

Area 31 Committee Meeting – July 9, 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	✓	✓	✓	✓					
<i>AREA REGISTRAR</i>	<i>Jack A</i>	✓	✓							
<i>AREA ARCHIVIST</i>	<i>Bobbi P</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
ACCESSIBILITY CHAIR	Michael B	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
ACCESSIBILITY CO-CHAIR	Karl H				✓	✓				
ARCHIVES CHAIR	TK	✓			✓					
ARCHIVES CO-CHAIR	Keith M			✓	✓					
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	Mary					✓				
<i>WEBMASTER</i>	<i>Bob B</i>	✓	✓			✓				
W. MASS IGP CHAIR	Eddie K	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
BERK. IGP CHAIR	Mark P	✓	✓		✓					
INSTITUTIONS CHAIR	Chuck M	✓	✓	✓		✓				

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<i>INSTITUTIONS Co-CHAIR</i>	<i>Andy D</i>									
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>Joe</i>			✓						
District 3 DCM	Anthony T	✓	✓		✓	✓				
District 3 CO-DCM										
District 4 DCM	Tiffany	✓	✓		✓	✓				
District 4 CO-DCM	Patti K			✓						
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	✓		✓	✓					
<i>District 6 LCM</i>	Wendy			✓	✓					
Quorum =18	Wayne * only votes to make/break a tie	25	24	24	30	24				

Secretary's Report:



Secretary read the old and new business from the June 11, 2014 Area 31 meeting minutes.

Motion: To accept the secretary's report- passes.

Treasurer's Report:



Beginning June Balance: \$8,042.75; Group Contributions: \$1,955.54; Other: (\$66 - reversal of contribution check that bounced); Total Area Expenses: (\$3,659.77); Closing June Balance: \$6,272.52 plus Prudent Reserve: \$6,000 = \$12,272.52 Total Funds Available.

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- ⌚ Further comments:
- ⌚ Contributions in June 2014 decreased by \$172.89 over contributions in June 2013. However, contributions for YTD June 2014 increased by \$1,356.78 over contributions for YTD June 2013.
- ⌚ There were 35 contributions made in June 2014. There were 30 in June 2013.

Motion: To accept the treasurer's report- passes.

Registrar's Report: Not present

Area Archivist Report:

- ⌚ On 6/21, the Grapevine and Archive committees held a joint open house to celebrate the Grapevine's 70th anniversary. Although the attendance of non committee members was not high, the number of those contributing to the Open House was encouraging. The Archives and Grapevine boards were displayed. A cake to celebrate the Grapevine 70th anniversary was served. Area 31 Delegate Anne F made photocopies of all articles published in the Grapevine that were written by Area 31 AAs and displayed at the Open House.
- ⌚ A service day for Archives will be held on Saturday 7/19 from 9am to 1 pm. All are invited to come and browse and pitch in with the sorting of material submitted to Archives.
- ⌚ Reminder to all: If you submit material to Archives, be sure it is dated.

Webmaster:

- ⌚ Statistics will be posed on the Area 31 website each month instead of being read at the Area meeting.
- ⌚ Bob suggested that to simplify the website email addresses the underscore and the word "committee" be eliminated from every current address that has either or both.
- ⌚ Website email addresses for WMIG and BIG have been added.
- ⌚ Bob is in the process of making format changes to the Delegate's report to the Roundup to make it as readable as possible on the website. The report will be posted soon.
- ⌚ CPC chair reported a continuing problem with use of the CPC email account. She and Bob will confer offline to resolve.

AD HOC Committee to revise the Area Handbook:

- ⌚ Mike B. announced that the committee had met and agreed on the changes to propose to the Area Committee.
- ⌚ He asked that everyone bring their Area Handbook to the August meeting. He will read each proposed change and entertain discussion at the next meeting. If there is general agreement on all changes, a vote will be taken to finalize and send for revision and production to the printer.
- ⌚ One member asked if the changes could be sent out before the August meeting. Mike said that wouldn't be possible and that we would have to read and consider all changes at the August meeting.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Accessibility:

- ⌚ A speech to text open AA meeting will be held by the Accessibility committee on August 27th at 7pm in the room where Area meeting is held. At the end of the meeting the committee will ask for feedback on the experience to the attendees.
- ⌚ The goal is to try to get a speech to text meeting going once a week if it is deemed successful by the hearing impaired who attend and evaluate its success.
- ⌚ Accessibility chair asked WMIG and Area Webmaster to post this info on their respective websites.

Archives:

- ⌚ Commitments for June were: The Roundup, Only Tuesday Group in Agawam, The Cold Springs Group in Belchertown. The East Longmeadow Group and The Sheffield12 & 12 Group.
- ⌚ The committee also cosponsored an Open House with the Grapevine committee.
- ⌚ The ongoing project of transferring old tapes to CDs continues. As tapes are transferred they are made available free of charge at AA events and group meetings where the Archives committee is invited to attend.
- ⌚ A joint venture with WMYPAA is being considered.

CPC:

- ⌚ Meeting started in the usual manor. 7 people in attendance with 2 new members.
- ⌚ Last month's commitments at the Radio Show and Intergroup **were not kept!** Mike fulfilled the Institution commitment.

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- ⌚ Mike took the Institution commitment on August 6. The Intergroup commitment on 7/10/2014 was taken by Sharon, and the Radio show commitment was taken by Tye and Darrell (shadowing) on 7/21/2014.
- ⌚ A mock CPC presentation was done for the committee by Darrell, Sam, and Mike.
- ⌚ During the presentation it was brought up that the format is impersonal and not professional. Freelancing a little was encouraged. It was then brought up that only the slides of the presentation would be handed out and the bullet points would only be in the hands of the presenters. Everyone seemed to feel that there should be a set of bullet points to loosely follow versus reading.
- ⌚ Tim will take the mock presentation next month.
- ⌚ Tye presented the boards and they are coming along. More pamphlets from AAWS were given to Tye as these were backordered.
- ⌚ The homework assignment is to mail the CPC intro letter to a contact that was provided by AA members in the Area. Each member of the CPC Committee received one contact.
- ⌚ First presentation of 2014 will be made to about 25 employees of the Hampden County Sheriff's Department at the After Incarceration Support Services center on July 24th.

Grapevine:

- ⌚ 5 group reps (3 new) attended the last monthly meeting.
- ⌚ Open House with Archives held on 6/21.
- ⌚ Boards were also displayed at the Roundup and a meeting in Agawam and East Longmeadow.

Public Information:

- ⌚ Discussed tabled motion from last month concerning a revision of our contribution to the website. It was decided that the air time and station number of our radio show commitment will be added to the Public Information section of the website. There was also discussion of forming a small group to retool our mission statement but no group has been formed as of yet.
- ⌚ Still waiting to hear about possible commitment at Howard Street
- ⌚ Filled August 2014 Commitments and confirmed June Commitments
- ⌚ Confirmed people, places and times for upcoming commitment to DUI classes in Palmer, Westfield and Springfield.
- ⌚ Reading of Tradition 7 from 12 Steps and 12 Traditions book, followed by discussion.
- ⌚ Mock Non-AA Speaking commitment presentation given by Sean.

Website Committee

- ⌚ Attending were the Webmaster (Bob), Chair (Carl), Co-chair (Mary) Cold Spring Group (Gary) Area Chair (Paul).
- ⌚ We discussed if there was still a need to expand on the Webmaster tutorial. The committee feeling is that since we decided to have a backup Webmaster, there is not a need to further develop the tutorial.
- ⌚ Last month there was discussion along the lines of: Is there a need for a "release form"/ "consent form" for materials being submitted for use on the website. (such as artwork, written material) The GSO response was read. We decided that at this time there has been no request to post anything and that any future request will be addressed at that time. Also, that we have established content submission guidelines and those would be used. I think the general feeling was that it was better to err on the side of caution.
- ⌚ Mary will be taking the lead in the development of the Area website flier.
- ⌚ Bob spoke to the creation of an online group registration form for use by the Area Registrar. There are many concerns mainly centering around security, and logistics. This would be a large undertaking.
- ⌚ Final thoughts on the requirements of a Backup Webmaster were talked about. Carl will type up a presentation for next month's committee meeting.
- ⌚ Carl will be responding to G.S.O. with thanks and attaching files of content submission guidelines, and site, committee, webmaster definitions.
- ⌚ Our next committee meeting will be July 23, 2014 The 4th Wednesday. This is a five week month

Western Mass Round Up - Not present

Invited Committees

Institutions:

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- ⌚ One new IGR (Lynn from The Early Sobriety Group).
- ⌚ \$1,394.20 was available for book purchases in July.
- ⌚ Only 11 meetings are still on the Open list.
- ⌚ Cards have been printed with the Bridging the Gap 800 phone number on it. All were encouraged to take these cards and distribute to anyone they know who will be leaving an institution and moving into a community in Western Mass.

Berkshire Intergroup (BIG): Not present

Western Mass Intergroup:

- ⌚ Please continue to remember Kevin L, our office manager, his wife, Cathy, and his children; as he continues to battle his heart problems at Mass General Hospital, in Boston. He will be undergoing some type of full body scan today; which may finally address the transplant scenario.
- ⌚ Thank you to all the groups and individuals that contribute via the pie chart; or whatever method to WMIG. Donations help us to meet the approximately \$3200 / month expense needed to run the office and directly affect book prices -- so thank you very much !
- ⌚ If your group participates in phone coverage please be available for the time slot you have chosen. This is a vital service you provide to the sick and suffering alcoholic or addict. (if your group does not have an intergroup rep, but you would like to participate in phone coverage, we are always looking for folks to help us out on the backup list. Please call the office (532-2111) and let the office staff know.
- ⌚ Annual WMIG Family Picnic, which is a free event will be held at the Family Moose Center, @ 244 Fuller Rd In Chicopee -- Sunday, August 24 --11 am – 6 pm. A bounce house will be there for the kids and every child leaves with a toy. There will also be live and DJ music as well as a soft ball tourney coordinated by WMYPAA. The music and food are provided by @ nominal cost provided by the Moose Center staff.
- ⌚ Bobbi P. will be conducting the raffle, as she has for some years – looking for 'donations', that can be left with the office staff for Bobbi. The raffle is a huge help in helping 'defray' the costs of the event. Bobbi can be reached @ ###-#### Donations can be left at the office, during business hours.
- ⌚ Pay pal has been available for some time when purchasing literature (can be cheaper w/ gas prices, as well as a time saver !)
- ⌚ Another shipment of 75th anniversary big books are available in the office.(approx 75 available)
- ⌚ WMIG officers / staff are available for an incoming commitment to your home group., or your business meeting, if you have any questions on how the office is run. As an 'incoming' group, we try to put the 'slant' on service and how it has enhanced our sobriety. (Contact WMIG Chair, Eddie K (###-###-####); or feel free to contact the office.
- ⌚ Reminder to the standing / invited committee chairs / co - chairs: standing invitation to attend monthly intergroup meeting, to share about what's going on, in your respective committee; as not all groups have GSRS and/or intergroup reps.
- ⌚ The monthly WMIG meeting is held on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 474 Pleasant St., Holyoke @ 7 30 pm (1 / 2 prior to the regular mtg. @ pm., a bookie meeting is held to allow reps to book incoming / outgoing commitments).

WMYPAA:

- ⌚ WMYPAA will host a softball tournament at the WMIG Annual Picnic on August 24th.
- ⌚ GSO Bus Trip tickets are still available. The bus will leave the Kmart parking lot in Holyoke at 6 am and return by 9pm on Friday September 19th.
- ⌚ WMYPAA is planning a dinner in partnership with the Archives committee. The theme of the dinner will be Area 31 AA History.

DISTRICT REPORTS:

District 1:

- ⌚ 10 GSRs attended. Two reps were from Spanish Speaking meetings. One of the Spanish Speaking meetings (La Luz de un Milagro) does 3 outgoing commitments every month!
- ⌚ All groups are doing well.
- ⌚ DCM asked GSRs to get feedback from their groups re: establishing fragrance free meetings.

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- ⌚ Discussed difficulty of getting people involved in service. The attendees did not come to any conclusions other than agreeing to share how service involvement has enriched their sobriety.

District 2:

- ⌚ District 2 has booked a service commitment at the Joy of Living meeting.
- ⌚ Planning a workshop on Singleness of Purpose on September 6th from 1 to 4 pm in the same room where the Area meeting takes place every month.

District 3:

- ⌚ The meeting was held at 7PM in the Lee, MA Court House. There were 14 attendees, 10 Groups with 9 GSR's, 2 Alternate GSR, Anne F. Area 31 Delegate, Tony T. DCM and 1 guest.
- ⌚ GSR's gave group updates, activities and informed attendees of member and/or group anniversaries.
- ⌚ One GSR reported that they are dealing with a disruptive member. The group emailed GSO and read the email response giving some ideas how to handle this disruptive member. Several other GSR's shared how their group handles the issue - gave advice to pray, be kind loving and speak to this person or add it to your format that disruption won't be tolerated. Also reminds the group the singleness of purpose of the group (to carry the message of A.A. to the alcoholic that still suffers).
- ⌚ An example of diversity was given, the fragrance meeting. Also, everyone in attendance read a paragraph from Anonymity online and its importance.
- ⌚ Co DCM service position is still open. Position responsibilities and qualifications were read.
- ⌚ BIG formed an Ad Hoc committee to determine workshops. District 3 will work with Berkshire Intergroup to determine time, place and subject.

District 4:

- ⌚ Attendance at District 4 meeting was down in June.
- ⌚ Little enthusiasm for hosting a service workshop among the GSRs in attendance. Some voiced the opinion that it was not part of their role as GSRs. Others were not willing to suggest a workshop topic or volunteer to work on it.
- ⌚ One GSR reported that group had voted 1 man and 1 woman to take responsibility for pulling aside and talking to disruptive attendees at meetings.

District 5:

- ⌚ We started the meeting at 7:30 with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer
- ⌚ The District continues to read from the Service Manual and the Tradition of the month. This month we were discussing the AA Grapevine Inc. and Tradition 7. Most of the GSR groups receive the Grapevine and had knowledge of the importance of the meeting in print.
- ⌚ Brimfield Tri-State Group is have a hard time financially & have problems with their Bookie the GSR was given some suggestions to help the group.
- ⌚ Brimfield Hitchcock Academy Group donations down, but they were able to send money according to the pie chart- their 30th Anniversary is August 22.
- ⌚ Wilbraham Monday Night Group their attendance has been good
- ⌚ Thank You Thursday is doing ok
- ⌚ Belchertown Friday Night has incoming and outgoing commitments and there anniversary is August 15th and they need the boards
- ⌚ Belchertown Saturday Night reported all is going well
- ⌚ Morning Light Group is still having problems with their past treasure making advances to newer women and what the women of the group have been doing is surrounding the newer women with themselves but it's still a concern
- ⌚ Chapter 2 Group is doing ok and have donated to the Intergroup picnic.

District 6:

- ⌚ 8 GSRs in attendance. Normal for District 6 which has 39 registered groups.
- ⌚ Planning a workshop for October. Subject and other particulars will be determined at the next meeting.

Delegate's Remarks:

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- ⌚ Delighted to hear that the Area Committees are calling GSO for information and direction. Encouraged committees to also call GSO with information about experience we want to share with other areas. This is the only way GSO develops expertise – gathering the information provided by areas across the US and Canada.
- ⌚ Great to find the announcement of Area 31's celebration of the Grapevine 70th anniversary on the GV website.
- ⌚ Current Grapevine is the Prison issue. The featured story is about a woman whose son is going to prison.
- ⌚ GSO Archives has completed the preservation phase of a major project during which the archive materials were digitized. Next phase is cataloging all the material digitized.
- ⌚ AAWS is in the process of recruiting and hiring a Technology Manager. This is a newly created position.
- ⌚ The first mailing about the International Convention in July of 2014 is about to go out.
- ⌚ Big Book, 12 & 12 and Daily Reflections are now available as ebooks in English, Spanish and French.
- ⌚ Book prices are going up. New prices will be determined at the July 31st AAWS Board meeting.
- ⌚ "Circles of Love and Service" pamphlet has been revamped and will be available soon.
- ⌚ "Many Paths to Spirituality" will be available in August.
- ⌚ The video "Markings on the Journey" has been updated and will be available soon.

Alternate Delegate Remarks:

- ⌚ Alternate Delegate is the co chair of the Mass State Convention's program committee. The convention will be held on November 7 – 9. A registration envelope stuffing pizza party will be held on 7/29. To car pool, meet at 5 pm in the parking lot of the hotel formerly called The Plantation Inn opposite the entrance to the Mass Pike in Chicopee.
- ⌚ Also recruiting presenters for the Mass State Convention. All interested in making a presentation should join Mark at the Sturbridge Coffee House at 9:30 am on Sunday 7/20.
- ⌚ We want to task GSO with providing us information and guidance and to provide GSO with suggestions we think will improve AA as a whole.
- ⌚ In order to reserve a room at any of the hotels with rooms reserved for attendees of the International Convention, you must first register for the convention itself.
- ⌚ Gary is rotating out of the position of the Northeast Regional Trustee. Mark is putting the word out now since we may be voting on an Area 31 nominee at our Fall Assembly.

Area Chair Remarks:

- ⌚ Thanks for all the great work being done in the Area committees.
- ⌚ Lots of outgoing commitments have been booked for the Area Committee.
 - Handout distributed to those present
 - All Area Service commitments are posted on the Area 31 website Calendar. Just click on the words "Area Service Commitment" in the date box and you will be directed to the details (meeting name, time and place).
- ⌚ The printed calendar for July and August were also distributed.
- ⌚ By next month the Agenda for the Fall Assembly (Oct 18 & 19) will be finalized and presented to the Area Committee.
- ⌚ Please make a habit of helping to clean up the meeting room at the end of our Area meeting.

Old Business:

- ⌚ Bob, our Webmaster, announced that he is attending an AA technology conference. The cost of the registration, room and transportation is approximately \$875. Bob said he would appreciate help with paying expenses for his attendance at the conference.
- ⌚ A motion was made to reimburse Bob \$875 to attend the conference.
 - Discussion:
 - The treasurer was asked if we can afford it. She replied that we can.
 - The Delegate stated that this conference sounds critical to Bob's performance of his duties as our webmaster and that performance of our service jobs should not depend on our ability to pay for it.
 - The alternate Delegate asked Bob to describe the conference. Bob replied that the idea of the conference came up at a workshop at last year's NERF. The workshop was about the future of AA websites. The conference will address that subject with people from all areas and at greater length and depth than was possible at NERF,
 - A vote was taken to move the motion.
 - The vote on the motion was 19 for and 4 opposed.
 - The minority opinion was that all expenses should be covered

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- The majority was swayed to take another vote
 - The new vote was 1 for and 22 opposed.
 - A new motion was made to pay all expenses submitted for the webmaster to attend the technology conference.
 - Discussion:
 - Some asked if we should set a ceiling on the amount to be reimbursed.
 - Alternate Delegate stated that as a trusted servant, Bob will submit reasonable expenses for his participation in the conference.
 - The vote was 19 for and 4 opposed. No minority voters offered more discussion. The motion passed.
- ⌚ Motion was made to ask the Webmaster to create new email account names to remove all underscores and the word “committee” in any email that contained either or both.
- Webmaster will forward old accounts to new accounts and after a certain period of inactivity on the old accounts, retire them.
 - The email addresses that are changed will require the owners to perform the new account first login procedure.
 - The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

New Business:

- ⌚ CPC Chair asked the Area Committee to approve the expenditure of \$71.90 over what was approved at Spring Assembly for new CPC boards.
- ⌚ A motion was made to approve an additional \$71.90 for CPC’s new boards. The motion was voted unanimously without any discussion.
- ⌚ CPC chair asked if the Area Committee would approve the expenditure of \$50 to fulfill a request made by the After Incarceration Support Services staff for the CPC presenters to bring 100 When and Where’s with them on 7/24.
- Discussion:
 - AISS has a budget that would allow them to pay for the When and Where’s
 - Requisitioning process in government agencies is so complex as to discourage the purchase
 - Why wouldn’t we do this? It goes to our singleness of purpose.
 - CPC will bring information about reordering with the W&W’s so that they do not expect a continuing free supply from CPC.
 - The vote was 16 for and 1 opposed.
 - Minority pointed out that other agencies of the Sheriff’s department order literature directly from WMIG.
 - The majority was not swayed by the minority opinion to revote.
 - The motion passed.
- ⌚ Mark, our Alternate Delegate announced that he was asked to recommend to the Area that they consider making Past Delegates, Registrar, Archivist and Webmaster all be made voting members of the Area Committee.
- ⌚ Bobbi, our Archivist, stated that this has gone back and forth many times during Area 31’s history. At some points in time all these positions were voting positions.
- ⌚ Delegate asked Archivist to bring history of the voting status of these positions to the next Area meeting in order to have an informed discussion.

Area 31 Chairperson closed the meeting at 9:43pm with the Responsibility Declaration.
The next Area 31 meeting will take place on 8/13/2014 at 7:30pm.