

Area 31 Meeting Minutes December 11<sup>th</sup> 2019  
Called to order at 7:35 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	Y	Y		Y	Y
<b>ALTERNATE DELEGATE</b>	Paul H.	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y
<b>AREA CHAIR *</b>	Mike B.	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y
<b>AREA TREASURER</b>	Karl H.	Y	N	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y
<b>AREA SECRETARY</b>	Steve M.	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y
<i>AREA REGISTRAR</i>	<i>Sonja P.</i>	N	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	N		Y	Y
<i>AREA ARCHIVIST</i>	<i>Bobbi P.</i>	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y
<b>ACCESSIBILITY CHAIR</b>	Bob R.	Y	Y	N		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y
<b>ACCESSIBILITY CO-CHAIR</b>	Joe K.	N	N	Y		Y	Y	N	N	N		N	Y
<b>ARCHIVES CHAIR</b>	Frank M.	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	N	N	Y		Y	Y
<b>ARCHIVES CO-CHAIR</b>	John G.	Y	Y	N		Y	N	Y	N	N		Y	N
<b>CPC CHAIR</b>	Chris O	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	N	Y		Y	Y
<b>CPC CO-CHAIR</b>	Dawn T.	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		N	Y
<b>GRAPEVINE CHAIR</b>	Tania H.	Y	Y	Y		Y	N	Y	N	Y		Y	Y
<b>GRAPEVINE CO-CHAIR</b>	Renee K.	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		N	Y
<b>P.I. CHAIR</b>	Carol L.	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y
<b>P.I. CO-CHAIR</b>	Michael C.	Y	N	Y		Y	Y	Y	N	Y		Y	Y
<b>WEBSITE CHAIR</b>	Amy G.	Y	Y	Y		Y	N	Y	Y	Y		N	Y
<b>WEBSITE CO-CHAIR</b>	Jax M.	Y	N	N		N	N	N	Y	Y		Y	Y
<i>WEBMASTER</i>	<i>Bob B.</i>	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y
<b>W. MASS IGP CHAIR</b>	Charlie R.	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	N		N	Y
<b>BERK. IGP CHAIR</b>	Mike M.	N	Y	N		N	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y
<b>INSTITUTIONS CHAIR</b>	Jim R.	N	N	N		N	N	N	N	N		N	N
<i>INSTITUTIONS Co-CHAIR</i>	<i>Charlie M.</i>	N	N	N		N	N	N	N	N		N	N
<b>ROUND UP CHAIR</b>	Yolanda R.	N	Y	Y		N	N	Y	N	N		Y	Y
<b>ROUND UP CO-CHAIR</b>	Andy D.	N	Y	N		Y	N	N	N	N		Y	Y
<b>WMYPAA CHAIR</b>	Alyssa F	N	Y	Y		N	N	Y	Y	Y		N	N
<i>WMYPAA Co-CHAIR</i>	<i>Kyle G.</i>	N	N	N		N	N	N	N	N		N	N
<b>District 1 DCM</b>	Yolanda R.	Y	Y	N		Y	N	Y	N	Y		Y	Y
<b>District 1 CO-DCM</b>	Joe B.	N	Y	Y		N	Y	N	Y	Y		Y	Y
<b>District 2 DCM</b>	Tim G.	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		N	Y

		Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>District 2 CO-DCM</b>	Suzanne L.	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	N		Y	Y
<b>District 3 DCM</b>	Tim M.	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	N	Y	Y		Y	N
<b>District 3 CO-DCM</b>	Joan P.	N	N	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	N		Y	Y
<b>District 4 DCM</b>	Anthony D.	Y	Y	Y		N	Y	N	N	N		N	N
<b>District 4 CO-DCM</b>	Emily C.	N	N	N		N	N	N	N	N		Y	Y
<b>District 5 DCM</b>	Andy D.	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y
<b>District 5 CO-DCM</b>	Bill H.	Y	Y	N		Y	N	N	N	Y		Y	N
<b>District 6 DCM</b>	Cathy S.	Y	Y	Y		N	Y	Y	N	Y		Y	Y
<b>District 6 CO-DCM</b>	John M.	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	N	N	N		Y	Y
<b>Quorum =18</b>	* only votes to make/break a tie	26	28	26		26	24	24	20	24		26	29

**Secretary's Report:**

Old Business

- Motion was made to include a line item for the area website expenses to be included in the area budget – The area will become responsible for expenses incurred for hosting and maintaining the website
- The item passed with substantial unanimity
- Someone had an issue with the WMYPAA flyer for the talent show that advertised a cash prize, no one attended the area meeting to speak out about the issue, WMYPAA offered to talk to the individuals involved
- A motion was made to “Cancel the Area Meeting in October due to its proximity to the area assembly”
- The motion passed with substantial unanimity
- The next area meeting is the budget meeting on November 13<sup>th</sup>
- The Grape Vine committee requested an additional \$141.97 to pay for the Grape Jam
- The item passed with substantial unanimity
- Need to explain to the party who sent us \$100 why we cannot accept the money
- Every year eastern and western mass archives committees attend the Massachusetts State Convention, the person who attends in place of the archives chair is funded as long as they understand their responsibilities
- Motion retracted

New Business

- Motion was made that the area supports a general service conference agenda item that was started and passed unanimously by the Southern Berkshire Group and passed unanimously by District 3 that AA World Services develop a piece of literature devoted to relocating in sobriety
- Motion passed unanimously and will be voted on again at the Spring Assembly

**Treasurer's Report:**

Beginning November Balance:                   \$ 4,387.77  
Group Contributions:                               \$ 3,025.10

Total Area Expenses:	\$ 2,576.73
Closing November Balance:	\$ 4,836.14
Plus - Prudent Reserve:	\$ 8,500.00
Total Funds Available:	\$ 13,336.14

Further comments:

- Contributions in November 2019 have increased by \$530.65 from contributions in November 2018.
- There were 38 contributions made in November 2019.
- Contributions 2019 YTD have increased by \$6,057.67 from contributions 2018 YTD.
- See Treasurer's spreadsheet for further detail.

Respectfully Submitted  
Area Treasurer

**Registrar's Report:**

- Still no access to the data base
- Welcome to the new DCMs
- Have two forms available for the DCMs: New Group form and Group Change Form-Please pick them up when making your report
- Snap a picture of the completed forms as necessary and send them to the Registrar

**Area Archivist Report:**

- Met at 6 pm on the night of the Archives Committee meeting to sort archival material
- Worked on Mass State Convention materials
- The confidential contact lists will stay in the office
- Have found forms for DCM and GSR reports that may be helpful

**Webmaster:**

- Accessing emails, all of the districts and committees have an area email address
- Email the Webmaster for the password if you don't have it
- Please delete emails that are unused
- The area handbook has been updated with link from the table of contents – this will eliminate other references to these pages
- Send meeting minutes to the Webpost and Webmaster email addresses for posting
- Area email addresses are not being checked

**Accessibility:**

The Accessibility Committee met on Wednesday November 27<sup>th</sup>. Four members were in attendance. The incoming co-chair of the committee introduced himself and provided contact information. The committee heard a report from the outgoing Delegate who reflected on the success of the Mass State Convention.

Two inquiries were received through the Accessibility Hotline. The Chair returned the calls. On one call, the Chair left a message and has not received a return call. On the second call, an individual was moving into Area 31 and was interested in attending a meeting in the Brimfield area.

Information was conveyed to the individual to be able to attend a meeting.

At the Mass State Convention, the Chair exchanged email information with an interested member of Area 30. Area 30 continues to be in need of an Accessibility Committee Chair.

**Archives:**

The co-chair and I had a working meeting which began at 6:00pm. Our working meeting assisted

the archivist in preparing archival material, last month, for the Mass State convention. A report was given on boards at anniversary meetings Our regular meeting began at 7:30PM. Any questions

### **CPC:**

- Presented to students at Elms College, will return in the Spring of 2020
- The committee is still looking into presenting at college nursing programs
- Hoping to visit the Springfield court
- Hoping to order more literature

### **Grapevine:**

- The December issue is available
- The chairperson met the incoming chairperson and passed on the boards and other information
- The minutes were sent to the area secretary and the webmaster
- At [www.aagrapevine.org](http://www.aagrapevine.org), one can order calendars and pocket planners, as well as submit photos of meeting places and jokes
- The committee is looking forward to NERAASA

### **Public Information:**

- The PI boards were displayed at the Mass State Convention
- All of the current month's commitments were filled
- The committee put on its presentation at Westfield High School
- The co-chairperson chaired the meeting
- The committee will need help as many members are rolling out

### **Website Committee:**

- 4 people were in attendance
- Decided to reach out to the Archives in reference to a statement of purpose
- Looking for suggestions on how to revitalize the committee

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

- The committee has three new members
- CPC has decided that they do not want to participate in the Round Up next year
- Westfield Bank required a transfer of the bank account, the account was closed and \$6178 was deposited in an account at Holyoke Credit Union
- There will be a joint Ala-non/AA meeting
- The committee is considering replacing the dance with comedians
- There will be other changes in the Round Up format
- 476 people attended the Round Up last year

### **Invited Committees**

#### **Berkshire Intergroup:**

- Elections were held and the Berkshire Intergroup has a new chairperson, co-chairperson, secretary, and office manager, the treasurer will be staying on
- Two people stepped up to run the Christmas and New Year's Eve alcohons at the First United Methodist Church 55 Fenn Street Pittsfield, MA 01201 from 5pm on the eve to 5pm on the holiday
- The Berkshires are starting a CPC committee
- The Intergroup is planning a bus trip to the General Service Office, more information to follow
- The year 2020 will be the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year for the Berkshire Intergroup and it should be

noted that it has been all volunteer operated for its entire existence

### **Institutions:**

- No report

### **Western Mass Intergroup:**

- The Intergroup held its elections in November and elected a new chairperson, treasurer, and secretary
- The Intergroup has formed a steering committee
- The slots for the Christmas Alcothon have been filled
- The Intergroup will be hosting the annual children's Christmas party on December 14<sup>th</sup> from 1pm to 3 pm at the Intergroup office at 474 Pleasant St in Holyoke
- The Intergroup will be hosting the annual Christmas Alcothon from 6 pm December 24<sup>th</sup> to 6 pm December 25<sup>th</sup> at 474 Pleasant St in Holyoke
- The Intergroup had a table at the Mass State Convention and reportedly sold a lot of books

### **WMYPAA**

- The talent show went well
- The "Friends Giving " event went well
- NECYPAA 2019 is being held on December 27<sup>th</sup> through the 29<sup>th</sup> in Warwick, RI
- The WMYPAA group inventory went well
- One more meeting was posted on Facebook
- The bid for NECYPAA 2020 will be decided at NECYPAA 2019

## **DISTRICT REPORTS**

### **District 1:**

- There were 5 GSRs in attendance at the district meeting
- The budget was discussed
- A \$300 budget request was decided upon
- The district discussed the "Relocating in AA" pamphlet item
- The groups report that they are doing well except for attendance
- The district is co-hosting a workshop with district 2 this Saturday December 14<sup>th</sup> at the Providence Hospital
- The district held elections and a new DCM, co-DCM, and secretary were elected

### **District 2:**

- 16 GSRs and Alts attended the meeting, 2 of the GSRS were new
- Holiday snacks were served
- Chapter 12 from the service manual and Tradition 12 were read
- One of the groups in the district is struggling with relocating due to a security issue
- One of the groups is slowly regaining members after having a disruptive group member
- Held an election for LCM and did not fill the position
- Putting on a workshop with district 1 on Saturday December 14<sup>th</sup> with a theme "Practicing these Principles in All Our Affairs"
- Discussed the proposed General Service Conference agenda items

### **District 3:**

We had our District meeting on November 15<sup>th</sup> with 9 GSRs present. The area chairperson and the Berkshire Intergroup chairperson were present. Nothing urgent to report for the groups. The Southern Berkshire Group was once again approached

by the Sheffield 12 and 12 to host the New Year's Alkathon at the Claire Teague Senior Center. The District held our elections - we are strong women in service. The district has volunteers for co-DCM and LCM. We were not able to get our secretary commitment filled, so we will hope to get someone to step up for that at our next District meeting which will be Dec 20<sup>th</sup>. The District held our first Cooperation with the Professional Community meeting. The district 3 co-chairperson led the meeting. We had 4 present with 2 that wanted to be there but last minute were unable to. We watched the DVD about CPC and discussed what we hope to do in the future. We will be planning another meeting in January, but have not determined the date as of yet.

#### **District 4:**

- There were 9 GSRs present at the district meeting
- The district finalized the details for the workshop
- The district will hold its elections in January
- The workshop had a discussion format and was a success

#### **District 5:**

- The district meeting was cancelled to adverse weather
- The district has a new DCM rolling in

#### **District 6:**

- 7 GSRs attended the meeting
- The groups reported all is well
- The Westfield noon time meeting reports that younger people are being disruptive
- There was a discussion concerning the International Convention
- Discussed the new American Sign Language version of the big book
- Discussed the possible General Service Conference agenda item about creating a pamphlet for those relocating in AA
- The district elections were postponed due to indecision
- A new DCM will be taking over in January
- A group in the district is sponsoring a toy drive to donate for the Intergroup children's Christmas party
- The Enfield Young Peoples Group is holding its annual New Year's Eve dinner and dance at St Patrick's Church in Enfield

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

- AA World Services has released the book "Alcoholics Anonymous" on DVD in American Sign Language format that includes spoken word and subtitles
- AA World Services is working on a release of the book "The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions" in American Sign Language format on DVD that will include spoken word and subtitles
- NERAASA will be held on February 21st through the 23rd in Nashua, NH
- Registration is open for the International convention in Detroit in 2020
- A former trustee at large from our area was hired as a consultant to the General Service Office
- The Communication Service Department has been started at the General Service Office
- The January Concept meeting will be teleconferenced with the Berkshires

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

Mention the early numbers from the International Convention being held from Thurs 7/2-Sun 7/5/20. Over 10,000 registered on the first day and 35,000 plus now.

Review NERAASA and the fact that it will be held 2/21-2/23 in Nashua New Hampshire. It's for anyone involved in or considering getting involved in AA service. They will have break out meetings for GSR's, DCM's' Delegates and all the other various committees.

GSO now has ASL versions of the big book, and the 12 steps and 12 traditions, also the 12 concepts are now in an audio version and you can listen to them from the AA web site.

The next General Service Conference will be held from April 19-25<sup>th</sup> in Rye Brook New York.

The agenda topics are still being developed but here are some items as a sample of what will be coming:

1. Consider an amendment to the title of the booklet, Living Sober, to read Living Sober: How to not take the first drink.
2. That literature be developed sharing experience, strength and hope on meditation.
3. That the conference considers creating a 5<sup>th</sup> addition of the big book and remove chapters "to the wife's", "The family afterward" and "To employers".
4. Consider an individualized workbook to accompany the Big Book (carried over from last year).

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

- The area committee has a commitment to the Sunday Night Life Group in Haydenville on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 7:30 pm
- The area committee has a commitment at the Alcothon at 474 Pleasant St in Holyoke at 8:00 am on December 25<sup>th</sup>
- The area committee has a commitment to the Chapman St Group in Greenfield at 7:00 pm on Friday December 27<sup>th</sup>

#### **Old Business:**

- The committee was presented with 3 budgets for consideration, Budget A would be \$900 less than the current budget, Budget B would equal the current budget, and Budget C would be a \$500 increase over the current budget
- A motion was made to adopt Budget C and it passed unanimously

#### **New Business:**

- 200 copies of the Area Handbook will be printed and they will be available in January
- Do we want to rent a van for NERAASA? Will be discussed at the January area meeting
- There was a motion made to raise the travel reimbursement rate for the Area officers from \$.32 per mile to \$.50 per mile
- The motion was seconded and discussion ensued
- A motion was made to table the motion on increasing the reimbursement rate, that motion passed, the dissenting opinion was heard and opinions changed
- A second vote was taken and the minority opinion won meaning the original motion was back on the floor
- More discussion ensued, the question was called and a vote was taken
- The vote ended in a tie with the deciding vote in favor of increasing the reimbursement rate being made by the area chairperson

The meeting closed with the unity declaration at 9:40 pm