

**Area 61 Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes - FINAL**  
**March 29, 2021**

**Introductions** – 18 in attendance at peak (virtual meeting).

**Delegate's Report** – Steve L.

Steve presented. 2020 projections: GSO budget surplus of \$641,387; Grapevine projected deficit of \$354,225; La Vina projected deficit of \$401,790. GSO January contributions \$687,377, February contributions \$891,607. NE Regional Forum to take place June 4-6, the weekend before Assembly. Will be workshops, presentations, general sharing. NERAASA attendees 1649. Trustee-at-Large – Steve will make recommendation at Conference. GSO will open in person in late spring with extensive mitigation strategies. Will not permit visitors yet. Report & Charter committee met and started Conference work.

**Secretary's Report** – Anne M. – Presented minutes of February 22 meeting.

Minutes approved unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report** – Joe H.

Joe presented:

- February 2021 report (Exhibit A)
  - Expenses: \$1754.91
  - Income: \$2029.86
  - Available Balance: \$13,483.38 over \$10,000 prudent reserve
- Summary of Finance Committee 3/15 meeting (Exhibit B)
- Preliminary March 2021 report (as of 3/15/2021) \$9684.57 available over \$10,000 prudent reserve (per approved increase at January assembly).
- Presented report of tech devices purchased as approved: printer, laptop, DVD writer; laptop lock; cassette recorder/converter; tv stand/trolley; external hard drive for backup; smart tv. Set up BestBuy Area Account to take advantage of tax-exempt status. Equipment just needs to be set up, and Area needs to decide on internet/cable provider. \$800 remains in tech budget.

Report accepted unanimously.

**Alternate Delegate's Report** – Alison H.

Strongly encouraging everyone, especially DCMs and Committee Chairs to participate in, and encourage others in roundtables and survey. It's our responsibility to participate. Schedule of roundtables and survey have been distributed. Encouraging outreach – including one-on-one.

**Registrar's Report** – Donna T.

System shows 235 active groups. Likely not accurate in Covid environment. Has attended every district meeting. Discussion regarding how to notify registrar of group changes. Also seeking information from some Area positions for record-keeping. Has not yet received any information back from DCMs yet on groups.

**Archivist's Report** – Don B.

Continues to input inventory of archives digitally. Still needs to inventory more Grapevines. Discussion regarding digitizing or destroying cancelled checks and other old financial records, which would free up a lot of space.

**Group or District Concerns**

- Kevin B. of District 3 passed away. Keep family in thoughts and prayers.
- District concern: A church where D7 meets, new user agreement is requesting renters provide liability insurance. A group meets there too.
  - Treasurer is aware of an insurance company based in Minnesota that provides liability insurance to 12-step groups.
  - Is Area office open, and open to Districts to meet?
    - Yes, and hybrid capability will likely be available as of 4/15 -5/1.
- Question regarding outdoor meetings that started last summer, including the ones at Warwick Mall. Liability issues? Is it okay to meet in a parking lot? Should groups be registered? One group took approximately \$1200, which they said was sent to GSO.
  - For Area office, capacity is 15 with 6-foot distance.
  - Movie theatre closed, so that outdoor meeting in the parking lot is on the mall's property and will have to clear with them.
- Happy Wanderers has an upcoming anniversary on 5/15, and is seeking out-of-state speakers.

**District Reports**

District 1 - (2nd Tuesday - 7:00 PM) - April Y. DCM/ Joe F. ADCM – Not present.

Met on 3/19. 13 in attendance. Registrar presented workbook template to update group info. Will have subcommittee for that. Seeking committee coordinators. Encouraged participation in NERAASA survey and Convention.

District 3 - (3rd Tuesday - 7:00 PM) – Nat DCM / Vacant ADCM  
Melissa is new District treasurer.

District 4 & 2 - (2nd Wednesday - 7:00 PM) – Carol B. DCM / Vacant ADCM  
Not present, no report.

District 5 - (4th Thursday - 6:00 PM) - Jackie R. DCM/ Peter C. ADCM

Jackie reported: Met on 3/23, 13 in attendance. Registrar presented workbook. Delegate attended and discussed some agenda items. Has excess in Treasury that will be distributed to GSO, Central Service, and Intergroup, since Area has funds in excess of reserve. Working to get GSRs involved in encouraging others to participate in service. Discussed NERAASA. Update on Treatment/Accessibilities commitments held by District 5. Discussed how meetings are operating – e.g., outdoors; with or without coffee; etc.

District 6 - (2nd Thursday - 7:00 PM) – Kurt A. DCM / Keith R. ADCM

Kurt reported: Met on 3/11. 15 in attendance. Registrar presented workbook. Delegate attended and discussed some agenda items. Discussed the convention. Trying to get more people involved. Has good ideas that he will present later.

District 7 - (3rd Thursday - 7:30 PM) – Tina DCM / Nancy H. ADCM

Tina reported: New AltDCM, Nancy H. Putting together an ad hoc committee to work with Registrar on updating group info. District has four empty slots for coordinators. Wondering if she can send openings to website for posting. Receiving emails from GSO regarding Fellowship Connection. Wonders if other DCMs are receiving the same emails. Confused because Registrar should be the contact. Feedback is that DCMs have read-only access. Also wondering about Box 459 – no longer receiving them. Another member noted that she can go to aa.org and subscribe.

District 8 (Hispanic) – Enrique, Spanish Intergroup Chair – Not present.

**Standing & Special Committee Reports**

Archives - (4th Wednesday - 7:00 PM) - Nancy R. Chair / Vacant Alt. Chair

Nancy reported: Met on 3/24. Plan to purchase cd sets from the last two NERAASAs for Area Archives. Longtimers' panel scheduled 5/15, similar to the panel in November. Wondering it can be held in Area office. Panel will consist of longtimers who got sober in RI, but now live in Florida. Debriefed on breakout session from Convention. Thanks to Mary K for support. Future plans: some sort of Covid group histories – how did groups manage in Covid?

Corrections - (3rd Wednesday – 6:00 PM) – Pride I. Chair/ Felicia D. Alt. Chair -

Pride reported: Met on 3/18. Six people in attendance. Reviewed convention presentation. ACI is expecting some movement within the next 30 days. Discussed literature distribution at ACI, and will get an update. Covid had prevented circulation to individuals. Some confusion administratively regarding delegation of registration duties within ACI has been resolved. Pride is assisting them with orientation and other aspects of the process. Also in touch with pre-release, and has second thoughts on giving up Corrections' Bridging the Gap. Will coordinate with Treatment/Accessibilities Committee. Was inspired by NERAASA. Continued need for volunteers. Committee members are available for questions and assistance.

CPC/PI - (4th Thursday - 7:00 PM) - Bob H. Chair/ Vacant Alt Chair

Bob reported: Met on 3/25, 8 in attendance. Voted to run ad in Bristol 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade booklet, which has circulation of 12,000-13,000. Invited to present via Zoom to Providence Housing Authority from its Wellness Coordinator. Could turn into a

commitment. Decided to start contacting community libraries to offer copies of Big Book and 12x12s if needed. Another member expressed interest in standing for Alt Chair.

Grapevine - (2nd Monday - 7:00 PM) – Kerra M. Chair / Bob P. Alt Chair  
Kerra reported: Last met on 3/8; 7 in attendance. Focus was reviewing six Grapevine GSC agenda items. A question arose regarding treatment centers accepting subscriptions.

Treatment/ Accessibilities – (1st Monday - 7:00 PM) – Jason D. Chair / Dean P. Alt Chair  
No report – not present.

Information Services - (2nd Wednesday - 6:00 PM) – Andy L. Chair/ Becky T. Alt Chair –  
Andy reported: Numbers continue to grow. Approx. 1350 subscribers to weekly update. Need to ensure meeting Zoom info is up to date. Seeking help from DCMs. Will send pre-conference survey tomorrow. Will also send convention survey to attendees for feedback and interest in 2022 (virtual and/or in-person). Increased website traffic is stretching their limits – exploring ways to adapt.

Convention - (1st Wednesday - 7:00 PM) – Mary K. Chair  
Not present – no report.

RISCYPAA - (1<sup>st</sup> Saturday, 6:00 PM) – Sam G (Chair) and Brian B. (Alt. Chair)  
Sam reported: About 14 people in attendance at last meeting. Met with co-chair to investigate Area office and potential capacity. Planning to move to hybrid format, and has hotspot. Will coordinate with ISC. Will likely continue to discuss bid for next YPAA convention.

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

- Discussed with DCMs in other Areas, which have seen increased attendance in virtual environment, as well as increased participation in general service. Those Areas have been doing workshops, which seems to be the cause of the increased participation. Area 61 DCMs have met twice to put something together.
- Wondering whether there is thought or discussion regarding Area Committee resuming in-person or hybrid meeting; and wanting to confirm wifi capability.
  - Wi-fi will be installed in office, and it will be replace Ring Central. RISCYPAA could do a dry run with tech.
  - Area decided to open offices, but Area and committee must still abide by guidelines. Capacity is currently 15, with 6 feet of distancing. Would need to take into consideration for any committee meeting.
  - Question – is six feet keeping table where it is, or without table? Might not make a difference, just wondering.
    - Measurements taken with table in same u-shaped configuration.

- Another member rearranged meeting for alternate measurements. 12-step groups have been classified differently, and can meet at 50% capacity, while keeping 6 feet of distance. Capacity without table configuration was closer to 22-23. Should confirm official room capacity. Also coffee table could be moved.

### **Upcoming Events**

- Area Assembly Roundtables – April 1, 5, 6, 2021
- Area Pre-Conference Assembly – April 10, 2021, 9am
- Finance Committee Meeting – April 15, 7pm
- General Service Conference– April 17 - 24, 2021
- Area Committee Meeting – April 29, 2021, 9am
- Longtimers' Panel – May 15, 10 am

### **Anniversaries**

Jackie – 7 years 3/12

Providence Basic Young People's some time in April

### **Meeting closed with Responsibility Statement.**

(Minutes submitted by Anne M.)