

Area 31 Zoom Meeting Minutes December 9, 2020  
Called to order at 7:30 PM

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

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

### **Secretary's Report:**

#### **Old Business**

- No old business

#### **New Business**

- 2021 Budget

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Beginning November Balance	<b>\$ 12,503.81</b>
Group Contributions:	<b>\$ 2,116.48</b>
Total Area Expenses:	<b>\$ 133.95</b>
Closing November Balance:	<b>\$ 14,486.34</b>
Plus - Prudent Reserve:	<b>\$ 8,500.00</b>
Total Funds Available:	<b>\$ 22,986.34</b>

### **Further comments:**

- Contributions in Nov. 2020 have **decreased** by **\$77.69** from contributions in Nov. 2019.
- There were **17** contributions made in Nov. 2020.
- Contributions Nov. 2020 YTD have **decreased** by **\$4585.06** from contributions Nov. 2019 YTD.
- Online PayPal had 3 contributions in November.
- See Treasurer's spreadsheet for further detail.

The PayPal Link is now up and running on the area website. We received \$187.36 in PayPal online contributions in November. Contributions are down but expenses are down

### **Registrar's Report:**

- My portal training next month..... This time of year, DCMs rolling out and rolling in. Showed DCM change form (send back to registrar not GSO) some forms are PDF but not DCM change form. Starting next week, should be able to update the list of active members of the Area to provide to GSO. DCM clean up process, whose still mtg, who is no longer a group.

### **Area Archivist Report:**

- Met the other night on zoom. Chair and Co-Chair last mtg. Chair has boards and will bring to the office. Updated history, provide to historian.

## **Webmaster:**

- DCM's and Committee Chairs please share your Area email address and passwords with the incoming DCM's and Committee Chairs. If you do not remember them then please have the incoming chairs contact the Webmaster at [webmaster@area31aa.org](mailto:webmaster@area31aa.org) and can reset the password for them.
- Minutes from your committees should be submitted to [webpost@area31aa.org](mailto:webpost@area31aa.org) I would be happy to post them to the website to keep the Area updated about what you have been up to. Please ensure that the minutes are submitted in an editable format such as 'Word' document format or similar. Actually even a text email would work.
- Webmaster has worked with Registrar to add the GSR and DCM change forms to the website. The ones on the website are able to be edited on your PC. Please email the completed forms to the registrar at [registrar@area31aa.org](mailto:registrar@area31aa.org)

## **Accessibility:**

- 4 people attended
- New Co-chair introduce at the last mtg.
- New phone and service, purchased phone from Walmart cost \$126.44. Give receipt to treasurer. For service will need new phone number, due to not having the old phone service acct info. Voice, text message can download videos so deaf people can use to communicate. Have not purchased any service, due to not having the acct information. If unable to find this information, then will obtain new number with the service.

## **Archives:**

- Last week, last mtg.
- Updated area handbook history section, not printed up, written out, detailed in wording, was able to give it to the next person in line.

## **CPC:**

- Met last night. 12 members.
- Bring leads on where to provide info to: Soldier On in Leeds, Mass Rehab, 104 at Barnes Airforce in Westfield, Had commitment.
- Last month asked to do a recording for a class we typically attend. Asked to tape a zoom mtg. Recorded presentation with no people shown, sent to Elms College for Social Work, Criminal Justice and nursing students who are seniors.
- BHN integrated health care team CPC presentation. Good participation & questions. Comments made during this were: AA members telling clients not to be on any medication. Good opportunity to hand out of pamphlets on topics other than alcoholism. Wanted to record the presentation. An email recently sent to any committee members can access on the website the CPC presentation.
- CPC presentation send to CPC in GSO.

## **Grapevine:**

- Met Tuesday via zoom, 2 reps attended.
- Discuss co-Chair rolling into Chair position

## **Public Information:**

- Met yesterday, 12/8/2020.
- PI campaign going out to schools, media.
- WHLL radio program, got in touch with senior VP, interested in PSAs, contacted Head quarters in NY and got some and provided to them (radio). Contacted Newspapers (difficulties reaching them). Future works for contacting Radio stations contact them (about 50 radio shows).
- Last month's committee: Clinical Support Option (CSO) will be speaking to the mass impaired classes (Ages 17 to 70 ).

## **Website Committee:**

- No report

## **Western Mass Round Up:**

- Met an hour ago.
- Starting from ground zero, starting from scratch. Not much participation, a lot has been completed at tonight's mtg. 99%

sure it will be on zoom.

- Show up 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6 pm, anyone wanting to do service work.

## **Invited Committees**

### **Berkshire Intergroup:**

- 14th of this month
- Treasurers report: down expenses never fluctuate.
- Lost a couple: 93 on line meetings, 16 in person meetings. Of these 16 meetings, 2 are operating as hybrid models.

### **Institutions:**

- Last month, not so heavily attended mtg.
- Changes made: trying to get people who held commitments prior to Covid (and shut downs), to step up and take new open/zoom mtgs available.
- Change to guidelines: limit the amount of sharing, outside AA committee limit contact they share. Guideline brought to a full vote and it was voted down.

### **Western Mass Intergroup:**

- Mtg tomorrow at 7 pm.
- Motion on the PPE loan. Discussion if we can pay it, do we have to pay it, reasonable to pay it back, how do we pay it back, etc.
- Virtual alchothon: looking for Noon time spot. Posted on website a week to week and half to Christmas Eve. Alchothon will be different zoom acct numbers for every meeting.
- Bookie mtg starting up again: booking commitments through zoom Tomorrow at 6:30 bookie mtg, 30 minutes before the intergroup mtg. Log in info available on website.
- Any changes group has or need to be reflected on intergroup website email at [intergro4@aol.com](mailto:intergro4@aol.com)

### **NECYPAA**

- Met last Sunday of November In person at Serenity Club.
- 8 people in attendance, 1 person on zoom.
- NECYPAA National “convention”, speakers, workshops etc, for the end of the year, New Years. Log in info for this Nation. Pls provide to Webmaster.
- Positions are available and elections will be held next month.

## **DISTRICT REPORTS**

### **District 1:**

- Met last month.
- 5 people in attendance.
- Lively discussion about Covid and how it is effecting the district and groups. And how new restrictions are currently effecting.
- Budget was discussed.
- Elections this upcoming mtg 12/17 at 7:30, DCM, Co-DCM & secretary. People are willing to stand for these position.

### **District 2:**

- October's report:
- 10 attendance, 7 GSR, 1 alt GSR, guest, and DCM & CO-DCM.
- Elections for 2021: completed
- Concerns: TR men's Group still not mtg, were going to wait until in person Mtg resumed (now contemplating doing zoom mtgs)
- November's report:
- DCM, Co- DCM, 5 GRS, Alt GSR, & 1 guest
- Concerns: Wild Cat Group still attending in person mtg, Scrambled eggs: only doing step mtg, holding off elections. Some groups closed completely.
- In person mtg and zoom mtg are 1 Group. 50 people participate in these zoom mtg. Church opened
- Dec 5th virtual forum 2020 experience.

### **District 3:**

- Virtual Fri 11/20: in attendance 6 GSR, LCM, DCM, Co-DCM
- 16 groups are meeting in person 37 groups virtually meetings.
- Bush walkers meet in person at church on valentine rd. 17-28 people. Lenox BB regularly attended. SOS Group meets by phone.
- Continue to discuss update technology.
- Elections to be held.
- Suggested made to inform the district of Concept meeting held monthly through zoom and it would be nice to have more Berkshire members in attendance.

#### **District 4:**

- 11/17 10 GSRs,
- Planned for workshop on 12/5. Workshop was good, 30 people in attendance. Topic was AA in the time of Covid.
- Have been using DCMs zoom acct. will need to access the area zoom access account.

#### **District 5:**

- Dec mtg on Monday 6 GSR, 1 new GSR, 1 alt GSR and guest
- Elections held.
- Will be reached out to get new GSRs for In person meetings and zoom meetings.

#### **District 6:**

- DCM, LCM, Secretary, 6 GSRs, 3 alt present in person and 4 GSR on zoom. Methodist church in Enfield for in person meeting. Registrar was in attendance in this mtg via zoom.
- Groups Abiding by Covid restrictions
- Next mtg 12/21

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

- US/Canadian Eastern forum, 2000+ people
- Missed it, go to western US /Canada later in Dec. information on area 31 website
- NERRASSA on zoom.
- Mass State Convention: Sheraton is for sale. Committee having a mtg this upcoming week. More information to come regarding sale of hotel and past contract with hotel and how this will effect us.
- GSC agenda items needed for 12/15 to be a the final list. Southern Berkshire agenda item request made this final list, Pamphlet relocating in AA.
- New book: visual history of AA pre-order 12/1 to Jan 31<sup>st</sup>, on sale Feb 14th. Souvenir book. Never before pictures and texts of AA early growth and how it is today. Should be on the area website. Limited edition.
- Finances: Oct 2020, AAWS: financial situation is getting better and as the year goes on. Individual and Group contributions are 7mil, which is 73% forecast contribution. It is expected to reach the expected amount.

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

- Flyer for the Visual history book, it states you should try and purchase from your local intergroup office.
- New England alternative delegate mtg completed every other week and North American alt delegate mtg once a month.
- For the Districts: Alt delegate: job to bring the GSR presentation to the districts. Let Alt delegate know and can attend district mtg.
- GSR/DCM mtg Q&A in early February: Virtual mtg. No fellowship or pizza. Alt Delegate will present this mtg Saturday 2/6 11 am to 12:30 pm

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

- No plan to open Robinson Center: 474 Pleasant St. Holyoke.
- Service Manual 3rd Wednesday, at 7:30 pm on Zoom.
- Concept mtg 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday, 1/7 at 730 pm on zoom
- NERRASSA 2/26, 27, 28 registration available now. Registration fee, \$21
- Last mtg of the year. Anyone rolling out of area service position and are interested in a continuing service work, pls let area

chair know.

- Minutes: Important committee and district take minutes, and send to webmaster via webpost email.
- Not the job of the area visitor to report the happenings of the area meetings but the job of the chair or the DCM. Visitors are there to answer questions or to fill in any blanks

### **Old Business:**

- Proposed Budgets

Option A \$28,683.00 (numbers people requested)

Option B \$29,343.00 (10 % increase)

Option C \$32,803.00 (Budget from last year)

Expenses:

Rents were left the same

Motion to choose Option A as the 2021 budget which has provided all committees requests.

Voting Budget Option A

18 voting yes

Motion carries.

Opposed: no oppositions to this, no minority's opinion.

Motion to increase general service conference contribution from \$1800 to 5K for the 2021 GSC.

Oppose comment: 1. Use that money for local service work versus spending it towards GSO.

We need not to hold on to the extra money and need to pass it on: based on AA literature. Don't need to hold on to excess money over prudent reserve. Disservice to the sick and suffering alcoholics. We should do something to support GSO. Because without them we would not have many things. Based on our responsibility pledge. Extend the hand to GSO, helping hands.

Why we would need an increase for the GSC in 2021, due to it scheduled to be virtually. Area should not sit on this money, look at where we can spend it in the area and if not then where can we send it. Technology updates and needs in the areas. If we don't spend it, we should send it.

- trying to get closer to what its cost and alleviate our heavy amt of money in our accounts. 1800\$ is recommended payment, last live 2019 8500\$ per delegate.

Question: How do we address the 14K surplus in this budget mtg?

We have a fully funded prudent reserve of 8K, we need to find a place and expense for the surplus.

Closing 14,486

Plus prudent reserve

Wants to send 11K to go to GSO.

Another member stated those money can go to other entities, GSO is not in financial hurting body. Locally could use that money.

Conversation about money is brought with emotions. The area should be used to help a committee who had to take a loan out and that is something AA doesn't do. To keep all this money, sit on a pile of money, was never shared at during this conversation. The motion is to increase the delegates contribution for participation in GSO, from \$1,800 to 5K.

Motion was made to table this motion to allow the groups to provide some input. Which was seconded.

24 voting members

13 votes will table.

5 voted to table motion.

Moved to discussion. Discussion ended naturally.

Voting on motion, to increase contribution from 1800 to 5 K.

16 votes for motion to carry

11 voted in favor

Opposed 5 voted.

Motion does not carry due to not having 2/3 votes.

**New Business:**

- Discussion about what to do with the “surplus” of money in the Area 31 treasury.

Motion to close at 10:19 pm. Next mtg 1/9/2021