

Area 31 Fall Assembly Business Meeting

October 25, 2020

Western Mass Intergroup Report

First and foremost, Western Mass Intergroup continues to be alive and well. Throughout this very uncertain time there have been so many changes it is difficult to know where to begin.

Back in mid-March, when the pandemic began, there was a panic in AA about how we would continue to move forward and certainly there was concern within Intergroup about how we would continue to service the groups in Area 31. We didn't know if donations would be coming in, how would meetings happen? How would we make sure that the members of Area 31 know where to go for information on meetings? How would we get literature where it needs to go? How would we keep our doors open? How would we pay the bills? Who would be answering the phones? How are we going to be able to pay the bills? The staff?

So, without knowing what our fate was going to be, and the time sensitive situation that we found ourselves in, the WMIG officers made a decision to apply for the forgivable PPP loan (Paycheck Protection Plan). We were approved as a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. We received \$6300.00 to help us pay the office staff and assist with some office expenses. This allowed us to pay our staff for 24 weeks, purchase some literature and pay some bills.

As we have become somewhat settled in our new routine in AA, there has been many questions regarding whether or not WMIG should have applied for the PPP loan let alone received the loan as many AA's feel that it violates AA traditions and that we have affiliated ourselves with the government. At the most recent WMIG meeting this came up for discussion on the floor. Some of the bullet points from WMIG were:

1. WMIG in does not fall under the umbrella of the area and is in fact its own entity, separate from the area.
2. WMIG is a business that has many affiliations with many others so that we can do the business that helps to service AA in Area 31.
3. The PPP loan did not actually come from the government, it came from People's Bank in Holyoke who we are affiliated with in order to do our day to day banking business.
4. GSO in New York is in fact not fully self-supporting as they sell literature to outside entities such as Hazelden, Barnes and Noble and many other bookstores and outlets.
5. WMIG also does outside business with professionals that request, or are in need of AA literature including doctor's offices, probation offices, treatment centers and non-AA members.

It was decided that we would table this discussion until the next Intergroup meeting so that WMIG could provide more information concerning the PPP loan. We will have an FAQ sheet available at that meeting and we will resume the discussion.

WMIG is currently open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9-11 am to process orders, do curbside pick-up, take care of postal orders and to do the banking, etc. The store is closed, there is no foot traffic allowed in the building. Only our office manager Joy is allowed in the building.

As of the end of September our total funds in all three accounts was \$24,847.36

- a) Literature account: \$4,301.21

b) Office account: \$3,648.97

c) Prudent Reserve: \$16,897.18

(Copies of the WMIG Treasurer's Reports from the beginning of the year are available upon request by emailing: intergro4@aol.com)

WMIG will be holding its annual Christmas Alkathon virtually beginning Christmas Eve at 6:00 pm and ending Christmas Day at 6:00 pm. Please email Kevin at the office for a time slot at: intergro4@aol.com or show up at the next Intergroup meeting. The login information for the Alkathon will be the same as it is for the Intergroup meeting which can be found on the homepage of our website at: www.westernmassaa.org

Zoom ID# is: 575 606 2145, Password is: Intergro4

Any changes to your Zoom meeting, please email the office so that it can be updated. If your meeting decides that it will be reopening and you would like to be listed on the Reopened meeting list, an officer from your group needs to make a formal request, we will not add meetings to the reopened list by word of mouth as some groups that have reopened do not want to be listed for fear of overcrowding. (A quick note: I have spoken with Bob B., the area webmaster and we have come to a solution regarding the meeting guide app. Bob will be focusing on the Meeting Guide app and WMIG will continue to focus primarily on the Zoom meeting list and the Reopened meeting list. We will continue to communicate as much information with each other as possible in order to make sure that all information is accurate and correct. There will be a disclaimer from both the Area 31 Committee and Intergroup that states that we cannot confirm that all information is accurate as this has been an incredible transition. The Area 31 Committee will continue to have a link to WMIG on their website and we will have a link to the Area 31 Committee on ours. Together in the partnership of service we will try to make sure that every AA newcomer has access to a meeting. Thank you Bob)

WMIG continues to need your donations. Please via check or visit the website to donate through PayPal. A gentle reminder that all of our service committees need your help so please donate to the pie chart.

In closing I would like to say that I hope I didn't miss anything and that we here at WMIG are humbled to be of service to AA area 31, all of its groups and members thank you. I would also like to send out a special thank you to the reps, the Steering Committee and our office staff Joy, Eddie and Renee and our business manager Kevin who always goes above and beyond.

Respectfully submitted,

Yours in Service,

Michael Rondeau

Chairperson - WMIG

Additions: WMIG meets on the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm via Zoom. Meeting ID and password available on the home page of the website. Steering Committee is also meeting on the last Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm. We will also be restarting the bookie meeting at 6:30 pm, same night and ID information. New bookie is Dan Brown, he can be reached at ###-###-#### or at #####@####.###s Please consider attending and setting up virtual incoming and outgoing commitments.

There are no plans for the children's Christmas Party this year.