

## Area 31 Committee Meeting - July 10, 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. 544).

### Secretary's Report:

- ⌚ Secretary read the old and new business from the 6/12/2013 Area 31 meeting minutes.
- ⌚ Motion to accept: passes.
- ⌚ Asked all present to pick up new updates to the Area 31 Directory after giving their reports.

### Treasurer's Report:

- ⌚ Beginning May Balance: \$3,798.73; Group Contributions: \$2,128.43; Other Deposits: \$0; Total Area Expenses: (\$1,870.90); Closing June Balance: \$4,056.26 plus Prudent Reserve: \$6,000 = \$10,056.26 Total Funds Available.
- ⌚ Motion to accept: passes.
- ⌚ Further comments:
  - June 2013 \$164 less than June 2012
  - June 2013 YTD \$970.62 greater than June 2012 YTD
  - 7 fewer contributions in June 2013 than in June 2012
  - 12 groups contributed for the first time this year
  - Average per group contribution for June 2013 - \$73

Registrar's Report: Registrar not present

### Area Archivist Report:

- ⌚ The sorting and filing continues. Ray and I met several times, for an hour or so before the Archives Committee Meeting and the Area 31 Committee Meeting.
- ⌚ Currently there is a lot of enthusiasm on the Archives Committee. We listened to and taped Anne H. telling her story about bringing the program of A.A. to the Ukraine. It was amazing.
- ⌚ Once again please make sure **who, what, when, where and why** are on all documents that will become part of our Archives.

## ADHOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Handbook Committee:

- ⌚ Received part of Website Committee's section revision. Another revision is forthcoming.
- ⌚ Next meeting July 18<sup>th</sup>.

## STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

### Accessibility:

- ⌚ 5 in attendance.
- ⌚ Discussed having a meditation meeting at the State Convention to allow deaf AAs to rest their eyes between meetings. It is very tiring to interpret sign language.
- ⌚ Agreed to send an Accessibility Committee member to the monthly Berkshire Intergroup and District 3 meetings in order to enlist volunteers to drive disabled people to AA meetings in the Berkshires. Attended Berkshire Intergroup meeting, where we received positive feedback on getting the word out regarding the mission of the Accessibility Committee.

### Archives:

- ⌚ 10 people in attendance including Chair, Co-chair, Archivist and Delegate.
- ⌚ Past month brought Archives boards to four group anniversaries and conducted an open house at the Archives Office.
- ⌚ Taped Jaime T interviewing Ann H. about her work in the Ukraine helping to advance AA.

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⌚ Jaime will follow up with Ann to tape an additional interview to discuss more details of her AA work in the Ukraine.

### **CPC:**

- ⌚ Tye introduced herself as the new Chair of the CPC committee.
- ⌚ 6 reps were in attendance at the last meeting.
- ⌚ 3 monthly commitments were filled.
- ⌚ CPC working on contacting previously visited agencies.
- ⌚ Discussed how to make reps accountable to attend monthly meetings of CPC.
- ⌚ The issue of merging PI and CPC was tabled.

### **Grapevine:**

- ⌚ 5 reps were in attendance at the last meeting.
- ⌚ Quote of the Day now has 20,000 subscribers and is 1 year old. And it's free.
- ⌚ Sober for The Holidays issue needs submissions.
- ⌚ Boards are available for Anniversaries. Attended a few in June. None are planned for July at present.
- ⌚ Will be working on rehabbing the boards over the next couple of months.

### **Public Information:**

- ⌚ Roll Call – 6 members total including Chair and Co-Char
- ⌚ Filled August 2013 Commitments
- ⌚ Chair asked group if he can follow up with mailing list contacts. The group conscious was “yes” and we should target middle and high schools. There was discussion that we should target correct resources such as guidance counselors, psychology.
- ⌚ Garrett gave brief demonstration of how to give a school presentation.
- ⌚ Discussed Committee Inventory to take place in September 2013 -Times and Dates. Discussion was tabled till next month due to lack of members in attendance
  
- ⌚ Discussion took place regarding different areas we could bring the PI committee
  - Hospitals
  - VA
  - Nursing Homes
  
- ⌚ Group discussed the need for someone to be present to take a commitment. Group decided that if someone was interested and could not make meeting, they could still take commitment. However, if someone present was interested then the person present would get preference. The committee does not want to discourage anyone from taking commitments based on their availability to attend every Committee meeting.

### **Website Committee:**

- ⌚ Attending were the Webmaster (Bob), Co-chair (Carl), Sally, Delegate (Brian)
- ⌚ Bob shared his ongoing experience with the on-line Webmaster forum that has been ongoing since NERASSA.

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- ⌚ We discussed possibilities to fill “dead” space on the home page when there aren’t many ongoing events. Some of the ideas were sections of the Area history, Committee descriptions, other... We can explore this at a future date.
- ⌚ We finalized the updated descriptions for the Website, and the Webmaster. These will be forwarded to the Area Chair for submission to the Handbook/Guidelines Ad-hoc committee for inclusion in the next update.
- ⌚ Sally will draft the next definition for the Website Committee description. We will also draft and present a definition to the committee chair position.
- ⌚ The next meeting will be July 24, 2013 (This is the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday not the last).

### **Webmaster:**

- ⌚ Webmaster not present but Website Co-chair reported that statistics can be obtained upon request to webmaster email.
- ⌚ Also mentioned that due to difficulties that webmaster encountered with a submission in Mac format, the need to issue technical format as well as procedural and content guidelines was brought to light.

### **Western Mass Round Up:**

- ⌚ Betty N. is the new chair. Elections will be held at the next meeting on Sept 11<sup>th</sup> to elect co-chair and other positions.
- ⌚ Clarion in West Springfield cannot invite us back since they are constructing a water park and cannot accommodate parking for us and the water park.
- ⌚ Betty has visited 2 and is due to visit 2 other facilities to get estimates for their hosting the 2014 Roundup.

### **Invited Committees**

#### **Institutions:**

- ⌚ 2 New Institutions Reps (IGRs) received Institutions Committee handbooks -The Guidelines and Job Descriptions.
- ⌚ \$2,063.06 Available for A.A. General Conference Approved Literature (reminder - some Groups donate quarterly= higher balance)
- ⌚ BTG - Total # of calls 3 Men / 3 Women (1 counselor from Providence Detox - called to discuss BTG help for a patient upon discharge)
- ⌚ Discussion concerning the Alternate Open positions on the Open Meeting List. A strong representation from the Body discussed different suggestions, based on experience, to engage and invite AA members to help with filling the Alternate positions. The Body agreed that bringing an AA member along to the Sponsors Commitment and sharing their experience may encourage the AA member to become an Alternate. Asking for help at the monthly Institutions meeting was also encouraged; resulting with people within the Body offering to help.
- ⌚ A member of the Body has recently received and has begun corresponding with an inmate through Corrections Correspondence. She was asked to share her experience. By sharing her enthusiasm and gratitude; others immediately spoke with her and are excited to also begin participating in this service.
- ⌚ Chair brought copies of the pamphlet entitled “Corrections Correspondence - a special kind of A.A. Service”.

**Western Mass Intergroup:** not present.

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### **Berkshire Intergroup (BIG):**

- ⌚ Thanks to the area, district and accessibility committee for attending our committee meeting and keeping us informed and providing some guidance.
- ⌚ Meet second Monday of each month at 7PM, at 152 North Street, Pittsfield, MA.
- ⌚ July 8<sup>th</sup> meeting: 21 people in attendance, 13 voting with 9 groups represented.
- ⌚ Group contributions continue to be down. Operating funds down to \$49.74. Motion made and accepted to draw money out of the literature fund to cover expenses. Literature fund is currently \$988.94.
- ⌚ Motion made and accepted to continue to support the yearend Alkathon meetings each of which costs about \$500. Hope to get donations to cover the cost by year end. Volunteer needed to chair the Alkathon committee.
- ⌚ Looking for volunteers Monday thru Friday 1:30 PM to 5 PM. Volunteers to have six months of sobriety.
- ⌚ Joint Committee (District 3 and BIG) to review groups that contribute and/or attend the committee meeting in order to determine groups to visit. Next meeting at BIG on Thursday July 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM.

### **WMYPAA:**

- ⌚ Held Bonfire 7/6. Event brought in \$299.93 with \$218 in expenses. Attendance was roughly 200 people.
- ⌚ Softball Tournament at Intergroup Picnic is still in the works (contacting teams).
- ⌚ GSO Bus Trip (9/6) tickets have sold out.
- ⌚ Met 7/5 with NECYPAA CT Bid Committee and received their help in preparing for the Bonfire.

### **DISTRICT REPORTS:**

#### **District 1:**

- ⌚ Attendance up at District 1 Meetings
- ⌚ All GSRs want an Area Inventory at the Fall Assembly
- ⌚ No feedback on conducting the election on Sat of Fall Assembly

#### **District 2:**

- ⌚ 22 GSRs in attendance, 2 were brand new.
- ⌚ Discussed the issue of bonding the Area Treasurer position. GSRs will bring the issue to their group members and bring feedback to next District meeting.
- ⌚ Discussed assigning Tradition of the Month rather than asking for a volunteer to read and present it at the next meeting. Encouraged all GSRs to read the Tradition of the Month prior to the meeting and be prepared to discuss it.

#### **District 3:**

- ⌚ 4 groups were represented at the last meeting. 3 of the 4 had issues which were discussed and resolved at the meeting.
- ⌚ Bonding of Treasurer position was discussed but conclusion was reached. The issue prompted a good discussion after the reading of Warranty 5 in Concept 12.
- ⌚ Voting on Saturday of Fall Assembly and whether or not to use Fall Assembly workshops to do Area Inventory were also discussed but no conclusions were reached.

#### **District 4:**

- ⌚ 14 GSRs present.

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- ⌚ Discussed writing a proposal to change the language in the Step 12 chapter of the 12 and 12 to replace references to marriage with language that is more inclusive. Proposal will be brought to the district meeting and then submitted to the Area Delegate for consideration at the General Service Conference.
- ⌚ Subcommittee on workshop presented their proposal. Decision was made to have a 2 – 3 person panel on sponsorship. The format of the workshop will be Ask It Basket submissions and panel responses. Packets on sponsorship will be distributed at the workshop. Date will be Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup>. Time and place to be determined.
- ⌚ The church where District 4 meets is asking for \$10 more in rent per meeting.

### **District 5:**

- ⌚ 12 GSR's present - No New GSR's
- ⌚ District 5 continues discussion of the Service Manual/Tradition, which is taking place monthly at our meetings based on a 2 yr. rotation schedule. Concept XI and Tradition 7 were June's topics. Steve - GSR led that discussion. Service Manuals continue to be provided to new GSR's along with our beginner's packet.
- ⌚ Visitors: Mark (Area Chair) ~ Eddie (Intergroup) brought intergroup information and flyers for the Annual Intergroup Picnic ~ Mark updated the district of upcoming events and invited all GSR's/DCM's to attend the Fall Assembly to participate in the Area Inventory (or Workshops) and Area Elections.
- ⌚ Last Way Group is putting together Beginners Packets for New-comers.
- ⌚ Keep It Simple was having financial problems, so they have added a Raffle and this is increasing their income – they have been able to give \$5 per month to the pie chart.
- ⌚ South Hadley Group is trying to schedule a Group Inventory.
- ⌚ The Randall Group was having a problem with participation (service) – they have resolved this... if someone doesn't show up for the business meeting, they give them a job. Attendance at the Business Meeting is improving.
- ⌚ GSR's will be asking their Groups what Workshops they might like to see at the Fall Assembly ~ we will discuss their feedback at our Aug 5<sup>th</sup> District Meeting.
- ⌚ We have been reaching out to our District's dark groups. Many have updated their information. We are setting up to visit groups that will allow us to come to their business meetings; however some have requested no visits.
- ⌚ We may have lost our Secretary, if that's the case ~ we will be looking for someone to fill that spot at our next meeting as well.

### **District 6:**

- ⌚ 9 groups represented at our last meeting.
- ⌚ 3 groups looking into incoming/outgoing commitments. More difficult to arrange in CT since there are fewer speaker and more literature meetings.
- ⌚ Westfield group has developed newcomer packets. Discussion ensued on what other groups are doing to create something similar.
- ⌚ Fall Assembly agenda issues were discussed.
- ⌚ Bonding Treasurer was also discussed.
- ⌚ Discussed conducting a workshop on the AA Home Group.
- ⌚ District 6 secretary resigned.

**Delegate's Remarks:** not present

**Alternate Delegate Remarks:**

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- ⌚ 50<sup>th</sup> Mass State Convention will be held this year from November 9 – 11. There is still time to get in on the planning of the event. The next meeting of the Planning committee will be held on July 30<sup>th</sup> and will be an envelope stuffing Pizza Party. If you want to attend, meet to car pool from Plantation Inn in Chicopee between 4:45 and 5:05 on Tuesday July 30<sup>th</sup>.
- ⌚ Welcomed Tye, new CPC Chair.

### **Area Chair Remarks:**

- ⌚ Service Commitment: July 22<sup>nd</sup> Young at Heart Group in Dalton. All who wish to car pool meet at 6:30 at the Rite Aid parking lot in Holyoke.
- ⌚ Clarification: Bonding the Treasurer position and voting at the Fall Assembly were things to think about but not necessarily to bring to a speedy decision.

### **Old Business:**

- ⌚ Fall Assembly
  - ⌚ Bob W suggested Mark talk to other areas concerning how they manage 3<sup>rd</sup> legacy voting at assemblies. Mark pointed out that other areas have more frequent assemblies (e.g. quarterly) and can more easily devote a day to voting.
  - ⌚ Mark mentioned that at NERF a Past Trustees panel was a very informative and moving event. He thought we could consider a Past Delegates panel for the Fall Assembly. Asked Area Committee members to give it some thought and discuss with their committees.
  - ⌚ District 4 DCM suggested DCMs, Co-DCMs and GSRs have an opportunity to meet during Fall Assembly to share ideas on District level issues.

### **New Business:** none.

Meeting closed at 8:43 pm with the Responsibility Declaration.