

District 2 – Area 31 Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2016

DCM's: Janis A – 2nd year DCM

Mark B – 1st year DCM

Begin meeting: 7:00 pm

Attendees: 1 DCM's, 13, GSR's, 3 Alt. GSR's, Invited Guest, Area 31 Alt Delegate, Mike S.

Mark B. **Opened the meeting** with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

Mark then described the responsibilities of the G.S.R.

Service Manual – Chapter 4 – The Area Assembly and Activities—summary by Rick W.

The Area Assembly- Any meeting of area G.S.R.s and the area committee (see Chapter 5) is an assembly. The area assembly is the mainspring of the Conference structure-the democratic voice of the movement expressing itself. Assemblies are the responsibility of the area committee, and are conducted by its chairperson.

The Composition of the Assembly: The G.S.R.s, D.C.M.s and area officers make up the assembly. Any AA member may attend, and in many areas members are encouraged to attend assemblies as a way of encouraging them to become active in general service.

Concept 4- Summary by Alice M.

Throughout our Conference structure, we ought to maintain at all responsible levels a traditional "Right of Participation," taking care that each classification or group of our world servants shall be allowed a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.

The principle of "Right of Participation" is built into the General Service Conference through the Conference Charter. Voting members include not only delegates, but also the trustees, and the directors and staff members of A.A. World Services (i.e., G.S.O.) and the A.A. Grapevine.

Next Month presenters: Chapter 5 Summary – Bill S. & Concept 5 – Karl H.

Correction for the Secretary's Minutes for March, 2016: The address for the Intergroup meeting is 474 Pleasant St. in Holyoke, MA, not 747 Pleasant St.

District 2 Group Topics, Concerns & Follow-Up

Related to last month's topic concerning an AlAnon member reading at an A.A. meeting, the GSR brought the responses shared at the March District #2 meeting back to her A.A. group. The group received the suggestions from the District # 2 members as very helpful. The group will vote next month on how they will proceed c/o this issue.

One group in District 2 has few female members and there is a lack of representation in the group meetings and for outside commitments. One suggestion was to ask individuals (women who are not members of the group) to help with the outside commitments of the group.

Another concern was brought up about a group where many of members have very long term sobriety and don't feel a need to be active any longer so that service positions are not filled and long term members feel "nothing needs to be different no matter what is going on at any other level".....personalities before principles was mentioned....

The same group also found that new members to A.A. sign up to become members but never return to the group after they become members. It was suggested that the group members give an orientation to the newcomer so that they know what to expect and what it means to be a group member.

Holyoke Meeting at Providence Hospital that meets every Thursday and Sunday will celebrate their 70 year anniversary on April 24, 2016. Food and Fellowship 6:30, an A.A. speaker meeting at 7:30. All are welcome and encouraged to come and celebrate.

After attending the Spring Assembly group G.S.R.s stated that they would change the way they made contributions to the G.S.O., Institutions, Intergroup and W.M.A.C.

DCM Report – The Spring Assembly Business Meeting

The Area 31 Spring Assembly was held Saturday April 2, 2016 and Sunday April 3, 2016. There were 57 voting members present. Mike S. was voted the Alt Delegate using the Third Legacy Area 31 meeting procedure.

Earlier this year there was an Area 31 Inventory and an Ad Hoc Committee has been formed to sort through the results of the Inventory. Sally S. has been asked to head the Committee. She is asking for volunteers to help and be part of the committee. If you are interested you can contact Sally S. Mark will bring more information to next month's meeting about the next meeting and how to contact Sally S.

Also, a presentation was given by our Delegate Mark N. related to the role of the G.S.R. One particular issue during the presentation addressed the need to include Alt G.S.R.s so that

they can learn what their role is and how they can contribute to Area Service. Shadowing was suggested as a great way to learn about a role in the service structure.

Old Business – Workshop topic-Bring the Workshop idea back to groups and ask members what they would like to have a workshop about r/t something they want to know more about in A.A.

Finance was a topic suggested. Please bring ideas back to meeting next month from your group members.

New Business –

Motion to continue the meeting for 15 minutes past 8:00 pm....motion passed

Motion to eliminate the need to vote to extend the meeting in 15 minute increments. Motion tabled to next month.

Area 31 Alt Delegate – Mike S.

The Round-Up will be held May 20-22, 2016 at the LaQuinta Hotel in downtown Springfield. The change is from a 2 day Round-Up to a 3 day event. Friday night will begin the Round-Up with the CPC committee inviting professionals in the area to a free presentation about the C.P.C. and professionals. There will also be a report by our delegate Mark N. on Saturday

The Alternate Delegate will be attending all of the MA State Convention Meetings which are held in Framingham MA the “odd” months of the year. The next meeting is May 31st, 2016. Anyone interested in carpooling can be at the AMF Bowling Lanes (off exit 6 of the MA Turnpike) for 5:30 pm. Individuals will leave at 5:45 pm the latest.

Mike thanked us all for the Service that we provide to Area 31 and A.A.

Area commitments are available if a group wants to learn more about service, the area etc. contact the Area Chair, Sue A. at www.area31aa.org

Next meeting Monday, May 9, 2016 at 7:00

Meeting closed at 8:20 pm

Minutes submitted by: *Lee M*