BOOMERANG

PANEL 74

SPRING 2024

UNITY SERVICE RECOVERY AREA 28

A Quasi-Quarterly Newsletter Celebrating Service and Fellowship In Area 28 and Beyond

ALSO NB, Canada?

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ReflectionS

In February of this year AA's from Area 28 travelled to Hershey, Pennsylvania for our 31st AA Service Assembly. Here are some of their tales.

Bobbi S. – A28 Secretary

If you love the smell of chocolate you, too, would have found serenity at the '24 North East A.A. Serive Assembly! Volunteering, chairing, listening to newcomers, hugging friends, visiting local meetings, attending roundtables! Laughing with fellow Mainers while achieving vast growth and understanding through learning and deep reflection. Gathered together in a fellowship of passionate people serving the A.A. Structure, which saves so many lives, cultivated a strong sense of love, belonging, and unity.

Lynn M. – A28 Registrar

Being my first NERAASA I was unsure what to expect. What I got was an explosion of new ideas, old ideas shared in new ways, and questions to make me think about recovery, unity, and service at every level of involvement. If I had to pick one valuable take-away it is: Service teaches me about ME and gives me opportunities to work on my OWN character defects.

As your Area Registrar, I heard a couple ideas I hope to try in the near future that will make registering new groups and service postions easier. Stay Tuned!

Robin G. – Accessibilities Chair

I survived my first NERAASA and all I can say is WOW! It was a whirlwind four-day weekend. I left my home in Rockport, Maine at 4:45 Thursday morning and didn't return until 11:30 on Sunday night. It was about a 10-hour drive with three other people I'd only known as acquaintances. There was music and minimal conversation. One of my most outstanding experiences happened on the long drive to the conference. Let me explain: how many sober drunks does it take to find the gas fill on a rented 12-person van? I can tell you it took the four of us about 15 minutes of walking around and touching almost every panel that might move on the van. It was quite the scene to watch! It gave us all a good laugh once on the road again and every time we needed to fill up! We are not a glum lot!

Once at the conference, the weekend was made up of late evenings, early mornings, getting lost in the large conference center, and people. Lots of people. Over 1300 folks registered! It was filled with an enormous amount of information in short periods of time and a boatload of differing personal opinions on just about every issue. Despite all my anxieties leading up, it was an amazing first experience.

ReflectionS

Cathy M. – Grapevine Chair

Being asked to participate as a panelist was an honor and gave me the opportunity to research, in depth, the 'call for stories' process for the Big Book. I learned so much about the history of the personal stories, the process for collecting and then selecting them, and the status of the story selection process for the Fifth Edition. I loved being a Greeter for a few hours on Saturday morning. What a fun way to connect with so many new friends, and to show my enthusiasm for this amazing Assembly.

Sandy H. – District 3 Chair

I went to NERAASA and it was very informative. I went to the DCM/ DCMC Roundtables. I realize that many places just have DCMs do the same things that our DCMCs do here. I have a better understanding of what is expected of my position. I just wish they'd had the roundtables at different times so that I could have attended more than one.

Ted D. – BTG Chair

I fully enjoyed this year's convention. I got to meet with quite a number of A.A. Members from across the eastern seaboard and attend several of the roundtable panels. The Bridging the Gap panel provided a few pertinent ideas on how to interface with corrections treatment and rehabilitation centers, increase our BTG volunteer pool, and formulate a coherent member database. I also attended the roundtable panel on changing the wording in the Big Book. As you might imagine there was much heated debate, and as usual, no solution was reached.

Drew S. – A28 Chair

This year's NERRASA experience was exciting and informative. The keynote speakers and panelists were spiritually inspiring and thought provoking. Our Grapevine Chair Cathy M. knocked her presentation out of the park with a well-rounded balance of information, experience, love and enthusiasm. Highlights were meeting up with folks I rarely see, watching participants bloom in the Sunshine of the Spirit, and seeing attendees absolutely aglow. We also laughed a lot and even cried a bit—all good! NERAASA is a spiritual reboot for me, as I learn and share so much while thoroughly having a blast. The only way I could improve this experience would be to clone myself so I could participate more and somehow find a way to drink more coffee in order to stay up even later! Did I mention the food was outstanding? Especially the extra piece of Mascarpone cake I was allowed to take home!
If you haven't gone, or haven't gone in a while, I'll see you virtually next year and again LIVE at NERAASA 2026 in Portland, Maine!
Woo woo! 🙂

AssemblY

Our Spring Assembly began one fine Friday evening in Portland and finished, after a few ups and downs, on a sunny Sunday in Westbrook. We had great representation from the Area, and our Trusted Servants and Volunteers stepped-up and perservered through some unforseen challenges. Our reporter Marie A. was on the scene...

I attended the Area 28 Spring assembly this April. It was the first time I had attended any AA function whatsoever. To say I was nervous would be an understatement. It began Friday evening. It was crowded, but I found the registration table easily, obtained my materials for the weekend and went to the AA meeting. That was followed by a workshop for GSR's and DCM's. The first slide, a deer in the headlights, was like someone had taken a picture of me when I wasn't looking because it's exactly how I felt. I have been a GSR for about a year and had felt completely lost like I really didn't know what I was doing. This workshop paved the way to understanding what's expected of me. It was tremendously helpful.

Saturday felt like organized confusion. There were some glitches, but nobody seemed too upset over it. Drew, our area chair, lead the conference and kept everything on track. She reminded us of rule 62 and that really helped! Throughout the day they drew raffle tickets for prizes.

Breakfast was served Saturday(after some scrambling!) and the Conference convened with the Serenity Prayer, Preamble, daily reflections, 12 steps, traditions, and concepts. We did some housekeeping duties, did a roll call and established a quorum. Next we had officer's reports followed by Standing Committee meeting sessions. Everyone in a district attended a different session so we would all learn different things. We then listened to the area standing committee/liaison reports and had the bid for the Fall Assembly. Next we started the DCM reports and then we broke for lunch. After lunch we continued the DCM reports, then had the treasurers report, and a brief explanation of why we need a conference. Our Delegate, Allen S. presented a review of the General Service Conference agenda items for the conference that was coming up. We broke for dinner, then passed an ask-it basket and Allen S. finished reviewing the Conference agenda items, then ended for the evening.

Our Fall assembly will be held October 18th-20th at the Elk's Lodge in Augusta.
More information availble HERE

POST-CON FORUM

The 74th General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous took place the third week of April 2024, in Brooklyn, NY. Area 28 sent our newly-elected Delegate Allen S. informed, not instructed. Allen brought with him a spectrum of perspectives generated by home group members, transmitted by their General Service Representatives (GSR's) at the March pre-Conference Forum and the April Spring Assembly. Volunteering alongside Allen I witnessed his loyalty to Area 28. Allen expressed his gratitude for the privilege, responsibility and opportunity to be part of the decision-making process and represent Maine's vote.

In June, at the post-Conference Forum, Allen relayed his personal feelings about his experience in New York. The exposure was uplifting and he enjoyed the growing connection with the other ninety-two Delegates and trusted servants. Allen offered his input in the collective efforts to support the AA program and its members and brought back valuable information to Area 28, where he spoke of how he perceived the business of the conference.

What I personally cherished about Allen's report was how he spoke of his travels through the New York City subway. Learning from his companions how to navigate the confusing subway system, dazzled by the magnitude of the underground city and it's breathtaking elevated ceilings. He took a photograph of the waxing gibbous moon from the Brooklyn Bridge. He enjoyed the company of new friends as they reminded one another to take time apart from A.A. business for reflection. A highlight of our delegate's trip was visiting The General Service Office (GSO) of Alcoholics Anonymous, located at 475 Riverside Drive. Allen cultivated a vibe from Bill Wilson's office and observed the very first ask-it basket: a fishing basket with a hole in the top! His enthusiasm for his trip reminded me to keep life simple, enjoy each moment, and not take any encounter for granted. Thank you, Allen, for sharing your experience, strength, and hope with us.

Your grateful, trusted servant, Bobbi B.

Did You Know?

The 74th GSC had a total of 134 members in attendance. Ninety three Delegates represent A.A. Areas and contribute their insight and perspective to the conference discussion. Eighteen Trustees oversee A.A.'s service structure and ensure the effectiveness of operations. Sixteen General Service Officers and Grapevine Staff provide support and coordination during the conference.

Round uP

Traditionally The Boomerang saves space for a preview of the up-coming Round Up, and had this edition come out in the Spring, this would be that space. It is now Summer (technically, as I write this, it's still Summer) and the 45th Maine Round Up has come and gone. It was pretty great! The speaker recordings are online and available HERE!

Definitely check those out if you missed them and/or need some quality experience, strength and hope. Stay tuned to future editions for information about next year's event. If any A.A.'s out there had some profound fun and would like to share, drop us a line and we'll post your thoughts in the next edition!

Editor's Note

What an honor and a joy it is to be your Panel 74 Boomerang editor. I can't say I knew what exactly I was in for when I stood for the job! A.A. in Maine and The Boomerang both have an illustrious history and I am grateful to be a part of it. Our Boomerang Committee members Ryan B., Marie A., and Bobbi S. are doing great work, and much thanks to our former editor John D. for his service and his continued support for this newsletter. I like the simplicity and immediacy of an online edition, but if there is interest in a printable version tell your GSR, or email us directly: boomerang@maineaa.org.

Sean M.

Quotable

"We are all cracked; that's how the light gets in."

-Anonymous