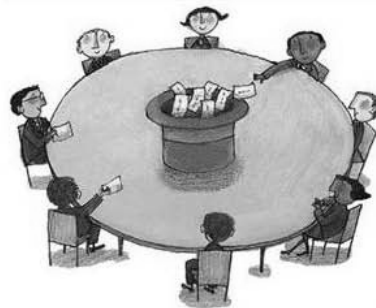
Scholarship Fund _____

THIS EVENT BENEFITS CAPE ATLANTIC INTERGROUP
PLEASE HELP US CARRY THE MESSAGE.

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.capeatlanticintergroup.org
- **AA World Services, Inc.**
P.O. Box 459, Grand Central Station
New York, New York 10163
(212) 870-3400
www.alcoholics-anonymous.org

General Service Area 45 Election Assembly



Sunday, November 15th, 2009
Collingswood Senior Center
30 Collins Avenue
Collingswood, NJ 08108

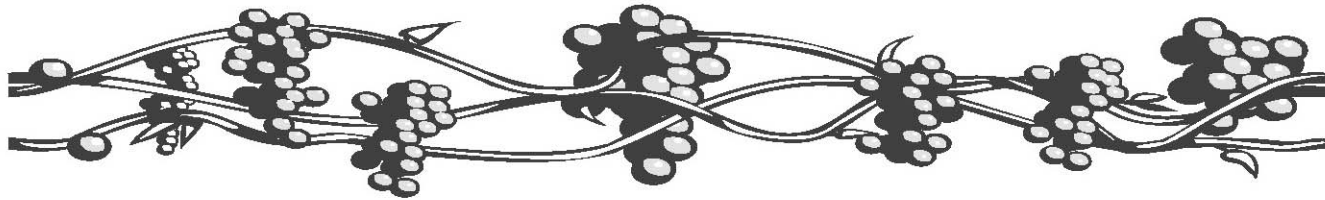
Registration starts at 8:30am
New GSR/DCM Orientation at 9:00am
Election Assembly begins promptly at 10:00am

IMPORTANT NOTICE: All voters must be present and registered by 10:00am in order to be eligible to vote. Registration will be closed once the election has begun, and those arriving late will not be able to vote.

Per Article XVIII, Paragraph 11 (Pg. 23) of the Area 45 Handbook, those eligible to vote at an Area 45 Election Assembly are the GSRs, DCMs, Area Officers, and Section Leaders. If a Group's GSR is not present, then the Group's registered Alternate GSR may vote. Each member of the assembly present has one vote. Absentee votes or proxies are not valid.

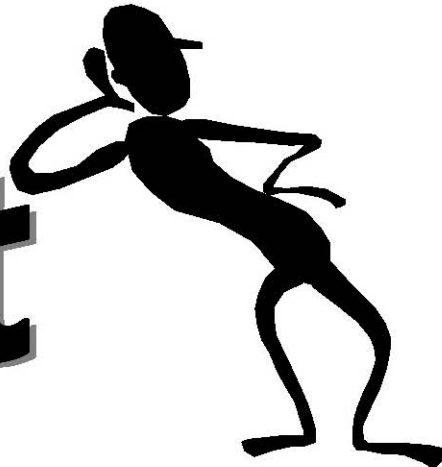
The Area's Fall Assembly will begin immediately following the conclusion of the elections.

Directions are available on our website, www.snjaa.org



*Have you Heard?
Area 45 is having our First*

Grapefest



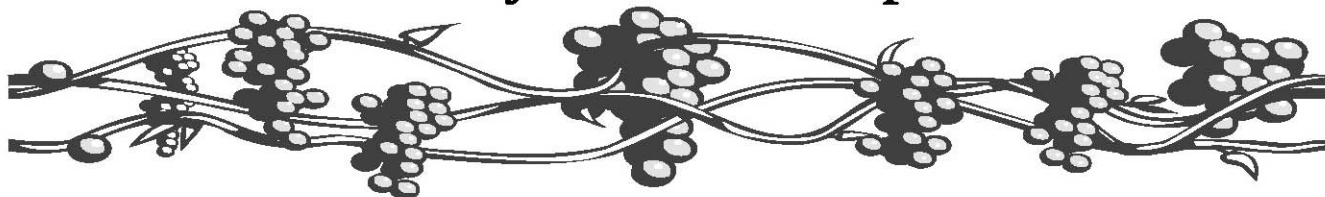
WHEN: Saturday, September 12th, 2009
WHERE: Absecon Presbyterian Church
208 New Jersey Ave., Absecon, NJ 08201
TIME: 10:00am to 1:30pm

As Bill W. expressed it in 1946, "The Grapevine will be the voice of the Alcoholics Anonymous movement"

The Grapefest will celebrate:

- ❖ 75 Years of History
- ❖ How the Grapevine is doing & what's new
- ❖ How to Spread our Meeting in Print
- ❖ Feast on Lunch (Grapes included)

Please join us in Fellowship



Directions will be available on our website @ www.snjaa.org

Subscribe to the
Grapevine

12 issues: \$18.00
 Please bill me Payment enclosed

Name (please print) _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send to: AA Grapevine, Inc. • PO Box 1980
 Grand Central Station • New York, NY 10163-1980

*Experience, strength
and hope from AAs
around the world!*

NBR2B



(continued from page 1)

procedure, and discussed the auditors report with the financial report of A.A.W.S., Grapevine, La Viña, and the General Service Office.

I once again appreciated my experience as the Area Treasurer, as it allowed me to see some areas of concern in the reports and address them with the Trustees. The last portion of the auditors report was a wake-up call to the Finance Committee. (Information provided only at the Assembly meeting)

Sunday evening: The annual opening Conference Dinner started at 6:30pm. We heard from several members of the conference during the speakers meeting, which was capped off with a past Trustee, Margaret C. -- B.

A Panel 20 Delegate (1970-1971) who also served as General Service Trustee US (After her term the title was changed to Trustee-at-large USA) from 1973-1977. She spoke about her meeting with Bill W. and Bernard S. She was there when both spoke publicly for the last time. All I could say was, "Wow." It was an awesome feeling in that room. It was as though we were reliving the moment in the way she related her story. The meeting closed around 9:30. After a brief walk on Broadway it was time to retire for the night.

Monday: Monday morning started with the 7:30am serenity meeting. The topic was: powerlessness and reliance upon a higher power to expel the obsession to drink. Now it's time to roll up our sleeves and get to work. We met in committee starting at 9:00 to tackle our agenda topics. After three hours of deliberations we break for lunch. We will have a little over 20 hours to digest our discussions and come back on Tuesday to wrap up our business. After lunch, we met in conference and heard the highlights from the Eastern Canada Region Delegates and the West Central Region Delegates.

The afternoon consisted of the General Service Board report by Leonard B., chair; John K., treasurer, gave the A.A.W.S. directors report. This was followed by the Grapevine report by Madeleine P., chair. We then had a presentation/discussion on Finances by Terry Bedient, chairperson, Trustees' Finance & Budgetary Committee. The afternoon session closed out with highlights from the Southeast Region and the Northeast Region. We broke for dinner and returned at 7:15pm for more highlights from the East Central Region Delegates and the Pacific Region Delegates.

We closed out the evening with a presentation/discussion and a sharing session. The theme of the presentation was Humility and Sacrifice. John A. (Tennessee) started with setting an example; next, Lori G. (Nebraska) spoke on changing our perceptions, and Cheryl

Post-Conference Report Continues

A. (Western New York) closed out with anonymity -- Sacrificing our Egos.

Tuesday: Tuesday started off with the serenity meeting at 7:30am. The topic: "the alcoholic is and must be the master of his destiny" (*AA Comes of Age*, p 311). If any of you have the opportunity to attend the Conference, either as the Delegate or as a guest, do not miss out on the serenity meeting.

9:00am -- We meet back in committees to continue our deliberations and work until noon. We return to the conference room at 1:00pm to hear highlights from the Southwest Region and Western Canada. Then it was another presentation/discussion: Enthusiasm and Gratitude, moderated by Rogelio F., Trustee. John T. (South Dakota) spoke on "Hope and Purpose from Defeat and Despair." "Happy, Joyous and Free" was presented by Gail N. (San Diego Imperial). Dave B. (Alberta/N.W.T.) shared on "Enthusiasm -- a Gift of Inventory." After a brief sharing session, we broke for the trip to G.S.O./Grapevine Offices. Since I went last year, I used the time to rest my mind and body to be able to endure the next 36 hours.

The Delegates-only dinner and meeting started at 6:30pm. Our neighbor to the west, Lowell L. (59/59 Eastern Pa.) was selected out of the hat to be the Delegates chair for the 60th GSC. The Finance Committee had to leave the meeting early to continue our deliberations. We worked until 10:00pm and finished the work we had been asked to do. Finally, it's off to bed.

Wednesday: Wednesday morning started off with the serenity meeting at 7:30am. The topic: self-restraint (*12&12*, p. 91). 9:00am -- We kick off with a workshop: Language of the Heart. This was the hardest service position I've ever had in AA. I was selected as the recorder back in February and agreed to serve. For those who know my hand-writing, my first thought was, "What an order. I can't go through with it." But I did start to practice leading up to the conference. I was pretty proud of myself when I handed in my report to the queen of the conference. (Yee Tully) After a brief sharing session, we moved right into lunch, where we held a Third Legacy voting procedure to select a nominee from the Northeast region for the position of Trustee-at-large USA. There were 12 areas represented. After four ballots, we went to the hat and selected Joanne McC. (Panel 30, Area 50, Western New York).

After lunch, we moved into the elections. Eleanor N. was selected out of the hat for the Southeast Regional Trustee. Pam R. won on the fourth ballot for East Central Regional Trustee. For the Trustee-at-large USA, it takes five ballots, and finally, Don M. of Louisiana comes out of the hat.

The afternoon continued with a Presentation/Discussion: The A.A. Grapevine. Jim B., GV director, moderated the panel. Grapevine is always presented by Frank Z. (Area 12 Alternate Delegate), who replaced the late Joe S. It was Joe's presentation that was read. I

could hear Joe's voice as Frank was speaking. Amber E., GV Managing Editor, spoke on Grapevine is now. We closed the afternoon session with a sharing session and dinner.

7:30pm -- It's time for the fruits of our labor -- the committee reports and discussions. After a lengthy discussion, we finally re-establish the way the Conference will operate. After much discussion, we adjourn for the evening at 10:05pm. Some of the Delegates from the Northeast Region go out for ice cream; I choose to retire for the night, it feels like *dejà vu*.

Thursday: Thursday morning started with (you guessed it) the serenity meeting at 7:30am. The topic: "Our real purpose is to fit ourselves to be of maximum service to God and the people about us" (*Alcoholics Anonymous*, p. 77). 9:00am -- We reconvene in Conference. I had the awesome privilege to open the session with a moment of silence followed by the serenity prayer in the plural (thanks, Robbie W.). I followed this with a reading from "As Bill sees It" (page 284). We are back in session with the committee reports. After much discussion and very little results, we break for lunch at 11:50am with only committee complete. The afternoon session starts with a Presentation/Discussion: "Spiritual Program in Action," moderated by Ginger B. The presenters were John Z. (NW Ohio/SE Michigan), who spoke on "Maximum Service." Ralph T. (New Mexico) followed with "Persistence -- The Key to Progress." "Living the Traditions" was presented by Ginette W. (SW Quebec). We returned back to the committee reports and discussions at 1:15pm. The pace is starting to pick up a bit. We, as a conference, agree to extend the afternoon session past the 4:30pm end time to 5:15, we also agree to extend the evening session until 11:00pm and start the morning session at 8:00am, with the serenity meeting starting at 7:00am. The evening session started with a Presentation/Discussion: "2010 International Convention."

Conley B. (Southwest Regional Trustee) moderated. The presenters were Steve Y. (Southwest Texas - host Delegate) and Rick W., 2010 International Convention Coordinator. Then it was right back into committee reports and discussion. After much discussion and debate, we break at 11:05pm. We have a total of four committees complete, nine to go. I can see where this is heading.

Friday: Friday morning, I say an extra prayer for the conference and my fellow Delegates. Of course I attend the serenity meeting which started at 7:00am. The topic today is: "Step Two -- Return to Sanity." The morning session started at 8:00am with a Presentation/Discussion: "20th A.A. World Service Meeting." Dorothy W., Trustee-at-Large/U.S. (rotating) moderated the discussion. The presenters were Julio E., G.S.O. staff, and Jo-Anne L., Trustee-at-Large/Canada. 9:30 and we return to the committee reports and discussions. We get two committees done and break

(concludes on the next page)

Conclusion of the Delegate's Post-Conference Report

(continued from the previous page)

for lunch at noon. The Northeast Region takes its picture and presents John K. (NERT) with a gift from the NERDs. We work through the afternoon, breaking for dinner and return at 7:00pm with four committees and eight floor actions to deal with. We work until 11:00 and take a quick break. There are still two committees left. There will be no farewells for the 58s this year, just like it was for the 57s last year. It is now Saturday morning (12:05) and we are still debating, discussing and voting. The 59th General Service Conference has now become the longest Conference in A.A. history. We finished the last floor action at 2:20am Saturday morning and close the conference with the Serenity prayer in English, French, and Spanish by Helon H., Sylvain LeL., and Antonio R., respectively. Physically, emotionally, and mentally spent, I hit the sheets for two hours of sleep. We have to be back at 8:00 am for the closing brunch and farewell talks by the rotating Trustees. Bidding us farewell were: Paul C., Herb G., Howard L., Ray M., Bob M., Dorothy W., and Leonard B. We adjourn at 10:00am.

What did I see, hear, and feel? I saw trusted servants who had passion and love for our fellowship. I heard the collective conscience of Alcoholics Anonymous speak just like it did at the first Conference in April, 1951. I felt the spirit of a loving God holding the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous in His loving arms, protecting us from ourselves.

I want to thank you all for the support, love, and commitment you have provided to me during these two General Service Conferences. I am truly blessed to have been able to be on the firing line of A.A. This experience will be with me for the rest of my life. It is truly a life-changing experience. I truly hope that some day each of you will be able to be a part of the Conference experience. Thank you for the privilege to serve Area 45 and Alcoholics Anonymous.

In Love and Service,
Fred E
Panel 58 Delegate
Area 45, Southern New Jersey
Conference Committee on Finance



3rd Annual Cape Atlantic Intergroup Waves of Sobriety Roundup

November 20th, 21st, & 22nd, 2009
The Grand Hotel
Cape May, New Jersey

For more information, call Heather Anne S. at (609) 972-5017
or visit www.caigrp.org

Want to get involved?
Our committee meets the 4th Wednesday of each month at the Epiphany Lutheran Church
on Franklin & Tunis Avenues in Pleasantville at 7:00pm.
Come join us!

Southern New Jersey Area General Service Assembly, Alcoholics Anonymous

SNJ Fourth Dimension

area45newsletter@gmail.com

AREA 45 THEME: "To serve is to live" (p. 129 & 130, *Language of the Heart*).

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.

Statement of Purpose: The Fourth Dimension is published by the Newsletter Committee of Southern New Jersey Area 45 to promote the exchange of information within the Area.

Alcoholics Anonymous[®] and *AA*[®] are registered trademarks of Alcoholics Anonymous World Services (AAWS), Inc. Quotes from AAWS or the AA Grapevine are used with permission.

Business News

Minutes from the May 17th Business Meeting

Delegate: Fred E. Area 45

Thank you, Section III for hosting today's Assembly.

Thank all of you for being in attendance today.

February through May is always the busiest quarter for the Area Panel. Immediately following the February Assembly, it was off to the retreat house in Blackwood to speak at their second return anniversary. (The group started in 1964 and closed in 2001, but never lost their group number). At least 13 to 15 members who were at the Assembly showed up at the meeting. Thanks for the support.

The spring road show continued; on February 20-22, we were off to Portland, Maine for NERAASA '09. Area 45 was well represented with presentations by Kim R., Dave McD., Joey H., Moderators, Linda McD.

I attended Districts 8's GSR meeting in March.

We had the Mini-conference stuffing at Elaine's house on March 9th.

Then it was off to Pittsburgh on March 13th-15th for the Northeast Regional Delegates reunion, hosted by Area 60, Western Pa. NERD 2011 will be held in Southern, New Jersey (site to be determined).

Next up was the 45th annual Southern New Jersey Area 45

General Service Convention on March 27th-29th. Each year it gets better.

Special thanks to Heather Anne S., who worked tirelessly on the Panel skit, "A Sober Carol." Heather Anne rewrote, directed, produced, did the props, costumes, sound, etc.

After a two-week break, it was off to the Mini-conference on April 18th in Sewell.

Thank you to all who participated and helped to make it a very productive event.

I left the Mini-conference and packed my bags for the General Service Conference on April 25th. More about that in my Post-conference Report. I want to give a special thanks to Elaine McA. and Heather Anne S., who were my right and left hands in getting me ready for the Conference. They do a lot of work behind the scenes.

Finally, on April 15th, I met at Elaine's to stuff the Delegate's Post-conference Report folders.

Northeast Region

The Northeast Regional Forum (NERF) will be held in Somerset, NJ on June 26, 27, 28,

GSO

There will be a Class A Vacancy in April, 2010 (Bill C. rotating).

Vacancy for Non-trustee Director of A.A.W.S. Inc. in 2010 (Roberta L. rotating).

See me for the qualifications.

Thanks for the privilege to serve you.

Alternate Delegate: Elaine McA.

Good morning. Thank you, Section III, for hosting us today.

Welcome to the new GSRs. We are happy you could join us today. Thank you for your service.

I attended NERAASA in Portland, Maine from Feb. 20 to the 22nd.

On March 1st, I was invited by the Linwood Sunday group to speak at their meeting.

On March 11, the Panel met at my home to do the mailing for the Mini-conference.

Then on March 13th thru the 15th, Fred and I were in Pittsburgh for NERD. At both of these events, I had the chance to meet with my fellow Alternate Delegates of the Northeast Region to discuss various aspects of our duties in supporting our respective Delegates and serving our Area. It was also when Fred and I chose the agenda items for the Mini-conference.

Of course, on March 27th thru the 29th, I was at our own fabulous Area 45 Convention, where the Panel once again performed a skit written by Heather Anne S. called "A Sober Carol." Thanks to Joe M. and the entire Convention Committee for their

service in a job well done.

On April 18th, we held our Mini-conference, which Section III also hosted. Thank you for all who attended to form a group conscious on the agenda items. This morning, we will see how our group conscious compared with that of the Conference.

On April 21st, I was asked to speak at the 12 Noon Meeting at the Al-An Club in Trenton.

On May 2nd, I attended the CAIG annual picnic in Estelle Manor, where Bob D., Ginger F. and I spoke on AA's Three Legacies.

Earlier this week, Fred and I met to prepare for today's presentation.

I attended the Convention Committee meetings in March and May. Joey H. and I went to the CTF Committee meeting in April.

I have visited each of the Intergroups to report on Area 45 activities and to keep them informed of our agenda items both before and after the voting.

Respectfully Submitted.

Chair: Joey H.

Good morning. I am an alcoholic, and my name is Joey. It's a privilege and an honor to serve the Area as your chairperson. Since our last Assembly, I have been quite busy traveling in and out of Area. I would like to thank the Area for allowing me to go and represent Area 45 at NERAASA 2009 in Portland, Maine. I got the opportunity to present on the topic "Corporate Poverty and Price Increases." I received help from several individuals in the Area 45 family sharing their wisdom and knowledge. A special thanks goes out to John K., our Northeast Regional Trustee; Jimmy S., Panel 56 Delegate; Julie W., our Workshop Chair; and my wife, Kelly H. for all their help in this presentation. Then we all came home to prepare for the Area 45 45th Convention. The Area Convention is always an exciting time for me, and it was here in no time. The Convention did exactly what it is supposed to do - carry the message of AA in the greatest and most positive way. Thank you, Joe McA. and your whole committee, for all your hard work. At the end of the Convention, we have what we call a wrap-up meeting, and at that time, I had the privilege of naming the new Chair for the Area 45 46th Annual Convention, and that would be Patrick M. I know he will take this convention to a new level and continue to carry the AA message. Shortly after the Convention, I got together with the Convention Steering Committee to pick committee chairs for the convention. What a positive way to get unity started right from the start. Then the Area got together for our Mini-conference in Sewell to prepare our Delegate, Fred E., for the General Service Conference. Next up was getting together with the CTF Committee to see and ask if

there was anything we, as a Panel, could do to help with the CTF Conference. Of course, not to my amazement, they seem to be doing very well and on their way to another fabulous conference. Then I got together with Thom O. and his Policy and Charter Committee, and we got started making revisions and corrections to the Area 45 Handbook, which looks to be one of the best ever. I also got together with Website Committee to launch the new Area 45 Website. Thank you to Frank Z. and Andy M. for all their hard work on this project. Also, I would like to thank Dave McD. for his assistance getting us the codes we needed to get this project off the ground. I also met with Convention Chair Pat, Co-chair Joanne C., Convention Treasurer Debbie S., Budget and Finance Chair Steve G., and Area Treasurer Heather Anne to hammer out and approve a new budget for the 46th Area 45 Convention. That is what I call teamwork. Alice W. has come back into Area service. She will serve as Newsletter Chair for the final two issues of this current Panel. Finally, I would like to remind everyone that elections for Area 45 Panel will be held at the Fall Assembly in Collingswood on November 15th, not on September 13th in Collingswood, because of the passing of the Agenda item at the February Assembly. So let's all make sure we are there. It's important.

Treasurer: Heather Anne S.

Good morning, and thank you to Section III for hosting this Assembly.

Since the last Assembly, I attended NERAASA in Portland, Maine on February 20-22nd. As always, it was a wonderful weekend of service and fellowship.

On March 27-29th, I attended our 45th Annual Area 45 Convention. It was an awesome weekend, and I would like to thank the Convention Committee for all their hard work. They really outdid themselves this year, and I am already looking forward to next year's Convention.

I also attended Cape Atlantic Intergroup's Big Book 70th Anniversary Celebration on April 4th in Seville. I would like to thank Wendy and Robbie for allowing me the opportunity to participate on the panel as we took everyone on a "Journey to the Center of the Big Book."

On April 18th, I attended the Mini-conference, where we all got to learn about the upcoming agenda items at the General Service Conference. Everyone in attendance got to participate in the discussions, and we were able to give Fred an informed group conscience to take with him to New York.

I attended the Cape Atlantic Intergroup Unity Picnic on May 2nd. I got to hear our Alternate

(continues on the next page)

Account Balances Report

As of 5/31/09

Bank Accounts

Checking -- Operating Account	\$ 38,540.69
Prudent Reserve -- Commerce CD	\$ 18,000.00
TOTAL	\$ 56,540.69

Cash Accounts

Grapevine -- Inventory & Cash	\$ 2,500.00
TOTAL	\$ 2,500.00

Asset Accounts

Convention	\$ 6,361.78
Young People's Committee	\$ 709.96
Non-Profit Mail Permit #372	\$ 300.00
TOTAL	\$ 7,371.74

Credit Card Accounts

Commerce Credit	\$ 0.00
Staples Card	\$ 0.00
TOTAL	\$ 0.00

GRAND TOTAL \$ 66,412.43

Report from the May 17th Assembly (contd.)

(contd. from the previous page)

Delegate share her experience and knowledge on service, and despite the overcast skies and a few passing showers, we had a great time.

Also on May 2nd, I attended the 3rd Anniversary of the Young Men's South Group in the Villas. They had two excellent speakers, and we all enjoyed some fabulous food and wonderful fellowship after the meeting.

On Friday, May 15th, I attended a Convention Committee Budget meeting. Thank you, Pat, for having us all at your home and for all the hard work you and your committee did on preparing a proposed budget.

I am looking forward to attending the Northeast Regional Forum next month, which will be hosted by Area 44 in North Jersey.

Your treasury report is as follows:

Beginning Balance	
2/15/09	\$ 46,773.39
Income	\$ 5,341.17
Expenses	\$ 12,016.70
Subtotal	\$ 40,097.86
Prudent Reserve	\$ 18,000.00
TOTAL	\$ 58,097.86

In Love and Service.

Registrar: Dave MacD.

Hi. My name's Dave, and I am an alcoholic. Thank you to Section III for hosting this meeting.

For this quarter, I did the usual updating of our database and mailing list. Additionally, in February, I gave a presentation at NERAASA '09, in Portland, Maine. In March, at our annual Convention, I worked the registration table, was a reader at the Friday night speaker meeting, spoke at the Old-Timer's Panel, and got Scrooged in Heather Anne S.'s excellent update of Dicken's *Christmas Carol*. At the end of April, I participated in the ceremonial removal of the footlocker as the World-Famous Elmer Group closed. In May, I met with the Policy and Charter Committee to review proposed updates to the Area 45 Handbook. Coming up in June, I'm looking forward to attending the District 13 workshop, on the 20th, at Elmer Methodist Church, and the Northeast Regional Forum (NERF), in Somerset, NJ, on the 26th through the 28th.

Finally, if any new GSRs or DCMs did not meet with me during the New GSR Orientation during the last hour, please see me during the lunch break, so I can get you registered. For any DCMs, if you haven't received your district print-out from me yet, please see me during the lunch break so you can make any additions or corrections to your District list.

Secretary: Janet

Good morning. My name is Janet, and I am an alcoholic.

Thank you, Section III, for your hospitality. Welcome to all the new GSRs and DCMs.

From February 20th to 22nd, 2009, I attended NERAASA in Maine. I gained much information from several other secre-

taries in the Northeast. Just to know that they are experiencing the same challenges as I am really helps.

The springtime has been busy. In March, I helped with the envelope stuffing for the Mini-conference, held at our Alternate Delegate's home, and in March, I attended the Area Convention in Cherry Hill, NJ, where, on Saturday evening, I was the winner of our dinner table's centerpiece. On April 18, I attended the Mini-conference, held at Lambs Road Cathedral, in Sewell, NJ. On May 2nd, I attended the first meeting for the Service Manual review at the Policy & Charter Chairperson's home in Lawrenceville, NJ.

As a reminder, if your report is not given at the Assembly, it will not appear in the *Fourth Dimension*. If there are any new DCMs or GSRs who have e-mail addresses, please give them to me at the lunch break.

In Love and Service, your Secretary.

Archives: Stella J.

I want to thank Section III for hosting the Assembly today.

Today's display is on our present and past delegates.

Joey, our chair, asked me if I would present a display on our Northeast Region Events. Unfortunately, when I went to find information, our Archives had none. I had to go into my own Archives and make new binders for NERAASA, NERD, NERF and our past NERC.

The forum is on June 20th in Somerset, NJ. This is your chance to meet our trusted servant from the General Service Office in NY, especially our new General Manager.

I have a binder on past Box 459s. If you have any older issues, I would like them for the Archives.

Maureen and I gave out Group History forms to new groups that have not yet registered with the Archives. Please have your group fill out the form and return it to me. My address is on the form.

As always, if anyone has anything for the Archives, please see me during lunch.

Budget and Finance:

Steve G.

In March, I attended the 45th Area 45 Convention at the Crowne Plaza in Cherry Hill. I would like to thank Joe and his committee for a wonderful convention. I know how much work goes into these events, and I would also like to thank them for their dedication.

On April 18, 2009, I attended the Mini-conference in Sewell. As always, it was very informative. I was on the Grapevine Panel, and this is really our meeting in print, and we should all promote its circulation.

On May 15, 2009, I met with the Chairman of the Area 45 Convention Committee, his Co-chair, Treasurer, and the Panel Chairman and Treasurer of Area 45. We had an exhaustive five-

hour meeting, and the Convention budget was approved.

I performed an audit of the Area finances from August 2008 to April 2009. All accounts are reconciled up to April 2009. All bank statements and credit card transactions have been reviewed. Panel, Committee, and Event Budget Report is current.

Once again, I must commend the Treasurer, Heather Anne, on her excellent work and her continued dedication to Area 45.

Respectfully submitted.

45th Convention: Joe McA.

Good morning. I'm an alcoholic called Joe.

I would like to thank the Area Chair, Joe H., for appointing me as the Chairman for the 45th Convention and for all the support that I received from the Area Panel members and my sponsor, John K.

If you missed this convention, you missed a fantastic time. This convention was top-shelf from its guest speakers, meetings, workshops, entertainment to the food – this convention had it all!

This didn't just happen that way. Having spent quite a few years on the Convention Committee, I know what it takes to get everything done. Pat M., my Co-chair, our steering committee, and all my committee chairs, I will miss working with you. To everyone that spent 11 months giving up their time to work and make the

convention the enjoyable experience it was, thank you.

We had 417 pre-registrants and 737 walk-in registrants for a total of 1,154. That number is under what we were aiming towards by over 200.

We tried different several approaches to raise money this year. We took credit cards at the convention for the very first time. While we have to pay for each transaction, it did help sales and made it easier at the registration and sales tables.

The convention sold coffee mugs, travel mugs and t-shirts. While we did not sell everything we had in stock, we did make a profit overall on everything. CD sales were brisk and those sales really helped out the bottom line.

The convention has paid all its debts and has given the 46th Convention its \$5,000 seed money. We are also returning to the Area \$1,544.08.

I have prepared a final accounting for the Area and have sent it to the Secretary and Treasurer along with this report.

I spoke with the Area Budget and Finance about some ideas why the convention has not returned the desired returns in the last three years. While the convention did make a small profit, we need to recognize that we are only \$1,500 away from losing money on the event. I believe the sluggish economy is the main culprit for this situation. Given the very real possibil-

ity that the economy will continue to be troubled, I believe Area 45 needs to look at ways to protect itself from what could be a sizeable financial liability.

This ends the final report for Area 45's, 45th Convention.

Lastly, let me wish our 46th Convention Chair, Pat M., and his entire Committee the very best in their endeavors to bring the Area another great convention.

I would like to thank Section III for hosting this Summer Assembly.

Thank you all for allowing me to serve.

GSR/DCM Orientation:

Linda MacD.

There were a total of 9 in attendance: 6 GSRs and 3 alternate GSRs this morning.

We continue to revise and update the information in the Area 45 packet. All suggestions are welcome.

We had a poster display at the Area Service Convention in March.

We were the featured Committee in this quarter's *Fourth Dimension*.

Thank you for letting me be of service.

46th Convention Chair:

Pat M.

I'm an alcoholic. My name's Pat.

It is my great privilege to serve as your new 46th Area 45

(continues on the next page)

AREA ASSEMBLY/COMMITTEE MEETING Sunday, August 9, 2009

Carlslake Community Center
209 Crosswicks Street • Bordentown, NJ 08505

8:30 am Registration
9 am New GSR/DCM Orientation
10 am General Service Assembly • 11:45 am Lunch
12:30 pm Workshop • 1 pm Area Committee Meeting

Good Orderly Directions:

From North Jersey

From the North: Princeton, Lawrenceville, Trenton, etc.:

1. Take Routes 206 or 130 South into Bordentown
2. Turn right onto Crosswicks St., (just after the juncture of 130 & 206)
3. Carlslake Community Center is the 3rd building on the right.

From North of Bordentown on 295 South:

1. Take Exit 60A towards Bordentown
2. Then Exit 1 toward Bordentown
3. Then make right at 5th light (Crosswick St.) to Carlslake Community Center, 3rd building on the right.

From South Jersey

1. Routes 130, 206 or 296 North into Bordentown
2. Make right jughandle just BEFORE Crosswicks St. (between the 7-11 and the First Union Bank)
3. Then 1st right to cross over Route 206 (stay in middle lane after crossing over Route 206)
4. You will run right into Carlslake Community Center.

Minutes from the May 17th Business Meeting (contd.)

(contd. from the previous page)

General Service Assembly Convention Chair.

Since the last Assembly, a lot has happened. First, we had a convention – and it was a great one – with terrific speakers, panels, meetings, workshops, skits, food, entertainment and fellowship. So, congratulations to Joe and the 45th Convention Committee, and thank you all for your service. I also want to thank the past Convention Chair for allowing me to serve as 45th Convention Co-chair. Thank you, Joe, for your leadership and all you did.

I also want to thank my good friend and our Area Chair, Joey, for his faith and confidence in me in appointing me 46th Convention Chair. Thank you, Joey, and thank you, Panel.

Our first order of business as the next Area 45 convention is to select a committee. I am very excited to report that the 46th Convention Steering Committee consists of our new Co-chair, Joanne C.; our Treasurer, Debby S-F.; our Program Chair, Frank Z.; Registration Chair, Wallace D.; and our Hospitality Chair, Kelly H. We had our first Steering Committee meeting in April, where we selected the remaining committee chairs. At the first Convention Committee meeting on May 3rd, we scheduled the summer pool party, talked about the Wilson House trip and even did some convention stuff, like establishing the sub-committee chairs and preliminary discussion on the theme and logo. The enthusiasm of this committee is already amazing.

I want to thank the Area 45 Budget & Finance Committee, Heather Anne, Steve and Joey for coming out last Friday night to meet with the 46th Convention Budget & Finance Committee, Joanne, Debby and myself to work out the annual budget proposal. Thanks to all of them, it went very, very well. Also, the \$5,000 seed money has been turned over with the checkbook. So thanks again, Joe, for the balanced books.

Lastly, everyone please join us on Sunday, June 7th, for the second Convention Committee meeting. We will, hopefully, select the theme & logo. The committee meetings are the first Sunday of every month at the Hammonton Presbyterian Church at 1pm. Directions, contact information and further details about the convention are on the convention website at snjaaconvention.org.

I am really excited about this year and this convention, so again, thank you for allowing me to serve in this way.

God Bless you.

Grapevine: Rob F. INCOME:

Sales from Winter Assembly and Area meetings.....\$ 137.00
Sales at Area 45 Convention.....\$ 575.00
TOTAL INCOME\$ 712.00
(This amount was turned over to Heather Anne today.)

This past quarter, I attended NERAASA '09, the Area Mini-conference along with our Area 45 Convention. With the help of several AAs, we were successful in selling the *Grapevine* literature throughout the convention. Additionally, on May 2nd, I was invited to speak at Area 44 GrapeFest. That was a great experience. I got to share my story and my experience as Area 45 Grapevine representative. The GrapeFest was a celebration of the wonderful things the Grapevine has that help us stay sober and share our sobriety. Hopefully Area 45 can do a similar type of event.

Recent Grapevine featured news items have been:

1. *The Beginner's Book: Getting and Staying Sober in AA* – AA members share what helped them get sober and handle their new lives of recovery. Full of useful suggestions, insights, and solutions to problems common to the newly sober, this book provides solid tools of recovery.
2. New book called: *Voices of Long-Term Sobriety* – In this collection of stories from AA *Grapevine*, old-timers share their wealth of experience in staying sober through good times and bad.
3. *Spiritual Awakenings CDs, Vols. 1 and 2* – These *Grapevine* stories are from AAs relating the different spiritual paths they have taken in the course of their recovery. Paths that led them from the darkness into a new kind of light. (This CD contains selections from the book, *Spiritual Awakenings - Journeys of the Spirit*.)
4. *Emotional Sobriety CDs, Vols. 1 and 2* – There are many paths to emotional sobriety. In this collection of *Grapevine* stories, sober women and men describe their personal experiences as they practice the principles of AA in all aspects of their lives. Many discover that happiness is a by-product of giving without demand for return. Others embrace the present with gratitude and claim moments of real peace – “a quiet place in bright sunshine,” as Bill W. put it in the essay that gave impetus to the book *Emotional Sobriety* and these CDs. We invite you to join the journey. (This CD contains selections from the book, *Emotional Sobriety: The Next Frontier*, Sections 1-3.)

These items sold well at the convention and are being restocked in our inventory now.

Respectfully submitted.

Policy and Charter: Thom O.

The Policy and Charter Committee had our first Area 45 *Service Handbook* review meeting.

We accomplished quite a bit:

1. We reviewed the current *Handbook*, discussed some changes in wording for better clarity, and noted updates

that will have to be included.

2. We discussed some additions:
 - a. A Workshop Chair position description,
 - b. The Structure of the Area Assembly chart from earlier editions,
 - c. The 12 Concepts,
 - d. A suggested reading list, and
 - e. A space for names and phone numbers on the back page.
3. We discussed the *Handbook* format and size.
4. We set a printing schedule. We hope to have the *Handbook* ready for Panel review by the end of August, 2009. However, for the most current updates, we'll have to wait until the November Assembly. After this information is added, we hope to have the *Handbook* ready for distribution at the February 2010 Assembly.

I would like to thank all those who attended: Dave McD., Judy P., Chris C., Joey H., Janet S-C., Debbie K., and Pat M.

We were able to accomplish so much, because everyone came prepared with great ideas and a true spirit of willingness to cooperate and produce a useful tool to help folks with service at the Area level.

This meeting was an example of AA at its best – a bunch of drunks working together, laughing, enjoying each other's company, not drinking and doing something to help others. I am happy to be a part of this group.
Yours in service.

Jal-Con: Roseanne F.

Good morning. My report for the Area 45 Assembly on May 17, 2009 is as follows.

Hi everyone. I'm Roseanne, and I am an alcoholic. It's nice to be here. The last Area 45 Assembly I was not able to attend due to the fact that I was attending the Jal-Con Convention meeting held on the same day. So I'm glad to be here today.

Since we last met, I have attended all Jal-Con convention meetings. I am happy to report that all is going well. “Your Time to Shine 2009” is the theme this year. We are having a lot of fun with that, which I'm sure will turn into another fun convention. The big event will take place on July 24, 25, and 26th.

I have flyers to pass out, and I have registration forms for anyone interested and for you to bring back to your homegroups. Registration forms may also be found on line at jalcon2009@yahoo.com, and one will also be put on our website. So check it out; it's gonna be a great time. Hope to see you there.

The Saturday Night Banquet Dinner AA speaker has been chosen – Frank M. from N.Y. I hear he is an awesome speaker and carries a great message.

Area 45 is responsible for five AA meetings this year. Those meetings are all on Saturday the

25th – topic discussion. All topics and titles have been submitted and approved to the committee. I am currently working on leaders and speakers for those meetings, so if there is anyone here who would like to be of service, please see me today or contact me. My information is on the contact list.

I attended the Cherry Hill convention, had an information table for Jal-Con, and would like to thank all those who helped me with this. We did get the word out about Jal-Con. Without you, my service would not be possible. So, thank you. The Convention Committee did an awesome job. Thank you for all your hard work. It showed – the event turned out wonderful.

Hope to see you all at the “Your Time to Shine” Convention.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service.

Web Site: Frank Z.

First and foremost, I would like to thank Joey H.; Andy M., my co-chair; and Ray S. for their hard work in resolving the issue we had with the web site. The new area web site is up and running, under a new contract for the next ten years with godaddy.com. Please keep your feedback flowing in via the e-mail link on the web site for Area 45 webmaster@gmail.com. Help shape the new site. Every major committee has a sub-page. If you want to use it, send in an e-mail. DCMs are also encouraged to contact the webmaster to use the site for communicating their district meetings. Coming soon are new panel member e-mail addresses, a new .pdf calendar, and a new table based link calendar.

Thanks for allowing me to serve as your web site chair.

CPC: Lily McB.

Since coming into this position as of the last Assembly, the Committee has established at two professional conventions: the NJ Medical Society at Mercer City Community College and the NJ Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers in Atlantic City. Both meetings were cooperative efforts by both Area 45 and 44 CPC members. We also attended the 45th Annual Convention with an information table.

A project has been conceived – produce an Open Meeting List for all of Area 45 for use as a handout at professional meetings only. It will take the cooperative effort of all three intergroups to complete in 2009.

In addition, a project has been launched to incorporate a CPC Committee representative in each of the active districts in Area 45. I ask the help of all DCMs to help the project succeed.

Registration Report

May 17, 2009
Panel Members 6
Committee Chairs 9
Intergroup Chairs 2
Section Leaders 2
DCM 9

GSR 45
New GSR 6
Visitors 8
Past Delegates 3
Total in Attendance 90

Special Needs:

There is nothing to report at this time.

Newsletter: Pat M.

Good morning everyone. I'm an alcoholic. My name's Pat.

It has been a real privilege and a really great experience to serve as your Area 45 Newsletter Chair for the past year and a half. Regrettably, I must step down in order to focus on the 46th Convention, so this will be my final report as Area 45 Newsletter Chair.

For the next two issues of the *Fourth Dimension*, I'm pleased to hand the reigns over to the new chair, my Fourth Dimension Co-chair, Alice W. I will be assisting Alice with the next issue as part of her committee. As many of you know, learning a new area of service work has its challenges – especially coming in mid-term. Also, I want to welcome Karen C. as Alice's new Co-chair.

Once again this quarter, I want to thank Joey H. for picking the *Fourth Dimension* up from the printer, taking the mailing to the post office and for bringing the rest here. And, as I understand it, he had to jump through one or two fiery hoops this time to get that all done, so thanks, Joey. There are copies for GSRs to take back to your groups over there.

I am very much looking forward to reading the Delegate's Post-Conference Report which will be featured in the upcoming summer issue of the *Fourth Dimension*.

If anyone has anything to submit to the next issue, the deadline is July 1st.

Lastly, the Newsletter Committee could really use a little more help. It's a great way to be of service to the AA fellowship in Area 45. Contact information can be found inside the *Fourth Dimension*.

The *Fourth Dimension* can always be downloaded in PDF form by going to the Area 45 website, www.snjaa.org, and clicking on the newsletter link.

Thanks so much for giving me this opportunity to serve.

Respectfully submitted.

Cape Atlantic Intergroup: Cliff McC.

Good morning. I am an alcoholic, and my name is Cliff, Vice-chairperson of CAIG. Wendy apologizes for being absent, so I'm here to give the report.

We would like to thank Sally F. with District 17 for a great event Feb 27, 2009 with the Guitar Man from Central Park. Also, thanks to Area 45 for a great 45th annual General Service Convention.

April 4th, CAIG sponsored a Big Book Anniversary event titled, “Journey to the Center of the Big

(continues on the next page)

Report from the May 17th Assembly (contd.)

(contd. from the previous page)
Book." I want to thank everyone who participated.

May 2, 2009, CAIG had its second annual Unity Picnic. We want to thank Vinnie K., Unity Chair, and Elaine McA. for sharing her service experience.

The Cape Atlantic Intergroup Roundup would like to thank Chris K. for getting the Roundup Committee off to a great start and Heather Anne for assuming her position. We are looking forward to hosting the "Day of Sharing" to be held on October 24, 2009 at the Absecon Methodist Church on Pitney Road in Absecon. Let's not forget the Unity Breakfast, to be held on September 20, 2009 at the Grand in Cape May, NJ. All flyers can be printed from our website at CAIGRP.org.

Thank you.

South Jersey Intergroup: Andy

Good morning, everyone, and welcome to our newest GSRs.

The job that you folks fill is important in keeping your homegroup informed about AA today.

It was great to see a lot of you again at the Convention. SJIG has been operating pretty much "business as usual," with only a few exceptions. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the groups for your continued support. Our Answering Service Committee is looking for a few volunteers to man two-hour shifts, or perhaps an overnight shift, being there when the newcomer calls. You can do this right from your home or cell phone. Summer is coming, and with folks on vacation, there are always gaps in our coverage, and, therefore, service opportunities arise.

Literature can always use volunteers to help out distributing literature, and will arrange training at your convenience. These are two-hour shifts at the office in Pennsauken.

Hospitals and Institutions is reporting an increase in the number of commitments that are not being met. Folks are booking them, but then not showing up to chair or host the meetings. Please speak with your sponsors about the word "commitment."

The Memorial Day Alcathon's coming up, held 8am to 8pm at the office in Pennsauken.

Social Events Committee has quite a few events lined up to keep us busy and entertained over the summer months. Check out the list on our website, www.aasj.org. Speaking of the website, be sure to submit your homegroup's anniversary announcements to the events page for an easy way to get the word out. If you submit a flyer, we'll be sure to have copies at our Intergroup meeting.

Our Archives Committee is looking for a Co-chair and is still accepting both homegroup and personal histories. They also ask for donations of any old *Grapevines* you may be thinking of discarding.

Again, thanks for being there, and remember, WE are Responsible... :-)

Section 1: Mike R.

Hi. My name is Mike, and I am an alcoholic.

My new e-mail address is mjrous@verizon.net. Section I and Central Jersey Intergroup are planning a workshop. Any GSRs interested in being of service for this event, contact me or your DCM.

Location for the August Assembly is still on a TBA status. Disregard anything telling you anything different.

In Love and & Service.

District IV: Kim R.

Since the Winter Assembly in February, I continue to visit groups in District IV and stay in contact with groups via email and US postal mail, however, with the softball/baseball season, my time to visit groups is limited. I have been able to attend most District IV group anniversaries.

In February, I had the honor of presenting at NERAASA in Maine. My presentation topic was "Our Conference Finance Reports: Read and Understood." This was my third consecutive NERAASA and, as always, it was an exhausting and wonderful experience.

On March 17, we held a district meeting, during which we discussed possible district presentations. The meeting was attended by seven GSRs. We decided upon a skit topic, and so held another meeting on March 26, 2009 to begin work on the script. That meeting was only attended by two GSRs, but we made the best of it and came up with some great ideas. On April 4, 2009, we held another meeting in order to continue work on the skit, but that meeting was only attended by three GSRs and another AA member. Again, work continued on the skit; we decided to hold the presentation on May 30, 2009, and flyers were printed. With the preliminary script completed, we held another meeting on April 26, 2009. Unfortunately, since only two people attended this meeting, due to lack of support, we may need to cancel, or at least postpone our next District 4 presentation. More will be revealed.

On April 18, 2009, I attended the Area 45 Mini-conference in Sewell. I was the recorder on the Finance Committee, moderated by Stephanie L. Stephanie did a good job, and our panel went well.

After the deposit of \$42.35 I will make this week, the District IV bank account will have a balance of \$315.16. The majority of district costs are from mailings to GSRs who have yet to provide me with an email address.

I will continue reaching out to District IV groups, and I continue to be grateful for this service opportunity. I thank District IV, Area 45, and God, and I pray that I remain teachable and con-

tinue to gratefully be of service. In love and grateful service.

District 13: Linda MacD.

I have updated the information on the GSRs and contacts of our 17 groups and meetings. There may be another new group I'll be tracking down.

The Elmer 101 Group participated in the Elmer Hospital Day activities with their AA information table.

Our workshop will be held June 20th, 9am to noon. The topics will be on the Home Group and Seventh Tradition. Flyers are on the tables.

I had the honor of being a moderator at NERAASA in Portland Maine, and attending the Area 45 Convention in March.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Section III: Mike K.

I put on the lunch for the Mini-conference on April 18th. The location for the CTF Conference on October 10th will be at Lambs Road Cathedral. I want to thank Shelia, Lisa, Cherly and Andy for their help in putting on this luncheon. The section treasury was \$470 before the luncheon. I went over by \$30, so the treasury is below \$0.00. I want to take this time to say I am resigning as Section III Leader

Thank you.

District 14:

Our last district meeting was held on April 16, 2009. At March's meeting, Brian was voted in to be our Alternate DCM. We've been discussing a fall workshop one topic - Gifts of Sobriety. It will be an open forum, sharing physical, material, and emotional gifts with quotes straight from the AA literature on the subjects.

Ad hoc committee report: District 14 Food, Fun, Fellowship Picnic - May 7, 2009 was the first picnic committee meeting, support was good. Adam was voted secretary of committee will give reports. Flyers are available. Picnic will be held rain or shine August 16, 2009 at Parvins State park.

Treasury Report:

Balance as of	
4/15/2009	\$1100.30
	-500.00
	-250.00
Total funds available	\$350.30

District 15: Scott B.

Hi my name is Scott B, DCM #15, and yes, I'm an alcoholic. I would like to apologize for not giving my report due to my ride's prior commitment. I would like to report that District 15 is still alive and well. We have had three district meetings, and attendance has been steadily improving. I would also like to report that myself and one of the GSRs did attend Fred E., our Delegate's, Anniversary. I also attended the Mini-conference in Sewell, NJ in April. I had the privilege of moderating a panel for our Area. I also visit meetings in my District to try and let the groups know of the District and also pick-up two new GSRs. Our treasury is around \$700,

and our groups continue to donate. The District's GSRs are in the planning stages for our next workshop. The planned date is September 26. When the workshop is planned, we will make sure that flyers and all people who can help pass the word.

Thank you.

District 17: Sally F.

District 17 is back on the map and kicking butt! Thank you GSRs and alternate GSRs for their service. We meet on the first Wednesday of each month at St. Monica's Church, Atlantic City, NJ. We had a bus trip on February 27th to GSO in New York City - 38 attended. It was a joint venture with District 16. A special thank you to Bob Z., DCM for District 16, and all District 16 GSRs, for all your hard work to make this a reality. The trip was self-supporting. Each district only had to take \$9 from their treasury.

Our next activity will be "A Night in the Park." AA Three Legacies and a workshop on Sponsorship is planned for September. Fernando has agreed to attend our Spanish meetings also. I have attended several Intergroup meetings and the Area 45 Convention, and was honored to chair the "Old Timers Panel." We had so much fun with laughter - Old Timers are alive and well!! Also, I assisted the Program chair.

We had an AA Coffee Shop - a huge success! Thank you, Wendy M, our Intergroup chair; Joey H., for speaking on AA service. We had 120 present at the event. Fernando has respectfully requested that we have the "World Famous Waitresses" at our next coffee house.

Approximately \$400 in the budget. Due to financial reasons, Vantor-Seashore Group has relocated. The new location is working really well.

Yours, In Love & Service

District 19: John B.

Has been a slow couple of months down in Cape May County. We've had our monthly meeting on time with poor attendance. We are, however, planning on having workshop on Traditions - will know more next month. No group problems at this time.

Thank you.

District 22 & 23: Joe B.

Hello. My name is Joe. I'm an alcoholic. Since the last Assembly, the GSRs have made some decisions about what they want to do. First, we bought a coffee pot, so we don't have to borrow one when we want to hold an event, like we did for the Alcathon. Then, everyone wanted to hold a "workshop"-type event with food and an AA movie. I told them I would get a list of movies from GSO, and they could pick one they liked.

At our next meeting, we elected an Alternate DCM, a Secretary, and a Newsletter Chair. Maryann J. is the Alternate DCM, Debbie M. is our Secretary, and Beth T. is the Newsletter Chair. We

agreed to form a committee of GSRs that would decide what we wanted to include in the newsletter and then take the results to the whole group for final approval. Then, Beth will type it and e-mail it to CJI and Area 45. They agreed to keep it on-line for now on CJI's and Area 45's websites instead of making print copies.

The last event the group wanted is a post-conference report from our Delegate. I'm coordinating a date with Fred.

I'm still updating my group list and recruiting new GSRs. We get about 10-13 GSRs at every meeting, but we get the same four or five people, and the others seem to rotate! Hopefully, someday everyone will show up at the same time!

I went to a meeting yesterday with some members of Central Jersey Intergroup. We are planning a service-oriented workshop. The tentative date is July 11. I will post something on Area 45's website when all of the details are worked out. The GSRs in my District will find out about this new "volunteer" opportunity at our meeting tomorrow night!!

District 24: Fred H.

Thank you for the opportunity to give this report to you. District 24 continues to meet at 6:30pm on the third Monday of each month at the First Presbyterian Church in Ewing Township. We are growing, and at the last meeting, we had ten GSRs in attendance. We had a balance of \$677.19 in our treasury, which will be utilized to sponsor our annual picnic. Our annual picnic is scheduled for Sunday August 2, 2008 at Rosedale Park in Hopewell Township, and we are blessed to have our Alternate Delegate, Elaine, as our guest speaker. We look forward to hearing her experience, strength, and hope. In the past, the picnic has been a great sober experience. The district is participating in a Day of Sharing with Districts 22, 23, Section 1 and Central Jersey Intergroup on the tentative date of July 11, 2009. I hope that everyone has a great 24.

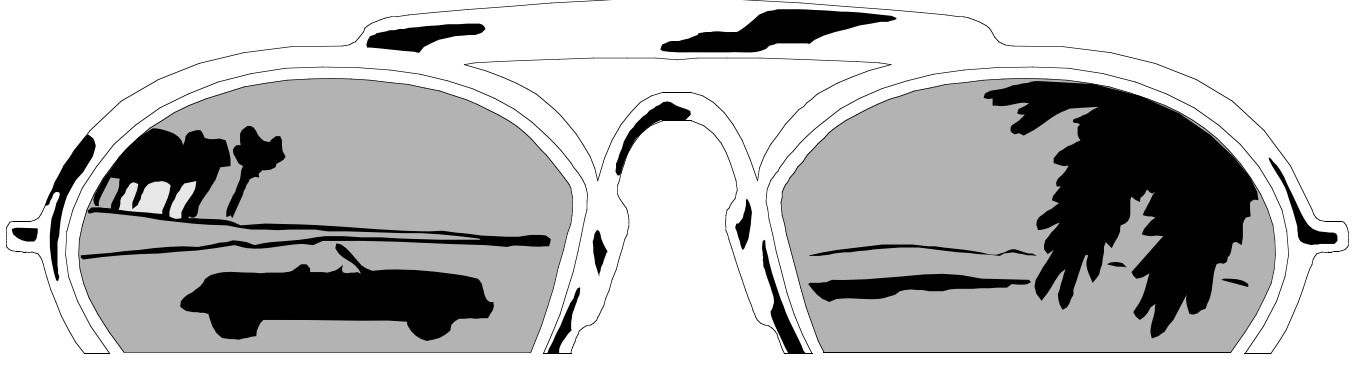
Thank you.

District 27: Bob M.

It has not been a busy quarter. I e-mailed groups in the district in March. I missed two business meetings and now have the four scheduled for the next quarter. I did attend two groups' annual inventory meetings. A copy of minutes to our Delegate and GSO, also out of one of these meetings.

Preparations have started for Sections I and II to hold presentations in the Fall on Sponsorship. Announcements will be on the Intergroup and Area websites.

I was involved with a group that had voted to merge its Tuesday and Friday meetings with the purpose of providing a homegroup. Unfortunately, though there was substantial reference AA's primary purpose and Steps 4, 5, and 12. Thank you.



S U M M E R

2009

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE PAID
BELLMAR, NJ
PERMIT NO. 372

P.O. BOX 3724
CHERRY HILL, NJ 08034