

NOTES FROM 2023 NYSIW

Friday July 28 OPENING: Our purpose in General Service is to inform those who are uninformed about AA in consideration of the alcoholic born today.

ARCHIVES PANEL

Area 48 – we have a group of people who like history; we ask people individually for their AA things

Area 47 – lacking an archivist; will go to Syracuse to see what is in our collection; Area Chair has a tote of items in his living room; can post items of interest on Area website and link to GSO website archives page; scrub recordings of oral histories for anonymity

Area 49 – video on 9/11 AA presence at Ground Zero from 9/28 – 12/7/2001; have a SENY history book; currently digitizing the collection; collecting oral history from past delegates; participate in a national archives workshop

Area 50 – we can't forget our past; have a NYSIW history from the first year; always store the collection in three places as insurance against loss (hard drives & laptop & cloud backups); business meetings are hybrid; flyer says "Before you throw it out or give it away, bring it to Archives" then the committee discusses what is accepted and what is not; **PASS IT ON PLANTS ARE AVAILABLE** for the taking--Swedish Ivy cuttings from Lois Wilson's houseplant at Stepping Stones

GRAPEVINE PANEL

Area 47 – Promote Grapevine at every meeting by reading a joke from Grapevine; have drawing for Grapevine at every AA event

Area 48 – Meet monthly online; take one of each book to Area events; encourage groups to participate in Carry the Message project when they have extra funds; host a writers workshop annually; **THERE IS A NEW GRAPEVINE APP** (actually there are 4 because the Grapevine app is provided in Android and in IOS formats, and the LaVina apps is also provided in Android and in IOS formats) to which the meeting guide APP connects; there is a YouTube channel and an Instagram account; can download audio recordings from the Grapevine online store

Area 49 – People will buy books if we bring them everywhere; got a Square to take credit card purchases; inform that there is a book that's helpful for various subjects such as sponsoring, traditions, newcomers, older members, etc.

Area 50 – Weekly podcasts; good group service project is to deliver Grapevine/LaVina to correctional facilities; home groups should have subscriptions

ACCESSIBILITY PANEL – There are American Sign Language grants available, can be investigated at www.ASL.org

Saturday July 29, 2023

CORRECTIONS PANEL

Area 48 – Could only send in literature during the pandemic; supplied all county jails and state prisons with Grapevine/LaVina subscriptions

Area 50 – Strongest message for inmates is “If you’ve worked for sobriety in prison, the first thing to do when released is go to an AA meeting!”

Ellen from NY Department of Corrections – **A CHART WITH ALL VOLUNTEER SERVICES STAFF IN ALL NY STATE IS AVAILABLE**; the first group requested by inmates after the pandemic was AA; there is a need for Spanish speakers and women; always report the truth on applications, so keep track of any infraction (contact the court or can look up on www.identogo.com for \$13); there is a no Spanish language application; helpful to send literature to sheriffs, facility human resource offices, Employee Assistance Program administrators; a prison is where one serves a sentence and a prison is where one awaits sentencing or serves for a short time

COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

Area 47 – The area website CPC page has been updated; flyer with QR code for more information was created; committee is developing a project for Panel 73

Area 48 – Need to keep any information up to date and use QR codes; get YPAA to help; cannot carry the message alone

Judge Mary Kearney, Family Court Judge – Lawyers helping lawyers is to help colleagues in Erie County; **SOBERLINK** is a tool used to remotely monitor probationers, etc. for alcohol use; suggest placing literature in restrooms; AAs can talk at **LUNCH AND LEARN** gatherings

Area 50 – We can be **HELPFUL WITH PRAYER**; inform professionals what AA is and what AA is not; **ALL AAs ARE PART OF CPC**; we can ask our doctors what they do when a patient has a drinking problem; see that there is AA literature in doctors’ offices; approach colleges and associations of professional associations (pastors, lawyers, doctors, courts, social workers); talk to visitors to open AA meetings to help them understand AA

TRADITIONS PANEL

Third Tradition – At first, it has everything to do with alcohol, then with growth, it has nothing to do with alcohol

Fifth Tradition – A group’s purpose is to Twelfth Step

Seventh Tradition – The **LONG FORM OF TRADITION SEVEN IS VERY POWERFUL**

Eighth Tradition – The solution to our problem is not in a professional environment, but in being exposed to a relationship with God

Tenth Tradition – If we don't argue in private, then we won't argue in public; our clothing can convey an affiliation; this requires a personal policy of non-affiliation; need to remove personal ambitions from AA

Eleventh Tradition – A guide to humility; we are only a part of; if necessary, we can ask that outside issues please be taken outside

Use the Traditions Checklist to facilitate thought and discussion

PUBLIC INFORMATION PANEL

Area 49 – Currently focusing on high schools, providing letter, literature and meeting list; creating a flyer and follow up with visiting; getting help from YPAA; next focus will be on emergency agencies; try to get information on church bulletins

Area 50 – Focusing on colleges and health fairs; getting PSA from GSO media library for local media; getting PSAs on buses and at bus shelters in November and December

Area 47 – Want to get PSAs on college radio stations; currently working on 2024 NY State Fair with over 800,000 attendance; asking other NY Areas to participate; cost would be about \$500 for each Area; next meeting is online on August 21 at 7 pm

TREATMENT PANEL

Area 47 – New to the job; carry the message for free and for fun

Area 48 – Challenging to re-start after Covid

Area 49 – Introduce patients to AA so they hear a message

Area 50 – Asked a past delegate to help; strong Bridging the Gap program with sign up on the website; trying to find the right balance of workers for each of our 25 treatment facilities; speakers for larger groups and reading a BB story plus discussion, sharing, Q and A for smaller groups

Sunday July 30, 2023

WEBSITE/TECHNOLOGY PANEL

Area 50 – website is www.area50wny.org We have no committee; area activities calendar on the first page separate from a bulletin board for events on another page; district pages refer to dhow can we reach those in our own back yards (churches, schools, businesses, professionals

Area 48 – This PowerPoint is available by contacting delegate@aahmb.org; we have a tech team and our website is www.nenyaa.org; have a virtual district; in May this year we voted that all Area 48 activities will be hybrid and we have a new hybrid chair; for hybrid assemblies there are two in-person techs and one online tech; takes ½ hour to set up; this year we hosted the first hybrid NERAASA; sound cancelling microphones are needed; we use GLIDE APP for \$1500/year not for profit rate with limit to users; we also use AIRTABLE; have good district maps; districts are assigned to host assemblies; good wifi is necessary; assemblies cost about \$750 each; if accepting online contributions, a secure website is needed; our webmaster can reset email addresses at any time; contact at webmasterhmb@gmail.com

PAST DELEGATES PANEL

1. To improve participation, first ask God
2. Lead by example and sponsorship; we need to see what it looks like
3. Can make a project of Turning the Lights On with a strategic plan
4. Will GSO move out of NYC? Rent is reasonable @ \$28/square foot non-profit rate
5. For a Group Inventory: develop questions ahead of time; allow no private online or in-person chats; need an outside leader; limit time for each participant; make a report following; commit to a date to effect change
6. AA growth in the US is stable, but there is lots of growth outside the US
7. Guard placing principles before personalities; guard against resting on our laurels/comfort level
8. Develop our districts
9. To be mindful of how we share our stories and how our language may harm others
10. Any limits are only SELF IMPOSED

NEXT NYSIW WILL BE JULY 26-28 2024 HOSTED BY AREA 47