

Area 31 General Service

Web-Site Content Ad-Hoc Committee Proposal

November 2010

Please keep these points in mind when reviewing this proposal

1) Our focus has been on content, not formatting. While feedback about *how* the site will eventually look will be valued, and encouraged during the next step in the evolution. We feel however, that without a software package these considerations would be premature.

2) The good news is that today's decisions can be review, revised, abandoned or expanded. A committee can always try something for a certain length of time and then come back and determine how well it is working. This is the A.A. way!

(item#2 copied as an excerpt with permission from A.A. Guidelines (Internet) under the heading Spiritual Considerations)

Western Massachusetts Area 31

(Area 31 Committee Officers)

- [Delegate](#)
- [Alternate Delegate](#)
- [Chairperson](#)
- [Secretary](#)
- [Treasurer](#)
- [Registrar](#)
- [Archivist](#)

This site is maintained by the A.A. General Service Committee of Western Massachusetts (Area 31) for the purpose of Providing information pertinent to the General Service structure and functions in Area 31. All Area Committees, each District, and the Area Officers will share information about on-going service opportunities, and to connect all interested A.A.'s within Area 31.

Area General Service Meeting; 7:30 pm 1st Wednesday after 2nd Tuesday Grace United Church 474 Pleasant St. Holyoke, Ma.

If you are looking for a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous in Area 31, please visit the Area 31 Intergroup Web-site at westernmassaa.org/AAMeetingInformation.html

*(Area 31 offers the above link as a courtesy) (only, and is not responsible for it's content)

The Intergroup site also contains valuable Information about staying sober in Alcoholics Anonymous including:
 * Coordination of group activities
 * 24 hour telephone hotline contact information
 * AA Literature sales information
 * FYI monthly newsletter, and more
 visit westernmassaa.org

*(Area 31 offers the above link as a courtesy) (only, and is not responsible for it's content)

(Area 31 Standing Committees)

- 9) [Accessibility](#)
- 10) [Archives](#)
- 11) [Cooperation with the Professional Community](#)
- 12) [Grapevine](#)
- 13) [Public Information](#)
- 14) [Round-Up](#)

(Area 31 Invited Committees)

- 15) [Western Massachusetts Institutions](#)
- 16) [Western Massachusetts Intergroup](#)
- 17) [Berkshire Intergroup](#)

[Western Massschusetts Districts \(Area 31\)](#)
 click district # on map to access district page,
 or to reach the DCM.



19) [Area 31 General Service Structure Handbook & Guidelines](#)
 (password protected page) ?

20) [Monthry Area Committee minutes](#)
 (password protected page) ?

21) [Calendar of Area 31 events](#)

22) [Massachusetts State Convention](#)
 *(Area 31 offers the above link as a courtesy) (only, and is not responsible for it's content)

22) [NERF/NERAASA](#)
 *(Area 31 offers the above link as a courtesy) (only, and is not responsible for it's content)

23) [General Service Representative . \(GSE dutiss\)](#)

24) [How do I get involved?](#)

25) [Eastern Massachusetts Area 30 aaemass.org](#)
 *(Area 31 offers the above link as a courtesy) (only, and is not responsible for it's content)

25) [General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous N.Y. aa.org](#)
 *(Area 31 offers the above link as a courtesy) (only, and is not responsible for it's content)

25) [Guest Book](#)

AREA OFFICERS' DUTIES

The Delegate: Represents the area at the North American General Service Conference, prepares for and serves on a General Service Conference committee, effectively reports back to the area fellowship the issues and actions of the General Service Conference. The Delegate serves on the Area Committee and also attends the following area and state service meetings: Western Mass. Area Spring and Fall Assemblies, Western Mass. Round-Up, Western Mass. Young People's Conference, Massachusetts State Convention, North East Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (NERAASA), North East Regional Delegates' meeting (NERD), North East Regional Forum (NERF), and the International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous. The Delegate serves as a committee member the first year and as treasurer the second year of the Massachusetts State Convention. The immediate past delegate serves as chair of the Mass. State Convention.

Suggested qualifications for this two-year commitment:

- Several years of active participation in local and area affairs, as a G.S.R. and as a committee member.
- Time available, not only for the week-long Conference meeting in April but for all the efforts needed before and after the Conference.

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- Five or six years of continuous sobriety.
- The ability to make and take suggestions—and criticism, too.
- Experience in chairing meetings.
- Knowledge of A.A. affairs, and of where to find the correct information when they do not know the answers.
- Thorough familiarity with the Twelve Traditions and the Twelve Concepts and how they apply to local problems.
- The ability to be open-minded, to sit down with A.A.s in the area and with other delegates to discuss and act on matters vital to A.A.

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Alternate Delegate: The Alternate Delegate works closely with the Area Delegate, attending the same service events as the Delegate, except the General Service Conference, and is prepared to serve as Delegate if necessary. The Alternate Delegate also serves on the Massachusetts State Convention Planning committee as program co-chair in the first year, and as program chair in the second year. The Alternate Delegate may perform some special functions of the Area Committee.

Suggested qualifications:

- The Alternate Delegate's qualifications are the same as those for the Delegate.

Area 31 Alternate Delegate e-mail

The Area Chair: The Area Chair prepares the agenda for and chairs the monthly Area Committee meeting and the Spring and Fall Assemblies, and appoints an Area Registrar and Area Archivist as those positions become vacant. The Area Chair also appoints co-chairpersons (and chairpersons when necessary) of the following service committees: Archives, Cooperation with the Professional Community, Grapevine, and Public Information. The Area Chair also communicates with area service committees and district meetings, and is responsible for arranging meeting times and places for the Area Committee, the standing committees, and the Fall and Spring Assemblies. The Area Chair attends NERAASA.

Suggested qualifications:

- The Area Chair should have a solid period of sobriety (minimum three to five years), and experience in group, intergroup, institutional, and/or area affairs. Area chairs need a sound understanding and appreciation of the Steps, the Traditions, and the Concepts, along with a good fund of experience gained through applying these guides successfully to local problems.
- Communications skills, leadership qualities, and sensitivity to the wishes of the local area are also important. © A.A.W.S. S42

Area 31 Chairperson e-mail

The Secretary : Records and distributes minutes of monthly Area Committee meetings and the Area Spring and Fall assemblies, highlights business from previous meetings and announces any business requiring action, keeps a record of Area Committee Actions and Assembly Motions, and assists other area officers in formulating assembly agendas.

Suggested qualifications:

- The secretary should have a reasonable period of sobriety, some service in group or Intergroup work and some background in general office work. Computer knowledge is helpful, but not necessary. An effective secretary has a sense of order and the ability to capture the essentials of what is happening at a meeting. This is a time-consuming job and needs to be carried out in schedule, and any secretary needs to be sure that ample time is available.

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Area 31 Secretary e-mail

The Treasurer: Receives and records all contributions sent to the Area Committee, pays all area bills (rents, committee members' approved expenses, mailing costs, etc.), compiles and presents a monthly treasurer's report to the Area Committee, compiles and presents a bi-annual treasurer's report to the Spring and Fall assemblies, develops an annualized budget (see Guidelines IX.B.), assists all other area officers as needed, and works with an accountant to file appropriate tax and corporate paperwork annually as required.

Suggested qualifications:

- The Treasurer should be a responsible person with a solid period of sobriety. He or she should be organized enough to keep good records, and some accounting or bookkeeping experience is useful. If not, the person elected may need help in setting up a system, and possibly some clerical assistance. Persuasiveness, firmness, and diplomacy will help the treasurer do the job. © A.A.W.S. S44

Area 31 Treasurer e-mail

The Area Treasurer requests the following items on their page.

Financial statement of previous year. (Nothing Current)

The following is the full text provided as input from the treasurer, (we should also consider this point of "nothing current" when looking at page 20 of this proposal. Monthly Area Committee Minutes, as it relates to the Treasurers report.)

To: Website Adhoc Committee

From: Mark Naegeli
Area 31 Treasurer

Date: October 12, 2010

Re: Input for Website (Treasurer Information/content)

I had visited several websites of Area Committees of various States (about a dozen) and found the following for content for providing information on Area Treasurer.

Contact email address.

Financial statement of previous year. (Nothing current) Only a few of the sites I visited provided this information.

That was all.

The Registrar: (i) Regularly updates area groups' information with the help of the DCMs and GSRs in a database of group information that is managed by the General Service Office called Fellowship New Vision (FNV), (ii) provides current and updated information on groups to the DCMs and GSRs, (iii) collects and updates area committee officer and member (ACM) information as it changes (ACMs are officers such as Delegate, Area Chair, Secretary, as well as DCMs and chairpersons of the various committees) in FNV, (iv) exports ACM info to a form usable by the Secretary in creating the Area Service Directory, (v) generates mailing labels on request for the Area Secretary, Delegate, Area Chair and each district (vi) reports at monthly Area Committee meetings and at the Spring and Fall Assemblies on the number of registered groups and members in the area, and (vii) cooperates with Intergroups in Area 31 to keep group information current.

Suggested Qualifications:

- A reasonable period of sobriety, area service experience, good organizational and follow-up skills, and computer literacy.

Information provided to the Area 31 Registrar will be recorded with Area 31 General Service, and A.A. General Service Office New York, N.Y.

If you wish to make changes to the "When & Where" meeting list for Area 31, which is maintained by the Western Massachusetts Intergroup Office, you will need to have your group Chairperson, GSR, or Intergroup Representative complete the appropriate form at the Intergroup Office located at 474 Pleasant St. Holyoke, MA.01040

Area 31 Registrar e-mail

The Archivist: The archivist collects, organizes and preserves material of historic interest and is responsible for both the physical and the intellectual integrity of the collection. The Archivist reports regularly to the Archives Committee and at the Fall and Spring Assemblies. The Archivist sits on the Area Committee, but does not have a vote.

Suggested qualifications:

- The Area Archivist should have a solid period of sobriety (minimum three to five years), and experience in group, intergroup, institutional, and/or area affairs, with some Archives Committee experience.
- Avid interest in Area 31's history. Knowledge of or willingness to learn preservation and acquisition skills as they relate to material in the Area Archives.

Area 31 History from the Handbook

Area 31 Archivist e-mail

Accessibility: The purpose of this committee is to diminish or eliminate barriers that prevent anyone from participating in any aspect of AA in Area 31. The committee provides information and coordinates services for alcoholics who otherwise would be unable to participate in meetings, groups, or service work because of a disability, difficulty accessing AA meeting places, or because of a need for special assistance with communication.

Area 31 Accessibility Committee -7:00pm - 3rd Thursday
Grace United Church- 474 Pleasant St., Holvoke

Links to aa.org with disclaimer

SPECIAL NEEDS/ACCESSIBILITIES

AA, Guideline - Serving Alcoholics with
Special Needs
AA. Guideline - Carrying the A.A. to the
Deaf Alcoholic
Special Needs/Accessibilities Workbook
Fall 2006 About A.A. Newsletter
Suggested Special Needs/
Accessibilities Committee Activities
AA. for the Older Alcoholic—Never Too Late

Area 31 Accessibility Committee e-mail

Archives: Collects and stores items of significance to the history of AA. The committee arranges to record the stories of 'old-timers' to preserve the oral history of AA, Additionally, the committee arranges displays of archive items at Area Assemblies, the Area Round-Up, and area group anniversaries.

Archives Committee - 7:30 pm • 1st Tuesday
Grace United Church, 474 Pleasant St.,
Hoiyoke

The Archive Committee requests the following items on their page.

A picture of the Archive boards

Up-coming Archive commitments

Blank Group History forms that can be downloaded

Link to Archivist History section

Area 31 Archive Committee e-mail

Cooperation with the Professional Community: Seeks to create mutual understanding and cooperation between A.A. and the professional community. Makes general information about AA available to those in fields such as health care, education, law enforcement, and social work. Provides schedules, pamphlets, videos, etc., to professionals.

C.P.C. - 7:30 pm - 2nd Tuesdays Grace
United Church, 474 Pleasant St., Hoiyoke

Links to aa.org with disclaimer

COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL
COMMUNITY (C.P.C.)

AA. Guidelines on Cooperation with the
Professional Community
A.A. Guidelines on Court DUI and similar
programs
C.P.C. Workbook
Information on Alcoholics Anonymous
About A.A. - Newsletter for Professionals
Let's Be Friendly With Our Friends
A.A. as a Resource for the Health Care
Professional
A.A. as a Resource for Drug & Alcohol Court
Professionals
A Message to Correctional Professionals
Members of the Clergy Ask About Alcoholics
Anonymous
Is There an Alcoholic in the Workplace?
Problems Other Than Alcohol
This Is A.A.
A.A. at a Glance
A.A. Fact File
A Brief Guide to Alcoholics Anonymous
A Members-Eye View of Alcoholics
Anonymous
Three Talks to Medical Societies by Bill W.,
Co-founder of A. A.

Area 31 CPC Committee e-mail

Grapevine: Encourages groups and individuals to subscribe to the Grapevine and La Vina (Spanish language edition) and to have Grapevine items like books and CDs available at meetings. Promotes awareness of the Grapevine website, including the Audio Grapevine and Digital Archives as tools of recovery. Encourages members to submit articles, letters, drawings, anecdotes, and jokes for publication. Provides displays of Grapevine materials for conferences, assemblies, and group anniversaries.

Grapevine - 7.30 pm – 1st Tuesday Grace
United Church, 474 Pleasant St., Holyoke

Link to aagrapevine.org with disclaimer

Area 31 Grapevine Committee e-mail

Public Information: This committee works closely with AA volunteers to instruct them how to effectively carry the message to the general public. Using the AA guidelines on P.I., and training gained from attending monthly P.I. meetings, The AA member may then be scheduled to speak to the public. This includes schools/students, senior citizens, church groups, alcohol education programs, parent groups, health fairs, radio shows. Boy/Girl Scout troops, DWI schools, or anywhere we are asked to come to explain what AA is, does, and doesn't do. The P.I. Committee also helps provide literature and pamphlets to libraries and visitor's centers and public service announcements to local TV and radio stations.

Public information – 7:30pm - 2nd Tuesday Grace
United Church. 474 Pleasant St.. Holyoke

PURPOSE

Like all of A.A., the primary purpose of members involved with public information service is to carry the A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers. Working together, members of local Public Information committees convey A.A. information to the general public, including the media.

Reprinted with permission from A.A. Guidelines (Public Information)
G.S.O., A.A. World Services Inc.

Links to aa.org with disclaimer

Upcoming Public Information Service Commitments

PUBLIC INFORMATION (P.I.)

A.A; Guidelines an Public
Information A.A.
Guidelines *of* the internet
P.I. Workbook

Public Service Announcements
Press Releases
Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings
A.A. in Your Community
AA Membership Survey
Estimates of AA. Groups and Members
Anonymity Letter to Media
Understanding Anonymity
Information on Alcoholics Anonymous
Problems Other Than Alcohol

Memo on the Participation of A.A.
Members in Research and Other
Non-A.A Surveys

Area 31 PI Committee e-mail

Round-Up: Arranges a forum for the Area Delegate to give a report on the General Service Conference. This can be a weekend of workshops, AA meetings, skits, videos, speaker from General Service Office and Alanon participation. The committee can hold a banquet and dance in order to defray the cost of the Round-Up.

Round Up - 6:00 pm - *Wednesdays after 2nd Tuesdays*
Grace United Church, 474 Pleasant St., Holyoke

Area 31 Round-Up Committee e-mail [Western](#)

Mass. Institutions Committee: The purpose of this committee is to coordinate the work of individual AA members and groups that are interested in carrying our message to the incarcerated alcoholic unable to attend outside meetings. Additionally, the committee oversees regular AA meetings held in facilities and treatment centers where people are receiving help, usually for substance abuse. The committee also makes connections between people leaving treatment programs and people in the AA fellowship through a national program called "Bridging the Gap." Nearly all donations to the committee are used to purchase conference approved literature for direct distribution to newcomers in institutions. The officers of this committee are elected by the Institutions Committee.

Western Mass institutions Committee - 7:00 pm - 1st Wednesday
Providence Hospital Auditorium, Hoiyoke

CORRECTIONS

- AA. Guidelines on Corrections
- Corrections Workbook
- A.A. in Correctional Facilities
- Carrying the Message into Correctional Facilities
- A Message to Correctional Professionals
- Corrections Correspondence
- Sharing From Behind the Walls
- The A.A. Group Handbook for Groups that Meet in Correctional Facilities

TREATMENT FACILITIES (T.F.)

- A.A. Guidelines on Treatment Facilities
- T.F. Workbook
- AA in Treatment Facilities
- Where Do I Go From Here?
- Bridging the Gap

The following are facilities requesting incoming A.A. cooperation. Please contact the Institutions Chair, or Co-Chair if you are interested in sponsoring a meeting.

OPEN MEETING LIST

Area 31 Institutions e-mail

Western Mass. Intergroup: Coordinates A.A. activities among its various groups, maintains 24 hour telephone coverage, publishes regularly updated schedules of group meetings in the area, maintains a website (www.westernmassaa.org), encourages a program which will promote regular visits between groups (bookie list), provides an inventory of A.A. literature for the area and acts on suggestions from group representatives that would be of potential benefit to all groups. Western Mass. Intergroup also puts on a family picnic every summer and sponsors an Alkathon at Christmas. The officers of Western Mass. Intergroup are elected by the Intergroup.

Western Mass intergroup - 7:30 pm - 2nd Thursday
W.M. Intergroup Office, 474 Pleasant St., Holyoke
Western Mass Intergroup Steering
Committee - 7:00 pm 1st Thursday
W.M.intergroup Office. 474 Pleasant St., Holyoke

Berkshire Intergroup: Meets the needs of Berkshire County. Responsible for the local AA hotline in the Berkshires, for publishing the meeting list, for keeping a supply of literature and pamphlets, and for the "Joy of Living" campout, the Christmas party, and the Berkshire County Institutions Committee. The officers of Berkshire Intergroup are elected by Berkshire Intergroup.

Link to: westernmassaa.org/berkshire_intergroup.html
(disclaimer)

Berkshire Intergroup - 7:00pm - 2nd Monday
Berkshire Intergroup Office (Room 14-15), 85 East Street, Pittsfield

DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBERS' and LOCAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS' DUTIES

The District Committee Member (DCM) is the vital link between the group's GSR and the Area service structure. A DCM is an AA member who usually has served as a GSR and whom the other GSRs wish to make responsible for their district activities. An able, experienced GSR makes a good DCM provided he or she has the time and desire to work closely with groups within the district. In Area 31, two Co-DCMs serve each district for a two year term. Ideally, one Co-DCM is elected in the fall of each year. The election should take place before the Fall Assembly and is set up by the DCM who is finishing up his or her term.

Suggested qualifications for this two year commitment are:

- A background in AA service work including GSR and perhaps experience with Intergroup affairs.
- Enough sobriety (at least four to five years) to be eligible for election as Delegate.
- The time and energy to serve the district well.

The duties of a DCM are:

- Chairs monthly district meeting and reports at monthly area meeting.
- Receives information from the group level through GSRs and through frequent contacts with groups in the district.
- Assists the Delegate and Area Registrar in obtaining group information for our Eastern United States Directory.
- Keeps GSRs informed about Conference and Area activities.
- Acquaints GSRs with the AA Service Manual and other AA literature.
- Strongly encourages all GSRs and alternates to attend area assemblies.
- Regularly attends groups in the district, encouraging groups that have no GSR to elect one and send him or her to the monthly district meeting.
- Works with DCMs in other districts exchanging ideas on how to improve communication between DCMs and GSRs and to inspire GSRs on how to effectively pass information on to their groups.
- Participates in the Spring and Fall Assemblies and the Round-Up.

By maintaining active contact, both with the groups in the district and the Delegate, the DCM is a key link in ensuring that all the AA groups are aware of the importance of their total participation in local, district, area and world services.

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The Local Committee Member (LCM) If a large district chooses to divide itself into smaller areas (sometimes called subdistricts or local districts), an LCM is elected to serve that local district. The LCM may be a past GSR, outgoing GSR, or even a past or outgoing DCM. Each district is autonomous when deciding the number of LCMs they will utilize, how long the LCM will serve, and may follow the same guidelines as suggested for election to a DCM position.

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What our LCMs do:

- Assist DCMs in the effort to visit all meetings/groups in their districts in hopes to inspire greater involvement, cooperation and unity.
- Attend monthly district meetings and is encouraged to attend the Area Committee meetings.
- Attend Spring and Fall assemblies and the Round-Up.
- Be a voting member at their district meetings.
- Possibly stand in as alternate DCM
- Gain experience for a future service position.

District # Area 31

Western Massachusetts

DCM e-mail

(District information, towns, number of groups, events ?)

District #1 - 7:30 pm - 3rd Thursday

Unitarian Universalist Church, Porter Lake Drive - Spfld. - Balcony Room

District #2 - 7:00pm - 2nd Monday Alano Club, Agawam

District #3 - 7:00 pm - 3rd Friday - Old Lee Court House - Lee Town Hall

Park Street Entrance - Lee, MA

District #4 - 6:45 pm - 3rd Tuesday

1st Congregational Church, Route 47 & 116, Sunderland

District #5 - 7:30 pm - 1st Monday

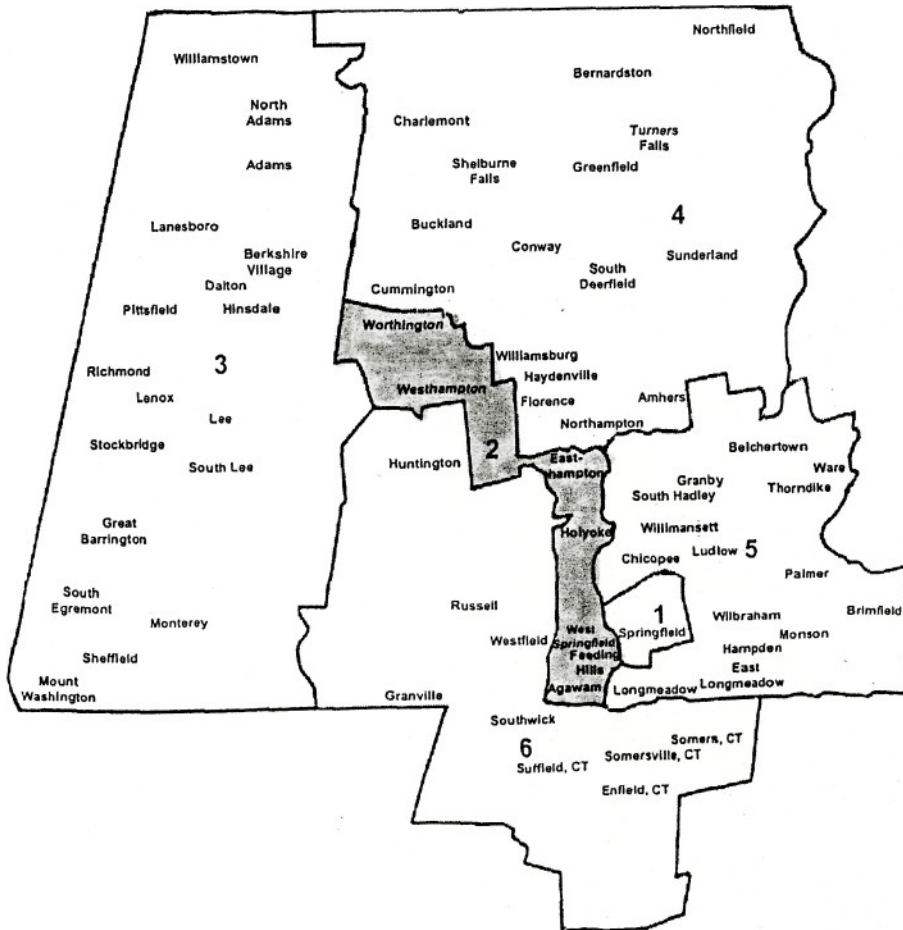
Union Church of Christ, 51 Center St., Ludlow

District #6 - 7:30 pm - 3rd Monday Alano Club, Agawam

District #3 requests the following items on their page.

The number of meetings in District 3 are (87), the number of groups are (68).

A photograph representative of "the Berkshires", of the outdoors: mountains, trees, sky, something to give an impression that our district is beautiful and that we are proud to live in the area of Western Massachusetts in which we reside.



Pg19

Western Massachusetts General Service Structure Area 31
Handbook & Guidelines

(entire text)

* The Area Committee will need to decide if this page will be password protected.
(last names have been removed, however the cover of the 2008 edition still says confidential)

Pg20

Monthly Area meeting Minutes

(updated monthly, edited for anonymity)

Calendar of Area Events (from handbook as well other events)

Pg21 (as applicable)

What a Concept - 7:00 pm - 1st Thursday, *Concept Study* Grace United
Church, 474 Pleasant St., Holyoke

Pg22

Mass State Convention ; Planning Committee Schedule, directions, contact information, event dates and other
information as applicable massstateconvention@aaemass.org

NERAASA/NERJJ: contact information,, event dates and other information as applicable

Pg25

link to: Eastern Massachusetts Area 30

aaemass.org

*(Area 31 offers the above link as a courtesy) (only, and is not
responsible for it's content)

link to: General Service Office of
Alcoholics Anonymous N. Y.

aa.org

*(Area 31 offers the above link as a courtesy) (only, and is not
responsible for it's content)

Guest book : The intent of this among ourselves is good, however please consider that by allowing site visitors access to post comments,
we may risk malicious entries from "outside" sources, and thus risk tradition violations ie. Trad's 6,10 ?

Western Mass Intergroups site was the inspiration for this page. Postings to their guest book go into a que, and are under control of the
web-master to post, or not post.(We can opt for our web-master to edit for content as a trusted servant, or send postings to the area
committee for posting approval.)

G.S.R.

General Service Representative

"First let's remember that the base for our service structure rests on the dedication and ability of several thousand General Service Representatives (G.S.R.'s), several hundred area Committee Members, and nearly a hundred Delegates. These are the direct agents of the A.A. groups; these are the indispensable linkage between our Fellowship and its world service; these are the primary representatives of A.A.'s group conscience. Without their support and activity we could not operate permanently at all."

"When making their choices of G.S.R.'s, the A.A. groups should therefore have such facts well in mind. It ought to be remembered *that it is only the G.S.R.'s* who, in Group Assembly meetings (or in caucus) can name Committee Members and finally name the Delegates. Hence great care needs to be taken by the groups as they choose these Representatives. Hit-or-miss methods should be avoided. Groups who name no G.S.R.'s should be encouraged to do so. In this area a degree of weakness tends to persist. The needed improvement seems to be a matter of increased care, responsibility and education."

(Reprinted from Twelve Concepts for World Service, Concept IX, pg.36,37 with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.)

Link from the aa.org site

P-19 G.S.R. General Service Representative

"(Area 31 offers the above link as a courtesy)
(only, and is not responsible for it's content)

GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE (GSR) DUTIES

The GSR "...may be the most important job in AA. By choosing its most qualified man or woman as GSR, a group helps secure its own future - and the future of AA as a whole." -Bill W.

The General Service Representative has the job of linking his or her group with AA as a whole. The GSR represents the group at the district and area levels, bringing the groups' thought, news and problems to the District committee member and to the Delegate, who then passes them on to the conference. In return, the GSR brings-back-to-the-group-the-information-and-remedies that affect~AA-unity^healTh-and-growth. -To-the extent that a GSR keeps the group informed, then expresses the group conscience, only then can the Conference be assured it is acting for AA as a whole. Ideally, all groups should make every effort possible to have an alternate GSR.

Suggested qualifications for this 2 year commitment are:

- Has the confidence of the group
- Is an active member of his or her group
- Has 2 to 3 years of continuous sobriety
- Has experience in service work and held group officer positions
- Has learned that AA offers growth through service work and has become aware of the meaning of our Traditions

The duties of the GSR are:

- Serve a 2 year term, often beginning on January 1
- Attend the district meetings with other GSRs and DCMs, the Spring and Fall assemblies, and the Round-Up
- Be a voting member at their district meetings and area assemblies
- Serve on special committees as a bonus of being a GSR
- Become knowledgeable about AA material available from GSO
- Learn everything they can about the 12 Traditions and 12 Concepts and become familiar with the Service Manual

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED ?

(A Forum for members of Area 31 to relate their experience of how they Became involved in Area Service)

"Most A.A. members are primarily interested in their groups, in their own sobriety, and in helping other drunks one-on-one And that is as it should be. While the work of general service has precisely the same objective carrying the message to the alcoholics who still suffers-the connection is not always direct or obvious. Some stimulants are usually needed to get the attention of A. A. members-to show them that service can add a rich dimension to their sober lives and Twelfth Step work, and that their participation is vital to the future of A.A."

(Reprinted from The A.A Service Manual pg S22 with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.)

"There is another good reason for" participation," and this one has to do with our spiritual needs. All of us deeply desire to *belong*. We want an A. A. relation of brotherly partnership. It is our shining ideal that the "spiritual corporation" of A.A. should never include any members who are regarded as "second class". Deep down, I think this is what we have been struggling to achieve in our world service structure. Here is perhaps the principal reason why we should continue to ensure "participation" at every important level. Just as there are no second-class A.A.'s, neither should there be any second-class world service workers either.

The "Right of Participation" is therefore a corrective of ultimate authority because it mitigates its harshness or misuse. It also encourages us who serve A.A. to accept the necessary disciplines that our several tasks require. We can do this when we are sure that we belong, when the fact of our "participation" assures us that we are truly the "trusted servants" described in A. A Tradition Two."

(Reprinted from Twelve Concepts for World Service, Concept IV, pg.21, with permission of A. A. World Services, Inc.)

Considerations

A) Web-site policies

- Additions/Deletions to the web-site need to be approved by vote at the monthly Area business meeting, or an Assembly by the area committee.
- Approved changes to Area 31 Handbook & Guidelines will be updated on the web-site without further need to vote on web site content change.
- Area, Districts, and Committees are to be autonomous in regards to content of their monthly meeting minutes, upcoming events /commitments, keeping in mind the spirit of Traditions 4 & 11, and will not need to get these monthly update changes approved by an area vote.
- Password to protected pages will be given out at the Area Business meeting, District meetings, and *group business meeting • to those interested A.A. members.*(**This should be by request at the group level and not announced, as non A.A.'s may be in attendance as visitors of the groups regular or business meeting.**)
- It is recommended that the password to protected pages be changed periodically. Suggested time frame is each Area Panel rotation.
- Establish standard non-rotating e-mail accounts for each Area Officer, Committee, District

B)

- 1) The Web-Master, and Alternate Web-Master will be appointed Area 31 Officers that are non rotating, non voting position (the same as Registrar, and Archivist).
- 2) Discuss allocation of funds for payment to Web-Master for initial start-up fee to bring Area Web-Site on-line. (Tradition 8: Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.) Reprinted from *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* with permission of A. A. World Services, Inc.

Web Master

The Web Master is responsible for maintaining monthly updates i.e. committee, district, area minutes. Makes other approved changes to web-site accordingly.

Alternate Web Master

The Alternate Web Master will maintain familiarity with the Area 31 web-site, and will perform the duties of the Web Master when necessary.

Domain Name; (Some possible suggestions)

aawmass.org (note Area 30s aamass.org)
area31aa.org
aa.area31.org
wmassarea31 aa.org

Some brief excerpts from GSO Guidelines

*Selecting a Domain name;.. avoid using the marks "A.A.," Alcoholics Anonymous" and/or "The Big Book" in their domain names.....many entities have integrated lower case "aa" into their domain names.

*Contents; We ask that you do not reproduce items that are currently available on the GSO. Or Grapevine web sites. Instead link to the appropriate pages.

*Links; However, even when linking to another A.A. site, care must be exercised since each A.A. entity is autonomous, has its own group conscience, and may display information that another A.A. group conscience might find objectionable.
...that linking to non A.A. sites is even more problematic. ,but linking might imply endorsement, if not affiliation. In the final analysis, experience suggest that, when considering linking to another site, proceed with caution.

*Spiritual Considerations; The good news is that today's decisions can be review, revised, abandoned or expanded. A committee can always try something for a certain length of time and then come back and determine how well it is working. This is the A.A. way !