

Turning the Lights On 2.0 in the Districts of Area 50

Background, Edited from Panel 66, 2016

1. For the past decades, Area 50 has been a “dark area”. That means that our Area has had a less than healthy general service structure, with inadequate participation and support from the Groups and members.
2. We are not alone. Other Areas in AA have the same problems. Dark Districts—a Focus for Many Area Delegates, Box 459, Feb-Mar 2006 <https://silkworth.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/feb-mar06.pdf>
3. During 2016, the Area Committee developed and began to implement a strategic plan to “Turn the Lights On” in Area 50.
4. One of the primary goals of the strategic plan is to revive our District’s structure. During 2017, it had become increasingly clear that reviving the district structure is critical to the success of the “Turning the Lights On” plan.
5. To Turn the Lights On in our Districts, we encourage a grass roots organizing effort in as many Districts as possible, and thus begin restoring to health our Legacies of Unity and Service in each District.
6. “The Unity of Alcoholics Anonymous is the most cherished quality our Society has. Our lives, and the lives of all to come depends squarely upon it. We stay whole or AA dies.” 12 & 12, page 129
7. The Districts are the first step in the structure beyond the Groups. At the District level, nearby groups work together to insure the unity of AA and a healthy service practice throughout the District. The Districts meld the group conscience of the participating Groups, developing a “District conscience” that insures Unity and Service.

Some new options for Turning the Lights On 2.0:

- A. Area Registrar may find Groups and GSRs who have been registered, and get others up to date...and specify which District they are in so that the DCM or neighboring DCM can get help. Work with Area Corresponding Secretary to specify Districts for each Area Committee member. That way, Area Committee members who are in dark Districts can be of help, enormously.
- B. Current DCMs are working with neighboring Districts that are dark, or who have new DCMs. So far, we have a few GSRs from dark Districts who have been invited by the neighboring DCM to their District meetings...in AA Unity. Others are mentoring new DCMs.
- C. Encouraging Alt DCMs. Alts are great in many Service positions for many reasons. They are needed at the DCM level, for now and as future DCMs.
- D. GSR Education and GSA Education can help Districts educate GSRs. It is very difficult to “find” GSRs. This is at the Group level, and some Groups do not feel it important to have a GSR. (Panel 66 has suggested numerous AA pamphlets that will help, too.)
- E. Utilize technology for those GSRs or Group members who wish to participate...or are encouraged to do so in the Area 50 Assemblies. Many are on the outer parts of our District maps.
- F. Area 50 Committee Chairs go to the individual Districts. It is a great opportunity to offer suggestions to the Districts, (which is comprised of Groups). Boots on the ground work keeps us sober and brings us together. The Committee Chairs have so much talent and experience to share that will help the sick and suffering, and help keep Group members engaged. It makes for a more informed group conscience, as well.

Discussion for Panel 72, Area 50

>The vision of Turning the Lights On in Area 50 began with Panel 66, which took enormous efforts from many, and an Area group conscience to do so.

>In Panels 68 and 69, we had approximately 17+ Districts open with DCMs and/or Alt DCMs.

>Sometime in Panel 20, we lost some momentum. Covid had hit the world, including AA.

>In Panel 72, we have approximately 10 DCMs and 3 Alt DCMs. Our contingent of DCMs and Alts are very strong in Service.

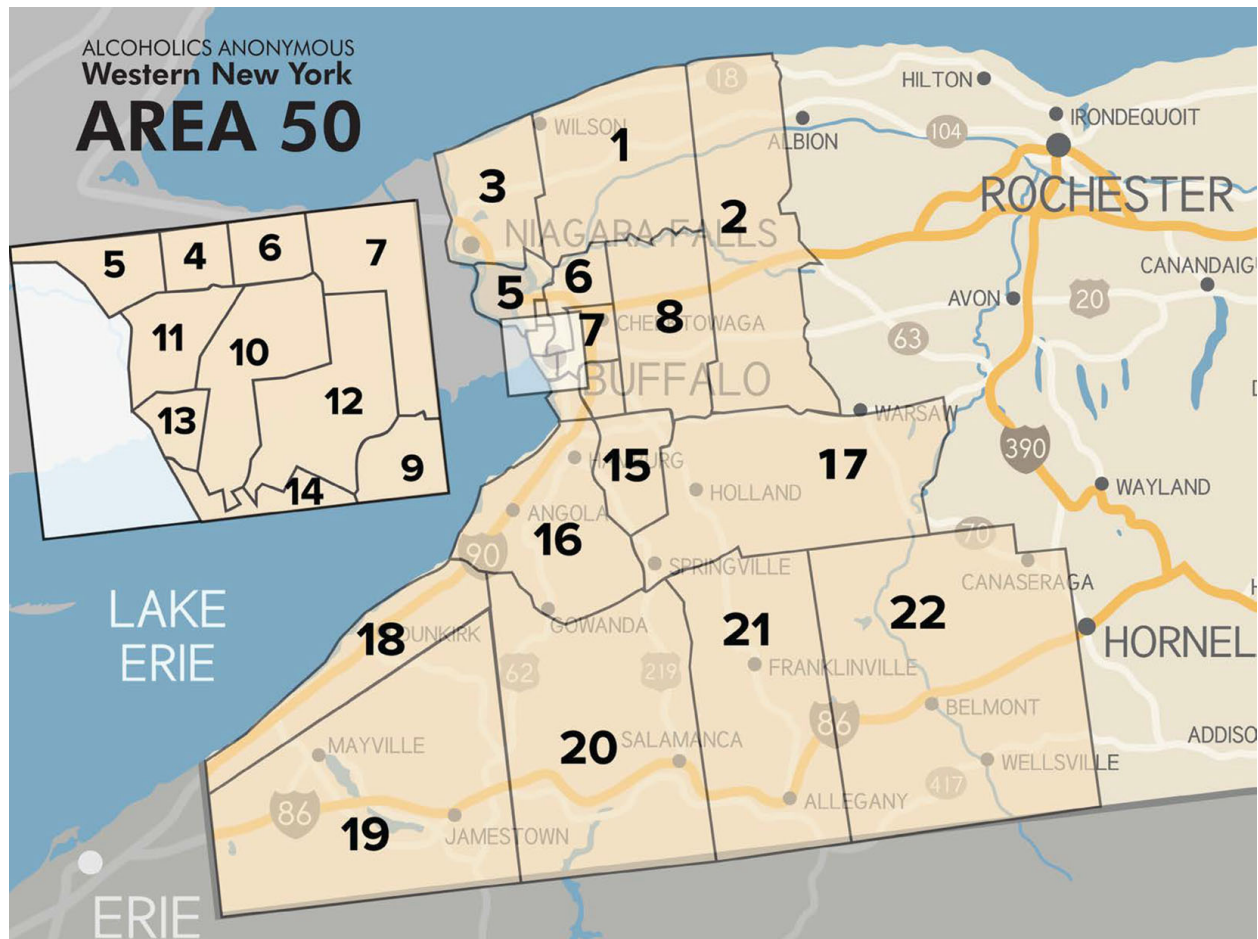
>Some Districts have melded temporarily, for various and very viable reasons.

>Our Delegate has brought our voice to the GSA in Panel 72. Many HGs were involved in the process...in Unity. There are still others, though, in WNY.

Is Area 50 once again up to the challenge of Turning the Lights On 2.0? We have broad shoulders to stand on from those before us, who have lighted the way. Many of their strategic tactics may be used again, while new ones are added for new situations. We are fortunate that we now have strength from Area 50 officers and committee chairs, our dedicated DCMs and Alts, our Home Groups and our Intergroups.

Any AA member in Area 50 would be helpful in expanding the Districts, especially those who are already in Service. However, we need to coordinate our efforts, so that we don't inadvertently step on toes, especially by those who may have evolved their structure organically.

For now, we will be using our DCMC meetings in part to gather together for next steps. Every third Tuesday at 7pm on Zoom. Email, call or text me anytime. JoAnn T.
p72dcmc@area50wny.org mobile 412.487.1920



- **District #1** – Eastern Niagara County, not Niagara Falls
- **District #2** – Western parts of Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming (North of Rte 20A) Counties
- **District #3** – Niagara Falls Area – Eastern Niagara County
- **District #4** – Kenmore, North Buffalo
- **District #5** – Riverside, Tonawanda near River, North Tonawanda, Grand Island
- **District #6** – UB South Campus Area, Tonawanda, Amherst north of Sheridan, East Amherst
- **District #7** – Snyder, Williamsville, Cheektowaga north of William
- **District #8** – Clarence, Akron, Depew, Alden, Elma
- **District #9** – W.Seneca & Cheektowaga, E of I-90,W of Transit Rd, S of Losson & N of Milestrip
- **District #10** – Buffalo, East Side & Kensington Area
- **District #11** – Buffalo, West Side between North/Porter & Amherst St
- **District #12** – Cheektowaga, Sloan, Lovejoy, Babcock & the Valley
- **District #13** – Buffalo, West Side, Allentown, Downtown
- **District #14** – South Buffalo, Lackawanna, Blasdell
- **District #15** – East Aurora, Orchard Park, North Boston
- **District #16** – Southern Erie County, W of Rte 219, Hamburg, Angola, Eden, Gowanda

- **District #17** – SW Erie & S Wyoming Counties, Holland, Springville, Arcade, Perry
- **District #18** – Chautauqua County along Lake Erie shore, Silver Creek, Dunkirk/ Fredonia, Westfield
- **District #19** – Remainder of Chautauqua County, Mayville, Jamestown
- **District #20** – Western Cattaraugus County, Salamanca, Ellicottville, Little Valley
- **District #21** – Eastern Cattaraugus County, Olean, Franklinville
- **District #22** – All of Allegany County

DCMs

District 1, Lynn

District 3, Sue Br

District 4, Sue B and Alt Sue L

District 5, Nancy, Alt Bill J

District 7, Pete W

District 11, Joe C

District 14, Tony N

District 15, Jim G.

District 16, Jeff S

District 19, Karen K

District 20, Heather

Dark or Dim Districts

District 2

District 6 working w District 7

District 8

District 9

District 10

District 12

District 13 beginning to work w 11

District 17 ?

District 18, working w 19...and 16

District 21

District 22

Ad

District 18, working w 19...and 16

District 21

District 22