

MINUTES
AREA 45 General Services Assembly
February 20, 2011, Career Opportunity Development, Inc., Egg Harbor City, NJ

Opening:

Chair, Thom O., opened the Assembly with recognition of all new G.S.R.s, D.C.M.s, and Section Leaders followed by the recognition of all who had celebrated A.A. Anniversaries since our last meeting. Following his opening remarks, a short presentation was given on Concept 3 by Michelle N.

Area Panel Reports:

Delegate, Elaine McA.:

Area 45

Welcome to all new GSR's and DCM's. It is gratifying to see so many new faces at our Assembly this morning. We are here to serve you. Please ask us when there is something you don't understand. It is our job to make everything clear to you. Please tell us when we haven't done that and we will endeavor to do a better job.

In November, I participated, along with the panel, in a workshop at the Cape Atlantic Intergroup's Round-Up. The panel presented on "Items from the Conference". Thank you to CAIG for inviting us to be a part of their convention.

I have been able to attend the past two Convention Committee meetings and am anticipating a really great convention. Thank you to Joanne C. and the entire committee for your dedication and service.

I attended the Area 44 Mid-Winter Luncheon last Sunday. Areas 44 and 45 enjoy a very close relationship, supporting each other in service to our Fellowship. John K., our Northeast Regional Trustee and Mary D. GSO staff were the speakers for the event.

I would like to thank those groups who have sent me invitations to your anniversary meetings. I have attended whenever possible. Please know that the Area appreciates all of our groups for their participation in and support of Area 45's work.

Jen H. has agreed to be our new Grapevine Chair. Grapevine literature is available today at the back of the room. Stop by and say hello to Jen.

A reminder: Please be mindful of our tradition of anonymity when using social media websites. I have received notification of several recent anonymity breaks and I myself was affected by one. Please keep in mind that when you break your own anonymity, you may be breaking the anonymity of others in the process. Using words such as "sobriety" or "clean and sober", even without a direct mention of AA, can cause harm to another.

In November, I promised to report the results of the Delegate's Grapevine survey to you. There were a total of 8,000 responses from 64 delegate areas. Credit goes to Deborah A. and Ross D. Panel 59 delegates of Areas 51 and 57 for the huge job of collating all the

responses. Although nearly 5000 of the responders were non-subscribers, an overwhelming majority of all responders stated their desire for the Grapevine to continue. Almost 30 % of the non-subscribers indicated that they use the Grapevine, although they don't own a subscription. They stated they receive the Grapevine through their groups or central offices or even that a subscriber "passes it on" to them. Seventy percent of responders stated that they place "a high value" on the magazine. Only 22% indicated that they felt the AA Grapevine should be priced so as to be self-supporting, with the majority stating "don't know" to that question.

Fred will be talking later about the mini-conference, but I wanted to add that the input received there last year was extremely valuable to me as I sat in on deliberations at the Conference.

Northeast Region

North East Region AA Service Assembly (NERAASA) is next weekend in Tarrytown, NY. Although pre-registration is closed, you can still make plans to attend this service assembly.

North East Region Delegates Reunion (NERD) will take place in Ocean City, NJ on March 11th-13.

North East Regional Forum (NERF) will be May 20-22 at Sturbridge, Massachusetts. Please take a flyer back to your groups. You will find them at the Registration table.

General Service Office

The General Service Board has finalized the agenda for the 61st General Service Conference. I have received background material for Public Information, the Conference Committee I serve on and am eagerly awaiting the background info on the rest of the Committees, which will be shipped separately.

An ad hoc committee has been set up to identify areas of efficiency for AAWS and the AAGV.

A subcommittee has been established to develop procedures for the submission of minority appeals (Concept V) to the General Service Conference.

The 21st World Service Meeting was held in Mexico City, Mexico and was attended by 53 delegates, representing 32 countries.

The 2010 International Convention realized a profit of \$858,910.00. Preliminary planning is already underway for the 2015 Convention in Atlanta, Georgia.

The 61st General Service Conference will take place May 1-7th in New York City. Because of the late date of the Conference this year, I will be presenting the Post Conference Report at the August Assembly.

Grapevine

The AA Grapevine continues to see a decrease in paid subscriptions. Average 2010 circulation was 94,000 down 10,000 from 2009. The GV deficit for the year was \$588,000.00, twice the projected loss.

The Board approved moving ahead with E Book editions of GV and LV books downloadable

in PDF format, to be priced the same as the book version.
As always, it is an honor and a pleasure to serve you.

Alternate Delegate, Janet S-C:

Good morning, my name is Janet I am an alcoholic. Thank you section IV for their hospitality and welcome to all the new GSR's and DCM's.

Since our last meeting I've had the opportunity to visit all three intergroups and received a warm welcome. The month of November, I attended the "Waves of Sobriety," where I participated in a workshop on different topics, my topic was "How do we practice 12 step work today".

The month of December I attended the gratitude breakfast held Cape May New Jersey, which was wonderful as usual. Most of the month of January has been quiet, except for our delegate celebrating her anniversary, it was a pleasure to be there to help her celebrate. On February 13, 2011, I had the opportunity and a great privilege of attending Area 44's luncheon which is held for their GSR's and the service they do in Area 44. The theme being "We are responsible for AAs future, let it begin with us!" It was a pleasure hearing from our Trustee John K.

Next weekend I plan on being @ NERAASA, which will be held in Tarrytown, New York. The month of March we will have our Annual Convention, to be held in Cherry Hill, NJ, as well as NERD to be held in Ocean City, New Jersey.

Chair, Thom O.:

1. We have the following Committee chair openings:

- a. Public Information
- b. Budget and Finance

2. Attended:

- a. Convention Committee (December 5th, January 9th)
- b. Area 44 Mid-Winter GSR Luncheon (February 13th)

3. Signed contracts with the Crowne Plaza Hotel for the 48th and 49th Annual General Service Conventions (2012 and 2013).

4. At the request of the Convention Committee and with the Convention Committee assurance that the money would be returned to Area 45 from any 47th Convention profits, we approved the purchase of a new computer and software for the Convention Committee. The cost was \$549.98.

- a. For equipment purchases our Handbook states:
"The assembly will vote on all Panel or committee Equipment purchases of \$300 or more. Incremental purchasing of equipment is not authorized for the Panel or

Committees. [“Incremental purchasing” is buying in segments rather than all at once to get around the Assembly vote threshold. For example, the ultimate goal is to have a sound system. So microphones are purchased at one time, speakers the next time, etc. until a whole sound system is purchased.]. ‘Emergency purchases’ for repair or replacement of previously approved equipment that is broken and is needed for an event that will occur before the next Assembly meeting require the prior approval of the Delegate, Panel Chair, Treasure, and Budget and Finance.”

We currently do not have a Budget and Finance chair. The Delegate (Elaine), Panel Chair (Thom) and Treasurer (Kim) discussed this issue with the other Panel members, the Alternate Delegate (Janet), the Registrar (Wendy) and the Secretary (Dave) as well as the Policy and Charter Chair (Mike). The consensus was to purchase the computer and software with the money to be returned from 47th Convention profits.

We based our actions on the information from the Convention Committee that the computer was needed quickly for registration and the interpretation that the “emergency purchases” section cited above is not included in the \$300.00 limit for non-Assembly approved purchases because it states that “previously approved equipment that is broken and is needed for an event that will occur before the next Assembly meeting” can be replaced with proper approval.

The Policy and Charter Committee will consider the need for clarification in our Handbook to avoid similar confusion in the future.

Treasurer, Kim R.:

Good morning. My name is Kim and I am an alcoholic. I am honored to serve as your Area 45 Treasurer. Thank you Section IV for hosting this assembly, and welcome to all of you who are new to the assemblies. We greatly appreciate your service.

Since the last assembly, I was invited to participate in a panel presentation at the Cape Atlantic Intergroup Roundup. My topic was “Are We Reaching All Who Want Our Program?” My research on this topic presented somewhat surprising results. The sources I used in writing my presentation were the last membership survey conducted within Alcoholics Anonymous in 2007, the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2010 Statistical Abstract from the National Data Book, and a report titled “Results From the 2009 National Survey on Drug Use and Health; Vol. 1, Summary of National Findings” (the section on alcohol). If anyone would like to see a copy of this presentation, just email me at and I will forward it to you. I want to thank the Cape Atlantic Intergroup and the Roundup Committee for their invitation and their hospitality. While I could not stay the whole weekend, it appeared that everyone was enjoying the program and the fellowship.

My other activities since November included attending group anniversaries, mostly within Section 1, and I attended the February Convention Committee Meeting. I most recently attended the Area 44 GSR Luncheon and was fortunate to hear an excellent message as our outgoing Northeast Regional Trustee John K. shared his experience, strength and hope with us.

We are heading into our busy time of year, so I expect expenses to increase as we have NERAASA, NERD, the Mini Conference, the General Service, , Conference, and the Area 45

Convention all coming before the May assembly.

When mailing in your group's Area 45 contribution, please remember to include your group name and group number as listed with the General Service Office, and a return address or email address to send the contribution confirmation to. Also please make sure your handwriting is legible. I am holding some confirmations that have been returned to the Area, or not yet mailed out due to having an incorrect return address. In addition, I sometimes get contributions with an incorrect group number, and/or a group name that does not match any groups listed in the database. If your group has not received a contribution confirmation, please contact me and I will research it. Also, if you are sending a check to the area that is meant for a specific committee or district, please make the check out accordingly. This will prevent any confusion in assigning the checks to the proper place.

I am still working on organizing the Area's files. The difficulty is that most vouchers only have the name of the server worker on them, and not the service position. To add these older files will take some time in order to research who served which position on each panel. To assist subsequent Area 45 treasurers I have added a line to the Area 45 Expense voucher to include service position/committee. As a reminder, no purchases will be reimbursed until a voucher is submitted with the corresponding purchase receipts attached.

In comparing the 2010 Area 45 Profit and Loss statement to the 2009 statement, some things are apparent. Contributions decreased in 2010 by \$444, but total income decreased by \$3915. In 2009, there was \$3,000 listed as "refund" or "uncategorized income" with no description therefore I cannot explain the reason for the decrease in total income for 2010. Expenses increased from 2009 to 2010 by \$3,070. The increase is more easily explained. For example, in 2009, the area only covered the cost of renting the building to hold Area assemblies. In 2010, the Area also had to contribute \$730 toward supplies and food for the assemblies. The cost of producing the Fourth Dimension increased by approximately \$1100, in addition to the costs of additional events that did not take place in 2009, such as sending our Delegate to the International Convention and the 4 Delegate's Post Conference reports. In summary, in 2009, contributions totaled \$27,502, total income was \$34,020 and total expenses were \$32,152. In 2010, contributions totaled \$27,058 total income was \$30,105 and total expenses were \$35,222.

As Thom informed you in his report, the Area funded the purchase of a new laptop for the convention committee, so I will not elaborate on that except to state that I immediately went home and sent a check to TD Bank Cards for the full purchase price to avoid incurring any interest charges on this purchase.

Lastly, when I received the Area's December, 2010 checking account statement, I noticed that federal taxes in the amount of 67 cents were withdrawn from the account. I then visited TD Bank and was told that the IRS informed the bank that the name on our bank accounts does not match the name the IRS has as belonging to our tax ID number. When the bank representative asked if anything changed within the organization, I informed her that we have been operating this way since the checking account was opened in 1997. Apparently this IRS notification caused TD Bank to change the coding on our account from a non-profit. To rectify this, I completed a W-9 form while at the bank listing the bank account name (General Service Area #45 of Alcoholics Anonymous or G.S.A. #45 of AA) as a DBA (Doing Business As) to the IRS name of Southern New Jersey General Service Assembly of Alcoholics

Anonymous. I thought this form would resolve the situation but I recently received a 1099-INT form from the IRS deducting federal taxes from the interest earned on the Area's older CDS (excluding the CDs purchased in 2010 to increase the Area's prudent reserve). In addition, the bank is crediting the interest from the 4 CDs purchased in 2010 back into the CDs instead of into the checking account as indicated on the purchase certificates. I spent almost 2 hours at the bank on Friday filling out forms to get this straightened out. I have composed a letter summarizing the corrections that need to be made to deliver to the bank as a follow up, and I will continuously follow up with the bank until this has been resolved. I did inform them that this needs to be resolved quickly to enable me to file the Area's 2010 tax return.

Your treasury report is as follows:

Beginning Balance		
08/15/10		\$26, 452.03
Income	+ 9,275.30	
Expenses	- 7,194.89	
Subtotal		<u>\$28, 532.44</u>
Prudent Reserve	+ 26,000.00	
Total 02/19/2011		<u>\$54,532.44</u>

Thank you to all of the groups that send contributions to the area thereby helping us to remain self-supporting, and thank you all for allowing me the privilege to serve.

Registrar, Wendy M.:

Good Morning! My name is Wendy and I am your alcoholic registrar. If you are a DCM or GSR and registered at the last meeting and have not received your packet from GSO, please see me at lunch today.

I will in putting the new orientation sheets from this morning during the panel. If I have any questions, I'll be calling those people at lunch. If you were not in the morning session and need you're Group Service Number, please see me at lunch.

If you are a new GSR, Alt GSR, DCM, Alt. DCM and were not at this morning meetings to fill out a Information Change form please see me during lunch.

It was a great joy to attend CAIG Roundup and participate in the workshop. Thank you to CAIG putting on another excellent event.

I am looking forward to going to Nerasa next week. I hope that many of us will be able to join us there.

Secretary, Dave MacD.:

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

Aside from organizing and submitting the minutes from the November, 2010, Assembly and

Committee to the newsletter and website, I also participated in a panel at the excellent "Waves of Sobriety" round-up in Cape May. Additionally, I met with the Convention Committee on February 6th, joined the Panel in meeting with Area 44 at their annual luncheon on February 13th, and will be meeting, again, at NERAASA 2011, at Terrytown, NY, next weekend.

For those who may be new to the Assembly I'd like to remind everybody that all reports must be read at the Assembly/Committee Meeting in order to appear in the minutes. If you are unable to attend, please try to arrange in advance to get someone else to read your report.

All reports need to be written and submitted to me no later than two weeks after the Assembly/Committee Meeting (by March 6th). Ideally, it would be best if you could email them to me before you give them. Second best is to email them to me after the meeting. Third best is to simply hand it to me at the meeting after you read it.

Committee Reports:

Archives, Lily McB.:

The Archives Committee has been able to accommodate the request of our Panel 60 Chair that we share the Archives space to provide space for the Audio Committee to store our equipment.

This goal was achieved by the thrifty acquisition of four four-drawer steel file cabinets which allowed a shelf to be made in the rear of the space and increased usable floor space by 70%.

Further efforts to assess, consolidate, and index the archives material is underway.

Anyone interested in working in this valuable and interesting committee is asked to contact me at .

Audio, Ken T.:

No report submitted.

Budget and Finance, Fred E. (reporting for vacant position):

Hi everybody, I'm Fred E. and I am an alcoholic.

I was asked by the Area Chair to review the Treasurer's books. On February 19th, Rich H. and I reviewed the Treasurer's bank statements, QuickBooks, vouchers, and cancelled checks for the period of January 1, 2010, to February 19, 2011. We found no discrepancies.

We do make the following recommendations:

1. That the Area Chair review the bank statements monthly.
2. That the Area Chair review the expense vouchers prior to signing reimbursement checks.
3. That a copy of the user name and password for our electronic banking is given to

Area Chair, as a back-up to the Treasurer (to be used only in cases of an emergency).

Convention - 47th Annual, Joanne C. (read by Frank Z.):

I'm an alcoholic; my name is JoAnne. It is my honor to serve as your 47th Convention Chair.

The 47th area 45 convention is 33 days away. Sweatshirts can be ordered through pre-registration. There may be some available at the convention but once they are sold there will be no more. If you have not registered for the convention please do it ASAP.

The key to the convention's success is participation, through registrations, and by taking advantage of the banquet on Saturday night and all the meals at the hotel if possible. In fact, if it's financially possible, staying the weekend at the hotel is a great experience and helps us to meet our guarantee minimums.

The members in this room are our best connection with the groups. The last of the printed registration flyers are on the table by the entrance. Please take some of those with you to your home groups and to the groups that you attend and make an announcement at the beginning of the meeting when the chair asks if there are any AA announcements.

Additionally, many groups and individuals sponsor some members to the convention. If you feel comfortable doing so, bring it up when you go to your business meeting this month. The group can sponsor their GSR to registration and even the Saturday night banquet or whatever they decide. Some groups and individual members will sponsor someone in the group who is short of funds and some even sponsor an unnamed member and that scholarship is given out at the convention. It is a wonderful way to help our fellow members enjoy the spirit of the Area 45 convention and to help the Area itself.

The convention has a website where you can find out about the speakers and program lineup and, most importantly, can register online until March 16th or print out some more registration flyers for your group. There is also a link that will email all the chairs if you want to know about volunteering at the convention. The website is snjaaconvention.org or through the Area 45 website snjaa.org and click the convention link.

The Area 45 convention means a lot to me. Since I first attended back in 2000 I have made a point to be a part of it/attend it. Attending has always been a great experience. If you sponsor anyone, I hope you also suggest they come.

The 47th Area 45 Convention planning is going very well and the committee and the hotel are ready. All we need is you and all those members you come in contact with for the next 33 days. Spread the word, pass it along, "We will know peace," See you all at the convention.

CPC, Buster R.:

Hello and Good Morning Everyone,

I am and alcoholic and my name is Buster. I want to thank the panel again for allowing my participation with this committee; it is truly an honor and a privilege to be able to participate in sharing the AA message. We especially want to thank Area 44 CPC for including us in their

efforts.

Area 45 CPC expenses for this quarter were \$505.00. This represents 1/2 of the exhibitor and table cost for the NJ Teachers Convention held in November of last year. Our future expenses for the next quarter are expected to be approximately \$700.00 since we are planning to contribute to the exhibitor costs for the NJ Nursing Students Convention, Atlantic City, NJ and Brookdale Community College, Lyndhurst, NJ.

Here is a list of our participation efforts:

October 2010 - Pinelands Regional Health Fair, Little Egg Harbor Township, NJ

November 2010 – w/ Area 44 CPC - NJ Teachers Convention, Atlantic City, NJ

February 2010 – w/Area 44 CPC - Association of Students Assistance Professionals asked to attend but could not find a volunteer to attend.

February 2010 – w/ Area 44 CPC- NJ Nursing Students asked to attend and support cost – One volunteer was scheduled to attend.

April 2011 – Our committee forwarded this commitment to Area 44 - Brookdale Community College since the college is located in Lyndhurst, NJ, near Northern New Jersey

If there is anyone present that could use the assistance of the Area 45 CPC, please contact me or Steve G. so arrangements can be made to fill your request. Should anyone wish to volunteer please call me or Steve G.

Alcoholics Anonymous has given me a chance to live a life beyond my wildest dreams.

Thank you all.

CTF, Paul B. (read by Priscilla S., CTF Co-Chair)

Our committee is discussing not having the conference this year and having three workshops in each Intergroup area instead. We felt overall we had more people involved and attend the workshops, which is why we are discussing it.

We are ready for the upcoming convention and looking forward to being there.

Paul's new email is b_____

Bridging the Gap: We had one telephone call from Area 15 in Florida for a transition to New Jersey and it was handled.

DCM/GSR Orientation, Laurie E.:

My name's Laurie and I am an alcoholic.

I want to thank all who attended today's orientation. There were 32 in attendance:

16 GSRs
6 Alt. GSRs
1 DCM (with 2 GSRs acting as DCMs)
9 Guests

The concept of "Service Sponsor" was discussed. All those available to be a service sponsor...please raise your hand.

Thanks you for the privilege to serve.

Grapevine, Jen H.:

Hi Everyone, I'm an alcoholic named Jenn.

Thank you Elaine for opportunity to serve Area 45 as the Grapevine Committee Chair. Right now I am looking for volunteers to help man the Grapevine Table at the Convention next month. If you're interested in volunteering please see me this afternoon before you leave. It has been brought to my attention that there are many people who don't know the different ways you can subscribe to the grapevine. There are several ways to subscribe: Printed Magazine, Digital Magazine and the Audio Magazine. Grapevine also offers a Digital Archive subscription which contains every article published by the GV since it began in 1944. The articles can be searched by date or by subject matter. The cost is \$27.00 a year or \$4.00 a month.

Submit your story to GV!

June 2011 the theme is: AA on the road. Submissions are due by February 25th. Tell a story about taking your program on vacation, attending new meetings, connecting with other AA's.

July 2011 the theme is: AA in Prison. The deadline is March 25th – if you got sober in prison share you ES&H.

August 2011 the theme is: Relationships in the rooms – just about everyone in this room can share on that topic! Submissions are due April 25th. You can submit your stories to: gveditorial@agrapevine.org

Each year, Grapevine holds a competition for photographers to be featured in our Wall Calendar. They would love to see your most striking photos that reflect the joy of living, serenity, and other sobriety themes. Contributors of selected photos will receive a complimentary copy of the 2012 Calendar and Pocket Planner. Entries must be received by March 1, 2011. You can submit digital images by email to: gveditorial@agrapevine.org.

Jal-Con, Joe McA.:

Good morning I'm an Alcoholic called Joe. A thank you to Section IV for holding this quarters assembly.

Jal- Con, which is the New Jersey State Al- Anon Convention, is being held on the 12th, 13th and 14th of August at the Hilton Hotel in East Brunswick, which is right off the NJ turnpike at exit 9.

There have been some new additions to the program this year that will make it an even more

fantastic event. I hope that you won't miss it.

I have been in contact with CJIG and they confirmed that they will have a literature table.

I have room for one more person or couple to fill out Area 45's commit of 5 meetings. Please see me if you would be interested in volunteering for this.

Newsletter, Andrew L.:

No report submitted.

Policy and Charter, Mike R.:

No report submitted.

Public Information, Vacant:

Registration, Judy C-P.:

Panel Members: 6
Committee Chairs: 11
Intergroup Chairs: 2
Section Leaders: 3
DCMs: 11
GSRs and Alt. GSRs: 68
Past Delegates: 5
Visitors: 15
Total in Attendance: 121

Special Needs, Jill J.:

No report submitted.

Web Site, Patrick M.:

The Area 45 website, snjaa.org, has a new look and easy navigation. It is the hope of the website committee that everyone finds it informative and easy to use. If you haven't already, please go have a look.

The Area 45 Website is always a work in progress; it will continue to grow and change and serve Area 45 as technology, the Area's need and understanding allows.

If anyone has any suggestions or can provide any assistance, the Website Committee wants to hear from you. Email us at webadmin@snjaa.org

Also, everybody go on the website and sign up to receive the quarterly email when the Fourth Dimension, the Area 45 newsletter, is posted. We have a total of 5 that have signed up to date. That should probably be more.

Thanks so much for the opportunity to serve A.A. & Area 45.

Workshop, Linda MacD.:

My name is Linda and I'm an alcoholic. Today, after lunch, we will have a short presentation on "How to get an item on the agenda." Any suggestions for future topics are welcome.

I attended the Area 44 GSR luncheon. As always, it was very nice with a great message from our own Trustee, John K.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service.

SJCYPAA (Young People), Jennifer H.:

Unfortunately, our chair, Jessica, has stepped down. As Co-Chair, I have moved into the chair position. We elected a new Co-Chair, Lindsey F.

In December, SJYCPAA had a successful New Years Eve Masquerade Ball Dance. As we look forward to the upcoming Area convention, we are planning a Spring Event.

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at 7 pm at St. Lukes Church in Collingswood. Please come out and support us. *"Young" means room to grow.*

Ad Hoc Outreach to the Hispanic Community, Fernando B.:

No report submitted.

Ad Hoc Convention Site Committee, Joe McA.:

Good morning I'm an Alcoholic called Joe. Thank you to Section IV for hosting this quarters assembly.

I'm pleased to report that our efforts to secure a hotel for the next two years proved to be very successful. We checked into a number of hotels and were able to eliminate all but two. They were the Westin in Princeton and the Crowne Plaza in Cherry Hill.

Both hotels presented us with bids. We chose the Cherry Hill Crowne Plaza because their bid offered us more for less. Having a bid from two hotels gave us an edge in negotiating for a better deal. A two year contract was signed on December 29,2010.

Thanks to my co-chair Mike R. and also to Debbie S-F and Vinnie K. for their work on this committee. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve Area 45.

Cape Atlantic Intergroup, Cliff Mc. (presented by Jim B., Vice-Chair):

My name is Jim, I am the Vice-Chairperson for Cape/Atlantic Intergroup.

The 2010 Roundup was a tremendous success! We made a profit and we will continue

to work hard to ensure that the roundup will remain successful. Our roundup's website is WWW.CAIGROUNDUP.ORG. **We hope you will all be able to attend this year's Roundup in Cape May this November.**

Our New Years Eve dance was also a success. More than 200 recovering alcoholics showed up and stayed sober on New Years eve. We had plenty of good food, marathon meetings, great dancing and even better fellowship.

The 2011 Cape/Atlantic Intergroup Inventory was held last month. We were pleased that more than fifty people showed up for the event. A number of speakers shared their hard-won experience with the traditions, concepts, and intergroup history. We learned a lot about our groups' needs, our committees' responsibilities, and how we can better fulfill our ultimate responsibility, which is to serve our groups in their common purpose.

We have experienced some **rotation** in our committee chairs and officers. All of our elected officer positions are currently filled, but two appointed positions are still open. We currently have a need for an Archives Committee chairperson and a Young People's chairperson.

I am pleased to report that, after much searching, Cape/Atlantic has found a new office. Last week, our groups voted to move to an office at 3153 Fire Road, in Egg Harbor Township. Our chairperson, Cliff, signed the lease on Thursday. We will move into the new office in April. The new office is larger, handicapped accessible, more centrally located, has a larger parking lot, and in a safer location than our current office. We are very happy with the teamwork and effort put forth into finding this office, and we are all very excited to finally be moving.

Fliers and more information can be found online, on our website, WWW.CAIGRP.ORG
Thank you for the opportunity to serve!

Central Jersey Intergroup, Connie Y.:

Our 4th annual Gratitude Breakfast in December was a wonderful success with Justine D. as the speaker.

We held an election for our 5th Trustee position that was open and we had four people run for the position. It was wonderful to see such a great turn out of people who are willing to

participate in Central Jersey Intergroup as a Trustee. Maureen R. was elected as the 5th Trustee.

Our Trustees are continuing to work on a proposal for revised By-Laws of Central Jersey Intergroup and hope to have that ready to be presented to the Intergroup Representatives in the next few months.

We do still have the Public Information chair person position open and would love to have that filled for the remainder of 2011.

At the March Area 45 convention, Central Jersey Intergroup is hosting a Big Book Trivia

game. It will be a fun, interactive workshop that will get everyone involved, test your knowledge of the Big Book and be directly related to the theme of the convention – “We Will Know Peace”. It is at 8am on Sat. morning, so please bring your coffee along and have some fun in sobriety!

South Jersey Intergroup, Frank Z.:

I currently serve as you SJIG chair.

SJIG is operating as business as usual.

All the committees are operating smoothly .

We are currently working with 5 trustees who support all the committees in any way they can help.

H&I have been filling all the commitments.

Bookers has booked all of their commitments at their last booker meeting, thanks to Tina for all her hard work.

Answering service has 3 over night spot that need to be filled, any one interested please email answering service chair.

Budget & Finance hammered out our newest budget , it was approved at our last meeting.

Literature is doing very well not just with office sales but with the New Road show we put together for the groups convinces, If your Home group would like to have the road show come and sell Lit. please email the office and some one will get back to you. Also we did a inventory of or lit. our surplus of literature had been cut in half from last year. All the figures are not in yet.

Social Events committee are planning summer events.

If your group would like something posted on our web site please use aasj.org click on the Event page.

New Business:

Agenda Items:

None

Workshop by Linda and Dave MacD: “Area 45 Assembly Procedures”

Area Committee Meeting:

Section I, Joe B.:

My name's Joe, I'm an alcoholic. Since the last assembly, I went to an Alcathon hosted by District 24 that went from early evening on New Years Eve until the next morning, and one

hosted by District 22 & 23 that went from 10:00 AM until 5:00 PM on New Year's Day. Both were well attended.

I found a DCM for District 25, which is the Hightstown/Cranbury area. Well, I should say, he found me. He had spoken to Elaine and she gave him my number. I called him and he told me he wanted to reactivate the District. He was updating the GSR list and getting people involved again. I told him that's what the DCM does so he agreed to the position. Now I have to contact GSO and find out how to split Dis. 25 from Dis. 30 & 31 so they have separate DCM's.

I'm going to start my search in Dis. 30 this Thursday at the Witherspoon group's 58th Anniversary. That's what I like, more food that I don't have to cook!! This search should be easier because I've been to meetings in the Princeton area and I know some faces and names.

I'm looking forward to NERAASA next weekend and seeing everyone there.

District 24, Debbie H.:

The highlight of my news is that we held our annual Alcahthon for 2010-11. It was a success, as usual. We had meetings every hour and a half from 8 pm to 7 am. We are thinking of adjusting it somewhat next year but we will be discussing that at future Area meetings.

Since our sponsorship workshop was such a success, we are going to be discussing a workshop to be held in the Spring. Details to follow.

Our picnic, this summer, will be held sometime in August at Rosedale Park. The date is to be announced. We may have a speaker already. I just have to give her a call to see if she is available and willing.

District 25, Yury T.:

We reached out to 21 groups in Hightstown, Cranbury, Plainsboro and West Windsor. There are no active groups in East Windsor. Letters were hand delivered twice to group secretaries, in December and January. We heard back from 4 groups. We heard another may be interested.

Yury T., acting DCM for District 25, GSR from Hightstown Winners, and an AA member from Cranbury are doing the leg work. There are several others who appear to be willing to work to resurrect District 25.

Our plan is to meet and plan a strategy to inform the local groups about the importance of connecting to the AA service structure through an active district and stress the importance of having GSR representation from every group.

We will probably visit the groups for their business meetings and make a brief

presentation. We would follow up with our first workshop - late spring, summer or fall - on the importance of the group: what an AA group is. We are hoping this will not only educate members of our district's groups, but perhaps generate interest in reviving GSR activity in District 25.

Section II, Joe M.:

No report submitted.

District 26, Jeff P. (read by John J., GSR):

Hi, I'm John J. an alcoholic GSR from District 26.

Our DCM, Jeff P., could not attend today do to family commitments.

Thank you Section IV for holding the Assembly today.

Treasury report as of, January 25th, is \$706.96.

We will be holding a three-part roundtable workshop in June at Transfiguration School, in Collingswood. Part 1: Online Anonymity; Part 2: Service Sponsorship; and Part 3: Sexual Conduct in the Rooms.

District 27, Bob M.:

No report submitted.

Section III, Joe McA.:

Good afternoon, I'm an Alcoholic called Joe. A thank you to Section IV for holding this quarters assembly.

I attended a number of Anniversaries in Section III last quarter and talked with several GSR's.

Section III will be hosting our next assembly on May 15th. We will be meeting at the Elmer Grange Hall in Pilesgrove. Directions will be in the next news letter and on our website. I will be contacting Section III DCMs for financial support for the Assembly.

We have 3 DCM's and 18 GSR's in attendance today. Currently, Section III has a (125.00) balance in their account.

District 12, Jennifer M. (read by Joe McA.):

Since last Assembly meeting, I was able to visit a couple meetings and establish contact with group contacts and treasurers.

Contributions have increased. I have submitted the SS-4 form to the IRS for the purpose of obtaining a tax I.D. for District 12; after trying, unsuccessfully, to obtain a number by calling the number many times over the past two months.

There are two new meetings which have recently been added to District 12:

1. As Bill Sees It – Wed. night – 6pm – East Mill Rd., Sicklerville
2. Big Book Study – Thurs. - 12 noon – Erial Rd., Sicklerville

I have gathered the contact info for submission to the Registrar. Am waiting for a few items.

District 13, Linda MacD.:

We've had no activities since last assembly to report. I'll be working on making sure our GSR list is correct and submit the updates to our area Registrar. I'll be working with our Section Leader, Joe McA. and other Section III DCM's in hosting the next assembly meeting.

District 14, Michael L. (read by Dave MacD.):

Hello, everyone. I'm a recovered alcoholic and my name is Mike. It's good to be here today. I'd like to thank District 14 for allowing me to serve as it's committee member.

Since last Assembly, D-14 has been relatively quiet. We do have some new faces at our monthly GSR meetings. Brian Y. has stepped down as Alternate DCM. Thank you, Brian, for your service to the district. Our new Alt-DCM is Sandy, who also serves as the GSR for Shiloh Serenity. Welcome, Sandy. I'd also like to welcome Jim S., the new GSR for 3 Minute Step group in Vineland.

D-14 voted to donate a subscription for the *Grapevine* to the CTF Committee for distribution in places of need. Thanks to Laurie S., from Hope Recovery group, in Hopewell, for her work to make that happen.

We have a new group in the district: Primary Purpose Group of Millville, a Big Book study group that meets on Tuesdays from 7:30 – 9pm at the First Presbyterian Church, on 2nd and Pine streets, in Millville.

We are currently contemplating a motion to sponsor two attendees to the Area Convention for those who could not otherwise afford to go.

Section IV, Bob Z.:

No report submitted

District 15, Ken T.:

After an election, held in October of 2010, the lights went on in district 15 once again.

There is an enthusiastic committee comprised of a DCM, alternate, treasurer, and secretary, along with the support of our collective, sponsors, and service sponsors.

District 15 had its first GSR meeting in approximately 2 years on Feb 9th, 2011. The meeting was attended by 2 active GSR's, and one visitor who was inspired by the meeting, and since has become an active GSR for her home group.

There is a balance of \$1,059.00 in the bank account, after making our first donation of \$100.00 to section IV for this assembly.

The good word is already being spread to the groups in our district, thanks to God, and the dedicated members of Alcoholics Anonymous in our area.

I personally have to thank my service sponsor, Donna S, and my friend and colleague Wendy M, for their contribution to the structure, and guidance of this committee. Without their help, and enthusiasm, we would not have made as much progress.

This truly has been a "Grass Roots" effort to date, and we look forward to any guidance, and participation in our growth, from Area 45, and our Section 4 leader moving forward. It's an honor for all of us to be of service, and appreciate the opportunity to grow, as we serve Alcoholics Anonymous in our local community.

District 16, Isabel A.:

Minutes from District 16 Meeting - February 7, 2011:

Attendance: Isabel A., Karen B., Angela I., Lisa K., Cindy S., Nate P., Howard W., Vinnie K., Steve G., Anup T., Ken T., John L., Bob Z., Valerie E., Phillip D., Nancy R., Steve D., Doug G., Annette A., Pat P.

Points to Meeting:

Addressed uniting Districts 15, 16 & 17 to fully cooperate in upcoming Workshop being planned. Meeting was attended by Pat P., District 17 - DCM & Ken T. of District 15 – DCM

Discussed having District 16 meetings here (Casino Serenity Grp) the 1st Monday of every month at 6pm, all meetings will adjourn at 6:55.

Discussed venue for Workshop: St. James, Our Lady of Sorrows, Trudger's Church & possible others....Phil D. to check on these to see which would serve us best.

Discussed having an Interactive Workshop possibly doing "Who's Smarter Than An Alcoholic" ...Angela I. to put together a format for this type of entertainment.

Discussed having 3 speakers for 15mins each, one from each District to discuss our 3 Legacy's ... Recovery, Unity & Service.

Ken T. to check calendar for any conflicts with our AA social events, looking in May so we can start distributing flyers 8 wks in advance & secure venue.

Discussed having Information Tables for List of Service opportunities available in AA & Educating Groups thru GSR's.

Bob Z. made a request that District 16 donate some funds for upcoming event to be held Feb. 20th, 2011, it was agreed he & District 16 Treasurer, Steve G. would negotiate this & how much should be allotted.

Goal for Workshop is to get AA's involved, enthused & motivated to do service work in AA.

Discussed food & beverage being free at Workshop

Meeting was adjourned with Responsibility Pledge at 6:50.

District 17, Pat P.:

No report submitted.

District 19, Rob F.:

No report submitted.