

Area 31 Zoom Meeting Minutes, July 13th 2022
Called to order at 7:30 PM

		Jan	March	Apr il	May	Jun e	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
AREA DELEGATE	Mike B.	Y	Y		Y	Y					
ALTERNATE DELEGATE	Steve M.	Y	Y		Y	Y					
AREA CHAIR *	John G.	Y	Y		Y	Y					
AREA TREASURER	Steve	Y	Y		Y	Y					
AREA SECRETARY	Ray M.	Y	Y		Y	Y					
<i>AREA REGISTRAR</i>	<i>Sally</i>	Y	Y		Y	Y					
<i>AREA ARCHIVIST</i>	<i>Carl G.</i>	Y	Y		Y	Y					
ACCESSIBILITIES CHAIR	Mike C.	N	N		Y	Y					
ACCESSIBILITIES CO-CHAIR	Bruce V.	N	Y		N	N					
ARCHIVES CHAIR	Immer C.	Y	Y		Y	Y					
ARCHIVES CO-CHAIR	Kellie C.	Y	Y		N	N					
CPC CHAIR	Charlie	Y	Y		N	Y					
CPC CO-CHAIR	Steve A.	N	Y		N	N					
GRAPEVINE CHAIR	Jack A.	Y	Y		Y	Y					
GRAPEVINE CO-CHAIR	John	Y	Y		Y	Y					
P.I. CHAIR	John M.	Y	Y		Y	Y					
P.I. CO-CHAIR	Mark H.	N	N		N	N					
<i>WEBMASTER</i>	<i>Bob B.</i>	Y	Y		Y	Y					
W. MASS IGP CHAIR		N	N		N	N					
BERK. IGP CHAIR	Susan B.	Y	Y		Y	Y					
INSTITUTIONS CHAIR	John	Y	Y		N	N					
<i>INSTITUTIONS Co-CHAIR</i>		N	N		N	N					
ROUND UP CHAIR	Yolanda R	Y	Y		Y	N					
ROUND UP CO-CHAIR	Steve A.	N	Y		Y	N					
WMYPAA	Michael R.	X	N		N	N					
<i>WMYPAA CO</i>		O	N		N	N					
District 1 DCM	John P	Y	Y		Y	Y					
District 1 CO-DCM	Vacant	N	N		Y	N					
District 2 DCM	Chris K.	Y	Y		Y	Y					

		Jan	March	Apr il	May	Jun e	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	De c
District 2 CO-DCM	Kerri O.	Y	N		N	N					

District 3 DCM	Tom H.	Y	Y		Y	Y				
District 3 CO-DCM	VACANT	N	N		N	N				
District 4 DCM	Leah D.	Y	Y		Y	Y				
District 4 CO-DCM		Y	Y		Y	Y				
District 5 DCM	Tom H.	N	Y		Y	Y				
District 5 CO-DCM	KATE V	Y	Y		N	N				
District 6 DCM	Megan T.	Y	N		Y	N				
District 6 CO-DCM	Jodie	N	N		Y	N				
Quorum =18	* Only votes to make/break a tie	25	26		22	22				

Secretary’s Report:

Old Business

Motion made by Alt-Delegate to discontinue zoom for area and area committees and revert back to original times. (Return to live only). Motion did not pass.

New Business

No new business proposed, but topic was brought up about excess funds. Treasurer will call a finance meeting.

Treasurer’s Report:

Beginning June Balance \$ 22,695.62 Group Contributions \$ 3,395.15 Berkshire Intergroup \$ 3,600.00 Total Area Expenses \$ 1,150.20 Closing June Balance \$ 28540.57 Plus – Prudent Reserve \$ 8.501.00 Total Funds Available \$ 37,041.

Further Comments: *Contributions in June 2022 have increased by \$1,350.19 from contributions in June 2021 *There was a total of 38 donations made in June 2022 totaling \$3,018.04 * Online PayPal contributions totaled \$377.11 * Check from Berkshire Intergroup for \$3600.00

Registrar’s Report:

NUMBERS

- 308 active groups—306 regular and 2 virtual
- In the US/Canada service structure, the average number of groups in an area is 765. The highest number is 2300, and the lowest is 159.

“STATUS UNKNOWN” GROUPS

- Continuing to monitor the list of status unknown groups, especially the 5 that are listed in the meeting guide app as actively meeting.
- If any DCMs want me to resend that list, email me at registrar@ area31aa.org

VIRTUAL GROUPS

- The Trustees’ Ad Hoc Committee on Participation of Online Groups in the US/Canada General Service Structure reported on its progress at the last Conference. Our Delegate, Mike, mentioned this in his Conference Report, and generously sent me a copy of the Trustee presentation. Trustees are mostly gathering information and suggestions right now. One interesting fact is that there are now almost 600 active virtual groups registered in the US and Canada.

- The area registrars are also trading information and experience with virtual groups and virtual districts.
- Here in Area 31, we have 2 registered virtual groups. But many of us know of groups meeting online only, and I've started to build a list of those. It looks like we have around 30. More info to come. Any group that wants to be registered as a virtual group should know that it is easy to change their registration type from "regular" to "virtual." When GSO tell us there are 600 virtual groups, we want Area 31's groups to be represented in that number if they want to be, and to have a voice as AA develops policies for their participation in the service structure.

Area Archivist Report:

CATALOG OF BACK LOG, BOOK CASES BACK IN ROOM. Doing inventory and spreadsheet. Stuff to sort. Berkshire BB group reached out for history-was unable to find it. Still looking. Found bonder of early correspondence of Pittsfield group in Mass to contact GSO in 1945 or so, Mentions of Albany. Also found same for Holyoke group to GSO, mentions Springfield about starting meeting's, SENT COPY TO GSO.

Webmaster:

_ Updating info to meeting guide App. Accessibility related moving slow. Looking into meetings for accessibility for listings. Hotlinks on website to meeting changes. Frustrated, tried to do updates, did not go smoothly. Someone tried to log in several times to area website. PLEASE check your area emails !!- VERY IMPORTANT. Not getting a lot of minutes from some committees. Send events to have posted to website. Working with Sally to figure out which are virtual only to help them get connected to the area and GSO. Berkshire intergroup is going to use our page for meeting info, easy to print PDF of various district meetings.

Accessibilities

Meeting went well, took commitments, first at home commitment to bring into a home. Social worker reached out for meeting info for an alcoholico client. Still giving rides to members. Vantage health-working on Charlton Manor Senior center. Big News developing a form for meeting info. Working on other info for accessibilities meeting data base. Divided districts.

Archives

• 2 new reps attended. Hammered out details of storage methods and adjourned.

CPC

_ . Met last night. Light attendance 5 CPC reps. 1st interactive presentation since Covid, Did video. Elms used as CPC tp share. Nailing down live one on one to give presentation. Will get with PI to make sure radio is being fulfilled.

Grapevine

Attending in person were Jack A. and John S. (Committee chair and co-chair) and Mike the Area Delegate. Reps from 3 groups attended: SH Friday, Daily Reflections, and the After Work Groups all on Zoom.

Jack started the meeting with the Serenity Prayer and a review of the GV Chair meet and greet held by the GV Editor last month. The biggest news from that is that the staff is aware of the issues with the online ordering process and are looking into improving it. We then watched a video on the responsibilities of the GVR from the Grapevine You-Tube page and discussed all of the great videos and stories available on You Tube.

Jack visited a couple of groups to talk about them getting a GvR. We had the GV Board at the Cold Spring's 47th Anniversary meeting last month and there was a good response.

The Grapevine is working on an all-inclusive app for the Grapevine, this should be out in a year or so.

Jack reviewed the July GV News including the Editors deadlines.

- Stories on Making Amends – Due August 15th.
- Upcoming topics include Mid-Sobriety challenges, and
- What I love about our "Twelve and Twelve" (70th anniversary of the book).

Group reps shared how they are carrying the message in their groups with the GV and that their groups are

growing recently.

John shared that he visited District 6 last month and read the AA Grapevine quote of the day. Mike discussed the Traditions meeting and Service Manual study group as well as the Mass State Convention planning meeting on July 26th. He also announced that he will be delivering his delegate's report on July 9th from 10-12 – details at area31aa.org.

We have replaced our cases for the boards and they are much more robust than the previous ones. The cost was \$50.00 each.

PI

We met twice since the last Area meeting. 6/14 and last evening. The June meeting had eight in attendance plus the Area Chair, John. Last evening there were only 4 of us plus the Area Chair, John. In Old Business in June we reviewed previous meetings minutes. In July we reviewed previous minutes including discussion from Marc C. About his contact with the Baystate Substance Abuse Dept. They are not having any outside visits at this time due to an increase in Covid cases. Mark will follow up. In New Business in June there was Information shared by Peg C about her appearance on the Radio Show. She talked about the difference between the old show and the present. It is more of an interview by the Radio Host, Matt than just someone giving their story. He does follow the P I Presentation well though. Contact with Adcare, West Springfield was discussed again. We have not heard back from them as of yet. In July Meeting Adcare came up again and it was decided that John M would make contact with Annie, the Outpatient Program Director. JohnM reported on his recent communication with Matt at Audacy Radio concerning our Radio Show to give him a couple new names and inquire about times available to record since we have received few concerns about this. Matt said there have only been five shows so far. He has had a hard time getting together with volunteers. The only times available to do this are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 1 to 4 pm due to other Station use of Studios. John is going to redo the Information sheet with this so everyone will know this in advance. Also Matt said our show is aired on Sunday at 5am on 94.7 and on 98.1 at 6am when available. A lot of discussion was had by three Reps here last night about past Committee's commitments and more Rep participation. All three had past experience in PI. Marc C will compile a list for High Schools done in the past for us to reach out to in September. Cooley Dickson was brought up and Peg will contact. Mark H will try to reach out to the Second Offender Program in Northampton again.

Round Up- NO REPORT

Berk IG

- Berkshire Intergroup is continuing to meet on Zoom. There were 8 reps in June and 7 in July. The Intergroup office is open three afternoons a week. It has been relatively quiet. The hotline has been receiving an average of 36 calls per month. The Berkshire Intergroup newsletter is going out to approximately 140 people. Our Google calendar meeting list stopped working. We now have a link that goes directly to the Area meeting list which Bob has set up to be able to search for District 3. We returned the \$3,600 the Area gave us to help us when we were having difficulty meeting our operating expenses. For the time being anyway, we are not having trouble in this regard.

Berkshire Intergroup will be sponsoring two upcoming events:

A one-day spiritual retreat will be held on September 24 from 10:00 to 4:00 at the Christ Trinity Church in Sheffield. Due to a capacity limit, people will need to pre-register.

A screening of the documentary "Bill W." (2012) will be held at Images Cinema in Williamstown on November 6 at 1:00 pm.

Institutions

- Thanked John for reminder that institutions are part of area. 1258.09 ending balance. Voted to spend on books, voted to give anyone doing a institution commitment to takes books in with them. Calson Opened back up for incoming. Still have open spots. Bridging the gap has new coordinator. How to better give and get info to people coming out of prisons. 800 number unknown. Let folks know it's happening. Slow process.

WMIG –

_Working on family picnic, Band, DJ at the Moose club in Chicopee. Raffle, groups are giving donation. Sidney is coordinating for picnic. Kevin is staying on as webmaster. Publications are coming in. Standing committee chair and open positions. 1 Year & 2 year.

WYPAA

- NO REPORT

AD-HOC Committee **Ad Hoc to Define the Webmaster Role**

The ad hoc committee met again on Tuesday, July 12th. Participants were Anne F., Sally S., Carl G., and Bob B. We briefly reviewed the revised 'Duties and Suggested Qualification' for the Webmaster position. All agreed that this part was done. The decision was made to review the 'Content Submission Guidelines' with the same intent of making it more concise. Anne F. volunteered to do this. Moving on to the final bullet point of our initial agenda we discussed what Webmaster compensation might look like. We agreed that multiple choices should be available within the confines of what Area 31 was capable of offering. The finalizing of these choices will be discussed at the next meeting to be held in August. We hope to present the final report to the Area Committee in September

District 1

- Ebb and flows of GSR's

District 2

- Well attended, 9 GSR's & invited guests. Minor issue of expense concern.

District 3

- 6 groups represented at the last meeting
- We will remain hybrid through the end of the year after a few new groups expressed interest in joining in person.
- GB Men's Group is planning a picnic for 8/21 at Sheffield Town Park.
- Men's 12th Step Group reported strong attendance to the Spaghetti dinner.
- District 3 hosts MONTHLY TRADITION meeting: 2nd Sundays at 7pm, Meeting ID: 842 7414 8976 Passcode: 816033. The speaker portion of these meetings is being recorded (audio only) and can be found by requesting to be added to the Google Drive where the files are kept – district3@area31aa.org
- Co-DCM and LCM positions remain open in District 3. No one stood for either position.
- NEW BUSINESS For Consideration: Would restructuring District 3 allow for a better local connection and encourage more participation? Currently approx. 10 of 69 groups are being represented at District meetings. Separate the district between Lenox and Pittsfield? Each could have its own DCM. Travel time would be lessened for many. Could the District break into sub-Districts? i.e., Dist 3.1, 3.2, etc., each run with its own DCM? The in-person portion of this meeting is currently at the Lee Courthouse; would moving it to Pittsfield encourage more participation?
How do we attract more DCMs when we're already struggling to get a co-DCM in the current structure? Can we do more reaching out instead of breaking up? Area 30 split up as suggested here, leading to greater member participation.
- MOTION was made to extend the meeting beyond 8pm. MOTION was voted NO. Discussion and meeting ended

District 4

Group Check-Ins

- **The Only Requirement Group** - Looking for new commitments. All is well.
- **Saturday Night Northampton Beginner's Group** - Church is remodeling space group usually uses in the basement. Group is hoping they will be meeting back in the basement in July. Group put together beginner's packets including QR codes with meeting lists, which a couple of beginners have taken. Some people that used to come when meeting was in basement are coming back, which is great. Very well attended. All is going well.

- **Haydenville Sunday Night Life** - Attendance a little less than normal, but steady. Group is going to have a group inventory because haven't had one in about five years.
- **Sunderland Security** - Group is growing. Every meeting it feels like more people. Meeting feels good to have a full room again.
- **Spontaneous Combustion** - Closed men's discussion meetings on Wednesday nights at 7:30pm in Amherst. Group recently became a recognized group in world service with a group number and made a \$1,000 Pi Chart donation. Averaging about 15 men a week.
- **Friday Night Valley LGBTQ Meeting** - Group is doing hybrid, which is working pretty well. Attendance is pretty stable for the past year, but still only ½ or ⅓ of attendance pre-pandemic.
- **Old Business:**
 - GSRs attend meetings in small groups in District 4:
 - Reflection: Adam attended 1,2,3 Group in Greenfield and got group contact
 - Communicate via email for attending meetings
 - Western Mass Round-Up Workshop went well!
 - Workshop ideas for 2022
 - District 4 Thanksgiving Alcathon New Business:
 - Will C to present on Tradition 7 at the June District 4 Meeting
 - Leah will be attending Cummington Candlelight meeting in July to get a GSR/Group Contact. Will email GSRs once the date is set if people would like to join!

District 5

Met on 7/11/22 @ 7:30 PM on Zoom only

Thank you to John G. helping us get the Zoom meeting started.

We had 5 GSR's present, one was new.

The groups that reported are doing well, most are still working on filling one or two last service positions.

John G. was our guest with announcements.

We received reports on Chapter 12, The Grapevine, from the Service manual and Tradition 7.

Readers were assigned for next month's meeting.

There is still a good energy at our meeting.

District 6

- New DCM, Jenny- gave report to area that the prior DCM & Co-DCM both stepped down. Hoping to get new energy. 3 GSR's attended, district has a secretary. Looking forward to consistency and continuity. Groups gave feed back of unity, fellowship and fun for workshop that WILL take place. Maybe will do an open house bringing hype and encouragement. District 6 has as many groups as any other.

Delegate's Remarks

Not much to say, has been visiting groups. AA is coming alive, radio show, districts, committees. On line report was a success. Getting back to full speed.

Alternate Delegate Remarks:

Mass State Convention meets every odd month, last Tuesday of the month. Next meets July 26th at the Sturbridge Hotel. Carpool leaves from end of rt.291 at 6:15 sharp. Thanked District 4 for allowing to come in to give new GSR report. Giving at District 6 & will give to anyone, anytime. Kudos to District 4, LEAH for helping with Zoom.

Area Chair Remarks:

- Service Manual, 3rd Wednesday every month, 730pm, at 30 Carew Street
- Concept mtg, 1st Thursday every month at 730 pm at 30 Carew Street in South Hadley
- Area will do in coming commitment & group conscience, contact the Area Chair.
- Reminder to committees to mention to its members to visit intergroup to get the latest information, the meeting is on Zoom.

Old Business

Motion made by Alt-Delegate to discontinue zoom for area and area committees and revert back to original times. (Return to live only). Motion did not pass.

New Business

No new business proposed, but topic was brought up about excess funds. Treasurer will call a finance meeting.

Motion to close 8:58p.m.
Next meeting 9/14/2022

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

Ray M

Area 31 Secretary