

**Area 31 Fall Assembly October 12, 2013**  
**Mini Conference (Area 31 Inventory)**

Tanya E. facilitated the Area 31 Inventory process . Those present were assigned to one of six groups who were to discuss Area 31 activities and accomplishments in light of the questions provided from the Traditions and Concepts checklists. The groups were:

- Accessibility
- Archives
- Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC)
- Finance
- Grapevine
- Public Information (PI)

Each group met for approximately 1<sup>1/2</sup> hours and reported back to the assembly on their conclusions. Here are the reports from each group.

### **ACCESSIBILITY**

#### **Report from Committee Co-Chair**

- ⌚ 2012 focused on Hard of Hearing. Have had hard of hearing AAs attend committee meetings from time to time.
- ⌚ 2013 focused on increasing volunteer pool for
  - ⌚ Bringing people to meetings who could not otherwise attend.
  - ⌚ Staffing hotline (currently rotating among 3 committee members)
  - ⌚ Distributing flyers at AA meetings throughout Area 31
- ⌚ Resolved a question about affiliating since MA provides support by paying ASL interpreters. Co-Chair answered that that AA does not request the support, the deaf AA members do. The Support is provided to the deaf citizen not to AA.

Facilitator (Jack) commented that the committee has done a good job getting the word out. He also remarked that the problem of not enough people getting involved is a nation wide issue and not limited to Accessibility or to this Area.

#### **Outreach to Spanish Speaking AAs**

- ⌚ Delegate (Anne) raised the issue that as an Area we do not do well connecting with the Spanish speaking AA community. She reported that an Ad Hoc committee to investigate whether or not to establish a Spanish Language District in Area 31 concluded that it was not needed but that Area 31 needed to do a better job of outreach to Spanish speaking AAs. A Bilingual day of unity was held a few years ago. A proposal to hold this event annually was defeated at an Area Assembly that followed.
- ⌚ Jack mentioned that Spanish Speaking AAs in Area 31 do service in Hartford because Area 31 doesn't do a good enough job of attracting them to do service here.

#### **Cross Committee cooperation**

- ⌚ This is the purpose of the Monthly Area Meeting
- ⌚ To encourage, may need to come up with cross committee projects (e.g., PI, Institutions and Western Mass Intergroup worked on a project to reach out to Justice professionals in the past).
- ⌚ Works well at Roundup and MA State Convention planning
- ⌚ Involve Past Delegates to help out
- ⌚ Consider separate meeting for cross committee business

#### **Internet usage to reach those who cannot attend face to face meetings**

- ⌚ Comes with the challenge of protecting anonymity
- ⌚ Literature and face to face meetings are still preferable
- ⌚ Bringing meetings to the home bound is a project Accessibility might try to coordinate

#### **Recruiting committee members**

- ⌚ AA groups should not "appoint" but encourage members to serve
- ⌚ Too often AA is told to attend and doesn't show up
- ⌚ Group chair should ask group members if they are able to serve and explain what is expected
- ⌚ Districts could send a GSR to attend standing committee meetings. It is the job of the DCM to get the word out about the needs and all the opportunities to serve.

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**ARCHIVES**

**Carrying the message**

**Doing Well**

- Ⓢ Bring boards to anniversary meetings and make groups aware that Archive Boards are available
- Ⓢ Open Houses
- Ⓢ Speak at meetings about Area history and what is available in Archives

**Could Improve Intercommittee communications**

- Ⓢ Attend Intergroup meetings
- Ⓢ Place info about Archives resources and events in FYI newsletter

**Participation/Communication**

- Ⓢ Good – moved to a bigger room for meetings
- Ⓢ Turnover is a challenge - Follow up with new members to encourage consistent attendance, involvement
- Ⓢ Need to generate enthusiasm – members with longevity share how service has positively affected sobriety and life in general
- Ⓢ Consider setting up a reminder phone call and/email for monthly meetings and events
- Ⓢ Consider attending District meetings, posting Archive committee contacts on website
- Ⓢ Archives doing a good job of listening to everyone and creating a group conscience

**Anonymity**

- Ⓢ Changes were made to Archives Boards to remove names and photos to maintain anonymity in open meetings
- Ⓢ Keep in mind who will be seeing material we are displaying

**Autonomy/Right of Decision/Right to Appeal**

- Ⓢ Committees have right of decision
- Ⓢ Committee members are individually given right to decide how to present their own stuff
- Ⓢ Area committee should step back a little, make it clear committees have right to decide. As long as the committee is fulfilling its responsibilities, give them the autonomy to do it
- Ⓢ As an Area , all felt we are good at listening and considering minority opinion

**Leadership**

- Ⓢ Do sometimes give positions to people because it would “be good for them”
- Ⓢ As Third Legacy voting is adopted, it will make for stronger service committee members
- Ⓢ New way of turning over positions – provide a sheet of info re: what is going on currently and what needs to be done.
- Ⓢ Support new members – groom and encourage
- Ⓢ “We are all sponsors in a sense at the service level”

**COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY (CPC)**

**How to recruit and retain members to service committees**

- Ⓢ Involve committee members
  - Ⓢ give assignments for next month’s meeting
  - Ⓢ provide orientation packages to newcomers to the committee
  - Ⓢ ask everyone’s opinion before voting on any issue
- Ⓢ Encourage members to get service sponsors if their sponsors are not active in service
- Ⓢ People learn about service by working – give every member a job to do
- Ⓢ Hold service workshops to inform people about what service is and what it does for those who give and receive it

**How do we react to controversy and navigate it to create a group conscience**

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- ⌚ Encourage
- ⌚ Hold service workshops
- ⌚ Consider restarting the monthly Area Traditions meeting
- ⌚ Ask groups to hold Traditions meetings
- ⌚ Encourage regular inventory taking for AA groups and Area committees

Important to be transparent about money collected by the Area and where it goes. How the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition is honored in our Area.

**Anonymity**

- ⌚ Anonymity at the public level (i.e., press, radio, film and social media) is our responsibility to protect\
- ⌚ Anonymity at the personal level is necessary to protect people's privacy (e.g. don't want AA membership to affect careers since there is still some stigma involved)
- ⌚ It is important to maintain faith that AA works

**Right of Decision**

- ⌚ Primarily a matter of trust
- ⌚ Need to take responsibility not only for the decision but reporting back to the group represented on why that decision was made, especially if the vote was in contradiction to what the group expressed prior to the vote

**Leadership**

- ⌚ Third Legacy voting will only help
  - ⌚ Qualified people who might not come forward are asked to stand
  - ⌚ People are allowed to sit down and are not pressured to accept a responsibility they cannot fulfill

**FINANCE**

**Carrying the message**

- ⌚ Aid Districts and Committees to put on workshops
- ⌚ Utilize pamphlets and the "Green Card"

**Participation**

Group felt that all members are given the opportunity to speak at Area and Committee meetings and participate in other Area activities.

**Communication**

Group felt that the Area is keeping the general membership of AA informed of how Area service committees are carrying the message through workshops as well as conducting inventories at the Area, District and Committee levels.

**GRAPEVINE**

**Carrying the Message**

- ⌚ What more can The Grapevine Committee do?
  - ⌚ Announce at AA meetings that Grapevine Committee needs help.
  - ⌚ Bring boards to AA Anniversary meetings
  - ⌚ Emphasize benefits of Grapevine and La Vina and don't mention financial status
  - ⌚ Donate old issues to institutions and nursing homes
  - ⌚ Buy copies in bulk to give away
  - ⌚ Coordinate with CPC, PI and Institutions to distribute

**Participation**

- ⌚ Group felt that all are welcome and encouraged to participate and commit time to committee activities.
- ⌚ Encourage groups to elect reps AND alternates so there is continuity of attendance for each group

**Retention of Committee Members**

- ⌚ Encouraging sponsees to participate goes a long way
- ⌚ Communicate with enthusiasm about our experiences

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- ⌚ Lead by example
- ⌚ Having a higher power purpose
- ⌚ Strengthen business meetings

**Bringing the message to general membership as well as professionals who encounter active alcoholics**

- ⌚ Area 31 Committee does commitments (speaks) at AA group meetings

**Group and committee autonomy except in matters affecting AA as a whole**

- ⌚ Need to be flexible
- ⌚ Keep in mind the Big Picture
- ⌚ Truly understand principles in Tradition 4

**Electing people to service positions (Are we electing people to help them get sober or are we thinking of the welfare of the group as a whole)**

- ⌚ We elect our best officers
- ⌚ No rules but groups may have requirements for lengths of sobriety or length of membership in the group before allowing someone to assume an area service position to represent them

**PUBLIC INFORMATION (PI)**

**Carrying the Message**

- ⌚ What more can The PI Committee do?
  - ⌚ Visit
    - ⌚ Schools
    - ⌚ Churches
    - ⌚ Intensive Outpatient Programs (IOPs)
    - ⌚ Town Councils
    - ⌚ Conventions of Clergy
    - ⌚ Medical conventions
  - ⌚ Ask for referrals to civic groups
  - ⌚ Place articles in newspapers as founders did

**Retention of Committee Members**

- ⌚ Need to get enough commitments to keep members busy
- ⌚ Visit inactive groups' business meetings to encourage them to get involved
- ⌚ Learn more about AA and remember the relevance that service has to our continuing lifesaving sobriety
- ⌚ Do group inventories to determine how to increase membership and get involved in service
- ⌚ Invite Area Committee to speak at group meetings
- ⌚ Sponsors need to encourage sponsees to do service
- ⌚ Each of us should feel obligated to mention service and how it has helped our sobriety when we speak at meetings

**Group Conscience**

- ⌚ Watching people with opposing ideas and opinions come together to maintain AA for the sick and suffering alcoholic can be a spiritual experience
- ⌚ Time limits on meetings can be too strict and not allow every voice to be heard and for all material to be covered

**Group Autonomy**

- ⌚ Autonomy can be carried to the extreme when groups are not involved at all with AA as a whole
- ⌚ It was suggested that during the call for announcements at meetings that we express service related needs and opportunities.

**OVERALL AREA 31 INVENTORY**

- ⌚ Area needs to work on establishing a Spanish Speaking District in Area 31 and /or more effectively provide outreach and inclusion to the Spanish speaking AAs in Area 31.
- ⌚ Those rotating out of service positions need to ensure that a complete list of duties is provided to the person rotating in.

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**OPEN MIKE FOLLOWING WORKSHOP REPORTS**

**Listed below are the comments expressed during Open Mike:**

- Ⓢ There was not one Spanish Speaking GSR present today. We need to do better outreach to Spanish speaking AAs in Area 31. Assembly agreed we should give outreach to Spanish speaking AAs to the new Delegate as a priority for the new panel
- Ⓢ The Service Manual states that there should be 15 – 20 groups per district. Should we have more districts?
- Ⓢ One GSR discovered that his group history was not present in the Archives. He picked up a Group History Form and will bring it to his group's business meeting.
- Ⓢ Need to also ask new panel to address the need to "Pass it on" in service as well as in recovery. Outgoing chair people and DCMs need to mentor those coming in to the positions they are rolling out of
- Ⓢ Individuals need to make sure Area Chairperson know you are willing and available to do service
- Ⓢ PI conducted a committee inventory. Left them with a lot of questions and direction for future work. Information continuity was identified as an issue
- Ⓢ There is storage space in the basement next door to the Intergroup office for storage of committee boards and other materials. As an Area we need to record and publicize where committee belongings are stored and to store all in the same location
- Ⓢ Institutions committee provides literature to institution commitment sponsors so they can carry the message more effectively into these institutions
- Ⓢ GSR orientation presentation has been very helpful
- Ⓢ One GSR announced that his predecessor in the position helped him by attending District meetings with him for a while. He is now doing the same with his successor.
- Ⓢ In 1996 Jack (past delegate) was assigned to get Spanish Speaking District in Area 31. It didn't pass in the Assemblies But there may be new enthusiasm now to get this done. Every time Jack asked the Spanish speaking AA groups to participate in Area events they did.
- Ⓢ One DCM noticed that at the last NERAASA there were no welcome signs in Spanish

**ASK IT BASKET – A panel of Past Delegates answered questions from Assembly attendees.**

- Ⓢ **How do you sponsor a brand newcomer?**
  - Ⓢ Ask newcomer to call you daily and arrange a face to face meeting weekly
  - Ⓢ Advise newcomer about your availability so they do not become frustrated when they cannot reach you at certain times
  - Ⓢ Don't believe you can do too much for a sponsee. Call sponsee at the beginning.
  - Ⓢ Remember there is a great pamphlet on sponsorship that every sponsor should read. It tells us that what you give sponsees is your time and experience. Tell them, "It will pass", "Don't drink and keep coming back".
  - Ⓢ Ask your own sponsor for help on sponsoring others. Sponsor can let you know if you've crossed the line between helping and enabling.
- Ⓢ **How did we arrive at current pie chart?**
  - Ⓢ Group Conscience of Area 31 over several Assemblies and Area meetings
  - Ⓢ Area 31 pie chart differs from that of General Service Conference
  - Ⓢ Every group is autonomous and can allocate their donations according to their own group's conscience
- Ⓢ **Any talk of merging CPC and PI?**
  - Ⓢ Appropriate to bring up at an Area Conscience meeting
  - Ⓢ No answer
- Ⓢ **How do you work with an AA who is also a drug addict?**
  - Ⓢ Work with them in exactly the same way.  
Seek help from someone who knows more about drug addiction than you do.
  - Ⓢ Can direct them to NA while not discouraging their attendance at AA meetings if they are also alcoholic.
  - Ⓢ Check with your sponsor
- Ⓢ **What can we do to get better group member participation in the business of the group?**
  - Ⓢ Ask people for help whether you think you need it or not
  - Ⓢ Greeting is a great way to get newcomers involved

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- ⌚ At group elections start with the positions of GSR and Intergroup rep. Ask specific individuals, “What about you?” 9 times out of 10 you’ll get a volunteer. Make sure to describe the job before asking for a volunteer but don’t be afraid to ask once you do.
- ⌚ Make it attractive. When you give the committee report to your group at the business meeting show enthusiasm. Represent the work as important and fun.
- ⌚ At District meetings, read the Service Manual. It will give GSRs an understanding of their part in the greater whole
- ⌚ “Service gives me an opportunity to save a life; if not yours, then my own. That’s why past delegates are still active in AA service.”
- ⌚ **Who decides what towns go into what districts?**
  - ⌚ Each group can decide what district it wants to be in
  - ⌚ A past delegate drew the District/Area maps in the past
  - ⌚ Hudson Mohawk was recently asked to join Area 31 and did.
  - ⌚ Spanish Speaking meetings, although not a separate district in Area 31, are listed in the front of the Where and When
- ⌚ **What was it like to be a Delegate**
  - ⌚ Sally – Thought you made a mistake when you elected me (felt this way about every service position I was chosen to do). When I became Delegate I was handed a 5lb. binder of materials to review. I was overwhelmed with the responsibility given to me. But a second year delegate helped me.
  - ⌚ Jack – It was the greatest experience of my life. Just before the 1<sup>st</sup> GSC, I had personal emergency. I was not able to reach the Alternate Delegate but AAs across the country reached out to my family so that I could attend the conference knowing my family was getting the help they needed. In my second year another family emergency happened. My granddaughter attempted suicide. Another delegate gave me a Cree turtle figure to give to my granddaughter not knowing that my grandchild collected turtles. That granddaughter is now sober in AA. I felt surprised and unprepared. It was a lot of work. It is a hard but very rewarding job.
  - ⌚ Bobbi – Elected as Delegate when I was 8 years sober which made me the delegate with the least number of years of sobriety at that conference. I wanted to be a delegate from the time I heard a keynote speaker at a Mass State Convention. I wanted what she had. So I started showing up to all service events. My 2 year tenure as Delegate was amazing not only because of what I learned about the business of AA but because of the relationships I formed with the people there. I was on the Agenda committee which I didn’t think was very important but it was. Turned out to be a perfect fit for me. My higher power ensures that I’m where I need to be.
  - ⌚ David – It was an incredible privilege to represent AA as a whole. Even though the Area Delegates bring their Area members’ opinions and ideas to the Conference, each delegate votes on what he or she believes is in the best interest of AA as a whole after hearing all the arguments voiced at the conference. If my vote differed from the will of my Area, I went back and explained why I voted the way I did using my Right of Decision as their trusted servant. I encourage all of you to attend NERAASA (Northeast Regional AA Service Assembly) if you are interested in doing service. I’ve made lifelong friends at the service assemblies and conferences I’ve attended over the years.
  - ⌚ Tanya – Every position I held came down to an “out of the hat” selection, even Delegate. It taught me that God is in charge. As long as I’m willing, God will place me where I’m needed. I served on the Finance Committee as Delegate. We were voting on a particularly contentious issue and the discussion was acrimonious. I was not prepared for that. As the week wore on and we followed the process a consensus was reached. It was like a love fest. The group conscience was arrived at through following the process. I had to tell my Area and home group that I voted differently than I intended when I headed off to the conference but I used my Right of Decision after listening to all points of view. I learned the importance of hearing the minority opinion. The first year as Delegate was difficult and uplifting. The second year was a blast. It was so interesting, a mountaintop experience.

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**Business Meeting Minutes**

Area Chair, Mark N. opened the meeting at 1 pm 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 the list of positions eligible to vote. Voting for Spring Assembly Count = 54; 36 required for substantial unanimity, 28 required for simple majority.

**Secretary's Report:**

Secretary read Old Business and New Business from Spring Assembly 2013. A motion to accept report was made, seconded and passed.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Treasurer began by reading the contents of the "Green Card" on the tradition of Self Support.

The Seventh Tradition states: "Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions." While contributions cover each group's rent and other expenses, the Seventh Tradition is essential at every level of A.A. service. It is both a privilege and a responsibility for groups and members to ensure that not only their group, but also their intergroup/central office, local services, district, area, and the General Service Office remain self-supporting. This keeps A.A. free of outside influence that might divert us from our primary purpose — to help the alcoholic who still suffers. The amount of our contribution is secondary to the spiritual connection that unites all groups around the world.

Service Material from the General Service Office

She asked the attendees to consider these questions:

- Ⓢ What do those words mean to me as a sober member of Alcoholics Anonymous?
- Ⓢ Do I truly understand the impact my contributions make to AA as a whole? What does this mean for my home group?
- Ⓢ Am I a member of a home group that understands and embraces the possibilities our contributions make when we contribute to the pie- chart?
- Ⓢ In my current position serving for Area 31, do I fully utilize the money groups have sent to the Area to provide a service and to reach out and to carry the message to the still sick and suffering?

As of the end of Sept the Area has closing balance of \$12,062.42 with a \$6,000 Prudent Reserve. Total Funds for the Area is \$6,062.42. Approximately 138 groups contributed during these past 6 months with contributions totaling \$11,909.79. There has been an increase of \$1,851.06 in contributions from the previous assembly (October 2012-March 2013). Here is the breakdown of the contributions for the last 6 months:

District 6- 28 contributions from 27 groups, totaling \$1,323.13.

District 5- 46 contributions from 45 groups, totaling \$2,220.61.

District 4- 37 contributions from 21 groups, totaling \$3194.33.

District 3- 36 contributions from 19 groups, totaling \$1,410.54.

District 2- 37 contributions from 16 groups, totaling \$2,496.01.

District 1- 16 contributions from 10 groups, totaling \$902.50.

9 contributions from either an unidentified group or anonymous totaling \$362.67.

So how have your contributions been used at the Area level?

- Ⓢ Money was allocated for those members of the Area who attended NERAASA.
- Ⓢ Fall and Spring Assembly expenses were met.
- Ⓢ If you have not had a chance yet, check out the wonderful boards paid for by your contributions, another way of carrying the message.
- Ⓢ Workshops conducted by district committees.
- Ⓢ Literature purchased and distributed by various service committees.

Next month the Area will be holding its budget meeting. This is the time where standing committees and Districts can request monies from the Area to provide a service. Come prepared with your thoughts, ideas and requests for money from the area to provide the necessary service to reach out and share the message of recovery.

**Registrar's Report:**

- Ⓢ Area 31 currently has 295 Active groups in 6 districts. Ten of these groups are listed as Institutional meetings.
- Ⓢ Since many groups are currently (or are about to) have their elections, I expect a large number of changes to come in over the next few months. I also expect a partial shut-down of FNV for a week or so as GSO adds new Registrars from other areas, etc.

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- ⌚ The groups that were still listed as part of Area 48 (HMB) have been moved over to Area 31 and are now showing up in District 3's listing.
- ⌚ Group information changes can be submitted to me via paper, phone or e-mail. My e-mail address is:
- ⌚ Registrar@Area31AA.org and my phone number is (860)508-7171. My address is at the bottom of the group change forms that the DCM's have been provided.

**Area Archivist Report:**

- ⌚ Open Houses were held at the Archives Office at 474 Pleasant Street in Holyoke in March and in June. With each one of these we have been able to make a few more members of our fellowship aware of the importance of our Archives and our history.
- ⌚ Our Archives Meetings have had consistent attendance and lots of enthusiasm.
- ⌚ Our First Edition, second printing, of the book Alcoholics Anonymous is still in the process of being rebound and hopefully will be finished soon.
- ⌚ Some new items in our Archives:
  - ⌚ A Concordance to Alcoholics Anonymous found by a member in a used bookshop.
  - ⌚ 1988 Soft Cover Printing of Alcoholics Anonymous (well used) with the signature of the writer of the story, **Join the Tribe!** found in the section **They Lost Nearly All**.
- ⌚ We continue to receive two copies of The AA Grapevine each month to add to our already extensive collection.
- ⌚ Once again if you have any documents, flyers, meeting minutes, etc. that will become part of our Archives please make sure to put *who, what, when and where* on the document.

**Ad Hoc Reports:**

**Handbook Ad Hoc Committee: no report**

**Standing Committee Reports:**

**Accessibility:**

- ⌚ Major focus of the committee has been on the needs of the deaf and hearing impaired members of AA.
  - ⌚ Estimated 40 meetings per week for deaf members are held in Area 31. These meetings are posted on the Area 31 website and updated monthly.
- ⌚ Committee currently has 9 members. By visiting all District meetings and reporting our need for volunteers to drive special needs AA members to meetings, we now have coverage for all Districts in Area 31.
- ⌚ At last month's meeting the committee reviewed the new CD available from the GSO entitled "AA for the Alcoholic with Special Needs." CD is on order to add to Accessibility committee resources.
- ⌚ Committee has made equipment for the hearing impaired available for major area events as well as the State Convention.
- ⌚ This year we have funds available for the State Convention that have been secured through the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
- ⌚ Grapevine has made a request for stories by AA members with Special Needs. The deadline for submission of these stories to the Grapevine is December 1, 2013.

**Archives:**

- ⌚ Committee brought boards to several group anniversary meetings this year.
- ⌚ Chair and Co-Chair were the featured speakers at two group anniversaries.
- ⌚ The third Archives open house will be held on Saturday November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Flyers are available at the back of the room for you to take and distribute at meetings.
- ⌚ Also available are free archive disks related to the History of AA in Area 31.
- ⌚ Committee taped an interview with Ann H about her trip to Russia during the 1990s.

**CPC:**

- ⌚ Tye stepped into the chair position
- ⌚ Five active members beside chair and co-chair are consistently attending monthly meetings.
- ⌚ To boost consist attendance, committee members are taking assignments to bring back to the next meeting.
- ⌚ Working on improving committee communications.
- ⌚ Fulfilling monthly commitments except for consistent attendance at Institution Committee.
- ⌚ Since Spring Assembly CPC has attended one commitment: The Recovery Fair at Recovery High School in Springfield.
- ⌚ Distributed When and Where copies to Greenfield Service Net office and to a tattoo parlor in Greenfield.

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- ⌚ Spent \$80 on books and pamphlets we distribute at commitments and drop off locations.
- ⌚ CPC committee has chosen to table the possibility of merging CPC and PI. It is the group conscience that CPC can be effective as a separate committee and we're working to prove it as such.

**Grapevine:**

- ⌚ Attendance continues to be spotty but sharing and encouraging new ideas about spreading the word about what a great resource Grapevine is.
- ⌚ Grapevine Committee will be displaying the newly refurbished boards.

**Public Information:**

- ⌚ PI conducted a committee inventory in September. The group felt they had accomplished a lot through this process. The minutes are available on the Area website.
- ⌚ Jim W will draft a Mission Statement and Meeting format using emailed input from committee members.
- ⌚ Tradition of the month will be discussed pertaining to PI Service using the checklist as a guide.
- ⌚ It was suggested that the past chairperson stay on as secretary to assist in turnover of committee responsibilities.
- ⌚ A Big Book will be contributed to school library, health or guidance department when attending a speaking commitment at local schools.
- ⌚ Longmeadow High School has recently been added to the list of high schools regularly visited.
- ⌚ Steve R was elected the new Co Chair to replace Paul who had to step down.
- ⌚ Mock presentations are made at each meeting to familiarize new committee members with the process.

**Round Up:**

- ⌚ Reason for the Roundup is to hear the Delegate Report that he/she gets from the GSO Conference held in New York. We have built a whole weekend for fellowship, fun and to hear what is going on in AA in the US and Canada.
- ⌚ 2014 Roundup will be held on June 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> at the remodeled La Quenita on Chestnut Street in Springfield. We will be able to supply our own coffee but will have to provide covers for the cups to prevent spilling. The snacks will have to be purchased from the hotel.
- ⌚ All the committee positions are filled. However, we're looking for anyone who wants to help in any way. We are still looking for an Hispanic AA member who wants to handle the Spanish speaking meetings. We will also be contacting Al Anon to see who their Roundup chair will be.
- ⌚ There will be a banquet on Saturday night before the GSO speaker. The price has not been determined yet.
- ⌚ A \$10.00 donation will be requested to cover the cost of the hotel. There will be scholarships available for people who can't afford the donation.
- ⌚ There will be rooms available for \$99.00 per night.
- ⌚ Save the date flyers are available for distribution at meetings. Registration will begin around February 1<sup>st</sup>.
- ⌚ We will be asking groups to donate coffee, books and cash.
- ⌚ The Roundup committee meets at 474 Pleasant Street in Holyoke at 6pm prior to the Area meeting (1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday after the second Tuesday of each month). Anyone interested in helping with the Roundup is welcome to attend.

**Website:**

- ⌚ Since this past spring our main focus has been revising the materials that were previously submitted to the Handbook revision Ad-hoc committee. These revisions have been completed, and submitted regarding Website, the web-site committee, and the Web Master. We plan to define the Committee Chair role, but have decided to include that on our page within the site rather than include that in the handbook.
- ⌚ Our next priority will be the establishment of standard policies/criteria for materials being submitted for inclusion on the site. Following that we will be working on back-up capabilities for the Web-master. Then we will review other ideas that have come up since the establishment of this committee.
- ⌚ We encourage all committees and districts to use the standard e-mail accounts appropriate to their service entities when conducting Area business, and discourage the use of private e-mail accounts for these purposes.
- ⌚ We would also encourage submission of materials appropriate to your service entities to help enhance the effectiveness of carrying our message.
- ⌚ Finally, please make your groups aware of the new opportunity for service within this committee. We meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 7pm. In the Area office at 474 Pleasant St. Holyoke. We are also seeking a chair for this committee for this year.

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**Webmaster:**

- ⌚ Statistics from the last 6 months:
  - ⌚ Unique visitors – 7,326
  - ⌚ Visits – 12,627
  - ⌚ 21,000 pages attributed to visits from within the US
  - ⌚ 11,000 pages attributed to visits from China
  - ⌚ List of all statistics will be posted on the website
- ⌚ Average stay on website is 30 seconds or less so we assume they are finding what they want.
  - ⌚ If anyone is having difficulty using their web address email accounts, please contact Webmaster at [webmaster@area31aa.org](mailto:webmaster@area31aa.org).

**Invited Committee Reports:**

**Institutions Committee:**

- ⌚ The Guidelines and Job Descriptions booklet continues to be a valuable resource and tool for support, education, and direction for the Committee Members and the “body” as a whole. It continues to be utilized at our Monthly Meeting held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday -7:00pm – Providence Hospital Auditorium, Holyoke.
- ⌚ In the past 6 months the Institutions Committee has welcomed 14 new Institutions Group Reps –IGRs We have seen an increase of Home Groups not only sending IGRs but also Alternate IGRs. Often times the IGR and Alternate are both in attendance.
- ⌚ Treasurer’s Report: Institutions Committee is fully self-supporting through contributions of either the individual AA member or through the Home Groups. Nearly all donations to the committee are used to purchase A.A. General Service Conference- approved literature for direct distribution to newcomers in the institutions which we serve. In the past 6 months \$6,885.60 has been gratefully received; which averages to \$1,147.60/per month.
- ⌚ Librarian Report: *Big Books*, *Living Sober* and *Came to Believe* are the 3 main books which are being stocked and distributed by our librarian who continues to maintain an accurate inventory which also includes informative, helpful and less expensive pamphlets. Our Librarian is receiving a continuous flow of donated AA approved literature along with a 1 year gift subscription to the *Grapevine* through our LIP – Literature in Prisons program.
- ⌚ Bridging the Gap:
  - ⌚ A new Bridging the Gap Area Coordinator has been appointed. She has accepted this 2 year non-officer service position.
  - ⌚ In the past 6 months a total of 32 calls have been received from Crocker Communications and forwarded to our Bridging the Gap Area Coordinator. We have seen a slight increase in call activity.
  - ⌚ The New informative Bridging the Gap handout cards have been designed and printed. These cards are given each month to all meeting Sponsors and Alternate Sponsors who take a meeting into a facility to help and aid the patient/client to facilitate a means of Bridging the Gap from the institution to the larger AA community. The new handout cards are an additional tool not a replacement to the already Bridging the Gap handout.
- ⌚ The Institutions Committee offers approximately 245 meetings a week in 40 different facilities; this includes the Berkshire County area which fulfills 12 meeting per week totaling 52 meetings a month. Darren M, the Berkshire County Institutions Chair continues to monitor this area’s meeting commitments as well as communicating with the Area Bridging the Gap Coordinator to help those locating in the Berkshire community.
- ⌚ Our “Open Meeting” List has approximately 20 meetings which are not being fulfilled. At least half of these openings are connected with the Correctional facilities which we get to serve. We recognize that our correctional facilities have a necessary and more detailed process for us to put on a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous.
- ⌚ In the past 6 months, we have received two letters requesting our presence within 2 different correctional facilities; Hampshire Sheriff’s Office – medium security men’s facility in Northampton and Franklin County Sheriff’s Office men’s facility in Greenfield.
- ⌚ A new liaison has been appointed. He has accepted this 2 year non-officer service position. He is responsible for serving as the face of Alcoholics anonymous and coordinates as well as communicates with the facilities and the individual sponsors and or Alternates of the individual meetings. This fulfilled position will aid in the needed link for open communication between the Institutions Committee Members and the institutions we serve. It will also aid in maintaining an accurate Master and Open meeting lists. Vigorous effort to make

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contact and follow up with calls with the appropriate staff within the facilities is ongoing and steady progress is evident.

- ⌚ We continue to discuss the history surrounding “the roll” call and new conversation concerning the importance and purpose of the “sign in” sheet. The Chair will share the need and encourage all those in attendance to please sign in on this important and valuable sheet at each monthly meeting which aids the committee on attendance for those who are responsible for putting on a committed meeting.
- ⌚ We also thank the Institution Committee members who were asked and able to share their experience, strength, and hope at the 2013 Round Up - Panel Topic: Love and Tolerance is our code.
- ⌚ The booklet - Guidelines and Job Descriptions, along with the body’s history and experience, strength and hope offers and aid us as we continue with, as a group, to discuss with interest and passion the responsibility we offer, as a committee, to coordinate the work of the individual AA members and their groups who are interested in carrying the A.A. message of recovery to all alcoholics who might benefit from a meeting brought into their facility.

**Western Mass Intergroup:**

- ⌚ WM Intergroup continues to maintain a fully stocked Bookstore as well as the Intergroup website.
- ⌚ When and Where publishing continues.
- ⌚ Monthly Steering Committee and Ad Hoc committee for review of policies and procedures are held.
- ⌚ Bookie meetings are conducted monthly as well to facilitate the booking of incoming and outgoing commitments for AA groups in Area 31.
- ⌚ Fellowship events held this year were very successful, including the Annual Picnic and Alcahthon.
- ⌚ The AA Hotline for Area 31 is staffed 24 hours a day 7 days a week by Intergroup staff and volunteers from groups in the Area.

**Berkshire Intergroup:**

- ⌚ Berkshire Intergroup has been in operation for 23 years and has a fully staffed office.
- ⌚ At the end of September the operating fund was down to \$451. Analysis showed that 45 groups are not contribution. Another 15 were contributing but haven’t yet this year.
- ⌚ Inventory of Books and Literature is valued at \$6,000.
- ⌚ A new financial reporting system is now in place.
- ⌚ Need to educate groups on the importance of contributing to the pie chart.
- ⌚ Christmas and New Year’s Alcahthons are planned for this year. Experience has shown that the money will come in as needed to fulfill these critical annual commitments.

**WMYPAA:**

Our Events since the last assembly:

- ⌚ June - Frank and Beans Three Legacy Dinner
- ⌚ July – Bonfire
- ⌚ August – we hosted a Softball Tournament at the Intergroup Picnic
- ⌚ September – Bus Trip to GSO. It was well attended and we look forward to doing another next year
- ⌚ October – Bonfire.
- ⌚ Our Next event is November 17<sup>th</sup> at Grace United Church. We will be hosting a Big Book Workshop Chili Dinner from 5-8:30.

Last month our chair, Lauren stepped down. We want to thank Lauren for her time serving as chair of WMYPAA. She made several trips from Pittsfield all while working and going to school. Tom has stepped up from co-chair. We have our primary positions filled but look to get more members and fill more positions. Our primary goal is derived from A.A.'s three legacies. We strive to:

- ⌚ Support young alcoholics in their recovery.
- ⌚ Promote unity among alcoholics of all ages.
- ⌚ Encourage young members of A.A. to participate in A.A.'s General Service structure.

We thank the area for its support and look forward to serving it this upcoming year.

**MSCYPAA (Mass State Convention of Young People in AA)**

- ⌚ Michelle reported that the 17<sup>th</sup> annual MSCYPAA was a great success. It was held at the Boston Marriott in Burlington.
- ⌚ Next year it will take place on Cape Cod.

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- ⌚ Hope to bring MSCYPAA to Western Mass in 2015.

**District Reports:**

**District 1:**

- ⌚ 5 – 6 active GSRs of the 30 registered groups in District 1.
- ⌚ Topics covered in our monthly meeting seem to have changed very little.
- ⌚ Most groups are concerned about increasing participation of new members. We have collectively determined that giving new members service responsibilities immediately increases the chance they will continue to participate.
- ⌚ Also have discussed issues such as overcrowding (discussed and resolved) and decreased attendance and financial ability to continue (under continuous discussion).
- ⌚ Current effort is underway to increase attendance at District 1 meetings. GSRs, DCM and Co-DCM are asking at meetings they attend if the group has a GSR and asks that the group members encourage the GSR to attend District 1 meetings. This is not always effective. Letting new GSRs know that a presentation on the duties will be given to them may help get more GSRs to attend.
- ⌚ Contributions to the Area are up in District 1. May be a result of District 1 GSRs discussing the pie chart and where to send contributions. Discuss how the money contributed to the Area is used so that GSRs and their group members understand that their contributions to the basket are working to carry the message.
- ⌚ Also, have been talking up the Birthday envelope and providing them to GSRs.
- ⌚ Mike S. expressed his gratitude to District 1 for entrusting him with the responsibility of DCM. Pat S will assume the DCM position on December 31<sup>st</sup>.

**District 2:**

- ⌚ Steve will be rotating into to the DCM position from Co-DCM.
- ⌚ Attendance at the monthly meeting has increased from about 10 – 13 GSRs to about 20 and better.
- ⌚ We are educating GSRs on their responsibilities and about AA service.
- ⌚ Three members of the District 2 Committee attended NERAASA in February.
- ⌚ A District 2 inventory will be held on November 24<sup>th</sup>. Elections will be rescheduled to the December meeting since all agreed they would like to experience the inventory before holding the election.
- ⌚ The District 2 conscience on the subject of whether or not to insure the Area Treasurer is NO.

**District 3:**

- ⌚ Our district covers 34 towns and we have meetings in 23 of those towns. We have 67 registered groups and hold 95 meetings.
- ⌚ We have had 9 groups represented by their GSRs in the past 6 months...not all in one meeting; although I can dream for that in our future.
- ⌚ The relationship with Berkshire Intergroup has become a strong one where we are working together to engage more groups in representing themselves at the District level and at Berkshire Intergroup. Thank you Tony, Mark, Larry, Eric and Patti.
- ⌚ The Northern Berkshire group which once belonged to HM Area with the help of our registrar discovered that their group has been around for 58 yrs. The group put on a pot luck anniversary celebration/Unity Day at Windsor Lake. There were 3 speakers (one each from Southern; Central and Northern Berkshires). Paul was present w the Archive Boards. It was wonderful to see the Northern, Central and Southern Berkshire fellowship reunited. It was a wonderful afternoon of fellowship.
- ⌚ Our District has had some healthy discussions about disruptive people that have engaged the group in discussion about acceptance, principles before personalities, the traditions and concepts.
- ⌚ We are grateful for our secretary, Ruthie who gives us such complete minutes.
- ⌚ On a personal note, I want to say that I am grateful for the opportunity to have served for the past 2 yrs. as Co-DCM and DCM. Grateful for serving alongside Bill and Dennis. These 2 years have helped my sobriety to grow in new areas. I have benefited from learning more about the concepts and traditions, different service entities within AA and more of our history. Thank you for this privilege.

**District 4:**

- ⌚ Attendance at monthly meeting averages 12 – 15 GSRs.
- ⌚ District 4 sponsored a workshop on September 21<sup>st</sup>. The subject was Sponsorship and Carrying the Message. There were 4 speakers with an Ask It Basket. The event was well attended and participation was enthusiastic.

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- ⌚ Monthly discussions deal with issues GSRs raise in order to share their concerns and receive feedback based on the experience of other GSRs. Topics include such issues as
  - ⌚ Whether or not items that are not AA conference approved should be sold at Intergroup Office
  - ⌚ How to handle troublemakers at AA meetings.
- ⌚ DCM Christa had to step down before her term was up. Therefore, PJ is now acting DCM. At the Oct 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, a new Co-DCM will be elected.

**District 5:**

- ⌚ GSR participants over the last 6 months continues to average between 12→16. Our GSR's are active participants, volunteering to take on District responsibilities and some have attended the Concepts Meeting.
- ⌚ Our District continues to hold a monthly discussion of the Tradition of the month, and a topic from the Service Manual (based on a 2 year rotation schedule). One of our GSR's volunteer's each month to lead that discussion ~ we are all contributing and learning from our sharing of our understanding and our service experience.
- ⌚ All of our positions are currently filled.
- ⌚ We are utilizing the new Web Site ~ the Webmaster is posting all of our monthly activity so our information is easily accessible.
- ⌚ In September, our District made 2 motions "to take up a vote for the term of office for LCM and Secretary to be 2 yrs." After discussions, the motions on both Secretary and LCM did *not* carry. Both positions will remain 1 year positions.
- ⌚ Also in September, a motion was made "to adopt a new policy stating, "If a person doesn't show up for 3 months in a calendar year – (No call, No show) that position (DCM/LCM/Secretary) is considered vacated." This Motion carried unanimously. In the event a position is vacated – The District will refer to election procedures. We held elections on October 7, 2013. All positions that are opening in January were filled. Pauline will roll into DCM-Chair, Bob was voted into and accepted the Co-DCM position, Jim was voted into and accepted the LCM position, and Angie was voted into and accepted the Secretary position.
- ⌚ **District Group Changes:**
  - ⌚ Keep it Simple Group – Thorndike is still struggling, could use support
  - ⌚ Friday South Hadley Group – Now offer hot dogs after the second meeting
  - ⌚ Morning Light Group – Chicopee – is putting together a new format
  - ⌚ Women's New Beginnings Group – had some recent controversy – the group recently voted for the group to become an "open group." Group members that were not present at that particular business meeting were unhappy with the outcome, however all were informed prior to the voting
- ⌚ **Contacting Dark Groups:**
  - ⌚ Many of our GSR's have assisted in visiting our District's "Dark Groups" ~ updating contact information.
  - ⌚ Over the next few months, we hope to visit some of their business meetings to stimulate enthusiasm as there are many groups not yet represented at our monthly District Meetings.

**District 6:**

- ⌚ Thanks to Karl and Area officers for attending District 6 meetings.
- ⌚ As going through the year working with the GSRs, we identified common issues between our fellow groups. Some of them included:
  - ⌚ Confusion at business meetings.
  - ⌚ How to reach out to newcomers.
  - ⌚ Newcomer packages – what to include in them.
  - ⌚ Changes in groups.
- ⌚ Workshop on The AA Group was sponsored by District 6. The workshop covered the Business Meeting. Greeting the Newcomer and the Role of the Treasurer. Attendance was good, enthusiasm was fantastic.

**Delegate's Report**

The theme of The 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of The General Service Conference, which was held in New York City last April, was **The General Service Conference Takes Its Inventory – Our Solution in Action**. It was similar to the process we experienced yesterday at our Area 31 Inventory. Thank you Tanya for facilitating, the past delegates for moderating the committees and mainly the trusted servants who participated. Pages sixteen (16) through twenty (20) of this Final Report describe the happenings of this inventory. There is much more than this in the Final Report and we suggest those interested in reading more, pick up a copy and soak up information on Advisory Actions, Presentations & Reports, Area Highlights, as well as Financial and Trustees Reports. We do ask, in accordance with

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our 11<sup>th</sup> Tradition to be mindful of where we place or misplace this document as many last names are in here. (Copies in English and Spanish are on the table in the back).

Recent Highlights from A.A.W.S. are: There was an outreach effort last month by the Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) in a visit to Washington D.C. for the Recovery Month Planning Partners Meeting, which was held 2-4 September 2013.

**G.S.O. New A.A. Staff Search** – Selected from a large applicant pool, six candidates were scheduled for interviews through the end of September; a selection will be made by mid-October. The new staff member will step into the Corrections assignment when Eva S. rotates onto the 2015 International Convention desk in January 2014. This by the way will be in Atlanta from the 2nd through the 5th of July 2015 with the theme **“80 Years – Happy, Joyous and Free.”**

A well-received calendar feature was added to the *Daily Reflections* page on the G.S.O.’s A.A. Web site, allowing users to go back and forth by day and select a specific date.

In Publishing, total gross sales for the first eight months through August 2013 are \$8,774,270, which is \$166,380 (1.93%) over estimate for the period and ahead of last year’s gross sales at this time by \$172,818. Also A.A.W.S. recommended that the price of e-book versions of A.A.W.S. literature be kept below their print version equivalents. Lastly for Publishing, A.A.W.S. also recommended that a soft-cover, abridged, large print edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous* be produced in early 2014.

**Finance** – For the seven months ended 31 July 2013, contributions from A.A. groups and members of \$3,845,796 were \$57,700 over budget. Gross profit on literature sales of \$4,801,540 was \$231,400 over budget. Total operating expenses of \$8,883,998 were \$16,400 over budget. Net loss totaled \$236,347, compared with a seven month budgeted loss of \$557,888.

Lastly from the most recent correspondence from our General Service Office is in response to the trustees’ Conference Committee’s request that A.A.W.S. “consider an electronic voting system to be utilized on all nonelection votes at Conference and report back on the financial feasibility of an electronic voting system to the trustees’ Conference Committee,” the board reviewed options and agreed to forward their suggestions and concerns to the trustees’ Conference Committee for their consideration.

The senior editor of the AA Grapevine is looking for stories of experience by special needs AA members or people involved in special needs – accessibilities service. They are looking for stories by members who are wheel-chair bound, blind, deaf, ill or with any kind of special need. **Stories due by 1 December.** Visit the website at [www.aagrapevine.org/contribute](http://www.aagrapevine.org/contribute) to send in your story or email it to [gveditorial@aagrapevine.org](mailto:gveditorial@aagrapevine.org) . AA Grapevine announces a new release titled **“No Matter What: Dealing with Adversity in Sobriety”**. See your local Intergroup Office for availability and pricing.

The Conference Agenda Committee is gathering suggestions for the 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of The General Service Conference to be held 19-25 April 2015. The theme, presentation and workshop topics are needed by 13 December 2013. This is a great opportunity to practice the Right of Participation. A form will be attached to the secretary’s minutes.

Greg T., the A.A.W.S. Publishing Director, is pleased to share the flyer that will announce the publication of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous*. The order information is spelled out on the flyer, including shipping charges and discount pricing. They will begin taking pre-orders on 15 November 2013, and the books will ship in April 2014, the month of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Big Book publication. This flyer will be sent out as an insert in the Holiday Edition of *Box 4-5-9* and the other print newsletters later this fall, as well as posting it prominently on the web site [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org) and feature it on the A.A.W.S. Online Store for easy ordering. My math tells me it’ll be prudent to purchase this through one of our two intergroup offices in the Area because of their quantity discount and preferential shipping advantage.

NERAASA web site, [www.neraasa.org](http://www.neraasa.org) now provides links to the flyer for NERAASA 2014 as well as to the on-line registration form. It’s easy to use and I’m proof of that as my registration was completed in a few minutes.

**Speaking of NERAASA! The NERAASA 2016 Committee will hold its first tryouts.....errr, I mean meeting on Wednesday the 20th of November 2013 on the first floor of 474 Pleasant St. Holyoke @ 7:00 PM. That's where we convene for the monthly Area Committee Meeting.**

**PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY**

**Area Name & Number** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

To: 64th Conference Agenda Committee

Subject: Suggestions for the Theme and Presentations Topics for the 65th Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference, April 19 - 25, 2015.

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Here are our suggestions:

➤ Theme for 65th Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference:

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➤ Presentation Topics (related to theme suggestions):

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Print your name \_\_\_\_\_

Complete Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form to: Conference Secretary  
General Service Office  
475 Riverside Drive, 11th Floor  
New York, NY 10115

## THEMES OF THE GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 1966 - 2014

*The 1966 Conference was the first to have a "theme"*

English/Anglais/Inglés

- 1966 - Principles and Responsibility
- 1967 - Sponsorship--The Hand of A.A.
- 1968 - Unity Vital to A.A. Survival, Growth
- 1969 - Group Conscience Guides A.A.
- 1970 - Service--The Heart of A.A.
- 1971 - Communication: Key to A.A. Growth
- 1972 - Our Primary Purpose
- 1973 - Responsibility--Our Expression of Gratitude
- 1974 - Understanding and Cooperation--Inside and Outside A.A.
- 1975 - Unity Through Love and Service
- 1976 - Sponsorship--Our Privilege and Responsibility
- 1977 - The A.A. Group--Where It Begins
- 1978 - The Member and the Group--Recovery Through Service
- 1979 - The Legacies: Our Heritage and My Responsibility
- 1980 - Participation: The Key to Recovery
- 1981 - A.A. Takes Its Inventory
- 1982 - The Traditions - Our Way of Unity
- 1983 - Anonymity - Our Spiritual Foundation
- 1984 - Gratitude - The Language of the Heart
- 1985 - Golden Moments of Reflection
- 1986 - A.A.'s Future - Our Responsibility
- 1987 - The Seventh Tradition - A Turning Point
- 1988 - Singleness of Purpose - Key to Unity
- 1989 - Anonymity - Living Our Traditions
- 1990 - The Home Group - Our Responsibility and Link to A.A.'s Future
- 1991 - Sponsorship: Gratitude in Action
- 1992 - The A.A. Message in a Changing World
- 1993 - A.A. Takes Its Inventory--The General Service Conference Structure
- 1994 - Spirit of Sacrifice
- 1995 - Pass It On - Our Three Legacies
- 1996 - Preserving Our Fellowship - Our Challenge
- 1997 - Spirituality - Our Foundation
- 1998 - Our Twelfth Step Work
- 1999 - Moving Forward: Unity Through Humility
- 2000 - Trusting Our Future to A.A. Principles
- 2001 - Love and Service
- 2002 - Sharing the Steps, Traditions and Concepts
- 2003 - Living A.A.'s Principles Through Sponsorship
- 2004 - Our Singleness of Purpose – The Cornerstone of A.A.
- 2005 - Basics of Our Home Group – Recovery, Unity and Service
- 2006 - Sponsorship, Service and Self-Support in a Changing World
- 2007 - Our 12<sup>th</sup> Step Responsibility – Are We Going to Any Length? —
- 2008 - Communication and Participation – The Key to Unity and Self-Support
- 2009 - Our Commitment to Carry A.A.'s Message – Enthusiasm and Gratitude in Action
- 2010 - Practicing A.A.'s Principles – The Pathway to Unity
- 2011 - We are Responsible for A.A.'s Future – Let it Begin With Us
- 2012 - Anonymity: Our Spiritual Responsibility in the Digital Age
- 2013 - The General Service Conference Takes Its Inventory – Our Solution in Action
- 2014 - Communicating

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**Alternate Delegate's Report:**

- ⌚ Humbled and excited to hear all we've accomplished this year. Among those discussed at the mini conference on Saturday were:
  - ⌚ 3 workshops put on by Districts
  - ⌚ Archives and Grapevine have gone to about a dozen meetings each
- ⌚ Alternate Delegate served as Co-Chair of the Program committee for the Mass State Convention which will be held Nov 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> in Framingham, MA. The last planning meeting is Oct 29<sup>th</sup> at which time registration envelopes will be stuffed. This is the 50<sup>th</sup> Mass State Convention and promises to be fabulous.

**Area Chair's Report:**

- ⌚ Chair thanked the Area members for the opportunity to serve. He expressed being overwhelmed by all that is being done to reach the sick and suffering.
- ⌚ Emphasized that the transition of duties, keys, information must happen quickly to ensure continuity and continued progress
- ⌚ Recount of Voters – 55 Total; 37 required for substantial unanimity, 28 for simple majority

**Old Business**

- ⌚ Motion was made and seconded to make Webmaster a non-rotating, non-voting officer of the Area Committee. There was no discussion. Vote was taken with 54 in favor and 1 abstaining. Motion passed.

**New Business**

**Election of Area 31 Officers using 3<sup>rd</sup> Legacy Voting procedure**

**Results:**

Delegate:	Anne F.
Alternate Delegate:	Mark N.
Chairperson:	Paul H.
Treasurer:	Beth C.
Secretary:	Sue A.

**Motion to close:**

Made and seconded. Motion passes unanimously. Close at approximately 4:10 pm.