

**AREA 31  
SPRING ASSEMBLY MINUTES  
15 APRIL 2018**

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Area Chair opened the meeting at 1:02 PM with the Serenity Prayer, and a reading from chapter 5 of the service manual.

**Quorum call**

50 voting members in attendance.

**Secretary's Report**

Secretary read old and new business from Fall Assembly 2017 and a motion was made to accept the report, seconded and passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report**

This report will capture 6 months activity from the Fall Assembly 2017 to Spring Assembly 2018

Opening balance for October 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 was **\$7,207.49**. Contributions for the past six months totaled **\$13,087.33**. Area expenses totaled **\$18,239.64**. The closing balance was **\$2,107.05** plus Prudent Reserve: **\$8,500 = \$10,607.05** Total funds available.

Our contributions have decreased over the last 6 months from Fall 2017 and Spring 2018. However, our contributions have decreased compared to the same 6 month period of 2017. Our expenses have decreased compared to the prior 6 month period (Spring '17 → Fall 2017). Our expenses have increased from the same 6 month time period (Fall 2017 → Spring 2018). Given where we are in the calendar year, we will not meet our projected goal (\$29,000) for contributions this year. We continue to educate our fellowship about the importance of the seventh tradition and the service that is being done at the District/Area and GSO levels.

**Over the last 6 months:**

- |                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| • District 1 has 27 active groups. | 8 groups made contributions for a total of \$ 668.75   |
| • District 2 has 43 active groups. | 18 groups made contributions for a total of \$2,925.01 |
| • District 3 has 69 active groups. | 13 groups made contributions for a total of \$1,650.71 |
| • District 4 has 62 active groups. | 19 groups made contributions for a total of \$2,137.04 |
| • District 5 has 59 active groups. | 19 groups made contributions for a total of \$2,385.41 |
| • District 6 has 42 active groups. | 15 groups made contributions for a total of \$2,250.18 |

\*\*(The Registrar can give more detail with regards to pending active and pending inactive groups in Area 31)

Contributions from anonymous donors - partially or unidentified groups = \$1,374.73

**\*\*Attached to this report is the 6 month financial report and a list of contributions to the Area for the last 6 months.**

Thank you for your continued support/contributions to Area 31, and thank you for this opportunity to serve Area 31

Respectfully submitted,

Treasurer Area 31

### **Registrar's Report**

As of Sunday April 15<sup>th</sup>, there were a total of 482 groups that have been registered in Area 31. 314 active groups, 146 inactive groups, 7 merged groups, 1 pending inactive, and 14 unknowns.

I fully expect those numbers to change as the districts are hard at work clearing inactive groups (no longer meeting) and lighting the dark (not represented) groups. In the coming six months I hope to settle into my position and work closely with the districts, to help them change these numbers. I will be visiting district four in May.

Area 31 registrar

### **Archivist's Report**

Once again "Thank You" for the opportunity be of service to Area 31 as your Archivist. It is a privilege.

I think the next two years are going to be very productive. The Archive Chair Jerry and Co- Chair Sarah are both eager to plan events and continue to help me whenever needed.

On February 23-25, 2018, NERAASA (Northeast Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly) was held in Cromwell, CT. At the Archives Roundtable Meetings on Friday & Saturday evening Archivists & Archives Chairs from the entire Northeast Region shared their experience about their committees & their Archives. Some attendees were familiar faces some were new. These meetings always leave me filled with gratitude. We are so fortunate to have an Archives Repository that is accessible to our members and an active Archives Committee.

Within the past few months I have spent some time in the Archives Office sorting and filing. The Area 31 Group History books have been updated. The only thing left to do is index the group we have on file.

My goal this month is to put together an Archives collection of past Western MA Round UP events.

I have also been asked what we have available in Archives that could possibly be made into a display for the Western Mass Intergroup Anniversary Dinner.

Please continue to forward your monthly District and Committee Meeting minutes to me at [archivist@area31aa.org](mailto:archivist@area31aa.org) or to the area website at [area31aa.org](http://area31aa.org)

If you have any items that you would like to donate to your Archives you can contact me at the e-mail above or at 413 xxx-xxxx.

Once again please make sure ***who, what, when, where and why*** is noted on all documents being saved in our Archives.

Respectfully Submitted

Archivist Area 31

### **Webmaster's Report**

Over the course of the last six months the website committee and I have discussed the issues around the website update. I have been vacillating back and forth over moving forward with a Drupal 7 redesign (Drupal 8 is still missing the calendar module) or moving over to Wordpress. Research associated with a Wordpress design has been largely a dead end due to the lack of a flexible calendar plug-in.

Based on these facts I have been working on a Drupal 7 update that will be mobile friendly and as a part of this will be adding a new page for the Grapevine after discussions with the former and present chair. I offer the same ability for new pages to be added to all the committees who are interested in improving their presence on the Area 31 website.

One last point, I again encourage all the districts and committees to submit their minutes to [webpost@area31aa.org](mailto:webpost@area31aa.org) for posting on the website. Please submit them only in editable fashion, we will convert to PDF for you before we post.

Thank you for letting me serve.

Respectfully submitted

Area 31 Webmaster

### **Accessibilities Report**

- The Accessibilities Committee meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month.
- As chair, I am just getting comfortable in the position
- The Accessibility Hotline has received several calls including calls from members that use a walker, are undergoing chemotherapy, and have broken their leg.
- Group forms that indicate the accessibility of the group's meeting place are available from the committee
- The hearing assist equipment was brought to NERAASA in Cromwell, CT.
- A deaf member of AA from area 31 participated on a panel at NERAASA.
- The committee has had discussions regarding the quality of the American Sign Language interpretation in reference to NERAASA.
- The committee continues to bring a meeting to Mt Marie for past delegate Betty and is considering changing to a daytime meeting to better serve her needs.

Area 31 Accessibilities Chair

### **Archives Report**

- Ongoing project include: Having groups fill out the group history forms and organizing and displaying the group histories
- The committee is considering the development of a visual representation of the growth of AA in area 31 in the form of a tree.
- The area history pamphlet is being updated, currently it ends in 1988.

- An old times potluck dinner is being planned, possibly to be held in September.
- The Archives boards are going to the tri-county meeting anniversary in Brimfield.

### **C.P.C. Report**

- Presented at the Department of Mental Health Tenancy Preservation Program in Springfield.
- Presented at the Hampden County Deanery.
- Presented at the Holyoke Deanery.
- Will present at the Berkshire County House of Correction in Pittsfield on 4/26.
- The committee is working with the Round Up committee on the opening meeting at the Round Up in May.

CPC Chair

### **Grapevine Report**

- Three new Grape Vine Representatives at the last meeting.
- The Chairperson read selected passages on Grape Vine service and messaging from the Grape Vine Guide.
- The April issue id the Jail/Treatment issue with the theme "Just Released. What Now?"
- Suggested reading story on page 46 "A Happy Tale".
- The committee recommends the everybody subscribe to the Grape Vine.
- The Grape Vine Display Boards went to the "Scramble Eggs" group anniversary on 3/25.
- The Grape Vine Display Boards are going to the "Holyoke" group anniversary on 4/29 at 7:30 pm.
- It remains to be determined when the display boards will go to the Berkshires.
- The Grape Vine committee co-chairperson attended "Grape Jam of the North 2018" hosted by Area 11.
- Possible date for the Grape Vine Committee Workshop is Saturday 9/22 at 474 Pleasant St in Holyoke. The program will may include: best of Workshop with ideas from Area 11's Grape Jam, music, food, bands.
- Joe K, a deaf AA, had his story reviewed and the Grape Vine Committee chair will edit the story for submission to the Grape Vine.

Grapevine Chair

### **P.I Report.**

#### On-going work of Public Information

We currently have approximately 10 commitments every month. This number varies because we go out to facilities on a variety of timelines: weekly, monthly, bi-monthly, tri-monthly, twice or once a year.

- (3) Radio Show  
Western MA Correctional
- (3) Adcare Out Patient  
Start Program Outpatient
- (2) First Offender Aftercare
- (2) Second Offender Aftercare
- Recovery High School
- Westfield High School

## Somers High School

Since there are a lot of slots to fill each month (each commitment needs at least 2 members) we have an ongoing campaign to solicit new members. (see flyer on the board at our table) This is important to do because new members need to shadow commitments in order to become familiar with the PI presentation before they can chair a meeting.

### Old and New Business

- The Anonymity Workshop In November had great participation with good, constructive discussion generated on the topic. It was an overall success.

- Posters We still have posters to be distributed and need to check in on where they are currently posted: 13 at Westfield State, 10 at STCC and 10 at HCC. A few former members of PI took posters to place in other facilities.

Literature Racks We have 5 racks for which we have yet to find homes. I spoke to someone yesterday who is affiliated with the VA hospital about placing a rack there and possibly putting on a PI presentation there in the near future.

NERAASA Lots of ideas such as:

- Public Service Announcements

- Internet platforms such as Tap and The Patch (anonymity and affiliation)

- Placemats w/ QR code

- Elderly as a growing demographic- some districts have formed committees

Round-up PI has a service commitment at the Round-up in May  
Our meeting will be on Saturday at 10:00am with the topic Honest, Open and Willing

Radio Show A committee member recently suggested we find a way to make the radio show accessible to a broader audience so, working with the program director at the radio station and our area webmaster, an mp3 link for both the PI and CPC shows will now be available on the Area 31 website. It will soon be on the Intergroup website as well. We're so appreciative of the efforts of the Radio Station and our Webmaster to make this possible.

### Shout-outs:

We have a new Co-chair- Carol who comes to PI with a lot of experience as she was Chair of CPC prior to joining PI.

Also, starting in January we have a new secretary- Kyle. The job of secretary for PI is very important since there are a lot of moving parts, so I appreciate Kyle's patience all with changes to the agenda.

I'd also like to give a shout out to our long-standing members of PI who gladly make themselves available to show up for commitments.

Finally, I appreciate all the new members who have made an enthusiastic contribution to the work of our committee.

Pi Chair

### **Website Committee Report**

- The Website committee is concerned with the content found at [area31aa.org](http://area31aa.org), the Area's service-oriented website.
- Both the chair and co-chair are new to their positions and are just learning what their positions require of them.
- One group representative has hit the ground running by contributing their graphic design skills to the revamp of the committee's new trifold brochure that will be at the printers and available soon.
- The new Website committee display board are complete and include a preview of the new brochure.
- I have been figuring out the process of posting minutes on the website and will be working to reduce the backlog of meeting minutes that need to be posted.
- The committee would like to thank the Webmaster and the Web Editor for their continued work on the Website.

Website Chair

### **Round-Up Report**

- The Round Up committee is just about ready for the Round Up on 5/11, 12, & 13.
- Registration is available today at the Assembly.
- The delegate will give the report from the General Service Conference
- The CPC committee and AI-Anon will put on the opening meeting on Friday night.
- The 12 Traditions skit will also be presented on Friday night.
- There will be workshops on Saturday and Sunday.
- There will be an alchothon during the Round Up
- Saturday night will feature a banquet and dance
- The keynote speaker on Saturday is the current publisher of the Grape Vine Magazine.
- Information on the Round Up and how one can get involved can be found at the area website: [area31aa.org](http://area31aa.org).

Round-up chair

### **Berkshire Intergroup**

No report.

### **Institutions Report**

- The open meeting list has fewer open meetings available.
- The amount of money being donated to the committee has been tremendous.
- The Cybulski Correctional Institute in Somers, CT is looking for male members willing to sponsor inmates.
- Possibly attending the AA corrections convention held in Maine this coming November,
- The committee can be reached by the area email address: [institutions@area31aa.org](mailto:institutions@area31aa.org).

- The committee has a workshop at the Round Up in May.

### **Western Mass Intergroup Report**

- The Western Mass Intergroup Provides the following services:
  1. Fully Staffed bookstore
  2. 24 hour informational and crisis hot line
  3. Website with online meeting list
  4. Monthly intergroup meeting
  5. Area 31 Meeting List
  6. Bookie exchange meeting to allow groups to set up incoming and outgoing commitments
  7. An FYI newsletter
  8. Worldwide Shipping Program
- The Intergroup will be hosting an anniversary meeting for its 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary on June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 474 Pleasant St. In Holyoke. The format will be a two-speaker meeting and dinner. Tickets are \$10.
- The prudent reserve for the intergroup is now held in a premium savings account.
- Book prices have increased, Hard cover big book by \$0.50. all other titles by \$0.25.

### **WMYPAA Report**

- The committee had a NECYPAA bid subcommittee
- Area 31 did not win the bid for the NECYPAA convention
- The committee has decided to make the NECYPAA bid committee a separate entity
- WMYPAA will be focusing on service and how we can help the area.
- Upcoming events include: Kickball tournament, Bonfire, and a workshop at the Round Up.
- The committee has a budget.
- Committee has a commitment at Providence detox every other Sunday.

### **NECYPAA Bid Committee Report**

- One thousand people attended the 2017 NECYPAA in Maine.
- Theme was to show how the 36 principles are important.
- Dodge ball tournament at Heritage Park in Holyoke on May 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Game Night at Rusty's Kitchen on Hampden St In Holyoke on April 29<sup>th</sup>.
- There is a secret Facebook group associated with NECYPAA.

### **District 1 Report**

- New Co-DCM elected in November 2017
- Co-DCM Stepped down in December 2017.
- New Co-DCM elected in January 2018.
- The district meeting is growing rapidly due to outreach by the DCM and the district committee members.

- Thanks to the Outgoing Area Chair and DCM for their hard work and assistance.
- New GSR Presentation was given by the Alternate Delegate
- The district is voting on a topic for its upcoming workshop
- The district will be hosting a workshop at the Area 31 Round Up in May.

District 1 Co-DCM

### **District 2 Report**

- Elected a new Co-DCM
- Elected an LCM
- Elected a secretary
- Created an Ad Hoc committee to plan a joint workshop with district 4 in early June.
- District meetings were averaging 10-12 GSRs, due to the work of the LCM, the most recent district meeting had 16-17 GSRs in attendance.
- The Workshop topic for the round up was discussed at our last meeting and it will be chaired by a district GSR with two others GSRs sharing their experience.
- The Grape Vine committee will be visiting the district in May.

Thank you

DCM District 2

### **District 3 Report**

No report.

### **District 4 Report**

- GSRs have been encouraged to give group highlights only in their district reports.
- GSRs have been exploring lit and unlit groups in the district.
- A new woman's group was started on the same evening and in close proximity to an existing women's group. There were concerns regarding tradition four and any negative effects on the existing group. There are no reported issues as of this time.
- Joint workshop with district two to be held in the Florence section of Northampton.
- NERAASA DCM Roundtable topic: How do we keep GSRs engaged? Answers: Keep it short, Make the DCM reports interesting.

DCM district 4

### **District 5 Report**

- Elected new Co-DCM
- Elected new secretary
- Attendance is regularly 13 GSRs and sometimes more at the district meetings
- Eight Groups have new GSRs participating at the district meeting.
- The LCM is making progress with unlit groups by way of the bookie/exchange meeting.



- The women's "Bring Your Own Big Book" group in East Longmeadow celebrated its 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary in August and was discontinued in December.
- The Friday night Belchertown group held at the Masonic Hall has relocated to 18 Park St. (upstairs) in Belchertown as of February 2018.
- District five held a workshop in November of 2017. Topics were slogans and safety and there was a great turnout.
- Groups in the district have been using the yellow safety card but find it long. Some groups have shortened the message.
- There are a few groups in the district that have been struggling financially and attendance wise: Thursday Night Belchertown, Friday Night Belchertown, (has improved most recently) and the Here and Now Group. The Here and Now group members have been financially contributing to ensure the group is able to pay the rent.
- Brimfield Tri-Area Group will be having their 43<sup>rd</sup> anniversary on April 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Wilbraham Friday Night Group will celebrate its 63<sup>rd</sup> anniversary on May 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at the Grace Union Church.
- District five's workshop to be held on June 7 at the Devine Mercy Parish 2267 Main St. Three Rivers. The topic will be the three legacies of AA and the struggles of the district.

District 5 DCM.

### **District 6 Report**

- There were 12 GSRs and 1 visitor at the most recent district meeting.
- The Co-DCM chaired their first district meeting.
- NERAASA was well attended by the district.
- The district has a commitment at the Round Up in May.
- The Westfield Workshop was well attended.
- The district is planning two workshops this year.
- Most of the district meeting minutes have been posted to the area website.
- The LCM is working on visiting the unlit groups in the district.

DCM District 6.

### **Delegates Report**

- Thank you for the area's conscience.
- Thank you for attending NERAASA.
- Recommend getting a Service Sponsor. There are a lot of people available to ask for help.
- Delegate pre-General Service Conference luncheon with past delegates: Asked two questions of the attendees: What do you wish you knew before attending the conference? What was the biggest thing you took away from the conference?
- I am worried about the train ride.

- Past delegate Collette from panel 25(?) attended the luncheon. When she was delegate the area was struggling to set up the districts and the service committees were being formed.
- The delegate from Area 31 panel 68 is serving on the Agenda Committee. Work of the agenda committee includes: determining the theme for the 2019 conference and choosing discussion topics for areas around the world. Please consider using these topics in your upcoming district workshops.
- The keynote speaker for the Round Up has been secured. She is the current publisher of the Grape Vine.
- AA is approaching self-support mainly from online donations. Online contributions make it easier. Transactions have been more expeditious.
- YouTube Channel has new videos.
- AA is launching a smart phone app that will include the Big Book, Meeting Finder, Pamphlet of the day, and a Daily Reflection Video.

### **Alternate Delegate Report**

- Feels there is a positive spiritual presence in Area 31.
- Collette served as delegate from 1976-77.
- Thank you to WMYPAA for manning the registration table.
- Openings exist for service at the Mass State Convention held on November 9, 10, and 11. There are only three more planning meetings with two or three additional meetings on a Saturday with Area 30. Sign up today for free coffee when you go. Carpools meet at the bowling alley on Burnett Rd in Chicopee.
- The next meeting is on Tuesday May 29<sup>th</sup> and the car will leave at 6:10 pm. The remaining meetings will be in July and September.
- The traditions meeting put on by the area is now a service manual meeting. It meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm at 474 Pleasant St in Holyoke.
- There is a concepts meeting held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month also at 7:30 pm at 474 Pleasant St in Holyoke.
- A check of the archives revealed that in August 1989 there was \$387 in a "Hearing Impaired" fund to pay for American Sign Language interpretation and there was a Hearing-Impaired meeting in Chicopee.

### **Area Chair Report**

Greetings to all who are in attendance.

My first few months experience.

I have learned in these first few months that I have much to more to learn.

It is a pleasure and honor for me to serve in a position that brings me to all the committees and districts and be witness to all the work being done in our Area. It is clear that the passion and enthusiasm I have watched and felt since beginning my position is catchy and I hope a great many more can get the bug

and feel and experience what I have been able to. It seems that those who are doing this work smile awful lot. It is no coincidence I think that those who are useful are also happy.

The change this year to the location of the assembly was due to a few factors and I feel the Area as a whole should have it explained as to why this action took place.

The church that we held the assemblies for the last decade had a fire and is undergoing renovations so finding a new facility was needed.

And:

The last ten or so years that I have been involved with the Area in different roles and voting and non-voting positions, but mostly as the Area secretary the last 2 years I noticed from the monthly reporting that the districts reported between 60-70 GSRs collectively but only a little over 30 would attend the assemblies. The number of GSRs comes from the amount of voting members minus the area committee members in attendance. We seem to average around 65 or so.

The discussion at the area committee in January made it clear to find a new place and that we would rotate the assembly through the districts in the hope that group participation would increase and a greater voice out of the 300+ groups in area 31 would be heard.

It has not been decided where the fall assembly will be held or what activity will take place on the Saturday prior to it. More will be revealed.

Gratefully submitted and thank you for my sobriety

Area 31 Chair

Recount for voting =57

### **Old Business**

- Motion to replace the monthly traditions meeting with an AA service manual meeting passed.
- The Area elected new officers for Delegate, Alternate delegate, Area Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary.

### **New Business**

- Motion was made that "As a standing committee, the Round Up committee be granted to votes, one for the chairperson and one for the co-chairperson." The motion was seconded, discussed and passed with 49 yes votes. It was also decided that this change was a policy change and would have to be voted on again at the next assembly.

- It was noted that more copies of the treasurer's report and the Area Guidelines should be brought to the next assembly.
- A motion was made "To cancel the April district 6 meeting due to the assembly occurring in that month." Motion was not addressed as it was a matter for the district not the area as a whole.

The Assembly ended with the "Declaration of Unity"