

		Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
District 2 CO-DCM	Chris K.	N											
District 3 DCM	Lisa L.	Y											
District 3 CO-DCM	Tom H.	Y											
District 4 DCM	Steve B.	Y											
District 4 CO-DCM	Leah D.	Y											
District 5 DCM	Cindy F.	Y											
District 5 CO-DCM	Tom H.	Y											
District 6 DCM	Corbin R.	N											
District 6 CO-DCM	Megan T.	N											
Quorum =18	* only votes to make/break a tie	28											

Secretary's Report:

Old Business

- 2021 Budget

New Business

- Discuss about what to do with the "surplus" of money.

Treasurer's Report:

Beginning December Balance	\$ 14,486.34
Group Contributions:	\$ 3,173.74
Total Area Expenses:	\$ 594.61
Closing December Balance:	\$ 17,065.34
Plus - Prudent Reserve:	\$ 8,500.00
Total Funds Available:	\$ 25,565.34

Further comments:

- Contributions in Dec. 2020 have increased by **\$315.74** from contributions in Dec. 2019.
- There were 21 contributions made in Dec. 2020.
- Contributions Dec. 2020 YTD have decreased by **\$4,269.32** from contributions Dec. 2019 YTD.
- Online PayPal had 2 contributions in December.
- See Treasurer's spreadsheet for further detail.

We received \$45.85 in PayPal online contributions in December.
Thank you for supporting Western Mass General Services.

Registrar's Report:

- Welcome new committee members. Have a lot of work to do, regarding the registrar's realm.
- Need coordinated everyone to DCM, and committee member: need info on closed groups and new meetings. GSO overhaul computer system. If you have been a member of a Group and it closed please contact me and provide me the most amt of info of the groups.
- A lot of work with the districts. The way we keep our records are overhaul and has change. Hopefully more simple for me and all members.
- No new forms yet. Can go to area website to obtain the forms to complete. Go to documents- registrar- 2 forms

you can fill out on the website download and complete. DCM Change form and GSR information. Once you complete form, can email to registrar can be forward to area registrar. Need to visit all district members to explain the process. Laying the ground work for the future. Want to receive these forms through the computer, email.

- Registrar is available and can assist in this process.
- Want to alert the area, new method helps new "social distancing", local Group in dist 4 just elected a GSR, on line only mtg. Created due to Covid. New Group registration, able to register as a group. 1st ever only on line mtg.

Q: want to be notified of closed meetings? Not mtg now, but when Covid ends will reopen. As long as they have an active Grp contact, we can consider them an open Group.

Q: mtg virtually, because Group hasn't decided to go back in person meeting. Don't need to change anything if they are a registered Group. But if not an already registered Group can talk to registrar and steps can be taken to get them registered.

Area Archivist Report:

- Looking through old documents & old things the archivist has been collecting through out the years. Big book step study completed by Abe, copyrighted. Group member interpretation of the Lord's Prayers, box 459 not sure if from 1971, or commemorative when Bob Wilson died. Might be good to put on website. Plans on filing them and logging it in.
- Might do an archives virtual workshop, display old documents. Discussions have been had recently.

Webmaster:

- Wants to remind all DCM's and Committee Chairs that each District and Committee has an Area email address for use by you. If you do not know the address, it can be found on the Area 31 website under 'Contacts'. If you need the password associated with your account, please contact the me at webmaster@area31aa.org and webmaster will help you get connected to your account. These addresses are meant to be a consistent link avoiding the need to widely distribute the annual District and Committee contact information changes to those who need it.
- Minutes from your committees should be submitted to webpost@area31aa.org Webmaster will 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.
- New update of the 'Area 31 Handbook & Guidelines' available, it is posted on the Area website under the 'Documents' drop down or directly at <https://area31aa.org/handbook> The latest Handbook update is presently only available in PDF format not print.

Accessibility:

- met 12/23: 5 people attended.
- I-phone: working on getting access to the acct.
- Discussions: Workshop on zoom; Special need accessibility workbook.
- Asked about Closed caption for zoom meetings. Will continue to discuss this with the committee. Zoom offers it.
- Able to use the area zoom to have committee mtg.

Archives:

- Great mtg Tuesdays night at 7:30. Present 8 committee members.
- In December, Chair rescind because of medical issues/pending surgery but is feeling better and decided to stay on the committee.
- Excited for Service and ambitious for this year.
- Workshop will discuss possible ideas; old timers workshop.
- Talk about Sister Ignatius.

CPC:

- Person mtg zoom presentation, every month mock CPC presentation.
- Nothing scheduled on the books for presentations.
- Here to answer any questions.
- Any leads on any professional that would benefit from our zoom presentation.

Grapevine:

- Last week, small mtg 1 member that stayed and 1 new member
- Gave orientation on grapevine and what we do.
- Talked about past events presented by grapevine: workshop and Grape jams. Will continue to discuss what can happen this upcoming year.
- Grapevine our mtg in print

Public Information:

- yesterday 1st mtg (1/12)
- New co-chair couple of reps that were new.
- Overview of what the committee is, pre-Covid what commitments look like and only 1 standing commitment a month and 1 possible via zoom
- PSA on local radio stations: taken directly from AA.org, recently last month these PSA have been played on intercom station: 1450 AM 105.5 FM, 94.7 FM
- Previous chair worked really hard to get these PSAs and print out in the newspaper, make the public aware of AA.
- Group seems ambitious and wanting to get active.
- Not advertising but informative/educational on how to access AA. Utilizing conference AA approve material,

Website Committee:

- The goals for this committee for this year are as follows:
 - Present a motion to dissolve the Website Committee
 - Provide a means for support to the Webmaster
 - Facilitate a means for oversight to changes to the Area 31 website going forward
 - Admittedly having a committee was useful in the early formative years of the Area website, 2012 – 2015'ish That need however has long since passed.
 - There have been no posted minutes on the website by the website committee for the past three years. January 2018 were the last minutes posted. There has been no functioning committee in the last quarter of 2020 at all.
 - There has been little, to no group representation over the past several years. In 2016 there were 8 group representatives listed as attending the committee over a period of 5 of the 12 months of the year. The majority of those were in January (4) and February (2). There was only one rep that attended more than one meeting. They showed up for two months. 2017 listed 1 rep for one month. 2018 listed 1 rep and the rest of the year is unknown because minutes stopped being posted.
 - The dissolution of the committee was discussed at the 2019 Fall Assembly in the website workshop that was held. I was in attendance at that workshop. At that time some of the feedback by people attending were that the committee should meet every month. That suggests that at that time the committee wasn't meeting regularly. These people were members of AA from the area, however everyone in attendance at that workshop that were either current or past members as Website Committee chairs, Co-chairs, Webmaster or otherwise affiliated with the committee in some way felt to a person that there was no longer a need for this committee. There was no committee report given at that assembly.

In the Webmaster's report from that Assembly: under the paragraph titled Website Committee he stated the following.

- **Website Committee**

"Yesterday in our inventory it was brought up that many felt that the website committee needs to be meeting monthly. I just want to point out that while it has been a big help to me in previous years the fact remains that it has been over two years since they have had any useful things to do, the creation of a pamphlet and the display boards are done. The group representatives that have come to the meetings don't feel they are getting anything useful to take back to their groups and do not stay for more than a few meetings. We are not getting any feedback from these members even they do come. So, I think that the committee has outlived its usefulness; I would greatly appreciate help with the technical portion which includes posting minutes (the most time-consuming part of the job for me) but there does not need to be committee for that purpose. I realize that there may be other opinions about this I hope we can start a dialog at a future area meeting".

In order to dissolve a Standing Committee, the process is described in the Area Handbook pg.40
Standing Committees Section F. Dissolution

Section IV

Western Mass Round Up:

- mtg today 1/13.
- Elections completed.

- Round up on zoom for this year. Ground work has been laid out. 1 full day of fellowship and fun: NO FOOD!
- Expect a call from me because will need help to fill slots.
- Log in through the area zoom acct. Log in info for monthly mtg will be changed for next month.
- No dates yet

Invited Committees

Berkshire Intergroup:

- 10 people attended
- Intergroup office open Tuesdays and Fridays. Friday volunteer is being filled in for by our Office Manager and Treasurer so that we can keep the office open 2 days, 1:30-5 pm
- We continue to see a steady drop in contributions overall since March.
- Financial issues show that our expenses average \$820 a month, contributions are down to averaging \$280 a month – a loss of \$600/month. With \$3500 left for operating expenses we will soon be digging into our prudent reserve (\$3300)
- We reviewed the settings for our new Berkshire Intergroup Zoom account
- We continue to work on updating our 12th-Step Call list.
- Welcome to our new Co-Chair, Susan B, and new Treasurer, Mike M.
- Treasurer will be looking into a tax exempt number per a donator's request

Institutions:

- 1/6, 4 new IGR
- Bridging the gap got 1 phone call, phone number working again
- CSS opened up again
- 3 people rolled into positions

Western Mass Intergroup:

- Thanks to all the groups and district for continue support.
- Office currently closed for business until at least 1/21, both staff very ill. Can call 532-2111,
- 12/10 last mtg
- Agreed not to pay back PPE loan back. Financial well being and to pay employee was the basis of our decision was made.
- Vote 7 to 4 in favor of not paying the loan back: pay back the loan, 4 in favor 7 not. Any groups struggling reach out to intergroup
- Sterling committee last week, Kevin availability 9 to 5, normal work day. Will indicate this on website and an automatic response will be sent through email.
- Intergroup would like DCMs to make space on agenda for reps to attend monthly mtgs, to discuss intergroup and events and happening in our area. Want to be able to spread the word of intergroup.
- Automotive voice messaging: it was reported the line does not work right, long hold time, no live person to talk to and hangs up. When the phoen isn't turned over after person leaves office (so answering service to receive)

NECYPAA

- Last Sunday of Dec. mini virtual conference New Years weekend, 12 different workshop, Attendance fluctuated throughout event.
- Commitment through Institutions
- Last Sunday of every month, meet in person at 3 pm at Serenity club.
- Looking for live event in December.
- 1/31 holding elections, looking to fill committee slots. People doubling up on service position. Reaching out for volunteers to be on the committee: young, young at heart, have sponsee
- Communication through google meets.

DISTRICT REPORTS

District 1:

- Election last month: 1 GSR in attendance: Group in hybrid: majority of meetings in Springfield have closed down, zoom only
- Section 35 unit, desperate need for zoom commitments.

District 2:

- Meeting Monday, 5 GSR, 2 alt, 2 co DCM: Consistent attendance
- Group issue: Issue brought up from one group that had previously been meeting only on zoom, but very recently started offering a hybrid format – in person at the Alano Club and on zoom at the same time. They experienced some trouble when more people showed up than the capacity at the club. Some members complained that it's not AA if people are asked to leave and one group member even left while declaring that he quit the group because of all the rules. Discussion followed that included emphasis on the importance of following state and city guidelines for gatherings during COVID. Public health officials have been popping into various meetings unannounced. If the officials find that rules are being broken – the least that happens is the church or club is fined and the fines get steeper as multiple offenses occur and it can lead to the venue being shut down.
- 30 groups offering meetings: 15 in person, 14 zoom and 1 Hybrid
- Looking for ideas on how to get better participation.

District 3:

- Attendance included the DCM, Co DCM, LCM, 6 GSRs, Berkshire Intergroup, and the Area Delegate
- Ray of Hope reported that they created new service positions. They are a tech person and a zoom host. They are using private chat to approach the newcomer.
- The Great Barrington Men's Meeting increased their contributions to Berkshire Intergroup. They have a biweekly corrections commitment.
- The Great Barrington Women's Meeting is meeting virtually and put hybrid meeting on hold.
- Pittsfield Men's Meeting is a hybrid meeting.
- We discussed whether there was a need for an area technology person or committee and what their role would be.
- The GSRs were unanimously in support of the idea of the area creating a technology committee or position. They will take this back to their groups and report back this month.

District 4:

- 5 GSR
- Time change: from 7 pm to 6:30 pm due to zoom needs

District 5:

- 7 GSR, 1 alt GSR, 1 new GSR
- Zoom meetings: Randall and Miracles in the making are live meetings.
- Sending representation to district meetings to get more participation from GSR.

District 6:

- No report

Delegate's Remarks

- Mass state convention: larger mtg Tues 1/26 at 7 pm, through zoom. Delegate will provide zoom info for this mtg
- Sheraton in Framingham is being sold, people think this years convention will be in person
- NERAASA virtual 2/26 to 2/28 www.neraasa.org \$21 pp, cost to cover the zoom mtg.
- GSO: contributions: mail over 7 m total 9.66M in contributions: more than the year before.
- GSO updated database for delegate: 61 agenda items being considered, & over 40 from last year.
- Encourage to read: southern Berkshire submission regarding making a pamphlet" relocating in AA". Deemed not the best way to go about providing this information.

Alternate Delegate Remarks:

- Alt delegate mtg last night Area 44 polish speaker
- DCM/Co-DCM/GSR 2/6 12-1:30pm via zoom
- Dist wants the GSR presentation at your mtg contact me
- Mini conference: no date yet

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 1st Thursday, 1/7 at 730 pm on zoom
- Contemplated the idea of having a mini conference, but should have date for next month.

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- Motion to dissolve the Area 31 Website Committee. We the Area 31 Website Committee move by unanimous vote that this committee be dissolved, and that the following recommendations be adopted for the future maintenance of the Area 31 General Service website. That the Area Chair have authority/responsibility to assign an Assistant, or Assistants to the Area 31 Webmaster as need requires. That it is suggested that this also include a Handbook Editor. That the Content submission guidelines that have been revised 01/2021 be used as guidance for future changes being made to the website.
- Q: what's the procedure of the contents submission be revised. Concern: pass through committee not here at area but through assembly.
- Motion to table this motion until next month. Motion was 2nd. 14 voted yes, tied: motion did not pass.
- 22 voted yes, to dissolve the website committee. This decision is not final This needs to be presented at the Spring Assembly and voted on in new business.

Opposition : 0

- 27 voting member
- Motion to donate some of the area's money \$3600 to Berkshire Intergroup. Numbers were given by outgoing chair and treasurer. \$820 a month in expenses donations \$240 average out monthly.
- Motion to table this motion until next month. Berkshire intergroup bring back feedback
20 voted yes to table
4 opposed to table
- Discussed the possibility of area providing some funding towards helping pay back for PPE loan. Not sure if they would be able to pay this loan back... Discussion had regarding paying forward.

Motion to close. At 10:05 pm

Next mtg 2/10/2021 on zoom

Closed with the Responsibility Pledge.