

Area 31 Committee Meeting – August 13, 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	Jun	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	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				
<i>INSTITUTIONS Co-CHAIR</i>	<i>Andy D</i>							✓			

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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>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	23	24	21			

Secretary's Report:

- ⌚ Secretary read the old and new business from the July 09, 2014 Area 31 meeting minutes.
Motion: To accept the secretaries report- passes.

Treasurer's Report:

- ⌚ Beginning July Balance: \$6,272.52; Group Contributions: \$2,493.31; Total Area Expenses: (\$522.53); Closing July Balance: \$8,243.30 plus Prudent Reserve: \$6,000 = \$14,243.30 Total Funds Available.
 - ⌚ Further comments:
 - Contributions in July 2014 increased by \$1,330.98 over contributions in July 2013. Contributions for YTD 2014 increased by \$2,687.76 over contributions for YTD July 2013.
 - There were 34 contributions made in July 2014. There were 22 in July 2013.
- Motion:* To accept the treasures report- passes.

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Registrar's Report:

- ⌚ All updated group sheets submitted have been entered to Fellowship New Vision and to be entered into the latest directory. DCM's please make sure the mailing address of contacts have correct postal address. Their mailing address' need street and zip code. A call will be made to contacts to obtain correct information and will ask DCM's for assistance.

Area Archivist Report:

- ⌚ On 7/19 Archives held a service day which was poorly attended. A lot of sorting was done and she was assisted by another member of Archives. Who, what, where, and when should clearly be visible on all documents that are going to be saved in our Archives.

Webmaster:

- ⌚ Trip to Saint Louis was very exciting. GSO & Grapevine were there. 46 were in attendance, and from all over the country. Expected to be an annual event. It's considered an official organization. He has a mailing list of attendees and many ideas were generated.
- ⌚ July statistics can be found on <http://area31aa.org/docs/webmaster>
- ⌚ New Email address for Committee Officers, Standing Committees, Invited Committees, & District Committees can be found on <http://area31aa.org/docs/webmaster>

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Accessibility:

- ⌚ Discussed the upcoming meeting of speech to text and the format. The meeting will be at 474 Pleasant Street at 6pm. It will be an open speaker meeting. After the meeting there will be a Q & A time for discussion. A critique form will be given to the attendees to fill out.
- ⌚ Paid for another 3 months of the Hotline. The Hotline received 1 call. It was from an elderly AA member who really wanted a ride to get medicine.

Archives:

- ⌚ Meeting chaired by Archivist in Archive chairs absence.
- ⌚ 7 reps present. Discussed-safeguarding our ideas. 'The archives boards will be going to the Chapman St group on Friday for their anniversary.

CPC:

- ⌚ 13 CPC representatives in attendance.
- ⌚ Sponsor your doctor packets were organized
- ⌚ Mock CPC presentation discussed. Members wanted to discuss what AA is before what AA isn't. Currently it's done in the reverse.
- ⌚ During a previous CPC meeting, a list of suggested project ideas was included in everyone's meeting packet and the homework assignment was for everyone to circle 3 ideas they would like to pursue. These projects are beginning.

Grapevine:

- ⌚ 6-10 were in attendance.
- ⌚ The Grapevine boards will be going to Greenfield on Friday for their anniversary.
- ⌚ Subscription to the Grapevine was encouraged. Suggestion was to give one to your sponsee, or if your group has money, get a script.

Public Information:

- ⌚ 12 PI representatives present.
- ⌚ PI fulfilled its commitments to the Radio Show, Phoenix Academy and IOP.
- ⌚ Under PI old business- discussed 6 DUI classes and the effectiveness of that service. PI left AA literature with the classes.
- ⌚ Under PI new business- discussed better ways to get audience during meetings to feel comfortable asking questions. PI members encouraged bringing scrap paper and pens for attendees for Q & A; this would make it more anonymous.
- ⌚ Howard Street, anticipation of having PI booked by the end of the month.

Website Committee:

- ⌚ 3 reps in attendance
- ⌚ Updated email address and the action taken with that.
- ⌚ Flier about website being drafted.

Western Mass Round Up

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- ⌚ No report.

Invited Committees

Institutions:

- ⌚ Get report from email
- ⌚ 1 new IGR
- ⌚ Treasurers report; donations \$1798.12, expenses \$290.39 with an ending balance for book purchases \$1507.73.
- ⌚ Bridging The Gap report; eight service calls, one person called a couple of times, some misinformation from the facilities to the people needing BTG, several call with bad call back numbers. We need more people to act as BTG contacts in the Springfield area, take the flyer and return to committee.
- ⌚ Liaison reported that there have been some issues at Providence Hospital because of guidelines not being followed; the new clinician wants us to abide by the rules in the flyer from Providence. If you or your group is not able to make your meeting and your alternate cannot cover it, it is requested you contact the liaison at 413-530-6887.

Berkshire Intergroup (BIG):

- ⌚ No report

Western Mass Intergroup:

- ⌚ Book prices will be going up as of 10/1. Pay pal available, and checks are accepted.
- ⌚ Bookie meeting held prior to WMI. Call WMI Chair if your group wants to have WMI come to your homegroups.
- ⌚ Picnic at the Moose Lodge in Chicopee on 8/24 from 11/6pm. This is a great day for families and fellowship.
- ⌚ If your home 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 & suffering alcoholic or addict. If your home group does not have an Intergroup Rep, but you would like to participate in phone coverage, WMI is looking for folks to help. Call the office 413-532-2111 to let the office know you are interested. Guidelines are not on the web, but you can get a hard copy of what to do or not to do when you receive a call.

WMYPAA:

- ⌚ No report.

DISTRICT REPORTS:

District 1:

- ⌚ 8 GSR's present and 2 observers.
- ⌚ GSR's updated the members on their group's activities.
- ⌚ Reviewed Area Meeting with GSR's, highlighting important dates.

District 2:

- ⌚ Rec'd letter from GSO for 1st quarter contrition's.
- ⌚ Groups reported on their activities.
- ⌚ One new GSR brought problems to the table – the group has no check book, suggestions were offered by other GSR's
- ⌚ Discussed whether groups thought of giving away a Big Book and not supporting the Pie Chart is being self supporting.
- ⌚ Date for District 2 workshop is September 6th, 1-4pm. The Workshop title - "Singleness of Purpose." Spanish and English flyers available. Getting calls from other committees that this is a much needed topic. GSR's are visiting all the committees to distribute fliers.

District 3:

- ⌚ 10 GSR's and 2 alternate GSR's in attendance.
- ⌚ GSR's gave updates of group activities.

District 4:

- ⌚ GSR's gave updates of group activities. One GSR stated that their homegroups was reviewing their format.
- ⌚ Discussed street addict in an AA meeting.

District 5:

- ⌚ 15 GSR's represented at the meeting. 2 new GSR's and 1 alternate GSR.

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- ⌚ GSR's gave updates of group activities and anniversaries.
- ⌚ Informed members of workshop in District 2, Singleness of Purpose, after two groups stated they were having problems with this in their home group.

District 6:

- ⌚ 10 GSR's and 2 alternate GSR's represented at the meeting.
- ⌚ One GSR shared their recent group inventory and is taking suggestions and doing well.
- ⌚ Discussed a possible workshop for District 6 in October.

Delegate's Remarks:

- ⌚ Stated we were lucky to be so close to NY and the ability to travel there and the opportunity to go to the General Service Office. She talked to the Chair of the WMYPAA who stated if they do not fill the bus, the trip would be canceled. Encouraged to go and bring spouses.
- ⌚ Two GSO approved pamphlets were presented.
 1. Circle of Love & Service- describes communication between groups and GSO. The graphics show a two way communication between groups and GSO.
 2. Many passes to Spirituality- contains personal stories with a wide variety of faiths including atheism.Both pamphlets can be downloaded from AA.org -1 free per person. Additional copies will be available at your Intergroup office.
- ⌚ One GSO updated video
 1. Markings on the JourneyThis video is available for \$10 at the AA website. It is hoped that the Intergroup offices will make these videos available.
- ⌚ GSO taking requests for theme topics for 2015 AA Convention, which is due to GSO by December. If your home group or District is interested in submitting a workshop topic or theme she will send to GSO.
- ⌚ AA International Convention to be held on 7/3-5, 2015 in Atlanta, Georgia. Registration for the 80th International Conference can be done electronically beginning 9/3/14. The theme is 80 Years, Happy Joyous & Free. You will have to submit your name into a lottery for a hotel room. There are 10 thousand rooms available with 50 thousand members expected to attend. The rally will be held at the Georgia Dome Sports Arena in mid town Georgia. Register at your earliest. The cost is \$100 for registration only. The cost of a metro card is not included in the \$100 registration. You can register by mail or email. Possible suggestions for travel were to obtain a bus from Western Mass to Atlanta, or charter a plane.
- ⌚ News from GSO is book prices are going up as of 10/1. Hard copy of the BB- \$8.-\$9.50, pocket size BB-\$4.-\$5., soft cover 12/12 \$7.-\$8.25, and Living Sober \$4.25-\$5. Shipping and handling will go down, but this will not affect you.
- ⌚ DCM's encouraged to take copies of the Mass State Convention registration and bring to their district meeting to be distributed.
- ⌚ In 2014 there was a membership survey. In Area 31, four groups were chosen. Three of the four groups met and participated in the survey. The information generated will be published next year.

Alternate Delegate Remarks:

- ⌚ Mass State Convention planning meeting to be held on odd months. Old Timers fliers are available. First come, first served-limited seating for the Old Timers banquet. Sign up for the Saturday night banquet on your registration. The Planning committee is meeting this Sunday at 9:30 at the Plantation Inn.

Area Chair Remarks:

- ⌚ Fall assembly, October 18 and 19th. The program will be coming soon. Workshops will focus on "what are we doing well".
- ⌚ Thank you to all who are going to the Area Commitments. The groups have expressed gratitude for attendance. See the Area Calendar for upcoming commitments and events.

Old Business:

- ⌚ Possible voting members; Past Delegates, Archivist and Webmaster. Currently they do not vote. Questions raised: If they become voting members, does that change the role call and the quorum? Questions and concerns noted:
 - The reason decided to make these non voting members is their position is a non rotating position. Concern with possible control of the vote.
 - Are these two separate ideas? 1. Quorum- Will they attend the Area meetings 2. Granting Past Delegates voting.
 - Where is the spirit of rotation? When do you "pass it on"? Will the past Delegates be there, but if not at Area functions, why would they get a vote?
 - Not in support of either idea. But, Past Delegate is informed of Area activity by reading the Area minutes. As a group member, they speak up and will continue without a vote.
 - Questioned if the thinking the reason for having past delegates vote is "their vote is more of a value; they know the inner

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workings of AA. New area members are not informed. Votes are based on confusion.

-One member noted, “She has a voice, not a vote”. Her experience had been register for 10 years with no vote. She would leave the meeting after the report. People who have served and have more experience can dominate. She found it is as important to have a voice despite to having a vote.

-Against both 1. Innocence brings humility 2. No past delegates present

-Would the Archives get two votes? (Archivist and Archives chair)

-Not in favor- As a non-rotating, non-voting member she believes it is important to keep Past Delegates active, but not so important to have a vote.

DCM’s encouraged to bring discussion to their districts and discuss with the GSR’s. It is important that all DCM be well informed and to see all sides and issues.

New Business:

🕒 **Discussion of changes to the Handbook**

Motion: Limit 20 minutes for each session.

Discussion:

-Inventory of handbooks are critically low, we need to get it done.

-Historically changes have been made 15 minutes per meeting, it took 2 years. Changes have to be made.

-50 handbooks left

-How many are we planning on printing? In 2011 approved 1000.

-Do we want to print before Fall Assembly? It won’t be available 11/ 2011.

-Could we use of a projector to review hand book from website for the Fall Assembly

Motion: Limit 20 minutes for each session.

Motion: To accept-All in favor, motion passes 1opposed.

Proposed Updates to the 2011 Edition of the Area 31 Handbook:

Cover:

Remove graphic of book with legs. Insert circle/triangle “unity, service, recovery”

Motion: Change two people on cover reading a book and insert circle/triangle.

Discussion:

-Concern with copyright of symbol.

-Insert map of Western Mass. Triangle is not AA symbol and questioned if we should use.

Motion: change two people on cover reading a book and insert circle/triangle.

Motion: To accept-Motion passes, 17 -3

Replace text which currently reads: “2011 EDITION CONFIDENTIAL” with correct year.

Motion: Replace with correct year

Discussion:

-remove confidential (last names) names in directory. This is a larger discussion. This discussion to be tabled.

- Motion: Replace with correct year

Motion: To accept-Motion passes, 20-2

Page 2:

Replace text which currently reads: “Sixth Edition, December 2011” with: “Seventh Edition, [DATE]”

Motion: Replace text which currently reads: “Sixth Edition, December 2011” with: “Seventh Edition, [DATE]”

Motion: To accept-Motion passes unanimously

Pages 6:

Correct Accessibility meeting date – Replace text which reads: “Third Thursday of each month” with: “Fourth Wednesday of each month” *Motion:* To accept-Motion passes unanimously

A concern brought up at the Institutions meeting by the BTG coach. They felt the Area or Intergroup should coordinate a ride for people getting to a meeting from institutions. Requested it be brought to the Area’s attention.

Discussion: People using BTG as a taxi service. The service is for bring a new release to a meeting, not someone who’s been released for months. These individuals need to learn to network. Questioned if a possible sign up sheet, like Intergroups phone coverage, could be developed to coordinate rides for people.

Members of the Area were encouraged to suggestion back to their home group and committees for discussion.

Motion to adjourn. 2nd.

Area 31 Chairperson closed the meeting at 9:40pm with the Responsibility Declaration.
The next Area 31 meeting will take place on 9/13/2014 at 7:30pm.