

District 1 Co - DCM	Tony	Y												
District 2 DCM	Janet	Y												
District 2 Co - DCM	Elaine	Y												
District 3 DCM	Brian W.	Y												
District 3 Co - DCM		NON E												
District 4 DCM	Dan	Y												
District 4 Co - DCM	Nancy	Y												
District 5 DCM	Lara	Y												
District 5 Co- DCM	Sharla	Y												
District 6 DCM	Paula	N												
District 6 Co- DCM	Greg	Y												
QUORUM = 18		25												
**Chair only votes to break a tie														
Shaded folks do not vote.														

Secretary's Report

OLD Business

Treasurer took budget requests from Committee Chairs and DCMs .See Treasurer's report for details.

- 1)Motion made to fully fund the delegate to the 2024 Conference to the amount of \$9000.
Motion passed.
- 2) Motion made to allot \$12,000 for the entire committee to attend NERASSA. Motion Passed.
- 3) Motion to allot \$600 for the Area Treasurer and Secretary for Chromebooks or Laptops
VOTE: 6NO 6Yes Motion did not pass, (need $\frac{3}{4}$ for capital expenditures).

NEW Business 1) Motion made to vote for budget C as presented by Steve B. Treasurer.
Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Beginning December BALANCE	\$26,922.69
Groups Contributions	\$3,004.98
Total Area Expenses	\$2,260.01
Closing December BALANCE	\$29,135.19
Plus Prudent Reserve	\$8,501.00
Total Funds Available	\$37,636.19

Further Comments:

Contributions in December2023 increased by **\$74.97 from contributions in December 2022.

There were a total of 32 donations made in December 2023 totaling **\$3004.98.
Thank you for supporting AREA 31 Western Mass General Services.

Registrar's Report :

The Registrar maintains and updates records of DCMs and Co-DCMs, GSRs, and groups. These records are held at the General Service Office in New York, in a Net suite database called Fellowship Connection. The Registrar doesn't do this alone: I need help from DCMs & GSRs. New DCMs and Co-DCMs: Registration Forms are 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 are on the area website. Speaking of forms: they're not essential. All I need is the name of the group, and the GSR's name, address, email, and phone number. Email to registrar@area31aa.org. Please be as accurate as possible with the group name. If possible, use the Group ID.

Group ID: If you scroll to the bottom of the website home page, under resources, you'll find links to the GSR and DCM change forms, and also a Group ID lookup chart.

Lists of groups by district: 2 print copies for each district, for DCM and co-DCM. Copies of same lists are going to the Delegate and the Archivist. I also send excel files to Bob, the meetings editor, whenever we need to compare lists, and I check the meeting lists that he maintains on the website and on the Meeting Guide app.

This is a good time to remind everyone that meetings and groups are two different things. Most of the time a group will put on one or more meetings a week, and the group will be registered in Fellowship Connection with the meeting listed in the Meeting Guide. But sometimes a meeting doesn't want to be registered, and sometimes a group stops meeting (becomes inactive).

Visiting District Meetings: Happy to come. Visiting District 5 in February.

Numbers: Area 31 has 300 active registered groups (298 regular and 2 virtual).

Archivist's Report: Carl welcomed all DCM's to take a labeled manilla folder to keep a hard copy of their minutes for each month. They are asked to turn it in at the end of the year to the Archivist. Committee chairs were asked to do this as well.

Webmaster:

The new website was migrated over December 14th. The site was intermittently down for 24 hours but didn't experience any major problems in the migration. One issue that was addressed was a font issue that caused the website not to load on all devices. All emails were transferred from the old server as well, but please do cleanup emails to keep space free. A huge thank you to Bob for helping out.

Please think throughout the year on how the website can better serve your committee. We have a lot of space to build and several things that we can try.

Email - if you need your password reset, please contact me. I highly recommend setting up your email through a mail client like Outlook or Gmail. You can easily get mail on your phone or on your computer without logging in as frequently. This is even simpler than forwarding, and makes responding more streamlined. Instructions on setting up a mail client are available right in RoundCube and I am also available to help.

Accessibilities: We are keeping our current commitments. This month we are focusing on the transition to new chair Max S. and co chair Judy H. Our next meeting is the last Wednesday of the month (Jan. 31st)

Archives: Chair missed meeting as it was Jan. 2nd. No minutes to read. Request from Florence Eye opener for boards for their Anniversary meeting this month.

Cooperation with Professional Community: New Chair Bruce V. had a meeting last night with 9 people in attendance. Mark C. has been Secretary for the past 3 years but there were no notes taken. New Co Chair, Caren, was appointed by Bob M. (new Area Chair) Already scheduled the first commitment of the year ((Jan 22nd @ 10:45 am) at the Elms presenting to 1 classroom will be taped and shown to 2 more classes. Second commitment at Berkshire Second Chance Pre-Release (on Zoom Jan. 26th) scheduled by Mike W.

Bruce emphasized to the group there is a need to get more people involved. He will be visiting the District meetings in the next few months to get the word out.

Other potential commitments: AIC, Springfield College and Bay Path University

Grapevine: No Chair or co-Chair appointed yet. Assigned District representative Steve M (Delegate) held a meeting anyway where they discussed it is important to encourage subscriptions and use the magazine as a tool for recovery. Area committee is asked to bring back to our groups that **WE NEED PARTICIPATION** ! Look around for some possible volunteers for Chair and Co-Chair. Make suggestions to: AreaChair@area31aa.org.

Public Information: Chair Andrew and co-Chair Adam B. Ten people in attendance 7 on Zoom and 3 in person. They will be reaching out to the districts to acquire more members in order to fill all commitments. Meanwhile they have 2 new commitments Smith Vocational and 2nd Street Jail.

Round-Up: Tom H. Chair was ill and left his report for Yolanda (temp co-chair) They have decided to switch to 3 possible weekends in June and are still looking for a place to have it. PLEASE ask around and help them find a Co-Chair and some willing volunteers for the committee.

West. MA Intergroup : Chair Yolanda 12/14 in attendance Mike B. elected treasurer and Lindsey is elected Secretary. They are still looking for a co Chair.

The When and Where should be out in Mid February. Groups were asked to check their information as it is important that it is right in this HARD COPY.

Christmas Alkathon was a great success. Great turnout and great food.

Golf tournament is going to be happening in May now that the Round Up will be in June. Contact Yolanda if you are interested in being on the committee.

Berkshire Intergroup: Susan the secretary gave the report as both the Chair and Co Chair were absent. Our Christmas Alkathon was also very successful. The decision was made to go back to the printed meeting lists as they have extra pages where newcomers can write numbers.

Institutions: Matt F. reports that there were 40 people in attendance. They elected Lena Co Chair. \$1084.20 contributions received with which they bought a bunch of books. Liaison is cleaning up the list of commitments.

The invited committees section of the meeting is a place to provide info about each committee and possibly drum up support. (Please NOTE: There is a six page Institutions report on the Area 31 Website.)

Western Mass Young People In AA (WMYPAA) Kaitlyn is the new Chair. They are having a meeting this Thursday Jan 11th @ 630 at 35 Chestnut Street. She will discuss a better meeting time as they are in conflict with Intergroup and another regularly scheduled meeting so none of the Area representatives can attend their meeting.

District 1: Co-DCM Tony reported he has not had their January meeting. DCM Nick was not in attendance.

District 2: Janet New DCM opened the meeting with a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer, followed by the GSR Preamble. Alyssa, GSR for Wild Cats, gave the summary of Concept One from The Service Manual. We had 10 GSRs in attendance, 9 in person and 1 on Zoom. We had 2 absences (alt. GSRs) due to group commitments and 2 new GSRs, 1 from The Holyoke Group and 1 from A New Freedom group. Most of the groups are doing well, are self-supporting and contributing to the pie chart. Some even noted that attendance is on the rise. **The West Springfield Thursday Night Step Group, which formerly met on Piper Rd., is now at The Church of Christ, 61 Upper Church St., near the railroad tracks.** The group decided that in addition to the books they customarily give newcomers they will also give a book out every time the train blows its whistle. Wild Cats has implemented their new format and it seems to be going well. The Holyoke Group moved downstairs for more space, as attendance is on the rise. **A New Freedom group is celebrating an Anniversary the last Wednesday of February, on the 28th. The meeting starts at 6pm with food and Fellowship after the meeting. They meet at St. Paul's Episcopal, 485 Appleton St., Holyoke. The Not So Young Group is celebrating their 33 year Anniversary on Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2024 at 6:30 pm.** Lastly, the Daily Reflections meeting, which meets online only, is averaging 40-50 in attendance each morning and the attendees are not all locals. Old Business: N/A. New Business: One of our GSRs asked for clarity on "new business" and if the situation in the group they represent constituted as "new business". The group had an upsetting group meeting where some members were combative about the God word and gender verbiage. We gave information regarding group autonomy, stating that anyone can attend the District or Area meetings to ask questions or raise concerns. Ray, our Alt. Delegate, reminded us that they could also request a group conscience/inventory meeting where they may experience further understandings of the Traditions and Concepts. We also informed the GSR that these folks are also welcome at the Spring and Fall Assemblies, where they can raise their concerns there as well. Ultimately, at the group level, it was discovered that the folks with the issue did not want to get involved in actually doing any labor in achieving their goals. I mentioned again the importance of using the group number on the contribution checks. GSRs who were unsure if it was

being used by their secretary came and got their respective numbers from me. I forwarded the information about the discussion session being held by Area 6 pertaining to the Plain Language Big Book. I printed a few "fliers" for District 3's Celebration of Service and announced it to the group. Lastly, I asked all of them to take a little time to play with and get familiar with the new Area Website and that we were looking for feedback. Ray was our invited guest and gave out the Area news. He reminded us of the availability of the group conscience/inventory and the Area outgoing commitment, speaking on how service work has impacted them and enhanced their recovery. He gave us the information for the MA State Convention planning committee, the Concept meeting, and for NERAASA. We closed with "I Am Responsible".

District 3: Brian W DCM reported 12 total present, including 7 on Zoom, 5 at the Lee Courthouse at the last meeting on 12/19/23. The District still has a vacancy for Co-DCM.

Groups reported they are still self-supporting, commitments at the group level are being filled, and commitments to McGee, CSS, the Men's Jail, and women's jail in Hudson.

Groups have noted they are continuing to fill roles at the group level and looking to support the District through Berkshire Intergroup and Berkshire Institutions.

Two new GSRs are being registered for the Stockbridge Tower Group and the Sober at Sunrise meeting

The Northern Berkshire Group has requested a Group Inventory, Area Chair and GSR are connected via email to communicate on that.

Celebration of Service event is set for January 20th at the Congregational church, 4 Main Street in Stockbridge, meeting will be hybrid and anticipated from 830 to 1 with 3 panels with 3 to 4 speakers per panel, flyers are currently posted on Berkshire Intergroup and Area 31 websites.

The groups discussed the GSO letter from Office Manger Bob W, the DCM issued pamphlets and the letters and noted the GSRs can bring to their business meetings for discussing with their groups. The District 3 Tradition meeting will be at 7pm on 1/14/24 and the Zoom information is on the Area website

District 4: Dan B. is new DCM, Nancy is Co DCM. They had 12 in attendance. I received no report.

District 5: Lara A., new DCM and Sharla Z. Co DCM. reported that there were 11 GSRs and 2 Alt. GSRs in attendance (7 in person and 6 online). We have several new GSRs this year. Justine from S. Hadley group will be joining us in February. We also had two visitors from groups that already have GSRs. Ray (ALT. Delegate) gave the GSR presentation. Screen shared it so the online people could follow along while it was being viewed on the large screen TV.

Bob M. (Area Chair) gave a report on what's going on in area 31.

District 5 is still discussing a workshop to perform the Traditions play. Our district was planning to purchase a Chrome book. However, we are putting that purchase on hold because other districts have purchased their Chrome books so they can use Zoom for their meetings. We use the Area's Computer as we meet at 30 Carew St. S. Hadley. (Area Office) Wake-up Call group, our district's only online group, has folded. They were down to two meetings per week with struggling attendance, so the group chose to fold as of January 7th.

Wilbraham's Men's group will have its anniversary in April.

Morning Light in Chicopee is changing its Sunday Morning meeting from online only, to Hybrid, as the Monday through Saturday meetings are. However, the Sunday meeting will meet at a NEW Location 35 Center Street Chicopee, behind the Insurance company, last door on the left.

District 6: Paula new DCM, Greg Co-DCM gave a report There were 8 people in attendance.

They are moving their District meeting to Southwick 568 College Highway to be halfway between both ends of their district. No other report was sent.

Delegate's Remarks: Steve M our new delegate has been appointed to the Trustee Committee in the General Service Conference. Means he will be on the committee that will be choosing the next Trustees that are going to serve. _

He also mentioned that there is a proposed agenda item to censure the previous Board of Trustees. Finally, they are looking for candidates to be appointed as committee members. The candidates should have a good understanding of how they handle alcoholism in the armed services. You may request information about this at Delegate@area31aa.org.

Alternate Delegate's Remarks: Ray is Co-Chair of the Mass State Conventions Program Committee. It will be in Marlboro Mass this year. He will be providing carpooling from the Mercedes dealership off RTE291 Leaving at 530 PM. meetings are on the last Tuesday of the odd months at 730PM. All are welcome .It's a great opportunity for service!

Area Chair's Remarks: Bob M. Announced the Spring Assembly will be March 23 & 24 At St. John's Church Broad Street. Westfield Mass.

There will be a van to NERASSA Bruce and other passengers will be driving. Contact Bob M.

Feb 22-25 Hershey Lodge 325 University Drive Hershey, PA 17033

The Area Committee has a Service commitment to the Joy of Living Feb.15th In Agawam.

Bob has accidentally deleted 800 emails that were on his new account [.Areachair@area31aa.org](mailto:Areachair@area31aa.org)

We are still looking for: Grapevine Chair and Co-Chair. Archives also needs a Co-Chair.

Round up also needs a Co-Chair.

OLD BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS 25 voting members were in attendance tonight No votes taken.

Meeting closed at 9:15 pm. Next meeting February 14th @ 730 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate

Area Secretary

Western Mass General Service