

Area 31 Fall Assembly Meeting Minutes October 15th, 2023
Called to order at 1:00 PM

Secretary's Report:

Old Business- No New Business

New Business –. No New Business

Voting Members=47

40 in person

7 on Zoom

Area 31 Treasurer's Report

This report will capture 6 months activity from the Spring Assembly 2023 to Fall Assembly 2023

Opening balance for April 2023 was **\$19,428.97** Contributions for the past six months totaled **\$20,411.91**. Area expenses totaled **\$13,858.25**. The closing balance was **\$26,289.55** plus Prudent Reserve: **\$8,501.00 = \$34,790.55**. Total funds available.

Over the last 6 months:

- District 1 6 contributions for a total of \$685.00
- District 2 20 contributions for a total of \$4,381.29
- District 3 11 contributions for a total of \$1,986.42
- District 4 15 contributions for a total of \$2,636.50
- District 5 22 contributions for a total of \$3,425.07
- District 6 12 contributions for a total of \$1,964.15

Contributions from Partially identified groups totaled \$649.67, totals from Unknown Groups totaled \$1,490.63.-
There were total Paypal contributions totaling \$3,193.18.

****Attached to this report is the 6 month financial report and a list of contributions to the Area for the last 6 months.**

Thank you for your continued support/contributions to Area 31, and thank you for this opportunity to serve Area 31

Respectfully submitted,

Steve B

Treasurer Area 31

**Western Massachusetts General Service
Balance Sheet
As of September 30, 2023**

	Apr 30, 23	May 31, 23	Jun 30, 23	Jul 31, 23	Aug 31, 23	Sep 30, 23
ASSETS						
Current Assets						
Checking/Savings						
Operating Account	19,428.97	18,933.63	18,869.87	19,024.15	24,108.09	26,289.55
Prudent Reserve	8,501.00	8,501.00	8,501.00	8,501.00	8,501.00	8,501.00
Total Checking/Savings	27,929.97	27,434.63	27,370.87	27,525.15	32,609.09	34,790.55
Total Current Assets	27,929.97	27,434.63	27,370.87	27,525.15	32,609.09	34,790.55
TOTAL ASSETS	27,929.97	27,434.63	27,370.87	27,525.15	32,609.09	34,790.55
LIABILITIES & EQUITY						
Equity						
Temp. Restricted Net Assets	8,501.00	8,501.00	8,501.00	8,501.00	8,501.00	8,501.00
Unrestricted Net Assets	32,867.79	32,867.79	32,867.79	32,867.79	32,867.79	32,867.79
Net Income	-13,438.82	-13,934.16	-13,997.92	-13,843.64	-8,759.70	-6,578.24
Total Equity	27,929.97	27,434.63	27,370.87	27,525.15	32,609.09	34,790.55
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	27,929.97	27,434.63	27,370.87	27,525.15	32,609.09	34,790.55

Area 31 Fall Assembly

October 14, 2023

Registrar's Report

GSRs:

- If you are a GSR or an alternate GSR, and you haven't yet reported your contact information, please fill out a GSR form (GSO calls this the GSO Group Information Change Form).
- We need your group name, whether are a regular or virtual meeting, and your contact information. If you hate forms, just email me that info and I'll take it from there. registrar@area31aa.org
- If you need your Group ID, there is a Group ID Lookup page on the Area 31 website.

DCMs:

- Once your district has chosen DCMs and Co-DCMs for next year, please send me the contact information—either by email, or in the November or December area meeting.

Numbers

- 301 registered active groups: 298 regular + 3 virtual
- These groups are spread across 6 districts. The number of groups per districts ranges from 29 in District 1 to 70 in District 4, with an average of 50.

Projects

- District Visits: This year, all 6 districts invited me to meet with GSRs. I am grateful to the DCMs, and hope they will let me come back next year.
- DCMs: Both GSO and the Registrars are trying to increase the amount of information flowing to the DCMs. DCMs have read-only access to the same database that Registrars use, called Fellowship Connection. I've also given DCMs list of the groups in their district, including Group ID numbers, history dates (= date a group began meeting), and the start date of the GSR.
- Why the start date of the GSR? Because there is some very old data in Area 31 records—and in the records of every area. We have groups that haven't updated their GSR in years, even decades. GSO has launched a Data Integrity Project to understand the scope of this issue, and to work with Registrars on updating anything that can be updated.

Request

Besides the request I started with (update GSR info), please let me know if your group is a virtual group, meaning the group meets online-only and plans to stay that way. Area 31 has 3 groups that are registered as virtual, but if you look at the Meeting Guide you will find way more than three groups that meet online—more like 20 groups. The Conference is trying to learn more about online groups, and especially about how online groups would like to participate in the general service structure. The more accurate our list is, the better we can serve those groups.

And last, thanks

To all the DCMs, Co-DCMs, GSRs, and group members who keep me grateful and sober.

Archivist Fall Assembly 2023 report

I continue sorting the archives. I have completed the bookcases and have gone through one of the five file cabinets. This will continue to be an ongoing process.

One of the Archive Committee members did a recording of Tom C. from the Amherst area.

There were donations of an International Convention book signed that was an Area members, also a past DCM district 2 donated their materials from their tenure.

I responded to several inquiries about group histories and origins as well as provided information to Berkshire Intergroup regarding their Bylaws origins per their requests. With much help of our Registrar and GSO, a letter dated 1977 welcoming a new group and GSR was able to be traced back to Feeding Hills Group. I added the letter in lieu of a group history.

I will be adding to the Area history for this year regarding the change of Webmaster and the Ad-Hoc committee recommendation of Tradition 8 payment to the Webmaster that was approved by the Area committee.

Finally, I encourage all Committer Chairs and DCM's to provide hard copy minutes at the end of the year in the folders I handed out in January, as well as posting these minutes to the website (which has become a de facto electronic archives).

Whether it is floppy disks, usb drives, computer files, reel to reel or cassette tapes, cd's, or digitized files it is a continuing ever-changing challenge to keep materials accessible. The one constant that has been and still is relevant is paper copy.

It is only if we preserve these minutes that they will be available to future generations for research that we may continue to carry the message of our efforts of today. Sadly, looking at the website and past minutes this is an area for much improvement. Much of our past efforts are lost to time. We may do wonderful things now, but if they are not retained then the work ends at the year's end.

Respectfully submitted Carl G.

Webmaster Report to the Area - Fall Assembly 2023

- Jenn T stepped up as Assistant Webmaster, relieving Bob. We have been meeting monthly, still with Bob, discussing a way forward with the Area website. We would like to continue to visit with committees to see how the website can serve them.
- I attended the National Alcoholics Anonymous Technology Workshop in Winchester VA in September. I was blown away by the experience. My abbreviated highlights from the weekend were the following:
 - Royce from Freehold, NJ have great information about taking advantage of resources offered to 501c3 entities. He spoke more about Tech Soup and their offerings of free or discounted software that is made available. Zoom is available for half the retail price. Google Workspace was also discussed and would offer free video conferencing and cloud storage. Royce also mentioned Zeffy - a Paypal alternative for nonprofits with no fees.
 - I learned that GSO's Communication Services Department is working on making all of our pamphlets mobile friendly, meaning that viewing them would bring up a native view that didn't require zooming in or scrolling side to side. This could have big cost saving implications. They also previewed a geographical view for the mobile meeting quite coming this year.
 - Lori presented on potential uses for generative AI in AA. I was apprehensive of bringing AI into this, but Lori presented several uses that made a lot of sense. She gave an example of a secretary that recorded business meeting audio, transcribed it with speech to text, then had Chat GPT organize the notes, which came out into nicely bulleted notes, nicer than anything I could do.
 - I learned about Usability Testing from an AA member that is also a professor at UNC. We walked through an exercise that should help me create an easier to use website.
- A new hosting plan for the website was purchased. We will be transitioning from Direct Nic to Blue Host when the new website is ready. Blue Host 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.

- My most exciting piece of news is that the new Area Website is 95% complete and I'm hoping to publish it in December. The new site will include Calendar integration, available translation into Spanish, Fresh, and Portuguese, integrated contact forms for each committee, and a rich organizational system for archived minutes. I learned though, at the technology workshop, that the best solution is not always the best solution. My primary goal is to create something simple that is easy to use and easy to maintain.

Accessibilities - What we are doing right now- we have increased membership & have asked GSR's to go back to their groups and send group members to the accessibilities committee to help, not necessarily join the committee, but give rides or take commitments. We need more members, currently 7 members, and we now have a Co-Chair position filled. Volunteer list was handed out- we didn't get many back.. Care 1 -Carl B has helped speak on accessibilities.. Pioneer Vally Rehab-Started visiting. Looking for more nursing homes to visit. We visited D3. We are looking for women to bring a meeting into a home of a member that can't get out, she is an asset to AA. Chestnut Hill- E. Longmeadow- Carl has been able to get us in, & has become a new group, is great to see – Also we have presented at the Round -Up. Lost Boards, We will need be boards soon for Mass State Convention.

Archives- 6 month report

The Archives committee continues to meet every first Tuesday of the month at 30 Carew Street in South Hadley at 7:30 PM. We have about 1 to 4 Archive reps who attend monthly, in addition to me, the cochair, and the Archivist Carl.

In July we hosted our second event of the year, which was an archives listening party. We played two archived speaker tapes, followed by a discussion with food and fellowship. About 30 people attended.

We continue to discuss the ethics around posting archived speaker tapes and other archived material to the website, as we need to consider anonymity. I reached out to GSO for their opinion. I heard back from the Special Collections Archivist at GSO that we should consider the original intent of the recorded speaker and also to consider that the writer of archived letters is the copyright holder, unless otherwise specified. We will continue to discuss this topic at our next Archives meeting in November.

We are hoping to host one more event this year in early December. We will be recording two long-timers who have been sober in our area and can share their experience, strength and hope with us for the Archives. The format will be similar to a typical speaker meeting. So if you want to be a part of history, please consider attending. We will begin announcing at meetings once we confirm the date.

Thank you,
Melissa

CPC- No Report

Grapevine – 15Oct23

Area 31 Grapevine Committee Fall Assembly Update

Meets on the 1st Tuesday of the month

at 6:30

at the United Methodist Church 30 Carew Street South Hadley.

There is also a zoom link for those that can't make it in person

7 Active Member including myself

General Grapevine Update

Agrapevine.org is full of resources. You can...

Submit a story, and find the Editorial Calendar

Sign up to be a grapevine representative

Calendar of Events to attend

Read the daily Quote

Find a link to weekly Podcast, including past episodes (all free)

With a Magazine subscription, you can read current or past issues. \$28.97...might not be accurate

Get Involved in the "Carry the Message Project" which is a way to help other alcoholics by gifting a grapevine subscription to another alcoholic or institution

4 Ways to Access the Grapevine Magazine

Monthly Print Edition

E-Pub/digital format

Web Edition

Audio found on the website

PI—New Co-Chair, report sent.

Round Up Fall Assembly 2023

The majority of the work was completed as we rolled into our April and May 2023 committee meetings. We had replaced the items that were lost to an atypical storage situation, new necessary items were acquired, people were in their perspective rolls, aware and ready to do the remainder of what was fundamentally left to be done. Details that were left to just before the event were items that could not reasonably be done prior to the event, such as snack shopping and the like.

The event was held May 19-21, 2023 at The Clarion in West Springfield. Attendance was counted at 201 persons. No one outside the Committee rented rooms at the hotel. The Hospitality room was an improvement from the year before, and it received good reviews in the Surveys we received back from the attendees. The Surveys also yielded requests for more meetings, bringing the banquet back, and the entertainment and our vendors were met with excellent evaluation. The only negative comments in the Surveys was the venue, The Clarion, itself. The Committee had already started discussing not holding an event there again. We closed the 2023 Round Up season with a balance in the Treasury of \$7126.66, with some checks not cashed. Included in the total was our vendors' contributions from the proceeds of their sales.

The Round Up Committee started meeting again in September, at the 30 Carew St. location. There are positions that are in desperate need to be filled. Our Co- Chair (you) has been moved into the Chair position and hence, the Co-Chair position is vacant. There are many other positions that are still in need of being filled. We have picked up some new members, but we have some who aren't returning or have moved into different roles. We were able to fill the vacant secretary position and Treasury is still filled for this year.

Berk IG – Berkshire Intergroup October 2023 Fall Assembly 6-month summary report

There was a plan to have a bus trip to GSO but there was not enough interest. People did not appear ready to be in an enclosed space for that long.

We have a new office manager.

A new printer was needed and has been donated. A microwave has also been donated.

We are currently open Monday, Tuesday and Friday afternoons as well as the first Saturday of the month.

We were having some trouble meeting expenses but that seems to be improving thanks to reps reaching out to their groups.

The steering committee has been reinstated. Among other matters, it has been reviewing the Bylaws.

The reps now have the Bylaws with edits from the steering committee to review and bring back to the larger committee. Our chair did some research. We received a packet from archivist, Carl.

Over the past six months between 5 and 9 reps have been in attendance. The numbers have been trending up. pThere are usually an additional 7 for a total of 12-15 people.

51 people attended our second one-day retreat which was held last month. It was successful. Following the retreat, a feedback form and interest survey was sent to attendees. Many are hoping there will be another one next year and that it will perhaps become an annual event. Based on the survey, other events are being considered. Popular ideas on the list were a picnic and coffee house possibly with music and poetry.

It came to our attention that the recovery resource information on our local police department website was less than helpful. An effort is underway to correct this.

Some concerns were raised over the cost and effectiveness of the hotline. A test was made with a positive result. No changes are planned at this time.

Intergroup is working with District 3 and the Berkshire Institutions committee to plan a service day.

The newsletter is continuing to be sent out to approximately 170 people. It is then being forwarded to an estimated 100 or more.

Elections will take place in November. The only position that is currently open for 2024 is for a co-chair. Plans are on track to have our annual holiday alkathon on Christmas Eve. The plan this year is to be in-person from 5 pm Christmas Eve to noon on Christmas Day. Last year the meetings from midnight to 7 am were virtual and not well attended.

Institutions -`

Area 31 Institutions Fall Assembly Report

(April 2023- October 2023)

Treasury

Month	Contributions	Expenses	Books
April	\$1,953.35	\$421.00	\$1,132.40
May	\$1,277.71	\$77.00	\$800.71
June	\$2,467.71	\$277.00	\$1,990.71
July	\$1,496.50	\$277.00	\$1,019.50
August	\$1,350.76	\$277.00	\$873.80
September	\$3,129.80	\$277.00	\$2,652.80
October	\$2,491.39	\$77.00	\$2,414.39
Total	\$14,167.22	\$1,683	\$9864.01

Which leaves a remaining balance of \$2620.21. \$1,200 was set aside to send our BTG coordinator to the BTG conference in Texas which he attended. Money has also been put away for the chair and co-chair to attend the mass state convention and NERSAA. Leaving our reserves at about \$1,420.21

We voted to get rid of the phone services for BTG. It is now a QR code for both people looking to get to a meeting and people willing to give rides. There are 2 codes. Which brings you to the appropriate sheets which you put in your info. The system is fully up and running.

There are people who signed up willing to give rides. Nobody has requested them yet. Our liaison and secretary are continuing to reach out to institutions and facilities who are on the very long list figuring out who is still requesting services through the committee and updating points of contact for each place. We currently have 5 facilities requesting meetings on various nights, Mission Care in Holyoke, Franklin Recovery (Northern Hope) which we could really use help filling, CT corrections in Somers, The Harriston house in Northampton, Stoneybrook Section 35 in Ludlow. We currently have about 1,182 books on hand. We have given out roughly 946 books to individuals who hold commitments. On behalf of the Institutions committee, we thank you all for your service and support!

WMIG – Western Mass Intergroup Report

Good afternoon, my name is Bob and I am an alcoholic and also the Intergroup Chairperson.

First and foremost, Western Mass Intergroup continues to be alive and well serving all of the Western Mass groups of 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.

Our monthly Intergroup meeting is Hybrid. The live meeting is located at 30 Carew St. in South Hadley and all groups are welcome to send a rep every 2nd Thursday of the month at 7pm for our meeting. Out of all of approximately 300 active groups, at the last meeting we had 37 reps, our largest turnout for the year, to hear about the up-coming changes the intergroup is pursuing. This monthly meeting is an important part in determining the wants and needs of groups. Our Bookie meeting begins at 6:30 pm right before the intergroup meeting also on zoom. Our Zoom information is on our website.

During the last 6 months, WMIG has had a couple events. First was the annual Western Mass Intergroup Family Picnic which was held on August 20th at the Moose lodge in Chicopee. At one point we had over 300 people there. The following Friday, August 25th was to be the first annual Western Mass Intergroup Golf Tournament held at Agawam Country club. We had 14 foursomes with a total of 53 players. Both events were huge successes. For both events we

are looking at bigger and better for next year. And finally, the Alcathon will be held at St. Paul's church on Appleton St. in Holyoke starting at 6 pm Christmas eve going until 6 pm Christmas day. Everyone is encouraged to bring in food for a pot luck during the whole event. During the November intergroup meeting we will be pulling names of groups that want to participate in it.

Also, during the November intergroup meeting, we will be having elections for all positions. Please, looking for a big turnout as this meeting will determine the future of intergroup for the next 2 years.

Currently, the Intergroup is in the process of developing a new type of meeting list where EVERYONE will have access to a meeting. This idea, bring back the W & W's with QR codes for quick access to meetings, was discussed by the body during the intergroup meeting held on September 14th. This idea was brought back to the groups for a vote on which direction to pursue and results were heard on October 12th during our monthly Intergroup business meeting. We had two motions. The first was to bring back the W & W's as they originally were printed, with no QR code. This motion did not pass. And now for the exciting news. The second motion was to bring back the W&Ws with a QR code. This motion passed unanimously. THE WHEN AND WHERE'S ARE COMING BACK. We are shooting for a January time frame for distribution but realistically it will probably be in February. The booklet will be the same size as the old ones (SHOW WHEN AND WHERE) and will be using the current group meeting listing from the website. There is some leg work involved to verify that all the groups on the website are still currently active. This will be a good thing. Also, we are trying to extend the intergroup store hours which is located at 300 Appleton St. in Holyoke. It's currently open M, W – F from 9 – 1. We are looking into adding Tuesday as well. Because of the church's operating hours, we can't extend the hours of the store beyond that. This looks to happen in January.

As the scare of Covid still looms in some of us, we see things looking up in AA. We have been seeing an increase in live meetings and our zoom platforms are still doing well for those who can't make it to a live meeting.

As we continue to move forward in 2023, and beyond, there is a sense of gratitude within Intergroup on how we're able to continue to service the groups in Area 31.

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 for the start-up expenses of the picnic.

Our online meeting list, as well as the Meeting Guide app, creates continuity with both listings. Thanks to our web team in putting in the hours needed and continuing working on that.

I would like to thank the officers for their continued dedication. Alli our secretary, who had to relinquish her secretary duties due to school commitments and Lindsay our temporary Secretary who volunteered to fill the position to the first of the year when all the newly elected officers will be in place, and Dan our Treasurer. Our steering committee was formed and is an instrumental asset to Intergroup.

Our Office staff remains strong with Joy as the Supervisor and Kevin and Bob doing the website management for the time being. As for our literature, the store is well stocked. The GSO has RAISED their prices 20%. Right now, there is no price increase in the store, but going forward all orders will be having the 20% increase. You may notice an increase in certain items already.

Any changes to your Zoom meeting, or live meetings please email the office so that it can be updated. The email address is Interagro4@aol.com. New groups will need a group change form so please ask for one.

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. Many group changes are still coming in and we're focusing on accuracy to the website and the meeting list app.

The Area 31 Committee continues to have a link to WMIG on their website and we 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.

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 intergroup reps, the Steering Committee, our Officers Alli, Lindsay and Dan, our office staff Joy, Kerry the bookie coordinator, Signe the events coordinator and our website manager Kevin who is supposed to be retiring after 100 years in Intergroup and Bob the former area webmaster for his assistance for their outstanding work on the website and meeting guide during the past 6 months.

Just as I have started to learn the position, and became comfortable in my service position, it's time for the spirit of rotation. I would like to say thank you for the experience of allowing me to serve as the intergroup chair. I have made many friends and acquaintances since taking this service position. I have learned so much and the service experience is a very strong part of my sobriety.

District 1 – Meets 3rd Thursday, 35 Evertt Street, Springfield. Consistently get between 5-8 Gsr's. There are

31 Groups in Springfield. We had 4 anniversaries in the last 6 months. All groups doing well and contribute to PIE chart, do outgoing commitments.

District 2 – DISTRICT 2. SIX MONTH REPORT

MAY 8TH, 2023 THRU OCTOBER 9, 2023

GREETINGS ALL MY NAME IS LYNNE S. GRATEFULLY SERVING AS YOUR DCM FOR DISTRICT 2.

THIS REPORT COVERS OLD AND NEW BUISNESS, A BUDGET REPORT, ALONG WITH DISTRICT 2 EVENTS.

I WAS VOTED IN AS CO-DCM SEPT 12, 2022, AND CHRIS K. ROLLED OUT AS DCM ON JAN 9, 2023. JANET B. ROLLED IN AS CO-DCM JAN 9, 2023, I THEN ROLLED IN AS DISTRICT 2 DCM.

OLD BUISNESS: TIM MADE A MOTION: THE DISTRICT 2 VOTE TO HAVE DISCUSSIONS TO SUPPORT OTHER GROUPS WHENEVER GROUPS IN OUR DISTRICT MEETINGS ARE HAVING DIFFICULTYIES. BY SHARING WHAT OTHER GSRs WITHIN OUR DISTRICT DID TO OVERCOME THOSE DIFFICULTIES. Motion was passed, 2nd and adopted.

OUR DISTRICT WILL BE HAVING OUR ELECTIONS NOV 13, 2023. FOR CO-DCM AND I WILL BE ROLLING OUT JAN 8, 2024. WE WILL ALSO BE VOTING ON OUR DISTRICTS BUDGET FOR 2024.

OUR DISTRICT AVERAGES 17-24 GSRs PER MONTH. WE REPRESENT 70 MEETINGS ROUGHLY WITHIN DISTRICT 2. ALL MEETINGS ARE LISTED IN THE A.A. MEETING GUIDE APP. AND ON THE AREA WEBSITE.

OUR DISTRICT 2 HAS MOVED FROM THE ALANO CLUB ON 36 KING ST. IN AGAWAM MA. TO THE AGAWAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH ON 745 MAIN ST. AGAWAM MA. 01001. WE MEET AT 7:30PM EVERY 2ND MONDAY OF THE MONTH.

WE NOW ARE HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE AND ARE A HYBRID MEETING WITH ACTIVE ZOOM ACCESS. SEE THE AREA WEBSITE area31aa.org FOR OUR ZOOM ACCESS INFORMATION.

OUR DISTRICT READS OUT OF THE SERVICE MANUAL EVERY MONTH. MARK WILL READ CHAPTER 11, NOV 13, 2023. AT OUR NEXT GSR DISTRICT 2 MEETING.

AS DCM I HAVE HAD THE PLEASURE OF INVITING THE AREA COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO OUR DISTRICT MEETINGS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. I WANT TO THANK THE ACCESSIBILITY CHAIR, THE ARCHIVES CHAIR, THE REGISTRAR, AND STEVE B. OUR AREA TRESURER FOR COMING TO OUR DISTRICT MEETINGS AND ANSWERING ALL OF OUR QUESTIONS.

ALSO, STEVE OUR ALT. DELEGATE FOR HIS WONDERFUL GSR PRESENTATIONS. MIKE OUR DELEGATE FOR SHARING GSO UPDATES, AND CONFERENCE REPORTS, AT OUR ROUNDUP. AND JOHN OUR AREA CHAIR FOR ALWAYS ANSWERING MY DIFFICULT QUESTIONS, AND HELPING US WITH OUR ELECTIONS, WHICH WE INVITE YOU TO DO AGAIN DURING THIS YEARS NOV 13, 2023. ELECTIONS, AT OUR NEXT DISTRICT MEETING, IF YOU CAN.

I WANT TO ESPECIALLY THANK OUR AREA TRESURER AND REGISTRA SALLY FOR COMING TO OUR DISTRICT AND WORKING WITH US ON UPDATING OUR DISTRICT GROUP NUMBERS AND UPDATING ARTICLES OF AMENDED NAME CHANGES IN OUR AREA31 HANDBOOK & GUIDELINES. WHICH OUR CO-DCM JANET B. WILL BE UPDATING. (See attached Amendment for update).

- OUR DISTRICT 2 PUT ON A "CELEBRATION OF SERVICE". WORKSHOP. ON AUG 25TH, 2023.
- I WANT TO THANK JOE OUR SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR, OUR SECRETARY JILL, CO-DCM JANET B. AND ALL OTHER SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS, FOR A VERY SUCCESSFUL WORKSHOP.
- ALSO WANT TO THANK ALL THE PANEL MEMBERS.
- WE HAD OVER 50 PEOPLE COME THROUGH THE DOORS THROUGHOUT THE PANEL TOPICS AND ARCHIVES PANEL DISCUSSIONS. IT WAS A GREAT CELEBRATION OF SERVICE.

AT OUR LAST MEETING OCTOBER 9, 2023. WE HAD 16 IN ATTENDANCE, 2 VISTITORS. AND ALT DELEGATE STEVE WAS PRESENT.

NEW BUISNESS

THE DISTRICT VOTED TO WAIT TO PURCHASE NEW AA SERVICE MANUALS. THE 2023 SERVICE MANUALS ARE GOOD FOR TWO YEARS.

DCM LYNNE S. INFORMED THE DISTRICT GSRs THAT THERE WILL BE A FULL REVISION OF CHAPTERS 8, 9, 10, 11, 12. OF THE A.A. SERVICE MANUAL TO PROVIDE CLARITY, CONSISTENCY, ON ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES AND RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE GSO, AA GRAPEVINE, AND AAWS.

THIS REVISION IS A RESULT OF THE CHARTER COMMITTEE'S ADVISORY ACTIONS OF 2023.

WE DISCUSSED THE DEADLINES FOR THE MASS STATE CONVENTION. REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS OCT 19, 2023 TO GET THE ROOM RATE OF \$127.00 + TAX.

BANQUET TICKETS AS OF OCT 9, 2023, WERE STILL AVAILABLE ONLINE. SEE: area31aa.org FOR THE MSC LINK.

DCM ADDED THE IMPORTANCE OF MEETING PARTICIPATION AT THIS YEARS FALL ASSEMBLY

AS WE ARE HAVING AREA COMMITTEE ELECTIONS. OCT 14-15. AT ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA CATHOLIC CHURCH. 1023 PARKER ST. SPFLD MA.

SAT 10 AM

SUN 1PM

District 3-

Prepared by Brian W, D3 DCM

- District 3 has added three (3) new GSRs in the past 6 months from groups that did not have active GSRs and added two alternate GSRs; one new meeting has been registered in District 3: Sheffield, Sunday Evening 11th step meeting.
- District 3 participated in the Roundup and hosted a meeting on the Homegroup with District 4.
- Former DCM Chaula H stepped down at the end of May and Brian W moved from Co-DCM (Alt DCM) into the role of DCM; currently the role of Alt/Co DCM is open in the District; the District will discuss the election process in its October 20th meeting and plan to hold a vote in November to fill the role of Alt/Co DCM.
- Groups in the Berkshires continue to report that meetings are generally strong, officer roles at the group level are being filled, and that groups are filling outside commitments at McGee, CSS, and the jails.
- A couple groups are still working with hybrid formats and discussing the possibility of shifting to in-person only; other groups are keeping the virtual or hybrid format for reason such as accessibility or due to physical location of the current group membership being geographically diverse; a couple groups are noting that the hybrid technical component is taking roles at the group level that could be used to fill other commitments at the District; all groups contemplating the virtual or hybrid format are reporting the conversation centered around two key points: how to carry the message to the still sick and suffering alcoholic and accessibility.
- The District hosted the Accessibilities chair (Bruce Van D) at the August 18th meeting and good information was provided regarding the opportunity for service in nursing care facilities and to those unable to get to meetings outside their home or community; there is an interest from the groups to see how the District can benefit from working with Accessibilities committee to perform outreach and create a local point-of-contact in District 3.
- The District was engaged in discussion from July through September regarding a Proposed Agenda Item. The PAI was presented by the Sober on Saturday group's GSR Paul S and group member Susan B. The GSRs discussed during the first presentation and took the information back to the groups to see if the District would support the PAI and request additional support from the Area. The groups took the time to discuss in their business meetings and bring back the group conscience on two occasions for discussion at the District; ultimately, the District was unable to support the PAI as written but the experience did allow for positive feedback to the SOS group and its PAI. The District was informed that the PAI was submitted to the GSC coordinator for consideration for the 74th GSC.

- Upcoming Event: The Pittsfield Men's 12 Step meeting will be hosting a spaghetti dinner on October 17th (just a couple days away) at St. Charles Church, 89 Briggs Street in Pittsfield. Starts at 630pm with Potluck for the dessert table.
- Ad hoc: District 3, BIG, and Berkshire Institutions Committee are leading a planning group for a Service celebration in the District in Jan/Feb of 2024. The planning committee is considering a panel format and will be finalizing the date, location, and final budget in October.
- The District still retains its \$600 budget and is unlikely to utilize the full value by the end of 2023; the district has not yet provided its annual contribution to the town of Lee's food bank program but is to be resolved by the end of October.
- Lastly, the District continues to utilize BIG website and the Berkshire Facebook group to assist in keeping members informed through online websites and social media platforms about happenings in the District and the Area.

District 4 –

Six Month Report: April 2023 - September 2023

Presented at Fall Assembly on October 15th, 2023

Representation of Groups in District 4:

- Average of about 9 GSRs and 3-5 Alternate GSRs with anywhere from 7-12 groups represented at monthly District 4 meetings
- One GSR or Alternate GSR presents on one of the AA twelve traditions monthly

Change of Service:

- There has currently been no changes in Service in district 4. Adam is still serving as DCM, Dan is serving as Co-DCM, and Bonnie is serving as our secretary. We will be holding elections in November to elect a new Co-DCM as well as a new Secretary for the start of 2024..

Group Highlights:

- At least two groups are meeting online only. They are both active at our district meetings.
- At least three of our active groups in district 4 are hybrid meetings.
- We have at least 2 groups in district 4 that have chosen to have 2 separate meetings for their group, one meeting online and one in-person.
- We have had a few new GSRs take over for their groups previous GSRs in the past 6 months, as well as one new group being represented by their first GSR.
- At least a couple of groups have struggled with the amount of active members and have been looking for support. Other than that, all groups have reported to be doing well.

District 4 Highlights:

- District 4 held a successful 3 hour workshop in August: Keeping The AA Triangle Balanced, Recovery, Unity, and Service. There were three speakers on the topic, time for discussion as well as food and fellowship. At least 30 people were in attendance.
- There has been no talk about going back to having our district meetings in-person. Everyone seems to be happy with continuing to meet online.

District 5 - District 5 FALL ASSEMBLY REPORT

Our district has continued to grow in numbers slowly. Our average attendance has doubled since this time last year. We typically have 8 -10 GSRs at the table in S. Hadley and usually, 3-4 on Zoom. 12 -14 is a much better number of groups represented, but we continue to work on visiting groups in our district who are not sending a GSR. One way we attacked this problem was to take the list from our registrar and read through it together and we determined that there were at least three groups that were no longer meeting. These were reported to the Registrar and she officially classified them as Inactive. Our next objective was to find at least one group that we each attend already and go to ask their chairpeople about the lack of representation at the District. This has yielded limited success but the committee has determined to persevere. There are 60 groups in our area and we are grateful to see the District meeting populated by almost 25% of them currently.

In May, We co-sponsored with District 2 a meeting at the Round Up entitled "Giving Away to Keep It" which was a very productive and interesting meeting about all the

different levels of service in which we can engage in AA.

Overall, our District meetings have an agenda and run smoothly for approximately an hour. We are following the Areas list of readings from the Service Manual and get two GSR to commit to reading and explaining their understanding of their choice of reading. This helps us all with a better understanding of the Service Manual and the Concepts and Traditions.

Our Online group "Wake Up Call " has made an effort to attend our District meeting in person and was able to get help with the struggle they were having: trying to maintain 10 meetings a week as they had during COVID. We discussed the problem and suggested they might benefit from a Group Conscience which they were able to arrange through the area chair, John G. The result was a reduction of the meetings to a more reasonable number of 3 per week. This is an example of the work we can do at the District level to help our groups resolve conflicts.

We continue to discuss what workshop we would like to put on as a district and have some ideas to flesh out. The Tradition workshop has been done and could be a possibility. However, we are researching the idea of how AA's actually complete a 10th step Inventory nightly. We will be discussing this next meeting to determine if we have enough variety of methods and interest to develop a workshop around it
I must say I am proud and grateful to be working with this crew and I am amazed at how quickly the year has gone.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate V.

District #5 DCM

District 6 – 6-month report. We are going hybrid. The treasurer helped obtain equipment. WiFi isn't great, may consider moving. District will decide. Usually, 6-8 GSR's per month. Everything is coming back to life. We lost our secretary-new one since August. Voting on all positions-Many opportunities. The workshop went OK. On-Line Group member came in early. Thanked everyone in the area.

Delegate's Remarks –

Delegate Remarks Fall Assembly 16 October 2022

My name is Mike and I am an alcoholic. I am honored and grateful to be serving as your Panel 72 Delegate to the General Service Conference.

Since the Spring Assembly and Mini Conference in April, I attended the 72nd General Service Conference and experienced the business of AA in a week-long business meeting. It was an experience I will never forget and will always treasure.

Next was the Western Mass Round-up where I gave my report to the Area of what transpired during my week at conference and the recommendations and considerations that came from the General Service Conference. I contracted Covid at Conference and had the next week off from work as a result, which gave me plenty of time to create my report for the Round-Up. Always look for and be grateful for the silver lining.

After the Round-Up I started to settle into the routine again of rotating around to the District and Committee meetings as John the Chair, Steve the Alternate Delegate and myself do as part of the responsibilities of our positions.

I have noticed a slight uptick in institutions, schools and the like, allowing our committees in to do the things we do and some of what we used to do coming back little by slow. Please keep up the faith and continue to keep the committees going and they will return to some semblance of normal eventually. We have to keep this AA thing alive while the world readjusts. AA has saved us all and it is our responsibility to ensure it is here for the sick and suffering alcoholic that has yet to get here.

I attend and participate in the Mass State Convention planning meetings every other month and the final planning meeting is October 25th. We will meet at 6Pm to stuff the registration packets and then have the meeting following that.

The Convention will be held November 11,12 and 13 at the Sturbridge Host Hotel in Sturbridge Mass. There is a link to register on the Area 31 website.

I also attend virtually the monthly meeting of the North East Regional Delegates and Alternate Delegates with the North East Regional Trustee. We usually have a guest or 2 to fill us in on the happenings of GSO and also a time for us to discuss issues that may arise.

The Conference voted last year to conduct a membership survey. We are now surveying 1.3 % of the US and Canada's groups with a short survey and I was the facilitator for Area 31. We were assigned groups randomly and had to make contact with them and set up with the groups to meet at their regularly scheduled meetings. It was a process I really enjoyed. I went out to groups I did not normally attend and saw folks I have not seen in a long time and met new friends. Another wonderful opportunity that I was able to experience. The last membership survey was held in 2014.

The Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions of which I am a member met and concluded an agenda item of the 73rd General Service Conference with voting to allow 3 observers from Central Mexico, Chile and Poland's service structures. Our committee will meet this week to discuss Proposed Agenda Items for next year's conference committee on Policy and Admissions.

Yesterday at the service fair I enjoyed the fun, food and fellowship and who knows, we may even have inspired some of our friends to get involved and get active.

I will be putting a link on our website this week for our members to participate in the NERAASA Inventory. It is a brief questionnaire through (Survey Monkey).

I look forward to the next 6 months of serving Area 31 as your Delegate to The General Service Conference.

Thank you for allowing me to serve and thank you for my sobriety.

Mike B Panel 72 Area 31 Delegate

Alternate Delegate Remarks: Mass State Convention Program Chair. Last Planning meeting is 5:30 Sturbridge, Mass. Will be leaving at 4:45. The convention is Nov 10-12th. Last 6 months have visited all committees and districts, some several times. Gave the GSR Presentation again, if you have new GSR's I will put on presentation before 1.1.2024. Attended NERF. I am a train enthusiast. I was able to meet many great people, go to dinner, see train and go to meeting. Went to District 2,4 & 6 workshops. Unofficially visited Spanish meeting to spark interest in Area service.

Area Chair Remarks: I benefit from going last, because then I have nothing to share. I am amazed by how many people are in the room. We rebounded real quickly from COVID. Thank you All for the Help. Expressed importance of standing for the service positions and making yourself available. I learned everything from my time as area chair. Only need willingness, time. Please stand.

Old Business – None

New Business Voting- Recounted voting members. 59 total.

DELEGATE- Steve M

ALT-DEGATE- Ray M

Area CHAIR Bob M

SECRETARY Kate V

TREASURER Justin

Motion to close

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

Area 31 Secretary
Western Mass General Service