

February 13, 2013

The Area Chair, Mark N., opened the meeting at 7:30 PM with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer and a reading from Chapter 5 of the Service Manual (p. S 44).

Secretary's Report:

- ⌚ Secretary read the old and new business from January Area Committee Meeting
- ⌚ Motion to accept: passes.

Treasurer's Report:

- ⌚ Beginning January Balance: \$1,954.55; Group Contributions: \$1,953.82; Other Deposits: \$3,000; Total Area Expenses: (\$3,869.59); Closing January Balance: \$3038.78 plus Prudent Reserve: \$6,000 = \$9,038.78 Total Funds Available.
- ⌚ Motion to accept: passes.

Registrar's Report:

- ⌚ All group info sheets that were submitted last month have been entered as well as all of the new committee chairs, DCM's and co-chairs information.
- ⌚ Registrar has sent pdf files of group information sheets to the DCM's along with a spreadsheet of each districts groups. Please send questions or requests for more (or less) information on those sheets to registrar@area31aa.org or call Jack at (860)508-7171.

Area Archivist Report:

- ⌚ Additions to the Area 31 History in the Area 31 Handbook have been written which are summarized as follows:
 - ⌚ On 4-1-2012 at the Spring Assembly, the following motions were made and passed
 - ⌚ Create a new Western Mass Young Peoples Invited Committee with a new charter (amended with a vote in Area 31).
 - ⌚ Create a Web-Site Committee as a Standing committee on the Area 31 General Service Committee.
 - ⌚ Both motions required another vote on at the Fall Assembly.*
 - ⌚ On 6-2-2012 Area 31 Archives Committee celebrated the 70th Anniversary of the first meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous in Area 31 with an "Open House Birthday Celebration". It was well attended.
 - ⌚ At the Fall Assembly on 10-10-2012
 - ⌚ Again a motion was made to create a New Western Mass Young Peoples Committee as an Invited Committee (with a vote in Area 31). The motion passed unanimously.
 - ⌚ Again a motion was made to create a Web-Site Committee as a Standing Committee in Area 31. The motion passed. The Committee will have a Webmaster, Chair & Co-Chair.

*Western Massachusetts General Service Structure Handbook & Guidelines 2011 Edition, page 41, Section E.

ADHOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

Handbook Committee:

- ⌚ The Adhoc committee has completed about one third of the required revisions to the Area 31 Handbook.

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- ⌚ Revisions done to date include changes to the new committees in the structure, description, and locations sections.
- ⌚ Requested archivist write Additions to the Area 31 History.
- ⌚ Next meeting – week of 2-18-2013.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Accessibility:

- ⌚ Topics discussed at January 23, 2013 meeting:
- ⌚ Funding and meeting availability difficulties facing the AA deaf community in Area 31
- ⌚ How funds are made available and who initiates the request
- ⌚ Who is asking for meetings to be held in their homes
- ⌚ Chair and Co-Chair tested hearing assist equipment and verified all is working properly
- ⌚ Co-Chair reported since Chair was attending an accessibility commitment

Archives:

- ⌚ Chair is sharing information about Archive Committee services during the announcement portion of AA meetings he attends. Contact Archives Chair to borrow Archive boards
- ⌚ Goal this year is to collect more group histories and updates to existing histories
- ⌚ One committee member requested Archives' boards for her home group anniversary
- ⌚ Open house planned for Sat 3-23-2013 from 11am – 1pm. A flyer for this event is attached to these minutes for all to print and bring to AA meetings.

CPC:

- ⌚ Ten Group Representatives to CPC attended the January meeting of CPC. Six were new to the committee.
- ⌚ Covered Institutions and Radio commitments. Unable to cover attendance at Intergroup for January.
- ⌚ Discussed having a presentation made to the CPC committee by an experienced member.
- ⌚ Discussed future ways of reaching out to professionals.

Grapevine:

- ⌚ Ten Grapevine Group Representatives in attendance at January meeting. This is an improvement over previous year's attendance.
- ⌚ Members shared what they are doing to promote Grapevine subscriptions in their groups.
- ⌚ Audio submissions of up to 7 minutes are being accepted over the Grapevine answering machine or via wav/mp3 file submissions.
- ⌚ All are encouraged to promote AAGrapevine.org.
- ⌚ GV boards will be displayed at the Randall Group Anniversary on 2-24-2013.
- ⌚ Contact Grapevine chair or send a group rep to the next meeting of the GV committee.

Public Information:

- ⌚ Motion was brought up and passed to remove names from Roll Call after 3 consecutive absences.

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- ⌚ Monthly commitments were filled, including chairperson and “shadows”, with an explanation of what each commitment entails.
- ⌚ New Packet handed out by PI Chair. Contains member questionnaire, radio show format and information on public speaking.

Website Committee:

- ⌚ 11 of 21 committee chairs and DCMs are using the area31aa.org email addresses
- ⌚ Request to add content to a page on the website should be addressed to the Website Chair, Co-Chair or Webmaster. Requests will be reviewed at the next Website Committee meeting
- ⌚ Discussed need to prioritize maintenance tasks and the possibility of extending update privileges to Chair and Co-Chair. This will provide backup for the Webmaster when he is on vacation or otherwise unavailable as well as allowing him to delegate some of the work of maintaining the website. Since the Chair and Co-Chair are not ready to take on the update tasks yet, decision on giving them update privileges was postponed.
- ⌚ Alternate Delegate will send a digital copy of the Area Handbook to the Webmaster so he can upload it to the website.

Round Up:

- ⌚ Fifteen people attended the 2-13 meeting.
- ⌚ Still taking donations of cash, coffee and conference approved literature.
- ⌚ Grapevine and Archives boards are being requested for display at the Roundup
- ⌚ Program agenda is in draft form and will be emailed to the Area Secretary after it is updated with changes discussed at latest meeting.

Webmaster:

- ⌚ Webmaster reported statistics over the past 2 weeks concerning number of hits (1375 to the Home page in the previous 2 wks.), top referrers, top search phrases and search engine results
- ⌚ 17 out of 21 area31aa.org email accounts have been accessed at least once.

Invited Committee Reports:

Institutions:

- ⌚ 6 New Institutions Reps (IGR's) received Institutions Committee handbook – The Guidelines and Job Descriptions.
- ⌚ \$\$ Available for A.A. General Conference Approved Literature \$1,503.71
- ⌚ BTG - Total # of calls 2 Female 1 Male 1
- ⌚ The Institutions Committee Liaison reported that 2 additional AA meetings are in the requesting process at the Chicopee Hampden County Women's Corrections Facility. This would be a total of 4 meetings per week.
- ⌚ Berkshire County Institutions Chairperson reported that AA members and the Berkshire House of Corrections are working together to fill “open” meeting commitments.
- ⌚ Open meeting lists are available for you to share with either individual AA members, Home Groups, and or Districts that are interested in carrying the AA message of recovery to all alcoholics who might benefit from a meeting brought into their facility.

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- 🕒 Librarian is targeting literature purchases most suited for Detox patients (eliminating 12 & 12 for example)

Western Mass Intergroup:

- 🕒 Chair extended thanks to groups who have participated in phone coverage and asked the Area Committee members to encourage more groups to volunteer
- 🕒 Intergroup cashed in a Certificate of Deposit to cover the cost of printing When and Where
- 🕒 Shortfall of \$8,000 on office supplies was made up via literature sales. WM Intergroup is not self-supporting through contributions. Intergroup Chair encouraged all to talk up putting \$2 in the basket at every AA meeting.
- 🕒 Paypal is now a payment option on the Intergroup website

Berkshire Intergroup (BIG):

- 🕒 Eleven people in attendance with seven groups represented.
- 🕒 Ad Hoc Committees and/or action items:
 - 🕒 Review of last year's operating expenses and recalculation of the prudent reserve.
 - 🕒 Review of the Hot Line volunteer list to determine if names are still valid.
 - 🕒 Develop an information flyer about BIG's purpose and thanks to groups for their support.
 - 🕒 District 3 and BIG Service Workshop scheduled for April 6, 2013.
 - 🕒 Write a Mission Statement, which will be incorporated into the BIG's By-Laws.
 - 🕒 Modify Pie Chart to add correct BIG's address.
- 🕒 Action Items Completed: The review and the clarification of BIG's By-Laws.
- 🕒 Motions/Approvals:
 - 🕒 \$300.00 to cover half of the costs for the April 6, 2013 Service Workshop.
 - 🕒 Renewal of Grapevine subscriptions for three schools.

WMYPAA:

- 🕒 Elections held at the end of January. New Chair – Lauren A, Co-Chair – Tom H and Liaison to Area Committee - Bill R.
- 🕒 February business meeting rescheduled from 2-9 to 2-16 due to the storm.

DISTRICT REPORTS:

District 1:

- 🕒 .3 GSRs, Co DCM and delegate attended January meeting
- 🕒 DCM and Co DCM are trying to visit all groups in District 1

District 2:

- 🕒 16 in attendance at February meeting (including 2 new GSRs)
- 🕒 Decided to adopt 3rd legacy voting but to also allow nominations after asking for those available to serve to stand for a position
- 🕒 Mike R introduced as new LCM
- 🕒 DCM and Co DCM to visit dark groups.
- 🕒 DCM and Co DCM are attending NERAASA in Lancaster PA

District 3:

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- ⌚ 6 GSRs present, DCM, Co-DCM, Secretary, Alt Delegate, BIG chair
- ⌚ Alternate Delegate will present the GSR Power point presentation for at the next District 3 meeting on February 15th at 7 pm. It will last approximately for 20 followed by discussion and questions. ALL ARE WELCOME!! THE MORE, THE MERRIER!!!!
- ⌚ There was a question about whether a person can be a GSR and an LCM. Alternate Delegate said a person cannot be a GSR & DCM at same time, but can be GSR & LCM as well. District 3 is looking to vote in a new LCM soon.
- ⌚ DCM announced that BIG and District will host another Service Workshop and asked for input from the GSRs and all present. A great discussion followed with lots of great input which DCM then brought to the Service Workshop Ad Hoc Committee.
- ⌚ Flyer for workshop and the tentative schedule are attached to these minutes. Please bring to AA meetings you attend.

District 4:

- ⌚ Read and discussed
Concept 4.
- ⌚ Discussed content of
District 3 web page on area website. Will post upcoming agenda on webpage week end before meeting.
- ⌚ Discussed possibility of
District 4 hosting a service workshop. Will discuss further at future District 4 meetings.
- ⌚ Continue to get word out
about of service. Out of the many AA groups meeting in District 4, GSR attendance is low.

District 5:

- ⌚ Continued discussion of the Service Manual/Tradition, which is taking place monthly at our meetings based on a 2 yr. rotation schedule. Chapter 1 (Intro to General Service) and Tradition 2 were February's topic. GSR Scott led that discussion.
- ⌚ Service Manuals continue to be provided to new GSR's along with our beginner's packet.
- ⌚ The GSR Presentation, sponsored by Area 31 took place ~ it was "awesome" (great feedback) ~ interest actually prompted one of our District's GSR's to come to the monthly concepts meeting ~ GSR's are getting more involved!!!
- ⌚ GSR's are taking Assembly items back to their groups for feedback ~ we will discuss group outcomes at our March and April (District) Meetings. We will also be discussing with GSR's our intentions for reaching out to our District's dark groups which DCM's/LCM are beginning to discuss and organize.
- ⌚ District 5 ~ looking forward to NERAASA ~ we are enthused ~ hoping to gather new ideas

District 6:

- ⌚ 41 registered groups; 7 GSRs and 2 alternates in attendance at January meeting.
- ⌚ Discussed how to promote \$2 in the basket instead of historical \$1. Should it be announced at the meeting itself or at the business meeting?

Delegate's Remarks: Delegate not in attendance

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Alternate Delegate Remarks:

- ⌚ .MA State Conference Planning Committee reviewed last year's conference to acknowledge successes and examine shortfalls. Decided that surplus of \$6,000 will be evenly split between GSO, Area 31 and Area 30.
- ⌚ Invited DCMs to breakfast on Sunday morning of NERAASA. Asked DCMs to bring their meeting agenda formats. Will discuss how to approach groups that are not sending GSRs to District meetings; the role of DCMs on the Area Committee.
- ⌚ Mini Conference 4-13, Spring Assembly 4-14 – Agenda for GSC will be provided before the conference to give DCMs and GSRs a chance to collect feedback from groups.

Area Chair Remarks:

- ⌚ Service commitments: Sat 3-23 7am Morning Light, The Church of Christ, 284 Montgomery St, Chicopee.

Old Business:

- ⌚ Chair thanked the Alternate Delegate for Part I GSR presentations.
- ⌚ Suggestions for content of Part II GSR presentation? Send to Alternate Delegate.
- ⌚ 3rd Legacy voting – How we obtain nominees. Chair encouraged DCMs to talk to GSRs so they understand this issue and are prepared to vote at Spring Assembly.
- ⌚ Archivist offered to send the description Area 30 has written describing 3rd Legacy Voting procedure. Alternate Delegate objected to the Area 30 interpretation since it excludes non Area Committee members from standing for an Area position.
- ⌚ Chair asked DCMs to clarify to GSRs that vote re: Webmaster becoming an Area Committee Officer is to make the position a non-voting, non-rotating one.
- ⌚ Chair stated that the Finance Committee Mission Statement should not have been brought to a vote at the Fall Assembly in October 2012. The statement doesn't have to be voted on by the Area Committee or the Spring Assembly. It will be included as written by the Finance Committee into the Area Handbook.

New Business:

- ⌚ Allocation of \$2,000 Area 31 will receive from MA State Convention
- ⌚ Treasurer presented a few possible options for use of the \$2,000 seventh tradition contribution to Area 31 from the MA State Convention.
 - ⌚ Allocated money to Districts and Committees with a portion reserved for reimbursement of expenses to NERAASA attendees.
 - ⌚ Allocate \$400 to GSO and \$1,600 to Districts and Committees.
 - ⌚ Return \$2,000 to prudent reserve.
 - ⌚ Include in any option the allocation of \$300 for the rebinding of the first edition of the Big Book.
- ⌚ A motion was made to allocate
 - ⌚ \$75 to each Standing Committee and District for a total of \$900.
 - ⌚ \$300 for rebinding of the 1st edition Big Book
 - ⌚ \$800 to NERAASA attendees
- ⌚ Discussion on the above described motion ensued. Below listed are the points raised:

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- ⌚ Create a “slush fund” to give Districts and Standing Committees who request money for specific programs and purchases. This suggestion was opposed by another member because we already provide for such requests without have to create a specific separate fund.
- ⌚ Contribute \$2,000 to the pie chart.
- ⌚ Table the allocation decision to provide time for Area Committee members to consider options.
- ⌚ Motion as stated is fair especially since the amount allocated to Districts and Standing Committees is less than what each of these requested more during the budget planning at the end of 2012.
- ⌚ Archivist stated that she has left the Big Book with the binder who will not begin work until August, trusting that God will provide when the time comes to commit to that expenditure.
- ⌚ Vote was taken. 24 for, 5 opposed.
- ⌚ A minority opinion was expressed. Let’s table this motion, bring back to group members, and pray on it. We don’t have to decide how to spend it now.
- ⌚ Chair asked if anyone was swayed by this minority opinion. None were.
- ⌚ Motion passed.
- ⌚ District 3 DCM requested \$300 to cover the cost of food, flyers and meeting place rent for the April 6th Service Day Workshop.
- ⌚ Motion was made to allocate \$300 to District 3 for this purpose.
- ⌚ Vote was taken: 25 for, 4 opposed
- ⌚ Minority opinion was expressed. Need more detailed information in order to decide.
- ⌚ Chair asked if anyone was swayed to vote differently based on minority opinion expressed. No one was swayed to change vote.
- ⌚ Motion passed.

Meeting closed at 9:25 pm with the Responsibility Declaration.

Did you ever wonder about the history of AA in Area 31?

Did you ever see a first edition Big book?

All AA members are invited to attend the Area 31 Archives Committee Open House. You can explore all kinds of AA related materials.

Saturday March 23rd 2013
11AM-1PM

In the Archives Office at:
474 Pleasant St. Holyoke Ma
(Upstairs from the Western MA Intergroup office)

Please stop by and say hello. The Archives committee members would love to show you what your Area has in its inventory.

Program,,, Area 31,,, Takes Its Inventory.....

Western Mass Round Up Saturday May 18 & 19 2013

Time	Meeting	Hosted	Salon
8-8:55	Kick-Off Meeting / Daily Reflection	Mike B.	A
9-9:55	Sponsorship	District 6	C
9-9:55	Third Legacy	District 5	D
9-9:55	Spirit of Rotation	District 4	E
9-9:55	Al-Anon/Accepting the Things I Can not Change	Al-Anon	A
10-10:55	District	District 3	C
10-10:55	Home Group	District 2	D
10-10:55	Primary Purpose	District 1	E
10-10:55	Hispanic Meeting/Workshop	HC	A
11-11:55	Area 31 Takes its Inventory; Why it's necessary	Alt. Delegate	C
11-11:55	The Triangle, More than just a shape	Area Chair	D
11-11:55	Self-Support. What does that mean	Area Treasurer	E
11-11:55	Love and Tolerance is our code	Institution's	A
12-1:25	LUNCH-ON YOUR OWN		
1:30-2:25	Young Peoples	Wmypaa	C
1:30-2:25	Practicing these Principles in all our affairs	CPC	D
1:30-2:25	AA On Line, The digital world	Website	E
1:30-2:25	Unity	Area Registrar	A
2:30-3:25	Al-Anon-Focusing on Myself	Al-Anon	A
2:45-4:00	Delegates Report	Delegate	CDE
4:15-5:30	Old Timers	Marian B.	CDE
5:30-7:00	DINNER-ON YOUR OWN		
6:00-7:00	Skit-Dalton Young at Heart Group	DYHG	CDE
7:30-8:30	Guest Speaker-Mary- GSO	Betty N	CDE
8:30-8:45	Sobriety Countdown	WMYPAA	CDE
9:00-12:00	DANCE,DANCE,DANCE	Round-Up	CDE

5/19/13	SUNDAY'S MEETINGS	AREA 31	
8-8:55	Daily Reflection Meeting	Dani P.	A
9-9:55	Steps	Accessibility	C
9-9:55	Traditions	W.M.Intergroup	D
9-9:55	Concepts	Berkshire/Interg	E
9-9:55	Al-Anon/My Life Was Unmanageable	Al-Anon	A
10-10:45	Hispanic Meeting/Workshop	HC	A
10-10:45	Honesty	Grapevine	C
10-10:45	Open Minded	Archives	D
10-10:45	Willingness	PI	E
11:00-12:15	Spiritual Meeting –Billy N.	Jeff K.	CDE
12:30	Wrap Up Meeting	Round Up Chair	CDE
SATURDAY ONLY	Alkathon Meetings	All meetings for Alkathon Salon B	B
8:30 – 9:25	Step #1	District 6	
9:30 – 10:25	Step #2	District 5	
10:30 -11:25	Step #3	District 4	
11:30-12:25	Step #4 & 5	District 3	
12:30-1:25	Step #6	District 2	
1:30-2:25	Step #7	District 1	
2:45–5:30	Delegates Report / Old Timers Meeting		CDE
5:30-6:25	Step #8	District 1	
6:30-7:25	Step #9	District 2	
7:30-9:00	Guest Speaker		
9:05-10:00	Step #10	District 3	
10:05-11:00	Step #11	District 4	
11:05-12:00	Step #12	District 5	

Join Us for a **Service Workshop**

Collaboration of Berkshire Intergroup and District # 3

April 6th, Saturday 10 am to 4 pm

Registration begins at 9 am with Meet -n- Greet

**Lenox Community Center,
65 Walker St, Lenox MA 01240**

Any questions, contact Joan Peters (413)528-5856 or Eric D (413) 418-5691

Service Workshop

Collaboration of Berkshire Intergroup and District 3

Next Ad Hoc Committee and Volunteers meeting will be
Tue; March 19th at 7 pm at the Berk Intergroup Office

Schedule for the day:

8:00 am to 9:30 am set up time

9:00 am – 10:00 am Registration/meet and greet

10:00 am – 12:30 pm (each rep will have a total of 12 min/ 7 min to share then questions)

- 🕒 Area 31 Delegate
- 🕒 Accessibilities
- 🕒 Archives
- 🕒 CPC
- 🕒 Grapevine
- 🕒 PI
- 🕒 WMYPAA
- 🕒 Institutions
- 🕒 Berkshire Intergroup
- 🕒 District 3
- 🕒 Dalton Young at Heart
- 🕒 WMYPAA
- 🕒 Institutions
- 🕒 Berkshire Intergroup
- 🕒 District 3
- 🕒 Dalton Young at Heart

12:30 – 1:30 pm LUNCH provided

1:30 – 2:30 Old Timers (sharing on Service and Sobriety)

2:30 – 4:00 Sponsorship (Old Timers speak on Sponsorship)

4:00 – 5:00 Clean up time