

**Area 31 Website Committee
Meeting of November 23, 2016**

Attending:

Chair—Sally
Co-Chair—Terri
Webmaster—Bob
Group representative—none
Area Chair—Sue
Incoming Co-Chair—Steve

- The meeting began with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.
- The Committee reviewed minutes from the October meeting and agenda items for tonight's meeting.
- Reports:
 - Group rep: No report
 - Chair and Co-Chair: No reports other than the agenda items below.
 - Area Chair: Sue mentioned the January 14 evening with the Trustee-at-Large Bob W.
 - Webmaster: Bob gave a report about the NAATW (National AA Technology Workshop):
Extensive discussion was had about Tradition 8 and Concept 11 – we should pay our special workers commensurate with the common scale for the position. On that note different Areas have vastly different mechanisms for getting their technology needs met. Some Areas hire the workers outright, others have volunteers fill the need and yet others use a combination of the above. It is recommended that these positions should be filled by AA members not non-members. Some of the AA members filling these positions work out a compromise, part volunteer and part paid, the logic being that the volunteer part is giving back to AA.

Google once again has refined their Search Algorithm to give better placement to websites that use responsive techniques (mobile friendly). They are also looking for multi-language capability and now are urging that all websites have a security certificate. It was mentioned that a security certificate can be had from a new Certificate Authority called 'letsencrypt.org' and this would be free. I will research more about this.

As far as Drupal is concerned, I have volunteered to assist with bringing to life an AA Drupal implementation that could be shared by any AA organization as a first step to setting up a website. As for our update to Drupal 8, I still have not found the missing piece, the Calendar module, to be ready for prime time. I spoke with the Drupal programmer who was in attendance at the workshop and he gave me a few other suggestions to try.

Needless to say I have only touched the surface of all that was discussed at the workshop, more will be revealed later.

- Discussion:
 - We welcomed Steve, the incoming Co-Chair of the Website Committee.
 - The Committee briefly returned to the idea of separating the Area History from the Handbook, so that the Handbook becomes a service piece and the Area History can more easily be kept up to date by the Archivist and Archives Committee. The Archivist supports this change, and we will bring it to the Area Committee soon for discussion and approval.
 - The Committee returned to the idea of paying the Webmaster for special projects that require an unusual number of hours and a high level of professional expertise. The creation of the NERAASA 2016 website was one such project that took many hours to solve many challenges. Coming up in 2017 will be the migration to Drupal 8, which will be a very large project. After much discussion, the Committee agreed that we would ask the Area Committee to set aside \$600 in the 2017 budget, representing 20 hours of work at a rate of \$30 per hour, for the Drupal project. We see this step as in keeping with Tradition 7, on self-support, Tradition 8, on employing special workers, and Concept 11, on recompense in reasonable relation to the value of similar services or abilities in the commercial world. Sally will draft a motion.
- The meeting ended with the Responsibility Declaration.