

District 4 DCM	Leah D.			Y									
District 4 CO-DCM				N									
District 5 DCM	Tom H.			Y									
District 5 CO-DCM	KATE V			Y									
District 6 DCM	Megan T.			Y									
District 6 CO-DCM	Jodie			Y									
Quorum =18	* Only votes to make/break a tie			27									

27 Committee Members in attendance, Voting Members (39) 30 Live, 9 on-line 39 total

Secretary’s Report: No Old Business, No New Business

Treasurer’s Report: Opening Balance Ost 2021 \$21,478.61. Contributions \$14,269.09, Expenses \$12,619.77. Closing Balance \$23,136.93. Prudent reserve \$8501.00 = \$31,637.93

Registrar’s Report: NUMBERS

- Area 31 has 306 regular, active groups
 - Regular means not a correctional group, and not a virtual group
 - Active means that the group has a GSR or group contact listed in Fellowship Connection
- Area 31 has 1 virtual group
 - Virtual means that the group is online only—not hybrid, not temporarily hybrid, not planning to become hybrid, not planning to become face-to-face.
 - There may be more than 1. Please help your area and GSO get any virtual groups properly registered.
- The groups are distributed geographically across 6 districts. Number of groups per district ranges from 29 in District 1, to 70 in District 3.
- Numbers of members in the area totals about 5000, with highest numbers in Districts 4 and 5.

FORMS AND KITS

- Blank group change forms are on the table.
- Please fill out and return to me or to the yellow folder next to the blank forms.
- Or use the fillable form on the website: fill it out and email it back to me.
- GSO is moving toward digital kits for GSRs and DCMs. The contents of the kit are on the aa.org website, and our area website has links on the same Registrar’s page where the forms are.
- You can request a print version of the kit, but they’re on backorder and it may be a while.

FELLOWSHIP CONNECTION

- Fellowship Connection is the NetSuite platform where group and GSR data lives. Fellowship Connection is working. It’s a year or two old, and getting better all the time as we work with the GSO team and suggest improvements.
- This is partly about keeping area records are accessible and up to date. That’s important. But what’s really important is that when a group is listed in Fellowship Connection, with a listed GSR or group contact, that group is linked to the general service structure and is part of the group conscience and the spiritual heart of AA.

Area Archivist Report: New Archivist: Acknowledge Bobbi 14 years of service as Area’s 2nd Archivist.

Moved Archives to 30 Carew St. Unpacking on-going.

Update to Area History. Current to 2021

Purchased Cassette to MP3 recorder. Future plans to convert Cassettes to USB. Abandon CD conversions.

Purchased safe: (2) 1st ed Big books. Bill W signed 2nd edition Big Book, Saturday evening Post original.

Disposed of non-Area 31 Cassettes and non AA Books. (With exception to keep books that had members names within).

Unpacking ongoing. Once unpacked the goal is to sort, organize and catalogue archives.

Webmaster:

First a bit of history, in early 2012 it was decided that the Area should have a website. At the time I was approached to build that website based on the suggestions of the Area 31 Website Ad Hoc Committee. I started the process immediately, on the 30th of March 2012, ten years ago, it went live. I have been the webmaster ever since but the time has come for me to give back to AA in some other way, I no longer feel I am the best fit for this position. I have suggested numerous times that the Area should find a replacement but two years later no one has stepped up. I suggest that the Area consider making the webmaster position a Tradition Eight position, offering a stipend as an incentive. It is time to have that conversation.

For the month of March, access numbers for the Area website:

	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Viewed traffic *	2,614	3,639 (1.39 visits/visitor)	7,509 (2.06 Pages/Visit)	55,351 (15.21 Hits/Visit)	1.52 GB (436.91 KB/Visit)

The Meetings portion of our website:

	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Viewed traffic *	3,868	5,471 (1.41 visits/visitor)	32,435 (5.92 Pages/Visit)	96,381 (17.61 Hits/Visit)	5.33 GB (1020.84 KB/Visit)

At this point it is the Meetings portion that gets more use. There is nothing else exciting to report.

Send in your minutes to the webmaster; WORD **Editable** format. Flyers can be sent to webmaster in a PDF format.

Accessibilities

Working on getting new phone. Agenda is to get out to nursing homes, elderly housing & shut-ins, or people needing to get AA meetings. Possibly trying to get literature to these people. Checklists- for groups to see if they are accessible, if meetings are difficult to get into for those with accessibility issues., making effort, need help, looking for members. Because of covid, accessibility is more needed. Thinking about making a video. Encourage people to get involved. Make AA accessible to Everybody. 4th Wednesday every month.

Archives

We meet the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30pm in a hybrid format. An average of 2 reps have been in attendance. None in person.

Recording interviews and gathering stories is the core of what our committee is supposed to do. To facilitate this, we are purchasing a couple of MP3 recorders. We have discussed the Archives workbook. It can be accessed for free on the new and improved AA.org website. We also have some hard copies available.

AA is a program of action and so far, this year there has been very little on our committee. Going forward we need to:

- start scheduling interviews

- Have some activity to mark/celebrate 80 years of AA in the area

- Attract more reps

- Increase an atmosphere of enthusiasm

We have wonderful display boards that we would love to bring to any group's anniversary. They will be at this year's round-up. If you would like us to bring them to you, email us at archives@area31aa.org

CPC

Resumed in person. Mock sessions, looking to find place to give. Member has made contact with radio station. Happy to go live. Will be going to institutions to drum up contacts, schools, hospitals, doctors.

Grapevine

Need more group reps, 1st Tuesday every month, hybrid 6:30. New co-chair, averaging 3-5 reps at a meeting. Topics; grapevine website update, free quote of the day., news. To carry the message, have give aways, raffles. Podcast. ½ hour variety hour. AA Grapevine.org Every month 9:00 discussion, people that have written an article that was published, jokes, trivia, Group subscriptions. EACH MEMBER SHOULD SUBSCRIBE. The boards are available. Email to schedule. Hosts writer workshops Looking for stories. Relapse, due 4/15.

PI

Look back at 2021, not much happened due to covid. Unable to get into any places. Member was able to confirm WHNP 101.5 is playing AD, requested by previous chair of PI. Brought boards to groups. Virtually met with Mill St. No other commitments. January, low attendance, 2 members Now has 10 reps. 3 or 4 have experience. Radio show will start again soon. Reaching out to Hampshire region high school. SADD Program.

Round Up

Started in September 2nd Wednesday every month, prior to Area meeting. Hotel changed, no longer in Enfield, is now at the Clarion in West Springfield, Ma room rate is \$129.00 PER NIGHT. May 20-22nd. Has speakers set up. Looking for donations for raffles and baskets & for hospitality room. Moving storage to S Hadley soon. Agenda coming out soon. No banquet this year, social hour instead. \$20 for registration.

Berk IG

Meet virtual. Sent survey. 1 day retreat in June. Printing meeting list down the road. QR code- for meetings, Newsletter- send email request to get the newsletter.

Institutions

- No report.

Good afternoon, my name is Bob M and I am the newly elected Intergroup Chairperson. First and foremost, Western Mass Intergroup continues to be alive and well serving all of Western Mass Alcoholics Anonymous. We are a very important part of the AA hierarchy, following tradition 5, to help the alcoholic who still suffers. We intend to hold up that tradition, so EVERYONE has the opportunity to get sober. We feel very strongly about this. It means **to be kind to them, listen to what they say, encourage them when they're frustrated, and show them you genuinely care**. Listening is very important. As you listen to what another member says, you realize others have had the same feelings and been through many of the same situations as you have. Thanks to the Area Committee, and all Area 31 Service Committees, for their work in passing the AA message during this still uncertain time 2 years later.

Throughout this past year there has been so many changes. We can say Intergroup is beginning to come to life again. We are at our new location and doing well at the UCC Church on 300 Appleton Street in Holyoke. This after over 24years at our former location the Grace United Church.

As we all come out of this pandemic of the last 2 years and began to see things looking up in AA and then down again for a short period of time, we believe patience and our Higher Powers will see us through.

As we continue to move forward in 2022, and beyond, there is a sense of gratitude within Intergroup on how we we're able to continue to service the groups in Area 31.

Not long ago we asked How would we make sure that the members of Area 31 know where to go for information on meetings? How would we get literature where it needs to go? How would we keep our doors open? How would we pay the bills? Who would be answering the phones? How are we going to be able to pay the bills? The staff?

These questions were being answered by an incredible fellowship that continued to support intergroup both with group and personal donations.

It has not been easy at times, but our Literature Account has supported the rental agreement through earned income. This has been a challenge at times falling short in some months, but we know the Area 31 AA groups will rebound themselves and we know the book sales will rise.

As for Donations we have seen a rise in group and personal donations and were able to make strides to increase our prudent reserve and repay internal loans from the office move.

We created an online meeting list, as well as taking over the Meeting Guide, creating continuity with both listings.

Thanks to our web team in putting in the hours needed and continue working on that.

I would like to thank the officers for their continued dedication. Alli our secretary and Dan our Treasurer. Our steering committee is being put together as we speak, and Intergroup will be back on track for 2022 and beyond

Our Office staff remains strong with Joy as the Supervisor and Kevin doing the website and management for the time being.

All groups are welcome to send a rep every 2nd Thursday of the month at 7pm for our monthly meeting and our Bookie meeting which begins at 6:30 pm right before the intergroup meeting. Please join us on ZOOM for all our meetings at this time. Our Zoom information is on the home page of our website.

Copies of the WMIG Treasurer's End of the Year Report from 2021 are available upon request by emailing: intergro4@aol.com

WMIG had its annual Christmas Alkathon LIVE and was a huge success, and the picnic will be back this August.

Any changes to your Zoom meeting, or Reopened Face to Face meetings please email the office so that it can be updated.

New groups will need a group change form please ask for one.

Now with me as a part of WMIG, I'll be focusing on the Meeting Guide app and Kevin will continue to focus primarily on the Zoom meeting list and the Reopened meeting list and website.

We will continue to communicate as much information with each other as possible in order to make sure that all information is accurate and correct. There will be a disclaimer from both the Area 31 Service Committee and Intergroup that states that we cannot confirm that all information is accurate as this has been an incredible transition.

The Area 31 Committee will continue to have a link to WMIG on their website and we will have a link to the Area 31 Committee on ours. Together in the partnership of service we will try to make sure that every AA newcomer has access to a meeting.

WMIG continues to need your donations. Please check the website about halfway down to donate through PayPal.

A gentle reminder that all of our service committees need your help so please donate to the pie chart.

In closing I would like to say that I hope I didn't miss anything and that we here at WMIG are humbled to be of service to AA area 31, all its groups and members, we thank you. I would also like to send out a special thank you to the reps, the Steering Committee, our Officers Alli and Dan, and our office staff Joy, myself, and our business manager Kevin who will be retiring June 1st after almost 2 decades in Intergroup.

NEYPA – No report

District 1

- New to position, glad they decided not to redistrict, elected with 2 months as GSR. Meets live now, groups doing well.

District 2

Highlights: new DCM rolled in. Moved to Alano Club. Hybrid meeting, going well. Average 12-15 members, more in person than on-line. Updated Group registry. Looking ahead, going to start visiting "unlit" groups. Very glad to run hospitality, 1st time doing 'it. Thanked everyone for the help. Invited all AA members to attend District meeting Has Coffee, meets 7:00 2nd Monday every month.

District 3

- Overall, District 3 has seen a steady attendance over the last 6 months with between 6 to 8 groups represented. Most of our attendance is from what is considered Southern Berkshire County, which is Lenox down to the Connecticut Border. At our last district meeting, we had a GSR make the drive down from Williamstown, MA - about an hour drive to Lee. This brings us to 1 group from the Northern Berkshires, 1 group from the Central Berkshires (mainly Pittsfield), and 4-6 groups from the Southern Berkshires. There are almost an equal number of meetings in each of the three parts of the county, so our hopes are to continue to get representatives from the underrepresented parts of the county.
- In January, the district began meeting hybrid after being virtual since early 2020. Just the area committee and I had attended in person until a GSR from the Northern Berkshire Group visited last month. The GSR from that group suggested that the meeting being in person is why he was able to attend. Moving forward, we may explore moving the meeting closer to the center of the district. There are no plans to discontinue the virtual meeting during my service.
- Regarding our rent, the Town of Lee has advised that they wouldn't have any way to accept the rent, and they stated that other AA meetings had been using the space free of charge. After discussing our 7th tradition, it was offered that we could instead pay the rent as a donation to a cause of our choice. They also did suggest a couple of causes. I would like the input of the area committee on how to handle this as a conversation outside of this meeting, unless this draws any objection.
- District 3 started our monthly virtual traditions meeting in January. We have had attendance of between 5 and 15. The meeting is on the 2nd Sunday of the month at 7pm on Zoom. We hope to continue this meeting through at least the end of next year, with the outgoing DCM taking on the responsibility of chairing the meeting the following year and obtaining speakers.
- During the last district meeting of last year, a motion was raised and passed from the GSR to put a hard stop on our meeting after 1 hour. The DCM or Co-DCM can raise a quick vote before the hour mark, asking for extension if needed. This year we have not been reading traditions or concepts at the district meeting. I have instead encouraged GSRs to attend the area Concept meeting and the District Traditions meeting for a more comprehensive understanding of these principles. Our meetings have been finishing in 40-50 minutes, but we have not had any new business or extensive discussion on anything to date.
- We held our first event on March 5th, discussing many of the upcoming agenda items that were presented here yesterday. Several volunteers received the background material and gave a short presentation to the district. The intent of the event was to mainly inform AA members of the proposed changes, facilitate conversation at the groups, and encourage attendance at yesterday's event. We had about 15 people at our event with an even split online and in person. We had two members from Berkshire County in the breakout rooms yesterday. If I were to do the event again, I might have mimicked what the area does with small groups hearing multiple topics and in breakout rooms. I've observed the district to be very passionate about changes happening in AA so the opportunity is finding out how to best encourage their participation.
- While many encouraging things are happening in the district, we still find ourselves without a CO-DCM and LCM. Our current base of GSRs is not interested in taking on either role. Some only have 1-2 years of sobriety. We have also not shied away from informing them that the area meetings do not

have a 1-hour time limit and require a much bigger commitment. I will continue to reach out to groups and may seek the counsel of past DCMS of District 3 to learn if there are any good candidates that I have not met yet.

District 4

Representation of Groups in District 4:

- 14 GSRs and 5 Alternate GSRs with anywhere from 5-10 groups represented at monthly District 4 meetings
- One GSR or Alternate GSR presents on one of the AA twelve traditions monthly

Change of Service:

- In November 2021, we held elections for Co-DCM. Adam was voted in and has served as the Co-DCM since January 2021. Steve B who served District 4 well stepped down from DCM and Leah rolled into DCM in January of 2021. We have still not filled the role of a District 4 Secretary.

Group Highlights:

- A few groups from our district spoke at the NYE alcahthon, including Hadley Women's Language of the Heart, Haydenville Sunday Night Life, and the Saturday Night Northampton Beginner's Group.
- Many of our groups transitioned from fully virtual to hybrid or in-person. Groups who are holding hybrid formats find that the format is working well for the groups. In the past six months, groups have faced fluctuations of numbers for the in person meeting portions due to COVID-19 as well as followed changing masking policies in accordance to the city/towns; however, attendance of meetings has been well all around.
- Many of the District 4 groups have held group anniversaries and elections during this six month period, and discussed holding group inventories.
- **Better Safe Than Sorry:** The first virtually registered group in Area 31, which started on Zoom and will continue on Zoom. Group celebrated their two year anniversary on March 18, 2022. 18 people spoke who got sober at this meeting.
- **Conway Monday Night** transitioned from a telephone conference call to a Zoom meeting.
- **Florence "I" Opener** has separate in person and Zoom meetings, but not a Hybrid format. The group has a robust fun committee doing any number of great fellowship, social activities. Group just started a meditation session that will happen weekly. Many newcomers have been able to get the support from group members.

District 4 Highlights:

- Held a virtual workshop on December 4, 2021 called "Ways to Carry AA's Simple Message in a Complicated World." There were three speakers followed by a Q&A and discussion. The speakers spoke about their experience in 1) Reaching out to people who have left the rooms; 2) How can we be of service and connect outside of service committees? and 3) What are ways that we as AA members can assist the non-virtual members?
- District 4 has chosen to continue meeting over Zoom. Because District 4 has a very large geographical range, GSRs think holding the meeting on Zoom is a more convenient way to reach new group representatives and it is working well for all GSRs currently.
- District 4 is working together to attend meetings that do not currently have GSRs. We spoke about attending meetings with enthusiasm, asking if they have a GSR (and if not, if we could have a group contact), and asking groups when their business meetings are. GSRs and Alt-GSRs are attending one meeting a month. At the March 2022 meeting, we spoke about 2 or more people attending a meeting together, which may be more enticing to a group. Leah and Adam, DCM and Co-DCM, are discussing how best to keep track of meetings attended through the Fellowship Connection and a potential Google Sheets Document.
- Steve hold a GSR Presentation at the end of a District 4 meeting so people who would like feel they understand their role well may leave
- Workshop idea for 2022 District 4 Thanksgiving Alcahthon, but nothing is yet set in stone.

District 5

District 5 hosted the Fall Assembly on October 15 & 16 in 2021. We had a great showing from active GSR's and alternates. Cindy, our DCM at the time did an excellent job with organization and motivation. The rest of 2021 went well. We have talked about methods for getting the word out to District 5 groups that are not represented at our meeting, being more inclusive by having our meeting hybrid, and because The Union Church of Christ, where we meet, is now up for sale, it would be prudent to search for another meeting place. We believe it would be ideal for us to move to The United Methodist Church where Area 31 now meets in South Hadley so that we could start up with hybrid meetings as soon as we made the move by borrowing the Areas' equipment.

Moving forward, we are finalizing a presentation to be read at next week's District meeting to talk with district groups not yet represented, looking for ideas and a place to hold a workshop, and are pleased to participate in The Round-Up.

District 6

2nd year as DCM, meets 3rd Monday every month. Most all meeting in Enfield meet at the same church, the have been a great friend to AA. Average 6-12 GSR's each month. Tabled idea to do hybrid meeting for now. Contributions are good. Most groups are live, some virtual. Enfield Young Peoples had their annual anniversary/ New Year's Eve Dance. Will be visiting groups to get more GSR participation. October workshop went well. New workshop in June- no date set yet. Topic will be "AA FOR DUMMIES", to help end some confusion, explain importance of service in AA and how it changed your life. 2 GSR's went to NERASAA, looking to do GSR presentation.

Delegate's Remarks

My name is Mike and I am an alcoholic!

My home group is The Step Group that meets on Monday nights at 7PM in Holyoke and I have a service position. I am your panel 72 Delegate to the General Service Conference serving on the Policy and Admissions Conference Committee. My sobriety date is Jan 23, 2002, and I have a sponsor and I am a sponsor.

The last 6 months.

Before rotating out as Alternate Delegate I was on the planning committee for the virtual Mass State Convention as 1 of 2 co-chairs of the Program Committee. The Mass State Convention is a great way to get involved and get active and as I do not want to steal Steve's thunder that is all I will say about that.

I and spent my first day as Delegate at NECYPAA at the Sturbridge Host Hotel hosted by the Area 31 Young Peoples Committee. The experience I had there I will remember and cherish. It was my first time attending their Saturday Night meeting and activities, which started the year off for me with a bang. The energy, excitement and commitment of our Young Peoples Committee was inspiring. That committee spent 2 years planning what during normal times would be 1 year. They did a great job sticking with it and getting it done. After they recover from that experience, we will be seeing them again as we have much work for that dedicated group of folks.

A few days after that my conference committee met to do conference business. It is an annual meeting usually done on conference call, but now is done on a virtual platform. We made recommendations that went to a conference vote virtually and the business of AA for the 72nd Conference had begun.

The release of the background material on the 15th of February was the next event. This year I decided to not print reams of paper and downloaded the files onto my computers and uploaded onto a google drive to be able to give access to any AA that requested it. We do of course make accommodations for those who are not computer savvy and will have mailed hard copies to whomever asked. As far as I know there was no request for that.

NERAASA was next at the end of February in Pittsburgh. I picked up a tired Alternate Delegate at 10:30 PM on Thursday and we did an overnight trip in the 32-degree rain along the Pennsylvania Turnpike and arrived at 8:30 AM to our rooms being available without extra cost and we were able to sleep a few hours prior to the start.

While I was able to nap the day before Steve was not and he stayed conscience the whole time. It was great spending those many hours to and from Pittsburgh getting to know each other better. I will always remember that trip with great fondness. NERAASA had more than 700 people and it went really well. Area 31 had 10 participants if my count is correct.

NERD was 2 weeks after NERAASA and that is where our past Delegates and current Delegates and Alternates from the North East Region assemble to provide their experience at Conference to the new Delegates from the region and help the new Delegates with much guidance. We had a concept study and

meetings with Delegates and Alternates to discuss topics pertinent to the conference and their positions. After NERD I was talking to my sponsor about traveling to NYC and I was considering driving. After that discussion I made my train reservations.

I want to thank District 2 for hosting this weekend. Great job. I attended my first District 2 meeting as Delegate last week at the Alano Club. I was once a GSR and DCM in District 2 and we met at the Alano Club and we had our Assemblies here in this room. So I have been filled with my memories of those days not so long ago. Some of the faces have changed but it is clear that Area 31 is in good hands.

I will be finishing up the back round material this week and will go over my Conference Committee material once more before I leave for NY and I want to thank Area 31 for providing me with your feedback yesterday at the Mini Conference of the 12 items that we covered. I will have that information along with my notes and then the information I receive at Conference to make informed and hopefully inspired decisions.

Past Panel 46 Delegate Jack B went to his first Conference and when he came back asked the Area to begin having a pre-conference event as he felt uninformed and not as prepared as he thought he should be, and that is what began yesterday's event.

It is an honor and privilege to serve Alcoholics Anonymous. This fellowship and being involved with General Service Committees, a Sponsor, being a sponsor and having a home group has taught and continues to teach me how to live a useful and fulfilling life and be one among my fellows.

Thank you for my sobriety and thank you for my life.

In Love and Service,

Mike B.

Area 31 Panel 72 Delegate

Alternate Delegate Remarks:

Mass State Convention will be live November 11-13 this year. Planning Committee meet same time as convention, carpool to Sturbridge leaves at 6:15.

NERD: Hosting this year ran hospitality area 30 & 31- with Jerry area 30 Alt-Delegate. Also went to NECYPAA, Went to NERASAA, drove down, NERF- virtual?

Offered GSR Presentation, will be modifying to make more relevant to first few months as GSR to include NERASAA, Mini-Conference, Round-up.

Area Chair Remarks:

Things going on: NERASAA went great, no one killed each other after the 12-hour drive in frozen rain. Area meetings, Monthly concept meeting 1st Thursday, service manual meeting 3rd Wednesday. HIGHLY RECOMMEND. Offering group inventories, a past delegate will come to your group to facilitate to inventory. Several Area speaking commitments, Please attend if possible.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion was made to form an ad-hoc committee, seeking out a replacement Webmaster and to explore the options of making the Webmaster a paid position.

Recount of voting members.

Motion was passed 35 yes-1 no (area chair will form an ad-hoc committee)

Motion was made to close the meeting at 3:30 PM