

Area 31 Committee Meeting – February 11, 2015

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	Karl H										
ACCESSIBILITY CO-CHAIR	Pauline D		✓								
ARCHIVES CHAIR	Keith M	✓	✓								
ARCHIVES CO-CHAIR	Dani P	✓	✓								
CPC CHAIR	Mike S	✓	✓								
CPC CO-CHAIR	Steve M	✓									
GRAPEVINE CHAIR	Ray L	✓									
GRAPEVINE CO-CHAIR	Tiffany C		✓								
P.I. CHAIR	Mark C	✓	✓								
P.I. CO-CHAIR	Brennan M	✓	✓								
WEBSITE CHAIR	Mary M	✓	✓								
WEBSITE CO-CHAIR	Sally S	✓	✓								
<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>	✓	✓								
ROUND UP CHAIR	Bill R		✓								

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<i>ROUND UP CO-CHAIR</i>	<i>Cheryl</i>												
WMYPAA CHAIR	Tom H												
<i>WMYPAA Co-CHAIR</i>	<i>Joey L</i>	✓	✓										
District 1 DCM	Katherine T		✓										
District 1 Co-DCM	Bruce C	✓											
District 2 DCM	Mike R	✓	✓										
District 2 CO-DCM	Janis A	✓											
<i>District 2 LCM</i>													
District 3 DCM	Connell Mc	✓	✓										
District 3 CO-DCM	Mike L	✓	✓										
District 4 DCM	Patricia K												
District 4 CO-DCM	Ruby R												
District 5 DCM	Robert W	✓	✓										
District 5 CO-DCM	Angie Mc		✓										
<i>District 5 LCM</i>													
District 6 DCM	Wayne M	✓	✓										
District 6 CO-DCM	Erick M	✓											
<i>District 6 LCM</i>													
Quorum =18	* only votes to make/break a tie	24	23										

Secretary's Report:

- ⌚ Secretary read the old and new business from the January 14, 2015 Area 31 meeting minutes.
Motion: To accept the secretaries report- passes.

Treasurer's Report:

Area treasurer absent. Information submitted electronically and not shared with the Area.

- ⌚ Beginning January Balance: \$9,645.35; Group Contributions: \$1,043.40; Total Area Expenses: (\$3,182.06); Closing January Balance: \$6,006.69 plus Prudent Reserve: \$7,500 = \$13,506.69 Total Funds Available.
- ⌚ Further comments:
 - Contributions in January 2015 decreased by \$2,214.25 from contributions in January 2014. There were 20 contributions made in January 2015. There were 38 in January 2014.

Registrar's Report:

- ⌚ All new positions have been entered into FNV
- ⌚ There are currently 303 groups listed as either "active" or "unknown"... some of the "unknowns" are really inactive groups but do not have a contact to verify. Has confirmed that the group is indeed inactive, but they don't show up on the group info sheet.
- ⌚ New group information sheets for the DCM's available.
- ⌚ The Registrar will be attending NERAASA and will share experience with other registrar's around the region.
- ⌚ Group information changes can be sent to registrar@area31AA.org or 860-508- 7171.

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Area Archivist Report:

- ⌚ On Saturday 1/17/15 there was an Archives Service Day. The Archives office was open from 9am-1pm.
- ⌚ Another Archives Service Day scheduled 2/14/15 from 9am-1pm.
- ⌚ 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:

- ⌚ 2 grps represented
- ⌚ Accessibility display boards to be created.
- ⌚ A list of people needing help/assistance to be updated.
- ⌚ Looking to generating interest in the committee. Suggested going to the Districts and Intergroup.

Archives:

- ⌚ 9 members in attendance
- ⌚ A bin with Young Peoples info from the 80's (Westfield State College) was brought in for review.
- ⌚ Archives boards to go to Scrambled Eggs 3/29 and the Spring Assembly 3/28.
- ⌚ Cassette transfer ongoing. Due to this being very time consuming, it was encouraged that all committee members be taught how to do this.

CPC:

- ⌚ 11 people in attendance including 2 new members.
- ⌚ CPC focus was on upcoming commitments to Elms College and how contact are being handled and documented.
- ⌚ A new position, Contact Manager, was voted on, created and filled. A spreadsheet of all contact and status will be gathered and shared. Contacts will be passed around at the committee meetings were someone will follow up with the contact they take.
- ⌚ Presented a mock presentation.
- ⌚ The sponsor your doctor pamphlets were brought to the meeting. Reps were encouraged to take and bring back to their home groups.
- ⌚ Homework assignment given to all reps to see how parts 7 & 8 of CPC presentation could be better presented. To be discussed at the next meeting.

Grapevine:

- ⌚ 11 Grapevine reps
- ⌚ New Grapevine reps were given new rep kits.
- ⌚ Encouraged GVRep's to see the DCM's and made a date(s) to visit for February and March. Looking to increase awareness.
- ⌚ Reviewed the role of a GVRep.
- ⌚ Informed GVRep's of the subscription costs, \$29 yr or \$54 2yrs.

Public Information:

- ⌚ 4 new PI members
- ⌚ Discussion of our Baystate commitment around giving PI presentation to individual patients who were unable to attend the general presentation for accessibility reasons but wanted to know about PI.

Website Committee:

- ⌚ Reviewed the presentation of December edits to the Website Pamphlet and suggested ore changes for edit, and review next month.
- ⌚ Reviewed the 2015 Agenda Items

Western Mass Round Up:

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- ⌚ A check for \$5,318.16 was unable to be deposited. A new account to be established and after speaking with GSO on how to go about doing this by either a Federal ID/or social security number the chair volunteered to attach the account to his social security number.
- ⌚ Save the date in Spanish and English for registration and for NERAASA to be made and distributed.
- ⌚ Program revised
- ⌚ Hard copy of the program outline reflecting changes was given to Chair.
- ⌚ Event to be held at the LaQuinta on June 6th & 7th, 2015.

Ad Hoc Committee's Report(s)

Redistricting Committee Meeting:

- ⌚ In 1977 when Area 31 first districted, there were 5 districts serving 75 groups. District 2 was modified in 1991, forming District 6. The Area had 262 groups with 12 DCM's. Currently the Area still has 12 DCM's serving 303 groups (Active and unknown). Information is still being gathered from the area and the Registrar has been visiting the Districts to receive input. There seems to be a lot of interest in the project. DCM's who are interested are encouraged to attend.

Invited Committees

Institutions:

- ⌚ 5 new Institution Reps.
- ⌚ Treasurers report: total donations \$1391.67, expenses \$350.00 – ending balance for book purchase \$855.92.
- ⌚ BTG Report- none

Berkshire Intergroup (BIG):

- ⌚ No report

Western Mass Intergroup:

- ⌚ If your group participated in the phone coverage, please be available for your time slot. Always looking for members to 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. (413)237-6667 if interested.
- ⌚ Pay pal available if interested in purchasing literature.

WMYPAA:

- ⌚ Elections February 14. The meeting is at 11:30am at 474 Pleasant St. Holyoke.
- ⌚ Event: 3/14 @ St. Andrew's Church, Longmeadow 6:30-8:45pm with Archives Committee and WM MSCYPAA Bid. Pasta dinner \$10 with 2 speaker meeting.
- ⌚ "Western MA AA – The Early Years!" flier will be at the Intergroup office.
- ⌚ WM MSCYPAA Bid- held elections, positions still available (Arts & Liaison)

MSCYPPAA:

- ⌚ Elected new events chair, outreach chair and new Area 31 liaison.
- ⌚ MSCYPPAA V-day Dance to be held at the Lion Lutheran Church. Meeting at 7 and dance at 8:30. Admission \$10.

DISTRICT REPORTS:

District 1:

- ⌚ 11 GSR's in attendance.
- ⌚ GSR's shared their groups' activities.

District 2:

- ⌚ No report. Meeting did not happen due to snow storm.

District 3:

- ⌚ 14 groups represented.
- ⌚ In the "Wins and Concerns" section of the meeting, one group reported that they read the pamphlet on Sponsorship when they reach the 12th step in their 12&12 study. Another group brought up the topic of safety in AA, especially for our women members and "13th stepping."
- ⌚ In the "Circle Back" discussion to last month's topic: many groups reported that they are purchasing copies of the Many

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Paths to Spirituality pamphlet for their racks and some are using the pamphlet in their meeting about the second step.

- ⌚ In the “Topic of Focus” this month the members read and discussed some of the approved revisions to the literature from the 2014 Final Report from the GSC: If You Are a Professional, A Message to Corrections Professionals, Alcoholics Anonymous page xi Preface.
- ⌚ At the end of the meeting the DCM reiterated certain topics for the GSR’s to bring back to their group business meetings.
- ⌚ The next meeting will discuss Safety in AA.

District 4:

- ⌚ No report.

District 5:

- ⌚ No report.

District 6:

- ⌚ 24 in attendance.
- ⌚ Updated group information forms.

Delegate’s Remarks:

- ⌚ Northeast Regional Alcoholic Anonymous Service Assembly (NERAASA) a great weekend to get together with people from the Northeast Region who are doing what you’re doing (GSR, DCM, Area Committee members, Intergroup, and Central Office Representatives of the Northeast Region) to discuss General Service Conference related issues and concerns affecting AA as a whole as well as pertinent aspects of recover, unity, and service common in all the areas of the Northeast Region. It’s an opportunity to hear how others who have your position are doing and to learn more on how the General Service Office works over 12 months and to discuss what the issues are for this April.
A few topics to be discussed:
 - Considering a membership survey, which 3 groups in Area 31 participated in 2014, from print activity to a digital format?
 - Anonymity and the lack of diversity in AA
 - Panel about literature- the topics will be the potential for the creation of a book of the 36 principals- 12 Steps, 12 Traditions and 12 Concepts
 - Literature for transgender and gender and non-conforming AA’s
 - Possibility of creating literature on individual safety.
 - There will be a presentation by a GSR from Area 31 on the topic of, "Should there be a book of General Service Conference presentations put together?" At the same panel: Should the GSC presentations recordings be made available? Should there be the creation of a pamphlet for Bridging the Gap in corrections.
 - Workshop on the traditions- Q’s-Is singleness of purpose relevant anymore? Social media, is anonymity helping or hindering? Should we continue to avoid public controversy?In 12 months we’ll be hosting NERAASA and it’s an opportunity to see what they’re doing.
Next meeting of the NERAASA 2016 will be 2/26@7pm at the Sheraton in Springfield, MA
- ⌚ At the International Convention, the Northeast will be hosting a hospitality suite. If interested in greeting in the suite sign up with her.
- ⌚ On 5/29 & 5/30 The Northeast Regional Forum (NERD) will be held in Albany, NY. designed to be a weekend of sharing and information sessions designed to help the General Service Board, AAWS inc., the Grapevine Corporate Board, the Grapevine staff and the General Service Office staff to stay in touch with AA members, Trusted Servants, and newcomers to service throughout AA service structure. Held every two years.
- ⌚ If you are a DCM and looking for literature to discuss with the GSR’s, check out the new literature–Circle of Love and Service.

Alternate Delegate Remarks:

- ⌚ 2015 Mass State Convention-Save the date to be held 11/ 6, 7 & 8, 2015.
- ⌚ 2015 Mass State Convention planning meeting to be held 2/3 and critiques were reviewed from the 2014 Convention. Of those surveyed, 97% were satisfied by the welcoming at the registration, and 99% stated that the topics were appropriate. These topics were generated by the General Service Conference which was: Diversity in AA, Safety and Respect, Safeguarding Our Traditions, and Inventory.

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As program chair for the Mass State Convention 2015, we will be looking for volunteers to step up to be chairs or presenters at the 2015 Convention.

- ⌚ As Alternate Delegate he will be attending NERD with the Delegate.
- ⌚ He is available to provide a GSR presentation to Districts if interested.

Area Chair Remarks:

- ⌚ Mini Conference to be held 3/28-29/2015. Feedback and discussion on topics discussed on 3/28 at the Mini Conference will provide helpful discussions for the Delegate to take with her to the General Service Conference late April. The business meeting will be held on 3/29; from 1-5pm. DCM's and Area Committees will have 3 minutes to share what has happened in their meetings since the Fall Assembly.

Old Business:

- ⌚ none

New Business:

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

(Located on pg 19 in the Handbook) (Each line will be voted on, one at a time)

Additions to Area 31 History

- 2010 In January, the Area 31 Committee began exploring the need and scope of creating a Finance Committee. In June of this year a motion was made and passed to establish an Area 31 Finance Committee.

Motion:

All in favor - passes

- 2011 The first meeting of the Area 31 Finance Committee was held in December of this year.

Motion:

All in favor - passes

Dave E. and Tanya E. Past Delegates from Area 17 Hawaii moved to Area 31

Motion:

Motion: 12-2 doesn't pass

- 2012 The Area 31 Website went live in March. It was the final of 93 Area Websites to be registered with the General Service Office.

Motion:

All in favor - passes

The Website Committee was voted in as a Standing Committee and the WMYPAA as an Invited Committee. These were adopted at the Fall Assembly.

Motion:

All in favor - passes

A GSR presentation was passed at the Fall Assembly. The presentation was adopted and used at the 2014 Fall Assembly.

Motion: tabled

The Archives Committee donated excess Grapevine Magazines to Area 48 Archives after a flood destroyed their archives.

Motion:

All in favor - passes

- 2013 in April, Area 31 was awarded the NERAASA 2016 bid at the General Service Conference.

Motion:

All in favor - passes

Also at the Conference, Bob W. past Panel 52 Delegate was elected to serve as Trustee at Large U.S. for a four year term.

Motion:

All in favor - passes

At the Fall Assembly the Area 31 Webmaster was voted in as a non-voting, non-rotating, position appointed by the Area 31 Chair.

Motion:

All in favor - passes

Motion: Cancelling the March Area meeting.

Motion: 2-14

Motion doesn't pass.

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Area 31 Chairperson closed the meeting at 9:56PM with the Responsibility Declaration.
The next Area 31 meeting will take place on 03/11/2015 at 7:30pm.