

Area 31 Committee Meeting – January 15, 2014

The Area Chair, Paul H., 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).

		Jan	Feb	Mar	May J	July	Aug	Sept	Nov	Dec
AREA DELEGATE	Anne F	✓								
ALTERNATE DELEGATE	Mark N	✓								
AREA CHAIR *	Paul H	✓								
AREA TREASURER	Beth C	✓								
AREA SECRETARY	Sue A	✓								
AREA REGISTRAR	Jack A	✓								
AREA ARCHIVIST	Bobbi P	✓								
ACCESSIBILITY CHAIR	Michael B	✓								
ACCESSIBILITY CO-CHAIR	Karl H									
ARCHIVES CHAIR	Judy	✓								
ARCHIVES CO-CHAIR										
CPC CHAIR	Tye O	✓								
CPC CO-CHAIR	Mike S	✓								
GRAPEVINE CHAIR	Neal N	✓								
GRAPEVINE CO-CHAIR										
P.I. CHAIR	Steve R	✓								
P.I. CO-CHAIR	Mark C	✓								
WEBSITE CHAIR	Carl G	✓								
WEBSITE CO-CHAIR										
WEBMASTER	Bob B	✓								
W. MASS IGP CHAIR	Eddie K	✓								
BERK. IGP CHAIR	Mark P	✓								
INSTITUTIONS CHAIR	Chuck M	✓								
INSTITUTIONS Co-CHAIR	Andy D									
ROUND UP CHAIR	Betty N	✓								

Area 31 Committee Meeting – January 15, 2014

<i>ROUND UP CO-CHAIR</i>	<i>Bill R</i>									
WMYPAA CHAIR	Tom H									
<i>WMYPAA Co-CHAIR</i>	<i>Joseph</i>	✓								
District 1 DCM	Pat S	✓								
District 1 Co-DCM	Katherine T									
District 2 DCM	Steve F	✓								
District 2 CO-DCM	Mike R									
<i>District 2 LCM</i>										
District 3 DCM	Anthony T	✓								
District 3 CO-DCM										
District 4 DCM	P.J. O.	✓								
District 4 CO-DCM										
District 5 DCM	Pauline D	✓								
District 5 CO-DCM	Robert W	✓								
<i>District 5 LCM</i>	<i>Ralph C</i>									
District 6 DCM	Carl H	✓								
District 6 CO-DCM	Wayne	✓								
Quorum=18	* only votes to make/break a tie	25								

Secretary's Report:

- 🕒 Secretary read the old and new business from the December 11, 2013 Area 31 meeting minutes.
- 🕒 Motion to accept: passes.
- 🕒 Asked new Area 31 committee members to provide her with their contact info if they have not already done so.

Treasurer's Report:

- 🕒 Beginning December Balance: \$7,581.53; Group Contributions: \$1,159.3; Other Deposits: \$407.00; Total Area Expenses: (\$1,587.59); Closing December Balance: \$ 7,560.24 plus Prudent Reserve: \$6,000 = \$13,560.24 Total Funds Available.
- 🕒 Further comments :
 - 🕒 Noted for contributions -Early Morning Group moving to District 5 and In Focus Step is in District 3
- 🕒 Motion to accept: passes.

Registrar's Report:

- 🕒 New sheets to update group contact information will be available next month. Working on the capability of filling out contact information forms on Area31 website
- 🕒 Registrar can be contacted at registrar@area31aa.org

Area Archivist Report:

Area 31 Committee Meeting – January 15, 2014

- 🕒 It is great to welcome the new Archive Chair Judy and Co-Chair Keith to the Archives Committee.
- 🕒 December and January are customarily quiet months for the Archives Committee.
- 🕒 Tom H gave three copies of the Dick Driscoll CD that had been requested by members of the fellowship. It gives a great history for how AA was developed in Area 31. One given away on Sunday.
- 🕒 Archivists hope for this year is to be able to work in the Archives Office at least one Saturday a month to allow members an opportunity to help sort and file archive material.

Webmaster:

- 🕒 18 Unique visitors to website, 3x bandwidth used. Just before Christmas was the high point. Hits from China, Ukraine- not sure why.
- 🕒 Bob (Webmaster) and Jack (Registrar) will continue the discussion of getting the new group contact sheets on Area 31 Website.
- 🕒 Question: ‘Can the history of AA be put on this website?’ Bob stated it could but also noted that it is on the Intergroup website as well. Bob stated he would copy to the Area website on the Archive Page.

ADHOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

Handbook Committee:

- 🕒 No Report

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Accessibility:

- 🕒 Topics discussed on 12/18
 - Passing the keys to new chair
 - Putting out a new flyer with the correct e-mail address for next month’s area meeting
 - Expanding our network of people willing to pick up people and/or go to meetings
 - Accessibilities hotline is being manned by TK and the volume of calls has not increased.
 - That any pamphlet can be accessed on the AA.org
 - Accessibility phone number is 413-214-2365 (accessibility calls only)

Archives:

- 🕒 Archives have the large and/or small Archive boards available to bring to group anniversaries. To schedule, call Judy @ ###-###-#### or co-chair Keith @ ###-###-####. (archive_committee@area31aa.org)
- 🕒 The history of AA in Area 31 can be found in the Area 31 Service Manual Pg 11-19 and can also be found on AA.org
- 🕒 Working on opening the Archives to all on Saturday mornings. Hopefully a date will be scheduled by next Area meeting. There is a plethora of information on paper, books, brochures and tapes. Many still need to be organized and filed.

CPC

- Assignment -redefine group parameters. Discussion- What’s important to keep active and what’s the purpose and agenda of CPC.” Origin and purpose, goals, accomplishments, clearer understanding of what the expectations will be of each member.
- Discussion- CPC budget and the availability to possibly purchase “Blue Books” for each CPC rep and money for pamphlets.
 - Motion passed to purchase 5 “Blue Books” /CPC kits to be used among CPC group members.
- Discussion- at first CPC meeting show new members the DVD that explains CPC purpose, and then give assignments to study part 1 of the kit.
- Discussion- what do members want to accomplish in the upcoming year?
 - Book commitments, carry the message, generate enthusiasm, have commitments with presentations, help members to feel like what they do matters, remember for groups and members that any pamphlet can be accessed on the AA.org website.

Grapevine:

- 🕒 6 Grapevine representatives present
- 🕒 Noted was Jennifer who spoke at last year’s Mass State Convention and is a past delegate is on the cover of the January addition of the Grapevine.
- 🕒 Members discussed how their home groups were promoting the Grapevine.

Area 31 Committee Meeting – January 15, 2014

- ⌚ The Grapevine boards are available for group anniversaries, however, a months' notice would be appreciated.
- ⌚ The Grapevine is looking for a co-chair.

Public Information:

- ⌚ 12 members and 4 new members. PI has 30 active members to date.
- ⌚ Radio, Phoenix Academy and IOP commitments filled with a chairperson and a shadow.
- ⌚ Old Business: Still working on new contact information on person supervising The Start Program (IOP) in Northampton. Maureen B no longer in charge. Left for private practice. Dan W reported on PI giving a presentation to the West Springfield Police Department. Was informative and will submit some School Administration contact info for Committee to have on file.
- ⌚ New Business: New Commitment- Driver Adult Education Program. 5 dates will be covered in February. One in Palmer 2/11 @ 6:30, two in Westfield 2/12 @ 6:30 and 7:30 and two in Springfield 2/15 @ 11:00 and 2:00. Contact Brigid M states "there is a need for this type of info in the state programs." Jim W, in ongoing discussion with Brigid, will bring all gathered info to Committee.
- ⌚ Sam L. provided two new contacts for Northampton High School for possible commitments to Health and Wellness Programs.

Website Committee:

- ⌚ Discussion at meeting: Development of alternate webmaster questioned, creation of an introduction letter to new website members, creating updates to website and what Area Documents to be posted. In addition, "How to bring awareness of website to AA members" discussed.

Western Mass Round Up

- ⌚ Delegates report from last years' Western Mass Round Up will be on the AA website.
- ⌚ Dates of this year's Round Up is June 7 (8-12pm) & 8 (8-12am) at the La Quinta Inn - 100 Congress St., Springfield, MA. Rooms will be available at the Inn.
- ⌚ Registrations forms are being developed. 1 person per registration. Scholarships are available. If you are interested in attending the banquet Round Up will need to now by May 15.
- ⌚ Mary M is the new Co-Chair.
- ⌚ Topics for Districts are as follows: (times to be established)
 - ⌚ District 1- Program for Living
 - ⌚ District 2- Live and Let Live
 - ⌚ District 3- The Way Out, The Promise of Each Day
 - ⌚ District 4- I Am Responsible
 - ⌚ District 5- Spiritual Awakening
 - ⌚ District 6- Lifting the Burden
- ⌚ There will be an Old Timers Meeting GSO at night.

Invited Committees

Institutions:

- ⌚ 7 new IGR's
- ⌚ No treasurers report \$951.41 available for books
- ⌚ Bridging The Gap received 7 calls- 5 men and 2 women.
- ⌚ Liaison report- thanked all the IGR's who stepped up to help improve communication between groups, Institutions committee and facilities we serve.
- ⌚ Institutions members will roll into service commitments:
 - ⌚ Worthington Shelter, Sunday @6:30
 - ⌚ Hope Center, 1st and 3rd Sunday @ 6:30
 - ⌚ Chicopee Women's, 3rd and 4th Saturday @10am
 - ⌚ Providence (W), Sunday @ 6:30pm

Area 31 Committee Meeting – January 15, 2014

Western Mass Intergroup:

- 🕒 The Bookies meet ½ hr before the meeting to exchange Incoming and Outgoing commitments
- 🕒 Guidelines for being on call are on the Web
- 🕒 WMI thanked the Districts and groups for their donations which has an impact on book prices, phone coverage and 24 hr hotline answering service.
- 🕒 If your group has no interest in signing up to be on call, WMI is looking for individuals for back up. Speak with Kevin at Intergroup.
- 🕒 Shootouts- standing committees have an opportunity to share committee notes at the meeting.
- 🕒 Information exchange
- 🕒 WMI offers Pay-Pal for shipping of books
- 🕒 Website is up to date – WMAA.org
- 🕒 New When and Where's available 1/24. Currently at the printers.
- 🕒 If you know of a meeting not happening, contact Ed @WMIG

Berkshire Intergroup (BIG):

- 🕒 Thanks to all the Alkathon volunteers for making the 5th annual Christmas and New Year Alkathon a big success. We came out \$12.60 ahead.
- 🕒 Our office manager reported that all shifts were covered by volunteers
- 🕒 15 people in attendance and 9 groups represented.
- 🕒 Lease @ 152 North St. Pittsfield MA renewed for 2 yrs at \$350 a month
- 🕒 Towards the middle of 2013 we found ourselves running a monthly deficit. Thanks to the word of mouth blitz by participating group reps, which got the word out, donations began coming in at a level that if sustained, will keep us able to meet monthly obligations. We agreed to continue to announce at meetings the need for donations.
- 🕒 Officers agreed to make Lori T our treasurer through the next term. She has done a remarkable job auditing the finances, making accounting practices simple and accurate. She and Tyler have also been working to ensure we keep well stocked with literature, medallions etc... while maintaining a realistic amount of goods on hand.
- 🕒 Welcome to Paul, new Area 31 Chair. Paul offered to come to any Berkshire County group business meetings to enlighten groups about the nature of what Area 31 has to offer our groups.
- 🕒 Welcome to Tony T as the new District 3 DCM
- 🕒 In new business we talked about making an effort to attract more groups to participate in BIG by electing, and sending us more reps. We will be making fliers offering to visit groups to enlighten them about what BIG does and how it serves our groups.

WMYPAA:

- 🕒 Elections on Saturday, positions are open
- 🕒 Meet the second Saturday of the month at 374 Pleasant St. Holyoke
- 🕒 Host Bon fires, committed to 3 legacy meeting, willing to be of service to AA
- 🕒 Participate in the sobriety countdown at the Round-Up
- 🕒 Web page being requested.

DISTRICT REPORTS:

District 1:

- 🕒 Nine people present, 5 GSR's and one guest present- Mark (Area Chair)
- 🕒 Discussion on Tradition and Concept of the month. Informed of the Concept meeting which meets on 1st Thursday of the month @ 474 Pleasant St Holyoke.
- 🕒 GSR's reported on their home group
 - 🕒 Launa- New Hope Group stated the attendance down at both the Beginners mtg and the Speaker mtg. Funds down 20%. They continue to contribute to the pie-chart and furnish expenses. We have prudent reserve. Purchased new coffee pot. Members are taking less \$ back for the reimbursement for the doughnuts for the mtg. Few new members and the group has outgoing commitment once a month and a Detox commitment.

Area 31 Committee Meeting – January 15, 2014

- ⌚ Kat – Trials & Smiles Attendance good. Donations made to pie-chart. Pot luck dinners on the 3rd Friday of the month going well and drawing a lot of people to the meeting. Outgoing commitment once a month @ The Hope Center. Attendance for the commitment has been going well
- ⌚ Debbie (AltGSR) Original Downtown Grp- Finances improved. Pretty sure back rent is all paid up. Will bring up to the group, now that finances are better, “Can we put aside a prudent reserve? Can we start to contribute to the pie?” New members but then don’t show up again and then other new embers will join to take their place...waxing & waning. There are many service position open in the group at this time. The 70th Anniversary/Gratitude meeting was Great!!! Attendance and participation was very good
- ⌚ Tyrone- Better Life Group Beginners mtg & Speaker mtg @ same time in different rooms. Attendance is good, collections are good. Donations to the pie chart are being made. This Grp had to go to two meets due to increase in attendance. Has Detox commitment on the 4th Wednesday of the month. Beginners’ mtg started 6 months ago.
- ⌚ Ed- Second to None- Attendance is up a little. Money intake has also been up a little bit more. Not behind in rent anymore one new group member & came to help setup this week. The whole group took a trip to the Bill W. House. Saturday is their Detox commitment.
- ⌚ Need to announce that we NEED more GSR involvement in District 1. Bring someone to next GSR meeting to have them see what it’s all about and help them get involved.

District 2:

- ⌚ Chapter Two of the AA Service Manual, “The Group and its GSR” was read by the group members and summarized by Jennifer. Tradition 1 “Our Common welfare should come first: personal recovery depends up AA unity.” Was summarized by Mary.
- ⌚ Lin presented a question raised by her group concerning a member who attends regularly, does not attend business meetings because of an individual commitment to Howard St, and never stays late to clean up, who wished to chair meetings. Her group had split opinions but decided he needs to show up at business meetings to chair. Dist 2 members offered various comments such as:
 - ⌚ He should do one or the other
 - ⌚ Possibly schedule business meeting before or after the regular meetings
 - ⌚ Suggested picking up Howard St people before business meeting.
- ⌚ Mary asked about three groups that share a location and supplies who are considering merging. There was much discussion with the following comments and suggestions:
 - ⌚ If the groups are registered separately with the GSO, they would have to advise GSO of their decision
 - ⌚ Have a group inventory to help decide what to do
 - ⌚ Read AA pamphlet “The AA Group”
 - ⌚ Hold a “group conscience” meeting with all three groups and a moderator
- ⌚ Linda said she holds two positions in her group. Nobody in her group wants to take over the position of GSR even though she has held the position for more than on rotation. She asks for volunteers at every business meeting. Comments were as follows:
 - ⌚ Let the group conscience decide if they should be represented or not and allow them to become a dark group if that’s what they decide
 - ⌚ It does a disservice to the group for it to have no GSR
 - ⌚ Take a group inventory
 - ⌚ Merge with a larger group for a larger pool of possible GSR volunteers
 - ⌚ Observe the spirit of rotation, and move on to another service position in order to become a well-rounded member of AA
 - ⌚ Invite District Two to their business meeting to pitch for a GSR
 - ⌚ Groups that don’t follow the traditions typically fail.

District 3:

- ⌚ 11 in attendance (6 GSR’s)
- ⌚ In November, Tony T stood for the Co-DCM position and no one stood for the Secretaries position. Since that time prior to the start of the New Year, DCM, Dennis B resigned due to personal reasons. Joan, Past DCM, met with Tony and plans to support him by attending the next District meeting.
- ⌚ 6 GSR’s in attendance. Each of the GSR’s shared briefly as to their group activities. No major group issues were reported.

Area 31 Committee Meeting – January 15, 2014

- ⌚ Dennis contacted and requested all the updated, hardcopies of the group record and any associated forms.
- ⌚ The goal forward is to become familiar with the District DCM responsibilities, to secure the group records and to have members announce at meeting the need for a Co-DCM and secretary,

District 4:

- ⌚ Meeting cancelled due to snow storm.

District 5:

- ⌚ 14 present, 5 new GSR's and 4 new Alt-GSR's.
- ⌚ District Highlights:
 - ⌚ Reading from the Service Manual/Tradition of the month.
 - ⌚ Out of Service Manuals but Beginners packet and AREA 31 Handbook/Guidelines were given to new GSR/Alt. Service Manuals will be in for next month.
 - ⌚ Needs/Concerns/Ideas for outreach: some of the groups mentioned they help with the heating cost
 - ⌚ Morning Light Group-Chicopee is having disagreements, strong personalities, they try to work it out at their business meeting and now would like it if someone could sit in at their business meeting and listen and give some suggestion.
 - ⌚ Brimfield Hitchcock Academy had to use their prudent reserve to pay for their rent, hoping it will be better next month.
 - ⌚ Do or Die Group has started reading the Blue card at all meetings. There is an issue with speakers talking about drugs only. They thought maybe a group conscious meeting or an inventory would help and how would they go about it.
 - ⌚ Belchertown Friday Night said the number of group members is small with older members, so it is hard to have an Intergroup rep.

District 6:

- ⌚ 42 groups registered, 9 groups represented at meeting
- ⌚ Highlights:
 - ⌚ Opened with Serenity Prayer. Elections held in November. Mark (Past Area Chair) facilitated the elections using the Third Legacy Voting. The positions that were filled were DCM-Carl H, Co-DCM Wayne M, Wendy S was elected to LCM and Joey L was elected as our secretary. We all enjoyed the way the Third Legacy voting was held
- ⌚ Needs/Concerns/Ideas for outreach:
 - ⌚ Talked about reaching out to groups to encourage attending GSR meeting.
 - ⌚ In and Out going commitments going well for a couple of groups

Delegate's Remarks:

⌚ 2014 is a BIG year in AA. This year marks the 75th Anniversary of the publication of the Big Book. To mark the occasion the General Service Office is publishing a commemorative copy of the first printing, first edition Big Book. It will be printed on paper just like the original and the size will be larger to match the original as well. The General Service Office is taking advance orders from now until 2/28/14. The book will be available in Mid April, to coincide with actual date of its first release.

⌚ This year also marks the 70th anniversary of the Grapevine. Also note that in the January issue of the magazine, the cover story (young and sober) is the story of the woman who was our Friday night speaker at our 50th Mass State Convention in November.

⌚ In 2015, Atlanta, Georgia will host the 80th Anniversary International AA Convention. The theme of the Convention is "80 Years - Happy Joyous and Free". Registration will begin in September 2014.

⌚ As Delegate I will be attending 64rd General Service Conference in April. The theme of the conference is "Communicating Our Legacies – Vital in a Changing World". My conference assignment is to the "Treatment/Accessibility/Special Needs" Committee.

Area 31 Committee Meeting – January 15, 2014



February 21-23, 2014 – the

Northeast Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly. It is important that Area 31 have a strong turnout here, as we'll be hosting in 2016. NERAASA will be in Warwick, RI – close by.

Alternate Delegate Remarks:

- 🕒 Mini Conference / Spring Assembly in April. Topics and committees to be decided.
- 🕒 The Area has General Service Representative presentations on tape available for viewing. The tapes explain what GSR's and Committees do. The first presentation will be for District 5. The presentation is open to all.
- 🕒 The Mass State Convention will hold its first planning meeting on 1/28/14. If interested in going, we will be car pooling from the Plantation Inn and leaving at 5:30. You can contact me at 860-559-0814.

Area Chair Remarks:

- Mini Conference/ Spring Assembly to be held on April 12th and 13th.
- Area Committee is available to do group commitments. If any group is interested email Area_chair@area31AA.org or call (413)478-9755. The Area currently has no scheduled commitments.
- Past Delegates are available to meet with groups for "group inventories".
- Concept meeting held on the first Tuesday of each month at 474 Pleasant St @ 7pm.
- First planning meeting for the Mass State convention on 1/28. If interested in going, a carpool will be leaving at 6 from the Plantation Inn.

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- Question raised – Will there be \$ available for Area members who attend NEARRSA? In the past if there was money remaining after reimbursing the Delegate, Alt-Delegate and Area Chair, the remaining funds from the budgeted line item was dispersed among the other attendees to defray the cost. Receipts would go to the treasurer by a specific date and they would dispense money accordingly.
- Tye, Chair of CPC brought up discussion of reimbursement for CPC workbooks. Her budget for the year was \$100. She also wants to get CPC boards. Questioned if CPC members should be reimbursed by their groups.
 - After discussion it was noted that groups should not reimburse CPC as they have already contributed to the 7th tradition. It was noted that the cost of the booklets should come out of the CPC budget.
- Paul reported that Archives was the only committee with display boards at the Mass State Convention. If your committee has boards and are old and need to be updated this would be the time to fix them up. If you don't know if your committee has boards, ask someone from the Area. The boards can be displayed at the Mass State Convention, anniversaries or presentations. Speak to Accessibly who has some information on this.

Area 31 Chairperson, Paul H., closed the meeting at 9:10pm with the Responsibility Declaration. The next Area 31 meeting will take place on 2/12/2014.