

Area 31 Committee Meeting – December 9, 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	Dick	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓	
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	Tom							✓		✓	✓
INSTITUTIONS CHAIR	Andy D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
<i>INSTITUTIONS Co-CHAIR</i>	<i>Rich J</i>	✓	✓	✓					✓		
ROUND UP CHAIR	Cheryl		✓			✓					✓
<i>ROUND UP CO-CHAIR</i>				✓	✓						
WMYPAA CHAIR	Lena							✓			
<i>WMYPAA Co-CHAIR</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
District 1 DCM	Katherine T		✓		✓	✓	✓				
District 1 Co-DCM	Bruce C	✓		✓			✓			✓	✓
District 2 DCM	Mike R	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
District 2 CO-DCM	Janis A	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
District 3 DCM	Connell Mc	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
District 3 CO-DCM	Mike L	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
District 4 DCM	Patricia K			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
District 4 CO-DCM	Steve C			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
District 5 DCM	Robert W	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
District 5 CO-DCM	Angie Mc		✓	✓							✓
<i>LCM</i>	<i>Renee</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	28	23	24	24	23	21	22	26

Area 31 Committee Meeting – December 9, 2015

Secretary's Report:

- Secretary read the old and new business from the August 12, 2015 Area 31 meeting minutes.
Motion: To accept the secretaries report- passes.

Treasurer's Report:

- Beginning November Balance: \$4,685.52; Group Contributions: \$1,410.00; Total Area Expenses: (\$2,821.01); Closing November Balance: \$3,274.51 plus Prudent Reserve: \$7,500 = \$10,774.51 Total Funds Available.
- Further comments:
 - Contributions in November 2015 decreased by \$1,041.48 from contributions in November 2014. There were 30 contributions made in November 2015. There were 41 in November 2014. Contributions November 2015 YTD decreased by \$2,261.53 from contributions in November 2014 YTD.

Registrar's Report:

- Not present. Reported to Secretary that he would be contacting DCM's in January.

Area Archivist Report:

- Not much to report.

Webmaster:

- If any committee or district reports are missing please send an email, webmaster@area31aa.org, with the missing document and I will post it.
- I have rewritten the webmail instructions on the website, they can be found at <http://area31aa.org/email>
- Any incoming chairs that have questions on the use of the Area 31 email in-boxes please contact me at webmaster@area31aa.org and I would be glad to help you get up and running. I have started the process of converting to the next version of Drupal, (our website software) which will make it more mobile friendly. This may be a while in development as I have found that the 'Calendar' module is still being modified to work with this latest version of Drupal. My intention is to do as much as I can in preparation but it will not be made live until that last, most important piece is finished.

Accessibility:

- No report.

Archives:

- 10 members
- Achievements for the year included: met monthly, the Archives boards were displayed @ 18 group anniversaries, two assembly's, the Mass State Convention, the Round Up, two combined events with WMYPAA, and the small boards even traveled to the International Convention of AA in Atlanta GA. A working night was held with all sorts of filing cataloging, and inventory taking. An action plan was developed to move forward with the Group History project. It was discovered that of the 300 groups in the valley, only 75-80 or less than 1/3 have completed histories on file.
- As DCM, I attended last years' NERAASA. I was able to learn from the 'round tables' that were held. Discussion many of the same topics that we are concerned with here in Area 31.
- Looking to the future, there is much work still to be done. Continue with the ever persistent Tapes/CD's project. Establish a collection policy for our Digital project. A move forward to the scanning of archived documents. As well as continuing ongoing works. Always remembering that just as important as old collections is what's being produced today. These will be tomorrow's archives.

CPC:

- No report.

Grapevine:

- Massachusetts is 20% up on Grapevine sales and placed #15 so far. The challenge will continue until the end of December 2015.

Public Information:

- All service commitments covered.
- Mock, Public Information presentation of a Non AA Meeting, usually from volunteer familiar with School or IOP Presentations.

Area 31 Committee Meeting – December 9, 2015

Website Committee:

- A PDF of the website pamphlet will be added to the website for download
- Passwords to the Website –A folder including Drupal, control panel passwords and e-mail re-sets, etc with information on how to use them which were previously passed on to the Area chair only, will now be passed on to the Area Chair and the Website Committee Chairs. There were problems with the previous plan as it was noted that the current Area Chair never received this information when he took his current position 2 yrs ago.
- Area Handbook – conversation began around how to handle and track changes if/when the Handbook is posted on the website. We will continue to consider ideas as the Handbook nears completion.
- NERAASA – the committee had some conversation around the upcoming event/round-tables.
- New e-mail access instructions are on the website
- In January at the Area Meeting, a list of e-mail addresses and access instructions will be provided to all the new DCM's and Committee Reps.

Western Mass Round Up:

- Round Up will be held next year, May 20, 21 and 22. A three day event at the LaQuinta in Springfield. The cost is \$115 a night up till 4/20/16. Rooms are going fast. Save the date fliers are available.
The theme for 2016 will be 'Connecting with the Newcomer, Others and AA as a Whole' 'Our Spiritual Way of Life through the Steps, Traditions and Concepts'.
- Job descriptions worked on 1/3rd have been written.
- Treasury worked out regarding prudent reserve.

Ad Hoc Committee's Report(s)

Invited Committees

Institutions:

- Treasurer's report: total donations \$1,389.47 expenses \$345.51 – ending balance for book purchase \$1,049.96.
- BTG Report- no report
- Liaison Report- Jerry gave report, quiet month. A letter from Psych Unit at Providence but they will need to revise and send another, mercy hospital wants to add meetings but they need to send a letter.

Berkshire Intergroup:

- No report

Western Mass Intergroup:

- New slate of officers nominated.
- 2nd annual holiday party will be held on Saturday 12/19/15 from 1-3 @ 474 Pleasant Street.
- Annual Christmas Alkathon will kick off on 12/24 @ 6pm – 12/25 @ 6pm.

WMYPAA:

- No report.

MSCYPAA:

- No report.

DISTRICT REPORTS:

District 1:

- No report

District 2:

- No report

District 3:

- 14groups represented.
- District 3 voted to ask the Area Committee to come up a concise (no more than half a page) list of highlights of what the Area does for AA in Western Mass. Something along the lines of GSO's Seventh Tradition Factsheet would help AA groups understand the importance of contributing to the Area.
- Our next meeting is 12/18 and we will spend most of our meeting time looking at the 2014 Survey. District 3 has a display board for it and 20 copies of the survey. We'll go over the information and discuss its implications. Though all AA's are always invited to the District, we're reaching out to all members to invite them to attend what should be an interesting meeting.

Area 31 Committee Meeting – December 9, 2015

- The display boards will be available to the Area and other districts to use.

District 4:

- 14 people in attendance.

District 5:

- 22 GSR's and Alternate GSR's.

District 6:

- Held 2nd workshop in Enfield. 40 people in attendance.
- District 6 encouraged Alt GSR's from group to attend the District meeting. This has increased numbers at the District meeting.

Delegate's Remarks:

- Follow up to District 3's report for '*a concise (no more than half a page) list of highlights of what the Area does for AA in Western Mass*'. The work that the Area committee does is to: Educate groups and members about the General Service Structure of Alcoholics Anonymous, and how Alcoholics Anonymous works as a whole. This committee does that through, the districts, the DCM's, to the GSR's and this committee also supports the work of six committees and several invited committees that collectively do the work to carry the message of hope to specific groups and organizations in the following ways. Cited examples. Stated she would be willing to share this directly to District 3 at its next meeting.
- Membership survey discussed. In the face of flat or declining participation in Alcoholic Anonymous, ultimately we need to return to our primary purpose of carrying the message in the face of ignorance of who we are and what we do. We nothing to do than to keep doing what we are doing.
- Followed up on the Grapevine competition. Massachusetts is #13 and the year is not out, 24% increase in subscriptions. Missouri is in the lead at 46% increase in subscriptions. Behind CT by 4 points, RI increase of 44.5%. Go get your prescriptions.

Alternate Delegate Remarks:

- NERAASA, 2016 - Save the date: 2/26-28/2016.
- If moving into another service position, hit the ground running. Be prepared!

Area Chair Remarks:

- Area Commitment: Do or Die Group, 12/30/15 @ 7pm@ 181 Elm St., East Longmeadow, MA
- Spring Assembly /Mini Conference- date to be set for Early April. Topics to include agenda items for the General Service Conference.

Old Business:

- Budget- presented with three possible scenarios. Requirement of a 2/3rd vote to move money from prudent reserve to the budget. Prudent reserve requirement is 3-6 months to operate.

Motion: Implement scenario A

2nd

Motion passes unanimously.

- There were 3 motions overlooked from the Handbook committee.

Website: Is responsible for the layout and content of the Area 31 General Service website (area31aa.org) as well as the development and implementation of policies and procedures that ensure the material posted on the website adheres to AA traditions and principles.

Motion passes

Page 23:

Under Sub-head "INVITED COMMITTEES" insert text:

Western Massachusetts Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous (WMYPAA): The committee is comprised of men and women who combine their experience, strength and hope in order to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety. All alcoholics are welcome and encouraged to participate, enhance their sobriety, and to be of service to Area 31. WMYPAA's primary goal is derived from A.A.'s three legacies. We strive to:

- a. Support young alcoholics in their recovery
- b. Promote unity among alcoholics of all ages
- c. Encourage young members of A.A. to participate in A.A.'s General Service Structure

Any member of Alcoholics Anonymous is welcome to attend WMYPAA committee meetings. Anyone in attendance at a WMYPAA committee meeting may consider himself or herself a member of WMYPAA, and therefore may participate in discussion and voting procedures.

Motion passes

Area 31 Committee Meeting – December 9, 2015

Page 26:

Insert Text:

The Webmaster: provides maintenance of the Website, including updating information and implementing changes in the presentation of information posted. The Webmaster assigns and maintains user ID's and passwords for e-mail and secure access to the website. The Webmaster registers the site's domain, shops for the best value of services provided for the Website, and ensures that the information provided on the site is by AA, for AA and about AA. Any request to post information that is determined to be questionable by the Webmaster will be submitted to the Website Committee for review.

The Webmaster works with and assists the Website Chair as necessary.

The Webmaster can delegate tasks to the Website committee members as needed.

Suggested Qualifications:

- The Area 31 Webmaster should have a reasonable period of sobriety (suggested minimum 3 years), Area service experience, and good organizational skills.
- Strong computer skills are essential to this position, including experience setting up and maintaining Websites.
- The Webmaster should have a strong understanding of AA's Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts for World Service, and good judgment about what constitutes appropriate material for the Website.

Friendly amendment to the motion: The Webmaster is appointed by the Area Chair, non-rotating and doesn't have a vote.

Motion: Passes with friendly amendment

Motion: To make changes to Registrar and Archivist positions

The Registrar and Archivist – These positions are appointed by the Area Chair, are non-rotating and doesn't have a vote.

Motion: passes

Motion: To enter Anne Frye's name (rotating out Delegate) in new 2016 Area Handbook.

Motion: passes

These changes will be updated in the Web. 100 copies will be presented at the next Area meeting for review.

- Request from September, 2015 Area Meeting- to review Area motions from 2013 regarding sharing any information generated by the Area to other Areas.

Motion: Area Handbook to be used by other Areas.

(There was a prior motion in 2013-)

Motion: Any information generated by Area 31 to be shared to other Areas.

2nd

Motion: passes

New Business:

- Motion: Request from District 3 a concise description of what the Area does for Western Mass.

Passes

Action Plan:

A simple document describing what the Area does, who's going to do it (?) (Area Chair to possibly get an AdHoc committee together) and looking for a ½ page. Referred to the pamphlet of the 7th Tradition-Where does your money go?

Area 31 Chairperson closed the meeting at 9:24PM with the Responsibility Declaration.

The next Area 31 meeting will take place on 1/13/2015 at 7:30pm.