

Called to order 15 February 2017 7:30 PM

Secretary's Report:

- Old Business
None

- New Business
- Discussion about not breaking into groups, but rather have the attendees all be in the same room and collect an area conscience as a whole group. This will allow our Delegate to listen to all peoples remarks concerning the agenda items of the conference.
- Ad-hoc committee to be created to look into a venue change for the area meetings and Assemblies.
- Discussion regarding the contribution from Berkshire Intergroup.

Treasurer's Report:

- Beginning January Balance: \$9,772.11; Group Contributions: \$4,135,067; Total Area Expenses: (\$6,896.49); Closing January Balance: \$7,011.29 plus Prudent Reserve: \$8,500 = \$15,511.29 Total Funds Available.
- Further comments:
 - Contributions in January 2017 increased by \$688.02 from contributions in January 2016. There were 43 contributions made in January 2017. There were 42 in January 2016 . Contributions in January 2017 YTD increased by \$688.02 from contributions in January 2016 YTD.

Registrar's Report:

- Busy past couple of months.
- The new info I received today will be sent to GSO.
- If you are in a new position you will be receiving your packets.

- Group information can be sent to me via e-mail at registrar@area31aa.org or by phone at (860)508-7171.

In Service,

Area Registrar

Area Archivist Report:

- Archives has space issues
- Considering putting info on usb drives
- Old paperwork that there are more than 2 copies of we will be shredding.
- Working on thinning out the archives room.

Submitted by
Archivist/Area 31

Webmaster:

- No report

Accessibility:

- We have added another commitment. Keystone Common.
- MCSC facility. After a CORY check people are being taken out.
- The voice mail feature on our hotline is now working.
- Pamphlets are on the back table.

Archives:

- Small meeting this month.
- We tabled a motion on sponsoring a trip to the Wilson House due to a lack of members at the meeting.
- Grapevine used our laminating machine.
- Made some progress on the boards.
- If a home group has an anniversary they can request the boards.
- We brought our boards to Trials and Smiles anniversary.

CPC:

- Commitment at the Phoenix house went well. Q & A afterwards and they liked the Sponsor your Doctors Packets and plan to have us back yearly to speak to the new case workers.
- Visited District 5 to talk about what the CPC committee does.
- Brought boards to the District 5 workshop, and available for other events as well upon request.
- Meeting with Al Anon rep to discuss Round-up.

Grapevine:

- Low attendance
- New phone app available for different devices.
- The 7 minute audio program still continues. To find out more, contact us or Grapevine.
- Looking for a project for the committee to do this year.
- Workshop coming up, stay tuned.

Public Information:

- 14 People attended on Valentine's Day for the monthly meeting.
- Issues with people signing up but not showing up. Communicate the importance of reliability to members.
- Participated in first live radio show at STCC
- Westfield HS commitment done.
- Somers HS sent letters thanking us for the commitment.
- Have a secretary.
- Sponsor a rack. (Home group)

Website Committee:

- A member from the Berkshires conveyed some confusion there regarding the 3 websites: WM Intergroup, Berkshire Intergroup and Area 31. (They use the websites more for the meeting list than for gathering AA events and other information.
- We invite all to join us at our meeting on the 4th Wednesday of the each month.
- Our committee is available to go to groups to explain our website.

Western Mass Round Up:

- June 9,10 and 11 at la Quinta in Springfield.
- Hospitality will have their own room this year.
- Will not have meetings scheduled during lunch this year.
- \$115 per night this year for the hotel.
- Alanon has a rep at the committee.
- We will have a registration table at the Area Assembly.
- 7:30 Friday evening start.
- We are accepting donations for coffee, books, and cash.

Ad Hoc Committee's Report(s)

Area Inventory Ad-Hoc Committee

- We redistributed our questionnaires at the last Area meeting. We asked you to think about your answers so we did not expect them back that night. We asked you to get them to a committee member.
To minimize confusion, we now ask that you send them to the co-chair of the website committee's personal email address if you are submitting them electronically. Any of the committee members would be happy to accept hard copies.
- At the last meeting we reviewed the responses we have received so far: Two from standing committees, three from DCMs, and some from GSRs which were returned to their DCMs.
- This isn't much data. We are hoping to get 3, (one immediate past and two current) from each standing committee. Hopefully you have brought it today. If you need a new one, I have one.
- To summarize what we have from the few so far:

NERAASA as a great learning opportunity-even though Area 31's structure is a little different.

Using the website as a tool for researching past practices and communication.

An overwhelming sense of love for AA: ...tell groups how much we need them. We need their voice/vote. We are AA together. Service work isn't politics, it is AA members trying to keep AA alive.

Trustee Dinner Ad Hoc Committee final report.

- It was a well-attended event. Money was collected for 118 meals and 115 were served.
- Collected a total of \$4,130
- Paid East Mountain Country Club \$3,025
- Reimbursed the area the \$1000 for seed money and also contributed the extra funds of \$105 in a check presented to the Area for \$1,105 tonight.

Invited Committees

Institutions

- Treasurer's report: total donations \$2711.80, expenses \$440.52 – ending balance for book purchase \$1577.28
- BTG reports 3 calls and 2 received rides one was a BHN rep who did not understand and it was explained..
- Liason reported Northern Hope and Franklin Recovery Center are straightened out. Sign in sheet is important.
- Received a letter about specific meetings for Northern Hope Center.
- 0 roll-outs 3 roll-ins.
- Old business.
- 1.Berkshire intergroup has a surplus of funds they would like to contribute and after a discussion and the tabled motion was brought to the floor we declined the contribution.
- 2.Berkshire Institutions asked for seed money of \$250 for a workshop that was passed.
- New Business.
- Curtis says FRC and Northern Hope has been turning away “unofficial” meetings. He spoke to Nancy and asked if he could take on meetings because he is in Institutions and she said no because he was not “officially rolled in”. Jerry says we have no say over their rules.
- Jerry received a letter from Nancy of open meeting list. At NHC there were double booked meetings. It is up to NHC and FRC whether or not they want a meeting.
- Curtis says that the Only Requirement Group was willing to temporarily fill the open meetings; however they were turned away.
- Nancy says FRC requested that all the meetings are signed up through the Institutions Committee. Any meetings that went on previously are to stop. Anyone who wants to put on a meeting must Roll In through the Institutions meeting.
- Motion to spend \$1577.28

Berkshire Intergroup:

- No report

Western Mass Intergroup:

- Did not meet in February.(snow)
- Deadline for When & Where's is March 31st at 12:30 PM

WYYPAA

- Planning on putting in a bid for New England Conference.

DISTRICT REPORTS:

District 1:

- Meeting tomorrow.
- Gained 2 new GSR's
- Lower than expected attendance
- Thinking about doing a workshop.

District 2:

- Had discussion about group members (of A womans meeting) not able to find sponsors and suggestions were to go to other meetings to find them.
- Same group also had 2 weeks without a meeting due to weather and keys.
- Neraasa was being promoted and suggested that GSR's request their Home Groups send them and pay for it.

District 3:

- The Alternate Delegate gave the GSR presentation.
- One group had an inventory and found in helpful.
- People who do not understand what is involved in a business meeting.
- Members who attended enjoyed the Trustee dinner.
- A new group had a problem with how to have a business meeting. The last one was a disaster.
- Issues with people with substantial sobriety dominating a beginners meeting discussion.

- LCM has a goal of filling the room with GSR's and other visitors.
- Discussion on how to make the District Meeting more vibrant

District 4:

- Had large turnout for a night with bad weather.
- Many new GSR's and alternates at meeting.
- Discussion on group inventories and the effectiveness of them and how and why they are done.
- Planning a workshop.

District 5:

- 13 GSR's showed up this month.
- Randall and Brimfield tri area groups celebrating anniversaries.
- So Hadley Friday night voted to compensate their GSR for Neraasa.
- Chicopee 123 is struggling with allowing a person to join their group as a Addict.
- Hear and Now struggling with contributions and rent.
- Tabled a motion to change meeting time.
- All were reminded that when they took the responsibility on the times should have been known.
- Workshop was a great success.

District 6:

- No issues within the district
- Discussed technology and social media postings. And discussed anonymity as related to those topics.
- Discussed a member who assisted with an obituary and how to describe AA without stating it directly.
- Discussed safety in AA and passed out some pamphlets.
- Looking forward to having the alternate delegate give the GSR presentation .

Delegate's Remarks

- The agenda items are in and The alternate delegate and I will be studying that.
- Neraasa is next week
- Nerf is June 2-4
- We should not be canceling meetings, it should go on and if it is attended poorly than so be it.

Alternate Delegate Remarks:

- Mass state convention Nov 11,12 and 13th.
- The next meeting for it is the last Tuesday of March.
- Will be going to districts 1,4,5 and 6 to give GSR presentations.
- The mini conference will be April 1.

Area Chair Remarks:

- Area Assembly is April 1 and 2.
- A reminder that we have a Traditions and Concepts meetings sponsored by the Area each month.
- Handbooks are out and are being handed out at the district meetins but are also at the back table.
- DCS orientation went well.
- It is your job to attend the area meetings each month and the assemblies twice a year if you are a DCM, Committee Chair or co-Chair and area officers.

Old Business:

No old business.

New Business:

- Service Commitment April 25th 5:30 Ray of Hope Group Lee,MA.
- Handed out a graph about Roberts Rules of Order.
- Created an ad-hoc committee to look into a different Venue to have our Area meetings and Assemblies.
- Discussion about whether we should accept a contribution from Berkshire Intergroup. Decided to wait and talk about it next month when someone from there is in attendance.

Meeting closed at 10:05PM.