

FALL ASSEMBLY

October 19, 2014

Area Chair opened the meeting at 1:02pm with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer and a reading from Chapter 5 of the Service Manual (p. S 40).

Area Chair read voting requirements for Fall Assembly

Count= 51; 32 required for substantial unanimity, 23 required for simple majority.

Secretary's Report:

Secretary read Old Business and New Business from Spring Assembly 2014.

Treasurer's Report:

This report will capture activity from the Spring Assembly to Fall Assembly

Opening balance for April 2014 was \$6,894.40. Contributions for the past six months totaled \$13,409.50. Are expenses totaled \$11,252.13. The Closing balance was \$9,051.77.

Over the last 6 months:

- District 1 has 30 registered groups, 10 groups made contributions of \$1,374.55 averaging \$137.46.
- District 2 has 39 registered groups. 19 groups made contributions of \$3,346.50 averaging \$176.13.
- District 3 has 67 registered groups. 20 groups made contributions of \$1,332.38 averaging \$66.62.
- District 4 has 52 registered groups. 19 groups made contributions of \$2,749.42 averaging/ \$144.71.
- District 5 has 58 registered groups. 28 groups made contributions of \$2,815.75 averaging \$100.56.
- District 6 has 39 registered groups. 16 groups made contributions of \$1,558.53 averaging \$97.41.

There were 4 contributions from anonymous donors, individuals or unregistered groups totaling \$232.37.

Registrar's Report:

- Area 31 has 293 active groups in 6 districts. Nine of these groups are listed as Institutional meetings. We also have four groups listed as "pending active" which means that they are newly registered groups and the records office is awaiting verification from their listed contact.
- There are also 32 groups listed as "unknown." Our DCM's have been going through these over the past year and many of them have closed, but had their contact information deleted so they continue to be listed as unknown.
- Since many groups are currently (or are about to) have their elections, it is expected that a large number of changes will come in over the next few months. It is also expected that a partial shut-down of FNV for a week or so as GSO adds new Registrars from other areas etc.
- As Registrar, looking over Intergroups "Where and When" and comparing that to the list of registered groups, it appears there are 72 groups/meetings listed by Intergroup that are not registered. There are also seven groups that are in adjacent areas that are also listed.
- It is not a requirement that they register, but we in General Service should give them the opportunity to become a part of the area if they so wish. DCM's will be provided with a list of "unregistered" groups that are in their district.

- District 1-30 Active, 3 Unknown
District 2-40 Active, 6 Unknown, 1 Pending Active
District 3-63 Active, 7 Unknown, 2 Pending Active
District 4-50 Active, 12 Unknown, 1 Pending Active, 1 pending inactive
District 5-59 Active, 2 Unknown
District 6- 42 Active, 2 Unknown 1 Pending Active
There are 9 registered groups missing from the tally, because they are corrections facility groups and do not belong to a district

Area Archivist Report:

- Archives has been transferring tapes to CD's as the tapes are deteriorating, starting with Area History then speakers.
- Archives will be looking to put a lock on the door, not because of things being stolen, but due to things being misplaced.
- Archives has a Big Book of Lou M, from the old 24th St. Club.
- Archives has a new CD rack to store the CD's. This was a donation from a member.

Webmaster Report:

- Minutes and agenda's are being sent to the Webmaster to put on the Web.
- Calendar for updates on Area actives online. Submissions to web have to be in certain formats.
- Complete statics can be found at <http://area31aa.org/docs/webmaster>

Standing Committee Reports:

Accessibility:

- Ended the year discussing the Accessibilities phone numbers addition to the Where and When.
- Accessibility discussed the creation of a list of willing participants to pick up folks who call, and bring meetings to those who request that. The list would require maintenance and updated regularly.
- Updated the accessibilities flyer. Purpose of the flyer is to make people aware of the number and how to access the service.
- Members looked into the technology of speech-to-text, CART service, with the verbal message being viewed on a screen. This would have included different languages. After exploration, it was found to be quite costly.

Archives:

- The Archives boards were brought to numerous groups, Ma State Convention and the Spring Assembly.
- The Archives meeting listened to first half of 9 one hour tape by Dick D. (Past Area 31 Delegate and past North East Regional Trustee). He spoke at length about times prior to the start of formal committees as well as how Intergroup, General Service, Institutions etc. Got started in Area 31. The consensus of the committee was that this tape was a very good historical tape for our area. The committee planned to make copies to get the message out to others.
- The committee listened to the second half of the Dick D. tapes. Much of the second half of the tape was question and answer segments and many of Dick's answers were given as "this

is my opinion" (and some of it may cause some controversy) so if committee was to make copies, it would just include the first half.

- The goal of Archives committee is to have one "work day a month" in Archives office to file post and organize archives information. Also the committee will be holding Open Houses on Saturdays from 11am-1pm.
- A reprint of the 1st Edition Big Book will be available in April.
- The Grapevine has requested a joint open house with Archives.
- Discussed the need for Archives to purchase a computer by the need of 2014.

CPC:

- Perfecting CPC presentation format through monthly mock presentations and formal discussion.
- Updated CPC pamphlet collection and have used it at several commitments.
- Finalized "Newcomer Question" flyer that get handed out to new members.
- Completed presentation boards.

Grapevine:

- Grapevine boards have been on display at several Home Group Anniversaries and the Round-Up.
- The Grapevine held an open house in June to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the Grapevine. This open house was joined with the Archives Committee.
- The goal for the coming year is to change the perception of the Grapevine not just being a magazine for bathroom reading, but to enlighten our members what the www.AAGrapevine.org is all about.
- If your home group has a brochure rack, have the Grapevine pamphlets available.
- Grapevines can be viewed online and welcome articles for possible publication.

Public Information:

- Enthusiastically covered 3 core commitments; the radio show and one monthly I.O.P and Phoenix Academy presentations.
- PI has been available at short notice to appear at "drunk" driving classes and high schools all across Area31.
- PI's budget provided the ability to purchase When and Where's and other AA approved literature pamphlets and movies that suit the specific groups as aides in caring the message of alcohol education, AA awareness and the process of personal recovery possible in the fellowship of Alcoholics ANONYMOUS.
- PI has been a presence at various AA assemblies and functions as well as being invited guest at recovery workshops and seminars throughout the Area.
- Welcoming new members and encouraging them to become familiar on the PI presentation, providing them the opportunity to facilitate and speak at a commitment.
- Each month PI lead and discussed a different tradition as it relates not only to the individual or group but to the work and perspective of the PI committee.

Round Up:

- Huge success. In June, 400 people attended. 151 people were at the banquet. The plan is to have 200 people at the banquet.
- This year, the Round Up will be held on 5/29-31. More to follow.
- This is a time to hear the Delegates report after attending the General Service Conference.

Website:

- In the fall the focus has been on revising materials that were previously submitted to the Handbook revision As-hoc committee and to establish standard policies/criteria for materials being submitted for inclusion on the site.
- 2014 goals
 1. Complete Webmaster backup tutorial
 2. Increase awareness of the website within the fellowship of Area 31
 3. Create a new representative introduction letter
 4. explore ideas brought forth from last year as well as any new ideas proposed
- Encouraged Area, Districts and Committees encouraged using the standard e-mail accounts for their service entities when conducting Area business. Encourage submission of materials appropriate to your service entities to help enhance the effectiveness of carrying our message.

Invited Committee Reports:

Institutions Committee:

- Recently Institutions has contacted the Air Force Base in Chicopee to put on a meeting. The first visit will be in October.

Western Mass Intergroup:

- Established in 1953. 291 groups registered in Area 31
- Intergroup office acts as a conduit for communication and information exchange.
- Coordinates AA activities; the annual picnic, Alkathon on Christmas eve/day.
- Most important function is to provide 24 hr. phone coverage to the sick and suffering.
- The office as well as the website (WesternmassAA.org provides an inventory of conference approved AA literature, as well as Non AA items (coins, Hazelton etc.) Income generated is used to meet monthly operating expenses, approximately \$3,200.
- PayPal has been in use and proven to be positive.
- The website provides pertinent info of happenings in Area 31; meeting lists (When & Where's). "FYI" contains group anniversaries and other events. .

Berkshire Intergroup:

- No report

WMYPAA:

- Provided a bus trip to GSO on 9/19. 54 tickets sold, and 50 tickets needed to be sold to break even.
- The WMYPAA Arts Chair submitted a banner design for production. It should be done by the MA State Convention. In addition, we will be helping at the MA State Convention with registration and will be chairing two 1am meetings.

AD Hoc Committee Report

Handbook Committee:

- Ad-Hoc committee assembled for the 7th revision of the Area 31 Handbook.
- The Area voted to allow only 20 minutes per Area meeting for discussion and voting on changes to the handbook. It is the committees' goal to have the changes to the handbook complete "maybe" before the Fall Assembly of 2015.
- The Handbook Committee will bring a motion to put the handbook on the website if possible and from then forward make whatever further changes occur in real time. When hard copies run out, copies would be able to be made without having to have an ad-hoc committee spend

16-18 months reviewing and going back and forth with the Area Committee. That motion when brought to the floor will likely take several months' of debate and may even require 2 assemblies. So the idea is to try and get it done in a way that allows us not to have to do it again. The wording of such a motion will have to be thought on and talked about. The implications to anonymity and other issues will require great care and consideration.

District Reports:

District 1:

- Number of GSR's attending the District meeting, bringing enthusiasm.
- District has been reaching out to the Spanish community.
- District 1 continues to have an open invitation to all committees to visit the meeting to share information about what they do.

District 2:

- The District came together to bring in Spanish language interpreters and brought Spanish language fliers to Spanish speaking meetings.
- The District has gone out and visited nearly every group and tried to convince groups to send a GSR to the District meeting and the District was successful with 25% turnout.
- Accomplishment for the year was a workshop on Singleness of Purpose with 75 in attendance.

District 3:

- District 3 has had an average of 15 attendees with 10 groups represented.
- The Spring Assembly report showed an average of 5 Groups represented. We have 65 active and 3 unknown groups for a total of 68 or 14.7% of the groups attend the District meeting for an increase of 7.3%.
- Topics discussed at the meeting include: dealing with disruptive people at meetings, safety in AA, Concept 12 Warranty 2 as it relates to giving away books, Tradition 11 Long Form as it relates to safeguarding our traditions through technology, self-support, PI and CPC.
- Goals for the next 6 months: review and modify the meeting format placing more focus and time to bring forward and discuss key subjects and goals from the GSO Committee, Increase GSR awareness and understanding of activity in AA as a whole and motivate their participation in AA decision-making, and with the help of GSR's-visit and encourage more groups, active, unknown and dark, to have GSR representation and attend District meetings.

District 4:

- District 4 has a range of 10-15 GSR's monthly
- Over the last 6 months and during the meeting there have been great discussions including various topics like, "singleness of purpose", "how to deal with a disruptive still drinking alcoholic in an AA meeting, what the GSR's, DCM's and Co-DCM's positions are, and what roles we play as service members, as well as other topics.
- Recently District 4 held their elections using the third legacy voting process.

District 5:

- Each month the GSR's volunteer to lead the discussion after reading from the Service Manual, Concept and Tradition of the month.
- The district has good participation and enthusiasm each month with 16-20 GSR's in attendance.

- Discussions and information shared at the district include: “singleness of purpose”, groups changing the format of their meeting due to attendance, & low membership in their meetings.
- GSR’s reported that they have incoming and outgoing commitments as well as going to detox.
- GSR’s and the LCM visited several of the “dark” groups which generated new GSR participation. Some of the groups have held elections and are sending new GSR’s to the district meeting.

District 6:

- Attendance of GSR’s has increased to 12-15 participants.
- This year the focus has been to focus on problems that come up in our groups and discussing these problems toward a possible solution.
- District 6 was well represented at NERAASA in RI with 8 GSR’s in attendance.
- At the Round-Up, 11 GSR’s were in attendance.
- At the Intergroup picnic @ the Moose Lodge in Chicopee, District 6 had a small contingent of GSR’s in attendance providing support with the raffle prizes.
- In addition, a successful workshop at the Alano Club in early October was offered.
- District 5 will be holding a workshop on Saturday, 11/22 from 1-4 @ 474 Pleasant St. in Holyoke. The workshop will be a speaker/discussion – Self-Support, Anonymity and Spirituality. Food and Fellowship.

Delegate’s Report:

- Presented members a copy of the Final Conference Report of the 64th General Service Conference. Attention was drawn to specific pages of interest to her.
 - Pages 6-9 especially of interest to GSR’s or DCM’s. Conference actions by committees decided at the most recent conference. (This information was shared by the Delegate at the most recent Round-Up.)
 - Pages 23-29 summarize the inventory process of how the General Service Conference works.
 - Pages 34-35 info on literature sales in 2013.
 - Pages 68-80 financial reports, and woven
 - Pages 59-note Area highlights (Area 31)
 - Pages 64-67 info on agenda resulting in no action at GSC
- Literature approved at GSC. A copy of *Circle of Love and Service* and *Many Paths of Spirituality* distributed. Also available is a DVD, *Marking on a Journey*, a 30 minute DVD which will be available for viewing at the Mass State Convention. Archives have a copy for viewing.
- Literature sales for 2014 are up due to the reprint of the 1st addition of the Big Book. Resources available to GSR’s DCM and Committee members on AA.org website which was recently revamped. Also available Box 459 on website.
- Box 459 quarterly news and note. Talks about the 70th Anniversary of AA in Quebec. Also included, History of the BB in 3 languages.
- Second journey available, *Marking on a Journey* archives newsletter.
- The GSO is looking for an early edition of the Big Book Braille.
- *About AA* a newsletter for professionals and a tool for the CPC available.
- Also available a video called *Hope*. AA website is moving forward with in house videos.
- Grapevine magazine, in this month’s Grapevine, the focus topic is LGBT in recovery which also coincides with the latest publication of the Grapevine book *Sober and Out*.

- In August 3 groups were selected at random and anomalously to participate for the 2014 membership survey. PI is compiling information about this experience.
- Group contributions for January -June 2014, 35.53% of groups in Area 31 contributed to the GSO in the same time 2014 39.62% dip of 5%.
- North East Regional Alcoholic Anonymous Service Assembly (NERAASA), whose purpose is for GSR's, DCM's, Area Committee members, Intergroup, office representatives of the North East region to get together to discuss General Service Conference related issues concerning AA as a whole as well as pertinent aspects of recovery unity and service common to all area of the North East region. Area 31 will host for the first time ever, NERAASA in February, 2016. It's also the 25th anniversary. Come to the 2015 in New Jersey.
- International Convention will be celebrating its 80th anniversary in 2015. Big party in Atlanta, Georgia to mark this anniversary. July 2-5th. 2015. Happy Joyous and Free is the theme of the convention. GSO invites current Delegates to invite speakers to participate.
- Topics discussed at upcoming conference. District 6 event. Safety in alcoholics anonymous. Area 31 event to be safe for newcomers. Literature to consider the GSC to insert language/change. This could be taken to the GSO as a recommendation for changes in literature.
- AAWS.inc has been requested to develop a web site template to be used in areas and districts in Canada and the US. If such developed, it doesn't mean Area 31 has to use it. Also searchable web based mobile data base of meeting in the US consistent with General Service Office records. This would allow anyone traveling within North America and Canada to access meetings in the area through the web. The General Service Board will consider a request to develop a non geographic district made up of the North America based online AA Groups. This would mean the creation of a district of for non geographic online meeting and if this should happen, this district would be adopted by a district making it possible to participate in General Service Conference structure.
- 1. Agenda items for 2015. Literature committee has been requested to develop literature directed to transgender and gender non conforming alcoholics. 2. A request to produce a book that combines the 12 Steps and the 12 Traditions with the 12 Concepts for World Service. This will be discussed by the area at the mini conference in March, 2015.
- Money- a study by an external consulting firm to explore the cost associated moving GSO out of NYC was conducted. . This move will not happen. GSO proved this group to stay in NYC. GSO is moving forward with co-location of AAWS and AAGrapevine.inc onto the 11th floor. Grape offices will also moving down as well. Expenses may include a draw down from the reserve fund over the next two years not to exceed 1.3 million dollars.

Alternate Delegate's Report:

- Mass State Convention planned for November 7-9, 2014. The Convention will be held in Framingham.
- The planning meeting for 2015 will be held at the Sheridan/Framingham October 28th @ 6pm. Topics on the agenda for the weekend will include: Diversity in AA, Inclusion, Safety and respect practicing the principals into the home groups, safeguarding our traditions with the

evolution of technology and Inventory. All these topics have an effect on AA as a whole. These topics have affected our groups in our area.

- Information has to be transferred as member's role out of one position and another person moves in. It is important that all information be shared.
- Area 31 is hosting NERAASA 2016. The next planning meeting will be at the Springfield Sheraton on October 30th.

Area Chair's Report:

- Positions are rolling out and new ones are rolling in. This is an opportunity for service and if you're interested in service, welcome. If you're looking to be of service, see the Area Chair.
- Q-Fragrance free meetings came up at an Area Meeting.
A-Accessibility will be looking into to this concern.

Old Business:

- -none

New Business:

- Election- Class B regional trustee vacancy to be filled from Area 31 at the Annual Meeting of the General Service Board, following the General Service Conference in April, 2015. Qualifications given and two past Delegates made themselves available. Brian O & Sally S. 59 voting members, 40 -2/3rds.

	Brian	Sally
1 st vote:	30	29
2 nd vote:	30	28
3 rd vote:	31	28
4 th vote:	32	27

Motion for 5th ballot to go to the hat,

Motion passes

Brian's name pulled from the hat. Resume' will be completed and sent to GSO

- Area Registrar made a proposal stating to redistrict Area 31 due to their being 293 groups in 6 districts. Recommendation to form a AdHoc Committee to address this
Motion: Ask the Area Chair to create and AdHoc committee to explore the redistricting Area 31.
Discussion: None
Motion: Ask the Area Chair to create and AdHoc committee to explore the redistricting Area 31.

Motion passes unanimously.

- CPC chair stated they needed more ink to make more CPC pamphlets for the Sponsor Your Doctor packets, \$31.88 for ink as well as \$30 for pizza for those attending to put these packets together.

Motion: CPC requesting \$31.88 for ink to print Sponsor Your Doctor packets and NOT to exceed \$30 for pizza.

Discussion-

Vote: Infavor-3 Opposed-12

Minority- Make an amendment to the motion, Remove the cost of the pizza.

Motion: CPC requesting \$31.88 for ink to print Sponsor Your Doctor packets

Motion passes with 1 opposing

- Motion: that the Area change the Guidelines as follows- Pg 40 VII Area Committee and Pg VIII B Agenda

Change

Motions from the floor may be made by any member. To- Motions from the floor may be made by any voting member.

Motion: Motions from the floor may be made by any voting member.

Motion passes, 2 oppose

Because it is with the guidelines this has to be presented at the next assembly.

Motion to close: Made and seconded. Motion passes unanimously. Close at 4:50pm