

Monthly Western Mass Intergroup Meeting Minutes 2/11/21

(Meeting ends promptly at 8:30 pm unless a motion from the floor is raised and passed by simple majority vote)

Zoom ID #: 575 606 2145 Password: Intergro4

Meeting opened promptly at 7:00 pm with a moment of silence followed by the serenity prayer.

Intergroup Officers in attendance: Mike R, Chair; Kevin L, Acting Treasurer; Kate G, Secretary.

Articles of Purpose. -Dan

Tradition of the Month read by – Mike R

Steering Committee members in attendance: Nancy P, Mike R, Charlie R, Joy F, Kevin L, Dan B, Kate G, Carolyn K.

new Intergroup reps:

Terry K- South Hadley Friday Night Group

Alli H- Women's Fireside Group

Larry G- Better Safe Than Sorry Group

Mike R., Chair, dropped his email in the chat, (*****@*****.***), for an electronic new rep packet

- 1) Secretary's report – Read and accepted
- 2) Treasurer's report: Monthly and Year end reports read and accepted.

Elected Position Reports:

- a. Bookie Coordinator: Dan B Please alert your bookies to contact Dan at (***)-***-**** or *****@*****.*** to get on the Bookie list and become active with other bookies.
- b. Events Coordinator: Charlie R: nothing to report.

3) Staff Position Reports:

- a. Office Manager: Intergroup is here to help any groups that need it. Please reach out by calling 413-532-2111 or emailing: Intergro4@aol.com. Group flyers can be put up on the website too. Kevin recognizes Joy working hard for WMass Intergroup doing the job by herself where other Intergroups have several people. Please call ahead for any sales related calls.
- b. Webmaster: Intergroup is working closely with Bob at the area to keep an updated meeting lists on the website and app.

- 4) Phone Coverage: Is now done on an individual basis because of COVID-19. Please reach out to Joy to be on this list.

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Old Business: Nothing

5) New Business: (2 items:

- a. Documentation is now available on the area website <http://www.area31aa.org>
- b. The Treasurer's report has had a format change.

** Peter D from the Amherst Saturday Night Group:

He is appealing last month's PPP vote and makes a motion to repay the PPP., Seconded

Discussion:

John G: vote's done. There should be no more discussion.

Jamilla: Vote's done. There's no way to pay it back. Not sure if against any further discussion.

Irena: Not sure when this was made.

Ed B- just visiting.

Johanna: The best way is to move forward with not doing it again.

John G: What do we do with it? We can't give it back.

Steve M: I'm unconvinced it can't be paid back.

Nancy: My group feels pay it back, she feels bring it to body(Intergroup) if it happens again.

Peter: Was alternatives to paying it back; we should seek every option to stay true to AA traditions.

John F: Can you please give the background to us?

Mike R: Briefly:

PPP was issued with the stimulus checks in April 2020 to assist small businesses carry payroll at the start of the pandemic lockdown. There was much uncertainty at this time as the pandemic began and Massachusetts went into lockdown. Communications were faulty or not established. The accountant and bank suggested the PPP as a means for temporary stability to cover payroll expenses. WMass Intergroup qualified and received \$6,300.00 over twenty-four weeks to pay office staff.

After three months of discussion, Intergroup voted twice at the same meeting in December, 2020 to accept that we did this, that it was done, but that we would bring any and all PPP matter before the body for a vote in the future.

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Discussion continued:

Terry K: you answered my question, thank you.

Ed B: looking at SBA.

Lin: how was money used?

Mike R: Payroll.

Rob: Let's violate the conditions and be forced to pay it back.

Mike R: No, we can't do that.

John: Who could find out if this could be paid back?

Kevin: Under US law, loans under \$150,000.00 are automatically forgiven if utilized correctly and all protocols met. We followed the directions and protocols, therefore making this a forgivable loan.

Carolyn: We are self-supporting.

John: Motion to table the motion on the floor for one month giving Kevin more time to determine if and how paying the PPP back would be possible.

Seconded.

Vote: motion carries 15 for-2opposed.

6) Area 31 Committee Reports:

- a. Delegate/Alternate Delegate: Mike B: next meeting on 4/27 will discuss if and how the Mass State convention will happen.
 - a.i. . There's usually mini-conferences with break out rooms and a large get together in the afternoon.
 - a.ii. The Spring Assembly will be 3/27-28 on a virtual platform. Zoom info coming. Anyone interested in helping or getting involved can contact altdelegate@area31.org
- b. Chairperson: Steve M:
 - b.i. Spring assembly is 3/27-28. 9A-noon- break out sessions; 12-1P lunch; 1P-4P reports from break out groups.
 - b.ii. 1/28 business meeting – there was a motion to dissolve the website committee.

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b.iii. There will be no regular Atea meeting on March 10.

b.iv. The Area committee does group commitments to groups and will attend in person or on Zoom.

b.iv.1. Area Com. Also assist Groups with a Group Inventory.

b.v. NERAASA (Northeast Regional AA Service Assembly) 2/26-28 on Zoom.

b.vi. Service Com. Meeting on 2/17 at 7:30PM on Zoom found on www.area31aa.org

b.vii.

b.vii.1. There will be Intergroup roundtable discussions

b.vii.2. Fee is \$21.00 on Zoom. You can access this on the calendar page on the area31aa.org website.

c. Accessibility: No report

d. Archive: No Report

e. Cooperation with the Professional Community: No Report

f. Grapevine: No Report

g. Public information: No Report

h. Round Up: John Round- up is on 5/15, starting at 8:00AM. It's 12 hours across two Zoom rooms to give the delegate report. Round up Com email is roundup@area31aa.org

i. Area Website: No Report

j. Institutions: No Report

k. WMYPAA: No Report

7) Next Intergroup meeting is: March 11, 7:00PM

8) Next Steering Committee meeting is: 2/25, 7:00PM

9) Meeting adjourned at 8:30PM.

10) Closed with the Responsibility Pledge.