# Area 31 Meeting Minutes March 13<sup>th</sup> 2019 Called to order at 7:33 PM

|                           |            | Jan | Feb | March | April | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---------------------------|------------|-----|-----|-------|-------|-----|------|------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|
| AREA<br>DELEGATE          | Mike S.    | Y   | Y   | Y     |       |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| ALTERNATE<br>DELEGATE     | Paul H.    | Υ   | Υ   | Υ     |       |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| AREA CHAIR *              | Mike B.    | Υ   | Υ   | Y     |       |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| AREA<br>TREASURER         | Karl H.    | Υ   | N   | Y     |       |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| AREA<br>SECRETARY         | Steve M.   | Υ   | Y   | Y     |       |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| AREA<br>REGISTRAR         | Sonja P.   | N   | Υ   | Y     |       |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| AREA<br>ARCHIVIST         | Bobbi P.   | Υ   | Υ   | Y     |       |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| ACCESSIBILITY<br>CHAIR    | Bob R.     | Υ   | Υ   | N     |       |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| ACCESSIBILITY<br>CO-CHAIR | Joe K.     | N   | N   | Y     |       |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| ARCHIVES<br>CHAIR         | Frank M.   | Υ   | Υ   | Y     |       |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| ARCHIVES CO-<br>CHAIR     | Sue S.     | Υ   | Υ   | N     |       |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| CPC CHAIR                 | Chris O    | Y   | Y   | Y     |       |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| CPC CO-CHAIR              | Dawn T.    | Y   | Y   | Y     |       |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| GRAPEVINE<br>CHAIR        | Tania H.   | Y   | Y   | Y     |       |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| GRAPEVINE<br>CO-CHAIR     | Renee K.   | Υ   | Y   | Y     |       |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| P.I. CHAIR                | Carol L.   | Y   | Y   | Y     |       |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| P.I. CO-CHAIR             | Michael C. | Υ   | N   | Y     |       |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| WEBSITE<br>CHAIR          | Amy G.     | Υ   | Υ   | Y     |       |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| WEBSITE CO-<br>CHAIR      | Jenny A.   | Υ   | N   | N     |       |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| WEBMASTER                 | Bob B.     | Υ   | Υ   | Y     |       |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| W. MASS IGP<br>CHAIR      | Charlie R. | Υ   | Υ   | Y     |       |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| BERK. IGP<br>CHAIR        | Mike M.    | N   | Υ   | N     |       |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| INSTITUTIONS<br>CHAIR     | Jim R.     | N   | N   | N     |       |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| INSTITUTIONS<br>Co-CHAIR  | Charlie M. | N   | N   | N     |       |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| ROUND UP<br>CHAIR         | Marion B   | N   | Υ   | Y     |       |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| ROUND UP CO-<br>CHAIR     | Mary D.    | N   | Y   | N     |       |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| WMYPAA<br>CHAIR           | Alyssa F   | N   | Υ   | Y     |       |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| WMYPAA Co-<br>CHAIR       | Kyle G.    | N   | N   | N     |       |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| District 1 DCM            | Yolanda R. | Υ   | Υ   | N     |       |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| District 1 CO-<br>DCM     | Joe B.     | N   | Υ   | Y     |       |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| District 2 DCM            | Tim G.     | Υ   | Υ   | Y     |       |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |

|                       |   | Jan | Feb | March | April | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----------------------|---|-----|-----|-------|-------|-----|------|------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|
| District 2 CO-<br>DCM | Suzanne L.                                | Y   | Υ   | Y     |       |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| District 3 DCM        | Tim M.                                    | Υ   | Υ   | Υ     |       |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| District 3 CO-<br>DCM | Joan P.                                   | N   | N   | Y     |       |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| District 4 DCM        | Anthony D.                                | Υ   | Υ   | Υ     |       |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| District 4 CO-<br>DCM | Emily C.                                  | N   | N   | N     |       |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| District 5 DCM        | Andy D.                                   | Υ   | Υ   | Υ     |       |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| District 5 CO-<br>DCM | Bill H.                                   | Υ   | Υ   | N     |       |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| District 6 DCM        | Cathy S.                                  | Υ   | Υ   | Υ     |       |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| District 6 CO-<br>DCM | John M.                                   | Υ   | Υ   | Y     |       |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| Quorum =18            | * only<br>votes to<br>make/break<br>a tie | 26  | 28  | 26    |       |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |

## **Secretary's Report:**

#### **Old Business**

- Motion made to rent a second van for NERAASA
- Motion made to cancel van if we don't have enough people
- Motion carries
- Archives looking for reimbursement of Mass State Convention expenses. It has been our precedent
- Idea brought up of putting some of our prudent reserve into a CD

#### **New Business**

- 13 people confirmed for the vans to NERAASA
- The meeting place for the vans to NERAASA will be at the Sacred Heart church at 395 Chestnut St. in Springfield at 7:00 am on February 22<sup>nd</sup>
- The website committee will continue to maintain the area handbook if the current handbook editor leaves their position
- A group inventory is the suggested solution to handle a bleeding deacon member of a club that hosts multiple meetings

## Treasurer's Report:

| Beginning January Balance: | \$<br>5,610.84  |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Group Contributions:       | \$<br>6,747.03  |
| Total Area Expenses:       | \$<br>7,263.95  |
| Closing February Balance:  | \$<br>5,136.42  |
| Plus - Prudent Reserve:    | \$<br>8,500.00  |
| Total Funds Available:     | \$<br>13,636.42 |

## Further comments:

- Contributions in January and February 2019 have increased by \$271.26 from contributions in January and February 2018.
- There were 81 contributions made in January and February 2019.
- Contributions 2019 YTD have increased by \$271.26 from contributions 2018 YTD.
- See Treasurer's spreadsheet for further detail.

# Registrar's Report:

- The old group registration system is still in place
- Will be attending the District 1 meeting this month
- DCMs are requested to call with any questions and to set up a visit to their district meeting
- Group forms are in hand and will be handed out tonight
- Discovered that the area committee chairs were not in the database, added them to the database
- District 6 had no Co-DCM in the database

# **Area Archivist Report**:

Thank you again for the opportunity to be of service. I did attend NERAASA 2019 in Maryland. Once again, the Roundtables held in the evening were very informative. In some of the other Areas the Archivist is a non-rotating position so I have seen several of the same people every year. Most Areas have a much larger budget than we do in Area 31 but most of the other Areas think that we are so fortunate to have our Committee meetings and Archives in the same building. The Archives Committee Chair and Co-Chair were in Florida so I chaired the monthly Archives Meeting. Respectfully submitted Area Archivist

#### Webmaster:

- Attended NERAASA
- Was approached by area service committees looking to make their information more obvious on the area website
- Please check the area email addresses, someone may be looking for help
- PDF document submittals are okay if they contain no personal information like last names, personal phone numbers, and personal email addresses

#### Accessibility:

- 5 members present at the February meeting
- The committee responded to three calls this month
- Members added their names to an existing list of people willing to volunteer their services to AA members needing accessibility services
- Discussion centered on the range of accessibility services and outreach
- Committee members are exploring making the hotline number for accessibility services easier to locate on the website and printing the brochure for wider distribution

#### Archives:

- The Area Archivist chaired the meeting
- The committee was informed that a new Communications Desk has been added at the General Service Office in New York
- There are 80 history forms for area 31 groups and over 400 groups, this will be addressed in the coming months
- The Archivists has found a picture of an "area tree" from New Jersey, more to follow on the "area tree" this year
- The latest on the committee's planned trip to the General Service Office is that the GSO will
  only accept 35 individuals per visit. We will have to make adjustments on transportation, too
  many people on a bus, more to follow

## CPC:

- Sending out email to potential roundup professional speaker
- Working on reaching out to nursing programs
- ~8 ppl attended yesterday's meeting
- Hoping to invite professionals to roundup meeting

## **Grapevine**:

- March issue of the Grapevine available
- It contains a great tradition 3 story
- 4 members of the committee attended NERASSA
- 6 people attended the meeting including two new GVRs
- No work was done regarding the 75th anniversary of the Grapevine celebration
- The committee is still open to working with the Berkshires, Area 30, and Area 11 Spanish language district on the celebration
- The Grapevine boards will be going to the Hand in Hand group anniversary
- Possibility of a new service position on the Committee called 'La Vina liaison' for commencing outreach in attracting Spanish members to participate on the Committee and to attract La Vina reps

## **Public Information:**

- Attended NERAASA, found that Area 31 has its act together
- 15 Members attended the last meeting
- A few people didn't show up for their commitments
- The radio shows have continued to go to the website
- The Public Information boards went to the Randall group anniversary
- The options for viewing the minutes were increased
- Successfully achieved the goal of having AA Public Service Announcements on the radio (WHLL)

#### **Website Committee:**

- 4 people and the Area Representative in attendance
- One member rolled out
- Discussed updating the boards
- The website pamphlet needs to be reprinted
- Chairperson attended NERAASA
- The accessibilities committee asked about changing the location of their hotline number on the website

# Western Mass Round Up:

- This will be the 50<sup>th</sup> Round Up
- More people are joining the committee all the time
- Members will visit all the districts with registration forms
- The committee will attend the Spring Assembly
- Area committee was asked to "Help spread the word" about the Round Up
- The CPC committee attended the Round Up committee meeting

# **Invited Committees**

# **Berkshire Intergroup:**

No report

#### Institutions:

No report

## Western Mass Intergroup:

- Thanks to all groups for their contributions
- The new meeting list booklets are available
- The Intergroup website has a new meeting list format but the old PDF list is still available for download
- New AA published book "Our Great Responsibility" will be available as soon as possible
- Thanks to the webmaster for help with the meeting guide

#### WMYPAA

- Picked up McGee and Hope Center commitments
- Poetry slam April 14th 4p-9p Rusty's restaurant Hampden St Holyoke
- Attended NHYPAA and EACYPAA in Atlantic City
- Have a table at the roundup
- Accessed old WMYPAA bank account, consolidated funds

# **NECYPAA Bid Committee**

No Report

## **DISTRICT REPORTS**

#### **District 1:**

- 4 GSRs in attendance
- Discussion was held about getting more GSRs to attend the district meeting
- Secretary position needs to be filled

#### District 2:

- There were 12 GSRs and Alternates in attendance, this was a little low
- A GSR shared that a group member was being inappropriate with female members to the
  point that one female left the group, when the person was called on the behavior they reacted
  with threatening language, the committee shared their experience with this type of issue
- The Scrambled Eggs group will celebrate its anniversary on March 31<sup>st</sup> with breakfast being served at 9:30 am and the meeting to follow at 10:30 am

#### **District 3:**

- There was discussion about increasing participation at the district level
- The DCM attended NERAASA
- The District committee is reaching out to groups at their business meetings and encouraging them to send GSRs and alternates to the District meeting
- This resulted in a GSR attending the District meeting from a group that was previously unrepresented
- There has been better participation from groups in northern Berkshire county

## **District 4**:

- There were 7 GSRs in attendance
- The Florence "Eye Opener" group is trying to be welcoming by noting issues with the language in our literature
- Initiated a Question and Answer session
- DCM attended NERAASA
- One of the New Jersey Areas provided ideas on reaching out to unrepresented groups

## **District 5:**

- 16 GSRs in attendance, none new
- Discussed the new Meeting Guide app
- Discussed the seventh tradition
- The DCM attended NERAASA

#### **District 6:**

- 7 GSRs were in attendance, 2 were new
- The GSR presentation was given
- The Area Webmaster visited the District and talked about the Meeting Guide app
- Discussed the "God Word" pamphlet
- Discussed a topic of "Group Conscience" for the District Workshop

## **Delegate's Remarks**

- North East Regional Forum to be held in Tarrytown NY May 31<sup>st</sup> to June 2<sup>nd</sup>
- The "Meeting Guide" app was discussed at NERAASA
- The "Alcoholics Anonymous" app is coming at the end of April
- NERAASA topics were years old, courage to be vigilant for the future of AA, the ERP system already paid for
- North East Regional Delegates meeting, I feel like I am policing the General Service Office,
   The North East Region Trustee addressed the delegates, I feel like less of a cop now
- The ERP system should be amazing
- Please encourage people to attend the mini-conference

## <u>Alternate Delegate Remarks</u>:

- The background material for the mini-conference is being distributed
- The packets contain flyers for the mini-conference
- Mass State Convention planning committee meeting will be on the last Tuesday March 27<sup>th</sup>, the car pool to the meeting leaves the bowling alley on Burnett Rd in Chicopee at 6pm, The chairperson of the program committee discussed alternative activities, the convention is getting similar to NERAASA

#### **Area Chair Remarks:**

- NERAASA went well, attended the area chair roundtable
- The area committee has phone coverage from March 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup>, will be calling to let those who signed up for coverage when they have it
- Only rented one van for NERAASA
- The Spring Assembly will be held on April 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> at Berkshire Community College, District 3 is hosting
- District 4 will be meeting in the education building in March and April

## **Old Business:**

- 13 people confirmed for the vans to NERAASA
- The meeting place for the vans to NERAASA will be at the Sacred Heart church at 395 Chestnut St. in Springfield at 7:00 am on February 22<sup>nd</sup>
- The website committee will continue to maintain the area handbook if the current handbook editor leaves their position
- A group inventory is the suggested solution to handle a bleeding deacon member of a club that hosts multiple meetings

# **New Business**:

- Motion was made to cancel the April 10<sup>th</sup> area meeting due to the area assembly
- Motion carries
- NERAASA Reimbursement, April 20th will be the cutoff date
- No action on Certificate of Deposit for some of the Area's prudent reserve

The meeting closed with the unity declaration