

NENY Area 48 VOTING ASSEMBLY – Saturday, May 16th

When

Date: Saturday, May 16th, 2026

Registration, Coffee, and Fellowship: 9:00 AM

Assembly Business: 9:30 AM

End Time: 2:30 PM

Help Steer the Ship! > Ever wonder how Area 48 actually works? Come find out and cast your vote! Join us for coffee, fellowship, and a little bit of "Area business."



Where

In Person: Saratoga United Methodist Church, 175 5th Ave, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866 (the intersection of 5th and Henning)

Online: Zoom – Meeting ID: 819.9127.9649, Passcode: "Voting48"

Let's keep the hand of AA reaching out—hope to see there virtually or in person.

Proposal: Make the Area Alternate Secretary a Stand-Alone Position

Currently, the Area Registrar serves as Area Secretary in the absence of the Area Secretary.

The Area Secretary is a distinctly different position from that of Registrar. Whereas the Area Registrar needs familiarity with GSO databases and must maintain almost constant contact with the registrars from all Area districts, standing in for the Area Secretary requires the Registrar to drop those responsibilities and instead be familiar with the procedures for taking minutes at Area events, distributing minutes through MailChimp, updating the Service Manual as needed, sending up-to-date minutes and Service Manual changes to the Newsletter Chair, and keeping in touch with the General Service Conference Coordinator. It does not seem prudent, realistic, or practical to ask the Area Registrar to step into that role, especially on short notice.

The Area Secretary and the Alternate Secretary could work together to coordinate schedules so that the Area Secretary's responsibilities are always covered by someone fully familiar with them. This would help ensure that minutes for Area Assemblies and other events on the annual calendar are recorded as accurately and descriptively as possible and made available to the fellowship in a timely manner.

This arrangement would also provide training if the Alternate Secretary chooses to stand for election when the Area Secretary rotates out of the position, and it would give the Area another service position. Having an Alternate Secretary as a stand-alone position would not increase any costs for the Area, as either the Secretary or the Alternate Secretary would be reimbursed for mileage and expenses for the events covered, as outlined in Section 5.0, Event Participation and Funding, of the Area 48 Service Manual. This change would take effect with the election of the next panel.

Speaking as the immediate past Area Secretary, I can say that I never felt comfortable asking the Area Registrar to cover for me in my absence, as the Area Secretary is such a distinctly different role from that of Registrar. I feel strongly that this change would help the Area function more smoothly.