

Area 31 Committee Meeting – September 10, 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	Jun	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	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
<i>AREA REGISTRAR</i>	<i>Jack A</i>	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓		
<i>AREA ARCHIVIST</i>	<i>Bobbi P</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
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	Mary					✓	✓	✓	✓		
<i>WEBMASTER</i>	<i>Bob B</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		
W. MASS IGP CHAIR	Eddie K	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
BERK. IGP CHAIR	Mark P	✓	✓		✓						
INSTITUTIONS CHAIR	Chuck M	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				
<i>INSTITUTIONS Co-CHAIR</i>	<i>Andy D</i>							✓			

Area 31 Committee Meeting – September 10, 2014

ROUND UP CHAIR	Betty N / Bill R	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		
<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	Connell								✓		
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	23	24	21	25		

Secretary's Report:

- ⌚ Secretary read the old and new business from the July 09, 2014 Area 31 meeting minutes.
Motion: To accept the secretaries report- passes.

Treasurer's Report:

- ⌚ Beginning August Balance: \$ 8,243.30; Group Contributions: \$2,520.15; Total Area Expenses: (\$1,017.60); Closing August Balance: \$9,745.85 plus Prudent Reserve: \$6,000 = \$15,745.85 Total Funds Available.
- ⌚ Further comments:
 - Contributions in August 2014 increased by \$498.44 over contributions in August 2013. Contributions for YTD 2014 increased by \$3,186.20 over contributions for YTD July 2013.
 - There were 36 contributions made in August 2014. There were 42 in August 2013.

Area 31 Committee Meeting – September 10, 2014

Motion: To accept the treasures report- passes.

Registrar's Report:

- ⌚ Two new features to FNV are an address verifier and an email checker. Due to this, there are a number of mailing addresses that are identifies as being incorrect. A list has been compiled for each district and DCM's for corrections. Errors consist of missing or incorrect apartment numbers. If addresses are incomplete, the system will not allow for entry into the data base.
- ⌚ There are 284 active groups listed in Area 31 in six district spread throughout 59 communities in MA and 4 in CT. there are also 9 registered groups in numerous institutions that are on our list.
- ⌚ Group information changes can be submitted to the Registrar using the group information sheets, plain paper, email or by phone. (860)508-7171

Area Archivist Report:

- ⌚ The Archives was given a Third Edition of the Big Book that was at the registration table for the Western Mass Young Peoples Conference weekend held at Westfield State College (University) in June of 1991. It was signed by the Keynote Speaker.
- ⌚ Received a refinished wooded CD rack for the archives room from an AA member.
- ⌚ Material given to archives should contain the following; *who, what, where & when.*

Webmaster:

- ⌚ August statistics can be found on <http://area31aa.org/docs/webmaster>
- ⌚ Highlights of trip to St. Louis for NAATW (National AA Technology Workshop):
 - One recurring theme at the 'workshop' was discussion about tradition 8 and the fact that websites and other technological aspect of the getting the AA message out frequently require finding people well versed I the technology and paying them. It was also pointed out that going outside of AA for these people could be less than ideal. Paying an AA member to do this work can leave some to consider this to be against the traditions; this creates somewhat of a catch twenty-two. One solution expressed by one professional was that while they felt obligated to give back to AA they also needed to charge for their work, the solution was to give a set number of hours for free and then bill for their time over that limit.
 - Another discussion was about setting up secure access for containing information not meant for r the general public. This discussion immediately moved to the question of how do we determine who is a member and who is not? It is good enough for someone to say they are a member? Probably if they say they are an alcoholic then they are. Another way is to maintain a list but this would be time consuming for the one responsible to maintain it and still requires some sort of verification.
 - Another subject was hosted email as opposed to using forwarders and personal accounts. There are pros and cons with either. Hosted email requires training of the email account holders and using forwarders means that reply emails would be coming from the recipients personal email account most likely leading to confusion as to the correct address to use in the future.
 - As an offshoot of the 'workshop' there is already collaboration started between a group of attendees. Contact has been made by email and attendees have joined this group and have begun creating an online workspace for working on solutions to the technical problems that come up relating to AA online. The discussion is only in its infancy, the first item to workout is coming up with the rules and voting procedures for what gets addressed and in what order. There is great enthusiasm being generated by the members of their group already.
- ⌚ The new Area addresses can be found on the website under the 'Contact Us' menu choice. If anyone needs help accessing their committee email contact the webmaster@area31aa.org

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Accessibility:

- ⌚ Accessibilities had the Speech to Text meeting. By all accounts the presentation was a success. There was a lengthy Q & A period after and learned about the cost along with the logistics of the CART Service.
- ⌚ This month Accessibilities will be updating their flyer, reviewing the critique form from the CART meeting and beginning to explore fragrance free meetings and try to learn more about helping folks who require this type of meeting.
- ⌚ Accessibility committee brought the interpretation hearing equipment to the District 2 workshop on 9/6.

Archives:

- ⌚ 10 members in attendance. Informed by Area Archivist that the Archivist Chair will probably resign as chairperson due to transportation issues.
- ⌚ The committee continues to transfer tapes to CD's
- ⌚ There is a joint venture with Archives and "Young People's" still in progress
- ⌚ "work day" scheduled for archives on 9/27, 9-1

CPC:

- ⌚ Six people in attendance with 2 new members

Area 31 Committee Meeting – September 10, 2014

- ⌚ A review of the CPC presentation outline draft was tabled until next month so it can be reviewed by the committee.
- ⌚ The CPC chair received an invitation to have a booth at the New England Association of Drug Courts and Principals. This is a \$1,000 commitment to have a table. The email was sent by Racy from GSO and suggested a combined effort from various areas to be represented. Due to the amount of time until the presentation on 10/1 & 2, the committee decided to have the co-chair establish contact with Racy so this can be a possibility for next year with other Areas assisting both monetarily and staff wise.
- ⌚ CPC invited to have a booth at Liberty Prep High School located at Alderman St in Springfield on 9/26 from 11am-2pm.
- ⌚ The Chair requested members join together on a Saturday at 474 Pleasant St. Holyoke to put together the “Sponsor Your Doctor” pamphlets. Date to be determined.
- ⌚ The newcomer questionnaire was read. A proposal for question 12 was motioned and unanimously accepted by the committee and will read “What are the current CPC opportunities to be of service?” the replies to include the following in bullet points, Monthly Radio Show, Intergroup Committee, Institutions Committee, Roundup, Area assemblies and Ma State Convention.

Grapevine:

- ⌚ The Grapevine is looking for jokes. If you know interested in submitting a joke for the Grapevine, email AAGrapevine.org
- ⌚ It's not too early to submit a story for Grapevine. The guidelines for submission can be found on the web.
- ⌚ The boards are available for group anniversaries. The committee had 2 commitments at the end of the month.

Public Information:

- ⌚ Filled and confirmed new commitments to Howard St. discussed most effective format of PI presentation in different settings including Howard St. Members decided to bring 50 of each pamphlet to Howard St. and to bring several speakers who would speak for 15 minutes. Each with informative part first, followed by general solution based personal stories.
- ⌚ Brief discussion of budget, \$300-\$180 spent so far putting current balance at \$120 with expected expense of \$50 for pamphlets leaving a balance of \$70 anticipated to be spent by the end of October.
- ⌚ On Friday, 9/26 PI will have a table set up at Liberty High for National Recovery Month from 12-2.

Website Committee:

- ⌚ Representative feedback seemed positive that awareness on the website is reaching the fellowship.
- ⌚ The Webmaster gave a summary of the technology workshop he attended in St. Louis. Highlights included were Tradition 8, Anonymity on-line, meeting lists accuracy, and registration of site. Personal vs. “Area”, Security (hacking issues) and rotation vs. Non rotation.
- ⌚ 1st draft of website flier presented at meeting. The committee will review and be prepared to discuss any necessary alterations at the next committee meeting.
- ⌚ 1st draft of the Back-up Webmaster requirements for the committee to review and discuss. Changes will be made and a 2nd draft brought to the next committee meeting.

Western Mass Round Up

- ⌚ No report.

Invited Committees

Institutions:

- ⌚ Ending balance for book purchase \$2,020.14
- ⌚ BTG- The coordinator resigned and the Committee chair read the suggested requirements for filling the position.
- ⌚ Liaison Report- New meeting at My Sisters House and an upcoming meeting to be held at the Wing Memorial Hospital. Guidelines for Providence Hospital were reviewed. If unable to make the meeting as well as the alternate, members are encouraged to call (###)###-####.
- ⌚ Under new business- the Worthington Shelter meetings have not been attended by the residents. After further discussion it was revealed that the management does not notify the residents that the meeting is available. The Chair will contact the shelter.

Berkshire Intergroup (BIG):

- ⌚ No report

Western Mass Intergroup:

- ⌚ Phone coverage; if your group participates please be available for the slot requested. If interested in participating call the office at (413)532-2111.

Area 31 Committee Meeting – September 10, 2014

- ⌚ The annual WMIG picnic was a huge success.
- ⌚ Pay pal available for literature purchases.
- ⌚ There are about 50 remaining copies of the 75th anniversary of the Big Book at WMIG.
- ⌚ As of 10.1.14, book prices will increase at AAWS. Increases at the office have yet to be determined.
- ⌚ WMIG officers/staff are available for an incoming commitment to homegroups or business meetings. If interested, contact the WMIG chair at (###)###-####, or contact the office.
- ⌚ Reminder to standing /invited committee chairs there is a standing invitation to attend the monthly intergroup meeting to share about what's going on within respective committees as not all grps have GSR's & or intergroup reps.

WMYPAA:

- ⌚ No report

DISTRICT REPORTS:

District 1:

- ⌚ 10 GSR's in attendance.
- ⌚ Spanish groups in the area are going well.

District 2:

- ⌚ 14 GSR's in attendance
- ⌚ Group forms updated and changes made
- ⌚ Discussion around Concept 12 Warrantee 2
- ⌚ District 2's workshop a big success, thanked all who attended. There were 60 in attendance. The Spanish community was represented. 6-8 members were provided interpretation equipment. There was great participation with Q & A from the audience.

District 3:

- ⌚ 12 groups represented, 10 GSR's and 2 alternate GSR's
- ⌚ GSR's gave group updates and activities of their group. There were 3 new GSR's
- ⌚ GSR's were asked to bring back to their groups the idea of having a workshop next year, and in interested, come up with workshop topics.
- ⌚ District voted in a new Co-DCM.

District 4:

- ⌚ Discussed what a DCM and LCM were and the responsibility of GSRs and how they relate to the Area.
- ⌚ Elections to be held next month for service positions at the district meeting.

District 5:

- ⌚ 9 GSR's and 1 new GSR
- ⌚ GSR's provided updates on their groups. Most of the groups reported they have incoming and outgoing commitments and go to Detox.
- ⌚ The idea of a workshop was presented. The possible topics included: Anonymity or Self-support. The workshop will be held on Saturday, November 22 1-4 @ 474 Pleasant St. Holyoke. With hopes of flyers to be handed out at the Fall Assembly.
- ⌚ New GSR's will be receiving the Area Hand Book, Pamphlets and the Service Manual.

District 6:

- ⌚ 12 GSR's in attendance.
- ⌚ GSR's updated members of their group's activities and anniversaries.
- ⌚ District 6 will be hosting a Service Workshop on October 4th at the Alano Club from 12-4pm. Topics: Service Sponsor and Anonymity in a Technology Age.

Delegate's Remarks:

- ⌚ Financial Conference Report (booklet distributed)
Members encouraged reviewing Area 31 Highlights on pg. 59
- ⌚ The General Service Board met the last weekend of July through August 7th.
 - GSO developed a website template to be used by areas across the country. Looking for consistency in websites. Not required, just helpful.

Area 31 Committee Meeting – September 10, 2014

- b. Creating a searchable data base of active meetings in the area you are in, similar to FNV.
 - c. Many Online meeting of AA. There is interest in connecting these groups to the General Service Office. These groups have no physical location and are without a GSR to attend district meeting, therefore they cannot vote. GSO is exploring ways to connect these members online to the General Service Structure.
 - d. New literature to obtain wider discussion.
 - Literature to transgender and gender non confirming alcoholics, 12 steps/12 concepts in one book, and they are seeking submission of young people's video to attract young people.
- 🕒 Reminder to register for the International AA2015 Convention. Registration can happen online, the cost to register is \$100. Housing to fill up very quickly.
- 🕒 NERAASA 2016, the next planning meeting will be October 30th at 7pm at the Sheraton in Springfield, MA in the board room.

Alternate Delegate Remarks:

- 🕒 Reminder of car pool to Mass State Convention planning meeting at the Sheraton in Framingham on Tuesday, September 30th at 7:30. If interested in carpooling, members are meeting at the Plantation Inn, 291 Burnett Rd. Chicopee and leaving the parking lot at 6pm.
- 🕒 The next scheduled Planning Committee meeting for the NERAASA 2016 is scheduled for Thursday October 30th at 7pm in the Sheraton Springfield Monarch Place Hotel - One Monarch Place Springfield, MA 01144.

Area Chair Remarks:

- 🕒 Thank you for members who attended the outgoing service commitments.
- 🕒 Save the Date: The Fall Assembly to be held on Saturday, October 18th from 10am-4pm and Sunday, October 19th from 1-5 at the United Congregational Church at the corner of Appleton and High St. in Holyoke, MA. See attached tentative agenda posted on the Area website <http://area31aa.org/docs/webmaster>
- 🕒 Reminder- review the Important Dates Calendar which can be found on the area website.
- 🕒 If groups are interested in a group inventory, contact the Area Chair at areachair@area31aa.org
- 🕒 See attached agenda

Old Business:

- 🕒 None

New Business:

- 🕒 Proposed Updates to the 2011 Edition of the Area 31 Handbook: (20 minutes only for discussion)

Page 6

“Western Mass Young People in AA (WMYPAA)” “474 Pleasant Street Holyoke” “Second Saturday of each month” “11:30 AM” “Group representatives to the WMYPAA committee and any AA member who wants to get involved.”

Motion to insert:

Discussion:

-put in alphabetical order

Motion: To accept-Motion passes unanimously

“Website” “474 Pleasant Street Holyoke” “Fourth Wednesday of each month” “7:00 PM” “Group representatives to the Website committee and any AA member who is interested.”

Motion to insert:

Motion: To accept-Motion passes unanimously

Page 7:

Correct address for District 1 meeting place to “Serenity Club 391 Belmont Ave. Springfield”

Motion: To accept-Motion passes unanimously

Page 10:

Update/insert text:

“Brian O [*] 2012 & 2013 Policy & Admissions”

Motion to accept:

Discussion:

-why [*]

-reinsertion of last names

-this motion only for Brian O

Motion: To accept-Motion passes unanimously

Area 31 Committee Meeting – September 10, 2014

“David E[*] [Area 17] 1991 & 1992

Grapevine non trustee Dir AAGV 1997-2001 / trustee 2001-2005

Tanya E[*] (Area 17) 1997 & 1998

Discussion:

Motion: tabled

Page 22:

Insert text:

FINANCE COMMITTEE

This committee shall act in an advisory capacity to the Area Treasurer for the Area Committee. The purpose of the Finance Committee will be to oversee the mix of spirituality and money in the right proportion in an effort to achieve real prudence. We shall also protect harmonious and effective functioning by outlining the respective responsibilities and corresponding authorities. The delegated authority's first characteristic is the ultimate authority and final responsibility resides in the A.A. groups themselves. We shall forever use the guiding principles of Alcoholics Anonymous as written in our Three Legacies—The Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts.

1. Composition

- a. The Finance Committee will be chaired by the current Treasurer, co-chaired by the Area Chair, and include Delegate, Alt Delegate, Secretary and anyone the Area Chair decides to appoint, not to exceed 7 total members.
- b. All members of the Finance Committee get one vote and where possible substantial unanimity is required.
- c. A quorum is required for motions to be stated and passed, and the quorum should be defined as 2/3rds of the current membership of the Finance Committee.

2. Meetings / Schedule

- a. The Finance Committee will meet twice a year, in the Spring, prior to the Spring Assembly and in the Fall, prior to the budget meeting, and whenever called upon by the Finance Chair.
- b. Chair of Finance Committee can choose how frequently we meet, especially if an issue arises.

3. Duties and Responsibilities

- a. Finance Committee will assist the Area Treasurer in any aspect of that job she/he request, including but not limited to, support in the preparation of the annual budget.
- b. Provide education and support in Area 31 for 7th tradition activities.
- c. Consider ways of carrying AA's message not already being met; for example, encouraging and supporting the work of Districts and Committees within their budgets.
- d. Facilitate the transfer of responsibility from treasurer to treasurer.

Motion: Insert Finance Committee (above) above “Standing Committee and after Area Committee”

Motion: To accept-Motion passes unanimously

Under Sub-head “STANDING COMMITTEES” insert text:

“**Website:** Is responsible for the layout and content of the Area 31 General Service website (area31aa.org) as well as the development and implementation of policies and procedures that ensure the material posted on the website adheres to AA traditions and principles.

Discussion:

-several lines missing from original text

Motion: tabled unanimously

Page 23:

Under Sub-head “INVITED COMMITTEES” insert text:

Western Massachusetts Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous (WMYPAA): The committee is comprised of men and women who combine their experience, strength, and hope in order to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety. All alcoholics are welcome and encouraged to participate, enhance their sobriety, and to be of service to Area 31. WMYPAA's primary goal is derived from A.A.'s three legacies. We strive to:

- a. Support young alcoholics in their recovery
- b. Promote unity among alcoholics of all ages
- c. Encourage young members of A.A. to participate in A.A.'s General Service Structure

Any member of alcoholics Anonymous is welcome to attend WMYPAA committee meetings. Anyone in attendance at a WMYPAA committee meeting may consider himself or herself a member of WMYPAA, and therefore may participate in discussion and voting procedures.

Motion: tabled unanimously

Page 26:

Insert Text:

The Webmaster: provides maintenance of the Website, including updating information and implementing changes in the presentation of information posted. The Webmaster assigns and maintains user ID's and passwords for e-mail and secure access to the website. The Webmaster registers the site's domain shops for the best value of services provided for the Website, and ensures that the information provided on the site is by AA, for AA and about AA. Any request to post information that is determined to be questionable by the Webmaster will be submitted to the Website Committee for review. The Webmaster works with and assists the Website Chair as necessary. The Webmaster can delegate tasks to the Website committee members as needed.

Suggested Qualifications:

-The Area 31 Webmaster should have a reasonable period of sobriety (suggested minimum 3 years), Area service experience, and good

Area 31 Committee Meeting – September 10, 2014

organizational skills.

-Strong computer skills are essential to this position including experience setting up and maintaining Websites.

-The Webmaster should have a strong understanding of AA's Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts for World Service, and good judgment about what constitutes appropriate material for the Website.

Motion: tabled unanimously

⌚ Motion:

Bring last names back into Area history, this document (Area Handbook) and include last names of past Delegates.

Discussion:

- I would like to hear from past Delegates, knows it used to be this way, but this is a big change to the public

-like to hear from the motion maker

---We are an anonymous program, not anonymous amongst ourselves. It is important especially in respect to our history to know who we are, especially in respect to our history so people can be in touch with us and to make ourselves available. At the level of the GSO conference this documents always contains last names and much of the material at the GSO that deals with anonymity is maintained in our literature that refers to itself as confidential, because it is import to know who we are.

-Separate document. Like AA service manual should not have last names on it.

-Don't believe names should be in there, these are highly confidential handbooks.

-If we include last names, can't make it available to others. If we put it in, he opposes

-Dr. Bob said, it's a violation of tradition to state last name at level of press, radio and film, but he also stated it was a violation of your neighbor. Withholding names could be difficult for other to reach us.

-If you put last names can't put on the website.

--At the Ad Hoc Handbook Committee Mtg., issues of posting on the web were noted. This would be a separate consideration differently from this motion.

-I don't see where last names were taken in and out of history. Not sure what it would serve in handbook. It makes sense for GSO, not our handbook. We can get in touch via service directory. Better call to leave out and to keep on website names out.

--Recently she read AA Comes of Age and Dr. Bob and the Good Old Timers. Because I know who they are talking about, I can contextualize it. The Grapevine and Archives held an event to celebrate Grapevine 75th. Articles from Area 31 were pulled out from people who were from Western Mass. Unless someone did this, people would not know that they were from WM. I feel about our history now that it is difficult to connect to without last names.

- Past delegate, if you don't know who they are look in directory.

All in favor 3, opposed 13 and 2 abstained

Would the minority like to speak- declined

Motion: does not pass

⌚ Motion: To cancel October's Area Committee Meeting (due to Fall Assembly in October)

Motion: passes unanimously

⌚ Not interested in making a motion at this time, but the service manual suggest Districts consist of 20 groups. Suggestion for the Area to consider rethinking the Districts. Referring back to Registers findings, there are 284 active groups in the 6 Districts. A suggestion might be to sub-districts, allowing DCM's, Co-DCM's and LCM to visit the groups.

-consider putting on the agenda for the Fall Assembly to form an AdHoc Committee for restructuring Districts.

Motion: to adjourn. 2nd.

Area 31 Chairperson closed the meeting at 9:43pm with the Responsibility Declaration.

The next Area 31 meeting will take place on 11/12/2014 at 7:30pm. This will be our budget meeting.

N.B. [*] = last names removed for the web.