

6/25/2014 Web-site Committee minutes

Attending were the Webmaster (Bob), Chair (Carl), Co-chair (Mary) Cold Spring Group (Gary) Area Chair (Paul).

We discussed if there was still a need to expand on the Webmaster tutorial. The committee feeling is that since we decided to have a backup Webmaster, there is not a need to further develop the tutorial.

Last month there was discussion along the lines of; Is there a need for a "release form"/ "consent form" for materials being submitted for use on the website. (such as artwork, written material) The GSO response was read. We decided that at this time there has been no request to post anything and that any future request will be addressed at that time. Also, that we have established content submission guidelines and those would be used. I think the general feeling was that it was better to err on the side of caution. *

Mary will be taking the lead in the development of the Area website flier.

Bob spoke to the creation of an online group registration form for use by the Area Registrar. There are many concerns mainly centering around security, and logistics. This would be a large undertaking.

Final thoughts on the requirements of a Backup Webmaster were talked about. Carl will type up a presentation for next month's committee meeting.

I will be responding to G.S.O. with thanks and attaching files of content submission guidelines, and site, committee, webmaster definitions.

Our next committee meeting will be July 23, 2014 **The 4th Wednesday. This is a five week month**

* The following is an edited version of the e-mail to, and the response from the G.S.O.

Subject RE: Website Area31
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From: "Publicinfo" <publicinfo@aa.org>
Date: Mon, June 9, 2014 1:40 pm
To: "website_committee@area31aa.org" <website_committee@area31aa.org>
Cc: "CPC" <cpc@aa.org>

Dear Carl,

Warm Greetings from the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous! My name is Jim and I currently serve as the Public Information coordinator here at G.S.O. It's good to have this chance to be in touch.

Carl, thanks for your email.

As Racy said, decisions about what is included on a local A.A. Web site is determined by an informed local group conscience. To that end, we've gathered some shared experience over the years that are in the attached service piece "FAQ About A.A. Web Sites."

There is nothing in this document along the lines of your question, however. During the time I was on the Web site Services desk I had no requests of this nature. At this time neither our existing literature, nor the AA.org Web site, includes member submitted art work.

We do have some experience gathering personal A.A. stories for consideration in a new or revised piece of A.A. literature. Two recent examples that come to mind are the revision of "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell" and the Fourth Edition of our Big Book Alcoholics Anonymous in 2001). Anyone wishing to have their story considered for inclusion in an A.A. publication must sign a release form.

Your General Service office does not provide "sample release forms", as this could easily be construed as giving legal advice. If your committee has questions about how to handle legal matters it may be best to speak with an appropriate legal professional. The General Service Office provides A.A. literature and shared experience gathered over the years from groups and members, for the purpose of furthering the mission of carrying the A.A. message to the still suffering alcoholic.

I hope this limited information is helpful to you. All here send our gratitude and best wishes.

In Fellowship,

Jim

Jim M.
Public Information coordinator
General Service Staff

From: CPC
Sent: Monday, June 09, 2014 10:16 AM
To: 'website_committee@area31aa.org'
Subject: RE: Website Area31

Dear Carl,
Warm greetings from G.S.O.! It was wonderful meeting you this weekend. Thank you for your service to A.A.!

I am happy to forward your email to Jim M. on the PI desk. As we discussed, some of these discussion points may fall along the lines of the group conscience of your area and legal council with artwork copyright. Jim may have shared experience on communicating about A.A. at the public level on websites, that may be helpful.

On behalf of the staff here at G.S.O., I would like to send best wishes! Please feel free to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Yours in fellowship,

Racy J.
General Service Staff
cpc@aa.org<<mailto:cpc@aa.org>>

-----Original Message-----

From: website_committee@area31aa.org<mailto:website_committee@area31aa.org>
[mailto:website_committee@area31aa.org]
Sent: Sunday, June 08, 2014 5:16 AM
To: CPC
Subject: Website Area31

Hello Racy, I was a pleasure to meet you this weekend at the Area31

Round-up. Thank you for your service. If you recall you were in attendance at a workshop AA Online I asked you afterward for GSO contact information regarding an e-mail I thought I had sent previously. If you would please

forward to Jim M. at P.I. I would be grateful. Thanks again. Carl G. (Area 31 Website Committee Chair)

4/27/2014, 6/8/2014

To: Staff, G.S.O. Jim M. P.I.

Subject: Website copyrights

Hello, my name is Carl G. I currently serve as Website Committee Chair for Area 31. Western Massachusetts. (area31aa.org)

In our most recent committee meeting that was held 4/23/2014. There was discussion brought up about ownership rights / copyrights of materials that may be submitted for inclusion on the site. For example, artwork, or written materials, photographs, provided by area members. (Some may be professional artists by trade for example).

Can you provide any collective experience, guidance, example release / consent forms etc. that G.S.O. may have researched.

Thank you in advance for any direction that you may be able to offer,
Carl G.

website_committee@area31aa.org,

P.S. What I see on aa.org about copyrights etc. seems to be for AA owned materials such as books, or pamphlets etc. This is in the other direction if you will. For example as previously when I served as Archives Committee Chair I learned of consent forms for things such as donated materials, or "old-timers" recordings. I wondering if there are something similar involving website materials? Maybe it's as easy as adapting those consent forms to fit this other need here in Area31.