

Area 31 Committee Meeting – January 14, 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	X		✓							
ALTERNATE DELEGATE	Mark N	X	⊙								
AREA CHAIR *	Paul H	X							✓		
AREA TREASURER	Beth C	X									
AREA SECRETARY	Sue A	X									
<i>AREA REGISTRAR</i>	<i>Jack A</i>	X									
<i>AREA ARCHIVIST</i>	<i>Bobbi P</i>	X									
ACCESSIBILITY CHAIR	Michael B	X									
ACCESSIBILITY CO-CHAIR	Pauline D										
ARCHIVES CHAIR	Keith M	X									
ARCHIVES CO-CHAIR	Dani P	X									
CPC CHAIR	Mike S	X									
CPC CO-CHAIR	Steve M	X									
GRAPEVINE CHAIR	Ray L	X									
GRAPEVINE CO-CHAIR	Tiffany C										
P.I. CHAIR	Mark C	X									
P.I. CO-CHAIR	Brennan M	X									
WEBSITE CHAIR	Mary M	X									
WEBSITE CO-CHAIR	Sally S	X									
<i>WEBMASTER</i>	<i>Bob B</i>	X									
W. MASS IGP CHAIR	Eddie K	X									
BERK. IGP CHAIR	Mark P										
INSTITUTIONS CHAIR	Chuck M	X									
<i>INSTITUTIONS Co-CHAIR</i>	<i>Andy D</i>	X									
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>Joey L</i>	X									
District 1 DCM	Katherine T										
District 1 Co-DCM	Bruce C	X									
District 2 DCM	Mike R	X									
District 2 CO-DCM	Janis A	X									
<i>District 2 LCM</i>											
District 3 DCM	Connell Mc	X									
District 3 CO-DCM	Mike L	X									
District 4 DCM	Patricia K										
District 4 CO-DCM	Ruby R										
District 5 DCM	Robert W	X									
District 5 CO-DCM	Angie Mc										
<i>District 5 LCM</i>											
District 6 DCM	Wayne M	X									
District 6 CO-DCM	Erick M	X									
<i>District 6 LCM</i>		X									

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Quorum =18	* only votes to make/break a tie	25										
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Secretary's Report:

- ⌚ Secretary read the old and new business from the December 10, 2014 Area 31 meeting minutes.
Motion: To accept the secretaries report- passes.

Treasurer's Report:

- ⌚ Beginning December Balance: \$8,608.63; Group Contributions: \$2,126.34; Total Area Expenses: (\$1,089.62); Closing December Balance: \$9,645.35 plus Prudent Reserve: \$6,000 = \$15,645.35 Total Funds Available.
 - ⌚ Further comments:
 - Contributions in December 2014 increased by \$1,584.04 from contributions in December 2013. Contributions for YTD 2014 increased by \$2,593.74 over contributions for YTD December 2013.
 - There were 40 contributions made in December 2014. There were 21 in December 2013.
- Motion:* To accept the treasurers report- passes.

Registrar's Report:

- ⌚ New positions to be filled and to be recorded with GSO. Registrar will work with anyone who needs assistance on gathering information for GSR/groups. Information needed: group name, group #, changes in group information, GSR's full name and contact information.
- ⌚ Contact Registrar at registrar@area31AA.org or ###-###-#### if you have any questions or want to share information to be changed on forms.

Area Archivist Report:

- ⌚ On Saturday 1/17/15 there will be a Archives Service Day. The Archives office will be open from 9am-1pm.
- ⌚ Packets were prepared and distributed to the new Archives Reps.
- ⌚ DCM's and Committee Chairs can email their minutes to archivist@area31aa.org and please be sure to put *who, what, when, where and why* on all documents that will be archived.

Webmaster:

- ⌚ Stated there was not much going on. If interested in viewing the statistics, visit the area website.
- ⌚ Webmaster encouraged incoming DCM's and Standing Committees to use emails associated to positions.
- ⌚ If Area members would like to have anything posted to the web, send via a digital format to webmaster@area31AA.org

Accessibility:

- ⌚ No report

Archives:

- ⌚ 10 members in attendance
- ⌚ Discussed direction the committee
- ⌚ Ongoing discussion of tapes to cd's
- ⌚ Reviewed display boards and importance of keeping commitments to group anniversaries and AA functions when asked to bring the b boards.
- ⌚ Discussed Archives members going to district meeting in an effort to spread the message of Archives committee to attract new members. Archives co-chair will start this process.
- ⌚ Spoke about group history forms and capturing oral histories.

CPC:

- ⌚ 11 people in attendance including 5 new members.
- ⌚ CPC focus was on upcoming year and expectation of the CPC Committee members. A description of what CPC does was also discussed
- ⌚ One member brought up that the committee should be putting in place a system for determining which contact have been contacted, and who has not , and who has not replied back to us. This system will be discussed in upcoming meetings of the CPC committee. Delegation of tasks was also discussed.
- ⌚ The sponsor your doctor pamphlets were requested to be brought to our next meeting.
- ⌚ Reaching out to the Districts was also discussed to keep GSR's informed of the works of CPC. The hope is that this would

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attract more groups to have a CPC rep.

- ⌚ CPC will commit this year to having regular talks with the PI Committee so we can share any information that may be useful to them.

Grapevine:

- ⌚ 14 new Grapevine reps
- ⌚ Encouraged Area members to check out the Grapevine website, AAGV.org
- ⌚ Grapevine has been around for 71 years. Encouraged Districts to get a subscription for their district, stating it's only \$.08 also available are 2015 planners and calendars.

Public Information:

- ⌚ 11 new PI members
- ⌚ Mock PI presentation presented by PI Chair for members.
- ⌚ Discussed old business: No commitment with Girl's Inc for now and a list of locations for members to determine whether they would like to sponsor an information rack- motion made to move forward with the project.
- ⌚ Discussion about sponsoring more racks and using the literature as a way of making information available to the public. The cost for the rack is \$20. There are 16 spaces for pamphlets.

Website Committee:

- ⌚ Reviewed the presentation of edits to the website pamphlet and suggested changes for edit and review for next month.
- ⌚ Voted to change wording of the website disclaimers to read as follows: These links take you to other sites. Please be aware, though, that the Area 31 General Service Committee is responsible only for the content and policies of its own site.
- ⌚ Discussed possible agenda items for 2015: mobile site capability, Spanish language, chat space, marquee, committee inventory, tradition 8 payments to Webmaster, and changing header information on site.
- ⌚ Some concern was raised as to the transparency of the process of selecting, and or appointing of the Back-up Webmaster. The main concern seemed not to the position, and need for the position but rather if it was proper through the autonomy of the website committee, or if it should have been discussed further at the level of the Area Committee. The process was done at an open door meeting of the Website committee throughout the year starting in April, and was ongoing until; the announcement at the Fall Assembly 2014. The minutes to those meetings were also presented to the Area Committee each month as well. It is encouraged that if there are further concerns regarding transparency the discussion at any level is always welcome.

Western Mass Round Up:

- ⌚ Remember the date for Round Up, 2015, to be completed before NERAASA, 2015 for distribute during.
- ⌚ The banquet will remain the same from last year. CD's from the Round Up 2014 soon to be available.

Ad Hoc Committee's Report(s)

Redistricting Committee Meeting:

- ⌚ The committee will be looking to see if it is in the Areas interest to redistrict.

Invited Committees

Institutions:

- ⌚ 13 new Institution Reps.
- ⌚ Treasurers report: total donations \$1813.27, expenses \$107.89 – ending balance for book purchase \$2626.
- ⌚ BTG Report- currently this position is vacant, there was 1 call this month. BTG continues to find people willing to act as BTG contacts.
- ⌚ Liaison Report- the Institutions chair reported that going forward, if you are a representative and do not attend a meeting within 3 months; you will be taken off the list.
- ⌚

Berkshire Intergroup (BIG):

- ⌚ No report

Western Mass Intergroup:

- ⌚ New When & Where's are available.
- ⌚ Annual Christmas Alkathon a huge success.
- ⌚ The children's Christmas party held at the Intergroup office was a success thanks to the many volunteers.
- ⌚ If your group participated in the phone coverage, please be available for your time slot. Always looking for members to

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help, call the office at (413)532-2111 if interested.

- ⌚ WMIG officers/staff are available for an incoming commitment to your home group or your business meeting. Contact the WMIG chair. (###)###-#### if interested.
- ⌚ Pay pal available if interested in purchasing literature.

WMYPAA:

- ⌚ Elections postponed until February 14. The meeting is at 11:30am at 474 Pleasant St. Holyoke.
- ⌚ WMYPAA is interested in planning an event with Archives.

MSCYPPAA:

- ⌚ Planning meeting to be held in Worcester/Sturbridge. They will be discussing outreach and co-hosting events. MSCYPPAA is putting in a bid for conference to be held in Boston.

DISTRICT REPORTS:

District 1:

- ⌚ 5 GSR's in attendance.
- ⌚ Informed GSR's of 2015 service commitments where they will be requested to attend.

District 2:

- ⌚ 2 new GSR's

District 3:

- ⌚ 12 GSR's in attendance
- ⌚ At the November District meeting, it was decided to do away with group reports so that the focus would be on General Service Conference related matters. The plan is to have a "mini workshop" at each District meeting that will focus on a Conference topic. The District will continue to ask for "wins and concerns" from the groups so that they have an opportunity to discuss issues and best practices that may have relevance to AA as a whole.
- ⌚ The December 2013 meeting focused on the new pamphlet Many Paths to Spirituality which was approved at the 2014 General Service Conference.
- ⌚ The next meeting will be spent reviewing some of the Conference Advisory Actions from the 2014 Final Report.

District 4:

- ⌚ 18 GSR's present, 4 groups were visited by the LCM.
- ⌚ Discussed concerns from GSR's in their groups.
- ⌚ Discussed what it meant to be anonymous
- ⌚ GSR's were made aware of NERAASA and encouraged to participate. GSR's encouraged to speak with their groups to see if they could receive financial support to attend.

District 5:

- ⌚ 15 groups including 9 new GSR's were represented at District meeting.
- ⌚ GSR's reported on group activities.

District 6:

- ⌚ 14 GSR's and 25 in attendance.
- ⌚ No major problems reported by the GSR's in their groups.

Delegate's Remarks:

- ⌚ General Service Office operates all year long. In January, last weekend, the topics are decided and will be shared with the Districts. The topics will be discussed by the Trustees and Conference members with workshop topics to be presented. These same topics will be the same topics for the Round-Up, the Mass State Convention and will be discussed at our Mini Conference in March. NERAASA will also be focused on these topics. Currently, nothing is recorded at the GSO. There is a proposal to make these workshops at GSO on audio take and to create a book of past presentation.
- ⌚ Literature is available in E-books: AA Comes of Age (currently available) and As Bill Sees It (next in line to be available).
- ⌚ In October 2015 GSO is accepting resume for a qualified member for a manager's position. Qualifications, ability to manage staff and 10+yrs of sobriety.
- ⌚ Two years ago the Area decided to participate with others at the International AA Convention in the Hospitality suite. If attending the Convention, it's an opportunity to be of service. Housing is still available if interested in attending. This year AA will be celebrating its 80th year. Conference title "Happy Joyous and Free."

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Alternate Delegate Remarks:

- ⌚ 2015 Mass State Convention planning meeting to be held 1/27/15. If interested in attending, join the car pool from the Plantation Inn in Chicopee.
- ⌚ NERAASA 2015 to be held in Somerset NJ. Discussion on what from General Service Conference will go to the “mini-conference.” Districts will be receiving information on their responsibility.
- ⌚ NERAASA 2016 to be held in Springfield MA. Alt-Delegate modeled his t-shirts with the information about this event, encouraging participation at the next planning meeting.
- ⌚ He is available to provide a GSR presentation to Districts if interested.

Area Chair Remarks:

- ⌚ Mini conference to be held 3/28-29/2015.
- ⌚ Area Service Commitments: 1/19- Early Sobriety Group at 6pm, 2/27- Wilbraham Group at 7:30pm and 4/6- Monday Night Group/Grapevine at 6pm.
- ⌚ Concept meeting – 1st Thursday of the month and Tradition meeting – 3rd Wednesday of the month when the Area does not meet.

Old Business:

- ⌚ none

New Business:

- ⌚ Proposed Updates to the 2011 Edition of the Area 31 Handbook: (20 minutes only for discussion continued)

Under sub-heading:

“THIRD LEGACY VOTING PROCEDURE FOR AREA 31” Under bullet point 1, delete text:

“Any voting member of the assembly may nominate a candidate for office.”

In its place, insert text:

“All members of the Assembly stand. As qualifications for the position are read, unqualified members sit. The names of all those that remain standing are listed on the board of candidates.”

(The above statement is the exact wording of the motion passed at the spring 2013 Assembly)

Motion: “All members of the Assembly stand. As qualifications for the position are read, unqualified members sit.

All in favor - passes

-Friendly amendment- strike the second bullet- “After nomination for the office are closed, the candidates’ names are posted on the blackboard.

All in favor- passes

“Area 31 Service Committee Agenda”

Motion: To change or insert **red** corrections to the following “Area 31 Service Committee Agenda”

Area 31 Service Committee Agenda

Opening-call to order:

Moment of Silence followed by Serenity Prayer

Reading from AA Service Manual (**Page S44**)

Introduction of new members and visitors

Secretaries

Roll call

Report

Treasurer’s Report

Registrar’s Report

Archivist’s Report

Webmaster’s Report

Standing Committee Reports:

-Accessibility

-Archives

-Cooperation with the Professional Community

-Grapevine

-Public Information

-Website

-Western Mass Round Up

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Ad Hoc Committee's Report(s)

Invited Committee's Reports:

- Institutions
- Western Mass Intergroup
- Berkshire Intergroup
- Western Mass Young People

District Reports:

- District One
- District Two
- District Three
- District Four
- District Five
- District Six

Delegate's Remarks

Alternate Delegate's Remarks

Area Chair Remarks

Old Business:

New Business:

Closing- I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that: I am responsible.

Motion: To change or insert red corrections to the following "Area 31 Service Committee Agenda"
All in favor-passes

Additions to Area 31 History

-To be discussed at next month's Area meeting. Review for anything missed.

Area 31 Chairperson closed the meeting at 9:38PM with the Responsibility Declaration.
The next Area 31 meeting will take place on 02/11/2015 at 7:30pm.