

# DISTRICT 42 & YOU

DISTRICT 42 NEWS

2nd Quarter 2009, Issue 4

## DISTRICT OFFICERS

|            |            |
|------------|------------|
| DCM        | Dawn H..   |
| Alt DCM    | Pete B.    |
| Secretary  | Babette V. |
| Treasurer  | Jane G.    |
| Activities | Pete B.    |
| Newsletter | Morgan J.  |
| Web Site   | Hal S.     |

## UPCOMING EVENTS

5/30 Area Assembly -  
Baltimore, MD  
6/6 District 42  
Tradition Workshop  
6/18-21  
State Convention  
Hagerstown, MD  
6/26-28  
NE Regional Forum  
Somerset, NJ  
7/24 Stepping Stones  
Bus Trip

## CONTRIBUTIONS

District 42  
P.O. Box 3623  
Crofton, MD 21114

## DISTRICT 42 MEETING

The monthly meeting is held at the Prince of Peace Church from 7:00 to 8:00 PM on the Second Tuesday of the month. – All are welcome

## CONTACT:

[mddistrict42editor@gmail.com](mailto:mddistrict42editor@gmail.com)

## WEB PAGE:

<http://www.marylandaa.org/districts/district42.htm>

## From to Mini Conference to the General Service Conference

Our District member and Delegate Tom R. heard what we had to say about the Conference agenda items and hopefully is prepared to represent us at the General Service next week. District 42's representatives did us well and thanks to them for their hard work.

One of the Committees we reviewed was the Finance Committee. One of the items from the agenda for the Finance Committee was a self support item which read: "Review material submitted from the Fellowship concerning the 2008 Conference Advisory Action "the trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee gather input from the Fellowship on the benefits and liabilities, both spiritual and practical of fully funding G.S.O. Services to the Fellowship (G.S.O. functional expenses) by the voluntary contributions of A.A. members and groups.""

What does this mean? There are some that believe that AA operations should be funded by contributions only and not be dependent on literature sales. There have only been five years that AA has been able to function on contributions alone, the remaining 60 plus years we have needed the income derived from literature sales as well. We actually have a barometer as to how well we are supporting AA and that is the price of literature. When literature prices go down our contributions have increased and when literature prices go up, our contributions have fallen off.

It was recently announced that literature prices will be going up as of July first. The Big Book will cost two dollars more. From that announcement, we know that contributions have fallen off. It's understandable to some extent because of current financial conditions, but are we stuck in the past.

At every meeting that I have ever been to, the preamble to Alcoholics Anonymous is read. Part of our

Preamble states "we are self-supporting through our own contributions". The question is; who are we self-supporting? Is it our group or meeting? Is it the local Intergroup, doesn't it provide a valuable service without which we could very easily disappear? Is it the Area, after all without the area we wouldn't have a voice with A.A.? Or, is it AAWS, isn't that where all of literature and Worldwide services are created?

For years groups have struggled to achieve a "silent" collection, folding money only and only recently has that been occurring. Many have taken to putting a dollar in the basket for quite some time now, but is that keeping pace with other costs? How many of you have seen someone with a \$4.00 "designer" coffee put just a dollar in the basket? We talk about the costs of gas and food going up, but are we willing to up our contributions? The dollar bought four to five times as much 30 years ago as it does now, but we still give the same as we did in 1979. Some groups have encouraged home group members to double their donation for the home group to two dollars instead of one, and that has been generating some success for group treasuries, but this isn't a wide spread practice. The dollar donation still seems to be the standard.

From The Language of the Heart - "But when we are generous with the hat we give a token that we are grateful for our blessings and evidence that we are eager to share what we have found with all those who still suffer." The money collected in "the hat" belongs to the Fellowship so that 12th step work can be conducted and the message carried to all those that want it.

Can your group increase its contribution?

### **Self-Support, What Happened?**

To find out what happened to the self support item and others of equal importance, come to the Delegate's report back May 30<sup>th</sup> in Baltimore. Come hear what happened at the General Service Conference, the week long annual business meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous.

### **District 42's Second Workshop:**

The District is planning another workshop scheduled on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June from 3:00 to 5:00 PM at the Community United Methodist Church. Rumor has it that it will be about relationships or how to work and play with others. There are apparently 12 steps that are traditionally applied to achieve positive results. Some or all of these will be discussed. There will be free ice cream!

### **Northeast Regional Forum:**

Be sure to put the Forum on your calendar. It only occurs once every other year. It is put on by the General Service Board and it's our opportunity to meet with members of the General Service office, Trustees and Directors. These are the people are behind the scenes that provide the services for the groups that the groups couldn't do for themselves.

### **Stepping Stones Bus Trip:**

Districts 26, 31 and 42 are sponsoring a bus trip to Stepping Stones, Bill and Lois' home from 1941 to their deaths. The trip will also include a trip to the General Service Office and the opportunity to attend the Friday AA meeting at the office as well. For information email [distict42@marylandaa.org](mailto:distict42@marylandaa.org) .