

Area 44 History & Archives Committee
List of Committee Presentations Available to the Fellowship

Early AA – The Women – This presentation, written for the 2018 Area 44 Convention, covers the contributions of women who helped shape our fellowship in its early days. From the wives of our founders, Lois Wilson and Anne Smith, to some of the first women to achieve long term sobriety, like Marty M., and those who struggled, like Florence R., this presentation is especially powerful when it is presented by women. Includes PowerPoint presentation.

Northern New Jersey Landmarks in the History of Alcoholics Anonymous – This presentation is a guided tour of many of the early places where the roots of our fellowship were planted in Northern NJ. It covers the locations of some of the first AA meetings in South Orange and Morristown, to the home of Hank P., where some of the first non-Oxford Group “Alcoholic Squad” meetings were held, and of course, the locations where our Big Book was written, and the Alanon Club in Newark, where so much early 12th step work took place. Includes PowerPoint presentation.

The Four Founding Moments of Alcoholics Anonymous – In Ernest Kurtz's book “Not God”, he describes the four founding moments which made our society possible. These signs of Divine Providence started with a meeting between Rowland Hazard and Dr. Carl Jung, and move through Bill's experiences, both educational and spiritual in Towns Hospital. Finally, it covers the moment in which our program was born, when Bill met Dr. Bob in Akron. Includes PowerPoint presentation.

A Celebration of the Big Book – When Bill and Dr. Bob realized that they had a way to help alcoholics stay sober, they and the other early members decided to share this experience with the world. From how it started, counting noses in Akron, to How It Worked on Clinton Street, this presentation details the struggles in writing, financing and publishing our basic text, which was written right here in Northern NJ.

Roots And Branches: 75 Years of the AA Grapevine – From the beginning, when those “six ink stained wretches” convened to consider a local AA newsletter, to the publication of our Preamble and our first glimpse at the Twelve Traditions, this presentation highlights the Grapevine's phenomenal growth and creativity through the 1940's and 1950's.

The History of Intergroup – With the growth of AA in New Jersey, starting in 1939, we needed a way to carry the message to the many still suffering around us. Our first Intergroup Office, located at the Alanon Club in Newark, began our journey to coordinate 12th Step work in Northern NJ. From a couple of dozen groups in the mid 1940's to over 1,250 groups and over 2,000 meetings today, Intergroup has grown with us.

The Rockefeller Connection: Myths and Legends in AA History – In late 1937, a group of New York A.A.'s sought to open a chain of alcoholic clinics, hire paid missionaries and maybe even write a book to show how it was done. They sought the help of entrepreneur and philanthropist John D. Rockefeller. This is the story of what happened — and what didn't, and how money could have spoiled this thing. Includes PowerPoint presentation.

Bill's Story, The Original Version – In the Spring of 1938, needing some chapters to form the book that he envisioned, Bill wrote an early draft of his story that is over twice the length of the one most of us know. This revealing account gives many insights on who Bill was, and offers a look into the early writing of our basic text.

Alcoholics Anonymous in New Jersey: The First 20 Years – This presentation is an exploration of how Alcoholics Anonymous in New Jersey developed in the 1940's and 1950's, from our first group in South Orange to 225 groups by the end of 1959.

For more information, or to schedule a presentation for your event, email: archives@nnjaa.org.