Fall, 2014 Volume XVII, Number 4

“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

Rocket inside to find...

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In nearly 26 years as a member of Alcoholics Anonymous, I’ve seen “fads” come and go. One such fad was the so-called Big Book Step Study (BBSS) movement, which made fantastic claims for being “the way the original 100 did it,” and was nothing more than religious fundamentalism brought to reverence for a literal reading of the Big Book. Now there’s a new version of this, which I’m hearing called “Solution-Based Recovery,” (SBR) and its proponents are no less adamant that they’re the ones “doing it right,” and that any other path is wrong. In either case, they’re free to do as they wish, just as long as they adhere to our Traditions. But they may not be doing that, exactly.

Just as with BBSS, the SBR folks claim that they’re doing sobriety as the original 100 AAers did it. This claim belies a lack of knowledge of what the original AAers did do--among some wonderful accomplishment such as expanding the Fellowship, they nearly brought down the whole thing down with alcoholic thinking and behaviors (well, what would we expect?), thus prompting Bill to come up with the Traditions. Most of the SBRs that I’ve talked to don’t even know that the “original 100” were only about 44 in actual number when the Big Book made the claim that one-hundred alkies had recovered (Bill had a good nose for public relations).

But the biggest issue I have with any of these “recovery fads” is the lack of regard for the Traditions, particularly Traditions Three and Four. While I haven’t seen the SBR folks demand that AA members do the Steps exactly their way in order to participate, the BBSS purveyors wouldn’t allow participation in their meetings (that is, sharing) until one of the group’s gurus determined that a potential participant had done Steps Four and Five their way.

That violates Tradition Three: “The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking.” Membership implies participation. Rules restricting participation violate the Tradition. Simple.

As you read this, I know that many of you are enjoying fall activities and even looking forward to the holidays, which are approaching way too fast. At this season of Thanksgiving, I want to express my gratitude to all of you for the support I have received in doing my service work.

Being your delegate is a blessing that I am thankful for each and every day. It has given me the opportunity to meet so many of you in person and many more by telephone. These conversations have enriched my life in countless ways. What always strikes me is just how many of you employ your talents in the service of A.A. without recognition and without ever having an A.A. “title.” You just do it out of love for your fellow AA’ers. This is the real meaning of humility!

Stop for a moment and think about all the collective efforts it takes just to bring about that weekly meeting you attend at your home group. First was the person (or persons) who met with the building owners to get permission to hold the meeting. This person often took personal responsibility for your group, guaranteeing that the meeting space would be respected and well maintained.

Someone else obtained insurance for the group. This probably involved several phone calls (and being placed on hold for each one) in order to get the right policy and the right price. There is also the person who shops for supplies so that refreshments can be served. The most unpopular guy in AA is the one who runs out of coffee! Someone else shows up early (often an hour or more) to start the coffee pot. There are those who come ahead to set up tables and chairs. Is yours a book meeting? Someone has to purchase those books, keep count of them, and know when they need replacement. Someone hands them out and collects them after the meeting.

At your group’s business meeting, does someone...
Cape Atlantic Intergroup presents a weekend of Recovery and Fellowship

The 8th Annual Waves of Sobriety Roundup

AA & Al-Anon Speakers • Workshops • Marathon Meetings
Friday Night Comedy Show • DJ & Dancing • Hospitality Suite • Indoor Pool

Guest Speakers:

A.A.

Bob B. - St. Paul, MN (Friday 8 PM)
Clancy I. - Venice, CA (Saturday 8 PM)
Brenda A. - Hampton, VA (Sunday 9 AM)

Al-Anon
Linda B. - St. Paul, MN (Saturday 1 PM)

$30 Registration fee includes all meetings, entertainment and events. Contact us for more information.

Easy to get to: Take the Garden State Parkwaysouth. The Parkwaysends at Cape May. Continue straight through one traffic light over a large overpass and small bridge. You are on Lafayette Street, Turn left at the first traffic light (Madison Avenue) and continue straight to the beach. At the "T" intersection, turn left (Beach Avenue). The Grand is down the block on the left; across the street from the beach.
This meeting was held on September 6, 2014. In attendance:
seven (7) Panel members, five (5) Committee Chairs, two (2) Intergroup Reps, one (1) Section Leader, DCMs two(2), GSRs two(2), Past Delegated four (4), Visitors three(3).

**Table 1**

What is the purpose of Area 45?

A) Serves as a clearing house for group consciences to support and allow the Delegate to make an informed decision at the General Service Conference.

B) Area assemblies allow Area 45 to discuss matters concerning A.A. as a whole and disseminate any applicable information to the groups.

C) Allows groups to express their group conscience to the Area.

How well does the Area support the Delegate?

A) Assemblies support the Delegate, but: the section leaders, DCM’s and the Delegate need more interaction beyond the 2 to 3 minutes at Assembly presentations. It is suggested that the Delegate, DCM’s and GSR’s attend more group and district meetings.

Should Area 45 support the Delegate?

A) Yes, more interaction between all levels of service is needed. This way the Delegate is better able to convey the Area and/or group conscience to the General Service Conference.

1) What can Area 45, do to carry A.A.’s message more effectively?

The Area can ensure the committees stick to their respective purpose. The committees can periodically critique their own performance and encourage more participation by group members, attending more group or district meetings. Increase the number of workshops. Bottom line, Area can ensure groups have active GSR’s who can keep their group informed of service opportunities.

2) Does the Area attract a good cross-section of our community?

We have geographic and economic challenges. There are several groups that don’t connect to A.A. as a whole; i.e., young peoples, Hispanics etc. We can address this by:

1) Panel members & Committees can attend events, being visible
2) Promote attendance @ workshops.
3) Provide workshops that are geared toward sections of the community in need.
4) The Area is very active in Cumberland, Burlington counties. Some members tend to be more focused on fellowship within clubs. *Grapevine* is active in carrying the message, by attending workshops and other events.
5) Rate of recovery is based on examples we give more than demographics.
6) Connect with members involved in service. Help keep “old timers” involved.
7) Put out information for “beyond the home-group”.
8) Share your service experience, strength and hope.

Ask the “old timer” how they did service.

3) Are new members encouraged to participate in different service projects?

If yes, How & Why?

What can the Area do better?

New members can be encouraged to participate in service by, Sponsorship being active.

Address the challenges that people face when becoming involved with service i.e., transportation, or family needs.

Promote involvement at meetings, by sharing the benefits if Unity.

*Continued on page 7.*
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Workshop/Potluck Dinner/Halloween Dance

SAT., Nov. 1, 2014
6:00pm - 10:30pm

Carslake Community Center
209 Crosswicks Rd.
Bordentown, NJ 08505

Speakers from Area 44 and 45, International Convention Information and Archives Display

PLEASE COME OUT AND EXPERIENCE WHY IT IS IMPORTANT TO SUPPORT NJ'S AA ARCHIVES JOURNEY TO ATLANTA, GA FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION IN JUNE OF 2015

BRING A DISH, LEARN ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION, COSTUME PARTY, PRIZES AND DANCE!

THIS EVENT IS SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICTS IN SECTION1
And just as I believe the Traditions allow for a wide range of groups with their own interpretations, the SBR folks certainly have every right to their views of “how it works”—as long as they don’t badmouth other groups, which is a clear violation of Tradition Four:

Tradition Four: Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.

“Solution-Based Recovery,” like “Big Book Step Study” before it, brings a religious fanaticism to the recovery process. The Steps must be worked their way. I also hear a lot of “God talk,” with the annoying (for me) caveat that “I’m not ashamed to say I love God” (as though those of us who avoid using the “G-word” are ashamed, rather than simply trying to attract those suffering alkies who would turn away and possibly die because they think we’re just another religious cult that’s going to force a concept of “God” down their throats). And I don’t argue with their right to such fanaticism.

But I’ve seen a disturbing trend: The SBR folks make no bones about disparaging groups that don’t follow their philosophy. That seems to me to be harmful to those other groups. In fact, I’ve seen people justify starting a meeting on the same day and the same hour that other groups are meeting already (which is a violation of Tradition Four), and they justify killing off those other groups because “the message obviously wasn’t getting out” through those groups.

I am a product of a trend in AA back in the late 80s and early 90s where some old timers recommended waiting to do Step Four until “sanity was restored,” generally recognized as coming between 18 and 24 months. I followed that suggestion, and didn’t attempt a Fourth Step until 18 months. In fact, my sponsor wouldn’t allow me to do it until then because, he said, it wouldn’t be effective.

Today, I don’t believe that’s the right course to take. The alkies I sponsor get on Step Four within weeks of coming into the rooms, except in special circumstances. But I’m still here after more than quarter-century, and I’m treated with the same reverence that all other old-timers are treated. (Don’t worry, some abhor me, which keeps the ego in check.)

Why?

Because, “right” or “wrong,” the process by which I was guided through the Steps led to a spiritual awakening. A.A. has certainly changed through all these years. The Steps and Traditions have remained the same and, as long as there are more than one of us around, there will continue to be variations in the interpretations of them.

I only pray that, when some folks believe that they’ve hit upon the “original” or “fundamental” or “orthodox” method of sobriety, they eventually recognize the role that an alcoholic ego plays in such an attitude, and they make amends for the harms they’ve done to others who don’t share their particular beliefs.

[*“In My (not so) Humble Opinion” is a new feature. Feel free to submit your own experience with the Traditions, as well as responses to previous articles]*

**Delegate’s Note**

— give an intergroup report or an area report? Do outside speakers come to share at your meeting? These things can only happen because someone took the time to attend these other service meetings in order to bring information back to your group members. This is how AA stays connected.

— After your meeting is over, and you get to enjoy some fellowship time, do you notice there are always a few people folding up and stacking chairs, sweeping the floor or cleaning the coffee pot? The next day, do you realize that someone is taking the 7th Tradition money to the bank so that the group’s bills can be paid?

— Next time you write up your gratitude list, be sure to include all of these folks who make it possible for you to enjoy an A.A. meeting. Let them know you appreciate their efforts. It will make both of you feel good!

In Grateful Service
Joe McA.
A45 P64 Delegate
Table 3

4) Do Area panel members take time to explain the importance of Service?

1) What is the responsibility of the sponsor?

2) This should be part of the GSR/DCM orientation program.

3) Panel members do not explain service sufficiently at assemblies because of time limitations for response; however they carry the message of service wherever they go.

4) Prior to committee reports, make an announcement regarding the importance of the committees, their need for volunteers, and report to the committee chairs if you are interested in serving.

5) Suggest that panel members include the importance of service to them, during the period on which they serve.

6) We want to entice younger people to come into service.

7) Suggestion of a possible “Unity Committee” similar to the one @ South Jersey Intergroup that would go out to groups to explain services at the Area level.

8) Ask GSR’s to bring non-GSR with them, when they attend the Assembly.

5) Does the Area assist or help with Service Sponsorship?

No.

How effectively?

How can we do better?

Not very effectively.

A) Make an announcement: “Anyone willing to be a service sponsor, please stand”.

B) Tell the members what a service sponsor is.

C) Ask members for suggestions on how service can be more attractive. This should start at the home group level, and move forward. We could go back to the idea of a Unity Committee.

Table 4

6) Mindful that holding office is a great responsibility not to be viewed as the outcome of a popularity contest, has the Area chosen their Panel members with care?

Yes. Because of the third legacy, good leadership is also needed for panel members. (Concept 9) It is important to have the time to commit to the panel and the experience.

7) Do you feel that everyone has an equal voice at the Assembly or do you think those people with “titles” are taken more seriously?

No! We do not think titles are taken more serious, we believe experience is taken more seriously.

Table 5

8) What does “Rotation” mean?

Changing of positions after two years and ensuring the they next person taking the position is the best person for the position.

Rotation does not mean saying, “I did not do it that way, when I was doing that position.”

I struggle with how long it is that I server in the Area, I have served over 20 years.

Rotation makes us do things that you’re not comfortable with. If I am introverted become a greeter, if I am bad with money become the treasurer etc...

I don’t drink coffee, why do I have to make it?

People have volunteered for specific positions because they know that they would be good for that position.

It is better to leave a position open that to take it again or not rotate out of it.

Just as I am getting good at the position it gets taken away from me or I have to rotate out. Ideally if I can remain open minded and have a relationship with the person that held the position before me and after me rotation will be good.

Rotation prevents an over reach power or sense
of authority as in this position is mine and I know how to do it right. Rotation helps to prevent resentments.

10) Keeping in mind that our trusted servants are not senators, do we inform our new GSR’s or DCM’s about where to find important information i.e.; Agenda items or motions to be voted on?

We do a good job of orientation. We hold orientation every assembly. We post the agenda items on the website and in the newsletter.

There is opportunity at districts and section meeting to discuss these items.

When I was first a GSR it took me a lot of time to understand what was going on in the Assembly. Showing up at every event was more important than reading the procedures in the book or on the website.

Information is understood better from people that have the heart of a teacher versus a politician or authoritarian.

How do our members that have been in service longer than other give the information to others.

We all learning differently just as we all teach differently.

It is important that the GSR’s are informed because they are part of the process just like everyone else.

Table 6

11) Are new people encouraged to join committees? How can we do a better job?

a) Yes. The committee reports encourage them to join.

b) The new people are recognized at the beginning

B) We can do better at GSR/DCM orientation. Send around a sign in sheet for those interested in learning more about the committees.

12) Are our meetings safe for all who wish to attend?

No! It is the groups’ responsibility to protect the members. The group can contact G.S.O., Area, clergy of the church, or ask the predator to leave. The sponsor should educate the new comer on 13stepping.

Southern New Jersey Area General Service Assembly Alcoholics Anonymous

SNJ Fourth Dimension

AREA 45 THEME: “We are partners in a common effort...”

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.

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Minutes from the August 17, 2014 Business Meeting

Area Panel Officers:

Delegate, Joe McA: Good morning. My name is Joe. I am an alcoholic and it is my privilege to serve Area 45 as Delegate to the General Service Conference.

Thank you, Section 1 for hosting our meetings here today. As a former DCM and Section Leader, I know that a lot of preparation and work goes into the job of hosting, and your service in that regard is very much appreciated by your officers and this entire Assembly.

Welcome to the new GSR’s and welcome back to everyone else. It is a pleasure to meet here together with all of you again.

GSO

Two new pages have been added to the AA website that contain information for new GSR’s and DCM’s. There are answers to some commonly asked questions such as how to get listed as a new GSR and how to order literature. Go to AA.org and click on the highlighted link.

Staff rotation took place at GSO in July. Of interest to us is that the correspondent for the Northeast Region is now Racy J.

The first day to register for the 2015 International Convention will be September 3rd. Those of you who attended the 2010 Convention as well as those people who are registered as a trusted servant with the General Service Office have already received your registration forms in the mail. Everyone else can easily register online at AA.org, after September 3rd. Of course, you can register by regular mail, also. The fee is $100.00 and includes entry to all events. There are plenty of hotels available and all have agreed to special rates for convention attendees. Please note, however, that you can NOT register at a hotel until AFTER you have registered with GSO for the Convention itself. You will receive information on all the available hotels after GSO has processed your application. Of note is that we will not be providing a free shuttle from the hotels to the Georgia World Congress Center, which is where the large meetings will be held. The cost for doing so was too prohibitive. Atlanta does have its own shuttle, however, and you will receive information on how to purchase a pass for this should you wish to do so. A reminder that Area 45 is co-hosting a Hospitality Suite with Area 44, Northern New Jersey. This is an excellent place to meet up with your friends while at the International and just relax while enjoying a display of our Archives material that will give you a glimpse of how AA began and grew in Area 45. I know there are cans at meetings throughout the Area for donations to pay the costs of having the hospitality room as well as the expense of transporting the Archives material to Georgia. I hope you will support this effort as this is an opportunity for our Area to connect with AA members from around the world who will be visiting our Hospitality Suite.

Area 45

Our Area has just completed its participation in the 2014 AA Membership Survey. This year 8 groups from our area were randomly selected by GSO to answer a short survey. Typical questions were “How long have you been sober?”, “How long did it take you to get an AA sponsor?” and “How often do you attend an AA meeting? The information gained from these questionnaires will be compiled into a pamphlet to be distributed early next year. This pamphlet is very useful to those professionals who work with alcoholics to give them a better understanding of us and of AA. The groups selected to participate were truly random and I traveled to Princeton, Wildwood, Brant Beach, Trenton, Rosenhayn, New Gretna and Clementon to conduct the survey. It was a great opportunity for me to meet many of you in your home groups and I appreciate being welcomed at your meetings. Thank you to all who participated. Thank you also to our Registrar, Rose S. who provided me with the latest contact info she had for these groups. This experience highlighted to me the importance of each group having at least a contact person who can receive mail from GSO to keep your groups connected to AA. I know those of you who are here today obviously belong to groups who understand this already. I would like to ask each of you to make an announcement at the other meetings that you attend urging those groups to designate a contact person to receive mail from GSO and from the Area. That person doesn’t have to be a GSR or come to any Assemblies, although they are certainly welcome to. If you could bring that info back to Rose, it would be a big help to AA in keeping the lines of communication open to the groups. At one meeting I attended, not one single person of a large group was willing to even be a contact person for the group. I found it ironic that the topic of the meeting that followed was “gratitude” and I heard one person another proclaim how much they owed to AA. No judgment, but it does make you scratch your head, doesn’t it?

I was also invited to attend the 2014 JalCon Convention as a guest of Al-Anon and to co-chair an AA meeting there. I would like to thank our JalCon Chair Dave MacD. for the great job he did with coordinating the AA participation at JalCon. Thank you to Linda MacD. for having a Grapevine display set up for that convention.

My thanks to you for allowing me to serve Alcoholics Anonymous as Area 45 Delegate.

(Continued on the next page)
Alternate Delegate, Andrew L.: Thank you to Secton I for hosting this quarters Assembly. Over the past several months I visited each of the three Intergroup’s and kept them apprised of what is going on in the Area.

I have worked with South Jersey Intergroup in planning the Day of Sharing. The Day of Sharing will be held on Saturday October 18th at St. Bart’s church in Cherry Hill. Registraton starts at 8:30am. Copies of the fliers are on the tables. They are the yellow flier. I have been in contact with all three chairs of each Intergroup and we plan to meet to set the agenda and topics for the Day of Sharing.

On August 2, I attended the Annual Corrections Conference. I am looking forward to attending the Area Inventory as well as the Area 44 Convention in September.

Hopefully. GSR’s have started to receive informaton from GSO about the International Convention. Those of you interested in attending please see me before you leave today.

Chair, Stephanie L.: Hello everyone, my name is Stephanie and I’m an alcoholic. Privileged to serve as your Area 45 Panel Chairperson. Welcome all new GSRs, DCMs and thank you to Secton I for hosting today’s Assembly and Committee meetng.

Since the May Assembly I’ve attended and participated in the following events:

- District 15 – “Markings on the Journey” movie & AA History Trivia
- District 3 & District 22/23 – Anonymity in the Digital Age, presenter Billy N, AAWS Trustee and Chairman of the AAWS Board.
- District 19 – Blessed to speak on the topic of Spirituality and Service in North Wildwood on the beach. Thank you for District 19 for the honor.
- District 24 Annual Picnic in Pennington
- Policy and Charter Meetngs
- Convention Committee Meetngs
- 18th Annual Corrections Conference
- Panel Officer Meetng

On a very personal note, I want to thank everyone for their expressions of sympathy and prayers at the sudden recent passing of my sister. I thank you, truly, with my all heart.

Treasurer, Richard H.: My name is Rich and I am an Alcoholic. I am honored to serve as Area 45’s Treasurer for Panel 64. You can get a copy of the informaton I am about to read by emailing me at area45treasurer@gmail.com.

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Interest $2.02
Expenses $(4,881.69)
7/31/2014 $19,069.82

The prudent reserve as of 7/31/14 is approximately $26,062.69. Committees of Area 45 with their own bank accounts committees had the following balances as of July 31, 2014: Corrections, $1069.63; Grapevine $454.59; and Convention $4,094.70.

Please convey the panel's appreciation to your group for its generosity. And, again, if you want a copy of this report or need more information you can send me an email at . Thank you for allowing me the privilege to serve.

Registrar, Rose S.: Good Morning everyone. My name is Rose and I am an alcoholic. I am privileged to serve as your Area 45 Registrar. Welcome to all new GSR's and DCM's. Thank you Section I for hosting today's assembly. Since the Spring Assembly, I attended the District 3/22&23 Workshop. I attended the monthly convention meetings along with the convention pool party. I attended my first Jal-con convention where I was privileged to speak at an AA Topic meeting on “Not Regretting the Past Nor Wishing to Shut the Door on it. I attended a panel meeting at Stephanie’s house. We were able to discuss this assembly’s upcoming motions along with open Area 45 committee chair positions, along with other GSO information.

I have been very busy with updates to our Database. We have 528 Active Groups (Registered Groups with a Primary Contact or GSR) and 47 Unknown groups (Registered groups without a Primary Contact). I will be sending out Group Information Sheets to the DCM’s prior to next assembly, and request that you send me any new updates that you may have. Remember even if a group does not wish to have a GSR; please try to get a primary contact for that group so the group can be classified as active. Also please send me any DCM updates prior to the November Assembly meeting so that I can bring the most up to date contact sheet to the Assembly meeting.

Secretary/Newsletter, Bert W.: On a personal note, I have chosen a new home group, in Columbus, on Friday night, called the How It Works Speaker Group. It’s one of the few speaker meetings in Area 45, and the group has a lot of AAers excited about service.

As for my job as your Area Secretary, I’m asking this of everyone: PLEASE submit your reports via email. I strongly encourage that you not submit them handwritten. Also, please be sure to identify your name and the name of your entity, that is, your District or Committee, in the report.

The fall edition of the Fourth Dimension is wide open for submissions. If you’d like to share your experience with an AA function, or your story about getting sick on candy corn-flavored vodka at Halloween, or any other pertinent topic, see me later for guidelines on submissions.

AREA COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Archives, Jimmy R.: NO REPORT

Audio,

Budget & Finance, Kim R.: NO REPORT

Convention Committee, Debbie S.: We’ve been very busy since the last Assembly. All Committee Chairs have secured Co-Chairs. We have picked a theme, it is “There is No Middle of the Road solution” from page 25 of the BB. We have chosen a logo to correspond with the theme. Our Hospitality Chair Jessica already has some very creative ideas for our greeters and for the their slide show presentation.

Our Program Chair Bill T and his committee have confirmed Bill N for our Friday night speaker and Terri for Sunday. We are still waiting for a confirmation for Saturday night.

Our Entertainment Chair Sharon K has secured an open air photo booth, which is something different, as it will accommodate up to 15 people, and it will be set up in the crystal lobby immediately following the Saturday night speaker so more people can participate. Thanks to a keen shopping eye, we were able to get this through Groupon, and paid half of what we normally pay for a regular photo booth.

Our Registrar Chair Kelly has been hard at work, getting our database up to date for our mailing. She also has created our registrar flyer, which will be completed once we have finalized the Banquet prices. Once it is complete, Kelly will be emailing an early “save the date” flyer. We will print and mail out our registrar flyers in the fall.

I received the financial information from last year’s convention, and together with my Co-chair and Treasurer have begun the process of creating a budget. I have been in contact with the hotel, and the prices of all the meals have increased. After meticulously going over each committee, making cuts wherever possible, we have yet been able to come up with a balanced budget. As the costs of putting on the convention continues to rise, we need to find ways to increase our income. We have begun to discuss ways to meet
our financial obligation, including the possibility of raising registration fees. We are no longer permitted to receive any monies made from CD sales, which was a significant amount of our projected income. Although the committee guidelines ‘discourage’ accepting monies from CD sales, it does not prohibit us. I hope the Area would reconsider this.

We currently have a balance of $4094.70.

Cooperation with Professional Community/Public Information, Laureen S.:

Correctons, Kathy Jo S.: Correctons Committee Meeting
Berlin, NJ June 29, 2014, 1pm

#6 Attendees: Cor. Com. Chr Kathy Jo S., Co chair Judy K., Dan P., Chuck, Mike K., Dave MacD., and Paul H.

– Cor. Com. Chair Kathy Jo, is VERY Grateful for you taking the time to be here.

Juma – Glassboro Thrs Living Sober Grp Volunteered to be Food Chair. 8

We’re certainly looking forward to his professional “Chef” expertise.

Juma’s willingness is amazing!

Conference “Keeping It Green Theme” keeps members in “Freedom From Bondage.”

FOOD CHAIR: Juma

COFFEE SET-UP - Moorestown Men cover ALL.

SET-UP- Chris AFTER Fri. 8pm Mtg. at St. Charles, Sicklerville, Aug. 1, 2014 – Chris

ARCHIVES Chair: Joe O’N., Sunday Nite Ocean City Group, past Area 45 Delegate

BRIDGE THE GAP Chair: Lollipop Joe H., Ashland Men, Founder of the Correctons Conference.

REGISTRATION CHAIR: Vacant

#2 Motions were placed on the floor. These will be forwarded to the Area Panel & Budget and Finance Com.

Please come vote on Budget, Aug. 17, 10am, Carslake Com. Ctr., 209 Crosswicks St., Bordentown, NJ. 08505 Assembly

1. Area 45 Correctons Committee CONFIRMS we maintain our Correctons Conference as INTER-Area.

Passed Unanimously.

2. Area 45 Correctons Committee CONFIRMS our $800 Budget for Annual Correctons Conference.

Passed with Substantial Unanimity. (One nay vote)

* Note: In our past Area 45 experience GSO requires us to pay travel, food, housing expenses of speakers. (plane, train, parking, tolls, gas, travel meal, hotel). “I AM RESPONSIBLE, ...

Area 45 Correctons Committee RE-CONFIRMS that ALL LIPS (Literature in Prisons) donations buy Literature, as cans are labeled.

*note: by the way, we still need $250 budgeted for conventon

The conference was a rousing success

For personal reasons I respectfully resign

Do to circumstance in my personal life I can no longer give the correctons committee the attention it needs

DCM/GSR Orientation, Fred E.: In attendance today were 10 GSR’s 2 alt. GSR’s. 2 visitors.

Grapevine, Linda MacD.: It has been a slow quarter for us, but we have many requests for our Grapevine display already for the next several months.

We had a display at Jessica’s workshop in District #3 on Jan. 14, Anonymity in the Digital Age which went well.

The Grapevine is celebrating its 70th Anniversary this year. Many changes have been made recently to keep up with the times and remain attractive to all generations.

The August issue has a special section on Hispanics in our fellowship.

You can choose your Grapevine by digital subscriptions and receive it two weeks earlier than the print version. There is also an Audio magazine which can be downloaded and listened to at any time, and of course, my favorite, and the print version which can be read and passed on to newcomers, correctons, or insttutions.

The newest book, The Grapevine “DAILY QUOTE.” has 364 inspiring passages from the pages of the AA Grapevine. Copies are available at our Grapevine table, along with other great collections of stories from the Grapevine. These books make great anniversary gifts.

We need your contributions of your experience, strength, and hope in written or audio formats which can be passed on to others. See me for the details.

Secton Leaders, DCMs, GSRs, Intergroup liaisons, if you would like me to set up at your workshops, anniversaries, or other special events please contact me.

JalCon, Dave MacD.: Jal-Con is the annual Jersey Al-Anon Conventon which was held, July 25-27, at the Sheraton Edi
son Hotel. This year’s theme was “The Gills of Serenity.” I along with my Area 44 counterpart Brenda D., was responsible for the 14 A.A. meetings held at the convention as well as the recovery countdown on Saturday night.

This year’s JalCon was better than ever and had the largest attendance in quite a few years. Marvin D. (Brenda’s husband) filled in for Brenda, who had a work commitment, and did a fantastic job with the Area 44 commitments. I wanted to give special thanks to all of our Area 45 volunteers who came up to Edison to chair A.A. meetings. Our volunteers included: Linda MacD., Rose S., Beth A., Gail B., Bob P., Tammy C., Karen M., Angela R., and Joe McA.

Our meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month in Fords, NJ, around exit 10 of the turnpike. Since my last report, I have attended the July Meeting as well as the July Conference. Our next meeting will be in September. See you JalCon, 2015.

Policy & Charter, Jimmy S.: The Policy and Charter Committee has met twice since the February assembly. We are reviewing the Area 45 Handbook with an eye toward updates and revisions.

Anyone who has not received the current Area 45 Handbook please see me to receive your copy. The Handbook may also be found on the home page of our Area 45 website www.snjaa.org/.

Registratton, Tammy C.: In attendance today:

- Panel Members: 7
- Committee Chairs: 4
- Intergroup Chairs: 14
- Section Leaders: 3
- DCMs: 11
- GSRs + (Alternates): 63
- Past & Present Delegates: 7
- Visitors: 14
- Total in Attendance: 122

Accessibility/Special Needs: VACANT

Website, Karen G.:

- Still looking for a co-chair
- 2 artwork layout concepts are complete for new website plan - Need to review with Stephanie
- Requested that the Section Leader arranging Area Assemblies - please email me a flyer with directions

Workshop, Cyndi Welsh: NO REPORT

Adhoc – 2015 International Convention Hospitality Suite Chair, Andrew L.: I have been in contact with members of the committee as well as attended the last Area 44 International Hospitality Committee meeting.

I have spoken with the Area 44 Chair several times and I am happy to report that between the two Areas we have raised just over $2200.

I want to thank Ted W. and all of the Districts in Section 1 for hosting a Workshop/Potluck Dinner/ Halloween Dance on November 1. Fliers are on your tables. The workshop will feature speakers from both Area 44 and Area 45 discussing the importance of NJ’s archives being at the international conventon and what to expect if this is your first time attending an International Convention.

Anyone interested in picking up a Peach Can for their group can do so today. Please see Maureen. Additionally, at the table there is a sign up sheet for those of you who know that you will be attending the international conventon and are interested in serving a one hour shift in the hospitality suite. Anyone wanting to make a contribution today can do so by simply dropping money in the Peach Can jar.

If your home group is interested in finding out more information before making a contribution members of the committee and I are available to come speak to your group during your business meeting. Please contact me if you are interested.

Young People, Erick G.: NO REPORT

Intergroup Chairs

Cape Atlantic Intergroup, John H.: All is well with Cape Atlantic Intergroup. The roundup held a bus trip to GSO in New York to raise money for alcoholics that can’t afford the roundup. The annual unity breakfast will be held on September 21 2014 the cost is 26 dollars. The roundup will held at the Grand Hotel November 21,22,23 at the grand hotel in Cape May, NJ. All panel and committee positions are filled

Central Jersey Intergroup, Jami D.: NO REPORT

South Jersey Intergroup, Joey C. reporting for Tina O.: SJIG (Continued on the next page)
Committees Chair and Co-Chair positions are all presently covered. All of the volunteers continue to work tirelessly in their efforts to "carry the message" of AA. Our Literature Road show has been invited; and covered several anniversaries and events these last few months. Our Social Comm. spearheaded SJIG’s annual Founders Day Picnic in June @ Parvin State Park; I will say it was a wonderful success and a big turnout. At present SJIG has remained in direct contact with the Area Alt. Delegate Andrew L. in preparaton for the Areas Day of Sharing to be held on Oct.18th at St. Bart’s Church in Cherry Hill ,N.J.

Proud to be of service Joey C. Vice Chair SJIG

Area Secton Leaders and
District Commitee Members (DCMs)

Secton 1 Leader, Ted W.: My name is Ted and I am an alcoholic. I have the honor to serve as Secton Leader for Area 45/ Secton 1. Since the last assembly I have atended several District meetings in Secton 1, and can report that A.A. is in good hands throughout Secton 1. Each District has held or planning upcoming workshops. Additionly several Districts have been holding Unity events which are well attended. Distric 24 recently sponsored a picnic; District 3 and 22/23 held a workshop with a Unity dance and District 25 is planning a Bar-B-Q.

In addition to Secton 1 responsibilites I have been assisting Andrew L. with coordinatng a presentaton for the Peach Can Fund. Secton 1 will host an event on Nov. 1st at Carslake Comm. Center, with a presentaton from both Areas 45 and 44. The purpose is to raise awareness of Area’s role at World Conventon 2015. Following the presentaton Secton 1 will host a potluck dinner and Halloween dance.

I have also been asked by Janet.C to assist in the Area 45 inventory on September 6th, also being held at the Carslake Community Center.

Districts 01 & 02: Vacant

District 03, Jessica S.: Good afternoon. My name is Jessica and I am an alcoholic. Thank you for allowing me to serve as DCM of District 3. I am honored and grateful to hold this service positon. District 3 held two workshops in June and July. We held an “Anonymity in the Digital Age” workshop on June 14th. The speaker, Billy N, Director and Trustee at AAWS, gave a wonderful presentaton on what “Anonymity” is and examples of what would be considered breaking anonymity. The presentaton was very informative and fol-

(Continued from the previous page)

owed by a lively discussion and many great questons from the floor. Lunch was provided and we determined that afternoon workshops have much better attendance than those held early in the morning. District 3 also held a mini-workshop on Traditon 5 and carrying the message into prisons, hospitals and institutons, and informing professionals as well with District 22/23. This workshop was followed by a potluck dinner and dance with DJ Don from the Area 45 conventon. This event was a great success in attracting people to service workshops who would normally not atend. The district funded the food and workshop but the cost of the dance was recovered from a $5 voluntary donaton and 50/50. Following a service workshop with a unity event such as a dance so far has been very successful in attracting a greater crowd to learn about service and get involved. We were happy to help support Secton 1 today in preparing for the assembly and are looking forward to participating in the secton 1 wide upcoming workshop on the Internatonal Conventon. We have also been discussing holding a workshop later in the year to inform AA members the purpose of Areas, Intergroups, and GSO and where our contributons go. Our treasury balance from the last assembly meeting in May was $871.92. Since then, we received two incoming group contributons for $58.00 from the Springside I am Responsible Group and $60.00 from the Riverton Triboro Group. We also received $291.00 in voluntary contributons during district events. We have paid $687.63 in rent, expenses for district events and bank fees so our current balance is $593.29. District 3 meetngs are held on the second Sunday of the month at St. Stephen’s Church on 158 Warren Street in Beverly from 3:30 to 4:30pm. If you are a GSR for a group in District 3 or are a member of a group which does not have a GSR and you would like to get involved in service, please come join us at our next district meetng on Sunday September 14th. I hope to see you all at our upcoming events!

District 04, John G.: We had 27 people attend the GSO trip on June 20th and a good tme was had by all. We currently have $1040.88 in the account. Originally we were planning a picnic for September, but due to lack of participaton we decided to go with a viewing of the Bill W. movie along with a service speaker for September 27th. I’m in the process of visiting groups in the district again and leaving them some flyers in the hope of getting more people involved.

Districts 22 & 23, Kelly W., DCM: My name is Kelly and I am an alcoholic. I am also privileged to serve as District Commitee Member for Hamilton and Trenton Districts 22 & 23. Districts in Secton 1 have joined together for multiple events (Continued on the next page)
these past few months under the guidance and assistance of our Section 1 Leader, Ted W. For that reason there may be a bit of repetton in our DCM reports, which is certainly not a bad thing as it demonstrates our continued commitment to AA unity.

In June, our district assisted in selling tickets to a bus trip to GSO sponsored by District 4. From what I was told, it was an amazing trip and those from our area who attended were very grateful to have had such a powerful experience and learn a little more about AA history and how GSO operates on behalf of our fellowship.

In July, we co-sponsored a workshop on Tradition 5 with District 3. Participants in the workshop heard from fellow AAs who are committed to the service of carrying the message into correctional facilities & institutions as well as reaching out to our non-alcoholic professional population. This was followed by a potluck dinner and dance and it was very well-attended.

Recently we have been doing our part to plan and organize this Summer Assembly.

Also, each district is taking on various tasks to get ready for an event in Section 1 to help inform local AAs about the Peach Can fund which raises money for the NJ Hospitality Suite at the International Convention in Atlanta next summer. It is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, November 1st right here at Carslake Community Center and will take the format of a workshop, potluck dinner, and Halloween Dance.

Lastly, on a personal note, I have been serving on our 51st Convention Committee as Registration Chair since April. And while it is a job that seems to keep getting bigger exponentially, I have had quite a bit of guidance and support from Debby and Wallace, our Chair and Co-Chair, Sharon T. who held the position last year, my own co-chair Nancy, and about a dozen other people including my husband and even my dad. I am learning so much about how the convention is organized and functions, and about direct applicaton of our AA Traditions. I am very grateful for that and the opportunity to continue to serve AA in whatever capacity I am able.

District 24, Debbie K.: Since our last assembly, District 24 held its annual picnic at Rosedale Park in Lawrenceville. We had two speakers, one from AA and one from AlAnon. About 150 people attended and we miraculously had just the right amount of food. This year we are making a concerted effort to make picnic planning and budgeting more efficient. Upcoming activities include planning for the annual New Year’s Alcathon and potentially a workshop in the fall. We thank Section I leader Ted W. for his continued help and support. Submitted with gratitude, Debbie K., DCM.

District 25, Ian T.: District 25 continues to meet the first Monday of each month at St David’s Church in Cranbury NJ at 7pm. Meetings are fairly well attended but we’re making plans to reach out to groups for more participation. Our Treasury has 2,427.13 and we are planning events and making plans to spend this money wisely for the district.

Since we last met in May, District 25 had a well attended workshop on Relapse Awareness and Prevention. We had three panels of AA participants that shared their experience on relapse from the perspective of: the person that relapsed, the sponsor of those that relapse and the Red Flags, and then the long time AA who shared their suggestions on preventing relapse. There was also a speaker that shared their experiences with relapse and we wrapped up with comments and Q&A.

The district is planning another event in November. A movie night with a date to be announced soon.

We are also planning an outreach to district meetings with little or no participation in district meetings.

District 30 & 31: Vacant

Section II Leader: NO REPORT

District 06: Vacant

District 07, Michelle A.: NO REPORT

District 08, Frank H.: Treasury balance $207.00. Groups have begun to contribute Maple Shade temporary treasury. District 8 account soon to be created. Fulton Bank (no monthly fees balance less than $500)

District 8 workshop
Speaker. Stephanie. Area chair

District 09: VACANT

District 10, Peg I.: As new DCM for District 10, I sent an introductory letter to all meetings in my District. Since then, we have had 4 meetings with 2 GSRs attending. Stella J was
able to lend her support at our 2nd meeting.

As DCM I am fulfilling my duties by holding regular District meetings on Thursday night 7:00pm in Runnemede- New Beginnings Club 101c Rose Ave.

I include in my monthly letters the 7th tradition green card and envelope for GSO birthday donations. GSRs have also participated in carrying this message. I have also asked for 10% donations from groups when they do their 50, 30, 10, 10 distributions sent to my home address until we have enough GSRs to do election of officers (treasurer).

In my monthly newsletter, I am updating meetings on Area 45 events, news, and activities. I have visited all meetings in my district save one (Magnolia Saturday night). I need to speak with the section 2 leader about several meetings with no group conscience.

We will be participating in the Fall Assembly.

**District 26, Scot K.: NO REPORT**

**District 27, Rose S. for Allen B.:** Good morning Area 45.

My name is Rose S. and I am an alcoholic. Allen, DCM for District 27 is unable to be here today, as he was asked to speak at a memorial service in Pa. for his first sponsor, who passed, 36 years sober.

District 27 includes Medford, Medford lakes, Marlton, Vincentown, and Chatsworth. The district met last month and reviewed the motions. Also we are in the process of updating the groups with a GSR or at least a contact. I have two commitments to get a GSR, the men’s meeting Sunday night in Marlton and the Tuesday men’s meeting in Medford. The Saturday night meeting in Vincentown seems to want to stay independent. I will work on them along with the Sunday night group in Medford. I am hoping to get these sheets totally in proper order soon; with or without the "holdouts"

In addition today I received a contact for the Chatsworth Group. Thank you.

In love and service

**Secton II Leader, Brian Y.: NO REPORT**

**District 12, Joe H.: NO REPORT**

**District 13, Justn S.:**

**District 14, Paul J. for Michele C.:** Treasurer report: $981.85 balance

$731.85 prudent reserve

8th & Wood, Vineland Group. Started a Big Book Study group called Steps Through the Big Book, Friday nights at 7:30PM

8th & Wood Sts hosting an Alcathon on Labor day, hosted by “Nooners” and “Vineland Group,” 8AM to 8PM, last meeting starts at 7PM

District 14 Workshop October 18th, 2nd and Pine Streets in Millville, Workshop is about Sponsorship, from noon to 4PM.

**District 20, Debbie C., Actng DCM:**

**District 21: Vacant**

**District 28: Vacant**

**District 29, John J.: NO REPORT**

**Secton IV Leader, Jenn H.:** Hi everyone, I’m an alcoholic and my name is Jenn. I’m honored to service as sector leader for sector 4. Would everyone from sector four please stand. Thank you all for your service!

All of the district’s are in the planning stages of workshops for this quarter. The most exciting thing going on is sector is the re-lighting of district 18.

I’m going to let the DCSs from each district tell you about their upcoming workshop

Thanks again for the opportunity to serve.

**District 15, Clare L.:**

**District 16 & 17, Kimberly H., DCM:**

- JULY- KIMBERLY H. ELECTED DCM OF DISTRICT 16/17
- BUDGET AS OF 7/31/14-$ 4236.89
- CURRENTLY HAVE 12 GSR’S
- MEETING IS HELD THE FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH AT CASINO SERENITY LOCATION- EPISCOPAL CHURCH ON FRANKLIN AVE., IN PLEASANTVILLE @ 6PM
- SINCE LAST ASSEMBLY IN MAY DISTRICT 16/17 HOSTED A BEACH BASH IN ATLANTIC CITY

  - TOPIC: PRIMARY PURPOSE
  - JUNE 7TH, 2014
  - 2 SPEAKERS

- SUCCESSFUL EVENT AND LOOK FORWARD TO

(Continued from the previous page)
HOLDING ONE NEXT YEAR (IF APPROVED)

• UPCOMING EVENT
  o NOV. 1ST- SERVICE IN SOBRIETY WORKSHOP
  o 10AM- MISSION CHURCH ON NEW YORK AVE., IN SOMERS POINT
  o MORE DETAILS AND FLYERS TO FOLLOW

• NEW FACILITY OPENED IN THE DISTRICT CALLED THE HOPE ALL DAY RECOVERY CENTER IN GALLOWAY
  o FOR BOTH NA AND AA.
  o MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS AND STEP STUDIES

• GOALS:
  o TO ATTEND VARIOUS MEETING IN MY DISTRICTS AND ANNOUNCE THE MONTHLY MEETINGS
  o WORK ON GETTING MORE GSR’S FROM EACH HOME GROUP AND MORE INVOLVEMENT OVER-ALL.

District 18, Margaret B.:

District 19, Joe C.: NO REPORT

Area 45 Summer 2014 Assembly—
Agenda Items

The following agenda items were discussed and voted upon:

Item #1
“In order to better serve the Area, the location of the annual Mini-Conference will rotate to a different Section each year.”
Submitted by Dave MacD., Jal-Con Chair, Panel 64
Approved: 77 yay, 4 nay

Item #2
“Discuss and vote on the 2015-2016 Area 45 Budget.”
Submitted by Kim R., Budget & Finance Chair, Panel 64
Ted W., Section I Leader, motoned to table:
Tabled by overwhelming majority, 1 opposed.

Item #3
“Send Secton X., Votng Eligibility, and A. Area Assembly in Area 45 Handbook, back to Policy & Charter to revise the language to read the following: ‘Those eligible to vote are: Delegate, Alternate Delegate, Treasurer, Secretary, Registrar, GSRs, DCMs, Secton Leaders, Commitee Chairs, and current Intergroup Chairs on matters pertaining to area business. Altern-ate GSRs and Alternate DCMs are eligible to vote only when the GSR or DCM is not present. Panel Chairperson votes only to break ties.”
Submitted by Ted W., Secton I Leader, Panel 64
Kelly W., District 22/23 DCM, motoned to table so that the existng language can be viewed side-by-side with proposed language.
Tabled by vote of 51 yay to 15 nay.