

Area 31 Meeting Minutes, August 9th, 2023
Called to order at 7:30 PM

		Jan	Mar	S/ A	May	June	Aug	Sept	F/ A	Nov	Dec
AREA DELEGATE	Mike B.	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y				
ALTERNATE DELEGATE	Steve M.	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y				
AREA CHAIR *	John G.	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y				
AREA TREASURER	Steve B	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y				
AREA SECRETARY	Ray M.	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y				
<i>AREA REGISTRAR</i>	<i>Sally</i>	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y				
<i>AREA ARCHIVIST</i>	<i>Carl G.</i>	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y				
ACCESSIBILITIES CHAIR	Bruce V	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y				
ACCESSIBILITIES CO-CHAIR	Renee	N	N		N	N	N				
ARCHIVES CHAIR	Melissa G	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y				
ARCHIVES CO-CHAIR	Chris K	Y	Y		Y	Y	N				
CPC CHAIR	Steve A	N	Y		N	Y	N				
CPC CO-CHAIR	Cindy F.	Y	Y		Y	N	N				
GRAPEVINE CHAIR	Jenny A	Y	Y		N	N	N				
GRAPEVINE CO-CHAIR	.	N	N		N	N	N				
P.I. CHAIR	Mark H	N	Y		Y	Y	Y				
P.I. CO-CHAIR		Y	N		N	N	N				
<i>WEBMASTER</i>	Tom H	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y				
<i>Assist Webmaster</i>	Jenn T	Y	Y		Y	Y	N				
W. MASS IGP CHAIR	Bob M	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y				
BERK. IGP CHAIR	Courtney	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y				
INSTITUTIONS CHAIR	Matt F.	N	Y		N	Y	Y				
<i>INSTITUTIONS Co-CHAIR</i>	<i>Jax M.</i>	N	N		N	N	N				
ROUND UP CHAIR	Tom H	N	Y		Y	Y	N				
ROUND UP CO-CHAIR	Tom H	Y	Y		Y	Y	N				
WMYPAA	vacant	N	N		N	N	N				
			N		N	N	N				
District 1 DCM	John P	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y				
District 1 CO-DCM	Nancy R	N	Y		N	Y	N				
District 2 DCM	Lynne S	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y				

		Jan	March	s/a	May	June	Aug	Sept	F/A	Nov	Dec
District 2 CO-DCM	Janet B	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y				
District 3 DCM	Brian W.	Y	Y		N	N	Y				
District 3 CO-DCM		N	Y		Y	N	N				
District 4 DCM	Adam B	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y				
District 4 CO-DCM	Dan B	Y	Y		N	N	Y				
District 5 DCM	Kate V	N	Y		Y	Y	Y				
District 5 CO-DCM	Lara C.	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y				
District 6 DCM	Justin C	Y	Y		N	Y	Y				
District 6 CO-DCM	Ryan W	Y	Y		Y	N	N				
Quorum =18	*Only to make/break a tie	25	31		25	27	23				

Secretary's Report:

Old Business- No New Business

New Business –. No New Business

Treasurer's Report:

Beginning July Balance	\$ 18,869.87
Group Contributions	\$ 2,737.35
Total Area Expenses	\$ 2,583.07
Closing July Balance	\$ 19,024.15
Plus – Prudent Reserve	\$ 8,501.00
Total Funds Available	\$ 27,525.15

Further Comments:

*Contributions in July 2023 decreased by \$ 618.85 from contributions in July 2022

*There was a total of 30 donations made in July 2023 totaling \$2,737.35

*See Treasurer's spreadsheet for more detail

Registrar's Report: -

Numbers:

The total number of registered active groups is 302. This includes 298 regular groups, plus 3 virtual groups, plus 1 pending active group.

More about "Status Unknown Groups":

The Area's number of groups labelled "status unknown" is now down to 4. These are groups without a listed group contact, meaning no GSR or Alt GSR or mail contact.

There is some possibility that GSO may convert "unknown" to "inactive" later this year, as part of what they describe in a July 6 letter to Registrars and Delegates as "a widespread project to improve the integrity of the information in our systems."

GSO staff have also expressed interest in groups that do have a contact, but an out-of-date contact. Area 31 has about 300 GSRs or group contacts whose service began before 2020. Those 300

individuals represent 180 groups (because a group can list more than one contact—for example, a GSR and an Alt GSR). Those 180 groups represent 60% of our total registered active group count of approximately 300. DCMs who have set up their read-only access to Fellowship Connection can generate a list of groups in their districts with pre-2020 GSR start dates. The Registrar will also send lists to DCMs.

The Area Registrars are discussing these issues and hope to meet soon with GSO Member Services and Group Services staff. More to come.

Area Archivist Report: Not a lot to report. Continuing sorting. Had questions about 1st and 2nd Springfield group to develop in the Area. Checked black book, 1943 & 1944, Looking into it, Will follow up with more. Received a donation from a member in the area- some kind of document, as I was sorting, found Letter to GSR dated 1977, letter of congratulations of becoming a group. Strange SVC number. Registration numbers have changed over the years several times. Tracked down to Feeding Hills group, electronic Data Base showing inactive, but has current number.

Webmaster:

- A new hosting plan for the website was purchased. We will be from DirectNic to BlueHost when the new website is ready. BlueHost will offer more speed and security, as well as improved compatibility with Wordpress. Our previous hosting plan was very inexpensive at \$2.48 a month. The new hosting is \$4.95 per month for three years. This was paid up front for a total of \$268. This is over the \$200 budget, but we will not need to budget for hosting for the next two years. After three years, the price goes to \$18.99/mo and I'll be evaluating the value of the hosting plan before that happens.
- I will be attending the National AA Technology Workshop in Virginia September 8-10 and look forward to reporting back to the area on what I learn there. Topics will include "Virtual Meeting Best Practices", "AI in AA, Bringing New Depth to the Meeting List", "How Australia is Dancing the Digital 12th Step", and several others. This trip is in our budget for \$1500, but I expect to leave \$500 of the budget unused.
- One of our committee emails recently fell subject to a phishing attempt. Please be cautious of any email you receive giving warning about account space or missed emails. The email we received was from a Nigerian domain and directed to a URL that looked exactly like the RoundCube login. While the site can't be attacked unless the webmaster passwords are compromised, emails can be sent from area emails. If you are uncertain about the origin of any email, please contact me and I can verify that there aren't any outstanding issues with any email inboxes.
- Bob, Jenn, and I continue to meet every few weeks and share ideas for a new website design. We are well underway and still intend to reach out to the committees to share and welcome ideas.

Accessibilities - Unfortunately not at committee meeting this month, was on vacation- heard it went well. Commitments still going on, Vantage 1 time per month Trying to make a living sober meeting. 6 people showed up. Most in wheelchairs attended.

Chestnut Hill Group has been meeting, unknown to us. Will try to help build back up & check to see if registered Thanks Mike for the workbook. Going to district 3 to meet in Berkshires Friday night. Oh by the way, Joy at intergroup has been calling me, 3 calls came in to get rides to meetings. 1 in Enfield, 1 in Indian Orchard, 1 in Deerfield & 1 did not answer. Care One is still going. The state convention is manned up- for the table.

Archives- Met last Tuesday, Talked about what we are doing next. Had a good discussion on anonymity. Might also bring up at fall assembly.

CPC- No Report

Grapevine – NO Report

PI – Had the meeting Yesterday. 5 in attendance. The delegate was there. All meetings went well, couldn't go to Mill St., due to broken leg. All others went well. We have a new commitment. 4 total. Will be doing Mill Street next month. Trying to get into new one in Northampton. Radio Show still going. Matt is answering emails and recording members stories.

Round Up- No Report

Berk IG – Met past Monday, 12 in attendance. Biggest News – Spiritual Retreat Sept. 23rd. Sheffield Mass @ the Christ Church. \$20 contribution.

Institutions - Treasurer's Report- \$1700 prudent reserve and budget \$1350.76 donations (down) \$3050.76 balance Paid bank charge Paid rent- \$75, \$2 bank fee Set aside \$200 for NERAASA and BTG Balance \$2773.73 \$1900 now for prudent reserve and budget \$873.80 for books Bridging the Gap (BTG)- John New forms available if members want to volunteer to give someone a ride There is a link so if one's phone isn't working, the link will bring people to a form to fill out to give rides Librarian- JD Handed out 124 books, sorted books, had \$1,094 to buy books, spent \$1,067, leaves an excess for the month, \$75.20 credit available for next month Total of 667 books on hand. New Business Motion passed to spend \$873.80 on literature Steve (treasurer) posed a question: we're giving \$200 a month towards John's BTG trip, asked if he should keep putting \$200 a month in or cut it back and put it towards book Steve (alt. delegate) suggested we continue donating to ensure that members traveling are fed Gary discussed how in his experience, members are provided the hotel stay and admission to conventions Steve (treasurer) suggested he amend the motion and continue putting away \$200 per month John suggested that if there were extra money, it would be returned to Intergroup Motion rescinded Steve (alt. delegate) said if it's a requirement of a committee service position, it should be financed.

WMIG – Meet tomorrow night here in this room. Rumor that picnic was cancelled is NOT TRUE. Golf tournament – 14 foursomes, Picnic 8/20 Moose Lodge 12-6:00pm. Not much to report. Having elections coming up. Looking for volunteers for 8/20, set up at 9:00 am, take down at 6:00 pm, Call intergroup office if interested. 8/25 golf tournament. 7 foursomes so far. Please arrive early. Area 30 has a QR code for where and when, has a place for a phone list on back page of book- also has a business card. November 9th. Elections, all officer positions are open. & alcathon drawing. Table at convention. Alcataon will be dec 24 and 25 at St Paul's, Holyoke Mass, Appleton Street.

WYPAA- NO REPORT

District 1 – No Report

District 2 – Co-DCM gave report. (Unable to mute on zoom) Didn't have a lot of new business. Throwing celebration of service (not called a workshop) August 25th at the Agawam congregational church. Scrambled Eggs might drop Zoom. Wild Cats Labor Day party.

District 3- Had 11 people in attendance. BIG in attendance. Groups reporting doing well & taking commitments. New Institutions, women's jail in Hudson NY. Accessibilities committee coming to next meeting. Most discussion about supporting the proposed agenda item to bring to Area for support to send to GSO. Was shot down. PAI, will be a re-vote to accept.

District 4 – Met 7/18.. 12 people in attendance, 9 groups represented. Nothing significant to report. Big thing is the upcoming workshop. Keeping the triangle balanced on 8/12 in S. Deerfield 10:30am to 1:30pm. 3 speakers, food, pizza, salad and a good time. Will also be on Zoom.

District 5- Fun meeting. 10 groups represented, 1 observer. 3 anniversaries, Brimfield 8/18, Sunrise 8/16, Greet Street 8/17. All shares were the same, doing the best we can, giving to the PIE chart. New business, we talked about upcoming- went through lists. Asked them again to reach out to un-lite groups, to spur more participation, working on ideas, possible tradition play, was shot down. Next meeting is September 4th, may not meet due to holiday.

District 6 – Big News, finally have a new secretary, very, very glad. Mass State convention came up. Biggest for us is the upcoming workshop September 30th on the traditions, History of them, the Unity, and how it helps AA. Few things brought up about the agenda item. Groups gave reports. All doing well.

Delegate's Remarks – Delegates remarks Area 31 Committee meeting 10 August 2023.

This past month I attended the usual rotation of committees and districts. It is always a wonderful feeling watching AA service work in action.

I also attended the MSC planning meeting. For those who are not aware the 2nd year delegate holds the position of Treasurer and as an immediate past delegate I will be the Chair of the 2024 Mass State Convention. As such it is my responsibility to find a venue. We have had critiques that were not favorable regarding the Sturbridge Host, so I have sought out a different facility. I have not made the decision yet, but I am mostly certain that it will be at the South- bridge Hotel and Conference Center. I toured the facility last week and it is a beautiful venue. We would have the facility almost completely to ourselves with a few rooms available for others. The only issue is their main hall holds 500, but an amphitheater across the Foyer holds an additional 300 and we could simulcast into that room the main Saturday night speaker and the other 2 if the need arises, I think it will be worth it. More to follow.

The electronic anonymity protected version of the final 2023 conference report should be out soon followed by the printed versions in September.

I received the latest proposed agenda item submission form Tuesday. I will make sure it is the final version and get it on our website.

I will be attending the first full virtual Conference members meeting August 16. As you may remember we made the recommendation at this past Conference to meet more often as a body and communicate with one another more often.

Thank you for letting me serve.

Mike B.

Area 31 Delegate

Alternate Delegate Remarks: Mass State convention planning is in full swing. Takes place last Tuesday of Odd months. This month will be July 25th. The carpool leaves at 6:15 sharp. Look for a big orange truck. At end of 291 Burnett Rd. Chicopee. Rooms are \$129.00 per night for the event. Make sure to book through the event to assure we get room credits- through hotel to help us stay fully self-supporting. Good opportunity to meet other AAs in Area 30. Plenty service opportunities available. The convention is November 10, 11, 7 12. Breakfast both days, next planning meeting is 9/26, & will meet in Oct. 10/31/23 is available on zoom.(quality not guaranteed) ON=Line registration very soon.

Note: We had a request to add a secular meeting to the program. Chair of convention gave it to me to handle. - will decline- don't agree with themed meetings, rather see how we can come together, rather than separate.

Area Chair Remarks: Fall Assembly 10/14 & 10/15 Saturday 9-4, Sunday 1-5, working out details, will have flyer soon. For transparency, got a letter from bid committee for YPAA asking for support from area. Gave letter.

Old Business – No Old Business

New Business No New Business

Not considered new business, but Suzanne B. from S.O.S. group in Berkshires gave a presentation on the proposed agenda item. Email was sent to everyone; District discussions were helpful. 4 proposals, 1 to remove referred to paragraph, 1 to make foot note, 1 to create an appendix, and 1 to develop a pamphlet. More discussion will take place.

Motion to close 9:15 p.m.

Next meeting 9/13/2023

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

Ray M.
Area 31 Secretary
Western Mass General Service