

# FALL ASSEMBLY

October 21, 2012

Area Chair, Mark N. opened the meeting at 1:00pm with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer and a reading from Chapter 5 of the Service Manual (p. S 40).

Area Chair read voting requirements for Spring Assembly

Count=46; 31 required for substantial unanimity, 24 required for simple majority.

## Secretary's Report:

Secretary read Old Business and New Business from Fall Assembly 2011. A motion to accept report was made, seconded and passed.

## Treasurer's Report:

- ⌚ As of the end of September, the Area has a closing balance of \$3,640.00 with a \$9,000.00 Prudent Reserve. Total funds for the Area are \$12,642.00. Since the last Spring Assembly, \$3,000.00 has been transferred to the Prudent Reserve account, as was required by the Area Committee.
- ⌚ Contributions over the past 6 months total \$11,677.73. There has been an increase of \$1,363.47 in contributions from the previous assembly (October 2011-March 2012).
- ⌚ Here is the breakdown of the contributions for the last 6 months:
  - District 6 contributed 30 contributions totaling \$1,305.65. 38 groups are registered with GSO, 11 groups contributed
  - District 5 contributed 46 contributions totaling \$2,903.86. 55 groups are registered with GSO, 26 groups contributed
  - District 4 contributed 31 contributions totaling \$2,608.27. 47 groups are registered with GSO, 17 groups contributed
  - District 3 contributed 30 contributions totaling \$1,686.28. 65 groups are registered with GSO, 19 groups contributed
  - District 2 contributed 24 contributions totaling \$1,357.16. 40 groups are registered with GSO, 14 groups contributed
  - District 1 contributed 14 contributions totaling \$628.00. 32 groups are registered with GSO, 7 groups contributed
- ⌚ A breakdown of how basket contributions have been used by the Area:
  - \$3,000.00 was allocated for NERAASA. Because it was held in Albany, NY this year, and after the Area Officers expenses were paid, there was money available within this line item. This allowed the Area to provide some financial support to Area Committee members who were attending to lessen their expenses.
  - Your dollars make it possible to hold these two day events both in the Spring and Fall. If you have not had a chance yet, check out the wonderful boards paid for by your contributions.
  - Each year, districts are budgeted \$150-\$300 for possible workshops or events within their district. Recently, District 6 held a Concepts Workshop.
  - Committees have been actively working and monies allocated for them have been used on pamphlets, books, phones and Grapevine subscriptions, allowing the Committees to reach out in their way.
- ⌚ Next month, the Area will be holding its Budget Meeting. This is the time where committees can request monies from the Area to hold such events as the Concepts workshop. DCMs/GSRs, you play a vital part in this process. Talk with the Area Officers, past DCMs/CoDCMs, and districts to find out what has been done in the past, or come up with something new and original to offer in your District.
- ⌚ Motion to accept – seconded and passed

## Registrar's Report:

- ⌚ It is my responsibility to keep track of all the groups in the Area
- ⌚ There are 292 active registered groups in western mass
- ⌚ At spring assembly 286 were registered
- ⌚ 10 of the groups are behind institution walls
- ⌚ 32 groups listed as unknown – the information is incomplete or mail is being returned. A group remains on unknown list until it decides that it is an inactive group – most are ones that are folded. Just heard 2 more recently folded
  - Of these groups, 6 are Spanish groups registered in the area
- ⌚ Work with the DCM's to keep track of this information. It is important for GSR's to get in touch with DCMs to ensure contact information is accurate and up to date
- ⌚ It will be crunch time in the next few months since most groups are having elections and there will be lots of changes.
- ⌚ If you would like to send changes to the Registrar, contact him at XXX-XXX-XXXX or email at [registrar@area31aa.org](mailto:registrar@area31aa.org)

## Area Archivist Report:

- ⌚ Archivist has taken our First Edition, Second Printing copy of the book Alcoholics Anonymous to Praxis Book Bindery in Easthampton to get an estimate on having our copy rebound in order to preserve it. The estimated cost will be between \$250 and \$300. I do believe that it is our responsibility to do this. The reason I chose this time is that the cost of the repairs will have

to be included in the Archives Committee yearly budget Peter, the owner, has already rebound a Big Book for one of our members who was extremely satisfied.

- We will be asking for an excess of \$200 at the budget meeting for this purpose.
- ⌚ I would like to ask the Committee Chairs & DCMs to please give their minutes, notes and attendance sheets to the Archives Committee. These papers are very important for our history. Please be sure to include who, what, where, when and why.

### **Ad Hoc Reports:**

- ⌚ Adhoc committee to review and edit the GSR PowerPoint presentation
  - A little background on this committee: This ad hoc committee has been editing a PowerPoint presentation designed to help new GSRs learn about their responsibilities.
  - There are 5 committee members. We've met nine times, finished the PowerPoint presentation over the summer and presented it yesterday in a trial run to all present. We then asked for (and received) feedback from the body. We will meet once more to consider the feedback and perhaps edit based on feedback. Then we'll deliver the finished presentation to the Area Committee for their consideration in December.

### **Standing Committee Reports:**

#### **Accessibility:**

- ⌚ We have been going slow and steady to meet the needs of what is coming up.
- ⌚ Concerned that if we get even 2 or 3 calls it may be too much
- ⌚ If anyone can help in any of the areas listed on the sheet, please let me know
- ⌚ Thanks to Francis for transitioning Mass State into large print
- ⌚ This committee asked for \$1200 to assist for ASL interpretation at service commitments. It hasn't been needed yet, but it could be in the future
- ⌚ It would make sense to use this money to purchase headsets for the hearing impaired to use at the area functions. This would assist those that have difficulty hearing, and there seems to be a larger population.

### **Archives:**

- ⌚ Ongoing look at and improvement of committee functions as a result of the Area / Committee taken at the 2011 Fall Assembly. Develop and distribute Area 31 Archives newsletter Spring and Fall editions. Develop oral history release form to give ownership of ongoing recorded material to the Area 31 Archives. Plan and present an event celebrating the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1<sup>st</sup> AA meeting in Area 31 which was held June 3, 1942 @ 305 Bridge St. Springfield, Ma. Explore rebinding options/costs for one of the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Big Books in the Archives. Continue gathering Old Timers recordings. Continue with the transfer of recorded tapes to a more contemporary media backup. Digital storage and CD.
- ⌚ This past spring I reported to you of ongoing actions as the result of last fall's inventory. Suggestions that were made, and actions taken or planned. I would now like to review how we did at meeting, and or not meeting the goals set for this year, and reviewing other accomplishments made throughout the year.
  - The newsletter idea was brought forward with no action taken.
  - The oral history release form was decided by the committee to not be necessary at this time.
  - The 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday party event held June 2, 2012 was successful and well attended.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> edition Big Book rebinding costs are estimated at \$ . This will be included in the budget request for 2013.
  - Old timers recording opportunities have been brought forward with no actions.
  - Tape transfers are on-going, and will be for likely years. There are currently 4 people involved in this process.
- ⌚ **Other highlights for this year**
  - Continuing weekly sorting of files in order to better make available Archives in a useful manner to the Fellowship. (this is an inventory action).
  - Sorting and inventorying of Grapevine issues from 1948-2012 {2 partial sets} with the help of the Grapevine Committee. (Thank you). A third set is being donated to Area 48 Archives who lost their entire Archives due to a flood last year. The remaining balance was donated to Area 31 Grapevine Committee for distribution.
  - Archive Committee sponsored workshop at the 2012 Round-up.
  - There have been 16 YTD display board commitments fulfilled, with the Mass State Convention scheduled.
  - Purchase of new file storage including file for When & Where's
  - Recordings of area old-timers being sent to Ed T. of Florida at his request. Ed was a Randall Group member during the 1970's-80's
  - Two Districts, and all monthly Intergroup meeting have been visited to reach out to groups about the Archives Committee. (this is an inventory action)(Group Histories).
  - New reps. orientation Kit is made and distributed as needed. (This is an inventory action).
  - We have shared our experience and hopes for the future with GSO Archives pertaining to transferring materials to digital format in response to an e-mail inquiry from them for updating the Archives Workbook.

### **CPC:**

- ⌚ Two presentations this year to Clinical and Support Options Treatment Counselors and to Hampden County Sheriff's Department Supervisors (scheduled for November 21<sup>st</sup>)
- ⌚ In the process of contacting groups to whom CPC has presented in the past to see if annual (or some scheduled) visits can be arranged.
- ⌚ Sponsor Your Doctor packets
  - Rollout at the Roundup in May
  - Distribution through District meetings to GSRs for discussion at group business meetings with information on how to order packets from CPC
  - One physician has expressed interest in a CPC presentation to his practice
- ⌚ CPC plans to offer to do outgoing commitments to group bookies in order to get participation in CPC and/or leads for professional groups to address
- ⌚ Participated in Mason Square Health Fair in April. Baystate Mason Square Neighborhood Health Center contact made their (Community Liaison) has expressed interest in CPC visiting a future staff meeting.

### **Grapevine:**

- ⌚ Since the Spring Assembly
  - Taking our Grapevine boards to anniversaries and raffling off subscriptions.
    - Response has been strong enough that we had to request more budget money to finish out the year.
  - Attending Intergroup in Holyoke to broaden the audience who hears about the Grapevine and the committee
  - Holding regular meetings – 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of month @ 7:30 PM at 474 Pleasant Street Holyoke, MA
    - Attended by experienced Grapevine reps and newcomers
    - Announce new information on the Grapevine and La Vina
    - Discuss
      - ⌚ How to communicate to difficult groups
      - ⌚ How to connect with the Central Grapevine
        - Grapevine History
        - Grapevine Handbooks
        - Promotion ideas and information in general
      - ⌚ Ideas for promotion that Grapevine Reps have used in their groups..

### **Public Information:**

- ⌚ Goal is to get the letter that we have been working on mailed
- ⌚ We have finally found someone to assist with the mail merge to be able to print up labels, then stuff envelopes and mail them
- ⌚ We will need new reps, currently have more new reps than old ones
- ⌚ Anyone interested in joining, please come so we can get you up to speed
- ⌚ Our usual commitments have been filled, although a couple of glitches. IOP in Northampton had incorrect address, contacted that it hadn't been filled. Now it is getting filled
- ⌚ Yesterday, found out that the Phoenix Academy had not been filled for two months, which was a surprise for me
- ⌚ Into Action Group anniversary – actually community centers 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, all that meet there were represented. CPC and PIC attended. There was an issue with cameras
- ⌚ Doing well - thanks

### **Round Up:**

- ⌚ Bunch of flyers – take them to your homegroups
- ⌚ Most information on the flyer
- ⌚ All that attended 2012 round up thank you
- ⌚ Well on our way. Met 10/10 at Intergroup
- ⌚ We have our own email address [area31roundup@gmail.com](mailto:area31roundup@gmail.com)
  - Email with questions
- ⌚ Working on getting a PO Box for pre-registrations
- ⌚ Also had requests to look into a sit down dinner at round up
- ⌚ Invite all to come to our meeting, there is plenty to do on the committee
- ⌚ Next meeting 11/14 474 pleasant at 6 pm

### **Invited Committee Reports:**

#### **Institutions Committee:**

- ⌚ During the past 6 months, the Institutions committee has purchased over \$5600 in AA approved literature which has been distributed during the over 900 meetings which are held monthly in this area.
- ⌚ We also have over 50 meetings on the Open Meeting list
- ⌚ All officers of the committee are striving to improve our outreach even more.

- ⌚ We continue to implement an educational awareness segment during our business meetings to better inform newcomers, whether they be group reps or meeting sponsors, of the workings and guidelines of our committee. Several topics covered recently have been Bridging the Gap purpose and scope; insight into correctional facility do's and don'ts; 3<sup>rd</sup> Legacy voting procedures.
- ⌚ We plan to cover a new topic every month in the hopes of attracting more support from Area 31.
- ⌚ There are currently over 50 meetings on the open meeting list, however, we receive new requests monthly for additional meetings.
- ⌚ We as a committee are always looking for ways to improve our outreach program, and invite all here to attend our monthly meetings which are held the first Wednesday every month at Providence Hospital at 7:00 pm.
- ⌚ Next month's meeting will hold committee elections.

### **Western Mass Intergroup:**

- ⌚ Thank you for your support in all forms
- ⌚ Offer fully stocked book store
- ⌚ Monthly newsletter – FYI on local AA scene
- ⌚ When and Where's of all meetings in Area 31
- ⌚ List of Area 31 general service schedule
- ⌚ Intergroup website – [www.westernmassaa.org](http://www.westernmassaa.org)
- ⌚ It is vitally important that the online meeting list remains up to date, so please provide any changes to your homegroup.
- ⌚ Bookie meeting every month prior to the monthly business meeting
- ⌚ Conduct business meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month
- ⌚ Invite participation from the Area
- ⌚ Orientation for any new Intergroup reps before bookie meeting
- ⌚ 2 big events Picnic and Christmas Alkathon
- ⌚ The Intergroup has formed an Ad Hoc committee to review existing guidelines and update as needed

### **Berkshire Intergroup:**

- ⌚ There's currently a lot of enthusiasm at the Berkshire Intergroup, and we regularly have around 10 Intergroup Reps attend our business meetings. All our service positions are filled by dedicated and responsible members, though e did have to replace our Treasurer recently because he wasn't showing up. We're reasonably certain that we are financially solvent.
- ⌚ We are always looking to carry the message of AA into the Berkshire County community in ways that AA groups and individuals can't. Two recent initiatives are our Adopt-a-Library program and our When & Where distribution program. Member groups have adopted 3 Berkshire County libraries so far and two or three others are on the way. Our members are distributing our meeting list to doctors' offices, courts and social service agencies.
- ⌚ We're looking for members with long-term sobriety to volunteer to staff the office. We're currently staffed in part by volunteers with less than a year of sobriety which we consider part of our mission, and want to partner our newer volunteers with recovered alcoholics with more experience.
- ⌚ We also finished research on the sales tax issue. By reviewing the Mass State law, we discovered that we don't have to charge sales tax on literature published by AAWS because it's a not-for-profit organization, but we do have to charge for any book produced by a for-profit organization and for any non-lit item, such as medallions. We only sell books published by AAWS and AA Grapevine, but we do sell medallions, so we're charging tax on those and remitting to the state. Full report on this issue is available to any interested party.

### **District Reports:**

#### **District 1:**

- ⌚ District 1 elections were held on October 18, 2012
  - The results were Pat S was elected Co-DCM of District 1 and Bruce D was elected Secretary of the District. Tyrone B has moved into the GSR position for the Better Life Group as a result of the position vacated by Pat S. Thank you for your service.
- ⌚ All groups report attendance is steady and donations per the pie chart are being observed.
- ⌚ The DCM and GSRs have been making attempts to reach "dark groups" or groups that are not customarily at the District Meetings in an effort to get them to participate. These contact methods have been showing up at a groups meeting or dialing the listed GSR contact information needs to be updated and 2 Groups were found to be disbanded. One group, Trials and Smiles, was reached at this assembly and will be making an effort to make it to the District meetings starting in December.
- ⌚ It was realized the District 1 meeting place was incorrectly listed on the Area website. The Area Delegate was kind enough to point out that this should be addressed with Bob the webmaster to be corrected. As of yesterday, Bob and I spoke and he has said he would correct the bad address for District 1 meeting place. This meeting is held at the Serenity Club on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month. Please verify your District info is correctly listed.
- ⌚ Flyers have been being distributed directly to the GSR's to bring back to their groups. Examples of these are the NERAASA flyer, the MA State Convention flyer and Birthday envelopes.
- ⌚ Group concerns expressed at the meetings were:
  - Lack of member participation in becoming active seems to be a prevailing issue.

- How to deal with unruly members (twice) – Ultimately, the decision on what to do was left with the groups however discussion about the traditions which enveloped this duty was discussed. Traditions 1, 3 and 5 were brought up for discussion. The GSR would bring this knowledge back to the group so the group could make an informed decision on the right thing to do.

### **District 2:**

- ⌚ Discussed over summer to take inventory – District decided they didn't need it
- ⌚ Recently had elections for next year
  - Steve F will be the Co-DCM for next year
- ⌚ Al M and Steve F and Ron G have all been very helpful

### **District 3:**

- ⌚ It has been an honor and privilege to serve District 3 for the past 4 years.
- ⌚ Thank you to all the GSRs who participated in District 3 for that is the most important job, and welcome to all the new GSRs
- ⌚ District 3 has roughly 68 groups and 100 meetings.
- ⌚ Newly elected positions are as follows
  - Joan – DCM
  - Dennis – Co-DCM
  - Connell – LCM
  - Ruthie – Secretary
- ⌚ Used 3<sup>rd</sup> Legacy voting in last voting and it was awesome!!
- ⌚

### **District 4:**

- ⌚ DCM – Christa M
- ⌚ Co-DCM – Melissa O
- ⌚ Cherri stepped down in July from DCM and Melissa was elected as co-DCM in September
- ⌚ Open Secretary position
- ⌚ We did practice the 3<sup>rd</sup> Legacy voting procedures and it went well
- ⌚ There has been a slow increase in attending GSRs, who seem to be sticking. We are averaging 15 GSRs and Alternates.
- ⌚ There has been some discussion of getting a workshop set up by the District.
  - Ideas so far are:
    - Sponsorship
    - Steps
    - More discussion will occur on this next month
- ⌚ There are many GSRs here from our District, which is awesome!
- ⌚ We have had interesting discussions at our meetings – lots of enthusiastic people coming to our meetings

### **District 5:**

- ⌚ The consistency has been expressed by the participation of primarily the same 13-15 active groups that have sent a GSR to our monthly meeting which is held in Ludlow the first Monday of every month.
- ⌚ As a result of the reps sharing their positive experiences, an increase of Group Inventories has unfolded. A personal experience of mine was when a past delegate facilitated a group inventory at my home group, the East Longmeadow Sunday Night Group. The inventory resulted in a change of our group conscience by altering the format of our beginner's meeting. The process was carried out to make most of the group members to feel part of. Our district supports the use of our past trusted servants in helping us practice the Twelve Traditions and the Twelve Concepts.
- ⌚ Our annual elections were facilitated by two current Area Committee members with the intent to utilize the 3<sup>rd</sup> Legacy as purely as possible.
- ⌚ Mary M., our current co-DCM, will roll into the DCM position, Lynne L was elected Co-DCM, Pauline as LCM and Amy as Secretary.

### **District 6:**

- ⌚ There are 41 groups in our district
- ⌚ Only about 6-10 groups are represented
- ⌚ Attended many dark meetings to get as much support as we can
- ⌚ Sponsored a concept meeting, 3 past delegates shared experience and strength – Bobbie P, Bob W and Sally S for their participation. Thank you

- ⌚ This coming Tuesday night, Women's meeting anniversary
- ⌚ District 6 has part of CT as well.
- ⌚ Decent support, yet same ongoing concerns as others
- ⌚ Can be frustrating at times, but we can only do our part
- ⌚ Elections are coming up in December
- ⌚ Service support is lacking in the Granby area
- ⌚ We need the group secretary to send out "GSR Email" for Concept support

## Delegate's Report

- ⌚ Good afternoon, my name is Brian and I am an alcoholic. My current service position is delegate Area 31 Panel 62 and I'm serving as co-chair on The Policy and Admissions Committee. It's a delight to share with you this afternoon, as our Service Manual states for a typical non-election assembly, the most recent communications from our General Service Office (GSO).
  - ⌚ Firstly, A.A.W.S, Inc. is seeking resumes for trustee-at-large/U.S. to be submitted to the Secretary, Trustees' Nominating Committee, General Service Office P.O. Box 459 Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163. Our Area Chair, Mark, has this under new business on the agenda. Therefore, we'll be discussing the Election Procedure and Third Legacy in detail under New Business.
  - ⌚ There are two openings for Nontrustee Appointed Committee Members for Trustees' Committee on Corrections and Trustees' Committee on Public Information. If interested see me sometime today or if you may know of someone qualified have them call me @ XXX-XXX-XXXX or email me @ [delegate@area31aa.org](mailto:delegate@area31aa.org). The Area Secretary will also have attachments to these assemblies' minutes, the qualities most desirable for these positions, the procedure and a blank resume.
  - ⌚ The Final Report of The 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of The General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous has been published and released to us. Distribute freely amongst us but avoid getting them in the hands of non-alcoholics. You'll find them on the table over there and you'll note the word CONFIDENTIAL on the cover. Please treat it as such in accordance with our 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Traditions. Full names are used in this report. We don't want to cause harm to anyone and more importantly it'll be an opportunity to practice this spiritual principal of humility.
  - ⌚ NERAASA 2013 will be hosted by Area 59 (Eastern Pennsylvania) at The Lancaster Host Hotel in Lancaster, PA from 22-24 February 2013. NERAASA is The Northeast Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly with the stated purpose for GSR's, DCM's, Area Officers, Area Committee Members, Intergroup Representatives and other alcoholics interested in service to get together and 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 area of the Northeast Region. Registration forms are here today in English and Spanish or you may visit the website [www.neraasa2013.org](http://www.neraasa2013.org) to register. The registration does not include the hotel this year. You must contact them separately and the info is in the form or online. My experience was by visiting the hotels website and claiming my membership in AAA I received a better rate. So triple A beats double A!
  - ⌚ A positive showing with enthusiastic Area 31 AA'ers will be appreciated as we are going to announce intent to bid on NERAASA 2016 at the upcoming NERAASA. A boisterous crowd hootin' & hollerin' as we announce our intent may be attractive to those casting ballots.
  - ⌚ Speaking of regional A.A. events, the next Northeast Regional Forum, better known as NERF, will be in our backyard in Cromwell, CT 7-9 June 2013. NERF 2014 will be in Linthicum, MD and 2015 in Albany, NY.
  - ⌚ As a result of hard work from The Literature Committee at the last Conference, new literature is out! The revisions for "**A.A. and the Armed Services**" pamphlet were approved and they are available. This committee also approved and updated the booklet **Living Sober** which changed outdated terms and usages while preserving the real sense of one alcoholic talking to another that is the style of this particular publication. The updated version of the booklet will become available in the next few months as the current stock is depleted. (Show new booklet with blue & white cover).
  - ⌚ The Corrections Committee did an outstanding job of revising the pamphlet "**It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell**" which retains the easy-to-read format and wider layout, but which now can be folded for easy fit into literature racks, showing off-fittingly?- a cover with blue bars.
  - ⌚ The Conference also approved the Public Information pamphlet the "**2011 Alcoholics Anonymous Membership Survey.**" This update of the triennial survey has a new look with crisp used graphics to portray the survey responses to different questions, and is useful in presenting a snapshot of A.A. to those who are not familiar with our Fellowship.
  - ⌚ An issue of Box 4-5-9 is sent quarterly to each GSR and is meant to be shared with the group and district, possibly pointing out articles of particular interest regarding group issues that are brought to the attention of GSO through phone calls, e-mails and other correspondence. This piece of literature is a fantastic resource for "hot topics" at a district meeting or committee meeting. To all DCM's and Committee Chairs - "feel free to use this publication." If you don't receive it as a perk of your service position it may be purchased for the low annual cost of \$3.50 individually or a bulk of ten for \$6.00. A suggestion would be for all interested districts to use \$6.00 of their budget on Box 4-5-9.
  - ⌚ Lastly, some information on our "Big Book" that some of you may have already heard - or part of. With over 30 million copies sold, and born on the heels of the Great Depression, *Alcoholics Anonymous* is a book that has changed the lives of millions of alcoholics around the world. The Big Book offers a program of recovery that has found broad application across all boundaries of gender, race, culture, language and religion.
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- ⌚ Recognizing the Big Book's unique ability to reach alcoholics with a message of hope, most recently the Big Book has turned up in an exhibition from the U.S. Library of Congress celebrating "Books That Shaped America." It was one of eighty-eight books on display that were written by Americans that have influenced our lives. We are here today as a direct result of that influence from the early pioneers, some alcoholic and some not. Let us hope we never forget the sacrifices they gave so we could live. We stand on the shoulders of giants. (Pause) May never waiver nor water down this message to the next generation. So help us God.
  - ⌚ As of last July the Big Book has been translated into 67 languages with 14 translations pending. The pending translations range from Navajo in this country to Inca in South America, Mayan in Guatemala to Dutch/Flemish in Belgium and the Netherlands. With our Seventh Tradition contributions, these translations, this message of hope, will save the lives of many. The Seventh Tradition goes beyond the integrity we reap as our initial reward; it unites our souls with Something greater than us.
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### **Alternate Delegate's Report**

- ⌚ Feedback on workshop
- ⌚ Received Area 31 calendar for Annual Calendar for BSRs at a Glance
- ⌚ Created 2 documents (sent as attachments) for the body
- ⌚ Mass State Convention coming up in a few short weeks.
- ⌚ Planning meeting 30<sup>th</sup>, we meet at the Plantation Inn at 5 pm— Registration forms available on table
- ⌚ Room rates have been extended

### **Area Chair's Report**

- ⌚ If your homegroup is interested in having the area committee come out, please see me and we can do a service commitment
- ⌚ Began this year talking about service sponsorship to the DCMs
- ⌚ I am responsible for nominating new co-Chairs for the standing committees. If you are rolling out and interested in standing, please see me with your interest

Recount of Voters – 53 Total; 35 required for substantial unanimity, 27 for simple majority

### **Third Legacy Proceeding for Election of:**

#### **Class B Trustee**

- ⌚ Delegate read requirements or Class B Trustee and how to apply for position
- ⌚ See write up
- ⌚ Chair requested all those eligible to stand
  - Tanya E
    - Sobriety Date: 10/24/81
    - Homegroup – Thursday BB Step Study in Shelburne
    - Past Delegate Panel 47 from Area 17
      - ⌚ Served all positions at group
      - ⌚ Intergroup Chair
      - ⌚ Service Structure - GSR, Alt DCM, Registrar, Chair, Alt Chair, Delegate, Alt Delegate
      - ⌚ Privileged to serve in various capacities in Area 31
      - ⌚ Professional background – retired
        - Majority working career in real estate
      - ⌚ Served as Alt Chair on Finance Committee when a Delegate
  - Bob W
    - Sobriety Date: 3/30/93
    - Alt GSR, GSR, LCM, DCM, Area Chair/Alt Delegate, Delegate
      - ⌚ Panel 52 Delegate for Area 31
    - Served Mass State Convention as Chair 2004
    - Has been available to serve whenever called after rotating out of Delegate
    - Facilitated many group inventories
    - Served on many Ad-Hoc committees (Area guidelines, etc)
    - Homegroup – Holyoke Group
    - Chairing Mass State Convention in assistance with Chip this year
    - Own Independent Insurance Agency
  - Round 1
    - Bob – 37 Tanya – 16; 2/3's met – Bob passes

#### **Area Secretary**

- ⌚ Chair reads requirements
- ⌚ All willing to stand
  - Beth
    - Homegroup: After Dinner Group
    - Sobriety Date: 10/17/94



- Served as Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary of Institutions, Chair of CPC
    - Background in Information Systems
    - Interested in staying in the middle
  - Bill
    - 4/5/89
    - Computer illiterate
    - Want to be a part of the Area service
  - Kim
    - Sobriety Date: 8/8/08
    - Has a sponsor and a service sponsor
    - Working knowledge of traditions
    - Homegroup: South Hadley Group
      - ⌚ Treasurer in homegroup
    - Group service - Newcomer liaison
    - NECYPAA Host – Area Liaison, Mass State Convention Liaison and Arts Chair
    - WMYPAA Chair
  - Round 1
    - Beth – 37 – 2/3’s majority
    - Bill - 9
    - Kim - 6

## **Old Business**

### **YP Committee Ad Hoc Committee**

- ⌚ Read Mission Statement (see attached)
- ⌚ There has been a lot of enthusiasm
- ⌚ Bonfire last night around 150 people. Created more enthusiasm. Serious about getting involved and being of service to the Area
- ⌚ Had 3 legacy workshop, did service at Intergroup Picnic and Roundup
- ⌚ Made 5 copies of the guidelines – if you would like a copy emailed, give Kim your email
- ⌚ This committee has encouraged members of this committee to learn about Traditions and Concepts
- ⌚ It appears to be a great opportunity to get young people to get involved in service
- ⌚ Motion: To have Western Mass Young People’s in AA as an invited committee to the Area with a vote in the Area.
  - Point of order – should ask for discussion for voting?
    - Opportunity for questions was presented and there were no questions.
  - Simple hand vote – all those in favor
  - UNANIMOUS – All in favor!!!

### **Website**

- ⌚ Presently serving as Webmaster (Bob).
- ⌚ There is a website that has been created, pretty much bare-bones
- ⌚ There have been some corrections
- ⌚ Haven’t done much with it since this vote was coming.
- ⌚ This may or may not change the direction that I was thinking this should go in
- ⌚ It will be a big help to have people I can bounce ideas off of, having a committee would be VERY useful
- ⌚ Discussion
  - Is the standing committee going to have votes at area committee and assembly
    - Yes
  - Composition of committee has it been clarified
    - No – new committee and will need to be defined. It is a work in progress
- ⌚ Motion: To have a standing website committee
  - 45 in favor – 1 opposed
    - Minority declines
  - Motion passes. We have a standing website committee in the Area.
- ⌚ Since website was part of PI and since the budget was made for the two of us, I think that it will need to be split
- ⌚ Bob foresees no use of the budget in the short term.
- ⌚ There was an amount that was set aside for a certain amount to be used for PI purposes
  - The amount requested by PI can still be moved over and used for PI purposes

## **New Business**



## Finance Committee

- ⌚ Reviewed the statement of purpose for the Finance committee in great detail and minutes from last month. Proposal that it be returned to the Area committee for further consideration and review. I believe that there are a number of things that should be reviewed at the area committee level first
- ⌚ Statement of purpose in total should not be in the handbook
- ⌚ A couple of the things that concern me should be addressed in the Area first. I believe that we should be very clear before coming to the Assembly what should be included in handbook and not.
- ⌚ Couple of changes
  - Statement of purpose states that the finance committee will be chaired by the current Treasurer. I think the Treasurer should be just a member, and the most appropriate chair should be a past Delegate that has served as a Treasurer.
  - In the statement of purpose there is a duties and responsibilities list – missing conduct a detailed review of the finances of the area
  - There may be laws of audits of our finances that apply to a 501c3. Finding out this would be something that would fall to a Finance committee
  - In terms of procedure, statement of purpose was brought to one area committee. IT was read aloud and then voted on. It appears quit hasty. It appears that it would be best to have people take it home, review it and consider it, then vvote on it next month.
  - Just on the points in the handbook, it should be taken
- ⌚ Motion: Move that the statement purpose for the finance committee be returned to the Area for further review by the area committee
  - All in favor – 44; Opposed – 3
  - Minority Opinion
    - Committee met for 10 months, 9 meetings. Deliberation that lasted up to 2 hours, it was not in haste
    - Finance committee is only an Advisory capacity to the Treasurer
    - People have been swayed
  - Reopen for discussion
    - Responsibilities were pretty straight forward to be an advisory to the Treasurer, not as giving direction to the Area. It's strictly an audit for work of the Treasurer. The language that was used was from other Area's Finance Committees
    - I like the idea of having a past Delegate chairing the meeting. I think it would be most helpful for the Treasurer to be able to sit back and listen as opposed to being
    - Committee that met 10 times and considered very thoroughly. The haste came in the way it was presented to the Area, but not in the work they did.
    - I did serve on the committee as well. I speak in support of the motion. I think that all voices that need to be heard, and it appears here that there is strong concern to reconsider here
  - Revote:
    - Favor – 38; Opposed – 9
    - Motion passes - returning to the Area committee for review
- ⌚ Motion to amend our Area 31 Service Handbook to amend the voting procedures to include our 3<sup>rd</sup> legacy voting
  - Located on page 35
  - It would just need to be changed that all qualified members that are willing to stand for the position
  - Discussion
    - We should allow people to nominate people. There seems that there are many that may be a little fearful of standing for a position, yet would be willing to accept a nomination.
    - In the Handbook, it states that it is a decision of the District on how to vote. Why are we making it a mandate?
    - Question – Is it a mandate for the districts or just for the area committee
    - Because the Area is in the handbook part as opposed to the guidelines part. The guidelines are truly the part that says what we may and may not do. What may be better than this motion would be for the Handbook that the whole handbook should go under review due to two new committees, plus include this motion as a part of the review of the handbook. The part about the voting procedures is only under
    - Request friendly amendment to review and revise the Handbook
    - If you share the views opposed, then vote against this motion and then make a new motion
    - If we wait until the Fall Assembly, we will be going into elections
    - I speak in support of this motion. The change we see in this area is a healthy change. It seems healthier than nominating people for the position. I understand that there are some who are shy, yet we can really emphasize focusing on qualifications and willingness to serve.
    - Two things would change,
    - Motion as it stands doesn't talk about
    - Leave it up to the discretion of the editors on how to amend it or be more clear

- I understand the shyness of people to stand. I would not have stood for my position. There is a slight difference for having people to stand for qualifications. Suggestion, have everyone stand, and then have people sit who don't have qualifications
- Within the guidelines, only reference to 3<sup>rd</sup> legacy is on page 37 in reference to Area Officer voting.
- If you flip back to page 30, it states the
- Historically the area committee has made changes to this document just with a majority vote, while changes to guidelines go through 2 area assemblies. The change that we are suggesting is not in the portion that needs to go through 2 area assemblies
- Meant to consult service manual. I wonder how specific it is for nominations or standing for positions. I think that this should be tabled for further review before it gets voted up or down so that we can review what it actually says in our literature. It may be easier to remove the nominations verbiage and
- Move to table this motion. Seconded
  - ⌚ 36 in favor; 6 opposed
  - ⌚ Motion to table passes
  - ⌚ Point of information – when can it come off the table. It is tabled to the next assembly.
  - ⌚ Point of information – probably shouldn't have tabled it. Someone can move to remove it from being tabled at any point.
  - ⌚ I'm not sure if I understand is that since it was brought up at this group here, then this group needs to reconvene to do it
  - ⌚ There is a difference between specific Robert's Rules and the way we follow them. We follow them on a modified basis. Tabling it does not mean that we cannot review and discuss these before the next Area Assembly. Often times we table things at area assemblies. Typically, a table at an assembly goes until the next assembly, yet it could be discussed before then. We can discuss it at the Area committee but can't move on it.
- ⌚ Question about new standing committee – do we have a chair, co-chair. Does the webmaster rotate out?
  - No. Area Chair will appoint a chair and co-chair
- ⌚ Webmaster will not be a voting member?
  - As the webmaster is autonomous in developing the website.
  - There will be a chair and a co-chair and they will have a vote
- ⌚ As a member of an Ad-Hoc committee that developed the guidelines to reconsider.
- ⌚ Now that you have decided that you do want a committee, now you need to look at the guidelines and decide if we want to do all of the things that are in the guidelines. In the guidelines, it suggests that there are a chair and a co-chair that are selected by the area chair and the webmaster is a non-rotating appointed position. Suggest the Area committee look at guidelines and
- ⌚ Recommendation at the time of the Ad Hoc committee that the webmaster was a non-rotating member.
- ⌚ Comment about the importance of keeping personality out of our discussion. One of the fundamental aspects of parliamentary procedure. Don't mention them by name or use disparaging comments
- ⌚ When one member starts doing this, it may discourage others from standing up and using their voice.

### **Motion to close**

Close at 4:07 pm