

## January 9, 2013

The Area Chair, Mark N., opened the meeting at PM with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer and a reading from Chapter 5 of the Service Manual (p. S 44).

### **Secretary's Report:**

- ⌚ Secretary read the old and new business from December Area Committee Meeting
  - Motion to accept: passes.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

- ⌚ Beginning December Balance: \$5,077.87; Group Contributions: \$974.20; Total Area Expenses (\$4,097.52); Closing December Balance: \$1,954.55 plus Prudent Reserve \$9,000 = Total Funds Available \$10,954.55
- ⌚ Motion to accept: passes.

### **Registrar's Report:**

- ⌚ Made last month's updates on data base
- ⌚ Collecting District Committee Member & District Committee Member Chair Change forms
- ⌚ Request that all changes not yet reported be submitted to Beth, Area Secretary, who will forward to Registrar.

### **Area Archivist Report:**

- ⌚ Looking forward to the start of a new year with Ray and Paul.
- ⌚ Not much going on in the past month.
  - ⌚ Will be attending NERAASA and looking forward to the exchange of information at the evening Round Table Sessions.
  - ⌚ Keeping a file for each District and Area Committee.
  - ⌚ Request that District and Area Committee documents be submitted to Archives in paper as well as electronic form (if possible).

### **ADHOC COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**GSR CD:** none.

**Handbook Committee:** Kim F. will chair committee for updates.

### **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### **Accessibility:**

- ⌚ 9 members attended last meeting including 2 new members.
- ⌚ Reviewed purpose and business of committee for new members.
- ⌚ ASL program for the State Convention is questionable at this time since it was not used at the November 2012 convention.
- ⌚ Continue to drive at least 2 AA members to meetings per month.
- ⌚ Agreed to continue the use of our direct cell phone line for 2013.
- ⌚ January meeting will focus on other needs in our AA community.

#### **Archives:**

- ⌚ 5 committee members and the Area Delegate attended the meeting of 1/2/13.
- ⌚ Chairperson Ray is announcing a call for Group Histories at AA meetings.
- ⌚ Goal for 2013 is to obtain more group histories and increase awareness of resources available from Archives.
- ⌚ Jamie requested Archives boards for her group anniversary.

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- ⌚ Open House will be held on 3/23/13 from 11am – 1pm. This may turn into a quarterly event.
- ⌚ Agreed that committee will look at or listen to an item from Archives at every monthly meeting. Tom volunteered to get old tapes into an updated format.
- ⌚ Bobbi offered to meet with anyone who wants to look at information in Archives.

### **CPC:**

- ⌚ 5 CPC group reps, 2 alternates, 1 observer and Area Chairperson attended 1/8/2013 meeting.
- ⌚ Treated meeting as a “meet and greet” as all except 2 in attendance were new to CPC.
- ⌚ Radio commitment as well as Representation at Intergroup and Institution Committee was assigned.
- ⌚ Tye presented a letter she intends to send to Greenfield Community Nursing offering to have CPC come in to make a presentation about AA.
- ⌚ Miranda volunteered to serve a secretary.

### **Grapevine:**

- ⌚ Jan 2013 meeting attended by 6 reps, 3 of whom were new.
- ⌚ Ran through how to sign up online and by mail
  - Handbook – resource for signing up
  - Workbook – 70 pages of info about Grapevine
- ⌚ Distributed catalogues and subscription forms (also available on line) to attendees.
- ⌚ Discussed what is available from Grapevine and what people can do to promote subscriptions.
- ⌚ Displayed GV boards which are available for display at meetings. Call Charlie at 860-882-4032 if you want to have boards displayed at your home group meeting.
- ⌚ Next meeting 2/5/13.

### **Public Information:**

- ⌚ Roll call from contact list was initiated in order to better organize the meeting and get to know members’ names.
- ⌚ Chairperson read from Area Service Handbook to briefly describe PI function to new committee members.
- ⌚ Co-Chair reviewed new Agenda format
  - Current and future month commitments listed with name of PI committee member responsible for each
  - Agenda will be emailed to committee members and posted on the Area website prior to the meeting.
  - Discussed importance of committee members’ keeping commitments they have signed up for.
  - Discussed possibility of establishing an “emergency contact” procedure in case someone could not keep a commitment. Action on this subject was tabled til next month.
  - Letters to schools were sent out in December. Discussed preparation for requests from schools for PI to visit resulting from the letter.
  - Jake S brought to the committee’s attention the need for PI in nursing homes and hospitals.
  - Rich J will lead an Ad Hoc committee to survey AA groups about their sponsorship of literature racks in public areas.

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- Suggestion was made to create “bundles” of literature to bring to commitments.
- Jim W suggested a demo of a PI speaking commitment be done at the Feb meeting. Bobby P. volunteered to do the demo.

### Website Committee:

- 🕒 5 members in attendance at Jan meeting.
- 🕒 Encourage use of website domain emails. Sasha will work with Bob to develop a page of written instructions about email procedures to distribute to committee chairs and officers.
- 🕒 Budget precludes purchase of a hot spot at this time. However, committee has not given up on this idea.
- 🕒 Discussed purchase of a \$50 per year security certificate that would match our domain name and prevent the security certificate pop up message from appearing for some users. The message does not prevent the user from accessing their email, they just need to accept the warning and continue on. For now the committee has decided not to purchase the certificate.
- 🕒 Sasha and Carl are making arrangements to attend Intergroup and District meetings to introduce themselves and promote the website.
- 🕒 Created poster for distribution at AA meetings. (Print copies made available at Area Meeting). Poster is available on line.
- 🕒 Discussed Mission, Vision, Guidelines and Handbook language. Committee trying NOT to duplicate information available on and more appropriate to the Intergroup website.
- 🕒 Will post minutes of Committee meetings on Committee website pages.
  - Answer to question of how to deal with anonymity while posting minutes on web pages requires more discussion.
  - For now will leave it up to Area and District Committees to include or not include names in their minutes.
- Next meeting 1/23/13.

### Round Up:

- 🕒 Will put [roundup\\_committee@area31aa.org](mailto:roundup_committee@area31aa.org) on all Roundup literature.
- 🕒 Tentative program has been drafted.
- 🕒 Registration Sub Committee membership has increased.
- 🕒 Will accept donations of books, coffee and/or cash. Bring donations to District meetings. DCM will arrange to get donations to Mary (DCM of District 5 and Roundup committee member)
- 🕒 Double booked speakers, so the committee will ask one speaker to address the Sunday Spiritual Meeting.
- 🕒 Treasury is currently \$1,864.46.

### Webmaster:

- 🕒 Bob is monitoring statistics showing activity on our website (not all hits are intentional, but numbers are encouraging).
  - Over 3500 hits to date
  - Intergroup is the top referrer to our website
- 🕒 GSO website has our site listed under “List of General Service Conference Area Web Sites (US/Canada)”. We are no longer the only Area without a website listing. (applause)
- 🕒 Any Area 31 functions, Bob will post on the website calendar. Contact him at

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[webmaster@area31aa.org](mailto:webmaster@area31aa.org).

⌚ Bob encourages everyone to start using the domain email set up for Area Committee and District Committee officers and will gladly help you get started. Contact him at [webmaster@area31aa.org](mailto:webmaster@area31aa.org) or call 413-323-9727.

## **Invited Committee Reports:**

### **Institutions:**

- ⌚ 9 new reps.
- ⌚ \$988.64 available for conference approved literature purchases.
- ⌚ Bridging the Gap received 4 calls in Dec. 2 male, 2 female.
- ⌚ Incoming IGRs received Institutions Committee handbook as well as 2 handouts to bring to their groups – “Literature in Prison” and “Bridging the Gap”.
- ⌚ All new meeting sponsors and alternate sponsors received “Guidelines for AA members going into Institutions” and “Guidelines for Institutions Meeting Sponsor/Alternate Sponsor”.
- ⌚ Open meeting lists were made available to all in attendance. All were encouraged to bring lists to AA meetings, District meetings and/or individual AA members interested in doing service.

### **Western Mass Intergroup:**

- ⌚ Phone coverage for hotline is provided by AA Groups
- ⌚ Back up list is maintained for use when a shift remains uncovered. Anyone wishing to volunteer as backup to accept hotline calls for uncovered shifts, contact Intergroup.
- ⌚ Alcahthon went very well. Thanks to all who participated.
- ⌚ When and where -Feb. 28 is the deadline to get changes in for the new edition. Changes must be submitted by the Chair or Intergroup Rep of the group.
- ⌚ Web site [www.westernmassaa.org](http://www.westernmassaa.org) – since 2005 there have 219,245 hits on the Intergroup website.
- ⌚ Bookie meeting is held at 7pm before the regular monthly meeting. Bookies exchange information to schedule incoming/outgoing commitments for their groups.
- ⌚ Beginner orientation will be held at 6:45pm on 1/10/13. The regular monthly Intergroup meeting starts at 7:30. All are welcome.
- ⌚ Help any way possible
- ⌚ CD \$2800 out of prudent reserve
- ⌚ \$2 is now the \$1 donation. Please ask group members to donate \$2 if they can. The \$1 standard is old and strains current demands.
- ⌚ Area Committees are encouraged to send representation to Intergroup to update us on their current activities.

### **Berkshire Intergroup (BIG):**

- ⌚ Berkshire Intergroup Office hours: M – F 1:30pm to 5pm; Sat 11:30am – 2:00pm.
- ⌚ Volunteers are lined up for office hour coverage. Goal is to have 2 people available per day.
- ⌚ Alcahthon went well and the cost was minimal (only \$40 for BIG).
- ⌚ Reviewed finances and will vote soon on new report format.
- ⌚ Reviewing by laws.
- ⌚ Trying to reduce frequency of When and Where publication. Will publish only 1x/month instead of every time a change is reported.

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- ⌚ Attending business meetings of groups in Berkshires to encourage their participation in BIG.

### **WMYPAA:**

- ⌚ Kim rolling out as Chair.
- ⌚ Election of new officers will take place on 1/12. Bob W will assist us in conducting election using the 3<sup>rd</sup> Legacy method.
- ⌚ MSCYPAA bid committee forming in Area 31 and will be working collaboratively with WMYPAA (first MSCYPAA bid committee meeting is 1/27/13).
- ⌚ Upcoming event in the works – more to come with new Events chair.

### **DISTRICT REPORTS:**

#### **District 1:**

- ⌚ 5 GSRs in attendance at last meeting. This is average for District 1 meetings.
- ⌚ DCM and Co-DCM trying to visit groups in the District that do not have GSRs and encourage those groups to elect a GSR that can attend and participate in the District Meetings and other District level events.

#### **District 2:** No report given.

#### **District 3:**

- ⌚ 5 GSRs, DCM, Co-DCM and Area Delegate attended Dec meeting. 1 GSR was new.
- ⌚ Have started reading from Box 459 and discussing at each monthly meeting.
- ⌚ Also discussed Birthday plan launched in 1959 (on your birthday or AA anniversary, contribute a penny for every day of sobriety) as well as a 1970 extension of that plan suggested by the General Service Committee. The 1970 plan extension is for each Area to sponsor a Gratitude Month. Additional contributions would be requested and collected at every AA meeting in the area that month.
- ⌚ The Sheffield 12 & 12 group hosted the Alcathon at the Great Barrington Senior Center. Turnout was great and all time slots were filled.

#### **District 4:**

- ⌚ Discussion of District led workshop postponed since some groups would have new GSRs rolling in January.
- ⌚ Discussed concern about voting on motions when attendance is low. There is no definition of a quorum at the District level.
- ⌚ Patti is new District 4 Secretary.
- ⌚ Discussed concern about people identifying as drug addicts at AA meetings.

#### **District 5:**

- ⌚ Service manual was discussed at last meeting.
- ⌚ Service Manuals and beginner packets were provided to new GSRs.
- ⌚ Box 459 was read and discussed.

#### **District 6:**

- ⌚ Number of registered group: 41. Number of GSRs in attendance at Dec meeting: 6.
- ⌚ Elections held. Mark N., Area Chair, facilitated the process. Jim S elected DCM. Carl H elected Co-DCM. Peter C elected Secretary.
- ⌚ Discussed what a GSR's report to the District Committee should include.

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**Delegate's Remarks:**

- ⌚ Reminder – NERAASA meets in Lancaster, PA Feb 22 – 24. Registration forms available at meeting and online ([www.neraasa2013.org](http://www.neraasa2013.org)).
- ⌚ NERAASA is still looking for topic/panel suggestions as well as presenters. Contact Brian by 1/17.
- ⌚ Area 31 will submit a bid to host the 2016 NERAASA. Beginning to review venues.
- ⌚ Bob W was nominated for Trustee at Large at the Fall Assembly. The voting will take place at the General Service Conference in April.
- ⌚ Phyllis H, GSO General Manager reports that the emergency procedures were followed during Hurricane Sandy. Coverage of the GSO was maintained during the state of emergency.
- ⌚ AA World Service has approved posting the audio “Tengo Esperanza” on the [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org) website. The audio is a public service announcement in Spanish.

**Alternate Delegate Remarks:**

- ⌚ Encouraged DCMs and GSRs to volunteer to present at NERAASA.
- ⌚ Announced that round trip train fare to Lancaster, PA is \$118. Anne is going by train. The Lancaster Inn is only 7 miles from the train station.
- ⌚ Anne will email a document that offers tips for DCMs and GSRs and includes topics such as
  - Role of the DCM
  - How to run an effective District meeting
- ⌚ First Planning Committee meeting for the MA State convention will take place on Tues, Jan 29<sup>th</sup>. Area 31 participation in State Convention planning has gone up steeply over the past couple of years. Let's keep it up.
- ⌚ Anne will be giving the GSR presentation at all 6 District meetings in February.

**Area Chair Remarks:**

- ⌚ Encourage all to attend:
  - Concept Meeting every 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month 7pm at 474 Pleasant St, Holyoke
  - Area Committee outgoing commitments:
    - Sat 1/26 7pm - Enfield Group, Holy Family Church.
    - Sat 3/23 7am - Morning Light, The Church of Christ, 284 Montgomery St.

**Old Business:**

- ⌚ Mark encourages as many people as possible attend one of the GSR presentations Anne is scheduling.
- ⌚ 3<sup>rd</sup> Legacy voting
  - Motion made, discussed and tabled at the Fall Assembly in 2012 to make 3<sup>rd</sup> Legacy voting an Area 31 standard
  - Question arose about making 3<sup>rd</sup> Legacy voting standard for District elections, too.
  - Only after the motion is passed will changes to the Area Guidelines be made
  - Bobbi reminded all that Area Guidelines are just that – guidelines. They are not laws. Districts can choose to follow same guidelines for voting.

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- The motion will be discussed further at the Spring Assembly 2013 and voted on at the Fall Assembly 2013

### 🕒 **New Business:**

- 🕒 Motion was made and seconded to make the Webmaster an Area Officer. The motion was then amended to read “The webmaster will be a non-voting, non-rotating Area Officer position.” The motion as amended passed unanimously.
  - The motion will be discussed at the Spring Assembly 2013 and voted on at the Fall Assembly 2013.
  - Webmaster will be put on monthly Area meeting Agenda every month up to the Fall Assembly when the vote will be taken.
- 🕒 Anne made a motion that the District budgets fund the overage in her purchase of a projector for the GSR presentations. The approved expenditure was \$300 and the cost was \$336.99. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
- 🕒 Mary requested an additional \$75 be given to District 5 to fund the purchase of Beginner GSR materials. The motion to approve an additional budget allocation of \$75 to District 5 for beginner GSR materials was made, seconded and passed unanimously.
- 🕒 Anne, Alternate Delegate asked DCMs to inform the GSRs in their districts about the important issues that will be discussed at Spring Assembly and voted on at Fall Assembly to encourage all to attend and participate with their votes.

### **Motion to close made, seconded and passed:**

- 🕒 **Closed at 9:38.**