

BOOMERANG

PANEL
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WINTER
2025

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



**The Boomerang of Legend
(allegedly)**

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NERAASA

NERASSA 2025 less than 2 weeks away, Friday February 21st! Hosted by our New Jersey AA's, it will be online and available for many of us to attend. It is not too late to register!! You can do so [HERE](#) . Last year, our archivist Mike S. attended in-person and had this to report.

While I did attend NERAASA '22 virtually, I would like to think this was truly my 1st NERAASA. Virtual vs. live is no comparison to my mind's eye. To watch the shenanigans with the flag parade Friday night not knowing what to expect, I was pleasantly surprised to see the enthusiasm from the Areas. From piggyback rides to standing on chairs hooting and hollering when the delegates arrived with the State Flags.

The lively, informative, and spirited panels and the opportunity to watch the body speak their voice after each panel presentation was amazing. I attended the Archives Roundtables both nights and found the information sharing between the areas was very educational. I must say this was way past my bedtime and after long days, I was not up to my full potential by 9 pm.

Most areas using different methods are digitizing Archives, be it documents or audio. The Areas' Archives Committee structure varies from having Archivist/Archives Chair combined to having these positions separate. Some Areas are exploring and having recordings available on websites after "scrubbing" last names from the talks. Some areas wait until the member has passed. Lots of discussion about using cloud-based storage systems (e.g. iCloud, Dropbox, etc.) successfully. Discussions on how we excite members about the history and archives. Deed of Gift and Collection Scope was discussed at length.

It was very beneficial to see where we stack up with other areas regarding archives. I felt that the areas that were more populated were able to do more financially with their respective archive's movements. Not bragging (well maybe a little), our Area 28 Archives movement is a lot further along than some. I even heard that one Area, having financial concerns, voted to disband their Archives Movement with many documents and other items trashed. There was a neighboring Area that went in and was able to salvage some of the artifacts, but not all. Sad story.

My most beneficial experience was a talk with a fellow originally from Germany after the Thursday night Red Ball meeting. He was a seaman before he retired and was totally fascinated by the stories I was able to share with him about Captain Jack and the Loners International Meeting. Finally, I am grateful for the opportunity to care for, protect, preserve, and display, with the Area 28 members support, our Archival Collection

**Mike S.
Area 28 Archivist**

POST-CON ONLINE

Our Post-Conference Forum took place last Spring in Searsport and featured a stellar report from our delegate Allen S. It was also broadcast online by our hardworking Hybrid committee. Here is (former) District 6 GSR Anne L. with some perspective on that experience.

The flyer announcing the Area 28 Post-Conference Forum, hosted by District 16 in Searsport, sparked grandiose plans for a Downeast adventure before life threw a curve ball in the form of an onslaught of Rte 1 tourist traffic. Doing what AA has taught me, life on life's terms, I turned to Plan B, the online option. In-person is the number one choice for this alcoholic. However, early in step work my sponsor advised reading Appendix II of the Big Book every night. The last four words came to mind and squelched my balking: "contempt prior to investigation". Online it was! So, I logged in, grateful for the opportunity to show up.

Area 28 Hybrid Chair, Moxie, created a welcoming and inclusive online experience for the ~35 AA's who had joined through this venue. She explained how it worked, such as asking questions of the Delegate and other online etiquette. Moxie responded to concerns about volume, camera angle and more. Her technical skills were top-notch, wanting us all online to have the experience of those attending in person. The whole experience was a shining example of Tradition 3, spirit inclusive, never exclusive. "The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking".

As the Post Conference Forum came to an end, I reflected on all the benefits attending online had offered. As GSR for the Bath Group I had taken copious notes to report to my home group, seen some familiar names, connected on the chat, and been an AA member among AA members. I had spent three hours listening as A28 Delegate, Allen S., shared his experience in NYC, while I stood in my kitchen putting together a frittata and a rhubarb cake and hanging out with my furballs.

All past AA events such as Spring and Fall Assemblies, Area Committee Meetings and Pre and Post Conference Forums I have attended in person. I was a reluctant enthusiast joining online. The first was when Covid shut down in-person meetings. Just like walking in the rooms early in AA, attending online meetings during Covid saved my life. In fact, I hear "I got sober on Zoom during Covid" more and more often in the rooms these days. Because this is a program of repetition, I'll end with 'Am I willing to go to any length?' The answer has been and is today, 'YES!'

Anne L
GSR - Bath Group

STEPPING UP

Crystal F., Alt DCM for District 16 answered the call for contributions about service work with this inspiring story:

I had been going to meetings for awhile now, and I really didn't expect this one to be much different. There was a lady there that I had never heard. She spoke to me and said, 'Wing it'. So, I started the meeting in the usual way. Preamble, How it Works, and the Tradition of the month. As it came time to have someone share there was an awkward silence. Finally, it was asked, 'Who would like to share?'. It was decided that the lady for whom we were hosting the meeting would share. In the hushed, sacred silence she began, and a new story filled my heart. The honesty and courage of the speaker, who suffered from MS and a knee replacement, amazed me. The trembling emotion in her voice caught me in my soul. I was stricken still by her presence. As the rest of us shared, the feeling of unity was there, always a constant reminder of our link to the AA community.

Crystal F

Alt DCM D16 — Off The Wall Group

Sarah, former Area Chair and current D3 Treasurer offered this photo-realistic drawing of our current Area Chair Drew S.



SERVICE

Our Love and Service Chairt, Harriet W. shared her thoughts on the value of service.

After a recent 8 a.m. Saturday morning meeting, I had the opportunity to talk with a couple of regular seasonal members who have attended this meeting for several years. They had just arrived back in the area for the summer. We shared the joy of seeing familiar and new faces over the years – and the knowledge that A.A. is still working for members whether they be long term, returning, or new.

This particular meeting can get pretty small in the winter months, especially in inclement weather as the location is at the end of a peninsula that gets tricky in snow and ice. Nevertheless, the doors are kept open for any newcomer or regular member on shaky ground. There can be magic in the small meetings. One of the best meetings I ever attended was a scantily attended meeting on Christmas morning several years ago.

On this day, the meeting was robust and vibrant. We were buoyed by the special energy and sense of belonging that is frequently felt at A.A. meetings. Seasonal visitors, longer term members from away, and lifetime locals were all happy to renew our friendships. Several people remarked on that special sense of home-away-from-home, felt immediately despite the long winter months apart. I encouraged them to check out the Round Up this year. They remembered that I have attended for several years. All of this is service “work”. Work? I don’t know but it didn’t feel like work. But the doors were opened, the readings read, and the meeting held.

Afterward a couple of us met at another location where a member had left her car, and we ran some errands just so we could have extra time together riding in the car. Work? Well nurturing a supportive community does take work and willingness to share joys and stressors but is also a defining experience of a happy and worthwhile life. Small, simple acts one day at a time are the secret to nurturing my A.A. communities.

When I am lonely or bored in A.A., I need only raise my hand and take a new role in my local group, district, or area. There are opportunities in every District – that means there are unmet needs everywhere. There are many events going on across the State of Maine. Check out the events tab on the Area website [HERE](#) . When I fill my car, join in an event and shake up my program just a little bit, I am always happy I did. See you around the State!

ROUND UP 2025

The 46th annual Maine Area Round Up is right around the corner! This year's gathering will be held the second weekend in June, once again in the picturesque and magical Carrabassett Valley. [HERE](#) is the website with more information, and a registration page going live in mid-February. It is sure to be a weekend chock full of fellowship, inspirational speakers, workshop wisdom, and the marvelous vistas at Sugarloaf Mountain.



Summer at Sugarloaf

**photo credit
James W.**

Editor's Note

The Boomerang winter edition is here and winter weather is in full effect! This is my favorite season so I am grateful for all the snow (I may be in the minority opinion about that). Thank you to our committee for their support and encouragement, and thank you to our contributors for their excellent work! Service in AA helped me find connection with our community and keeps me active when hibernating seems like the better option. The upcoming Service Assemblies are a great way to get involved, as are the workshops and shindigs occurring throughout the state. So if you're feeling the winter blues check out the [Event Fliers](#) page and get to work. It's the lifesaving kind.

Boomerang Statement of Purpose

The Boomerang is to inform Area 28 Members and members-at-large about general service from GSO, The General Service Conference, The Northeast Region, Area 28, the Districts and the Groups. Communication is the key to an informed Group Conscience.