

Area 31 Committee Meeting – May 14, 2014

The Area Chair, Paul H., opened the meeting at 7:30 PM with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer and a reading from Chapter 5 of the Service Manual (p. S 44).

		Jan	Feb	Mar	May J	July	Aug	Sept	Nov	Dec
AREA DELEGATE	Anne F	✓	✓		✓					
ALTERNATE DELEGATE	Mark N	✓	✓	✓	✓					
AREA CHAIR *	Paul H	✓	✓	✓	✓					
AREA TREASURER	Beth C	✓	✓	✓	✓					
AREA SECRETARY	Sue A	✓	✓	✓	✓					
AREA REGISTRAR	Jack A	✓	✓							
AREA ARCHIVIST	Bobbi P	✓	✓	✓	✓					
ACCESSIBILITY CHAIR	Michael B	✓	✓	✓	✓					
ACCESSIBILITY CO-CHAIR	Karl H				✓					
ARCHIVES CHAIR	TK	✓			✓					
ARCHIVES CO-CHAIR	Keith M			✓	✓					
CPC CHAIR	Tye O	✓	✓	✓	✓					
CPC CO-CHAIR	Mike S	✓	✓	✓	✓					
GRAPEVINE CHAIR	Neal N	✓	✓	✓	✓					
GRAPEVINE CO-CHAIR					✓					
P.I. CHAIR	Steve R	✓		✓	✓					
P.I. CO-CHAIR	Mark C	✓	✓	✓	✓					
WEBSITE CHAIR	Carl G	✓	✓	✓	✓					
WEBSITE CO-CHAIR										
WEBMASTER	Bob B	✓	✓							
W. MASS IGP CHAIR	Eddie K	✓	✓	✓	✓					
BERK. IGP CHAIR	Mark P	✓	✓		✓					
INSTITUTIONS CHAIR	Chuck M	✓	✓	✓						

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<i>INSTITUTIONS Co-CHAIR</i>	<i>Andy D</i>									
ROUND UP CHAIR	Betty N	✓	✓	✓	✓					
<i>ROUND UP CO-CHAIR</i>	<i>Bill R</i>		✓	✓						
WMYPAA CHAIR	Tom H		✓	✓	✓					
<i>WMYPAA Co-CHAIR</i>	<i>Joseph</i>	✓								
District 1 DCM	Pat S	✓	✓	✓	✓					
District 1 Co-DCM	Katherine T		✓	✓	✓					
District 2 DCM	Steve F	✓	✓	✓	✓					
District 2 CO-DCM	Mike R		✓		✓					
<i>District 2 LCM</i>	<i>Joe</i>			✓						
District 3 DCM	Anthony T	✓	✓		✓					
District 3 CO-DCM										
District 4 DCM	Tiffany	✓	✓		✓					
District 4 CO-DCM	Patti K			✓						
District 5 DCM	Pauline D	✓	✓	✓	✓					
District 5 CO-DCM	Robert W	✓	✓	✓	✓					
<i>District 5 LCM</i>										
District 6 DCM	Carl H	✓	✓	✓	✓					
District 6 CO-DCM	Wayne	✓		✓	✓					
<i>District 6 LCM</i>	Wendy			✓	✓					
Quorum =18	Wayne * only votes to make/break a tie	25	24	24	30					

Secretary's Report:

🕒 Secretary read the old and new business from the March 12, 2014 Area 31 meeting minutes.

🕒 **New Business :**

None

Treasurer's Report:

🕒 Beginning April Balance: \$6,894.40; Group Contributions: \$2,368.81; Total Area Expenses: (\$2,785.69); Closing April Balance: \$6,477.52 plus Prudent Reserve: \$6,000 = \$12,477.52 Total Funds Available.

🕒 Further comments:

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⌚ Contributions in April 2014 increased by \$1,156.54 over contributions in April 2013. Contributions for YTD April 2014 increased by \$1,380.14 over contributions for YTD April 2013.

⌚ There were 42 contributions made in April 2014. There were 26 in April 2013.

Motion: To accept the treasures report- passes.

Registrar's Report:

⌚ In Registrar's absence, updated group sheets are to be given to Treasurer.

Area Archivist Report:

⌚ On Saturday May 10, 2014 we held another Archives Committee Work Day. One of the metal cabinets was eliminated and the process of moving documents into the new plastic containers has begun.

⌚ Right now the focus is on the Institutions, Public Information and Cooperation with the Professional Community Committees. At one time there was a separate Treatment Committee. The records for these committees are sparse. Archives' intention is to contact past Chairpersons and check if there are any old documents that have not been given to our Archives.

⌚ If you are a Committee Chairperson and you have been given old committee minutes, sign in sheets, etc. we will gladly file them for you in our Archives.

Webmaster:

⌚ April statistics can be found on www.area31aa.org

⌚ Webmaster will be attending the National Webmaster Convention in St. Louis.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Accessibility:

- ⌚ The members of the group continue to work on the flier for Accessibility.
- ⌚ Exploring the use of speech to text. The Chair has contacted GSO and is looking at the equipment.

Archives:

- ⌚ The committee is interested in buying a computer.
- ⌚ CD's purchased to transform cassette to CD's. The committee is looking for a cassette player or walkman to make the transfer of material.
- ⌚ In the future, Archives is looking to host a function with WMYPAA.
- ⌚ Joint Open House on June 21st, 11am-1pm, with Grapevine.
- ⌚ Archives boards will be displayed at the Round-up

CPC:

- ⌚ CPC members are actively going out to Districts.
- ⌚ Contact cards being distributed to members.
- ⌚ CPC members are in the process of making more Sponsor your doctor booklets to be distributed.
- ⌚ New CPC boards were purchased and the members are working on what should be on the boards.

Grapevine:

- ⌚ There are plans for the combined open house with the Archives Committee being held on June 21, 11am-1pm.
- ⌚ The Grapevine Committee is looking into producing a power point presentation for the 20th Anniversary of the Grapevine.
- ⌚ Grapevine boards are available to be on display at group anniversaries.

Public Information:

- ⌚ All standing commitments filled. (radio, Phoenix Academy and IOP)
- ⌚ Discussion about anonymity in Public Information in response to new committee member question.
- ⌚ Discussed the importance of the AA Pamphlet (Speaking at non AA meetings)
- ⌚ Possible new commitment with Robert F. Kennedy Children's Action Corp. was decided to be better suited for Institution Committee instead of P.I.

Website Committee

- ⌚ Reviewed 2nd draft new representative introduction letter.

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- ⌚ Reviewed presentation of the written instruction for the backup tutorial.
- ⌚ Developing a flier on the website for General Service.
- ⌚ Discussion- Is there a need for a “release form” / “consent form” for materials being submitted for use on the website. (Such as artwork, written material. GSO to be contacted to ask about owner’s right.
- ⌚ Topic of backup webmaster to be explored – there is a need. More to be discussed on this.

Western Mass Round Up

- ⌚ To be held at the LaQuinta hotel in Springfield, June 7th & 8th.
- ⌚ At 1:30-2:45 the Area Delegate will give her report.
- ⌚ The banquet is sold out.
- ⌚ Requesting donations from groups (coffee and books)
- ⌚ There will be 2 Spanish meetings as well as translation equipment available.
- ⌚ Audio CD’s of the Old Timers meeting, GSO’s meeting and the Delegates’ report.

Invited Committees

Institutions:

- ⌚ No report

Berkshire Intergroup (BIG):

- ⌚ Open house on May 17. Door prizes including a reprint copy of the 1st Edition of the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous.
- ⌚ Exploring the idea of offering a monthly workshop.

Western Mass Intergroup:

- ⌚ If your homegroup participates in phone coverage, please be available for the time slot you have chosen. This is a vital service you provide to the sick & suffering alcoholic or addict. If your homegroup does not have an Intergroup Rep, but you would like to participate in phone coverage, WMI is looking for folks to help. Call the office 413-532-2111 to let the office know you are interested.
- ⌚ The events coordinator position was filled in time for the upcoming family picnic. This event is free and will be held at the family Moose Center at 244 Fuller Rd, Chicopee, from 11am-6pm. Bounce house for the kids and every child leaves with a toy. Music, softball, food (at a nominal cost), and a raffle (donations welcomed).
- ⌚ The 200 pre-ordered 75th anniversary Big Books have sold out. Based on interest, additional books will be purchased.
- ⌚ WMIG has pay pal. This can be especially helpful to those outlying homegroups.
- ⌚ WMIG officers are available to attend homegroups for an incoming commitment or to business meetings.

WMYPAA:

- ⌚ Offering a bust trip to General Service Office on Friday September 19th. Tickets are \$35 and will be available at the Round Up. Western Mass Intergroup will help with the selling of remaining tickets.
- ⌚ The Archives Committee and WMYPAA are planning a dinner/speaker meeting later in the year.

MSCPAA:

- ⌚ Discussion on how to get more young people involved. An ice cream social is being planned to kick off the season.

DISTRICT REPORTS:

District 1:

- ⌚ 8 GSR’s present. GSR’s updated the members on their group’s activities. Reviewed Area Meeting with GSR’s, highlighting important dates.

District 2:

- ⌚ Volunteers asked to visit inactive groups in the district after DCM, Co-DCM or LCM has contacted group.

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- ⌚ The group voted on the theme for the District workshop. “Singleness of Purpose” to be held on 9/13/14, 1-4pm. The workshop is to be held at 474 Pleasant St., Holyoke.

District 3:

- ⌚ 8 GSR’s, 1 alternate GSR and 1 guest in attendance. GSR’s gave updates of group activities. Informed members of group anniversaries in District 3 and shared information from Area Meeting.
- ⌚ Discussed Round-up and GSR participation.
- ⌚ District 3 currently has no Co-DCM

District 4:

- ⌚ Three topics for the fall workshop were discussed. 1. Traditions and Concepts: Passing them on to the next generation 2. What is a Spiritual Experience, and how can you have one. 3. Service. During the discussion concerns were expressed. One members concern was running workshops was not the purview of GSR’s and raised a further concern that some GSR’s might not want to participate in running a workshop. The members decided to not have one this year.

District 5:

- ⌚ 18 GSR’s represented at the meeting. 4 new GSR’s, and to new Alt. GSR’s. GSR’s gave updates of group activities. Informed members of group anniversaries in District 5.

District 6:

- ⌚ 8 GSR’s represented at the meeting.
- ⌚ Discussed Round-up and selected meeting topic for District 6, “Lifting the Burden”.
- ⌚ District 6 and District 2 are planning to offer a joint workshop.

Delegate’s Remarks:

As you know, the theme of the 64th General Service Conference was “Communicating Our Legacies – Vital in a Changing World”. In addition to the committee work, consideration of business on the conference floor, participation in the 2nd of a 3-year inventory process, and several hundred other things that I can’t wait to tell you about on June 8, I had the opportunity to listen to a number of presentations and participate in conversations about issues related to the theme. One idea that emerged sticks out in my mind and I want to share it with you. Then I’m going to talk for a minute about money, and I will finish with a note about my goals for the coming 19 months.

One after another, delegates spoke of their efforts to improve communication through our service structure, to engage the fellowship in this moment of change. I have come to understand that I could be doing a better job of fostering communication up and down the service structure. Someone described the common flow of information, and I recognized us: she said that communication through our service structure stops at the area level where it becomes 2 entities – the conference and the area. So we have communication around local issues, concerns and activities, and a couple of times a year we talk about the conference, rather than connecting them as they are meant to be connected. So I am asking the area committee to reflect with me on a couple of questions - How effectively is General Service Conference information being collected and reported to groups in our area? How well are we listening to and acting on the needs of the groups (via the general service structure – including but not limited to sending up items for consideration to be included on the agenda at the conference).

Talking about money makes me uncomfortable. In my sobriety, I have recognized and become comfortable with discussing the spiritual dimension of economic transactions – particularly with respect to personal finances and even in respect to funding for requests for service related expenses. I have been much less comfortable discussing individual and group contributions to my homegroup, the area, the GSO. My understanding has shifted on this point following my experience at the conference. I now see that I have a responsibility to share what I learn about money in Alcoholics Anonymous. In his report the conference on the activities of AAWS m the chairman of the board of AAWS (who is also our Northeast Regional Trustee) talked about the work of the AASW finance committee which continues to consider looking at the importance of individual and group contributions and to prioritize this concern by “...continuing to look at ways to help assure that our service structure can become self-supporting through contributions from AA members and groups.” (Directors’ Report: AAWS, April 2014). Area 31 we have about 280 active groups and about 52% of those groups contributed to the GSO in 2013. That’s not bad, compared to other areas, but it’s not self-supporting. I want to encourage the distribution at district meetings the self -support packets. My hope is that we will increase participation to do our part in helping to achieve the goal of AAWS to be self-supporting through our contributions.

And about the Grapevine. Subscriptions to this amazing resource are down in 2013 – after an uptick in the face of urgency in 2012. Why should you subscribe? This is the 70th anniversary of our meeting in print – and today, the Grapevine resources are so much greater than simply that print magazine – which of course continues to be impressive. If you are the Accessibility Committee Chair (or just a member) this month’s (May) Grapevine is for you – the issue features stories by members with Special Needs. If you are the Young Peoples’ Committee Chair, the January 2014 issue featured the stories of young people in AA; if Archives is your gig -

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the April issue focused on the 75th anniversary of the Big Book. I could go on... But that's not all. You have to check out the digital archive to get a real appreciation of the recourse. I urge you to subscribe and to encourage others to subscribe as well.

Finally, about my goals for the next 19 months. During the "What's on your mind?" sharing sessions throughout the week, four big issues facing AA in our changing world emerged: These are:

1. Anonymity 2. Singleness of Purpose 3. Safety 4. Perception of AA as religious.

These issues / concerns are echoed in the theme and discussion topics for 2015. The theme for the 2015 General Service Conference will be, "Celebrating 80 Years of Recovery, Unity, and Service – The Foundation for our Future". The discussion / workshop topics will be: "Our Common Welfare Through Gratitude in Action:

Diversity in AA – Our Heritage of Inclusion

Safety and Respect – Practicing the Principles Begins in Our Home Group

Safeguarding our Traditions through the Evolution of Technology

Inventory – Looking Back to Move Ahead

Mark and I will be talking about these topics with you at your district meetings, at your committee meetings, and here at the Area meeting. My goal is to make sure that the fellowship in Area 31 is aware of what happened and will happen at the General Service Conference, that the membership in Area 231 are active participants in the creation of agenda items. My hope is that at district and committee meetings, in homegroups and in conversations between sponsors and sponsees, these topics are discussed.

Alternate Delegate Remarks:

- 🕒 Mass State Convention planning meeting to be held on 5/27 in Framingham.

Area Chair Remarks:

- 🕒 Mini Conference, thank you to the 100 who attended.
- 🕒 Important date flier now available listing events in Area 31.
- 🕒 Reminder that the Area is available to provide a meeting on service to groups.
- 🕒 Volunteers needed to revamp guidelines to the handbook. If interested, speak to the Area Chair

Old Business:

- 🕒 Traditions Meeting date and time set. The first meeting will be held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 7:30-8:30 starting in June at 474 Pleasant St. Holyoke

New Business:

- 🕒 The Area treasurer stated that we sent \$1,600 to GSO. The Area budgeted \$2,000 in the fall. The treasurer was encouraged to send \$400 to GSO.
- 🕒 Additional discussions:
 1. Discussed Grapevine articles Delegate mentioned in her report
 2. The Birthday Envelope
 3. Is November still considered Gratitude month?

Area 31 Chairperson, closed the meeting at 9:00pm with the Responsibility Declaration. The next Area 31 meeting will take place on 6/11/2014 at 7:30pm.