

Meeting starting at 6:50 pm on 8/16/16 in attendance are: Alex, Ben E., Bryan C., Tania H., Diane V., Chris H., Moira E., Anna A., Lisa W., Steve, Mark and Jim W.

- Serenity Prayer after moment of silence
- Steve announced that we are reading out of our service manual: Chapter 4 pp. S36-S39
 - Alex has been wondering about rotating the location of assembly meetings.
 - Tania commented on both roundups and area assemblies.
 - If Dcm and co- Dcm are not at an assembly than an LCM (local committee member) can vote in place of a Dcm. (If you have one)
 - Ben asked about an alternate to the GSR in case of GSR absence/Steven summarized procedures of DCM voting at assemblies
 - Diane reminded us that a GSR has only **one vote** (can't represent more than one group)
 - Alex announced that the area handbook has been reprinted. Steve said that the area handbook will soon be available on the area website www.area31AA.org in PDF format and is available at the intergroup office.

GSR reports:

- Alex representing the Tuesday 5:15 12 and 12 Amherst. Elected a new business chair. Business meetings have low attendance during summer.
- Bryan representing Leydon Woods Greenfield. Business meeting attendance very low due to summer. Recently voted on giving \$400 to the PIE donations. In the process of editing their meeting format with emphasis on sponsorship. Since they are BB oriented they want to emphasize sponsorship.
- Jim represents the 12 step group in Amherst at the congregational church. Slow with an attendance of about 20 attendees, latest 7 th tradition donation was in April, and we have quick and easy business meetings.
- Anna represents Conway Monday night group. Last meeting, they have a group inventory on September 24 at 10am, they did a commitment at MSCYPAA.
- Tania represents the Wednesday Hadley Women's Group. It's now a closed meeting, they use the Blue Card to ensure that people have awareness of said change, on the first Wednesday they have a 12/12 step, second Wednesday they have someone read their favorite piece of AA literature and share on it (they also have a drawing of the grapevine that night), the third Wednesday is geared toward new-comers and the fourth Wednesday is to read and discuss the promises. Group has an inventory on August 31, 2016 at 6:30pm, rent has been decreased, they have a phone list. They are looking to fill more service positions. They soon we will have food and now have coffee.

- Chris represents Haydenville Sunday night lights. Attendance has been low Group inventory at 3:30 September 18. Church wants more money for rent and their treasurer person negotiated a lower fee.
 - Steve asked clarifying questions about why the rent was increased. It is thought that it was left a little messy, Ben announced that the church owed on back bills on the water, during winter months they contributed 50\$ extra the church wanted that amount to continue.
- Lisa represents Saturday no business meeting.
- Diane VB. Amherst Monday night group 7-8 on Monday night and they have two meetings. A topic discussion in one space and a newcomers meeting in the other part of the space and will continue that set up, 4-5 new members. Group anniversary is in September. Literature is now being given to the Jones Library as part of the public information commitment. They regularly contribute to the PIE chart.
- Moira represents the Tuesday Sunderland security group. Consistently donating to the PIE chart, attendance is great but service commitment.

Ben gave the co-Dcm report which is also printed on the agenda.

- Tania stated concern re: accessibility (large print W+W) and large print items as the treasurer has difficulty seeing certain types of print.
 - Large print W+W are available for free at the intergroup office.
- Bryan asked a question about announcing jail commitments it was encouraged that either a group or an individual can take it on. CORI checks will be required. Ben mentioned that it is ill advised to take on this if one has open cases.
- Alex offered information regarding speaking opportunities for women speaking at women's facilities.

New Business:

- Tania stated that they need CPC information in braille.
 - Tania was referred to GSO.
- Tania wants to understand how to offer La Vina to another group attendee.
 - Tania was referred to intergroup.
- Steven is wondering about a GSR presentation and Moira recommended to have it in January.
- Moira recommended that the format change in order to be mindful of the length of the January GSR meeting.
- Mark is also recommending that we watch the full version of the GSR presentation as it explains all other committees.

- Motion to add the full GSR presentation at the January meeting and alter the format accordingly.
 - Pass unanimously

Area committee

Delegate Mark spoke about how he offered a five-minute overview of the concepts at an institutions meeting. He has made it more accessible by simplifying presentation of the concepts.

He announced the title of the both the general service conference and the mass state convention of 2017 is entitled “Supporting Our Future”:

- Growth, Participation and Contributions
- Email Mark at Delegate@area31AA.org for a copy of the delegates report
- Submit stories about young people 500-800 words of experience strength and hope to AA.org before December 30, 2016.
- Delegates wanted have briefing information about the agenda topics longer before the actual conference dates
- Possible/probable topics include:
 - Considering revisions to the sponsorship pamphlet
 - Consider revising the wording in chapters 2, 3, and 5 in the service manual
 - Printing “self-support” pamphlet(?) in French and Spanish
 - changing page number in La Vina (to 64)
 - new pamphlet for the deaf, etc.
 - revising the short form of the concepts (to make it more accessible to people in service at the area and group level)

Contributions are up 1% and encouraging groups to contribute monthly

Invited committee

Alex B – WMYPAA

- Saturday 9/17 bonfire @ 117 Pleasant St., Southampton (\$5 suggested donation)
- Halloween dance 10/21 @ 474 Pleasant St., Holyoke (meeting 7PM dance to follow)

Chris made a motion to close.....PASSED.