

# Happy Joyous & Free

## Area 48 Newsletter

April 2024

Welcome to April! Spring is fully upon us, and with it brings renewal and change...much like our lives in this wonderful fellowship of AA! As we learn in AA, the only thing that remains constant is change. And change we must.

In a few weeks, our Delegate Guy K. will be participating in the Panel 74 General Service Conference in NYC . Guy will be representing NENY Area 48, giving us a voice in the AA service structure. If you attended our hybrid Delegates Day of Sharing, in Glen Falls or on Zoom, you realize how much work our Delegates put in. It's a great responsibility which our trusted servants gladly fulfill. We are grateful for all our service givers who selflessly give back to AA what was so freely given to them.

In this issue we have Flyers for ongoing and upcoming events, and some important communications from GSO included in this issue, starting on p.13.

Check out PLAIN LANGUAGE BIG BOOK (PLBB) FAQs, all you need to know about this development., on p.17.

Officers and Committee Chairs - A friendly reminder that the first quarter ends March 31st and **all expense reports are due by April 15**. If anyone has any questions or needs any help feel free to email our Treasurer Linda A., [treasurer@nenyaa.org](mailto:treasurer@nenyaa.org)

See you at Fellowship Day!!

Love and Service,

Allen V.

[newsletter@nenyaa.org](mailto:newsletter@nenyaa.org)

### CHAIR REPORTS

Get the latest news on what's happening in NENY from your Area Committee Chairs

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Check out all the fliers at the end for the many upcoming events!

### PRINCIPLES OF THE MONTH

Principles over Personalities

### UPCOMING EVENTS



Welcome to Area 48 NENY



Fellowship Day  
April 20 Central  
Cluster (D4)



Spring  
Assembly May  
18, Eastern  
Cluster (D18)

## Principles of the Month | April

Step 4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.

Tradition 4. Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.

Tradition #4 Checklist [\[from SMF-131, Traditions Checklist from the AA Grapevine\]](#):

1. Do I insist that there are only a few right ways of doing things in AA?
2. Does my group always consider the welfare of the rest of AA? Of nearby groups? Of Loners in Alaska? Of Internationalists miles from port? Of a group in Rome or El Salvador?
3. Do I put down other members' behavior when it is different from mine, or do I learn from it?
4. Do I always bear in mind that, to those outsiders who know I am in AA, I may to some extent represent our entire beloved Fellowship?
5. Am I willing to help a newcomer go to any lengths—his lengths, not mine—to stay sober?
6. Do I share my knowledge of AA tools with other members who may not have heard of them?

Concept #4 Short Form: At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional "Right of Participation," allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.

Concept # 4 Checklist [\[from SMF-91, Concepts Checklist\]](#):

1. Do we understand the spiritual principles underlying the "Right of Participation"?
2. What does "in reasonable proportion" mean? Do we understand when it is appropriate for A.A. paid staff to have a vote at the General Service Conference or in our local service structure?
3. Do we expect that, because we are A.A. members, we should be allowed to vote at any group, even if we are not active members of that group?

In Area 48 NENY, all our events are Hybrid, so all members can participate, be represented and have a voice in our service structure.

## Delegate Report

Hi all, welcome to spring! Spring is always a busy time of year, but I have been the busiest this year in my years of recovery so far. Thank you Area 48 for this opportunity to serve as your Delegate!

I would like to thank the Adirondack Cluster and all the members, presenters, and facilitators that participated in this year's Delegates day of Sharing. Thanks to District 2 or the Town hall on 3/23/24, and all the members who have contacted me. All have provided me with an informed Area 48 group's conscience to carry into this year's Conference.

If you missed these please check out this month's Secretaries report in the Area 48 Newsletter. You can find this information at our Areas Website [nenyaa.org](http://nenyaa.org) I still welcome any input from any member or any group about any of the Agenda Items. Time is running out it is only 2 weeks till the Conference.

I will miss you on Fellowship Day. I will be at Conference. Please keep me and the entire Conference in your prayers that we may do what is best for AA.

Yours in Service  
A48 Delegate P74 Agenda  
Guy K  
[panel74delegate@nenyaa.org](mailto:panel74delegate@nenyaa.org)

To find out what will be discussed and reviewed at the upcoming General Service Conference, [click here](#) for the 74th Conference Agenda Items.. Stay informed, see what our trusted servants are working on in your behalf.

## Chair/Alternate Delegate Report

It was really good to see about 100 of Area 48's trusted servants at the March 16th Delegate's Day of Sharing. Our delegate Guy was guided by the Fellowship in the development of Area 48's group conscience. Your voices were heard through your group's GSRs and your districts' DCMs, and Guy will be bringing that collective voice to the Conference being held in NYC April 14-20. We heard overviews of some of the Final Agenda Items and then broke into groups to discuss and provide a collective recommendation to the Delegate.

A special shout-out to the tech team, who we have been asking so much of this year. At Orientation Day, they were asked to support two breakout rooms and to record those sessions. At this last event, we upped the ante to four breakout rooms and to determine how to amplify the virtual component as well as the sound in the huge main room. There were some hiccups, but no one cried and no one threw anything at another member. I'd call that a win! Thank you all! To me, you are working magic!

As you know, we host the GSR Forum on the first Sunday of each month. The intention this year is to support the GSRs in the nuts and bolts and practical information needed for effective representation of your home group. GSRs are the link to AA as a whole. I am grateful to see approximately 20 GSRs each month.... but I know there are many more of you out there. We need you, and your group has entrusted this sacred responsibility to you. Hope to see you April 7th @7PM. ID: 870 0168 1934 Password: gsr

In addition, Area Check-in happens on the first Wednesday of the month. Most of your service committee chairs attend this get-together to inform you about what is going on in each committee and how they are each carrying out our primary purpose. Join in and find out how you can be of service in your own home group. The next Check In is April 3rd @6:30PM ID 349 408 103 Passcode: A48CheckIn

Area 48 is a vibrant area, and you are being served well. Come, make yourself available to serve. The spiritual benefits far outweigh the time and energy expended. Service is, indeed, fun.

Dolores K NENY Area 48 Chair/ Alt Delegate [nenychair@nenyaa.org](mailto:nenychair@nenyaa.org)

## Alt Chair Report

**Thank you to Districts 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 16, 17, and 18 for attending our DCM/ Functions Committee meeting last month.** Also, thank you to Karen P., Alt DCM - District 17 for your topic of Concept 3.

We had some great discussions and questions about Delegate's Day. Many AA members are new to this level of service, and everyone is so helpful and patient with each other.

Fellowship Day is quickly approaching (April 20<sup>th</sup>) and it will be held in Amsterdam. The Central Cluster is responsible for this event, with District 4 taking the lead. As it turns out, the DCM position in District 4 is vacant, but the other two districts in that Cluster, Districts 8 and 14 stepped right up. It is a privilege to watch how AA service unfolds.

After our Delegate returns from Conference in April, we will be having our Spring Voting Assembly and Delegate's Report Back in Nassau. As there were no proposals submitted, we will not be voting. We will, however, have a presentation of our 2025 Area 48 Budget and then later, Guy will give his report.

I was able to attend the recent Town Hall, hosted by District 2. While I embrace questions, uncertainty, differences of opinions, and being passionate, I must admit I was taken back by the harshness in which some AA members spoke to our Trusted Servants. It would be easy for me to focus on that kind of behavior and some of the very unkind statements that were made. However, the bright light of that day was that there were many members there who participated in thoughtful discussions as was evidenced in the reports back. I want to acknowledge District 2s DCM and our Delegate – Isabelle and her team did such a great job of putting that event together. Both Isabelle and Guy handled themselves with such grace and dignity and that is what I will choose to focus on.

I had the privilege of being asked to speak at the Calvary Church, Park Avenue South in NYC recently. Sam Shoemaker was the clergyman at this church and was a huge influence on Bill W and served as one of his spiritual advisors. It was an honor to speak there...I saw the room where Bill and Sam met. If you are interested in a bit more history about Reverend Shoemaker, Bill, and early AA, please visit <https://www.aa.org/sam-shoemaker>

If you want to join the DCMs/Functions Committee, we would love to have you! We meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month at 6 pm. Meeting ID: 952 7302 1180 Passcode: DCMfun

Thank you so much for letting me be of service.

Cathy P.

[altnenychair@nenyaa.org](mailto:altnenychair@nenyaa.org)

## Secretary Report

Our NENY Area 48 Secretary Dana has prepared reports on Orientation Day in January and Delegates Day of Sharing in March. These reports are extremely thorough and chock full of great information. Due to the combined length of the reports (almost 20 pages), we will not include them here. But, they are available to read on our website and I have included a link, [click here](#).

(On website, under Service Information, go to Area Secretary-Minutes)

Thank you Dana for a fantastic capture, and keeping our members informed!

## Accessibility Report

Hi everyone,

This month we met on the 2nd Thursday of the month 6pm. All are welcome We discussed Nursing homes, assisted living facilities, neuro transmitted diseases like autism, The developmentally delayed.etc. Also animals being brought to meetings. Service animals are always welcome. We do have to be careful that are meeting space is insured if there are any other animals. Looking to start meeting's for tbi autism etc...

If anyone has a accessibility need or any questions please let me know. You can reach me at [accessibility@nenyaa.org](mailto:accessibility@nenyaa.org).

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Thank you  
Chrissy O'C.

## Bridging The Gap Needs You!

Bridging The Gap helps AA members inside a treatment center or correctional facility go right to an AA meeting as soon as they get out. We need help from you to make this work. We need volunteers to bring those members to meetings.

We also really need people to inform those working in the facilities about Bridging TheGap. If they don't know it exists, or don't understand what it means, they can't tell our members about it.

If you'd like to help with this, we'd love to have you! Please join us at our monthly committee meetings.

7:00 pm EST every second Wednesday of the month. (Yes, we will be meeting on Valentine's Day).

Meeting ID: 861 6963 8196      Passcode: 741803

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86169638196?pwd=NXk1cWkvby93ZzEyRzVuZVNwdVY3dz09>

If you forget, it's also on the area website under Meetings, Area 48 Virtual Meeting Calendar.

Sue W.

[btg@nenyaa.org](mailto:btg@nenyaa.org)

Bridging The Gap Chair

Area 48 • Northeast New York

## Public Information Report

My name is Amy M and I have been elected and begun serving as the new Area48 Public Information Chairperson.

My most recent service position was as DCM of District 10 which comprisesPlattsburgh, Elizabethtown, and Saranac Lake NY.

I am humbled and very grateful to have the opportunity to serve in this capacity at Area.

I would like to extend an invitation to all those serving with Public Information (PI) or Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) throughout our area to attend our monthly PI/CPC zoom call which is held the fourth Thursday of each month at 6:30pm. All AA members are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

This is a place for us to share ideas and to help each other in carrying the message of our AA program to the public (media, schools, organizations,etc)

PI/CPC Zoom Call Meeting ID 868 7177 3923 Passcode: 080625

My contact information is [PI@nenyaa.org](mailto:PI@nenyaa.org). If you have any questions or ideas to share please feel free to reach out to me!

Yours in service  
Amy M  
Area 48 PI Chair

## 2023 Northeast Regional Forums Final Report

The 2023 Northeast Regional Forum was held June 2-4, 2023 in Burlington, MA.  
Read the Report here:

[This Report contains the delegate presentations, workshop reports, ask - it -basket questions and answers, past trustees' sharing and closing remarks.](#)



## Literature Report

Book Nerds Welcome!!! Come read Literature with me!!

Please join The Grapevine/La Vina Literature Monthly Committee meeting to stay up to date with all the newest information, get your questions answered and fellowship with other members of AA. We meet monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 6:30pm.

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84064855953?pwd=Lzl2ZUxFaU9qQndTZmpQaU83Q2RQUT09> Meeting ID: 840 6485 5953 Passcode: 394275

\*\*\*Do you think you are different??? If so then GSO is looking for your story!! Submissions for the Do You Think You Are Different pamphlet are due April 30<sup>th</sup> 2024.

\*\*\*Deadline Extended to April 30<sup>th</sup> 2024 for story submissions for the pamphlet, AA for the Native North American Alcoholic.

Check out all the details on the NENY Literature homepage at <https://nenyaa.org/literature/>

Feel free to email if you have any questions or need any help with literature [atliterature@nenyaa.org](mailto:atliterature@nenyaa.org)

Yours in Service

Lindsey B

[literature@nenyaa.org](mailto:literature@nenyaa.org)

[From our neighbors to the South, Area 49:](#) It has come to my attention that many of you don't know we have a monthly area newsletter or how to obtain it. I'm attaching a copy of our February newsletter [The Link](#) here. I encourage you to check it out!

Paola A.  
she/her

## Treasurer Report - February 2024

<b>NENY Area 48</b> <b>Monthly Treasury Report</b> <b>February 2024 - Approved</b>	
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$18,330.29</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Area Contributions	
District	\$25.00
Group	\$3,126.44
NENY 2023 Convention Surplus	\$833.01
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$3,984.45</b>
<b>Expense</b>	
Newsletter Editor	\$74.03
NERAASA	\$1,491.64
Eastern Cluster Scholarship - NERAASA	\$500.00
Newsletter Postage	\$53.36
Newsletter Printing	\$178.49
Archive Storage Fees	\$90.00
JotForm	\$26.46
AirTable	\$121.64
Digital Ocean	\$6.00
Zoom (Hotspot)	\$15.00
Tax Preparation	\$935.00
PayPal Contribution Fees	\$13.87
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$3,505.49</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$478.96</b>
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$18,330.29</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$18,809.25</b>
Prudent Reserve	-\$7,000.00
<b>Available Funds</b>	<b>\$11,809.25</b>
Prepared by Linda A. <a href="mailto:treasurer@nenyaa.org">treasurer@nenyaa.org</a>	

\* Note: A convention surplus contribution was made to AAWS directly by the 2023 Convention Treasurer in the amount of \$833.00.

**Please Note: All checks for Donations are to be made out to-  
NENY Area Association.**

# Treasurer Report- January 2024

<b>NENY Area 48</b> <b>Monthly Treasury Report</b> <b>January 2024 - Approved</b>	
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$21,620.92</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Area Contributions	
Group	\$4,271.42
Seed Money Returned	
NENY 2023 Convention	\$2,000.00
7th Tradition Orientation Day	\$14.41
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$6,285.83</b>
<b>Expense</b>	
Delegate - 1st Half Allocation	\$2,500.00
Chair - 1st Half Allocation	\$2,000.00
Alternate Chair	\$30.30
Treasurer	\$240.78
Newsletter Editor	\$52.37
Public Information	\$175.50
Travel Expense to Area Event	\$31.50
GSB Conference Fee	\$3,400.00
Orientation Day	\$733.64
Archive Storage Fees	\$90.00
JotForm	\$26.46
AirTable	\$126.00
Digital Ocean	\$6.00
PDF Embedder	\$48.00
SiteGround	\$59.88
Prior Year Expenses	\$48.86
PayPal Contribution Fees	\$7.17
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$9,576.46</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-\$3,290.63</b>
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$21,620.92</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$18,330.29</b>
Prudent Reserve	-\$7,000.00
<b>Available Funds</b>	<b>\$11,330.29</b>
Prepared by Linda A. <a href="mailto:treasurer@nenyaa.org">treasurer@nenyaa.org</a>	

Linda A. - [treasurer@nenyaa.org](mailto:treasurer@nenyaa.org)

**Officers and Committee Chairs - A friendly reminder that the first quarter ends March 31st and all expense reports are due by April 15. If anyone has any questions or needs any help feel free to email me.**

## Meet Your Trusted Servants, NENY Area 48, Panel 74

### **Area Officers**

Delegate- Guy K. [panel74delegate@nenyaa.org](mailto:panel74delegate@nenyaa.org)

Area Chair /Alt Delegate- Dolores K. [nenyachair@nenyaa.org](mailto:nenyachair@nenyaa.org)

Alt Area Chair/ Functions Chair- Cathy P. [altnenyachair@nenyaa.org](mailto:altnenyachair@nenyaa.org)

Secretary- Dana W. [secretary@nenyaa.org](mailto:secretary@nenyaa.org)

Treasurer- Linda A. [treasurer@nenyaa.org](mailto:treasurer@nenyaa.org)

Alt Treasurer/ Finance Committee Chair- Dave F. [alltreasurer@nenyaa.org](mailto:alltreasurer@nenyaa.org)

Alt Registrar- Kevin H-B. [altrecords@nenyaa.org](mailto:altrecords@nenyaa.org)

Alt Secretary/ Registrar- Matt E. [records@nenyaa.org](mailto:records@nenyaa.org)

### **The Area Committee**

Hybrid Chair- Vo N. [hybrid@nenyaa.org](mailto:hybrid@nenyaa.org)

Technology/ Webmaster- Bobby H. [webmaster@nenyaa.org](mailto:webmaster@nenyaa.org)

Newsletter- Allen V. [newsletter@nenyaa.org](mailto:newsletter@nenyaa.org)

Accessibility- Chrissy O'C. [accessibility@nenyaa.org](mailto:accessibility@nenyaa.org)

Inclusivity- Andy P. [inclusivity@nenyaa.org](mailto:inclusivity@nenyaa.org)

Bridging The Gap BTG- Sue W. [btg@nenyaa.org](mailto:btg@nenyaa.org)

Corrections- Theresa M. [corrections@nenyaa.org](mailto:corrections@nenyaa.org)

Treatment -Liz C. [treatment@nenyaa.org](mailto:treatment@nenyaa.org)

Cooperation with the Professional Community CPC- Howard W. [cpc@nenyaa.org](mailto:cpc@nenyaa.org)

Public Information PI- Amy M. [pi@nenyaa.org](mailto:pi@nenyaa.org)

Archives- Mark Q. [archives@nenyaa.org](mailto:archives@nenyaa.org)

Grapevine/LaVina- Michelle M. [grapevine@nenyaa.org](mailto:grapevine@nenyaa.org)

Literature- Lindsey B. [literature@nenyaa.org](mailto:literature@nenyaa.org)

Finance Committee Past DCM- Kelly M. [finance@nenyaa.org](mailto:finance@nenyaa.org)

Finance Committee Past Delegate- Don S [finance@nenyaa.org](mailto:finance@nenyaa.org)

Convention 2024 chair- Trish McB. [conventionchair@nenyaa.org](mailto:conventionchair@nenyaa.org)

# What's Happening in...

## Area 48

- [Fellowship Day](#) | **Saturday, April 20 @ 9am - 3pm**
- [Unity Day](#) | **Saturday May 4 D16 presents..more info to come, check website**
- [GSR Workshop](#) | **Wed. May 8 5:30-8:30...D7 Presents**
- [May Voting Assembly](#) | **May 18 or 19 (date to be determined)**
- Joy of Service Day | **Saturday June 15**

## Area 48 Recurring Events

- [GSR \(General Service Rep\) Forum](#) | **1st Sundays @ 7pm**  
*Open to any member of AA! You do not have to be a GSR or a member of Area 48 to attend.*
- [Monthly Check-in](#) | **1st Wednesdays @ 6:30pm**
- [Grapevine Story Hour](#) | **2nd Tuesdays @ 7pm**
- [Your Delegate Connection](#) | **last Mondays @ 7pm**

## Area 48 Committee Meetings

- [Accessibilities](#) | 2nd Sundays @ 2pm | ID: 459 479 4411, Passcode: 731508
- [Bridging the Gap \(BTG\)/Treatment](#) | 2nd Wednesdays @ 6:30pm | ID: 861 6963 8196, Passcode: 741803
- [Corrections](#) | 2nd Fridays @ 6pm | 867 1213 3948, Passcode: A48Correct
- [Cooperation with the Professional Community \(CPC\) & PI \(Public Information\)](#) | 4th Thursdays @ 6:30pm | 868 7177 3923, Passcode: 070625 Join Meeting [Click Here](#)
- [DCMs & Alt DCMs + Functions](#) 3rd Sundays @ 6pm | ID: 952 7302 1180, Passcode: DCMfun
- [Grapevine & Literature](#) | 3rd Thursdays @ 6:30pm | ID: 885 5335 7701, Passcode:394275
- [Inclusivity](#) | 3rd Tuesdays @ 6:30pm | ID: 840 6485 5953, Passcode: 353180
- [Technology](#) | 4th Wednesdays @ 7pm | 829 5229 5872, Passcode: Techteam48

[Click here for the full 2024 Area 48 Calendar](#)

## Outside the Area

- <https://www.unityandserviceconference.org/> **October 11 & 12 2024**

Want your event included in the newsletter & on the Area 48 website?  
Send it to [newsletter@aaahmbny.org](mailto:newsletter@aaahmbny.org) & [webmaster@aaahmbny.org](mailto:webmaster@aaahmbny.org).

<b>AREA 48 NENY EVENTS 2024 – Revised 031524</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Host</b>
January 20, 2024	NENY Orientation Day	Hudson Valley Cluster (D17) First Reformed Church 52 Green St Hudson, NY
February 23-25, 2024	Northeast Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (NERAASA)	Hershey, PA
March 8-10, 2024	Northeast Regional Delegates' Reunion (NERD)	Area 48 NENY (delegates and past delegates)
March 16, 2024	NENY Delegate's Day of Sharing	Adirondack Cluster (D13) Christ Church United Methodist 54 Bay Street, Glens Falls, NY
April 20, 2024	NENY Fellowship Day	Central Cluster (D4) Second Presbyterian Church, 25 Church Street, Amsterdam, NY
April 14-20, 2024	General Service Conference (for our Delegate only)	NYC
May 18, 2024	NENY Spring Voting Assembly	Eastern Cluster (D18)
June 15 or 16, 2024	NENY Joy of Service Day	Western Cluster (D20)
July 26-28, 2024	NYS Informational Workshop	Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY Area 47
September 21 or 22, 2024	NENY Fellowship Day	Hudson Valley Cluster (D7)
October 19 or 20, 2024	NENY Fall Voting Assembly	Adirondack Cluster (D19)
November 1-3, 2024	NENY Convention	Marriott Albany, Albany, NY Eastern Cluster
November 16 or 17, 2024	NENY Inventory Day	Central Cluster (D8)

**Cluster**

- ADK- D5,D10,D13,D19
- Central- D4,D8,D14
- Eastern- D1,D2,D18
- Western- D9,D12,D20
- Hudson Valley-D3,D7,D11,D15,D16,D17

03152024

# From GSO:

Alcoholics Anonymous®  
www.aa.org

## General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous

475 Riverside Drive, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10115 / Telephone: (212) 870-3400

Please direct all communications to:  
P.O. Box 459  
Grand Central Station  
New York, NY 10163  
Fax: (212) 870-3003

### STORY SOLICITATION

“A.A. for the Native North American Alcoholic,” Pamphlet Update

**Deadline for submissions: April 30, 2024.**

**Submit your story form:**

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/cef87490c3ae4c3b9e6e50ce9eb33b24>

The trustees' Literature Committee has opened a call for recovery stories in response to the 2021 General Service Conference advisory action regarding the pamphlet “A.A. for the Native North American Alcoholic,” stating that the pamphlet be updated to include current stories of recovery and a new title that is respectful and inclusive. The committee is seeking stories of recovery from all Indigenous communities in the A.A. structure in the United States and Canada.

Stories of recovery may include but are not limited to:

- Experience, Strength, and Hope
- Steps, Traditions, Concepts
- Ethnic, cultural, gender and LGBTQ diversity
- Diversity of social status
- Sponsorship
- A.A. Service
- Safety & Racism
- Military
- Sobriety and Mental Health
- Experience in A.A. meetings
- Atheist/Agnostics
- Newcomer Experiences
- Cultural Reconnection

The suggested format for typed manuscripts is 500-1,000 words, double spaced, in 12-point font. Handwritten manuscripts should be approximately 5 to 8 pages. Please include your complete name, address, and email/phone information on the first page of your manuscript. A copy of your manuscript should be retained for your files. The anonymity of all authors will be observed whether their story is selected for publication or not.

Instructions for submitting your manuscript:  
**Deadline: Please submit on or before April 30, 2024.**

**Submit Your Story Form:**

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/cef87490c3ae4c3b9e6e50ce9eb33b24>

**Email:** [pamphletstories@aa.org](mailto:pamphletstories@aa.org)

**Subject Line:** A.A. for the Native North American Alcoholic

**Postal Mail:** Attn. Literature Assignment, General Service Office, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163

**On the envelope:** The word "Pamphlet" should be written on the envelope and at the top of the first page of the manuscript.

Thank you for your participation in the process!

Catch up on what's new from your General Service Office: Highlights from January 2024 [Click Here](#)

**Grapevine Price Announcement-**  
[Click here for the entire message.](#)



# EASTERN AREA YPAA SUMMIT

**04.13.2024**

**A VIRTUAL GATHERING OF  
YOUNG PEOPLE FOCUSED ON  
RECOVERY, UNITY, AND SERVICE**



[www.ypaasummit.wixsite.com/home](http://www.ypaasummit.wixsite.com/home)






Join us for the monthly VIRTUAL

# DISTRICT 20 MEETINGS!

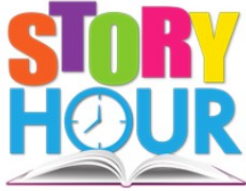
All are welcome & encouraged to attend!  
Last Tuesday of every month @ 7pm

Zoom ID: 291 297 7780 Passcode: 011023  
Questions? [OnlineDistrict20@aahmbny.org](mailto:OnlineDistrict20@aahmbny.org)

# AAGRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous


## VIRTUAL MONTHLY GRAPEVINE READING & DISCUSSION




**Tuesdays**  
(second Tues. of each month)  
**7:00-8:00pm**  
(eastern)

Get in your PJs, your fluffy slippers, and cozy blanket, have your popcorn ready, and enjoy a bedtime story!

**SAVE THE DATE** *Mark your calendars*



ZOOM ID: 834 1851 2300 | PASSCODE: Grapevine  
[Click Here to Join the Meeting!](#)  
Please do not post to general public Contact: [grapevine@aahmbny.org](mailto:grapevine@aahmbny.org)



## Online District Roundtable

Monthly on the Third Sunday

8:00 PM Eastern & 5:00 PM Pacific

**Purpose**

This is an informal meeting to share ESH with the only other online District in North America! Anyone can attend!

**Meeting Info**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82660463055?pwd=dmxLcWpaYjR5MmWQ4dEtYeXl2UWhidz09>

Meeting ID: 826 6046 3055  
Passcode: remoted

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,82660463055# US (New York)  
+13126266799,,82660463055# US (Chicago)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kbz6vgHbyA>

Organizer: Cathy P - [district20dcm@aahmbny.org](mailto:district20dcm@aahmbny.org)

## NENY Area 48 Technology Committee

4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday each Month  
at 7 pm

Meeting ID: 829 5229 5872  
Passcode: Techteam48





From GSO:

# PLAIN LANGUAGE BIG BOOK (PLBB) FAQs

## 1. How did the PLBB come about?

The development of a plain language Big Book can be traced back to an agenda topic in 2016, at which time the General Service Conference began the assessment of the need for plain language literature. Following lots of in-depth research and reports, in 2021 the Conference as a whole requested:

*“That a draft version of the book, **Alcoholics Anonymous**, be translated into **plain and simple** language and be developed in a way that is **accessible and relatable** to as wide of an audience as possible and that a progress report or draft be brought back to the 2022 Conference Literature Committee.”*

## 2. Will the PLBB replace the Big Book?

**No.** The intent was and remains for the PLBB to be a tool to access original text and be a companion piece. The original Big Book is not going away and will remain in publication.

## 3. Is this the first time A.A. has developed plain language literature?

No. Most of our pamphlets are in plain language. Also, at the time the Big Book was first published, Dr. Bob was concerned that the language was beyond the capability of blue-collar members to grasp and, as a result, 5 pamphlets (still available and known as *The Akron Pamphlets*) were written by Evan W. at the request of Dr. Bob during the 1940s.

## 4. What is Plain Language?

Plain language is a style of writing designed for word choice, sentence structure, and layout to improve readability and increase understanding.

## 5. Is it a word-for-word translation?

No. It is a rewrite into plain language that also reflects the scope of the task assigned to ensure that the draft *“be developed in a way that is **accessible** and **relatable** to as wide of an audience as possible.”*

## 6. Will it be available in Spanish and French?

We will address this question if and when the PLBB is published. However, we understand that English Plain Language is an approach not a language and so any simplified French or Spanish versions will need to spring from the original translations into French and Spanish.

## 7. What reading level will the PLBB be at?

5th Grade

## 8. Why is the draft confidential to Conference Members only and why can't I see a draft?

Historically, whenever the Conference reviews new or significantly revised books or pamphlets, only the Conference Literature Committee (or whichever Committee is reviewing the item) is provided with copies of the new or revised literature before Conference begins. In the case of pamphlets, all other Conference members have been required to sign out copies of the new or revised pamphlet(s) sometime during Conference and have been given a limited time to review the literature. In the case of books, Conference members, other than those on the reviewing committees, have not been given any opportunity to review the manuscripts and have, therefore, had to base their votes entirely on the recommendation of the committee. The reasons for operating in this way are as follows:

1) In order to retain the copyright of A.A.'s literature assets, we have to be able to assert that they were not “at large,” shared widely in whole or in part within the Fellowship or shared on social media, prior to being published.

2) It usually takes several years to complete a piece of A.A. literature. During that time, multiple versions of the piece are shared with the reviewing Conference Committee. If shared widely, it would be possible for the Fellowship and the public to become

confused about what is in revision, what is the current revision and what is “Conference Approved.”

When circumstances such as these require that we trust the Conference process explicitly, it may be helpful to remember that Tradition 2 asserts that God’s will is expressed through the group conscience and that Concept 2 states that the Conference has become “the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole Society in its world affairs.”

### 9. What is being translated?

Five things:

1. The Doctor’s Opinion
2. The first 164 pages of the original
3. Dr. Bob’s Nightmare
4. The Appendices
5. Forewords from the first 4 editions (which, together, are now a new Appendix VIII in the translation)

There will also be a new Preface, a new Foreword, and a Glossary.

The stories (other than *Chapter 1 – Bill’s Story* and *Dr. Bob’s Nightmare*) are not being translated.

### 10. Does that mean the Steps, Traditions, and Warranties are being changed?

No. As laid out in the Conference Charter, only a  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote of all the groups in the world responding to a proposal has the authority to do that. The Steps and Traditions will be printed in their current form. However, alongside those items, an explanation in plain language will be included.

### 11. What will be the title of the PLBB?

Subject to the draft being approved for publication and the views of the General Service Conference, the working title is: Plain Language Big Book: A Tool for Reading *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

### 12. How much has this cost?

The hard costs are \$100,000 for the writer and approximately \$40,000 in publishing-related expenses. \$140,000 to date.

### 13. What printing options will be available if this book gets published?

As with other A.A. Conference approved literature, hardcover softcover and large print are options that will be decided if the Conference approves publication.

### 14. How was the writer chosen and are they an A.A. member?

Alcoholic Committee Members chose the best writer for the task through a Request For Proposal (RFI) process. Proposals were received from A.A. members and non-A.A. members. The writer who was eventually chosen is not an A.A. member. Alcoholics have been reviewing the work of the writer at all stages and making changes to ensure that the intent (as expressed in the RFI) that it “**must capture the welcoming and inclusive spirit of Alcoholics Anonymous and inspire a sense of belonging and hope in the alcoholic seeking help**” is followed.

### 15. Was AI (ChatGPT or similar) used in the plain language big book development?

No AI or text generator was used in the plain language draft.

### 16. Were any Non-Alcoholics on the Tools to Access the Big Book (TABB) or Plain Language Big Book (PLBB) subcommittees?

No. All members were alcoholics.

### 17. How will the PLBB address gender and God?

The gender of named individuals will not be changed, but where the example given is of an archetype, e.g. the Jaywalker, we will switch up things so that there is a broader representation of both men and women. The original Big Book contains about 250 he/him/his to about 50 she/her/hers. The plain language big book will be more balanced.

Where God is mentioned, and will continue to be mentioned, this is sometimes paired with ‘Higher Power.’

### 18. When the 2023 General Service Conference got to review the work in progress, i.e., the draft of the first 6 chapters, what did the Conference think?

The response was overwhelmingly positive. Even those who initially expressed concerns liked the plain language BB after reviewing it.

**19. If published, who will own the copyright?**

Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc.

**20. What happens next?**

The 74<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference will review the complete draft at the Conference. Possible outcomes include:

Approving the draft for publication as presented

Approving the draft with minor changes as may be suggested by the Conference Committee on Literature or the Conference floor

Sending the draft back for more work, indicating the issues to be addressed

Halting the project



**Save THE Date**

**NOV 1 - 3 2024**

**Northeast New York (NENY) 2024 CONVENTION**

Theme: *Connecting with Love, Unity, & Service*

Registration & hotel booking to follow!  
Please check [www.convention.nenyaa.org](http://www.convention.nenyaa.org) for updates.

Albany Marriott | 189 Wolf Road | Albany, NY

**This Month in AA History....**

**1939 - April, 4,730 (some assert 4,650) copies of the first edition of “Alcoholics Anonymous” were published at a selling price of \$3.50 (\$57 today). It was a very expensive book for its time. Edward Blackwell, president of Cornwall Press, was told to use the thickest paper in his shop. The large, bulky volume became known as the “Big Book” and the name has stuck ever since. Bill W later wrote that the idea behind the thick, large paper was to convince the alcoholic he was getting his money’s worth. The book had eight roman and 400 Arabic numbered pages. “The Doctor’s Opinion” started as page 1. The basic text ended at page 179 (not 164). Twenty-nine personal stories were included: ten from the east coast, 18 from the mid-west and one last-minute story from the west coast (ghost written by Ruth Hock and removed in the second printing). The manuscript story ”Ace Full-Seven Eleven” of Akron member Del T was dropped because he “thought the book was a racket.”- [“A Narrative Timeline of AA History”](#)**

# ONE DAY AT A TIME AT THE STATE FAIR



**WHO:** Area 47's Public Information Committee in cooperation with Syracuse Intergroup and District 340 Public Information Committee has submitted the application for an exhibit at the New York State Fair this year.

**WHAT:** Alcoholics Anonymous Public Information Exhibit at the New York State Fair



**WHEN:** August 21 – September 2, 2024 • 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

**WHERE:** Science & Industry Building

**WHY:** More than 900,000 visitors attended the New York State Fair in 2023. An A.A. P.I. exhibit located in the Science and Technology Building alongside health and wellness exhibitors has the potential to reach hundreds if not thousands of visitors each day. It's a big opportunity to share information about the availability of A.A. in communities across the state.



**HOW:** With support from all four Areas in New York State—financial and most importantly staffing. The exhibit must be staffed for 12 hours a day—all 13 days of the fair. Because the fair lasts for 13 days. We need **13 dedicated volunteers** to coordinate their committee or home group's participation for **one full day**.

Each coordinator will be responsible to assemble a group of AA members who will staff the exhibit for two-, three-, or four-hour shifts. Coordinators will receive orientation on how to perform Public Information service in a health fair setting and on how to get into and around the fair.

If your home group or committee would like to participate in this statewide Public Information project, **Scan the QR code and sign up online** or email the following information to [statefair\\_pi@aacny.org](mailto:statefair_pi@aacny.org)



- ▶ Full Name
- ▶ Phone Number
- ▶ Email Address
- ▶ Current Service Position (if any)
- ▶ Home Group or Service Committee
- ▶ Your Group's Availability and/or Preferred Days to Staff the Booth

*Details will be provided as soon as we hear if our application is approved and as soon as we know if we'll have enough participants to staff the booth.*