# Area 31 Meeting Minutes March 11, 2020 Called to order at 7:30 PM

		Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
AREA DELEGATE	Paul H.	Y	Υ	Υ									
ALTERNATE DELEGATE	Mike B.	Y	Υ	Υ									
AREA CHAIR *	Steve M.	Υ	Υ	Y									
AREA TREASURER	Ray M.	Υ	Υ	Υ									
AREA SECRETARY	Renee F.	N	Υ	Y									
AREA REGISTRAR	Sonja P.	Υ	Υ	Υ									
AREA ARCHIVIST	Bobbi P.	N	Υ	Y									
ACCESSIBILITY CHAIR	Joe K.	Y	N	Y									
ACCESSIBILITY CO-CHAIR	Erick M.	N	Υ	Y									
ARCHIVES CHAIR	John G.	Υ	Υ	Y									
ARCHIVES CO- CHAIR	Carol L.	Y	Υ	N									
CPC CHAIR	Dawn T.	Υ	Υ	Y									
CPC CO-CHAIR	Mike R.	N	Υ	Y									
GRAPEVINE CHAIR	Immer C.	Υ	Υ	Υ									
GRAPEVINE CO-CHAIR	Jennifer E.	Υ	Υ	Y									
P.I. CHAIR	Michael C.	N	Υ	Y									
P.I. CO-CHAIR	Karl H.	Υ	Υ	Y									
WEBSITE CHAIR	Jax M.	Υ	Υ	Y									
WEBSITE CO- CHAIR	Tania H.	N	Υ	Y									
WEBMASTER	Bob B.	Υ	Υ	Y									
W. MASS IGP CHAIR	Mike R.	Υ	Υ	N									
BERK. IGP CHAIR	Mike M.	N	Υ	N									
INSTITUTIONS	Charlie M.	N	Υ	N									
INSTITUTIONS Co-CHAIR	Michelle	N	Υ	Y									
ROUND UP CHAIR	Yolanda R.	Υ	Υ	N									
ROUND UP CO- CHAIR	Andy D.	Y	Y	Y									
NEYPAA Liaison	Michael R.	N	Х	Х									
NEYPAA Co- Liaison	Charlie D.	N	Х	0									
District 1 DCM	Joe B.	Υ	Υ	Y									
District 1 CO- DCM	Aaron P.	Υ	Υ	N									
District 2 DCM	Suzanne L.	Υ	Υ	Y									

		Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
District 2 CO- DCM	Anne M.	Y	N	N									
District 3 DCM	Joan P	N	Υ	N									
District 3 CO- DCM	Lisa L.	N	Υ	N									
District 4 DCM	Emily C.	Υ	Υ	Υ									
District 4 CO- DCM	Steve B.	Υ	N	N									
District 5 DCM	Bill H.	Υ	Υ	Υ									
District 5 CO- DCM	Vicky W.	N	Υ	Υ									
District 6 DCM	John M.	N	N	Υ									
District 6 CO- DCM	Corbin R.	Υ	Υ	Υ									
Quorum =18	* only votes to make/break a tie	23	30	24									

# **Secretary's Report:**

**Old Business** 

- Heated discussions were had regarding mileage rates, \$.32 to \$.50 a mile.
- GSO requested \$1800 from delegate, money has already been budgeted. Letter will be given to the treasurer.

**New Business** 

No NEW BUSINESS.

# Treasurer's Report: ,

Bginning February Balance: \$8,726.14 Group Contributions: \$2,444.30 Total Area Expenses: \$4,617.67 Closing January Balance: \$6,552.88 Plus - Prudent Reserve: \$8,500.00 Total Funds Available: \$15,052.88

## Further comments:

- Contributions in February 2020 have increased by \$1085.74 from contributions in February 2019.
- There were 32 contributions made in February 2020.
- Contributions February 2020 YTD have increased by \$3096.10 from contributions February 2020 YTD.
- See Treasurer's spreadsheet for further detail.

Respectfully Submitted Area Treasurer

## Registrar's Report:

- New database/portal from GSO. Limited access to database, "My Portal System".
- This database is not allowing the registrar to properly do her job, unable to do normal duties for the last 6 months. Unable to access the database and input important information.
- Due to these issues, GSRs are not getting their packets, possible 2 month delay.
- Registrar reported having access to these packets and are willing to provide to the DCMs to give to the GSRs.
- Asked: DCMs please be patient records are sinking in quick sand. 93 Areas and only 5 people in the records Department in GSO.
- Previous registrar will be providing assistance with establishing a database for this Area. This
  will allow our area the ability to maintain records of service members.
- Excel sheet passed out which possess all the meetings in the individual districts will be
  provided to the DCMs. It is asked that all DCMs, that the group registrations forms are
  completed from the GSRs. Once completed, please take a picture of it and send it to the
  registrar. It is also being asked for the DCMs to keep a hard copy of this form, because that is
  the only record.

# **Area Archivist Report:**

- Attended NERAASA. Reported many of the archivists in other areas are long time serving in this position year after year. One of the topics discussed at the round table were the difference between a historian (history) and an archivist (facts).
- Discussed the efforts to compile and organize all the Area's past flyers, minutes, etc. which occur 1 hour before the monthly Archives Meeting. Asking for anyone in the area's help.

#### Webmaster:

- Indicated he will be checking into Tech Soup which is a company who sells software to non-profit organizations. He reported he should be registered by tomorrow.
- On 3/14/2020: Web Hosting Plan Renewal. The area will take over the expense of this. It was reported the Area has ultimately always paid for this but will now directly pay.
- Reminded that every committee and district has emails, please check and delete emails.

# Accessibility:

- \* 9 members attended.
- \* Bought 2 sets of ASL DVD; 1 set in Western Mass Intergroup office and 1 in Berkshire Intergroup Office.
  - \* There has been no new calls for emergency services/assistance.
- \* How does an individual contact the accessibility's committee if in need of services: cell phone has been given to the co-chair due to the chair being a deaf member of AA. Phone number is on the area website.

## **Archives**:

- 5 members attended. Most met at 6 pm to help with the sorting of archive materials. It was reminded that individual who would like to help with sorting do not need to be part of the archives committee.
- Brought boards tot he Randall Group Anniversary, 2/23.
- April 25<sup>th</sup> will be scheduling a longer work meeting, which includes food, to work on sorting materials.
- Updating the Area Handbook, 2015/2016 was the last time this occurred.
- Group history forms.

#### CPC:

- 11 members attended, 7 groups.
- It was reported the CPC boards were found at the Randall Group.
- On 3/31, CPC will complete a presentation to Elms College; nurses, social workers and criminal justice majors.
- Wrote a thank you letter to WWLP 22 News, regarding their respect for AA's anonymity.
- Reviewed 4 agenda items for mini conference.
- Berkshire CPC did not attend. They will be meeting the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of every month at 6 pm at the Lee Courthouse. Their 1<sup>st</sup> commitment will be held on April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1 pm at the Berkshire Medical Center.

# **Grapevine**:

- Group member attended the Randall Anniversary and brought the boards.
- Discussion was had: about selling Grapevine Books at the events the Grapevine boards are brought to & storage f the boards at a central location.

## **Public Information:**

- 7 members attended.
- Letter written by CPC to WWLP 22 News was reviewed by the PI Committee and mailed out.
- Revising the PI boards will begin next month and the radio show text.
- Look into expanding outreach to Springfield Schools, Summers, CT High School, HCC, Agawam High School, South Hadley Middle School, and Easthampton High School.
- It was decided that the Doctor's waiting room areas is the PI committee's responsibility.

## **Website Committee:**

- 6 members attended.
- Reviewed previously mentioned WS Committee's Objectives & Goals: Use an AGENDA at monthly meeting - How to support the Webmaster: progress, purpose and plan.
- Update the Mission Statement in existence since 2012 with digital future. Introduce who we
  are to the Area body. Our target audience is at the Area (DCMs, Co-DCMs, LCMs), current
  members online.
- Website Committee, seek support for the current Webmaster, Candidate must be available and compatible w/ Webmaster. He/She will select the c. candidate.
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# Western Mass Round Up:

- Round Up will be held on May 15, 16 & 17<sup>th</sup>. Registration forms are now available, Round up and Area website.
- Expense sheet- work up on what is spent every year.
- Alanon will be selling literature this year.
- AA & Alanon meeting will be held on Friday.
- Requested that Area and subcommittee boards be brought to this event. Boards can be dropped off on Friday between 3 pm and 5 pm at the Clarion Hotel in West Springfield, and picked up on Sunday.
- Friday night: movie and popcorn, Old Timers' meeting which is changed from Saturday, wanting to incorporate more fellowship. Saturday night: Comedian.
- On-site registration will be available.

## **Invited Committees**

## **Berkshire Intergroup:**

no report

## **Institutions:**

- Motion filed regarding allowing more than 1 invited guest to the meeting. Discussed at length but was tabled until next month.
- Providence Hospital & Western Mass Hospital shut down all AA meetings due to the Coronavirus. Location for upcoming Institutions meeting would need to be decided. It was suggested the possibility of utilizing 474 Pleasant Street in Holyoke as a meeting place.

## Western Mass Intergroup:

No Report

#### NECYPAA

- 27 registered participants.
- Changed movie night to game night.
- Venue for upcoming NECYPAA has been voted on, Marriott in Springfield. 6 potential speakers & entertainment has been discussed. Would like to include accessibility member & website member to future meetings. Would like to have all area committee and subcommittee boards available for this event. Can contact @ necypaaxxxi@gmail.com
- 4/5: Pot Luck, Poetry Slam. Flyers will be made.
- Sponsee/Sponsor brunch
- Will contact Round Up for participation in their event.

## **DISTRICT REPORTS**

## **District 1:**

- Meeting held on 2/20/2020. 10 GSRs were present.
- Groups have reported no issues.
- Park Allen group: Anniversary on 3/28 food and fellowship 6 pm & meeting at 7pm.
- No BSBB Study group held at St. Peter's Church on Mondays at 6:30 pm, low attendance.

#### **District 2:**

- March Attendees: 16, 1 DCM, 12 GSRs, 2 Alt GSRs
- Scrambled Eggs 22nd Anniversary. March 29th Sunday 10:30, Providence Hospital, Holyoke, MA. ALL MEETINGS AT PROVIDENCE HOSPITAL HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED UNTIL MARCH 31 OR LONGER PER HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT. THE HOSPITAL HAS CONTACTED ALL GROUPS WHICH MEET AT THEIR FACILITY (3/11/20).
- 2. Hand in Hand 44th anniversary. March 29th, Sunday Lutheran Church 1552 Westfield St West Springfield MA. Food 6:00/Speaker 7:00p
- BYOBB2 2nd Anniversary. April 3rd Friday Hope Community Church 152 S Westfield St Feeding Hills MA. Food at 6, 2 speakers at 7 all are welcome.
- March Group Concerns: Increased rent has prompted the BYOBB2 to move their meeting location from First Congregational Church 21 N Westfield st. to Hope Community Church 152 S Westfield st Feeding Hills MA. Monday Night Early Sobriety Group is having too much noise and distraction while speakers are sharing. Cross talk/ chit chat Distracting 1. Group has incorporated language in their format to reflect the group's conscience of respect for speakers and others attending the meeting.

- GSRs given directions about how to view Trustee's report, discussed new trustee and how is from Area 30.
- Agenda item materials was reviewed and asked to review with home groups so feedback can be given.
- Talked about the Spring Assembly.

## District 3:

No report.

#### District 4:

- 10 GSRs present.
- Discussed the GSR position.
- · Handed out agenda items.
- Group discussion about how to handle people who only identify as an addict & how to reach out to unrepresented groups.

#### **District 5:**

- 14 GSRs present. 4 alternate GSRs were also present. 2 LCMs back in action.
- Spring Assembly will be held in District 5, so district 5 is doing the hospitality. Donations welcomed. Sign up sheet for assistance was circulated at the meeting.
- Stream line group sharing forms (to shorten sharing), good & bad things going on in groups.

#### **District 6:**

- 7 GSRs attended the meeting
- Groups doing well, no concerns.
- Men's Tuesday Night Suffield Group, 8 pm to 9:30 pm with a break. Attendance is suffering.
- Workshop planning, May 30<sup>th</sup> from 12 pm to 4pm. United Methodist Church on Brainard Road in Enfield.
- Discussion had regarding mileage reimbursement: Agreed with the increase.

# **Delegate's Remarks**

- Appreciate everyone who has been reviewing the kit and workbook.
- GSO sent out info/concerns and what other areas are doing regarding the coronavirus pandemic.
- Western Mass Hospitals: No meetings until March 31<sup>st</sup> or until further notice. Because of the state of emergency no incoming groups allowed at Providence Hospital or Wmass Hospital.

# **Alternate Delegate Remarks:**

- GSR Presentation is schedule for Districts 1, 3 & 4.
- Mini Conference: Packets & discussed function of the break out rooms:
   Treatment/accessibility, CPC, Finance, Archives, Trustees, PI and Literature. Each room will have a secretary, who will record discussion in each of the room and then present to the assembly & the Delegate on Sunday. This is how the Delegate will get the Area's opinion and feedback regarding the Conference agenda items.
- Mass State Convention planning meeting in Framingham: 3/31 at 6 pm, meet at the bowling alley/BMW dealership at the 291 and 90 interchange.

## Area Chair Remarks:

Area Outgoing Commitment last at the Mulberry Street Meeting in Feeding Hills, thanks to all

who attended.

Spring Assembly: Saturday, 4/4/2020 from 10 am to 4 pm, Mini Conference to Sunday, 4/5/2020 from 1 pm to 5 pm, Business Meeting. Location: District 5, Brimfield Hitchcock Free Academy, 2 Brookfield Road in Brimfield. Lunch provided on Saturday. Facility does not have a podium. Looking to borrow 1 for the weekend.

#### Area Commitments:

- 1. Sunday 3/29 at Hand in Hand Group, Grace Lutheran Church 1522 Westfield Rd, W. Spfld. 6
   pm food & fellowship meeting at 7 pm.
- 2. Monday, 4/20 @7 pm Amherst Monday Night Group, Grace Episcopal Church at 14 Boltwood Street in Amherst.
- 3. Tuesday, 5/19 at 7 pm: Sunderland Security Group, First Congregational Church 91 South Main Street Sunderland.
- According to the area handbook only 1 Area Officer will be sent to the Institutions Committee meeting monthly.
- As of right now, the area will not be canceling any events at this time. Please feel free to take any precautions you deem necessary to ensure your health and well being.

## **Old Business:**

• NO OLD BUSINESS.

#### **New Business:**

- Website Committee filed a motion: wanting to add all the area committee email addresses to the area handbook. This motion will not delete any information from the handbook but add to the 2<sup>nd</sup> page to include the committees' email addresses. Voting on this motion has been tabled until next month's meeting to provide an updated and precise motion.
- A motion was filed to cancel next month's area meeting due to the Spring Assembly being held in April. The motion was accepted and there will be no area meeting in April due to the Spring Assembly.

The meeting closed with the Responsibility pledge at 9:15 pm