

Area 31 Zoom Meeting Minutes September 9, 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	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
ALTERNATE DELEGATE	Mike B.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
AREA CHAIR *	Steve M.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
AREA TREASURER	Ray M.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
AREA SECRETARY	Renee F.	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
<i>AREA REGISTRAR</i>	<i>Sonja P.</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y			
<i>AREA ARCHIVIST</i>	<i>Bobbi P.</i>	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
ACCESSIBILITY CHAIR	Joe K.	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y			
ACCESSIBILITY CO-CHAIR		N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N			
ARCHIVES CHAIR	John G.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y			
ARCHIVES CO-CHAIR	Carol L.	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
CPC CHAIR	Dawn T.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
CPC CO-CHAIR	Mike R.	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y			
GRAPEVINE CHAIR	Immer C.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y			
GRAPEVINE CO-CHAIR	Jennifer E.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
P.I. CHAIR	Michael C.	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y			
P.I. CO-CHAIR		Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N			
WEBSITE CHAIR		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N			
WEBSITE CO-CHAIR		N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N			
<i>WEBMASTER</i>	<i>Bob B.</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
W. MASS IGP CHAIR	Mike R.	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y			
BERK. IGP CHAIR	Mike M.	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
INSTITUTIONS CHAIR	Charlie M.	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y			
<i>INSTITUTIONS Co-CHAIR</i>	<i>Michelle</i>	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N			
ROUND UP CHAIR	Andy D.	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y			
ROUND UP CO-CHAIR		Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N			
NEYPAA Liaison	Michael R.	N	X	X	O	O	X	X	X	X			
<i>NEYPAA Co-Liaison</i>	<i>Charlie D.</i>	N	X	O	O	O	O	N	O	O			
District 1 DCM	Joe B.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y			
District 1 CO-DCM	Aaron P.	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N			
District 2 DCM	Suzanne L.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y			

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District 2 CO-DCM	Anne M.	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y			
District 3 DCM	Lisa L.	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y			
District 3 CO-DCM	Tom H.	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y			
District 4 DCM	Emily C.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y			
District 4 CO-DCM	Steve B.	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
District 5 DCM	Bill H.	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y			
District 5 CO-DCM	Cindy .	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y			
District 6 DCM	John M.	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
District 6 CO-DCM	Corbin R.	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N			
Quorum =18	* only votes to make/break a tie	23	30	24	25	26	22	17	23	27			

Secretary's Report:

Old Business

- Group Inventory can be conducted through Area Zoom Account. Group members need to notify the Area Chair and an inventory can be scheduled and completed through a on-line setting/meeting.
- New Committee Member: Co-DCM for District 3
- Website Chair & Co-Chair is no longer full. Tabled vote until September's Area Meeting, regarding Area 31 Website be translated in Spanish. This motion: Area to translate the permanent material on the Area 31 website to Spanish, in order to provide more accessibility to the Spanish speaking community in our area.

New Business

- Motion was filed and voted on to cancel the October's Area Committee Meeting due to the Fall Assembly being held on October 24 & 25th, virtually.

Treasurer's Report:

Beginning August Balance	\$ 7,912.25
Group Contributions:	\$ 725.50
Total Area Expenses:	\$ 0.00
Closing August Balance:	\$ 8,637.75
Plus - Prudent Reserve:	\$ <u>8,500.00</u>
Total Funds Available:	\$ 17,137.73

Further comments:

- Contributions in August 2020 have **decreased** by **\$2014.59** from contributions in August 2019.
- There were **13** contributions made in August 2020.
- Contributions August 2020 YTD have **decreased** by **\$3693.08** from contributions August 2019 YTD.
- Church Closings Effected Group Contributions again in August
- See Treasurer's spreadsheet for further detail.

Pay Pal Account- set up and will have it available to donate.

Registrar's Report:

- "Let me be of service to YOU"
- Need assistance from the DCMs: was communicating with a GSR and lost contact, this GSR was missing an GSR packet. Unsure if the name or contact information for this GSR. If the DCMs could inquire with their GSRs to find out who this individual is.
- DCMs please pass on the registrar's contact information (#413-824-6371) to the GSRs, so they can receive their GSR packets.
- Will get faster response by texting.
- Head of the records dept at GSO is retiring. A lot going on with the database. Continuing to send information to GSO for database.

Area Archivist Report:

- Making progress towards compiling motions from the previous past Area meetings to the Area History.

Webmaster:

- PayPal not working out like want it to. Using PayPal button and just rejects payment. Working on it.
- Sending minutes through email- Make sure it is an editable format.

Accessibility:

- August mtg 3 members attended.
- Discussion regarding concerns of the elderly stay at home and nursing homes: No meetings.
- Lack of communication with the co-chair of the committee. The Co-Chair has the hotline phone in his possession and has not responded to any outreach.
- Area Chair suggested to shop around for a smart phone to purchase so can be accessible for the deaf members of the area.
- Next committee on-line meeting scheduled for Sept. 23rd .

Archives:

- Last week committee mtg held. Will continue to have mtg 1st Tuesday at 6:30 pm.
- Updated Area Handbook- Area history up to 2016. Looking at the past 5 years to figure out what can be put in the handbook.

CPC:

- Mtg was held last night, 9/8. 9 people attended included Berkshires CPC.
- August 27th presentation completed, via on-line for AIC Senior Nursing Students. CPC was invited to come back next year.
- Pioneer Valley Nursing Presentation.
- Continue to do Mock Presentations: How to go out & talk to someone about AA.

Grapevine:

- 5 Grapevine Reps present.
- On-line workshop will be held on Sunday, October 18th from 10 am to 11:30 am, have 1 speaker would like 1 or 2 more for this workshop.

Public Information:

- Mtg held 9/8. 8 members attended
- Virtual commitment – Mill Street, 10 men on the pre-release program. Would like to do monthly commitments.
- Haven't heard anything about the radio show.
- Database- contact information, commitments and potential commitments.
- Revised CPC letter and will be sending out.
- Revising presentation and will start mock presentations next month.
- Asked about setting up a shared file for committee members, will talk to webmaster.

- Ask area about starting an article in the newspaper about AA, provide info on virtual meetings, advertisement. The Republican does it for NA in the Health & Wellness Section.

Website Committee:

- No report

Western Mass Round Up:

- Didn't meet this month- met last month.
- There were some problems with the Delegates Recorded Report.
- Long standing member of the Round Up Committee suggested to maintain this years chair for another year, due to Covid. The chair canceled this months mtg. In doing so, there was no election and automatically the Co-Chair moved into the chair position. Unsure who will hold positions in the round up this year due to no elections.
- Live and on-line meeting scheduled for October 14th. 104 Ramen Circle South- Agawam.
- Round up could use a Group Inventory.

Invited Committees

Berkshire Intergroup:

- No report, mtg scheduled for 9/14/2020.

Institutions:

- Thanked the PI Committee. Mill Street is currently accepting on line meetings. Will be reaching out to those who have been holding mtgs at this location. Anyone interested in chairing/holding on line mtgs at Mill Street, contact Institutions.
- Mtg attendance and numbers have been small, looking for more participation.
- Guidelines change motion- needs to be tabled because need at least 8 members to conduct a vote. This will have to be tabled indefinitely due to covid. Reviewed Robert's Rule Intensively regarding this.

Western Mass Intergroup:

- Discussed how offended, angry and violated, the committee felt after reading the minutes from last month's area meeting. Re: the meeting guide application.
- Intergroup has no control over the meeting guide. Webmaster has ultimate control of the guide. Since Covid, mtg guide has been put on hold. Intergroup has a disclaimer written on the Area 31 Meeting list: Please refer to our zoom meeting list & our reopened AA meeting with Covid19 restriction.

NECYPAA

- mtg held last Sunday of August.
- Much larger group- before with so few people did not feel right making decisions.
- NECYPAA will be held December 2021. Already discussed with hotel, need to finalize dates.
- May hold elections in January to get excitement for involvement.

DISTRICT REPORTS

District 1:

- 5 attended.
- Discussion: updated in person meetings.
- GSR asked about Spanish translation of the handbook.
- Secretary stepping down, will do elections in September.
- Discussed registering zoom meetings with GSO.

District 2:

- No report, hasn't met since last Area Mtg.

District 3:

- Meet 3rd Friday of August. 5 GSRs and Berkshire Intergroup Chair attended.

- Bushwackers Group: reported themselves to Board of Health, over capacity of people. All meetings have been shut down that are held at Pilgram Memorial Church.
- Workshop: Saturday, October 17th at 11 am. AA 2020: Primary Purpose in a New Age.

District 4:

- 6 GSRs present at mtg.
- Discussion held regarding: 1. Literature items: Delegate cleared up some of the confusion. 2. re-opening and NY intergroup.
- December 5th Workshop.

District 5:

- 9/7 mtg. 4 GSRs and 1 Alt. GSR present.
- Lacking LCM reports. Previously had 2 LCMs no longer participating.
- Group sharing: attendance down in 'Zoom' mtgs- not being well supported.
- Old Business: C0-DCM needed to step down due to illness: keep her in your prayers. New Business: Elected new Co-DCM.

District 6:

- 8/17 mtg held. Co-DCM, LCM, Secretary and 8 GSRs present.
- Most mtgs are on line there are some in person mtgs.
- 9/21 elections
- Hazardville Mtg may start in person mtgs.

Delegate's Remarks

- 2020 Final Conference Report hard copies are now available. If interested email the delegate requesting this copy: delegate@area31.org On the website can click on the link for this report, available in English & Spanish.
- Last year we had a record setting 7th tradition Self Support contribution of \$8.86 million \$'s
- I am not sure of the contribution for this year to date but know they were down for many months, but we have seen a great recent trend. In the month of May we had 800,000, June was 900,000 and July was 1.1 million.
- We continue to work on recouping much of the money that was lost due to the cancelation of the International convention through an insurance policy we had taken out and this seems be looking favorable.
- **There is a request for stories for a new pamphlet titled "A.A. for the older Alcoholic"** This is an ongoing project and at this year's conference the committee felt they did not have enough stories and is especially requesting a greater diversity of submissions. More specific info is on our web site.
 - **If not covered**
- The FND system is finally looking like it is all going to come together, and it appears to be on track for December of this year.
- **On the bottom of the final page of A.A Guidelines (Internet)**
- It states (under Online A.A. Meetings/Groups):
- "Just like regular A.A. meetings, online A.A. meetings/groups are autonomous. Due to the lack of a central geographic location, online A.A. meetings/groups are not a direct part of the U.S./Canada service structure. A.A members are encouraged to participate in service where they physically reside and to participate in group conscience decisions locally. In addition, some online A.A. meetings/Groups have business meetings and collect Seventh Tradition contributions.

Alternate Delegate Remarks:

- Emailed 6 files to all DCMs in Area Acct.- difficulties opening. Agenda Items for Saturday's Fall Assembly, 6 items on 10/24 from 1 pm to 5p m Mini-Conference.
- Literature & Grapevine items: 1. Grapevine Agenda C: Review Progress Report. 2. Literature Item K: Consider plain language BB; M: 5th Edition BB; J: AAWS policy on publication of literature; U/D Pamphlet O: AA & Black & African American Alcoholic; T; Revising Pamphlet Questions & Answers Sponsorship.
- Attending zoom elections for an Area.

Area Chair Remarks:

- Virtual Donation button being developed.
- No progress towards allowing in person mtgs at 474 Pleasant Street In Holyoke.

- 9/16 @ 7:30 pm Service Manual Mtg, 10/1 @ 7:30 pm Concept mtg VIRTUAL
- Fall Assembly: On line Saturday 10/24 from 1 pm to 5 pm, mini-conference & Sunday 10/25 Business Mtg 1 pm to 4 pm. Report the last 6 months of events in your committee, district. 3 minute time limit.
- Website Chair & Co-Chair resigned. PI Co-Chair and Accessibility Co-Chair will be resigning due to lack of attendance.

Old Business:

- MOTION: translate the permanent material on its Area 31 Handbook into Spanish in order to provide more accessibility to the Spanish speaking community in our Area.
- Concerns/discussion: A. Dist 4: What would this include & cost for it? Good Idea, why wouldn't we do this. B. What is considered permanent content of the website? Need more information. C. Is there a need? Sure it may be a good idea but has anyone ever spoken to the Spanish members? Would they utilize this service? D. Trusted servant of the area: we should do this to allow Spanish speaking members to participate. E. Which dialect of Spanish do we use?
- Permanent Information would be the tabs, info that will never change.
- Ad Hoc committee be established to discuss or gain more information.
- Has spoken to a Spanish speaking member in Springfield and felt this translation would be beneficial.
- Link google translate button to help with translation-for NO Charge.
- 1 Member felt the tone of this discussion makes them feel like not participating in Area Work- Can't put on finger on it but doesn't feel like the tone towards this discussion regarding Spanish Speaking Members was neutral-one sided, dismissive.
- Motion was voted on and the motion was voted against, 21 voted against. The area will install a google translate button and make this accessible.

New Business:

- Motion filed to cancel the October's Area Meeting due to having the Fall Assembly on 10/24 & 10/25. Motion accepted.

The meeting closed with the Responsibility pledge at 9:52 pm.

NEXT Meeting will be the Fall Assembly Saturday, 10/24 from 1 pm to 5 pm & Sunday, 10/25 from 1 pm to 4 pm, VIRTUAL