Area 31 Meeting Minutes, January 2023 Called to order at 7:30 PM

		Jan	Mar	S/ A	May	Jun e	Aug	Sept	F/ A	Nov	Dec
AREA DELEGATE	Mike B.	Y									
ALTERNATE DELEGATE	Steve M.	Y									
AREA CHAIR *	John G.	Y									
AREA TREASURER	Steve B	Y									
AREA SECRETARY	Ray M.	Y									
AREA REGISTRAR	Sally	Y									
AREA ARCHIVIST	Carl G.	Y									
ACCESSIBILITIES CHAIR	Bruce V	Υ									
ACCESSIBILITIES CO-CHAIR		N									
ARCHIVES CHAIR	Kellie C	Y									
ARCHIVES CO- CHAIR		Y									
CPC CHAIR		N									
CPC CO-CHAIR		Υ									
GRAPEVINE CHAIR	Jenny A	Y									
GRAPEVINE CO- CHAIR	John	N									
P.I. CHAIR	Mark H	N									
P.I. CO-CHAIR		Υ									
WEBMASTER	Tom H	Y									
W. MASS IGP CHAIR	Bob	Υ									
BERK. IGP CHAIR		Y									
INSTITUTIONS CHAIR		N									
INSTITUTIONS Co- CHAIR		N									
ROUND UP CHAIR	Steve A.	N									
ROUND UP CO- CHAIR		Y									
WMYPAA		N									
<i>WMYPAA</i> CO		N									
District 1 DCM	John P	Υ									
District 1 CO-DCM	Nancy R	N									
District 2 DCM	Lynne S	Y									

		Jan	March	s/ a	May	Jun e	Aug	Sept	F/ A	Nov	De c
District 2 CO-DCM	Janet B	Υ									
District 3 DCM	Chaula H	Y									
District 3 CO-DCM	VACANT	N									
District 4 DCM	Adam B	Y									
District 4 CO-DCM	Dan B	Y									
District 5 DCM	Kate V	N									
District 5 CO-DCM	Lara C.	Y									
District 6 DCM	Justin C	Υ									
District 6 CO-DCM	Ryan W	Y									
Quorum =18	*Only to make/brea k a tie	25									

Secretary's Report:

Old Business-

- 1) A motion was made to accept budget C as proposed by the treasurer. Motion passed unanimously.
- 2) Motion was made to sunset the monthly area sponsored service manual meeting that takes place 3rd Wednesday. Motion passed 15/2.
- 3) Motion was made to accept the Website Adhoc committee report and to accept the first 2 motions and to return with more information on motion 3 (three options for payment method), this motion passed unanimously. –

NOTE: the committee will submit it at a later date.

New Business – Motion was made to accept the recommendations of website adhoc committee recommendation to pay webmaster on case by case basis. Discussion and vote took place. Motion passed 21-0.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer's Report:

 Beginning December Balance
 \$ 32,956.61

 Group Contributions
 \$ 2,930.01

 Total Area Expenses
 \$ 3,019.03

 Closing December Balance
 \$ 32,867.79

 Plus – Prudent Reserve
 \$ 8.501.00

 Total Funds Available
 \$ 41,368.79

Further Comments:

Registrar's Report: -

The Registrar maintains and updates records of DCMs and Co-DCMs, GSRs, and groups. These records are based at the General Service Office in New York, in a Netsuite database called Fellowship Connection. Registrar doesn't do this alone: needs help from DCMs and GSRs. DCMs and Co-DCMs: Forms are here and on the area website. DCMs (and the Delegate) have read-only access to Fellowship Connection. GSRs: New GSRs are starting to send their details to me, either directly or through their DCMs. Either way works. Forms here and on the area website.

^{*}Contributions in December 2022 increased by \$129.48 from contributions in December 2021

^{*}There was a total of 32 donations made in December 2022 totaling \$2,930.01

^{*}See Treasurer's spreadsheet for more detail

Forms: Not essential. I need name, address, email, and phone number. Plus group name. Email to registrar@area31aa.org. Please be as accurate as possible with group name. If possible, use Group ID. There are two Group ID look-up lists on the area website, one alphabetical and one by district.

Groups: Handouts: lists of groups by district for DCM and Co-DCM. Also sets for the Delegate, the Archivist, and the Meeting editor.

Terms: Group Status: active or inactive. Inactive means GSO has been told the group is no longer meeting. Group Type: regular or virtual. Virtual means online only. If a group has hybrid meetings, it's a regular group and not a virtual group.

Visit District Meetings: Happy to come. Visiting District 2 in February.

Numbers: Area 31 has 310 active registered groups (308 regular and 2 virtual).

<u>Area Archivist Report</u>: - Folders going to each committee, district. Please save minutes for upcoming year for our Archives and submit to me at year end.

Please submit all your minutes to the website for inclusion as well. This has become a defacto electronic archives that has proved useful.

I have no significant events to add to the Area 31 history for year 2022. I am open to suggestions if anyone has thoughts to the contrary.

I was able to provide 2 recordings of area members that have been transferred to digital format. Jack H. and Margaret C. These were requested by a local member.

This also prompted me to create a disclaimer document that I will provide to anyone receiving materials from our Archives. Basically, reminding about anonymity, and not to duplicate, or post anywhere. That it is under the understanding that it is for the persons own personal use only. I trust to an honor system.

We received two group histories. Women's Fireside Group in Springfield, and Daily Reflections Group Holyoke. Also we received a recording Debbie G. of Holyoke, recorded on 9/29/2022 by Archive Committee Representative Stacy W.

Webmaster:

Tom H. Not Much to report. Found website to be very well organized and well done. Looking to redesign the website. Bob will stay on for 3 months to help the transition. Other thing to bring up is the email boxes are full. Make sure to log in and delete old emails. If anyone needs help, please ask, reach out for help. No longer using web post, send to webmaster.

Accessibilities -

Thanked Mike, outgoing chair, has made a lot of progress last year, now has co-chair, has 3 commitments planned. 11 people attended, will be more as time goes on. Has a commitment in a home. Trying to expand to get more commitments. Need more committee members, Places are looking for incoming accessibilities. Also looking to come to districts to get more members to join committee. Last year survey was made, only got 4 responses. Only 2 meetings have hearing impaired interpreters. Trying to ramp it up, need more volunteers. Looking to reprint pamphlet with new numbers.

Archives- Archives Workbook https://www.aa.org/archives-workbook For AAs interested in service in AA archives, this workbook offers shared experience on committee activities, setting up a repository, preservation work, copyright, collecting oral histories and more. Also provides information about accessing materials in the GSO Archives. Group History Form https://www.area31aa.org/files/archives/Group_History_Form.pdf Meeting Notes ● Discussed last year's activities: interviews conducted by archives reps, gathering group histories ● Looking for Archives Secretary to take notes during meetings ● Ideas to work on for this year: online fillable group history document, transferring taped interviews to digital format, continuing interviews with AA members using digital recorders ● Remember you can raise your hand during meetings to inform members that the Archives boards are available for groups to display at anniversaries (or for any reason) and to ask groups if they would like to submit a group history CPC- no report

<u>Grapevine</u> – Jenny, new to the position- got to see the boards. Looking for input + renewed subscription. Joe is new co-chair.

PI - Old Business: John reviewed last month's minutes and the most recent commitments we had last year. We discussed the problems we've had with our new Radio Show. Mark H and I will contact Matt Peterson @ Audacy to schedule an appointment to try to make the process more accessible. New Business: John reviewed some information from last month's Area Meeting. We discussed the Radio Show further. One of the new Reps had worked for the station that previously handled our show that ended during Covid. She also knows someone still at Audacy and volunteered to contact them to find out the status of both. We discussed with the new Reps the contacts they could possibly make going forward. They were receptive to this. John offered to send them the P I Presentation we use for commitments along with minutes and other docs. John, Area Chair gave his report mostly on Neraasa. Mill St monthly commitment, 3pm on the last Wednesday of each month: Next meeting is on Wednesday, 1/25/2023. New Rep Andrew offered to Chair and obtain a speaker. Chair will send out the zoom sign in Information and open the meeting 10 min. Before. Good meeting with new Reps and much good participation!

Round Up-_Steve- Looking to find a place to have this years Round-up. We don't have it yet. May 19th + 20th is tentative dates.

Berk IG - Met last Monday. Complete rollover, new chair, co, secretary, treasurer and webmaster. Looking for office manager. Added Saturday to be open till 2:00 pm. Looking to do 4 events in 2023. Bus trip to NYC GSO, day trip to stepping stone or Bill W. house, also Christmas alcathon. Possibility of moving district meeting to intergroup. Glad to be here.

<u>Institutions</u> - 21 members were in attendance in person. Held in person. Bridging The Gap (BTG)—John What is BTG? -- People who are getting out of institutions, prisons etc. who need a ride, get in touch with John and he puts them in touch with someone willing to give a ride to a meeting. The commitment is to drive someone to one meeting.

A Flier with QR code, sign up to volunteer as a driver. Librarian JD

- Dispersed 209 books at December meeting
- \$875 of allotted amount
- \$29 in surplus in this month
- Little packets of pamphlets for each commitment to take— "Is AA for me", "the newcomer asks", "sponsorship", "issues other than alcohol", "BTG"
- 800 and some odd books on hand
- Prices going up in January Grapevine up by \$2.50
- Cutting down on some books, concentrating on BB, 12x12, living sober
- Working on balancing inventory and prices
- Please sign up in JD's list with your name, commitment name, and how many times a month you go in... will help to estimate how many books are needed, etc

WMIG – Christmas alcathon went well. Looking to go live for the committee meeting, 2nd Thursday each month, in area office (same church). Welcome incoming committees. We invite any committee or district to attend our meeting next month, or any month.

WYPAA- NO REPORT

<u>AD-HOC Committee</u> - Report and Recommendations (Motions) of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Webmaster Position

Revised, January 2023

Introduction

The Ad Hoc Committee on the Webmaster Position was formed after the 2022 Spring Assembly. At that Assembly, the Area's long-serving Webmaster, Bob B., reported that he needed to step down from his position,

and that he needed help in finding and recruiting a replacement. Under New Business, the Assembly voted to ask the Area Chair to form an Ad Hoc Committee to review the position of Webmaster and to consider the way the Area supports that position, including the possibility of Tradition 8 payment.

The Area Chair asked the current Webmaster to chair the Ad Hoc Committee. Bob asked three people to join him: two former Website Committee chairs (Carl G., current Area Archivist, and Sally S., current Area Registrar), and a former Delegate (Anne F.). The four members of the Ad Hoc Committee met every other week through the spring and monthly through the summer.

The Ad Hoc Committee's report consists of three motions to be presented to the Area Committee at a future meeting.

- 1. MOVED, that the revised **Webmaster and Assistant Webmaster Duties and Qualifications** be approved.
- 2. MOVED, that the revised **Area 31 Website Submission Guidelines** be approved.
- MOVED, that Tradition Eight Support for the Webmaster be approved in principle, with the understanding that payment will be made on a project-by-project basis subject to the Area Committee's approval for each project.

Ad Hoc Committee on the Webmaster Position

WEBMASTER AND ASSISTANT WEBMASTER DUTIES AND QUALIFICATIONS

The Webmaster: Maintains the Area 31 Website, keeping information and web pages up to date. The Webmaster assigns and maintains user IDs and passwords for e-mail and for secure access to the website. The Webmaster registers the site's domain, shops for the best value of services provided for the website, and ensures that the information provided on the site is pertinent to Area 31 A.A. The Webmaster will adhere to the Website Submission Guidelines.

Suggested Qualifications:

- The Area 31 Webmaster should be a member of A.A. with a reasonable period of sobriety (suggested minimum 3 years), Area service experience, and good organizational skills.
- The Webmaster should be familiar with set-up and maintenance of websites and should be willing to acquire skills necessary to keep up with changing website technologies.
- The Webmaster should have, or be willing to develop, an understanding of A.A.'s Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts for World Service.

The Assistant Webmaster should have, or be willing to develop, skills similar to those required of the Webmaster. The Assistant Webmaster will be expected to communicate regularly with the Area Webmaster, and to participate actively in maintaining the website.

<u>District 1</u> – John last meeting was well attended. GSR presentation happening in January.

<u>District 2</u> – last meeting Jan 9th, 17 in attendance, 2 new. All GSR's homegroups are doing well and are self-supporting. One GSR HOLYOKE SOBER SUNDAY GROUP HAS REQUEST FOR HANDICAP ACCESS. GSR presentation was given.

.<u>District 3-</u> Doing good in some ways. 8 groups represented, virtually. Berkshire intergroup is doing a great job. District has a handful of GSR's. Increase in interests in committees. No LCM, No CO-DCM. 1st time as DCM. Need patience and love. Hoping to have district meeting at the Berkshire intergroup office. Successful event in Cheshire. Food and gratitude, had 3 speakers, 3 sides of the triangle. Had virtual speaker. Possibility of 2 events this year. Tradition meeting continues, the outgoing D3 DCM chairs the next year of tradition meetings, it is recorded.

<u>District 4</u> – Adam. Met December 20th. 13 in attendance, 9 groups represented, 4 new. All groups doing well. Had GSR presentation. Planning workshop.

<u>District 5</u> - Kate (DCM) January 2nd last meeting 11 groups in attendance, 3 on line, All groups doing well. Belchertown is accible again. Excited about next year. GSR presentation was given, Hitting the ground running.old business was tabled. New business was welcoming new GSR's. Talked about NERAASA van.

<u>District 6</u> – Justin (DCM) 3 new GSR's 1 from large group. Working on hybrid and laptop. Welcome new positions.

<u>Delegate's Remarks</u> –Thanked area. Been going to committees. NERAASA Feb. 24, 25 & 26. Things are starting to come back; AA is coming back! Looking good. Its working! Committees are bigger. GSO sent letter requesting the \$1800. Paying the \$8000.00 that was voted on to be self-supporting. GSO estimates this year to be \$9k. NERF June 2nd-4th in Boston (called the GSO road show) it's the people of GSO. Agenda items not out yet, will be out soon. Full background to follow. %th edition had way more submissions than prior edition.

Alternate Delegate Remarks:

Mass State convention. Get ready to start carpooling again. Room for 5. Meet end of rt.291. 6:15 sharp. Mass State convention planning committee meets every odd month, last Tuesday, at the Sturbridge host hotel. Thanked Kate. Consider joining the Mass State committee. Plenty of openings.

Area Chair Remarks:

Concept meeting is 1st Thursday every month. We are going to start planning the transportation for NERAASA, call or email if going. Suggest if you are new to service, check it out. Area will be fully reimbursed, will have van to transport member. Upcoming speaking commitment., JOY OF LIVING on 1/29/2023 7:00 pm

Old Business

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New Business

Motion was made to accept the recommendations of website adhoc committee recommendation to pay webmaster on case by case basis. Discussion and vote took place. Motion passed 21-0. Motion to close 9:09 p.m.

Next meeting 2/8/2023

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

Ray M. Area 31 Secretary Western Mass General Service