



# Area 30

Alcoholics Anonymous  
General Service Committee  
of Eastern Massachusetts



## THE MESSENGER

“A.A.’s Three Legacies – Our Common Solution.”

Theme of the 73<sup>rd</sup> General Service Conference

Volume 45, Issue 1

January 8, 2023

### MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Greetings Area 30,

Welcome to the Kickoff Assembly!

There is a lot of information to take in today, so feel free to bring this newsletter home with you and peruse over the coming days.

I hope you’ll share it with your fellows at both service and recovery meetings!

There are details about a number of upcoming fun & interesting events as well as the ever popular brain teaser. This one is a word scramble, and the answer key is on the back page in case you get stumped.

What makes The Messenger great is having information to share from YOU! So please send your submissions to [Messenger@aaemass.org](mailto:Messenger@aaemass.org) for inclusion in a future edition.

Thanks (and an apology!) to the kind person who sent in a submission about NERASSA. Unfortunately, the submission got lost in the transfer over to the new email system. I’ve asked Catherine, the new Messenger Editor, to include it in a future edition if it is still applicable.

It has been a pleasure to serve as Chair of The Messenger for the past two years and I’m looking forward seeing what our new trusted servant brings to this publication!

In love & service,  
Carlene J.

Area 30 Messenger Outgoing Chair/Editor

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# NEWS FROM OUR GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE

## The General Service Office is Reopened to Visitors

Visitors are welcome to the General Service Office Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Tours are scheduled at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., and 2 p.m., and last about 45 minutes.

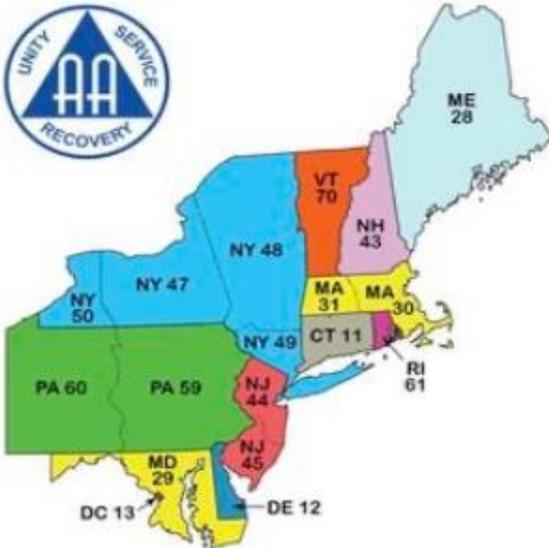
On Fridays, G.S.O. hosts an open A.A. meeting at 11 a.m. There is also a guided tour offered after the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

Schedule Your Visit to GSO For more information and to schedule your visit, email [gsotours@aa.org](mailto:gsotours@aa.org) or call 212-870-3430.

Please note that in accordance with building policy, all visitors must register in advance to gain access to the building. Accordingly, we strongly recommend that individuals contact us prior to their visit so that we can enter them into the building's security system. In addition, groups of 10 or more must contact us ahead of time to schedule their visit so that we can best prepare for their time at the General Service Office.

Please check [aa.org](http://aa.org) for the most up to date information on the COVID-19 POLICY, which currently requires all visitors to wear a facial covering throughout their stay.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: NERF 2023 Host Committee



Join us to learn how you can be a part of the upcoming **Northeast Regional Forum** that will be held **June 2 – 4, 2023** at the **Burlington Marriott**.

Planning Meetings will be held the third Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.

- January 17
- February 21
- March 21
- April 18
- May 16

Zoom ID: 849 9131 7479

Passcode: Forum

More information about the event can be found at this link:

[Regional & Local Forums](#)

For additional info, contact Sue W. at [NERF2023Host@gmail.com](mailto:NERF2023Host@gmail.com)

## Announcing: Experiencia, fortaleza y esperanza is now posted on [aa.org](https://www.aa.org)

January 6, 2023

Dear A.A. Friends,

We are delighted to share that the new Spanish translation of the book *Experience, Strength and Hope*, which is titled *Experiencia, fortaleza y esperanza*, is now posted on [aa.org](https://www.aa.org).

This book includes 56 stories that have been retired from the first three editions of the English-language editions of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, and for the first time are translated into Spanish and collected in this anthology.

### Digital edition now available for reading at no charge

To access this new Spanish translation, visit <https://www.aa.org/es/experiencia-fortaleza-y-esperanza>.

### Print version is in the print production process

Note: *Experiencia, fortaleza y esperanza* is slated to be made available in 2023 for ordering in a printed edition, with the new Item number SB-20. Stay tuned for an announcement when this much-anticipated title comes off press.

Happy New Year,  
David R., Publishing Director

## NEW LITERATURE



### SB-20 Experiencia, fortaleza y esperanza

Esta antología contiene 56 historias retiradas de las primeras tres ediciones en inglés del Libro Grande, Alcohólicos Anónimos, traducidas al español. La membresía de Alcohólicos Anónimos continúa creciendo y cambiando, pero estas historias del pasado nunca perderán su vigencia. La historia esencial en AA —“cómo éramos, lo que pasó y cómo somos ahora”— es una constante. Esa fórmula imperecedera para las charlas de AA sigue siendo tan válida en estas historias antiguas como lo es ahora en la reunión de la otra cuadra.

Aprobado por la Conferencia de Servicios Generales

**\*Actualmente, el PDF está disponible en español. Pronto estará disponible una versión en inglés y una versión en francés.\***

## NERAASA: Northeast Regional AA Service Assembly: Feb 23-26, 2023 in Albany, NY



### What is the purpose of NERAASA?

The purpose of the Northeast Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (NERAASA) is for GSRs, DCMs, Area Committee Members and Intergroup and Central Office Representatives of the Northeast Region to discuss General Service Conference related issues and concerns affecting AA as a whole, as well as pertinent aspects of recovery, unity and service common to the Areas of the Northeast Region.

### What happens at NERAASA?

NERAASA is a weekend of Panel Presentations and Floor Discussions on Issues Affecting A.A. Today; the Northeast Regional Trustee's Report; Saturday Dinner followed by an A.A. Speaker Meeting. In addition, there are several Round Table Sharing Sessions throughout the weekend. They include (but are not limited too); General Service Representatives (GSR's), District Committee Members (DCM's), Archives, Cooperation With The Professional Community (CPC), Public Information (PI), Correctional & Treatment Facilities (CTF), Grapevine, Area/Panel Officers, Central Office/Intergroups, Website, Alternate & Area Delegates.

### Who should attend NERAASA?

ALL A.A. MEMBERS ARE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND!

More info at: [www.neraasa.org](http://www.neraasa.org)

**FUN FACT:** At NERAASA 2006 over 212 gallons of coffee were consumed as AAs discussed topics such as communication, literature, self-support, and service. Each night, at several 75-minute roundtables, AAs shared information about such committee work as archives, public information, Grapevine, and GSR work, among others.

## Ham on Wry

BY: JIM B. | PEMBROKE, MASSACHUSETTS

AT NERAASA '94, a large AA service gathering, this exchange took place in an elevator of the hotel that was also housing participants of a Dog Show. Some AAs (whose name tags did not identify the fellowship) were giggling and effervescing as AAs do when they get together. A bystander (wearing a Dog Show tag) asked, "Say, what convention are you folks with?"

"We're alcoholics," one of the group replied.

"I know!" he said. "But what convention are you with?"

*Reprinted with permission, AA Grapevine January 1996 edition*

# Brain Teaser

## Word Scramble

- PTCECAEANC \_\_\_\_\_
- COEGAUR \_\_\_\_\_
- SMEASLBY \_\_\_\_\_
- OPTCCENS \_\_\_\_\_
- ESRWSOLEP \_\_\_\_\_
- IDONITSATR \_\_\_\_\_
- RECIEVS \_\_\_\_\_
- IMLYTHUI \_\_\_\_\_
- GSSPEROR \_\_\_\_\_
- OWSDIM \_\_\_\_\_
- NESEITYR \_\_\_\_\_
- ELMERAPB \_\_\_\_\_
- AVENIPGER \_\_\_\_\_
- EGEIMNT \_\_\_\_\_
- SDEFTEC \_\_\_\_\_
- GEYLAC \_\_\_\_\_

# AAGRAPEVINE

## ANNOUNCEMENT

November 27, 2022

We've heard you, and AA Grapevine, Inc. will be making two major changes over the next week to better serve our customers:

- We are switching to a new order fulfillment vendor better suited for our multi-platform subscription models.
- Our online store will be integrated into our main website for easier access and improved functionality.

Because of these changes, we expect brief service disruptions, especially for those ordering products online. Please be patient, and if you encounter a problem, come back later to try again. For urgent needs, you can call Grapevine and La Viña customer service at 212-870-3417.

Thank you for your continuing support for the Grapevine and La Viña.

Chris Cavanaugh  
Publisher

2023  
**CARRY THE MESSAGE PROJECT**

**Give a Gift Subscription**  
to an alcoholic who needs it.  
Great for:  
• Sponsees • Newcomers  
• Prisons • Detoxes  
• Doctors' Offices • Group Celebrations • District and Area Events • Giveaways

**WANT TO HELP ANOTHER ALCOHOLIC?**

**Grapevine & La Viña are Great Twelfth Step Tools!**  
Get your group, district, area or AA friends to join in. Carry the Message, it's easy!

Go to [aagrapevine.org/carry-the-message](http://aagrapevine.org/carry-the-message) to get started and see our new Carry the message video at [www.youtube.com/c/AAGrapevine](http://www.youtube.com/c/AAGrapevine)

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN AREA 30

Many Committee Meetings are still meeting virtually. Please see the Area Calendar at [aaemass.org](http://aaemass.org) or contact Committee Chairs to inquire about virtual vs. in person meetings and to confirm date/time of meetings in case of any changes!

**We welcome anyone with an interest!**

**General Service Area Committee** – [chair@aaemass.org](mailto:chair@aaemass.org)

8pm – 4th Wednesday of the month

**Note:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday in November & December

**Accessibilities Committee** – [accessibilities@aaemass.org](mailto:accessibilities@aaemass.org)

6:30pm - 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month

*Some alcoholics experience barriers to participating in AA due to cultural, geographic, mental, physical, or social factors, or other reasons. This committee is working toward a future where all who want to participate in AA meetings (and other AA services) in Eastern Massachusetts are in fact able to fully participate.*

**Archives Committee** – [archives@aaemass.org](mailto:archives@aaemass.org)

7:30pm – 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month

*The Archives Committee is charged with collecting, preserving and presenting materials of historical interest to Alcoholics Anonymous. We invite you to join us as we continue our efforts to discover and celebrate the history of AA in Eastern Massachusetts.*

**CPC Committee** – [cpc@aaemass.org](mailto:cpc@aaemass.org)

7:00pm – 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month

*Members of C.P.C. committees inform professionals and future professionals about A.A. — what we are, where we are, what we can do, and what we cannot do. They attempt to establish better communication between A.A.s and professionals, and to find simple, effective ways of cooperating without affiliating.*

**Joint Correctional Facilities Committee** – [corrections@aaemass.org](mailto:corrections@aaemass.org)

7:00pm – 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month

*Responsibilities include working with the correctional facilities in Area 30 to assist in bringing the AA message behind the walls. We currently offer a service helping inmates who are being released from prison connect with AA members in their communities called the Prerelease Contact Program. AA's who are interested in corresponding with an inmate by mail or being included on a 12-step call list to serve as contact points for those getting out of prison should contact Boston Central Service for particulars.*

**Grapevine Committee** – [grapevine@aaemass.org](mailto:grapevine@aaemass.org)

1:00pm – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month

*One of the Grapevine Committee's primary goals is to let the people and their groups in Area 30 know all we can about our "meeting in print." Like our meetings, the monthly Grapevine magazine is as diverse as each of us. Its 64 pages, written by friends and members of AA, have become the voice of AA today. Through the Grapevine, members share their Experience, Strength, and Hope, always striving to carry the message of Recovery -Unity -Service to all who read it.*

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN AREA 30 (cont.)

### **Literature Committee – [literature@aaemass.org](mailto:literature@aaemass.org)**

7:00pm – 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month

*In addition to our committee's purpose and goals listed on the CONTACTS page of this website, we use the time at our meeting to review current conference-approved and locally developed literature in order to be able to let the membership know what is available and to assure that the message is consistent with the principles of our Steps and Traditions. We answer inquiries requesting information on various topics and provide possible sources of information. Our goal is to inform the membership of the tools available for our own recovery as well as to carry the message to others.*

### **Joint Public Information Committee – [pi@aaemass.org](mailto:pi@aaemass.org)**

7:00pm – 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month

*Public Information (P.I.) in Alcoholics Anonymous means carrying the message of recovery to the still-suffering alcoholic by informing the general public about the A.A. program. We carry the message by getting in touch with the media, schools, industry, and other organizations which can report on the nature and purpose of A.A. and what it can do for alcoholics.*

### **Joint Treatment Facilities Committee – [treatment@aaemass.org](mailto:treatment@aaemass.org)**

7:00pm – 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month

*The purpose of the committee is to coordinate the work of individual AA members and groups who are interested in carrying our message of recovery to alcoholics in treatment facilities, and to set up means of "Bridging the Gap" from the facility to the larger community. The JTFC provides information about AA as well as literature and guidelines for setting up AA meetings in treatment and outpatient facilities. Its objective to make sure all treatment facilities wanting AA meetings to participate is serviced.*

### **Website Committee – [website@aaemass.org](mailto:website@aaemass.org)**

7:00pm – 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month

*This committee maintains the Area 30 web site per assembly action and develops recommendations on the future maintenance of the site.*

**Joint Committees:** In the spirit of cooperation, the Boston Central Service Committee and the Eastern Massachusetts General Service Committee (Area 30) work together on these committees whose purposes are to carry the message of experience, strength, and hope to those who may be interested in Alcoholics Anonymous.



## Declaration of Unity

This we owe to A.A.'s future: To place our common welfare first; to keep our fellowship united. For on A.A. unity depend our lives and the lives of those to come.

-Declaration of the 35th Anniversary International Convention, 1970, Miami, Florida

➤ **NERAASA 2023 (Northeast Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly)**

NERAASA 2023 is being hosted by Area 48, Hudson Mohawk Berkshire, NY. It will be held February 23-26, 2023 in Albany, NY. Register and learn more at [www.NERAASA.org](http://www.NERAASA.org).

➤ **Massachusetts State AA Convention**

The 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Massachusetts State AA Convention will be held **November 10 – November 12, 2023** at Sturbridge Host Hotel, Sturbridge, MA

**Planning** for the 59th annual Massachusetts State Convention **begins on Tuesday, January 31, 2023** at 7:00pm.

Planning meetings are scheduled for January 31st, March 28th, May 30th, July 25th, September 26th, and October 31<sup>st</sup> at the Sturbridge Host Hotel at 366 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA and virtually via zoom meeting id: 815-7599-9333 passcode:112023

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

➤ **Road Shows**

The Area Committee is available to speak at your commitment meeting! While we cannot reciprocate with an outgoing commitment for your group, we would love to visit your speaker meeting and share our experience, strength, and hope. If you think your group would like an Area 30 Road Show, please contact our Area Alternate Chair at [altchair@aaemass.org](mailto:altchair@aaemass.org).

➤ **Service Seminar**

If your group or district is interested in an outreach, or conducting a group conscience or inventory, please contact our Service Seminar chair at [serviceseminar@aaemass.org](mailto:serviceseminar@aaemass.org).

➤ **2025 International AA Convention**

The International Convention will take place from July 3 - 6, 2025, at the Vancouver Convention Centre and BC Place Stadium, in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Taking place once every five years, the A.A. International Convention marks the anniversary of Bill W.'s first meeting with Dr. Bob and the birth of Alcoholics Anonymous in 1935. A.A. members and their families and friends from around the globe attend the event. At the International Convention people attend meetings, workshops, dances and events. A highlight is the traditional flag ceremony to celebrate sobriety worldwide. More details can be found at: <https://www.aa.org/international-convention>.

The Area 30 newsletter, *The Messenger*, is published five times a year. It is available at all Area Assemblies and through the service structure at the many, varied committee meetings, schedules for which are found in this edition and posted on [aaemass.org](http://aaemass.org). *The Messenger* contains news, stories, and special events going on in Eastern Massachusetts. Suggestions and submissions are welcome and may be emailed to [messenger@aaemass.org](mailto:messenger@aaemass.org). Please include your confidential contact information.

## Word Scramble Answer Key

### Word Scramble

PTCECAEANC	<u>ACCEPTANCE</u>
COEGAUR	<u>COURAGE</u>
SMEASLBY	<u>ASSEMBLY</u>
OPTCCENS	<u>CONCEPTS</u>
ESRWSOLEP	<u>POWERLESS</u>
IDONITSATR	<u>TRADITIONS</u>
RECIEVS	<u>SERVICE</u>
IMLYTHUI	<u>HUMILITY</u>
GSSPEROR	<u>PROGRESS</u>
OWSDIM	<u>WISDOM</u>
NESEITYR	<u>SERENITY</u>
ELMERAPB	<u>PREAMBLE</u>
AVENIPGER	<u>GRAPEVINE</u>
EGEIMNT	<u>MEETING</u>
SDEFTEC	<u>DEFECTS</u>
GEYLAC	<u>LEGACY</u>