

## **Area 45 Winter Assembly Minutes 2024**

The winter assembly was held at the Ocean Acres Community Center in Manahawkin on February 18, 2024 in New Jersey.

GSR/DCM orientation was held at 8:45 am.

### **Assembly Meeting**

The assembly meeting was opened with the serenity prayer.

Roll Call by Secretary

Anonymity Statement by Policy Chair

Welcome from the Chair

Introductions of new GSRs/DCMs and AA Anniversaries Celebrated

Reports were provided and are presented below in the order given:

### **Intergroup Chairs Reports**

#### **Cape Atlantic: Dawn I.**

Good morning. I am a Grateful recovered alcoholic, named Dawn. Good to be here, good to be sober.

Since our last meeting, CAIG hosted our 17th annual round up at the Grand in Cape May in November. It was well attended with over 200 members enjoying meetings, workshops and fellowship.

We held elections in December and have only 3 committee chair positions still open. Archives, Newsletter and Website. Anyone interested??

We are currently working on our 2024 budget. Our treasury is in good standing and we are continuously looking for new, creative ways to bring Unity Events to our members. It was a pleasure joining the last Area 45 Accessibility Committee meeting and I'm so excited to work with Pat and his team. It has been awhile since we've had an Accessibility Committee at CAIG and we've recently had requests for our help. Looking over the upcoming calendar I've noticed that Area 45 has an Inventory planned for later this year. I would love if whoever is planning this project could reach out to me or our Policy & Structure Chair Doug G. CAIG is also hoping to conduct an inventory, since it has been quite some time since we've conducted one, and we would appreciate brainstorming. This year we are looking forward to selling literature and performing our skit "There is a Solution" at the Convention in March. We are also ready to host the Day of Sharing in October. We're in the process of researching venues. Any suggestions are welcomed. Hope to see many of you at this weekend's NERASSA. We have a van load heading there Friday!!

Thanks for allowing me to serve.

## **South Jersey: Bill T.**

SJ Intergroup has a new and improved Office at 1000 White Horse Rd. (Suite 702), Voorhees Township. We are in the planning stages of scheduling an Open House- visit [aasj.org](http://aasj.org) for this and all ongoing info.

SJ Intergroup has most positions filled. We still need a Budget and Finance Committee and Treasurer Assistant. Literature & Technology seek Assistants and all Committees ask for members.

There are 2 things on my mind as the new chair, first; thinking of ways to be more transparent with the IGRs so they feel involved and second, simplify so that when our terms are up we haven't made it more complicated for the next person to take over.

Thank you for your service,  
Bill  
[chair@aasj.org](mailto:chair@aasj.org)

## **DCM / Section Leader Reports**

### **Section IV**

#### **District 15: Rich J**

D15 meets in-person on the second Wednesday of each month at the Episcopalian Church of the Holy Spirit, 220 East Main Street in Tuckerton. Currently serving are DCM, Secretary, Treasurer, Alternate Treasurer and eight to ten GSRs.

Despite diligent and ongoing efforts we have not yet established the ability for virtual attendance at our monthly meetings. We have successfully used our personal cell phones to allow for a single virtual attendee at a time here and there but the cellular bandwidth requirements for regular group virtual attendance is proving to be a technological challenge that continues to elude us.

Our new officers are orienting themselves well following our end-of-year service rotations. Tara C, James M and Mike P are capable and trusted servants as District 15 Secretary, Treasurer and Alt Treasurer, respectively. We are angling to fill service roles for Alt DCM and Alt Secretary but no bites yet.

In particular I want to express gratitude to our newly appointed D15 Secretary, Tara C. She brings a lot of experience and passion to our little service campfire. She goes above and beyond to impart knowledge and insight to our officers and GSRs. She brings alive the spirit of AA service at the group level and beyond the group level. I'm confident that she will contribute to the organization of workshops and events this year for District 15. Can we put a pulse into this service body? The jury is still out on that. But with trusted servants like Tara, James and Mike, a few good GSRs and ongoing support from Rob M., our Section 4 leader, we've got a few chips in the game. February service efforts are focused on informing and orienting GSRs about the topics for the upcoming mini-conference and 74th Annual General Service Conference.

Lastly, our February 2024 treasury report indicates a financial balance of \$4868.78.

Yours in Loving Service,

Rich J, District 15 DCM

**District 16/17: Alyssa F.**

Good morning everyone, my name is Alyssa and I'm an Alcoholic, as well as your DCM for District 16 & 17.

Our District's hybrid meeting is at 6:15pm on the first Thursday of every month at the Cape Atlantic Intergroup Office. We regularly average about 15 GSRs at this meeting. Our balance is currently \$4,375.09 and we've had continued discussions about reducing our prudent reserve.

We hosted a 2-Speaker meeting and Pizza Party on January 6, called "The Joy of Living," where Ken T. and Dee Donna S. shared about service and their sobriety. We had about 40 people in attendance!

We also made a \$1,000 donation to GSO in response to their request letter sent in November. GSRs had their Homegroups vote on this use of funds, which passed unanimously.

We hosted elections in November, all positions rotated except DCM, since I stepped in mid-term.

We look forward to hosting another district event/workshop in early Spring. Thank you!

**District 18: Paul H.**

My name is Paul Herbert. I am the outgoing DCM for District 18 (northern Cape May County). Our new DCM will be taking over in early March.

Our most recent district meeting was held on January 7, 2024, at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 2998 Bay Ave, Ocean City. Five GSRs attended as well as new DCM Rob G., Section IV Leader Rob M., and Past Delegate Joe O.

Our next meeting will be March 3, 2024.

Many members of our district contributed to providing breakfast for today's assembly. I want to thank all that contributed for their service. Special thanks to those that made the trip here today to help.

We are sending two district members to NERAASA next weekend. Our current treasury balance is \$4115.26. I want to thank our local groups for their continuing generosity.

**Section IV Leader: Rob M.**

Hi, my name is Rob and I'm an alcoholic. I have the honor and privilege to serve as the Section 4 Leader.

Thank you to section 4 for hosting today's Assembly. I would like to thank District 18 for a fantastic breakfast and District 15 for not only setting up, and hosting but for also stepping up at the last minute and taking care of lunch.

Since the last Assembly, I was able to sit in at a few of our district meetings. District 15 is vibrant and active. District 16/17 is moving along. District 19 seems to be struggling a bit with finding a new DCM. If anyone from 19 is here today please see me after the assembly.

As far as upcoming district events I'll let the DCM's tell you about them.

In Love and Service,  
Rob M.  
Section 4 Leader

**SPECIAL DISTRICT(S)**  
**District 42 (Virtual): Heather S.**

Greetings and Salutations! My name is Heather and I'm DEFINITELY an alcoholic!

Since our last assembly I feel like our entire virtual community has lived a lifetime, but this baby Virtual District just celebrated 9 months with no holidays or weekend's off! Before anything I'd like to start at the beginning which is that in my report last assembly our District asked for help, and we received it IMMEDIATELY. Wheels may turn slow but the people trying to move them began the second we finished praying together. How much more into action can an Area be? I will always promote growth and harmony in my service role, even as we share our struggles so can we make change unified each day we rise. The virtual community has felt dismissed and ignored in many spaces but remain respectfully vocal about our presence, needs and especially what we have to offer freely. In my literal global travels and conversations with fellowships all over the world I see that the today we live in is blessed to have the service fellows of Area 45.

This overly organized brain mapped out a plan to find the needs of this District and what kaleidoscope of possibilities, we could find exploring outside the box concepts or keeping it simple. Like much of A.A., if I had tried to manage my expectations, I would have limited myself from the miracle of our program where I was blown away and had my jaw dropped visiting fellowships to discover how we all exist. Just by talking about this in meetings or my everyday life where I live this program others became excited and wanted to join so before I knew it, I had a CREW of people hitting meetings in and out of our district and GUSHING about the experience. I could login alone or with a few others to see things I dreamt of since I was just a little girl in A.A.

As humans we crave things, we didn't think possible so if you're willing to indulge me, please close your eyes for a moment and follow with your heart. Think of something you've found yourself wishing you could merely will into fruition so many times in life. Maybe you're like me and try not to pray for things but your heart drifts back in that direction often still. You tried and saw no way that this could ever exist despite all of your efforts. You learn acceptance but never lose faith because we cannot let go of the dream. Picture me in countless hospital beds petrified of dying alone, always clutching my one-year coin that began this all those years ago and never letting it go with (3) IVs in my arm. See the coin in my weak hands falling from them because I have no strength to hold it and my nurses sweetly picking it up in silence with a supportive smile each and every single time because I was literally holding the hand of A.A. Now open your eyes and see my gratitude because I am not the only alcoholic whose life you saved and changed forever by supporting this Special District. This experience still happens for me and I can still easily access my program anytime, see my network in live time, I miss nothing no matter how bad off I am even if it's just to listen, and I was truly seen and heard in this state over the last 4yrs as inclusively as the rooms existed before the pandemic but more intensely present now than ever before from this alcoholics experience and many like me who I'm humbled to be the voice of.

From all of this came a massive ripple effect just by showing up at meetings and discussing virtual recovery and our District. Almost no one knows of our existence and those that do know have Areas that will not allow them to form or even acknowledge their existence. There are fellowships wandering because they have no District or Area to call home and I've been asked if they can join our District so many times, I lost track of the count. This has been an ongoing question I've had to navigate but now it's become a prominent one that I recommend the panel consider revisiting.

We absolutely need more immediate guidance on how to approach these issues because the question has now become constant for our Service CREW who would like to welcome them into the District.

Our District came with nothing but our (8) fantastical home groups and the (9) breathtaking representatives who wear multiple hats of service to strive to build the thing I will continually come back to; a solid foundation built on bedrock. We came across opportunities to be in service with IT for people we just met, spoke in places we literally didn't know where we were, exchanged resources and by nature came our 1st and 2nd committees at once starting with our IT CREW! Next began grassroots as a Literature Drive for a facility in need as contributions came from literally a meeting around the corner from my home as far as Italy. From there our Hospitals, Institutions and Treatment (H.I.T.) CREW began providing services. Just as literature is received it has also been given to ANY fellow in need anywhere in the world since we began. We've developed a HIT KIT with resources to facilitate bringing a meeting anywhere and locally have made binders available as well as mailed it to fellowships looking to be in service in their own area. There's a QR code with all of our District Meetings as well as "Word of Mouth Meetings" recommended by fellows. There are so many other unique virtual services we have to offer and love popping in times zones away to extend ourselves.

I thank you all for enduring my report as we work to remain inclusive. Working together already with our District 42 IT CREW and Area 45's IT Chair Justin and his service team to keep this in sight has given breath to our community. Between assemblies and in the new year we've already begun the work literally to address the hybrid kinks so we can remain unified. Our monthly business meetings always have such great attendance and support, which is the only way this works. I love the questions and discussions we have to grow in harmony. The last piece of this I will share from a meeting this week; I created "Time Zone Tuesday's" for MY personal recovery and chose a meeting I'm feeling using my world clock and the meeting guide app. This experience was like no other and by God's design the speaker didn't attend, and I was humbled to speak. In the parking lot meeting a fellow told me that in the remote part of their country they have ONE meeting available to them a week. ONE. They rely solely upon the service list we described that they'd love to be emailed to them and right here I am reminded exactly why God placed this service position in my passionate path.

I remain humbled to be in service,

Heather S. Virtual District 42, DCM

### **Section III**

**District 13: Dave B. – Verbal online**

## **District 14: Marci R.**

New budget is out and can be emailed Balance is \$4,424.16 as of 2/15/24. We had 3 ALCATHONS last quarter. Planning has begun for a unity event (movie night) and early stages of 2 workshops this year. Out of 20 meetings we have 17 active GSR. This coming year we have budgeted for 5 Alcathons 2 workshops and 2 unity events as well as our annual picnic at Parvins State Park. Alt DCM and alt treasurer.

## **Section III Leader: Bill F.**

Good morning Area 45 Panel members, Section leaders, DCM's GSR's Alt and guests.

I'm an alcoholic and my name is Bill. I am starting out in my new position as Section 3 Leader trying to follow in the footsteps of Wayne P. I hope to be able to continue to bring Unity and more enthusiasm into the Section.

As of this Quarter, I have been in communication with Dave B, DCM for District 13 and, our Area Chair and Registrar June to get started in my position. I am totally "green" but up to the challenge.

One of the things that was accomplished was a confirmed reserved date for September 7, 2024 for our Area Inventory which Section 3 will be hosting. It will be held at the Elmer Grange Hall.

I have reached out to several different GSR's, and group members within Section 3 and will start to attend meetings within those District's in hopes to develop better rapport within the Section itself.

I would ask if any District within Section 3 except for 13 or 14 is here today, to introduce yourself so I can get any contact and info I can. Lastly, it is an honor and a privilege to serve, but if there are any past or present Section leaders who have knowledge and insight into this position, I am willing to listen to all the knowledge I can get for it to be an effective 2-year commitment.

In service, Bill F  
Section 3 Leader

## **Section II**

**District 26: Maureen D. (on behalf of Lisa B.) – Verbal**

**District 27: Trevor I. – Verbal**

**Section II Leader: Frank M.**

2.18.24 Winter Assembly / Section 2 Report

Hi, everybody my name is Frank, I'm an Alcoholic, and Section 2 Leader.

First of all, thanks to Section 4 for hosting today's event. And of course, thanks to all the volunteers who put together all this great food and beverages.

Thanks to all the incoming panel for bringing us all together today.

I started off the year at the New Year's Eve event Trevor and District 27 hosted. What a great event and a super way to start the new year with a bunch of sober friends around a blazing bonfire.

I attended many district meetings in my section this quarter. In previous reports I talked about merging District 8. With the advice of a few past delegates, we all decided to work together to reinvigorate district 8.

Specifically, I want to thank Kim, Carrie Ann, Kevin, Frank B., and John.

We've visited most of the meetings in the district and have improved monthly attendance at the district meeting. We have taken that momentum and are working on a Spring workshop. So, thanks again, guys.

I have secured the Club 25 venue on April 7th for the in-person mini-conference from 9am til Noon. We are still working on food and beverages.

I have recently been working with members from the 400 Club. There is tremendous interest in reconnecting with the district, Section 2 and Area 45. There are lots of great meetings and motivated AA's at the 400 Club.

Lastly, I want to say get well soon to Andy at District 9. And thanks to District 26 and 27 for all their dedicated service.

And of course, I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at NERAASA.

Yours in service,  
Frank M.

## **Section I**

### **Section I Leader: Kerry W.**

It has been a great beginning to the year. I have been able to attend district meetings, meet the new GSR's and DCM's. Each district is making plans to hold some amazing workshops throughout this year and I am very excited for the districts. Earlier this month the DCM's and I met and we voted to hold a service workshop on the role of a GSR in conjunction with NJYPAA. I want to thank Jake for bringing this proposal to us and look forward to working with them on this workshop. We are in the process of securing a location for this workshop and the summer assembly. I want to thank all the DCM's for allowing me to be a part of their meetings and I look forward to being of service in any capacity that they need.

### **District 4: Brian F.**

District 4 has an active DCM, Brian, and an active alternate DCM, Mike.

District 4 has 4 home groups and has 4 GSRs that are active & have alternates who are active in service as well.

These GSRs & alternates make regular attendance of the Area 45 assembly.

Right now the district is meeting quarterly, with the intent to meet the month prior to Area 45

assembly, to facilitate communication and service in line with Area Assembly.

A couple of GSRs and alternates are attending 2024 NERAASA.

We also participate in the Section 1 meeting.

This is the extent of the District 4 report.

**District 3: Donna M. – Verbal**

**District 22/23: Jeremy B.**

Good morning. My name is Jeremy, I'm an alcoholic, and I am honored to serve as DCM for District 22/23.

I want to say thank you to the assembly planning committee from section 4 and the panel leadership for hosting and setting up today's event.

District 22/23 meets on the fourth Monday of each month at 7 pm on Zoom. We routinely have 10-12 GSRs from the district represented in our monthly meeting.

As of January 22nd, our district's treasury balance was \$2,398. Our treasurer Nicole M finished her months-long effort to clean up the names and signatories on our district checking account. She had to track down previous treasurers and work diligently with our bank to clean up the 6+ year backlog. We are grateful for her service and dedication!

Our district hosted our annual New Years Day Alcathon on January 1st. Jonathan H, our alternate DCM, led the planning and execution and did a great job! We had a strong showing with more than 200 attendees across 8 meetings. We had amazing fellowship and great food as always. Central Jersey Intergroup and Lit on Wheels also attended. We're grateful for their service and support.

Our district is reinvigorating efforts in the new year to increase GSR participation in our district. We have approximately 81 groups in our district but only 10-12 routinely represented. We are canvassing the district and talking with home group members at meetings not currently represented at our monthly meetings and area assemblies.

We are also building a program of service workshops to execute throughout the rest of the year, including collaborations with other districts in our section.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jeremy B, District 22/23

**District 25: Alberto B. – Verbal**

**Committee Chairs**

**Accessibilities: Pat M.**



Our committee hit the ground and started running. Carolyn, the new web chair did a great job hooking up our flyer. We are now a regular occurring meeting that meets every 3rd Thursday of the month at 700pm. We had 8 very enthusiastic AAs in attendance at our first meeting. At that meeting, we decided we needed a presence at our Area convention and we also decided we would create an Accessibilities survey that is coming along nicely so please swing by our table and take our survey we are excited to see what good can come of it.

I have also had the pleasure of working with Jean and Katie to get ASL interpreters for our convention. It has been a learning experience. Stay tuned for great things to come out of this spectacular committee. Thanks for letting me serve.

Thanks,

Patrick Mc.

**Audio: John H. – Verbal**

**Archives: Roy C.**

The Archives continues to serve with the help and fellowship of Area 45, Panel 74. We are a committee and congratulate George H. for accepting the position of Committee Alternate. Other advisors and volunteers are Michael C., Trish C., Matthew C., Joe O., Kelly W., and Eve C. The committee communicates via e-mail mostly. There are minimally monthly visits to the repository and quarterly e-mail reports. Since last report there is a new Panel. We are actively engaged in planning for the 2024 Area convention. We are attending NERAASA and have made plans to attend the 2024 NAAAW in DesMoines, Iowa. The focus of Archives activities going forward will be as described in the handbook. We offer our services in providing displays and presentations. See our current flyer and consider using our services at your next workshop.

Yours in service, Roy C. Chair Archives Committee, Area 45, Panel 74

**Budget & Finance: Maureen D. – Verbal**

**Convention: Mark L. (on behalf of Katie T.) – Verbal**

**Corrections: Kelly G.**

The Corrections committee meets virtually the first Tuesday of each month at 7pm. We currently run 15 meetings throughout AREA 45 and are always looking for volunteers to bring their message to the inmate on the inside. We have teamed up with Area 44 with a new opportunity for a step-down unit in Bridgeton. This is our biggest commitment to fill at the current time. Kintock is looking for 3 meetings a week. We have also teamed up with Central Jersey Intergroup as they will be able to support our meetings in that area, and support Bridging the gap. Several members of our committee will be attending NERAASA and we are excited for this opportunity. Corrections will have a table at the AREA 45 Convention-our goal is to sell 100 big books to donate to a prison. Bridging the Gap is fully up and functioning. We continue to ask GSRs to take the pamphlets back to your homegroups as our need for temporary contacts is ongoing.

**DCM/GSR Orientation: Ken T.**

Area 45 Panel 74 Orientation Report											
Event	Date	Virtual	Panel	Commit-tee Chairs	Section Leaders	DCMs	Alt-DCMs	GSRs	Alt-GSRs	Other	Totals
Winter Assembly	2/18/24	Virtual				1		1			2
		Inperson				2		9	2	2	15
		<i>Total</i>	0	0	0	3	0	10	2	2	17

**Grapevine: Tanya D. (on behalf of Roseanne F.)**

Thank you for allowing me to be of service as your Grapevine Chair. My name is Roseanne and I'm just getting back into service at the Area level. Which I am very excited about. So thank you for allowing me to be of service.

I have no knowledge of what this position details, but I am sure I will find out more as time goes on. I am planning on attending the Area 45 Convention in Atlantic City on March 15,16 & 17th. Please stop by the Grapevine table and see me. If anyone needs to contact me my phone number is 609-213-7853 or email me at [grapevine@snjaa.org](mailto:grapevine@snjaa.org)

Please reach out if you have any information that may be helpful to my new service position.  
Thank you, Roseanne

**Policy: Frank C. – Verbal**

**Website: Carolyn M. – Verbal**

**Workshop: Kelly W.**

My name is Kelly and I am an alcoholic. It is my privilege to have been appointed Chair of the Workshop Committee for Panel 74.

First, I would like to introduce many of you to Stephanie L. who is the Committee Co-Chair as well as Fred E. who is also serving on this committee. I feel like I get to work with the Dream Team on this endeavor which is both thrilling and comforting.

With the encouragement of our Area Chair, Phil K. as well as our other Panel 74 officers, we will be working towards expanding on the existing Workshop Committee responsibilities. To date, the role of the Workshop Committee has been limited to holding service-related workshops during Area Assemblies. While we do not seek to completely do away with that, over the next three months we intend to broaden its scope with the goal of presenting a recommendation for a new Workshop Committee definition at the May Committee meeting as well as a potential follow-up motion to ask that the Workshop Committee again be included in the Area budget.

Our primary objective at this point is to develop the committee as having more of a supportive framework that would in large part be committed to serve as a resource of materials, information, guidance, and support to all Area 45 Districts as well as Committees seeking to host their own workshops. Our initial projects have included gathering information and materials in terms of suggestions for workshop topics, formats, checklists to assist in workshop planning and implementation, as well as brainstorming ways to increase participation.

At present, we are most interested in hearing from YOU. Any feedback you can provide will help us get a better sense of what your District or Committee needs are in terms of Workshop planning. We want to know in what specific ways you feel or would like our committee to help. This will both inform us in terms of how to develop ways we can be of assistance as well as provide us with the information we need to form a recommendation for a new Handbook definition of our committee's scope and responsibilities.

Please see any of us sometime today or please email us at [Workshop@snjaa.org](mailto:Workshop@snjaa.org)

We look forward to exploring new ways we can help service the districts and committees of Area 45!

In grateful service,  
Kelly W.

### **Registration: Bob W. – Verbal**

#### Registration Chair Report:

In-person registration went smoothly as all attendees were directed to sign in on the sheet that corresponded to their service commitment. (It is unknown at this time how many virtual attendees registered using the on-line form or what their service commitment is)

#### Breakdown of in-person registered attendees:

GSR's/DCM's = 53 (primary & alternates) 15 of which were newly appointed

Committee Chairs = 12

Guests = 11

Panel Members = 6

I.G. Reps = 4

Section Leaders = 3

Past Delegates = 3

Total number of in-person registrations: 92

The total number of in-person attendees via physical head count: 95

The total number of virtual attendees via the on-line count: 23

Total attendance for the assembly: 118

Respectfully submitted, Bob W (registration chair)

### **Ad-Hoc Committees**

#### **Bylaws: Bob W.**

#### ByLaws Ad-hoc Committee Chair Report:

This is an update on the ByLaws Ad-hoc committee since the Fall Assembly.

The ByLaws Ad-hoc committee met virtually on (6) separate occasions between Sept-Nov 2023 to revise, update, and add legal verbiage to the existing bylaws document currently in use by Area 45 in accordance to our non-profit status. The committee was comprised of Rich H (former delegate), Tanya D (policy chair), Joe E (Panel 72 chair), Dave R (Alt GSR - F Troop), and Bob

W (committee chair). Both the committee chair and panel chair were in constant contact with the Area 45 legal representatives office via email communication for guidance on our progress. As of the writing of this report, the agreed-upon document as voted on by the committee is now in the hands of our lawyer and awaiting approval by the lawyer, the committee, and the current panel. Once the Bylaws are approved and signed, they will be an inserted addendum to the current Area 45 Handbook which is now available.

Respectfully submitted, Bob W (Bylaws Ad-hoc committee chair)

### **NERAASA Scholarship: Kerry K.**

A little over two years ago Joe approached me and asked me if I would be interested in chairing this adhoc committee. I was very hesitant because of my work schedule but am so thankful that I said yes. This has been the best experience in service I have had in a long time. Last year we had 25 people utilize the available scholarship. I am very excited to report that we have 65 people this year. I want to thank the Area for making the funds available and seeing the value in this opportunity. I will be emailing everyone the location at NERAASA to meet Charlie. I want to thank the committee members for the hard work that they have put into this and it has been an honor and privilege to serve as the Adhoc Chair for the last two years. I hope everyone has an amazing time at NERAASA next weekend.

At the last assembly we made a motion for the Area to make this a permanent committee but to also include having funds available to go to NERF. It is my hope that this happens because I think it is a great opportunity to open the doors for many more people to become actively involved in service not only at the group level but at the district and beyond.

Again, I apologize for not being able to make it today.

With love in service,  
Kerry K.

### **Area Panel 74 Reports**

#### **Secretary: Tanya D.**

Hello, my name is Tanya and I'm an alcoholic. It's an honor and privilege to serve as your Area 45 Panel 74 Secretary. I want to thank everyone for attending the assembly today. Please email your reports to [secretary@snjaa.org](mailto:secretary@snjaa.org) for the meeting minutes.

#### **Registrar: Jean W.**

Hello, my name is Jean and I am an alcoholic. It's been a busy few weeks!

I want to apologize for the Virtual Assembly Sign-In QR Code problem this morning. I know what I did wrong, and we will correct it for the Spring Assembly.

Thank you, Section IV, and others, for the work involved to host our Winter Assembly. I'm going to get technical, but I will try and explain as I go.

GSO provides an application called Fellowship Connection (FC) which is where group and position holder information. Part of my job is to make sure the most up-to-date information in in the application.

Groups have a field called GROUP STATUS. The most relevant categories are Active, Inactive, Merged and Unknown. Here is a breakdown of those categories for our Area:

Active	333	This number should represent all of our active groups
Inactive	412	This is a historical number of groups that have closed and are considered inactive
Merged	45	When 2 groups merge into 1 group the group name that will no longer be used becomes a merged group
<b>Unknown</b>	<b>193</b>	These groups have <b>no</b> GSR, Alt-GSR or Mail Contact.  This will happen the day after a 'Position Holder' had a 'Service End Date'.

Most of the 193 Unknow groups will be Active however some may have closed (Inactive) or merged with other groups. The DCMs and Section Leaders will be receiving their District Reports before the end of March.

One of the DCMs responsibilities is to research to the Unknown groups and to try and encourage groups to fill GSR, Alt-GSR or to at least have a Mail Contact to ensure GSO and Area can send out information digitally.

All DCMs are given Inquiry access to FC. There will be a DCM FC Workshop in March or April depending on their availability. The goal is to show them how to use FC so they will be able to generate their own FC reports to see how they are doing in their clean-up process.

Another initiative that is being discussed is offering the DCM Roundtable. These were opportunities for the Registrar and Section Leaders to have 2 speakers and open discussions about various topics. They are geared for DCMs and Alt-DCMs.

We are heading to NERAASA! I hope to see you there.

Respectively submitted,  
Jean W

**Treasurer: Charlie T.**

[Area 45 Winter Assembly 2024 Financial Report](#)

**Chair: Philip K.**

My name is Phil and I am an alcoholic. I'm grateful to serve as your Panel 74 Chairperson. First, I want to thank everyone who has made this event possible, including and especially the folks from District 15, District 18, and Section 4 Leader Rob. Second, I want to thank my fellow service leaders who have hit the ground running in Panel 74. This includes everyone, from the people that I text with daily to the new DCMs and GSRs I have just met for the first time today.

We have committees that already have great traction just 6 weeks into this new panel, and we have committees that are taxiing on the runway, almost ready to take flight (to borrow a convention metaphor). Please consider getting involved in one of the following.

The Newsletter Committee has a past chairperson by the name of Kelly who will do an amazing job of passing the baton and setting this committee up for success this panel.

The CPC/PI committee (cooperation with the professional community and public information) has a past chairperson by the name of Michele who will do an equally amazing job of passing the baton AND CPC/PI has a committee member named Tara ready to do this good work.

The Virtual Technology committee, who have done an amazing job today, just as they have for all our past virtual assemblies, is also in need of a chairperson. This committee knows how grateful I am for all that they do. I look forward to someone raising their virtual hand very soon, to indicate their interest.

The Young Peoples committee is an opportunity for someone who is "young at heart" to start off by simply being a vocal and visible AA with a basic understanding of the service structure, to attend AA and recovery-adjacent events. Everyone here started out with no understanding of the service structure, whether you came in at 15 or 50. The committee can be what you make it.

If you haven't been to the Area 45 website recently, please check it out. Events, dates, and flyers are all prominently featured. Thank you to Carolyn for all that she has done with the website in a short amount of time.

I look forward to seeing many of you at NERAASA next weekend, at the convention next month, and at the mini-conference in April.

Respectfully submitted, Phil K.

#### **Alternate Delegate: Joe E.**

Good morning everyone!! My name is Joe and I am an Alcoholic. I have the honor and privilege to serve as the Area 45 Alternate Delegate and a proud team member for Panel 74. First and foremost, I'd like to thank Section IV for hosting this assembly, as well both the Audio Chair and Virtual Tech Team. We could not do this without you.

Since last Assembly, I jumped right into the role of Alternate Delegate and accompanied Wendy in visiting our key partners: Central Jersey Intergroup, South Jersey Intergroup, and Cape Atlantic Intergroup. And this is exactly what they are, partners. Whether you have served on either platform, all AA business matters affect us as a whole and we all have but one primary purpose: To help the next sick and suffering alcoholic. During my time with these intergroups, I have really been able to see Tradition 4 in Action: **Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole.** Each intergroup goes about their meeting differently, yet by the end of the meeting, they all arrive at the same goal=**Being in Service and making it fun.** I am glad they let me sit in and watch them work their magic. I also have the privilege of chairing the Bi-Weekly NERAD (North East Region Alternate Delegate) meeting in which we share best demonstrated practices, agenda items, and how to best support our Delegate.

The next couple of months are going to be jam packed with service opportunities and I believe to be a pivotal time of the year. From a personal standpoint, I will be attending NERAASA, NERD, Area 45 Convention, and the Area 45 Mini Conference. From an Area 45 standpoint, we are going to need your participation, especially when it comes to the Area 45 Mini Conference. It will be our duty to come together as an Area to discuss the proposed agenda items and clearly convey our group conscience to our Delegate, Wendy. She is going to need our help as she prepares for conference. If you have an opinion and you would like it to be heard, please come. If you

have an opinion, but cannot be there, share it with your DCM and have them convey that message. We will need all hands-on deck. One of the things that I take pride in for being an Area 45 Service Member is that when we are called to duty, we show up and show up strong. Let's keep the tradition alive and I will see you along the road of happy destiny.

**Delegate: Wendy M.**

Hello All! My name is Wendy, and I am an alcoholic.

And it's my honor and privilege to serve as your Area 45 Delegate.

As I wrote my report, I wondered where to begin because, on January 1, my email was buzzing with congratulations. Here is what you have to look forward to on your Delegate journey.

The other thing that happened was I was added to a WhatsApp App Chat with all the other North Eastern Regional Directors. I can't tell you how grateful I am for the amount and knowledge the Panel 73 NERDS have extended to us new Delegates.

All of this quickly made me realize how real this was and each step I took to keep up with emails, calls, and chats, meant we were getting much closer to our Mini-Conference and 74th General Service Conference.

The first thing I learned as a Delegate was that the 2025 host of NERAASA was unfortunately unable to continue their commitment. As a result, before the end of our Assembly today, I'll ask for a consensus if Area 45 would like to host the 2025 NERAASA Conference virtually.

The other thing that has continued from last year is that NERAASA 2023 lost \$4,000, and so that money was taken from NERAASA'S reserve fund. The NERDS have been discussing the best way to replace that money going forward so we can build the reserve again.

In the meantime, the Delegates, through some confusion, were asked to receive feedback on how to handle any changes to the founder's writings moving forward, so we could have a sharing session at the upcoming conference on this topic. Unfortunately, it was discovered that the literature department at GSO made two sets of requests. The first is the one I just mentioned, the other requests asked groups to send the literature department the feedback by January 19th as a result the literature committee sent out an amends letter. You can find that letter on our Area 45 website under the About Area 45, Delegate's Corner tab.

To clear up the confusion, I sent out a survey to Area 45 asking the proposed questions from the literature committee. If your group has not received this survey, the link is also under the Delegate's Corner on our website. Your group's feedback is essential as all the Delegates have been asked to come back to the Conference with your feedback.

To help your group have an informed discussion, Panel 59 Delegate has made a 10-minute video that shares all the background on why we are having this discussion and what literature it pertains to. He was nice enough to allow all North Eastern Regional Delegates to share it with their groups via email. So, it will not be on our website, but if you have not had this emailed to you yet, I'll send it out again this week to those in attendance at the assembly who were not on my original email list.

One of the most exciting emails I received in January was to find out that I would be a member of the Treatment and Accessibilities Committee. Once I knew what committee I would be on, emails for virtual meet and greets commenced, along with coming up with times to attend a virtual joint meeting with the Trustees' Cooperation with the Professional Community.

In early January, GSO emailed out the 2022 Member Survey results. You can find the survey on our website. I do want to highlight some interesting tidbits from it. According to the study, the average member attends an AA meeting at least twice weekly. The average age of a member is 52. 22% of our members prefer accessible meetings.

During this time, Delegates started getting notifications of what Proposed Agenda Items had made it through the 2023 October General Service Board Meeting and which ones did not and why. The Final Agenda Items were released after the January Board Meeting in early February because we have a bit of time between when the full background information will come out for all the committees and deciding what will be discussed at our mini-conferences. I have created a survey asking what Final Agenda Items are important to Area 45's groups. If you have not received that survey, it is also under the Delegate's Corner, and I will send it to new GSRs who were not on the Delegate's current email list. Please note that the full Final Agenda Items are linked under the Delegate's Corner for all Conference Committees.

On Friday, the 16th, GSO released background information for the following Committees: Agenda, Charter, Corrections, CPC, Grapevine-LaVina, International Convention/Regional Forums, and Policy/Admissions. At our first All Delegates Virtual Meeting this past week, I learned that GSO will release committee backgrounds as they are finished, written in English, and then translated into French and Spanish.

At the All Delegate meeting, they also shared a preliminary agenda for the upcoming conference, where they had given the Delegates 75 minutes during one of the last days to have the sharing session on the Founder's Writings. The Delegate voted to move the discussion to the front of the Conference and if need be to have two sessions, one virtual before the Conference and one early on in the Conference, since it's such an important topic to the fellowship.

Also, the Conference Staff member Diana L reviewed all the cost savings changes that have taken place for the 2024 GSO Conference since the fellowship has voiced concern about the cost GSB is spending in many areas and is struggling to build the reserve funds to a full 8 to 9 months. The total savings with the changes are over \$100,000.



Another topic of discussion at the meeting was the time allotted to Delegates to review the final version of the Plain-Language Big Book during the Conference. The literature committee will be given 8 hours to review this version on the first day of the Conference. The other Delegates at the Conference will be given an hour and a half to review the book at a pre-selected time slot during the conference week. At this time, they have three potential names for the Big Book: AA in Plain Language: A Companion to the Big Book

Plain-Language Big Book: A Tool for Reading Alcoholics Anonymous; A Plain-Language Tools for Reading Alcoholics Anonymous.

And to wrap this all up, I can't tell you how excited I am to see you all at one of the two mini-conferences we are holding this year. The first will be completely virtual on April 6th, and the second will be in person on April 7th at the Maple Shade Club. When the final topics for our mini-conference are out and I have a consensus on what Area 45 would like to discuss, Joe and I will summarize the background for those topics and send it out along with a survey for your groups to complete. You will also have a chance to discuss them at the mini-conferences with other members of Area 45.

Finally, as mentioned, we will hear from our New Digital Engagement Editor at the Grapevine during our lunch as she shares some updates on the Grapevine, but I thought it would be a good time to invite you to hear about the Grapevine as a new work group is forming for the Grapevine.

### **Motions on the Floor:**

#### **1) Move the Ad Hoc NERAASA Scholarship Committee to a standing Scholarship Committee to include NERAASA and NERF.**

**Background Kerry K:** At the last assembly we made a motion for the Area to make this a permanent committee but to also include having funds available to go to NERF. It is my hope that this happens because I think it is a great opportunity to open the doors for many more people to become actively involved in service not only at the group level but at the district and beyond.

Motion passed by simple majority.

#### **2) Area 45 Consensus – Host 2025 Virtual NERASSA: Wendy M.**

Discussed Area 45 hosting a Virtual 2025 NERASSA

The consensus of Area 45 was yes.

*The assembly meeting was closed with the Responsibility Pledge.*

### **Lunch-30 Minutes / Grapevine Presentation**

## **Committee Meeting**

The assembly meeting was opened with the serenity prayer.

Role Call by Secretary

Anonymity Statement

**No motions added to the agenda.**

*The committee meeting was closed with the Responsibility Pledge.*