

Business Mtg Fall Assembly/Business Meeting
10/25 1 pm

Mtg started at 1:05 pm

Counted out voting committee members.
34 voting members.

Reports

Secretary Report: From Fall Assembly in

Old Business

- Second vote on a motion made at the Spring Assembly to "Amend the area guidelines so that we continue to rotate the area assemblies throughout the districts", motion passed with substantial unanimity

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New Business

- Area elections
- Results Paul H. elected delegate, Mike B. elected Alternate Delegate, Steve M. elected Area Chairperson, Ray M. elected Treasurer, Renee K. elected Secretary The Assembly ended with the "Declaration of Unity"

Treasurer's Report:

Beginning October Balance	\$ 11,076.41
Group Contributions:	\$ 1,683.87
Total Area Expenses:	\$ 256.53
Closing October Balance:	\$ 12,503.81
Plus - Prudent Reserve:	\$ <u>8,500.00</u>
Total Funds Available:	\$ 21,003.81

Further comments:

- Contributions in Oct. 2020 have **decreased** by **\$392.50** from contributions in Oct. 2019.
- There were **18** contributions made in Oct. 2020.
- Contributions Oct. 2020 YTD have **decreased** by **\$4507.37** from contributions Oct. 2019 YTD.
- Online PayPal had 6 contributions in October.
- See Treasurer's spreadsheet for further detail.

The PayPal Link is now up and running on the area website. We had \$191.35 in PayPal online contributions in October.

Treasurer:

April to now

Apr: Opening balance 5074, contribution 7 863.07 decreased by 7.5 K 11076. 46 + prudent reserve.
Expenses 2020: \$10, 991.41 decreased \$13, 011. 95
7863.07 contributions
Less than 2K expenses

Pay pal contributions are set up and have been in full use.

6 more contribution in October, need to get work out to grips to let them know the pay pal app is available on the website.

No oppose

Register:

6 months ago, locked down, even slower than before. Some updates for the last 6 months. Grips that will not be resuming have been coming in

Only writing emails to the records dept. database revap: communication has been occurring through this database. Phase 1 of database goes into effect in Dec 2002. Not going to look the way we are used to, ween out paper and go to technology. Get all info from the reports from the districts. Work with the DCMS to obtain al up to date information regarding the grips new Grp forms for the new Grp. Change for new reps. On line forms so the Grp can provide information to GSO. On line only Grp not part of service structure and they will need to make contributions directly to GSO.

Archivist:

Quiet last 6 months, cant get into office. Looking forward of when office is open. Archives committee, have been mtg thru zoom. Started as archivist started to file up to 2020. We are doing them best we can during this trying time.

Webmaster:

Issues addressed or investigated in the last 6 months:

Website Stats for area31aa.org

Since January of 2020 the Area website has had 364,122 hits, 68,082 pages and 17,013 unique visitors using the insecure access (http:). Secure access (https:), which became available in November of last year, lags behind with 133,259 hits, 19,040 pages and 3,209 unique visitors. In every way the numbers lag behind 2019.

Translate Website to Spanish

The translation of the website was discussed at a number of Area meetings and was eventually voted on. The conclusion that there would be significant expense with the effort was a large concern. The fact that even with this expense the website would never be fully translated also made it difficult to justify the effort. Ongoing translation would also be required, this was going to be labor intensive. As the Webmaster, I have enough work to keep up with, without this added burden. While it is an imperfect solution, it was mentioned that Google translate may be one answer worth investigating. I have done this and created a link on the home page which is functional as of last night.

GSO Meeting Guide participation

The GSO Meeting Guide app has suffered during this pandemic, having been maintained minimally by me since March. GSO has been uncharacteristically swift in keeping this app updated and meaningful in the Zoom meeting era. I have recently spoken with the Intergroup Chair to explain the value of using this avenue to get the word out about closed meetings, Zoom meetings and meetings that are re-opening for in person meetings. I want to thank Intergroup for doing what they could in this very confusing time

to maintain the list of meetings using Google Docs.

Statistics for insecure access to meetings.area31aa.org show that access lessened starting in April. Over all, it shows a reduction of 75% over last year, to this point, however secure access increased. This did not make up for the massive reduction due to the pandemic, it was still down by roughly 2/3rds.

Reminders

Area committee and district minutes need to be sent to webpost@area31aa.org, calendar updates, events and commitments need to be sent to webmaster@area31aa.org. Many of you are preparing to rotate out or on to other committees but I want to remind the present and incoming chairs, if they are here today, that there are email addresses provided through the website and they need to be monitored. This is also true for the districts. Present chairs or DCM's please pass this information to your incoming chairs and DCM's.

Accessibility:

- no mtgs since Covid. August and last month. 10 people attended 1 deaf member and 1 who recently lost hearing
- Discussed phone hot line. Need to use phone but phone is a flip phone. Co chair agreed to handle the phone but he has been absent. As a chair, need to have a device that I am able to utilize, and for future chairs. Need accessible devices doesn't only service for hearing individual but also ones with disabilities. This coming wed will discuss the purchase of a new device, phone issue and the concerns with that. Concern also for people out in community to access the accessibility committee.
- What happens when someone access or calls the hot-line number. Co chair reported that no one has tried reaching out to the number. This was the last report given by the co chair. Same number as in the accessibility pamphlet.

Archives

- focusing on 1 thing, mtg on zoom for last 6 months. Good attendance.

Updating history in area handbook, last was 2015. Would like to update to 2020, going over the area mtg minutes. Each year: pick out the most important things that need to be in handbook. Next time we meet we will discuss 2019/2020 and what has been happening. Members have been given 'homework' assignments, reviewing things throughout the year. Up to committee about what is important to be placed in the handbook.

CPC

- 2nd Tuesday zoom, 10/12 people per month
- Developed letter to professional to inform of mtg zoom, links, mtg guide app. Shared with

institutions, PI and also on website

- Class A non alcoholic member
- Virtual AIC: senior class of nursing stds
- Pioneer valley in emergency Nurse: 7 people
- Elms college, CJ, nursing & Social Work students
- Berkshire CPC members no longer mtg last Tues of the month
- Mock presentation held regularly
- Comments and questions get form professional: did not know we were self supporting, resources for spouses, status of mtgs during Covid,

Grapevine

- mtg zoom, 8 reps originally now 4/5 reps
- Tools and resources of grapevine website, past issues of GV, Audio book title (available to download), GV workbook available,
- Hosting zoom workshop, 11/22 AA GV Board of Directors 10-11:30 am log in information on website

PI

- Pandemic slowed everything down, commitments got canceled started Zoom mtg in may 6/10 members to show up
- reaching out to commitments, many of them not open to zoom but in august took CPC letter and made it to fit PI & started campaign to reach out to commitments. Got it going out to HIGH Schools, expanding to shorter announcement to newspapers. Radio station has fallen of the maps and chair tot eh radio station has past. Reaching out ot other stations, WHYN
- Internal database, mock presentation
- Western am recovery and treatment center, commitment, reaching out to previous commitments to try and schedule zoom mtgs.
- New co- chair Tamara

Website

No report

Western Ma Round Up

- Chair for round up

- Growth changes
- Virtual round up
- Behind as a committee, need members if interested pls attend: Next 11/11 at 6 pm on zoom and live mtg at 104 Ramen Circle south in Agawam, no date selected yet.
- 6K in kitty
- Keeping in touch with hotel, trying to keep the delegate report but would like to include a speaker.
- Website could use some info regarding the contact information of the mtg, zoom and in person

Berkshire IG

- No report

Institutions

- receiving strong donation, many books purchased since Covid, everything has come to a halt.
- No mtgs were going on for many months. Some institutions were interested in books, being transported to the facilities, during Covid. No in-person events
- Zoom mtgs brought in have been agreed upon.
- Past month, 1st request for in person mtg: CSS providence hospital 1 mtg a month.
- Get info out to Grp: IGR doing zoom mtgs would like participation. Valuable since things are started to open back up.
- 11/4 at 7 pm, zoom link on area calendar and IG website.

Intergroup

- continues to be live and well, during this very uncertain time. Mid March when Pandemic began, how will intergroup continue to service area 31: get mtgs out, how payments would come in. PVP loan, paycheck protection plan: Pay office staff & purchase literature and pay bills. Questions regarding receiving this plan. Intergroup does not fall under the same umbrella as area, PPP loan did not come thru government but the bank which we are affiliated with. FAQ sheet available at mtg,
- IG open M, W F curb pick up, banking. Closed to in person in building traffic.
- Alcoh-thon 12/24 & 12/25, intergroup log in can be found on intergroup home page. Go to website to schedule a time slot for your Grp.
- Any changes to zoom, provide info to intergroup. If in person mtg, reopening Grp a rep needs to provide this info to intergroup.
- Mtg guide app. Webmaster will focus on this. IG will focus on zoom and in-person mtg list. Disclosure: form IG will be can not confirm if all info is accurate.

- WMIG: in need of contributions: mailing address on website.
- IG mtg zoom 2nd Thursday of the month, steering committee last Thursday of month. Booking mtg restarting at 6:30 same night as IG
- New Bookie: Dan brown (*phone & email deleted) schedule virtually

NEYCCPA: Young People

- No report

District 1

- No report

District 2

- Monthly zoom, 7 average members.
- GSRs volunteered to give monthly presentations. 459 read,
- Translate permanent info on Website: grips concerned: some closed, some meet in person, zoom, some had business mtgs, some
- New Q& concerns: how do you help and offer support via zoom.

District 3:

- 3rd Fri every month, zoom since March
- Down over the summer, going back up, 2 new reps
- Discussion about reopening in person mtg, reaching out to Spanish speaking community, contributing more to BIG, Item about area contributes
- Majority are mtg virtually, virtual workshop last weekend with BIG: speaker from Georgia, CA, Ma, 72 participants.

District 4:

- 3rd Tues of month zoom at 7 pm. 9 GSRs last month
- Check in from groups, same as last few months: zoom mtgs, doing well, gaining members from other countries and states. Workshop 12/5 AA in the times of Covid; 11- 1230 pm. Info on website.
- Elected new Co-Dcm, and a new secretary.

District 5:

- 1st Mon of the month
- 6-12 GSRs, zoom mtgs since Covid. Some zoom, hybrid, some in person mtgs in district. Grips are contributing.
- No LCM: GSRs take non represented Grp and bring info on the importance of district work.

District 6:

- interesting and challenging time in service.
- GSR attendance in 8, throughout this time. Hazardville united Methodist church started in person district mtg in Sept. 2 new GSR and possible another 1. Most GSRs are from Connecticut mtgs. Needed to move cause western ma hospital is closed.
- Workshop held in May. Well attended.
- GSRs reporting mtgs occurring; in doors, outsides,
- Elections held: new Co-Dcm and secretary elected.

DELEGATES REPORT:

- Great event this assembly, virtual mtg
- GSO finance:
- 2022 asking members: themes for workshops, presentation topics
- 2021 theme AA and time of change: presentation themes: practicing AA principles in a changing world, recovery in a changing worlds, unity in changing world and service in changing world
- Inform, communicate, involve, and act
- US and Canada forum: 12/5 2020 experience strength and hope, what is is like, what its like and what its like now. 12 hour event. Virtual platform be able to have 10 different things going on at a time. delegate looking to put on a theme regarding accessibility issues during this time (what it was like and what its like now).
- Pandemic information/letter from GSO. Will be included in another separate email. Financial report given from GSO.
- Read Letter from GSO 3 days ago:
- Mass State Convention is canceled.
- NERASSA 2021 virtual 2/26-2/28
- 71st GSC asked to explore both in person conference and virtual.
- 9/24 1st batch of new agenda item for 2021. List of 15 agenda items. If somebody wants to get the items. Please send delegate email and he will send it out to you.
- Appreciate everyone's participation

Alt. Delegate

- since Covid began, mostly virtually fellowship. Panel 70 will forever be known as a virtual panel.
- Monthly mtgs virtually through Canada, US.
- All here to help with general service. So this program will be around so if the unborn alcoholic can receive help when needed.
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Area Chair:

- webmaster and treasurer: getting virtual donation, PayPal button into service on website. It is in service now. Fee or charge rate 2.2% + .30 for every donation.
- Area commitment: Suffield grapevine Enfield tomorrow night.
- Concept mtg TR 11/5 at 7:30 & Service Manuel Mtg 3rd Wed of month, 11/18 at 7:30 pm.
- Tamara P. PI committee member. Area still looking for co-chair to accessibility committee. Website committee is on hiatus, new chair will take over in January.
- Complaint: All committee member when produce minutes, pls send to webmaster editable for posting. Questions about this pls email area chair or webmaster to explain editable format.
- November business mtg 11/11 at 7:30 pm, Budget MTG. Reports from officers and then turn Mtg over to treasurer to compile a budget for committees for the following year.

Recounted voting members: 34 (2/3 vote will be 22)

Old Business: No Business

New Business:

- District 3 DCM: background information AAWS to develop a pamphlet regarding relocating in sobriety. This came from the Southern Berkshire Group.
- Motion Area 31 General Service to develop this pamphlet.
- Background information: get a lot of people from NY, Boston area, and other people relocating to heir area. relocating in AA and letting go of your support and how to move forward. Few members who have moved and put it together. Present it to the delegate and to be presented to the GSO. 3 pages.
- 29 members voted yes, 0 no
- Motion passes to be presented to GSO

Motion to close at 3:53pm

Closed with I am responsible.

