

4th Dimension Newsletter

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The ROTATION Issue!

From the Southern New Jersey Area 45 2022 Handbook (to access, click [HERE](#)):

The Newsletter Committee is responsible for producing a quarterly online newsletter called The Fourth Dimension. This newsletter carries information about Area 45 events and provides a format for exchange of information. It includes Area Assembly and Committee meeting minutes, agenda items for the next Assembly meeting, directions to the next meeting (TBD) and a listing of Area events.

Have something you'd like to share? Contact the Committee at newsletterarea45@gmail.com

Fun facts from our Northeast Regional Trustee, Francis G.:



AA as a Whole – US and Canada



1,473,390 Members

71,190 Groups

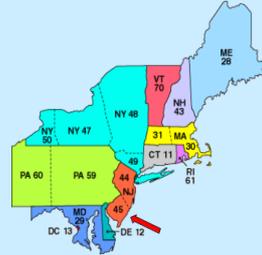
93 Delegates

8 Regions



The Northeast Region

Southern New Jersey – Area 45



340,696 Members

15,998 Groups

18 Delegates

1 Trustee



9,937 Members

629 Groups

1 Delegate

Lightening Round!

- Favorite Food:** Although Ben and Jerry's has not yet come up with "Vanilla Bean Carrot Cake," I believe some day they will. That way I can enjoy dairy products with nuts - and it will still count as a vegetable serving.
- Favorite Movie:** "A League of Their Own." Although it's only 20 years old, I believe this movie is destined to become a modern classic - it has everything I like (i.e., history, comedy, drama, character development, and flashbacks) and none of what I don't particularly care for (i.e., car chases, gratuitous violence, and "alternative" endings).
- Spirit Animal:** Dolphin. Because I swim in the ocean with sharks, everyone seems to think I'm a fish; however, I'm really a warm-blooded mammal. With me, things aren't always what they appear to be on the surface. While I'm content to experience solitude, I also seek harmony and cooperation with others.
- Hidden Talent:** I believe my hidden talent is sitting quietly patiently waiting for developments.
- Dream Job:** Math Tutor. As a result of my hearing loss, I understandably fell behind in school. However, as a result of some one-on-one lessons, I went on to excel at math - eventually becoming a Certified Public Accountant. For various reasons, I did not go into teaching; but, in retirement, I'd be willing to give it a try. There's an old saying: "When the student is ready, the



Why Does A.A. Impose Term Limits?

One of the first meetings I went to out of rehab had a gaggle of old-timers who liked to settle all group issues by referring to what a long-dead member would have done: "Well Gertie never would have let someone make coffee with less than 90 days," etc. One of my fondest memories from that time was when someone finally piped up and said, "you know Gerties dead, right?" We have all run into this situation, but what is it got to do with "rotation" you might well ask. Turns out rotation plays a key role in how A.A. works, in how we pick leaders, in how we make decisions, and in how we make sure we are carrying the message. As we begin a new year – and a new panel—it brings the importance of rotation in A.A. into focus.

So, what is the "spirit" or "principle" of "rotation" anyway? When we talk about rotation in A.A. we are referring to "... [t]he spiritual principle of sharing the responsibility for A.A. through changing leadership." Traditionally, rotation ensures that group and Area tasks, like everything else in A.A., are passed around for all to share. Likewise, even if there is no one there to do a job, we leave when our term is done. When our terms are up, we step aside. Period.

In this way rotation works like term limits. Where does this concept of rotation come from? The principle of rotation flows primarily from Tradition Two: "For our group purpose, there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants: they do not govern." There is no permanent personal leadership class in A.A. In addition, Concepts IX and XI reference the principle of rotation in General Service. Concept IX reminds us that "[d]ue to A.A.'s principle of rotation, furnishing our service structure with able and willing workers has to be a continuous effort." In Concept XI, Bill explains in detail the inner workings of the daily operations of A.A. – as it was in 1962. Even today most staff members' assignments are changed every two years. Concept XII teaches that A.A. should always remain "democratic" which means we elect our leaders.

How does rotation work? Jobs at the Area level rotate along with the delegate, which is why we call one set of officers a "panel." There have been seventy-two panels of delegates since the General Service Conference started. Half of North America elects its new delegate and panel every year. For example, Area 45 elects its delegate in even panel years and North Jersey's Area 44 in odd. Trustees stand for election every four years. Once we do a job we need to move on. It is this moving on -- this rotation-- that prevents us from becoming governed by personal cliques and personality cults

So, what about Gertie? The warning is about becoming a cult of personality instead of principles. Rotation is both good for the fellowship and for me. I can from personal experience vouch for A.A.'s wisdom in imposing term limits. I've held five different Area jobs, but each time I tended to spend a year learning each job and then one year doing it fairly well before having to start all over in a new position. Thus, rotation builds personal humility and public responsibility, two keys to useful A.A. life. Without rotation I would as a matter of simple human nature have grown complacent and arrogant and accumulated power. Forced rotation made me a better leader and benefits A.A. as a whole.

Rich H, Past Delegate Area 45 Panel 70

Get to know our Panel 72 officers and chairs

Wendy M. Alternate Delegate

How did you get started in *General Service*?

I was introduced to General Service at seven years sober because some old-timers told me to pick them up as they needed a driver. I was relatively new to Area 45 and had no idea General Service even existed at the time. What ended up happening that day changed my sobriety as I had no idea that up until then, I had only been working two out of the three Legacies.

What happened the day I went? The Delegate was Robbie W., and he stood up to give his post Delegate report. The thing that struck me was not the report, not that General Service existed, but that his daughter had been born earlier that morning. And instead of canceling or asking his Alternate Delegate to give his report, he was standing there talking about the fantastic experience he had in New York. I realized how excited and honored he was to be there. Robbie made the service look exciting.

What was your first *General Service* position?

I believe the first position I took was Registration Chair for the Convention. Unfortunately, it was also the year that I became very sick and was homebound with a pick line.

As luck would have it, I was still homebound when the registration flyers needed to be stuffed in envelopes and mailed out. We usually did it on a Sunday each year in the Hammonton church where the Convention Committee met at, but everyone came to me to do it that year because I was sick. So we sat in our one-car garage studio apartment with over 20 people sitting on the bed, couch, floor, and two stool tables stuffing envelopes. At that moment, I remember genuinely understanding for the first time that going to any lengths to help the alcoholic works in all conditions.

What was a particularly memorable/funny/remarkable experience you have had in the time you've been involved in *general service*?

My most memorable experience was the NERASSA held in Niagara Falls. I owned a mini-SUV with four-wheel drive but decided not to put the miles on my car, so I rented one. Well, when I got to the rental place, they only had a small two-door no-wheel drive car, which in normal circumstances would have been just fine, except for the literal blizzard that followed us up to New York. Every highway we went on had jack-knifed tractor-trailers, and by God's Grace, we "inched" along safe and sound. It gave the line "Keep on the firing line of life with these motives, and God will keep you unharmed" a whole new meaning for me.

What does the principle of rotation mean to you personally? The principle of rotation is essential to me as it does two things for me. First, it allows me when I begin a position to be vulnerable and humble enough to admit that I have no clue what I'm doing, but I'm willing to learn. More importantly, when I finally know how to do the position, it allows me to lay aside my ego and see how the next alcoholic can flourish by being a part of and having their own unique experience with each position. It allows me to have love and tolerance, become an elder statesperson, and practice the humility of only giving my experience when asked.

What is one piece of advice you would give someone starting in a new position? What was the best piece of advice someone gave you?

The one piece of advice I would give anyone is when you serve AA in any way, make it so attractive that the alcoholics you meet along the way can't wait to come and serve AA too. And although my service sponsor has said this to me over the years, more importantly, it's precisely what he showed me at the first Area meeting I attended.

Lightning round!

Favorite food - New Jersey Pizza

Favorite movie (why?) - Anything Marvel... who doesn't love a hero.

Spirit animal (why?) - Horses - I love how they are graceful and strong at the same time.

Hidden talent - Writing Poetry.

Dream job - Work for GSO.

Laura H., 56th Area 45 General Service Convention Chair:

How did you get started in General Service?

Actually, I thought maybe the convention all weekend was too much for me, if I am involved, I won't have idol time and all that chit chat.

What was your first General Service position?

I really don't remember, I believe hospitality

What was a particularly memorable/funny/remarkable experience you have had in the time you've been involved in general service?

Every year it's remarkable how it comes together, Registration is my most memorable experience, this was before everything was done electronically. You meet the people and know who they are when they come to the convention.

What does the principle of rotation mean to you personally?

It allows me to remember I am not in charge, and all of AA can have an opportunity to experience a wonderful adventure

What is one piece of advice you would give someone starting out in a new position? What was the best piece of advice someone gave you?

Enjoy the ride! Relax you're a volunteer not a professional

Lightning round!

Favorite food – *chocolate (does that count) Angela's salmon*

Favorite movie - *Dracula by Bram Stoker. This movie was realistic with great special effects and the never-ending story*

Spirit animal (why?) *I don't know my spirit animal*

Hidden talent - *crafty*

Dream job - *retirement*

Michelle C., Cooperation with the Professional Community/Public Information Chair:

I have always been the type of person to get involved and be part of a committee, either at my children's school or a community level. Becoming involved in AA service was not uncommon for me. It has always given me a feeling of belonging and sense of purpose.

AA service is important for me because I need it, which is different than my other volunteer committees or commitments in the past. Service at any level in AA keeps me accountable, connected, and in the know.

Here is something interesting I have found very recently while ending my two-year DCM term: once becoming acquainted and comfortable with the commitment, it is time to rotate out. I have always heard that but until now it didn't resonate with me. I have moved onto other commitments in AA and feel for me it's one of the reasons I am still sober.

There will always be AA in my life and alongside that will be a commitment. Grateful to be in service, Michelle C.

Joe E., Area 45 Chair

How did you get started in General Service?

-My entry into General Service was by mistake. A fellow homegroup member, Brendan C., asked if I could attend the monthly service meeting as he could not attend because of work. Being the good AA that I was, I said yes!! Because we don't say "No" in AA, right? Well that was back in 2014 and I have not seen Brendan C. since. Well played my friend, well played!!

What was your first General Service position?

-My very first General Service Position was as a GSR in District 16/17. I had no idea what I was getting myself into, but I knew that if I "suited up and showed up", I would be in the right place. As I look back, it was the best move I have ever made. So grateful.

What was a particularly memorable/funny/remarkable experience you have had in the time you've been involved in general service?

-My most memorable experience thus far was serving as the DCM for District 16/17 a couple of years ago. I was so nervous about chairing the meeting because I wanted to do it perfect. Little did I know, chairing the meeting was a spec of dust in comparison to experience I would have. Watching a group of strangers, form a team and acting as 1; a single unit undivided. We had one mission; to carry the message. I will never be able to thank that group for what they did for me. Thanks team!!

What does the principle of rotation mean to you personally?

-It's a safety net to save us from ourselves. It's an opportunity for you not to be sedentary in AA. It's an individual right to get your opportunity to leave a mark on AA. It's an opportunity to grow and help someone else grow while you do it.

What is one piece of advice you would give someone starting out in a new position? What was the best piece of advice someone gave you?

-My advice to anyone that is starting a new position is to ask questions. And when you're done doing that, ask someone else something different. Get perspective, take chances, put yourself out there. AA loves a tryer. The best piece of advice someone gave me was to get involved and get on a committee. This allowed me to be a part of and I felt as though I had a say in the matter. It's so easy to sit back and watch other people do it. Be that person that does it!!

Lightning round!

Favorite food-Meatloaf

Favorite movie (why?)-Rocky IV. He traveled to Russia on Christmas and avenged his best friend's death. What more could you ask from a man? Lol

Spirit animal (why?)-The Wolf-I don't know, Google said it so it must be true!!

Hidden talent-I am an NJSIAA certified official for Football, Basketball, and Baseball.

Dream job-Police Officer

George H., Area 45 Registrar

How did you get started in General Service?

I 7:30am, 6-day a week Good Morning Office City South and was a2012 cofounder. Gave rides to people. Coffee shop and boardwalk bench sobriety. The Group was big on sending speakers to rehabs and prisons.

What was your first General Service position

I was GSR for GMOC South in 2017 and Area 45 Panel needed a replacement for Treasurer and was elected to the position.

What was a particularly memorable/funny/remarkable experience you have had in the time you've been involved in general service?

The drive to NERAASA in Baltimore in 2018 and getting a 12th Step call on a home group member at a remote house 30 miles away on Chesapeake Bay, slipping away and getting instructions and navigating while my cell phone battery was dying.

What does the principle of rotation mean to you personally?

An important spiritual principle of Group and AA General Service, and tradition of principles over personalities. I arranged speakers for 7 years on Fridays which helped my sobriety, I helped Group grow/helped New comers and was annually asked back to do it. I finally realized that I needed to painfully give it up in 2019 for good of the Group.

What is one piece of advice you would give someone starting out in a new position? What was the best piece of advice someone gave you?

Try it you'll like it and keep coming back!
Always remember, a wrench for every nut in AA!

Lightning round!

- Favorite food - prime rib/mashed potatoes/asparagus
- Favorite movie (why?) Star War - like Sci fi and May the Force be with You, Marvel Avengers because I have always collected comics on super-powered beings
- Spirit animal (why?) Labrador retrievers, first dog of my kids was named Maggie. I loved walking Maggie in Crows Woods in Haddonfield with the kids
- Hidden talent Miniature Poodle Siamese Cat fight imitation (pets growing up)
- Dream job - Old Renewable Research Group in California

Justin S., Budget & Finance Chair

How did you get started in General Service?

My sponsor told me I was the new alternate GSR for our home group --- the night before an Area 45 Service Assembly --- and that I had to drive in the morning to get to orientation on time. I showed up. That's how I got started.

What was your first General Service position?

Alternate GSR for the Woodstown group.

What was a particularly memorable/funny/remarkable experience you have had in the time you've been involved in general service?

As a DCM for District 13, we organized a day trip to the General Service Office in NYC. We took a train into Penn Station together, traversed the subway system to get to GSO, it was Friday and we made it in time for an 11AM meeting in the building, before exploring the archives and talking to everyone in the office. Then we went to 9/11 ground zero and took a tour together. Local pizza for dinner, and the train ride home. I'll never forget what I learned about AA, myself or the people I still fellowship with today that day. And as a bonus, it was on my exact AA birthday.

What does the principle of rotation mean to you personally?

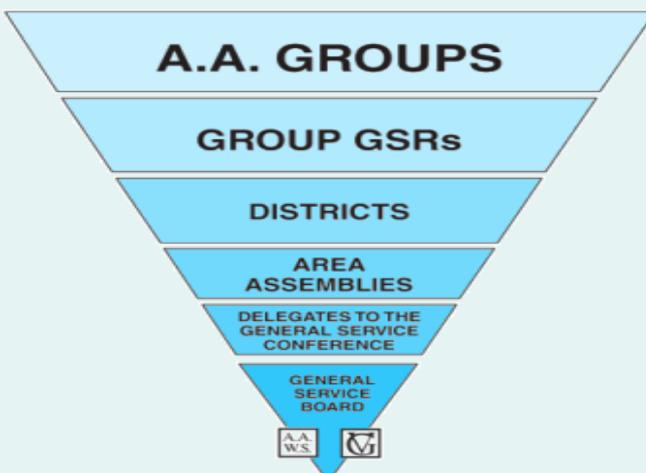
I want everyone to experience the benefits of service --- therefore getting out of the way, being a service sponsor, paying it forward is all part of rotation. Not being selfish or egotistic.

What is one piece of advice you would give someone starting out in a new position? What was the best piece of advice someone gave you?

The best advice I was given... it's not about me. Every thought, action and decision must be to help the still suffering alcoholic. Stupid fights at service meetings and in committees, and even in home group business meetings, always can be solved by asking "how does this help the next alcoholic?" If no one can clearly answer that one... don't do it. And usually everyone there quickly agrees.

Lightning round!

- Favorite food - Who am I with? Where am I? What time of year is it? My favorite food in Key West is a conch salad. My favorite food in Chicago in the winter is deep dish pizza. My favorite food anywhere hot is ice cream, especially with my kids. Food is part of the experience of the moment for me.
- Favorite movie (why?) - Again... what mood am I in... what time of year is it, etc.? Context matters. I love Die Hard at Christmas. I love Back to the Beach and North Shore in late April to kick off the summer with my kids. I love the next James Bond or Star Trek movie...
- Spirit animal (why?) - Chameleon (reason should be obvious)
- Hidden talent - would not be hidden if I told you
- Dream job - anything I haven't tried yet



Rich H., Immediate Past Delegate Panel 70~ New GSR/DCM Orientation Chair

How did you get started in General Service?

My sponsor took me to an assembly. I had no idea what it was. I thought Area 45 was where the aliens landed. The assembly was held in a warehouse in Egg Harbor city; half the cartons in the warehouse were booze. I fell in love with service. Go figure.

What was your first General Service position?

I was a GSR at an assembly and Fred E. & Elaine MacA kept saying they wanted me to meet the new Budget & Finance chair, because the old one resigned mid-panel. I asked where this new chairperson was before I figured it out, it was me. I was always a slow learner.

What was a particularly memorable/funny/remarkable experience you have had in the time you've been involved in general service?

It has all been awesome and fun. One funny thing, When I was Area Treasurer I had to make travel arrangements for the Delegate, Alternate and IPD to attend NERD. I nearly sent everyone to Portland Oregon instead of Portland Maine. It was an accident. Really.

What does the principle of rotation mean to you personally?

Personally, the principle of rotation means I am out of a job. But no, seriously, my theme has always been "humility and responsibility," and rotation forces us to be responsible and work hard whilst we have the chance and to be humble because our time is limited.

What is one piece of advice you would give someone starting out in a new position? What was the best piece of advice someone gave you?

The best advice I ever got was to never turn down the offer of a breath mint. But seriously, don't ever say something in private you wouldn't say in public. Assuming they've done their homework -- and that's a big assumption-- , the best advice I can give someone starting out in a new position is to be 10x bolder.

Lightening round!

Favorite food?

Whatever my wife cooks.

Favorite movie (why?)

Anything Mel Brooks.

Spirit animal (why?)

I like dogs, they're nicer than people.

Hidden talent

Various very un-lawyerly skills.

Dream job

Immediate Past Delegate, Area 45.

Tanya D., Policy Chair

How did you get started in General Service?

I was elected as alternate GSR for my home group. I had some really good service mentors and service sponsor along the way!

What was your first General Service position?

Alternate GSR for my home group.

What was a particularly memorable/funny/remarkable experience you have had in the time you've been involved in general service?

My very first NERAASA. There were 1,000 AA members in one room saying the Declaration of Unity. I could have cried! It felt so good to be around other AA's who cared so much about giving back to the fellowship that saved my life.

What does the principle of rotation mean to you personally?

It means allowing others to learn and grow. It also reminds me that change is a good thing that I need to embrace.

What is one piece of advice you would give someone starting out in a new position? What was the best piece of advice someone gave you?

Ask questions! The only dumb question is the one that isn't asked.

Get a service sponsor - game changer for me.

Lightning round!

Favorite food - Ice cream

Favorite movie (why?) - Pulp Fiction, too many reasons to list

Spirit animal (why?) - butterfly, represents transformation

Hidden talent - I'm really good at organization even if it doesn't always look pretty

Dream job - US EPA administrator (that position is appointed by the President!)

A message from our Area 45 Delegate

I am an alcoholic, and my name is Ken T.

My Home Group is the Atlantic City Young Peoples Group.

My AA birthday is November 23, 2006. I have recovery sponsor, and a service sponsor.

I'm privileged to serve Area 45 as the Panel 72 Delegate to the General Service Conference. For those unfamiliar with the Delegate's role, the Delegate is an elected Trusted Servant, a voting member of the annual General Service Conference.

The USA and Canada are divided into 93 geographic Areas, and each Area has a number of Districts. It is recommended that each AA group elect a General Service Representative, or (GSR) to carry your Groups conscience to your groups District at a monthly meeting. At this meeting your GSR will have access to activity at the General Service Office, and prior to the Conference, a list of Agenda Items that effect AA as a whole.

The Delegate, through communication with AA groups in their Area, prepares to be the Voting Representative of their Area.

Every year before the Conference, the Area hosts a Mini Conference, where All AA members are presented the Conference Agenda items, and have an opportunity to vote their conscience. A report of these votes are given to the Delegate. The Delegate does his best to "Vote the Conscience" of his Area, and make the best decisions possible for AA as a whole.

I have had many service opportunities during my membership in AA, and I believe all of them have played an important role in preparing me for this awesome opportunity.

I have a working knowledge of the 12 Steps, 12 Traditions, and 12 Concepts of World Service. I am in regular contact with our Northeast Regional Trustee, and the 17 other Delegates in the Northeast Region. I Love our Beautiful Fellowship.

My experience, Love of AA, and sense of responsibility to the future of AA, keeps me in a state of perpetual Gratitude, and allows me to contribute to our Primary Purpose of staying sober, and carrying AA's message of recover to the still suffering alcoholic.

I gladly acknowledge that my life today, and my ability to be of service to AA, and the world about me is a direct result of a reliance on the God of my understanding, my Home Group, sponsors, and all of the wonderful members of AA that have passed on the many gifts they have received on their journey. I look forward to sharing news from GSO in the future in this forum.

Feel free to contact me any time at:

Delegate@SNJAA.org

In Love & Service

Ken T

Area 45 Delegate

Panel 72 (NJ)

Spotlight on AA History

From the desk of your Area 45 Archives

The Archives committee of Area 45 wants to help spread the message of AA. In that effort a regular column is now created to inform the fellowship of what is going on. In the collection and preservation of AA history, the Area 45 archives committee is currently preparing for the annual convention in March. We are meeting on-line and working via virtual resources, but the convention plans to be live. The archives display plans to be interactive with opportunities to relax and enjoy an exploration into the history of AA. Exhibits shall be audio, visual and tactile.

The committee invites questions about AA history and has the GSO as a resource for information. This column will be a platform for asking and answering. For example: Many have wondered where Dr. Bob stayed during his last binge during the AMA convention of 1935. We know that it was held in Atlantic City and that Dr. Bob attended (so to speak). He reported spending most of the time drunk, and was known to use aliases. He probably didn't remember the entire convention. I had the great honor to speak to Gail L. , the first archivist for the GSO and historian for Dr. Bob's house in Akron Ohio. She had no idea herself, and was surprised at how much our committee knew about this. So, the question still exists and all are invited to submit theories or facts about this. Look for more about this important event at the Area 45 convention in March 2022. Send any questions you have about AA and/or Area 45 to archives@snjaa.org. They may become part of future columns.

For this column we are blessed to have an inspired historian among us. George H. has been helping me look into Area 45 history with plans to create a document/timeline connecting it to existing written AA history. He wrote the following essay that was drawn from the outline of the famous Gettysburg address. He adapted it to the mind set of a current member of the AA fellowship and addresses the focus of AA and the work of spreading the message of AA.

Hopefully you will benefit from and enjoy this column.

Yours in service, **Roy C. Chair, Archives Committee, Area 45, Panel 72**

Four Score and Seven Years Ago (1935)

A New Years 2022 Message of Recovery, Unity and Service for Post COVID Rebuilding by George H.

Four score and seven years ago (1935), Bill W. and Dr. Bob brought forth, upon this world, a new Fellowship in Akron Ohio, conceived in hope and dedicated to proposition that all those suffering the disease of alcoholism can recover.

AA Founders were engaged in a great spiritual endeavor, testing whether the Akron Group, or any Group so conceived, and so dedicated, could long endure. One day at a time, our Groups meet to rededicate our and demonstrate our recovery to help the Alcoholic who still suffers and pass on the message of the Three Legacies of Recovery, Unity and Service in our humble fellowship to alcoholics and the Groups in which they recover.

But in a larger sense, we can not dedicate, we can not consecrate, we can not hallow the message of those suffering alcoholics that came before and lost their battle to alcoholism and the hope of those still living to carry that message of recovery on in our Groups to the still sick and suffering alcoholic.

The world will little note or long remember what we share in our anonymous Groups. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated every day to the never ending work of hope and recovery which those who passed the message onto us here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us today in our Groups to be dedicated to the humble task remaining before us—that from these honored AA members who pass it on to us, that we take increased devotion to our primary purpose for which they here gave the last full measure of devotion in service of recovery and unity—that we here highly resolve that passed message on to us since 1935, shall not have died in vain—that this fellowship, under God, shall have a new birth of hope in recovery, unity and service and that Fellowship of the alcoholics, by alcoholics, for alcoholics, shall not perish from the earth.



Area 45 Winter Assembly

Sunday 2/20/2022

Meeting ID: 880 3048 5874
Passcode: winter45

- Registration starts at 8:30 am
- GSR Orientation starts at 8:45 am
- Assembly starts at 10 am.
- Committee meeting to follow

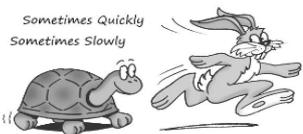


Convention is coming!

56th Area 45 General Service Convention

LIVE "Sometimes Quickly, Sometimes Slowly"

VIRTUAL (Key Events only)



March 18-19-20, 2022

The Claridge Hotel

123 S. Indiana Ave
Atlantic City, NJ

[No On-Site Casino]

6g
You must request an ASL
Interpreter in your Registration

- AA Speakers
- Al-Anon Speakers
- Roaring 20's Banquet & Dance
- Sobriety Count Down
- Marathon Meetings
- Al-Anon Skit (TBD)
- Entertainment
- Selfie Stations
- AA's Got Talent (Open Mic)
- Karaoke

More to come on the website
Hotel Amenities
Great Hotel Stay Discount
* Arcade * Gym *
*Indoor Pool * Starbucks *



<https://area45convention.org/>
See website for information,
sign-ups, events, activities, etc
registration opens in Nov 2021




AA'S Got Talent (Show)

at the
2022 Area 45 Convention

March 18, 19 & 20th

**The Claridge Hotel
Atlantic City Nj**

Family friendly
Event

Show starts at 9pm Friday the 18th
Contact Pat M, Matt J or Roy C at
area45talent@gmail.com
Call or Text 609 498 5458
To register to be in the show





NERAASA 2022

Northeast Regional
AA Service Assembly



FEB. 25-27
WPA AREA 60
PITTSBURGH, PA

This is as close as it gets in the Northeast Region
to where it all started ... Dr. Bob's House in Akron, OH
is just 2 hours away.

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT
INFO2022@NERAASA.ORG

Save the Date!

Sunday, April 3, 2022

**Area 45 Mini
Conference**

9:00 to 12:00 @

Ocean Acres Community Center, 489 Nautilus Dr, Manahawkin, NJ 08050

What is the Mini Conference ?

The Area 45 Mini-Conference connects the AA member and his/her home group to the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship. General Service Conference Agenda Items are discussed and voted on at this Conference. The purpose of the Mini-Conference is to provide the Area Delegate with Area 45's collective conscience on these agenda items prior to attending the General Service Conference

Click [HERE](#) for new GSO contribution mailing address

Don't Miss this Popular Title from Grapevine!



Just published!

FREE ON THE INSIDE

Stories of AA Recovery in Prison

Click [HERE](#) to order

Free on the Inside features 50+ powerful stories by sober members of Alcoholics Anonymous who have experienced AA in prison—while either currently serving, formerly incarcerated, or as outside AA members carrying the message inside.

Carrying the message of recovery into institutions has long been a critically important aspect of service in AA. Chapters include: finding AA in prison, staying sober inside, women helping one another, working the Twelve Steps, sponsorship and carrying the AA message into prisons.

SERVICE MANUAL STUDY

DECEMBER 22, 2021 ~ MARCH 16, 2022

ZOOM MEETING ID: 452-100-1634 PC: 31236

LET'S STUDY

THE A.A. SERVICE MANUAL
combined with
TWELVE CONCEPTS FOR WORLD SERVICE
by Bill W.

WITH A PAST PANEL 49 DELEGATE & PAST CLASS B GENERAL SERVICE TRUSTEE, **BILLY N.** AS HE SHARES HIS EXPERIENCE, STRENGTH & HOPE



2021-2023 Edition
REVISED AND UPDATED

WEDNESDAYS

8 PM EASTERN

7 PM CENTRAL~6 PM MOUNTAIN~5 PM PACIFIC

2021 Election Assembly

Area 45 Fall Assembly Minutes 2021

The Fall assembly was held Virtually on November 21, 2021 in New Jersey.

GSR/DSM orientation was held at 8:45 AM.

10:00 AM. PANEL OFFER ELECTION

Chaired by Immediate Past Delegate Rose S.

Delegate: Ken T

Alternate Delegate: Wendy M

Chair: Joe E

Treasurer: Phil K

Secretary: Scott P

Registrar: George H

2021 Fall Assembly Minutes

Assembly Meeting

The assembly meeting began at 12:45 AM and was opened with the serenity prayer.

[Welcome from the Area Chair](#)

[Intergroup Chair Reports:](#)

Cape Atlantic Intergroup - no report

Central Jersey Intergroup - no report

South Jersey Intergroup - no report

[DCM and Section Leader Reports:](#)

Section I Leader - Good morning. I'd like to thank everyone who helped today's Assembly to happen. Since the Summer Assembly Districts have been involved with the Unity Picnic in September and Movie Night in October. Both were great events and enjoyed by participants! As the end of 2021 approaches our efforts continue. We have 2 annual events yet to come. District 24 is getting ready for a New Year's Eve Alkathon and District 22-23 is preparing for New Year's Day Alkathon. The flyers will be distributed shortly.

I am delighted to let you know we have someone who is willing to be the District 4 DCM. We are in the process of calling a meeting and reenergizing the process. Thank you for letting me serve.

District 03 - I'm Michelle, I am an alcoholic and here is my last report as DCM. During our November district meeting we voted in new members. It is true what is said about your final days in a service position; just as you start feeling comfortable and at ease with your position the spirit of rotation has you move onto something else.

I am excited to announce our new District 3 members for the next two years; Pat as DCM, Linda B, Alternate DCM, Donna C as our Secretary, and Orange Sue as our possible Treasurer.

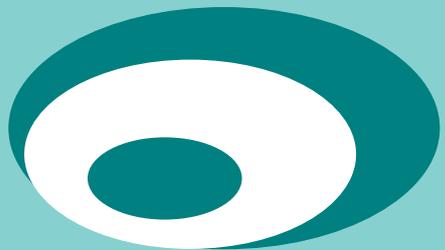
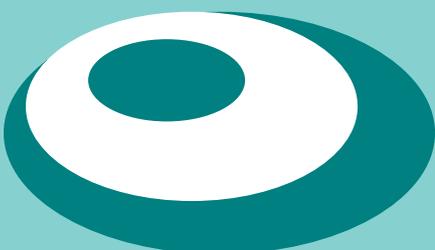
I want to thank the current members of district 3 for their patience and dedication over these past 2 years. We were successfully able to maintain our district along with hosting a few online workshops during a global pandemic. How about that?!

Thank you again for allowing me to serve as your DCM.

District 04 - VACANT

Districts 22 & 23 - Verbal Report

District 24 - Verbal Report



District 25 - The district is planning the following events (please note date, time, place, etc.):

The Gratitude Banquet and Dance, typically held in November, was cancelled due to lack of communication from the venue. The committee will reconvene in 2022.

At the last District meeting, the following items were discussed and/or actions were taken:

The annual Unity picnic as held on Sunday, September 12, 2021 from 12-5pm at the Mercer County Park East Picnic Area in West Windsor NJ and was a great success! The District still has one expense to reimburse.

District 25 elected a new Secretary, Treasurer, and Alt-DCM.

Our current bank account balance is: \$4,823.33

The District meets the first Monday of each month at 7pm

Location: Meetings are held in person at our new meeting location: First Presbyterian Church of Hightstown, 320 N Main St, Hightstown, NJ 08520.

Tanya D

Section II Leader - no report

District 05 - VACANT

District 06 - VACANT

District 07 - VACANT

District 08 - Verbal Report

District 09 - VACANT

District 10 - no report

District 26 - Hi All, we meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm, at the Logan Presbyterian Church, Merchant St Audubon.

Our district has been quiet over the last 3 months, we have 6-8 GSR's who faithfully come to our monthly meetings and there is great support from District 10.

We've had good ideas for workshops, just trouble getting anything off the ground.

As my term comes to a close, I am grateful for the support I received during my 3 years as DCM. I have learned so much about the workings of AA as a whole.

I am so happy to welcome Lisa B as our new DCM, she'll do a terrific job for our GSR's and the Area. She has lots of ideas and I am looking forward to supporting her as she gets District 26 going again!

Thank you allowing me to serve,

Pam A

District 27 - no report

Co-Section Leaders III Leaders - no report

District 12 - no report

District 13 - VACANT

District 14 - Verbal Report

District 20 - VACANT

District 21 - VACANT

District 28 - VACANT

District 29 - VACANT

Section IV Leader - Good morning and thank you to everyone that put this assembly together and made this opportunity for service possible. As we continue to venture into 2021, Section IV continues to carry the message of hope and service throughout.

Districts 15 is meeting in person on the 2nd Wednesday of the month in Tuckerton. They have an upcoming Dinner/Dance on Sunday December 5th and will have a keynote speaker, Kelly W, in which will be discussing service

District 16/17 continues to meet virtually on the 1st Thursday of the month and is in the process of implementing a workshop around service work in the near future

District 18 is meeting in person on the 1st Sunday of each month in Ocean City. They had a fantastic workshop that focused on the prayers of AA and had approximately 40 fellow members in attendance. Great work team!!

I continue to have the opportunity to be a member of the Budget and Finance Committee as well as the Chair the Ad hoc Committee for Hybrid Meetings.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the AAs of Section 4 for the opportunity to serve you for the past 2 years. It was an experience I will never forget, and I will take those memories with me wherever I go. You could've done it without me, but I certainly could not have done it without you. I want to wish everyone on this call as well as Area 45 a happy holiday season, and I look forward to connecting with everyone in the future. Take care.

District 15 - Greetings Everyone! I am Kevin H. an alcoholic. I asked Anthony B. To read my report. Few tickets are remaining for the District 15 speaker, dinner, dance at Holiday Inn Manahawkin NJ. Dec. 5, 2021, 5-9pm. Last day to purchase tickets is November 26. Kelly W. A45 Chair P70 has graciously accepted our invitation to be our speaker. The topic she will present is service. Thank you, Kelly, for your service! Our treasure reported \$528 Holiday ticket sales, check out for 37.27 cost of printing tickets, balance \$4,901.51. Thank you all for your service in this Holiday Event.
Working on humility and responsibility.
Kevin H.

District 16 & 17 - no report

District 18 -
Verbal Report

District 19 - no report

Ad Hoc - Verbal Report

Archives - No Report

Audio - Verbal Report

Budget & Finance - My name is Phil, and I am an alcoholic.

Thank you for the chance to serve Area 45, first as a member and then later as chairperson of the budget and finance committee. And a special thank you to Andrew, Joe, George, Kelly, and Rich. We have done good work on this committee!

The financial health of Area 45 is strong at this time. Over the past 6 months, contributions have steadily increased. Contributions over the past few months are significantly more than we forecast when the current budget was being developed last summer and fall. Area expenses have been, and continue to be, less than we forecast in this budget. The current budget was developed while we were about 6 months into a global pandemic and while New Jersey was actively rolling back restrictions on gatherings. It's not a surprise that the reality of Area's financial situation today doesn't match up exactly with our assumptions from last year, but if your possible outcomes are having more funding than you thought or having less funding than you thought...I hope we can agree to agree that we're in an OK spot.

Since our last assembly, we have continued to support the hybrid meeting capability ad hoc committee. The more research the ad hoc committee did, the more manageable the price tag became. Thanks to everyone on the ad hoc for their hard work. In the committee portion later, there will be two motions related to the work of the hybrid meeting ad hoc committee. Based on my understanding of Area finances, and based on my work with ad hoc, I will simply say that Area 45 possesses the funding to make the hybrid meetings a reality. Stick around for details of those two motions.

In the next couple months, it will be appropriate to amend the existing budget based on the enthusiastic rebound in contributions. It is a goal of our approved 2021-2022 budget to actually spend more money than we take in. I am not going to throw in the towel and admit defeat on that feature of our budget, but I will say that we COLLECTIVELY have a need for ideas to be met with actions. The incoming Area Committee has the resources to revisit past successes AND to do what hasn't even been considered yet.

Enjoy the holiday season and thank you for the opportunity to serve.

56th Annual 2022 Convention - Good afternoon

Congratulations to the new Area 45 panel and committee Chairs. I am Laura your 56th 2022 Convention chair.

Registration opened on November 1st and I am happy to report as of yesterday, we have 84 registrations and 122 room nights.

"Sometime quickly, sometimes slowly" is our 2022 logo.

Jean, Public information has distributed registration flyers around the region and is available on our website area45convention.org to download. Help get the word out

Our Program chair and her committee have picked their speakers, and all were available to participate in our 2022 convention. Now that elections have come, our program committee are excited and will be reaching out for Area 45 committees to participate in workshops. You are more than welcome to reach out as well.

Our table manager will reach out as well to Area 45 committees that would like to set up your displays, there is an ample space for tables. We are excited to mention that Archives has a room of their own to display AA's history.

We recently went on retreat to the Bill Wilson House and on standby for a July date for the next convention committee.

We need volunteers at the convention to assist with our registration tables and for our marathon meetings that will run after the last speaker until 7am, Friday and Saturday.

We look forward to seeing you on March 18, 19, and 20th of 2022 at the Claridge hotel in Atlantic City.

Respectfully yours,
Laura H.

Corrections - Good Morning to All,

My name is Tressa it has been an honor a blessing & an adventure to have served as your Corrections Chair for this Panel! I am so grateful for having had the opportunity to serve Area 45. I apologize for not being present this morning I am working a new job and the hours do not allow me much flexibility. Here is my report.

I was able to attend a round up and Area 45 corrections had a table thank you Ken T for helping out while I was working and to all of those who participated in the round up it was a wonderful experience to be back doing service in person. However, we're not so lucky with the State clearance process. We are still not able to get into the state prisons or the county jails. We have several jails and prisons that are in the process of receiving some literature that should be done by the end of the month. Our current balance is \$8500.90 with deposits of \$897.35 for the month of September October November. I am willing and available to work with the incoming chair & will do all I can to make that transition a smooth one. This has been a very hectic for me last year for me, I will be stepping away from every 45 service to pursue my education and addictions thank you for allowing me to serve. It has been such an honor to serve with such a dedicated AA service members. Yay for AA!

Love and
Service, Tressa

DCM/GSR Orientation -

6 GSR's
2 DCM's
1 Alt. DCM

Grapevine - no report



Policy - The committee met virtually on October 21st and discussed the following items: 1) Reviewed the happenings from the Summer Assembly as they relate to this committee, 2) Discussed multiple suggestions for updating the Area Handbook, 3) Reviewed Third Legacy procedures, 4) Discussed each committee members' responsibility for the Fall Assembly, 5) Discussed a suggestion from our Delegate to consider moving the election assembly to October, and 6) Discussed the 2022 handbook cover.

The committee agreed on potential actions to be taken but did not want to solidify anything for the new policy committee. All suggestions are presented to Panel 72's Policy Committee to make their own decisions.

The past two years have been a wonderful learning experience. I am so grateful for the opportunity to serve in this position. Thank you to Tanya and Marcella for all your hard work. We could not have accomplished anything without them, and I hope their policy journey continues into panel 72. Thank you again for the honor to be of service

Registration - Verbal Report

21 GSR 5
Alt GSR
5 DCM-
0 Alt DCM -
2 Section Leaders
6 Panel members
4 Past Delegates
6 Security
7 Area Committee Chairs
0 Int group Chair-
2 Visitors or non labeled -

Total attendees 58

(Recorded by the secretary)

Area Panel Reports:

Secretary - My name is Randi [L](#) and I am an alcoholic. It is my privilege to serve as your Area 45 Secretary. Since our last assembly I've been to convention planning meetings and a convention Unity event.

I went to support the Unity Picnic put on by Section 1 on September 12th in Mercer park.

I was asked to speak at 3 meetings. I continue doing my intergroup hotline commitment. I have finished an 8-week workshop going through the General Service Convention Final Report and now I have new weekly workshop taking us through the new service manual. I was part of the ad hoc committee where we met several times to plan a solution to have hybrid meetings for the area 45 in the future.

I attended the Southwest Regional Forum for the weekend of October 8 -10 by zoom and the Jalcon convention October 16 by zoom. I participated in the Area 45 Day of Sharing on October 23 where the intergroups met with the area to share ideas. I attended the Waves Round up Convention November 5 - 8 put on by Cape Atlantic Intergroup. This was a great weekend, and the panel was privileged to put on a workshop there and I had a great time doing so. The past two days I've been at 55AAS6 the Southern States Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly on zoom while simultaneously checking in on the East Central Regional Forum.

Two years and many emails have flown by since you elected me you Area 45 Secretary. It has been such a wonderful and growing experience for me. I am so grateful, I could never put a value on it, the time has been so precious. I thank you ever so much.

In love and service,
Randi



Registrar - Good morning Panel 70 and to all assembly attendees. My name is Scott P and I'm alcoholic, I happily serve as your Area 45 Registrar

Let me begin this report by thanking all of you for your participation. It certainly has been an exciting and most unpredictable panel term. Each of us has faced the roller coaster ride of the pandemic and here we are now stronger and wiser as trusted servants and as a fellowship. The question facing us now is where do we go from here? We are at the beginning of a whole new start in AA history. Today as we perform our area business and look to the future practicing the spirit of rotation I encourage all of you to make yourselves available for future service roles.

Participation is key for us as an area and for the future trusted servants to come. Passing on our experience is how we're able to keep it. Thank you again for your willingness to serve AA as a whole.

GSO had another training session on Nov 3rd, 2021 and due to conflicting work schedule, I was unable to attend. As previously mentioned GSO has suggested that groups begin using the new 9-digit Group ID or Net Suite #'s when identifying your groups 7th tradition contributions. If for some reason your group doesn't know the new numbers, please feel free to reach out to me because the old 7-digit FNV #'s will begin being phased out in the near future with the completion of the transfer to the FC application at GSO. If your group doesn't have a GSR still reach out and we can look up your groups number and update a group, contact allowing information to flow thru to your group by way of the Area and GSO.

I thank you all for this opportunity it's been my pleasure to serve our Area as Registrar and I'm looking forward to the next service commitment.

Respectfully Submitted, Scott P

Alternate Delegate - Verbal Report

Delegate - My name is Rich H, and I am an alcoholic. I am honored to serve your delegate for Area 45 Panel 70. This is my final report.

First congratulations to all those who were chosen to serve as Panel 72 and special thanks to those who made themselves available but were not picked this time. Also, I offer a special thanks to the tech folks who carry us through so that we can conduct the business of AA virtually.

We have heard about how Area is doing financially and so I will just touch on AAW's situation briefly. per Francis, our NE Regional Trustees, as of October 31, 2021, with 10 months or 83% of the year completed: contributions received are 84% of budget, literature sales are around 85% of budget, payroll and benefits are rounded to 81% of budget, and total expenses weight-in at 81% of budget. With contributions and sales at 84% and 85% respectively and expenses coming in at 81%, AAW has a 10-month surplus of \$1.92 million, unaudited, compared to a budget surplus of \$750,000; so, as Francis says, the consensus is still that we are still looking good! The hope is that AAW might be able to return an added \$750,000 to the prudent reserve and bring it back up to 9.0 months.

In other news, The General Service Office employees are back at 475 Riverside Drive. the General Service Board issued on November 1, 2021, a draft report on the fourth quarterly meeting. The report is extensive, and I will spend time reviewing it with our new Delegate as it will form the To Do list for the next conference.

Some highlights. By September 15, the Conference desk received 178 proposed agenda items forms, some on the same items, which were all processed and sent to the right committee/board for the fourth quarter General Service Board weekend. The design, planning and implementation of the Equitable Distribution of Workload (EDW) process has overwhelmed the Conference assignment. I have shared with the past conference coordinator Patrick C my belief that we as a Conference did not give adequate reflection in enacting EDW and that its adoption may have been premature.

These 178 items include Area 45's request that the Conference look at how Chairs are picked for Delegate Conference Committees. The Trustee's Conference Committee felt that Delegates already have the choice to use the Third Legacy and so the change was not needed. While the Trustees are not wrong that the Delegates could demand that the 3rd Legacy be used, they missed the point that it is never mentioned and that in some cases the Conference staff steamroll using simple majority votes. But who knows, maybe someone will bring the issue up again.

Update on the development of the plain and simple language version of the Fourth Edition of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous: The Publishing department has been working closely with a sub-Committee of trustees' Literature and a RFI was

distributed to which a pool of eighteen (18) candidates responded - demonstrating professional experience writing in the fields: health & wellness, self-help, education, spirituality, psychology, sociology, government, and policymaking, and more.

One of the ironies of being Delegate is my newfound love for Grapevine, which prior to being Delegate I thought should be scrapped or made digital only or whatever. Grapevine is now directly receiving the list of inmates who have reached out to help from AA and can report that Grapevine is officially at a deficit of carry the message subscriptions. Grapevine received a list of over 2000 requests from the Corrections desk and have only 1,200 English Carry the Message Grapevine Subscriptions and 401 La Vina subscriptions in the pool. So please report out to those that contributed their subscriptions are making it to prisoners and the need for more is real.



Delegate Continued

As to the Preamble: The Grapevine Board thoughtfully reviewed each of the seven or eight requests about the Preamble and took no action on any of them as the board was already preparing and sending an agenda item to discuss the wide-ranging impact the Preamble change has had on our A.A. Fellowship.

There is a lot more going on so if you or your district need or want more info, I would be glad to chat with you. But it has been a long day and now I need to pass this AA job on. I think that in the last decade a lot of solid work was done by all those in service to Area and I thank you for it.

Area's questionable legal structure and dubious financial controls have been bolstered so that we were able to continue to serve our groups throughout the pandemic. Sometimes long-term projects that are difficult are easy to put aside, to work on more short term and spectacular projects. But it is the unspectacular day to day work that I believe pays the greatest dividends.

To that end as we emerge from the pandemic, I believe a special attention must be paid to our districts and the sections of area 45. The districts and sections have been hammered by the disruptions that has affected all of us so greatly. Work on building up sections and districts in | area 45 will pay dividends in the future.

on a personal note, leaving a job I love is in no way easy. About a dozen years ago I first joined area service as the budget and finance chair for the last half of panel 60. Since then, I have been in continuous service to area. I believe I have not missed the single assembly in that time. So obviously this is going to be a tremendous change for me personally. I'll have to start buying my own meals for one!

But I have to say that not only has this been a rewarding experience, but it has been a total blast. I have been able to travel to myriad events and meet amazing people all of which has changed my life for the better. And these gifts come at an exceedingly small price --a couple of hours of my time, all of which if I need to be fair would belong to this fellowship in gratitude for what I have received.

Thanks to everyone that helped me along, and especially Fred E, Joe O, and the late great John Kane. I would like to end with just a couple of thoughts.

Generally, do not contribute seventh tradition money to other entities that get their own 7th tradition contributions. we have an obligation to constructively use the contributions received to carry the message locally, and not to regift funds received to New York or any other entity.

Get informed. Get informed. Get informed.

Be Bold.

And do not forget, Humility + Responsibility = Progress Thanks for letting me serve, Rich H

ASSEMBLY MOTIONS

Motion #1: Move that the current name of the Special Needs Committee be changed to the Accessibility Committee (Ken T.)

Motion Passed

Motion #2: Move that the Virtual Tech Committee be established as a standing committee of Area 45 (Ken T.)

Motion Passed

Motion #3: Move that the Area approves updates to the 2022 Area 45 Handbook (Policy Committee)

Motion Passed

Meeting Adjourned

Area Committee Meeting

Meeting Began at 2:16 PM

Motion #1: The Ad Hoc committee moves that the Area approves a \$2,000 for the equipment needed to host area events in a hybrid format.

**Friendly amendment: increase the amount to \$2500 as a budget*

Motion passed and will be set to Winter 2022 agenda

Motion #2: The Area 45 Budget and Finance Committee recommends the following amendment to the approved 2021-2022 budget. The Core Expenses budget line item for "Virtual Platform" in 2022 will be increased by \$660, from an approved amount of \$175 to \$835

Motion passed and will be set to Winter 2022 agenda

Meeting adjourned

NERAASA Van



Greetings Area 45 and I hope this email finds you safe and well. I wanted to reach out to you today in regards to the Area 45 Van that will be going to NERAASA in Pittsburgh, PA. As of now, I have 5 members that will be riding in the van, however the van holds 15. In turn, I have room for 10 more members to participate. So, if you are going to NERAASA and need a ride please reach out to me and let me know. It will be first come, first serve. Details below:

-Will meet at the Cape Atlantic Intergroup Office in Egg Harbor Township, NJ (3153 Fire Rd Suite #1-C Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234)

