

Area 31 Meeting Minutes June 12th 2019
Called to order at 7:33 PM

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

		Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
District 2 CO-DCM	Suzanne L.	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y						
District 3 DCM	Tim M.	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y						
District 3 CO-DCM	Joan P.	N	N	Y		Y	Y						
District 4 DCM	Anthony D.	Y	Y	Y		N	Y						
District 4 CO-DCM	Emily C.	N	N	N		N	N						
District 5 DCM	Andy D.	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y						
District 5 CO-DCM	Bill H.	Y	Y	N		Y	N						
District 6 DCM	Cathy S.	Y	Y	Y		N	Y						
District 6 CO-DCM	John M.	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y						
Quorum =18	* only votes to make/break a tie	26	28	26		26	24						

Secretary's Report:

Old Business

- Motion was made to cancel the April 10th 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

New Business

- None

Treasurer's Report:

Beginning May Balance:	\$ 2,047.02
Group Contributions:	\$ 881.54
Total Area Expenses:	\$ 2,868.56
Closing May Balance:	\$ 59.98
Plus - Prudent Reserve:	\$ 8,500.00
Total Funds Available:	\$ 8,559.98

Further comments:

- Contributions in May 2019 have decreased by \$510.62 from contributions in May 2018.
- There were 14 contributions made in May 2019.
- Contributions 2019 YTD have increased by \$2,897.13 from contributions 2018 YTD.
- See Treasurer's spreadsheet for further detail.

Respectfully Submitted
Area Treasurer

Registrar's Report:

- There have been requests for information regarding two groups in district 1 and one group in district 2, the respective DCMs will be contacted
- Information on groups continues to trickle in

Area Archivist Report:

- June 30 2pm – 4pm at the archives room we will bring out the last 4 years of minutes and update the area history
- It would be nice to have a “motions” book

Webmaster:

- Experienced a hard drive crash that has lost emails from January to March 2019, if you submitted something for posting during that time frame please resubmit
- Please send all items for posting to the Webpost and Webmaster email addresses. That would have avoided this problem

Accessibility:

- There were 5 members in attendance
- Had one referral by a member in Agawam
- Discussed the committee’s upcoming presentation at the Round Up
- New Accessibility Pamphlets are available

Archives:

We presented the boards at the Joy of Living group on May 16th. We continue to work on getting histories of the different groups in area 31. We have scheduled a workshop to up-date our area 31 handbook and will step up a procedure so that it is automatic. Also working on bus trip to General Service Office in New York City in September.

CPC:

- Round up welcome packets ready
- Speaker gift prepared
- Hoping to get contact info from professionals
- Database on hold until after the roundup
- Need support

Grapevine:

- The chairperson attended the North East Regional Forum in Tarrytown NY and sat in on the Grape Vine workshop
- The Grape Vine boards will be on display at the Round Up
- The committee has a meeting at the Round Up as well
- A new book of cartoons is available from Grape Vine entitled “Bring Me to Your Sponsor”
- The committee will be visiting district 1 on June 20th
- Planning to hold the 75th anniversary of the Grape Vine celebration in Becket during the afternoon of September 14th at the Becket Congregational Church 22 YMCA Rd Becket, MA

Public Information:

- Twelve people in attendance
- An AA member from the Berkshires showed interest in the committee
- Unable to secure a commitment at the Western Mass Hospital
- The committee will have a commitment this fall at the Palmer High School
- South Hadley Middle School Fair went well
- Presented at Westfield High School and will be going back in the Fall
- The PI Boards will be at the Round Up
- The committee will be having a workshop at the Round Up with the topic of “Are We Welcoming”

- Alcoholics Anonymous Public Service Announcements (PSAs) are being aired three times a day on WHLL 1450am

Website Committee:

- No report

Western Mass Round Up:

- No report

Invited Committees

Berkshire Intergroup:

We met on Monday June 10th 2019.

Area 31 Alternate Delegate

Berkshire Institutions

Intergroup Chairperson, the Co-Chair, Treasurer, Office Manager, Secretary

4 Intergroup Reps

Office doing well. Manager needs to buy more coins and some literature. Expenses were \$662.56 last month. Between literature and operating funds and a \$3000.00 prudent reserve we have a total of \$10,367.78. We are looking getting a new computer with MS licensing.

Berkshire Institutions is doing well though there are some open commitments. Committee working on a new group conscience approved institutional meeting format. There is also a new sign-in sheet for the 3 main hospitals which is helping in tracking missed commitments. About 19% of approximately 73 meetings were missed recently. Bridging the Gap has 2 new volunteers and contacts are being entered into a useful spreadsheet.

The Alternate Delegate H gave his report about NERF, the Financial Report, which generated some discussion and talked about the Mass State Convention changes.

We are working on a Bookie/Speaker exchange for the Berkshires and have picked a date of July 8th at 6:00pm for our first meeting.

We may be rolling out a new version of our website to accommodate a calendar presentation for the Bookie meetings and a form for signing up for Bridging the Gap.

Institutions:

- No report

Western Mass Intergroup:

- The Intergroup Picnic will be held on August 25th at the Moose Family Center on Fuller Rd in Chicopee from 11 am to 6 pm featuring games, softball, and a bounce house
- There is a raffle that keeps the picnic self-supporting, any donations should not come from a groups seventh tradition funds, some groups have donated baskets with a theme in the past, any gently used items from home are being accepted as raffle prizes, prizes were down last year, donations can be left at the intergroup office
- The first new AA book in 29 years "Our Great Responsibility" is available for only \$10
- Regarding phone coverage, many groups have signed up for phone coverage but do not have an intergroup representative at the meeting, please send representatives
- The new Beta version of the Meeting Guide app will have a help button that will call the intergroup office

WMYPAA

- Went camping last weekend at Bill Wilson house
- Slip and slide Kickball Saturday in Warwick
- Working on communication
- Picking theme next meeting
- Available for commitments
- Internal event Sonya's place
- Meeting Sheraton hotel next Wednesday
- Met with Sturbridge hotel
- Chairing round up meeting Sunday
- Hosting Round Up sobriety countdown 8:15 pm

AAWS/GV Ad Hoc Committee

As a result of much discussion at the Area 31 Fall Assembly 2018 regarding a perception expressed by our Delegate that there may be a merging between AAWS and AA Grapevine Inc. by the General Service Board, and that there may be a conflict with A.A. principles. Specifically Concept 8 and parts of Concept 11 that pertain to this. An Ad-hoc committee was formed to look into, and to evaluate, if necessary, an agenda item to present to the 2020 General Service Conference. The committee was formed which included Sue S., Suzanne L., Tom L., John S. and Carl G. as members.

We held three meetings on January 8, March 12, and May 14, 2019. We reviewed a considerable amount of background materials from various sources including Concepts, a past Delegate's presentation on "The Plan", materials provided from GSO Archives, and General Service Board minutes.

At our first meeting Bob W. past Trustee at large U.S. gave a presentation sharing his experience and thoughts involving his service on the General Service Board as well as other committees which were post 2013 General Service Conference where "The Plan" had not passed. He later provided the committee with a written summary of his presentation as well as a copy of the 14 initiatives, which were one of the proposed solutions to the issues raised as a result of an inventory taken by the General Service Board. Another solution that was proposed was an "Interlocking Directorate" a.k.a. "The Plan".

For our second meeting David E. past Trustee serving on the Grapevine Board presented his experiences and thoughts pertaining to the topic. Bob W. was also present at this meeting as an observer. Both David and Bob were available for questions and answers following David's presentation.

Our third and final meeting was held in May with 4 of the 5 committee members present. Our focus was around discussion of the information that we had gathered to date. There was some sentiment that there may have been some leanings in the direction of the concerns that had been expressed, however that those leanings hadn't gone to the point beyond necessity by the Board. The largest of these concerns was around the consolidation of the retirement plans. It was felt that that action was in fact in the best interest of employees of both companies and was generally standard business practice. It was the general unanimous consensus of all those in attendance that there was no cause to recommend any agenda item requesting the General Service Conference to take any action regarding the issue at hand. That the entities A.A.W.S and the A.A. Grapevine Inc. have been kept sufficiently segregated both physically and from a structural business sense. That the General Service Board and the Trustees are acting in the best interests of A.A. That they are acting within their designated authority and have been open in communicating the ongoing process of implementing the initiatives through the various sub-committees created to address solutions to these specific initiatives, and that they clearly understand the principals involved. That they very clearly heard the voice of the Fellowship to *NOT* implement The Interlocking Directorate a.k.a. "The Plan".

There will be a folder provided to Area 31 Archivist and all background materials that we used will be available to the fellowship to review.

Thank you from the committee for the opportunity to serve.

DISTRICT REPORTS

District 1:

- 9 people including 5 GSRs were in attendance
- WMYPAA attended and discussed the International Conference of Young People in AA (ICYPAA) in Boston
- Two groups have sent new GSRs, the After Dinner Group and the Original Downtown Group
- The district has a meeting at the Round Up
- Elected a new secretary
- Discussed ways of getting more participation at the district meeting

District 2:

- Attendance is from 15 to 17 GSRs
- A Tradition and a chapter in the Service Manual are summarized at the district meeting
- Continuing to have productive discussion at the district meeting
- Finalized details on the Round Up meeting with the topic of "Character Defects"
- An Intergroup representative visited the district meeting

District 3:

District 3 Report to Area Committee

Last District Meeting was May 17th and was presided over by our alternate DCM.

In attendance were 11 GSRs (1 new GSR) and 5 alternate GSRs (2 new)

Shows the great advantages of trying to encourage alternates in service positions.

Sheffield 12 & 12 Picnic is June 19th. Celebrating 44 years as an AA group.
6 PM cook out, Meeting 7 – 8 PM. at Sheffield Town Park of Rt. 7

Thursday Park Place Group in Lee recently celebrated its 50th year anniversary.

Had a lively and productive discussion about singleness of purpose and group autonomy.

The chair and Co-chair have been sending out personal letters to professionals in Berkshire County regarding the Friday evening CPC meeting at the Roundup.

I would like to take a moment to read the letter I sent.

Dear So and So,

I am writing as part of the Berkshire County community of recovered alcoholics in Alcoholics Anonymous.

I have recently taken on the service position of District Committee Member for this part of western Massachusetts. Part of my responsibility is to make sure there is good communication with the professional community.

This Friday, June 14th, as part of a weekend event for AA members in Western Massachusetts, there is being held an open meeting for professionals who, in the course of their work, encounter people with drinking problems. Attached is the program. I hope you will consider attending.

Since its earliest beginnings over 80 years ago, Alcoholics Anonymous has depended on doctors, lawyers, social workers, therapists, judges and the clergy to encourage people with obvious drinking problems to try AA. Because AA does not promote itself, we are grateful to our professional friends for referring people to us. These referrals can and do save lives.

As ex-problem drinkers who have found happy, healthy and productive lives as AA members, we in turn, want to help. Not everyone finds AA to be a solution to their problem. But for many, even the most difficult cases, there can be hope in AA.

Please let me know if you are interested in coming to this event. If you cannot attend, I would be glad to discuss ways we can be helpful to you in your professional contact with alcoholics.

Sincerely,

*Respectfully submitted,
DCM District 3*

District 4:

- One meeting in the district is having an issue with “chanting”
- The Florence “Eye Opener” will move to the first floor of the community center in June
- One group has changed from using the Lord’s Prayer to the Serenity Prayer during the closing
- The district brainstormed about a workshop topic and location

District 5:

- Tradition 6 and Concept 6 were summarized
- Eight of the twelve groups in attendance report making contributions as recommended by the pie chart in the area handbook
- Discussed the new Aa book “Our Great Responsibility” including if it would be available on Amazon and the loss of income to AA if one buys it there
- The district has a workshop at the Round Up with the topic being “Life on Life’s Terms”
- Possibly non-alcoholic GSR will continue to serve by the group’s conscience
- In the process of securing a location for the district workshop
- Will be learning the possible topics at the Round Up

District 6:

- 9 GSRs attended the last meeting
- There have been no concerns besides fluctuating attendance and getting members interested in service
- The district workshop will be held on Saturday June 29th at the Christ United Methodist Church in Southwick from 10 am to 1 pm, the speaker will discuss demystifying the group conscience and the group inventory
- The district has gone through the list of active groups looking for GSR participation
- The district will host a workshop at the Round Up with a topic of “Wreckage of the Past”
- The Westfield noon time meeting may cancel its Saturday meeting

Delegate's Remarks

- I am honored and privileged to serve
- Thank you for the hospitality basket at the General Service Conference
- Will be handing out an abridged version of the General Service Conference actions
- Please push the "Meeting Guide" app
- I am currently using the beta version of the "AA" app that has a "help" button that will connect the user with the local intergroup office
- There was a challenge brought up for every member to donate \$8.06 on August 6th
- Had a discussion with the delegate from area 48 Hudson, Mohawk, Berkshire about changing their name to Hudson, Mohawk, Adirondack to better describe the area that they cover and to honor the fact that the Berkshires are part of Massachusetts and area 31 and that area 48 currently has no meetings in the Berkshires, would like to know if district 3 would like HMB to drop the Berkshire from their name
- There is a new class A trustee "Sister Judith Anne Carey" who is an understudy of Sister Ignacia
- The Mass State Convention needs a hospitality co-chair, would like to have someone for July
- The theme for the 2020 General Service Conference is "2020: A Clear Vision for You"
- The presentation/discussion topics for the 2020 General Service Conference are:
 1. Recovery – Who is missing in our rooms?
 2. Unity – Practicing our principles
 3. Service – Keeping AA relevant
- The workshop topic for the 2020 General Service Conference is: Attraction through action
- Biggest moments at the General Service Conference:
 1. Policy on Literature – Item went directly to the trustees; a floor action was approved so the action was stopped
 2. Public Information – "Logit Script" approved AA as a non-profit, AA applied for a \$25,000 grant from Google, felt it was a violation of our traditions

Alternate Delegate Remarks:

Western Ma Intergroup mtg. Agenda 6/13/19

Our Delegate attended the General Service Conference from Sun 5/19/19 through Sat 5/25/19 and will give us some highlights from his experience at The Round up on Saturday afternoon 6/15/19 from 1-2:30PM.

Update on Ma State program committee meeting.

The critiques from last year's conference seemed to be critical of the fact that last year's program was focused mostly on topics from the GSO conference and many people reported that was more of a NERAASA agenda.

The comments included that many people were reading their talks due to complicated topics and we should have presenters talking more from the heart and including their own personal experiences. Both the program and entertainment committee are working toward including things like "Fun, Fellowship and Recovery" (my words) for the weekend of 11/8/19-11/10/19.

Update from NERF.

It was great to see the dedication and commitment that our class A (non-alcoholic) trustees have for AA. They do a tremendous amount for AA and they are not paid for their work (their expenses are reimbursed). For example, Michele Grinberg is the General Service Board Chair and she is a class A trustee. She expressed a lot of gratitude for what AA has done for people she knows.

Also, so many other GSO staff that presented on the work they are doing for AA was amazing. You can tell that they are really dedicated to helping us.

An example they gave about their listening to the voice of AA members was the fact that in the past

Forums people said they would rather have small working group sessions rather than an AA meeting on Saturday night so that's what was scheduled for this year. I attended the La Vina workshop in Spanish with the English-speaking headsets, and it was a great experience.

Area Chair Remarks:

- The area has a commitment to the Ludlow group on August 1st, 2019 at 7:30 pm
- The area has a commitment to the Making Progress group in Hadley on September 19th, 2019 at 7:30 pm
- The area has a commitment to the Grape Vine Meeting in Suffield CT on September 30th, 2019 at 7:00 pm
- Fall Assembly, Asnuntuck Community College is expensive, have gotten a lot of no's, will start looking in district 5, the assembly will likely be somewhere else
- Westfield State College was booked in October
- The area is looking for a Website Co-Chairperson

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- On the topic of dropping the "Berkshire" from the "Hudson, Mohawk, Berkshire" area name, are we in favor? The delegate would like to move forward with a letter to initiate the change, will revisit next month
- A straw poll of the area showed that the area is not in favor of having the Fall Assembly at Asnuntuck Community College if it is expensive

The meeting closed with the unity declaration