

Area 31 Committee Meeting – February 12, 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	MayJ	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									

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ROUND UP CHAIR	Betty N	✓	✓						
<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>	<i>Immer</i>								
District 3 DCM	Anthony T	✓	✓						
District 3 CO-DCM									
District 4 DCM	Tiffany	✓	✓						
District 4 CO-DCM									
District 5 DCM	Pauline D	✓	✓						
District 5 CO-DCM	Robert W	✓	✓						
<i>District 5 LCM</i>									
District 6 DCM	Carl H	✓	✓						
District 6 CO-DCM	Wayne	✓							
Quorum=18	* only votes to make/break a tie	25	24						

Secretary's Report:

- ⌚ Secretary read the old and new business from the January 15, 2014 Area 31 meeting minutes.
- Motion to accept: passes

Treasurer's Report:

- ⌚ Beginning January Balance: \$ 7,560.26; Group Contributions: \$3,257.66; Other Deposits: \$0; Total Area Expenses: (\$1,649.51); Closing January Balance: \$ 9,124.54 plus Prudent Reserve: \$6,000 = \$15,124.54 Total Funds Available.
- ⌚ Contributions in January 2014 increased by \$1,303.83 over contributions in January 2013.
- ⌚ There were 38 contributions made in January 2014. There were 36 in January 2013.
- ⌚ Discussion:
 - ⌚ Question- CPC expense of \$219.40 in January – Treasurer stated it was a bill from 2013 to WMIG for books at the end of the year. CPC Chair stated that her budget for 2014 is \$300 and if \$219 came out of the budget, this would leave very little money. She was encouraged to request additional money when the need presented itself.

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- ⌚ Question- District 5 expense noted in January – Treasurer noted it was for Service Manuals
- ⌚ Question- District 3 Rent in January – Treasurer stated that a check posted in June of 2013 was cashed in January of 2014.
- ⌚ NERAASA 2016 an expense of \$125 in January was questioned – Treasurer reported that \$125 a month would be deducted totaling \$1,500 allocated for NERASSA Hospitality 2016.
- ⌚ Motion to accept: passes.

Registrar's Report:

- ⌚ DCM's presented with binders with updated group information forms. All new updated sheets are to be returned to Registrar by May 2nd. Information gathered will be in the AA Directory. All sheets must have current phone contact #. The binder includes tabs for active groups, inactive groups and historical information.
- ⌚ Registrar can be contacted at registrar@area31aa.org or call 860-508-7171

Area Archivist Report:

- ⌚ Archivist was called by NERAASA committee to facilitate workshop for Archives
- ⌚ On Saturday, 2/15 from 9-11 the Archives office will be open. It's a work day to organize information- all welcome.
- ⌚ Archivist suggested that Districts retain copies of meeting minutes in their binders and submit annually.

Webmaster:

- ⌚ Statics for January showed 2,594 visits to the web site.
- ⌚ The majority of the hits came from the US, with China and Poland following.
- ⌚ As for the search engines, by far Google brought the most traffic; AA.org sent the most traffic from outside websites with westernmassaa.org second
- ⌚ The complete statistics can be found at: <http://area31aa.org/docs/webmaster>

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Accessibility:

- ⌚ Changes being made to the Accessibility flier. Noted changes were to take off the old Gmail account and replace it with the Area's new email for Accessibility accessibility_committee@area31aa.org. Fliers will be available at the next Area meeting.
- ⌚ Question – Can the Webmaster put the flier/information on the Area AA website? Webmaster stated he would.
- ⌚ During the Spring Assembly the equipment for the hearing impaired and the Spanish translation equipment will be available.
- ⌚ The Accessibility Hotline's number is (413)214-2365.

Archives:

- ⌚ 10 in attendance
- ⌚ Topic of discussion:
 - ⌚ Goal to have one "work day" a month in Archives office to file, post, and organize archives information.
 - ⌚ Open house on Saturday, March 15, 2014 from 11-1.
 - ⌚ Archives display boards displayed at two group anniversaries: Forest Park and Scrambled Eggs.
- ⌚ Provided a tour of the office to new Archives Reps.
- ⌚ Transferring tapes to CD's

CPC

- ⌚ 11 in attendance and 3 new CPC reps
- ⌚ CPC reps were encouraged to get a new contact in writing for the next meeting.
- ⌚ Letters sent to potential commitments.
- ⌚ CPC boards found and will be updated and repaired.
- ⌚ Found 4-5 boxes of old CPC stuff. The pamphlets are old and cannot be used with professionals.
 - ⌚ Suggestions made by area members on how to re-cycle them within AA.

Grapevine:

- ⌚ 7 Grapevine reps at meeting, 3 new, all eager to serve the Grapevine this year.
- ⌚ Informed GVR's the Grapevine statement of purpose and "What do GVR's do"
- ⌚ Subscription forms and 30 pack back issue order forms. By the month order forms can be found on the website.
- ⌚ GVR's shared what was or was not happening in their home groups to promote the magazine.

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- ⌚ Groups are enjoying the new Grapevine boards and they are available on request for group anniversaries with a months' notice.

Public Information:

- ⌚ 17 members and 8 new members present, 2 members out on PI commitment to the Alcohol Education Class. There are 36 active PI Reps
- ⌚ Filled March 2014 Standing Monthly Commitments and confirmed February Commitments. (radio, Phoenix House and ILP)
- ⌚ New Commitment to the Driver Adult Education Program in Western Mass. Five dates will be covered in February.

Website Committee:

- ⌚ 1 new Web Rep.
- ⌚ Developed a new tutorial which will be videotaped.
- ⌚ New introduction letter being written and information pamphlet
- ⌚ Reviewed goals of Website
- ⌚ Working with the Registrar to put group information sheets on the web
- ⌚ In the processes of obtaining a security certificate.

Western Mass Round Up

- ⌚ Registration forms for the 45th Western Mass Roundup will be available on February 13th on the AA Website. Registration forms will be available at the next Area Meeting.
- ⌚ Event date is June 7 & 8 at the La Quinta Inn 100 Congress St., Springfield, MA
- ⌚ The program is done and Alanon has three scheduled meetings, and there will be two Spanish meetings on Saturday.
- ⌚ Topics for Districts and times are as follows:

- ⌚ District 1- Program for Living - 9:30-10:25
- ⌚ District 2- Live and Let Live - 11:30-12:25
- ⌚ District 3- The Way Out, The Promise of Each Day - 4:30-5:25

- ⌚ District 4- I Am Responsible - 6:30-7:25
- ⌚ District 5- Spiritual Awakening - 8:30-9:25
- ⌚ District 6- Lifting the Burden - 10:30-11:25

Invited Committees

Institutions:

- ⌚ 34 IGR's and 2 new IGR's
- ⌚ Treasurer's Report: Donations \$3,226.84, Expenses \$294.15 = Ending Balance for Book Purchase \$3,043.91
- ⌚ BTG Report- 2 calls, 1 man, 1 woman, both were helped
- ⌚ Liaison Report - A call was received from Carlson Detox saying that one group has been handing out cigarettes and other things with the clients, he said that cannot continue. Please tell your groups to follow the rules of each facility.
- ⌚ IGR's were given definitions of "Roll Ins" and "Roll Outs". It was suggested sponsors have one year of sobriety, and alternates have 6 months of sobriety. Explanation of the use of new forms for new IGRs, Roll Ins, and Roll Outs given.
- ⌚ New Business- recalling role call system to the committee to reduce redundancy of information being shared. The history of roll calls was discussed and our guidelines say that each group rep and meeting sponsor is obligated to attend the monthly Institution meeting and check in. Concern raised - a lot of meetings go on in institutions that are not going through the Institution Committee. It was suggested that the best way to stay updated is by talking with the institutions directly. It was also suggested that Institutions committee look for more progressive ways to have monthly meetings and check ins; there are a lot of open alternate spots and the need to find other ways to get more people involved was noted. Looking for accountability of groups taking commitments to institutions.

Western Mass Intergroup:

- ⌚ Donations help WMIG to meet the \$3,200/mo to run the office and directly affect book prices.
- ⌚ If groups participate in phone coverage, it is important that they be available for the time slot chosen. If your group does not have an Intergroup Rep, but group members are interested in phone coverage, WMI is always looking for "folks to help" on the backup list. Call the Intergroup office at (413)532-2111 and let the office staff know.
- ⌚ ½ hour before the WMIG meeting @ 7PM, a Bookie meeting is held to allow reps to book incoming/outgoing commitments.

Berkshire Intergroup (BIG):

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- ⌚ 14 in attendance, 8 Reps
- ⌚ BIG's Office manager is leaving his position due to finding a full time job, and reported that, a new volunteer will be taking his place.
- ⌚ Taking orders for the 75th Anniversary 1st edition of the reprinted Big Book. They expect to buy 60 and sell for \$12.
- ⌚ Approximately \$680 in contributions and paid out \$887. Reimbursed \$460 from the Alkathon held on Christmas and New Years.
- ⌚ Sold \$570 in literature and coins and only bought \$150 worth of stock.
- ⌚ Due to word of mouth by the Reps; they have been able to build up their cost on hand to \$4,100 in addition to their prudent reserve.
- ⌚ Goal for the year is to keep trying to attract new reps from groups who are not represented. Co-Chair worked on a flyer that will be brought to meetings that the Reps attend. Next month in addition to this flyer, they will be adding on to it an invitation to an Open House to be held at the office on Saturday May17th.

WMYPAA:

- ⌚ Will be helping Roundup with Sobriety Countdown, dance registration, and registration at the Spring Assembly.
- ⌚ Will be chairing a meeting at the New Hampshire Young Peoples conference.

DISTRICT REPORTS:

District 1:

- ⌚ In attendance, 4 GSR's 1 Alt-GSR, Co-DCM and DCM.
- ⌚ Met at Friendly's as meeting place was not available. No opening prayer for anonymity sake.
- ⌚ Grapevine boards are available for groups by calling DCM at his home.
- ⌚ DCM will be busy reaching out to the inactive groups that do not have a GSR
- ⌚ GSR's encouraged to check accuracy of Group Information Sheets.
- ⌚ GSR's reported on their groups.
- ⌚ GSR's informed of upcoming events.

District 2:

- ⌚ 1 new GSR – GSR packet given
- ⌚ Starting to upload District 2 minutes to website
- ⌚ Purchased an easel and 7 new GSR packets
- ⌚ Goals for next month:
 - ⌚ What goals do GSR's have for District 2, What do they want to get out of this?
- ⌚ Planning a trip to Bill Wilson House

District 3:

- ⌚ 5 GSR's and 3 newly elected GSR's
- ⌚ Discussed unfiled Co-Dcm position, no one present interested in serving.

District 4:

- ⌚ Previous DCM left and was replaced. New DCM stated that she didn't have much to report being new. What was discussed was the low attendance of GSR's.

District 5:

- ⌚ 12 present at the meeting, 1 new GSR and 1 new Alt-GSR.
- ⌚ During "group share", GSR's shared how their home groups were doing. One GSR stated that their group has started doing phone coverage, another shared that they are having a hard time with membership, and a third group is having problems with the Treasurer. Having a Service Commitment was suggested.
- ⌚ Alt-Delegate presented the GSR presentation.

District 6:

- ⌚ 9 groups represented at the meeting
- ⌚ GSR's were informed that as a part of their duties, they are required to attend the Spring Assembly, the Round Up and the Fall Assembly.
- ⌚ LCM wants to go to groups and attend their business meeting to encourage attending District meeting.

Delegate's Remarks:

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- ⌚ Last weekend was the General Service Board Weekend. Two – three times a year the Board of Trustees get together update each other about what’s happening in the work. At this Board Weekend the agenda is set for the General Service Conference. Agenda finalized. As a first year Delegate her responsibility is to write about the Area highlights. She will be sharing this at NERAASA.

Alternate Delegate Remarks:

- ⌚ Mini conference/Spring Assembly reminder
- ⌚ Mass state convention car pool, next meeting is March 25. There was remaining money in the budget from last year’s Mass State Convention. The money is being divided 3 ways between Area 31, Area 30 and GSO. Area 31 will be receiving about \$700.
- ⌚ Delegate and Alt-Delegate will be attending NERD.

Area Chair Remarks:

- ⌚ Reminder to groups that the Area is available to do Commitments.
- ⌚ Area Boards- Do they need replacement/repairs. Contact Area Chair for any help.
- ⌚ No service commitment this month.

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- ⌚ Proposal to take \$50 from NERAASA Fund to facilitate a meeting. Interest in pulling together packets to be given out.
Motion: To allow Archives to spend up to \$50 for materials for her NERAASA Roundtable.
VOTE All in favor: motion passes
- ⌚ Could the Area sponsor a monthly Tradition Meeting?
Motion: A motion was made in support of the idea that the Area host a Tradition Meeting monthly at 374 Pleasant St.
Discussion:
 1. The Area did that about 10 years ago. It never got off the ground.
 2. There is a volunteer in facilitating it.
 3. What goes into setting up a meeting?
The Area offers support and space.
Cost would be purchasing the 12 & 12
No cost involved. Bring your own book. It’s a win-win
 4. What time or day would it be?
Thursday was suggested
Do it last week of the month, not much happening then.
Tues or Wednesday is the best nights.
Work around the Women’s meeting.
 5. Would the Area sponsor it?
 6. In favor of the Steps, Traditions and Concepts all woven in.
 7. If interested, contact previous Delegate, he can make the date and tell others.
 8. Utilize the Website to see who’d be interestedVOTE All in favor: motion passes

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Area 31 Chairperson, Paul H., closed the meeting at 9:10pm with the Responsibility Declaration. The next Area 31 meeting will take place on 3/12/2014.