

Area 31 Meeting Minutes July 10<sup>th</sup> 2019  
Called to order at 7:30 PM

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

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<b>District 2 CO-DCM</b>	Suzanne L.	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y					
<b>District 3 DCM</b>	Tim M.	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	N					
<b>District 3 CO-DCM</b>	Joan P.	N	N	Y		Y	Y	Y					
<b>District 4 DCM</b>	Anthony D.	Y	Y	Y		N	Y	N					
<b>District 4 CO-DCM</b>	Emily C.	N	N	N		N	N	N					
<b>District 5 DCM</b>	Andy D.	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y					
<b>District 5 CO-DCM</b>	Bill H.	Y	Y	N		Y	N	N					
<b>District 6 DCM</b>	Cathy S.	Y	Y	Y		N	Y	Y					
<b>District 6 CO-DCM</b>	John M.	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	N					
<b>Quorum =18</b>	* only votes to make/break a tie	26	28	26		26	24	24					

**Secretary's Report:**

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

**Treasurer's Report:**

Beginning June Balance:	\$ 59.98
Group Contributions:	\$ 2,463.51
Total Area Expenses:	\$ 783.49
Closing June Balance:	\$ 1,740.00
Plus - Prudent Reserve:	\$ 8,500.00
Total Funds Available:	\$ 10,240.00

Further comments:

- Contributions in June 2019 have increased by \$493.89 from contributions in June 2018.
- There were 39 contributions made in June 2019.
- Contributions 2019 YTD have increased by \$3,391.02 from contributions 2018 YTD.
- See Treasurer's spreadsheet for further detail.

Respectfully Submitted  
Area Treasurer

**Area Archivist Report:**

We had a workshop on June 29, 2019. There were four of us in attendance. We started to file and sort Round Up flyers and minutes. The goal is to have an archives display for future Round Up events.

I am working on getting a date and a bus for a trip to GSO in late September or early October.

Respectfully submitted

Area Archivist

**Registrar's Report:**

The following letter from GSO was read:

Dear Friends,

Warm greetings from the GSO Records department. As you may have heard the GSO is in the process of upgrading our multiple computer systems/databases into one system-ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning). The current Fellowship New Vision (FNV) database will eventually be folded into the ERP system.

The cutover of the systems will begin at the close of business Friday, July 26, 2019 and continue until the go-live date of the ERP system on Monday, August 5, 2019. During the time mentioned all internal GSO systems and our three warehouses will be down so no work can be processed.

In preparation for the cutover of systems we will restrict your access to FNV beginning Friday July 19, 2019. The reason being is to allow all updates for GSRs, DCMs, DCMCs and New Groups to reach our warehouses, where the requests for GSR, DCM, DCMC and New group kits go to be fulfilled before/by July 26, 2019, which is the shutdown date for all GSO internal systems/databases. During this period, you will be able to view your area information, create group information sheets and spreadsheets. However, you will not be able to update information into FNV.

To ease your minds a decision has been made to run FNV parallel with the ERP system for a few months. When we go live (August 5, 2019) you will be able to resume use of FNV to update records until further notice. Because we will be running parallel systems the information entered into FNV will be migrated into the new system 2 or 3 times per week.

Once the new area registrars' portal is ready for use the GSO will reach out to all registrars with more information.

If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to the Records department at records@aa.org.

Best Regards,

GSO Records Department staff

- Need documents from DCMs

**Webmaster:**

- Nothing new to report
- Have recovered all of the lost data

**Accessibility:**

The Accessibility Committee met on Wednesday June 26, 2019. No new referrals for services had been received. A poster board suitable for display at conventions, roundups and assemblies has been completed and was presented. It was suggested that a protective sheeting would help preserve the written information on the board. Members took a handful of the new Accessibility pamphlets to distribute to their areas, home groups, etc.

A deaf member shared his experiences with a voice recognition application called Speechnotes, which converts speech to text. It is available for Android users. It has limited range (about 10 feet). The member has used it at speaker meetings when he has spontaneously decided to attend a meeting and does not have an ASL interpreter with him.

The Committee would be interested to learn of IOS (iPhone) users who have had similar success using speech to text technology.

### **Archives:**

We had a helping committee meeting to assist the archivist to file and save different information about area 31. We voted to do this in September and to assist the archivist.

We are continuing to work on up-date of our area 31 handbook. We should have finalized information on our bus trip to General Service Office in New York City in September.

We continue to work on getting histories of the different groups in area 31.

### **CPC:**

- Discussed round up and possibly not participating or amending our role for next year
- Decided to just add contacts to email list
- Emailing local nursing schools to see if they want presentations
- Discussed merging PI and CPC maybe next meeting
- Discussed having professional speakers on the radio show

### **Grapevine:**

- There were 7 GVRs in attendance 1 was new
- The Grape Vine boards went to the Round Up
- The Chairperson attended the North East Regional Forum and returned with some new ideas
- Planning to hold the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Grape Vine celebration in Becket during the afternoon of September 14<sup>th</sup> at the Becket Congregational Church 22 YMCA Rd Becket, MA. There will be a potluck meal, raffle, DJ and speakers, the committee will be paying rent for the space, the committee has a \$500 budget and may request additional funds from the area, Area 30 and Area 11 Spanish speaking districts have been notified, The committee is looking for help from WMYPAA, Have had help from District 3 and Hudson. Mohawk, Berkshire Area women.

### **Public Information:**

- 8 members in attendance including 1 new member from the East Mountain Group
- 30 minute meeting
- Discussed radio show with CPC
- Discussed combining CPC and PI
- Boards went to the Round Up

### **Website Committee:**

- The chairperson did not attend the June meeting
- New pamphlets printed and brought to the Round Up
- Discussed the presentation for the Round Up
- The chairperson did not bring the boards to the Feeding Hills Group
- During the May meeting the budgets were discussed and it was felt that the website and webmaster budgets should not be combined
- No July obligations
- Attended the Intergroup meeting and the Round Up
- Will visit district 1 on August 15<sup>th</sup>
- The chairperson and webmaster plan to attend NAATW

### **Western Mass Round Up:**

- The Round Up was a success
- There were 462 registered attendees
- Very few professionals in attendance

- Two 12 Traditions Skits
- Need to create a better system for scholarship money
- There were 41 surveys returned
- The next meeting will be on September 11<sup>th</sup>

## **Invited Committees**

### **Berkshire Intergroup:**

We met on Monday July 8<sup>th</sup> 2019.

Area Chairperson

Berkshire Institutions

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

4 Intergroup Reps

Office doing well. Manager about to make a large literature purchase. Coins ordered last week. Office fully covered. Still looking for more floaters. Proposal made by manager to possibly increase the office space. Give folks a place to go as a safe space. Good group contributions this past month. Total expenses were \$683.72 last month. Between literature and operating funds and a \$3000.00 prudent reserve we have a total of \$10,820.02. We are still looking at getting a new computer with MS licensing. Inquiring about a tax-exempt status first. Agreed to spend no more than \$1500 at this point. Berkshire Institutions is doing well though there are some open commitments. No changes for the new institutional meeting format. According to the new sign-in sheet, no shows are way down at our 3 facilities...McGee, Jones and CSS. The Area Chairperson talked about the Fall Assembly and the Grape Jam coming up in September. We had our first Bookie/Speaker exchange meeting an hour before this meeting. Very exciting. Approximately 12 interested people showed up from about 9-10 different groups. We had some discussion about our plans and how we see this working and then they went around and set up meetings for the next 2 months. All showed interest in getting bookie list from Western Mass and setting up incoming and outgoing commitments with those folks. Next meeting will be September 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm at the Intergroup Office.

### **Institutions:**

- No report

### **Western Mass Intergroup:**

- The Intergroup Picnic will be held on August 25<sup>th</sup> 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 group's 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
- The new Intergroup website is running well
- There are no plans to stop producing the paper version of the area meeting list
- The Intergroup committee is looking into a "Point of Sale" system for the Intergroup store

### **WMYPAA**

- There will be one meeting per month on the last Sunday of each month at 3pm at Providence Hospital
- There will be a cookout from 12pm to dusk on Saturday July 13<sup>th</sup> at the Rotary Pavilion in Mitteneage Park West Springfield
- Will be visiting district 3 on July 19<sup>th</sup>
- There will be a beach event on August 10<sup>th</sup> with the Connecticut NECYPAA bid committee

and the Rhode Island NECYPAA host committee

- Will hold an “AAs Got Talent” event on October 10<sup>th</sup> most likely in Holyoke
- Have 5 commitments per month (2 at Providence Detox, 2 at the Hope Center, and 1 at McGee)
- Have chosen “Freedom from Fear” as a theme for the committee
- Have new wristbands for sale
- Attended the Area 31 Round Up and chaired a meeting and the sobriety countdown
- Attended Mass State convention for young people on July 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>
- Need a letter from the districts saying they support the bid for NECYPAA

## **DISTRICT REPORTS**

### **District 1:**

- 2 GSRs, Intergroup, and Grape Vine attended the meeting
- Will hold the district workshop in September
- 3 GSRs chaired the Round Up meeting on “Forgiveness”

### **District 2:**

Attendees: 1 DCM, 10 GSR'S, 3 Alt GSR's,

Guest - Area 31 Alternate Delegate

Group Announcements -GSR for Daily Reflections in Holyoke announced that her group will be conducting a group inventory in September

DCM Report:

Area Treasurer's June Report was shared.

Area Secretary's Minutes - highlights were shared.

Accessibility - new pamphlet "Having trouble accessing an AA Meeting?" was handed out.

Portion of the Final Ad Hoc Committee report was shared.

Full report available upon request.

New Business:

Flyer created by Oregon Area 58 available from our Delegate -

\$8.06 on 8/6 was handed out and discussed.

Copies of the 69th General Service Conference Quick Reference were passed out.

A report of the Agenda items pertinent to our Area 31 Spring Assembly were highlighted.

General Service Conference Theme - "2020: A clear vision for you" as well as the presentation and workshop topics were pointed out.

Next month District 2 will begin discussions regarding a potential workshop.

New GSR and Alt. GSR representation from Early Sobriety Group, Holyoke.

### **District 3:**

Our last meeting was held on June 21<sup>st</sup> at 7 pm in the Lee Courthouse.

- We had 12 GSR/Alternate GSRs present –one new – from the Keep It Simple Group has joined as an alternate GSR
- Most GSRs reported that their groups are doing well. One group brought up “chanting” at their business meeting. It was tabled until next month for their group. We discussed it at our District meeting as well, several ideas were shared and it was unanimously voted on to table it until next month. We will wait and see if it is still an issue for that group.
- DCM thanked groups for sending representation and suggested that anyone that didn't have one, should try and find an alternate GSR. This shows that we are doing what we are supposed to – continuing to pass the voice of our groups on.

- Berkshire Intergroup chair was present and talked about the bookie meeting which was held on Monday, July 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Area 31 Alternate Delegate was present. He summarized about our delegate's week-long conference in NYC and shared information about NERF and also the upcoming MA State Convention.
- Western MA Intergroup chair was present and talked about the upcoming August picnic, brought flyers and talked about having the new book OUR GREAT RECOVERY in inventory.
- DCM reported on the CPC presentation we attended at the Round Up. We had discussed the idea of having a CPC workshop in September. It was discussed at our District meeting and a motion was made and passed in favor of having our fall workshop with the theme of Cooperation with the Professional Community. Tim asked for anyone interested in being a part of subcommittee to stay after the meeting to sign up...several people did.

Berkshire Intergroup has expressed an interest in participating as well. Tim has been in touch with at least one doctor who is interested in attending and perhaps speaking as part of a panel. I am in communication with some of our high schools to see if they would be interested in sending colleagues to attend as well.

We are hoping to have it at the Lenox Community Center. More information to come.

#### **District 4:**

- No report

#### **District 5:**

- 12 GSRs 1 new from the Randall Group
- GSRs trying to get people involved in service
- A group has two treasurers and there is question about contributions getting made
- The LCM is looking for help and a member stepped up to assist
- The DCM is looking for location for the workshop, and the topics for 2020 General Service Conference, potentially to be held on September 21<sup>st</sup>

#### **District 6:**

- 6 GSRs attended the last meeting
- No group concerns except attendance at meetings and business meetings
- A GSR inquired about someone looking to join the Grape Vine committee
- The Whip City Nooner Group may add a seventh meeting on Sundays
- Discussed the workshop held on June 29<sup>th</sup> with topics of group conscience and group inventory
- Had a meeting at the Round Up at 7pm on Saturday

#### **Delegate's Remarks**

- Currently testing the beta version of the AA app, will be able to text meeting information to another phone, the new app should be available on August 7<sup>th</sup>, note the current version had to be deleted before installing the new app
- During the delegates remarks there was a response to and a discussion regarding the circulation of an "\$8.06 on 8/06" flyer by the delegate regarding each member contributing to GSO on that date, a GSR sent a letter noting their issues with the flyer as it was not a General Service Conference approved effort

#### **Alternate Delegate Remarks:**

- An overview of the 2018 AA financial situation was presented stressing the near record seventh tradition donations to the GSO
- Our new book “Our Great Responsibility” stresses the importance of having non-alcoholic trustees due to their unique experiences in medicine, legal and business matters, prior to 1966 the board had 10 non-alcoholic and 9 alcoholic trustees, beginning in 1966 the numbers changed to 7 Class A (non-alcoholic) and 14 class B (alcoholic) trustees

**Area Chair Remarks:**

- The area has a commitment to the Ludlow group on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 at 7:30 pm
- The area has a commitment to the Making Progress group in Hadley on September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 7:30 pm
- The area has a commitment to the Grape Vine Meeting in Suffield CT on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 7:00 pm
- Fall Assembly will be held on October 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Church located at 127 Holyoke Rd in Westfield, MA from 9am to 4pm on Saturday and from 1pm to 5pm on Sunday
- There will be an area inventory on Saturday
- The area is looking for a Website Co-Chairperson

**Old Business:**

- The delegate will send a letter to area 48 Hudson, Mohawk, Berkshire to ask them to drop Berkshire from their name

**New Business:**

- None

The meeting closed with the unity declaration