

AREA 31

SPRING ASSEMBLY MINUTES

3 APRIL 2016

Area Chair opened the meeting at 12:00 noon with the Serenity Prayer.

Quorum call

57 voting members in attendance.

Secretary's Report

Secretary read old and new business from Fall Assembly 2015 and a motion was made to accept the report, seconded and passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Spring Assembly – April 3, 2016

Area 31 Treasurer's Report

This report will capture 6 months activity from the Fall Assembly to the Spring Assembly 2016.

Opening balance for October 2015 was **\$4,032.47**. Contributions for the past six months totaled **\$14,324.72**. Area expenses totaled **\$16,285.18**. The closing balance was **\$4142.84** plus Prudent Reserve: **\$7,500 = \$11,642.84** total funds available.

Our contributions have increased compared to the same 6 month period of the prior year as well as the 6 months between Spring 2015 and Fall 2015. Our expenses have also increased compared to the prior 6 month period and increased from the same 6 month time period of the prior year. This was due to some frontloading of one-time expenses in the early months of the year (e.g., contribution to NERAASA 2016, GSO Conference, and officers' NERAASA reimbursements).

We must continue to educate our fellowship about the importance of the seventh tradition and the service that is being done at the District/Area and GSO levels.

Given where we are in the calendar year, we may meet our projected goal for contributions this year if there continues to be a significant push by individual groups to collect and /or contribute more to Area Services.

Over the last 6 months:

- District 1 has 27 registered groups. 14 groups made contributions of \$1,220.50 averaging \$ 87.18
- District 2 has 44 registered groups. 16 groups made contributions of \$2,966.53 averaging \$185.41
- District 3 has 69 registered groups. 21 groups made contributions of \$2,347.82 averaging \$111.80
- District 4 has 56 registered groups. 22 groups made contributions of \$2,795.78 averaging \$127.08
- District 5 has 61 registered groups. 25 groups made contributions of \$2,601.69 averaging \$104.07
- District 6 has 41 registered groups. 18 groups made contributions of \$1,968.37 averaging \$109.35
- There were 7 contributions from anonymous or unidentified donors – totaling \$424.03

Thank you for your continued support/contributions to Area 31.

Respectfully submitted,
Treasurer Area 31

Registrar's Report

Apologies for not being able to give the report in person, but I've been called out of town on business.

- Area 31 currently has 307 groups listed as "active" an increase of 1 since the fall assembly. 9 of which are registered in correctional facilities.
- I am happy to report that we do not have any "incomplete" groups in Area 31, but we do have some "unknowns" which means that the group contact has either been removed or that the mail has been returned as undeliverable resulting in removal of the contact by the records office.
- The GSO records office is currently updating the regional directories. In order to meet the publishing deadline, I need updated group information by April 29th to get it entered in the Fellowship New Vision Database.
- As always I am ready to accept group information change forms and enter them. Keep in mind that I need the group number (or at least the group name and meet date and time) full contact information including address, phone number and email (if they have one). You can reach me by the usual means. registrar@area31aa.org.

In service,

Area 31 Registrar.

Archivist's Report

- Once again "Thank You" for the opportunity to be of service to Area 31 as your Archivist. It is a privilege.
- Since the 2015 Fall Assembly there has been much activity in the Archives Office. We did receive a donated computer and scanner. The computer and scanner were set up by a young member of the Archives Committee. He has shown me how to scan the documents but not how to access them. That will be my next lesson. This will give me the ability to start the process of digitizing all of our pertinent Archive material.
- Most of my current activity has been revolving around the documents accumulated by the 2016 Northeast Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Assembly Service Assembly. NERAASA has its own Archives that travel with the event but as the Archivist of Area 31 I believe we should have a copy in our Archives. This year was the 25th Anniversary of NERAASA and the first time that NERAASA was held in Western Massachusetts. Some of the documents to be saved are the meeting minutes, treasurer's reports, committee meeting minutes, roundtable reports and the most coveted of all the panel presentations. There is also an amazing amount of material items.
- Please continue to forward your monthly District and Committee Meeting minutes to me at archivist@area31aa.org.
- If you have any items that you would like to donate to your Archives you can contact me at the e-mail above.

- Once again please make sure **who, what, when, where and why** is noted on all documents being saved in our Archives.

Take Care & God Bless

Archivist Area 31

Webmaster's Report

As I sit here in paradise thinking about what to say in this report I'm reflecting on the future of technology in the furtherance of getting the message to those who still suffer. Primarily, does our website help us to achieve that goal? I believe it does, even though our website is first and foremost a service oriented site. Area31aa.org is designed to help those of us who are doing the business of AA in Western Mass. It is also a point of contact for ANYONE looking for help with an alcohol problem whether it be for themselves, an acquaintance or the professional who is in contact with someone in need. Continuity in this area is important and this is why the Area has created secure email addresses for every District Committee Member, Committee Chair and Area Officer. I can't stress enough how important I believe these to be! In addition, the Area calendar is on the site announcing meeting times and AA related events. We also have links to the Western Mass Intergroup meeting lists, as well as AA World Services to facilitate access to the larger AA world.

On to other updates

- Since the Fall Assembly most of my concentration was on the upcoming NERAASA in Springfield. The online registrations and occasional updates required, made it a full-time job. This of course is behind us now and things are getting back to normal.
- NERAASA 2016 gave me an opportunity to reconnect with a number of technology people from other areas, many of whom I have met at NERAASA in previous years. A few attendees are also very active in the National AA Technology Workshops (NAATW) that I have been to. In particular I was pleased to have the 2016 NAATW chair as our facilitator for the technology round table. Also in attendance was the 2016 NAATW secretary who had a way of summarizing the discussion in a way that made sense to me.
- Lastly, updates to our Area website, area31aa.org, are ongoing to make it more mobile friendly. The inclusion of Spanish translation is also on the horizon.

Once again, thank you for letting me serve AA in Area 31.

Respectfully submitted

Area 31 Webmaster

Accessibilities Report

This year has started off well. Our meetings have had 10-13 group reps.

- We as a committee have taken on a commitment at Mt. Marie Nursing Home on Thursdays for a past delegate of area 31.
- We are looking at other potential commitments for the months to follow.
- The co-chair has been visiting district meetings to raise awareness about what accessibilities does and asking the GSR's to bring the info back to their groups.
- Our accessibilities board is completed and a special thank you to the co-chair for his work on that project.
- The Neraasa commitment went well as we sat outside the main ballroom handing out headsets.
- We put on a demonstration of mobile "CART" (communication-access real time) and are looking forward to the Round-up and state convention commitments.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Accessibilities Chair.

C.P.C. Report

- Standing commitments and radio show going well.
- We had 4 events since last assembly.
- We will be doing the opening meeting for this year's 3 day round-up.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

CPC Chair.

Grapevine Report

- I have received all documents and books from the previous chair.
- Grapevine boards are complete.
- Grapevine boards were on display at Neraasa in February and grapevine order forms were also available to order subscriptions.

- Grapevine reps to communicate to their groups that anyone can submit photos,articles etc.to aagrapevine.org.
- We suggest that all home groups consider purchasing a subscription to be used as a raffle and emphasis the cost of Grapevine is about 8 cents a day.
- The grapevine boards are available for group anniversaries' and other events.
- I would like to give a special thanks to my co-chair for all her help and support that she has given to me and the committee.
- The March meeting had the Webmaster giving us a presentation on using the areas grapevine website and explained guidelines for posting materials.
- Example used were history of grapevine and statement of purpose.
- All material needs to be sent to the webmaster for review and then it will be posted.
- Please contact the committee at grapevine@area31aa.org

Thank you,

Grapevine Chair.

P.I Report

- Description of what the Public Information committee does.
- The commitments have increased since the Fall Assembly as has the attendance at our meetings.
- Q/A's regarding money and amount of presentations the committee is doing and may do, along with discussions about the radio show reception and how many people actually listen.

Website Committee Report

The general goals for 2016.

- Increasing the number of committees and districts submitting minutes to the webmaster for posting.
- Increasing general awareness of the existence and purpose of the website.
- Contributing to wider area and regional discussions about aa on line.

Our current agenda items.

- Posting and then maintaining the area handbook on the website,
- Making our sections of the website, as well as our brochure, accessible to the Spanish speaking community.
- Supporting and advising our Webmaster as he works on transitioning the site to the latest version or our content management system(Drupal).The transition should make the site more mobile-friendly.
- Continue our discussions of the Webmasters workload, including consideration of how best to provide assistance with routine tasks.
- Consideration of payment for service over and above the expected, in accordance with tradition 7's reminder that we are self-supporting and tradition 8's provision for the employment of special workers.

Since our last Area Assembly.

- Supported the webmaster and his work on the Neraasa website.
- Discussed ideas brought back by the Webmaster from the national AA Technology workshop
- Set up procedures for handling and protecting the passwords to programs underlying our website.
- Developed new material on webmail access for incoming Area Committee members including Area Officers, Committee Chairs, and DCM's.
- Participated in several NERAASA sessions devoted to AA online, including the two Roundtables for webmasters and website committees in the 18 areas of the Northeast Region.

Round-Up Report

- Save The date and program being put on the website
- First time having a mailing of registrations in many years.
- First time 3 day event in many years.
- April 20th the deadline for the hotel to hold rooms for us.
- Audio is all set.
- Created job descriptions
- The program is in both English and Spanish.
- 4pm Friday registration begins.

- \$10 registration,\$25 banquet and \$5 for the dance.

Institutions Report

- The Institutions Committee has 170 commitments that cover 365 meetings a month in 32 facilities.
- There are currently 14 open commitments, the majority of which are in correctional facilities.
- Over the past 6 months we have averaged 1 filled commitment a month and hope that continues.
- We have welcomed 26 new IGR's and have a regular attendance of 40 plus actively participating members.
- Donations to institutions are up by \$1500.00 from the previous 6 months bringing total donations over the past 6 months to \$10,046.03
- After expenses of \$1642.82 we were left with \$8,403.21 to purchase literature. While that may seem like a lot we have many commitments and have been able to place 600 big books into the hands of those who need them.
- Our bridging the gap coordinator has done a tremendous amount of work cleaning up the call list and is working on building a new list, so please take a signup sheet and volunteer to be a temporary contact. For more information on that you can grab a pamphlet or visit AA.org.
- Over the past 6 months she has responded to 27 calls, about half of those were unreachable or not in need of the BTG service. The others were brought to meetings.
- Our Liaison has been tirelessly working, communicating with facilities, IGR's and groups to ensure the message is being carried where it is needed. If you have, or know someone who does have an Institutions commitment, and hasn't ben to the monthly Institutions monthly meeting in a while, please contact our liaison or the secretary of the committee and update your information. Better yet come to the monthly meeting on the first Wednesday of the month at the Providence Hospital @7pm and let us know how your commitment is going.
- Lastly our Co-Chair has volunteered to head up the ad-hoc committee to review our guidelines and job descriptions and is also planning a workshop with the date TBA.
- I'd like to thank all the committee officers, IGR's, meeting sponsors and groups for your service to Institutions and to AA.

Western Mass Intergroup Report

- Described the purpose of Intergroup.

- Office manager has returned.
- Revised website meeting list is an app.
- Sold literature at Neraasa.
- Kids party and alcathon were both a success.
- Spanish speaking hotline available.
- Will make copies and put flyers on the website for all groups and committees. Including anniversary and save the dates and other events.
- Deadline for were and when is 29 April 12:30pm.

Berkshire Intergroup Report

- A quick history. We began in 1990 and are completely staffed by volunteers and solely supported by local groups and individuals of District 3 and Area 31. It is currently located at 152 North Main St. in Pittsfield.
- We continue to provide support for all Berkshire County AA meetings. Providing a 24 hour hotline and a full stock of literature and medallions and we publish a Berkshire County where and when.
- We are working with District 3 to co-host a service day in September.
- We are working on developing a website.
- We wish to thank WM Intergroup for posting our information and where and when on their website.
- Our Office manager of 5 years is stepping down and his replacement is being trained.
- This past fall was the first time Berkshire Intergroup had the funds to contribute to the pie chart.
- In December an individual made a contribution that allowed us to use 1/3 to adjust our prudent reserve to cover 6 months expenses and to donate the remainder to GSO.
- As of February 29th 2016 we had \$4,966.00 in operating funds, 3,795.00 in the literature funds, \$3,000 in the prudent reserve for a total of \$11,761.00.

Gratefully submitted Chair and Co- chair Berkshire Intergroup.

WMYPAA Report

- The ten people are now attending meetings.
- Doing outreach events
- Dance was well attended.
- Movie night April 22nd. 6pm trivia and 7pm showing "Smashed". Will have food and drinks for sale.
- Bonfire hopeful for the summer.
- Working on a workshop for the steps and traditions.
- Discussions about representatives at the other committees.

Ad-Hoc Committee for Area Inventory Report

- Meeting April 7th at 6PM before the Concepts Meeting.

District 1 Report

- About 30 meetings and several meetings closed this past 6 months.
- GSR's have increased at the District meeting.
- Set a goal of 2/3rds of groups represented at District meetings.
- Workshop on the 9th at 1pm at the Serenity Club. Topics are sponsorship, singleness of purpose and primary purpose.

District 2 Report

- Turnout has been pretty good.
- We continue to have 2 volunteers summarize a chapter from the service manual and the concept of the month. This is a great way to learn about AA and grow in it.
- We have begun submitting our minutes to the webmaster for posting on the website. Our fabulous secretary not only submitted March, but also the minutes going back to January.
- In March the District was invited to participate in the traditions meeting, so we brought a GSR to share her experience with the tradition. I'd like to thank the speaker and the chair for their parts in this.
- District 2 will be hosting an alkathon meeting at the Round-Up on Step 3. We will have 2 speakers followed by a discussion. A special thank you to the Co Dcm for the reminder.
- The co-chair is also checking into the inactive groups in the district. We plan on visiting and inviting them to send a GSR to the district meeting. We were recently able to recruit a new GSR

from a group that had not had one. Our co-chair is a caring and active Co-Dcm and we are lucky to have him.

- Lastly we are in the beginning stages of planning a workshop. Details to be announced.

Thank you DCM District 2.

District 3 Report

- Have been discussing the low contributions and how to get them to increase.
- Planning a workshop in September with Berkshire Intergroup. Topic to follow.

District 4 Report

- 15 or so Gsr's attending on average the last 6 months.
- The Dcm job is shared by both the Dcm and the Co-Dcm
- We try and find something current in AA to discuss at the District meeting.
- Discussing 7th tradition topics for a workshop.

District 5 Report

- Since the last assembly we have been averaging 12-15 GSR's. That number has stayed more or less the same the last 2 ½ years
- We currently have 72 groups with what turns out to be 16% of participating groups.
- Attending Neraasa gave me some good ideas on how to spread the message of the importance of service in AA and how it can and does enhance ones sobriety.
- We have scheduled a GSR workshop on Monday May 2nd at 7pm. This will coincide with the regular district meeting, but will also have invited guests and of course pizza and other snacks. We also are extending the invitation to the other committee members.
- Some of the literature we have purchased for this workshop to study review and give away are "Circles of Love and Service", "The GSR may be the important important job in AA pamphlets and the "I am responsible" wallet card. We also have 300 birthday envelopes to distribute at the workshop. We are also visiting many groups in our district and giving them flyers on the upcoming workshop.
- I am hopeful that by the Fall Assembly that we increased the participation number up by 100 % give or take a few points.
- In closing I heard a very powerful quote yesterday from Criminal Minds or the Archivist, which I do not think are connected but the quote went, "The things that we do for ourselves die with us, but the things we do for others live on". So for my life today the facts are this, because of the

fellowship, the program, and the three legacies of AAI now have a totally new perspective on life and happiness and for that I am responsible.

District 6 Report

- Good attendance with 18 or so GSR's showing up each month.
- Described the geography of District 6
- Visiting the unlit groups
- Workshop on the 25th of June on Carrying the message.

Delegates Report

- Not nervous but in awe of the thought of going to the General Service Conference.
- Listened to the information yesterday and read all I could.
- Attended NERD and met other delegates.
- I will be on the literature committee and listened to the audio AA Comes of Age.
- Pamphlets are a number 10 size for envelopes.
- Literature should be available at events.
- 47% of groups contributed in 2014.
- 49% of groups contributed in 2015
- 41% overall in AA contributed
- 35% is the low for districts and 60% is the high.
- Thinks we should be donating quarterly.
- Where there is a need we should try and fulfill it.

Old Business

- None

New Business

- Election of Alternate Delegate.

The Assembly ended with the "I am responsible" pledge at 4:20pm.