

Worcester Area Intergroup, Inc. Delegates Meeting Agenda

Thursday, April 9, 2020

7:00pm Open Meeting with a moment of silence..... Steve O.

"I am responsible" Declaration:

"When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that: I am responsible".

A quick word about service sponsors:

Service sponsors are a vital part of service:

Service sponsors can give good direction and provide answers to "service questions" you may have. If there are those here with Service experience who are willing to be Service Sponsors, please raise your hand.

Introductions of Attendees (go around the room, we use last names in service, if you are not comfortable with that please use your standard AA introduction)

Attendees Sign in sheet Hilary D.

Welcome new Delegates in attendance. Hand out packet if needed

Recognize Individual A.A. Anniversaries since our last meeting.

REMINDER ABOUT VOTING: Only Group Delegates (OR their Alternates) are permitted to make motions, second them and vote.

Committee Chairs - please remember to provide written reports monthly!

REPORTS		ACTION
*Secretary	Alice B. /Hilary D.	
*Treasurer	Ted K.	
Office Manager	Brandy H.	
Website	John H.	Presented by Brandy H.
Alcathon	Brandy H.	
Treatment Facilities	Ray M.	
Corrections	Steve O.	
HALT Line	Donna H.	
Liaison (WAI-Area 30)	Jim B.	
Liaison (WAI-District 25)	Steve O.	
Liaison (WAI-District 26)	Jenn C.	
Public Information	Alice B.	
Social	Jeff W.	
Beacon	John Mc.	
Bookie Exchange	Fred F. / Bill S.	
MSCYPAA	Ray M.	

*Requires Motion and Second by a Delegate to Accept

Old Business -

New Business - Nominations

What's On Your Mind?

Please help with cleaning up. Adjournment _____ pm

Serenity Prayer

Next Meeting: May 14, 2020

Worcester Area Intergroup, Inc.
Delegates Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2020

7:00 PM: Steve O. opened Meeting with a moment of silence followed by the Responsibility Declaration and encouragement of Service Sponsors.

Introductions of Attendees: 14 attendees – Steve O. (Chair, District 25 liaison), Brandy H. (Office Manager/Alcathion Chair/It all starts here delegate), Ted K (Treasurer), Hilary D. (Secretary/Main South Sobriety Delegate), Ray M, (Treatment Chair), David C. (The Way Out Delegate), Jim B. (Area 30 liaison), Katie G (Way of sobriety delegate), Carol D. (AA member), Fred F. (Trustee), Bill S. (BookieXhange, Northboro Sat AM Delegate), Eduardo M. (Happy, Joyous, and Free Delegate) Kim N. (Trustee/Millbury Traditions Delegate)

Attendees Sign In Sheet: (Hilary D.) List passed around

Welcome New Delegates: Eduardo M – Happy, Joyous, and Free

Individual Anniversaries: None

Secretary's Report: (Hilary D.) February 2020 written reports accepted as presented.

Treasurer's Report: (Ted. K) Total Income February 2020 \$9310.11, Cost of Goods Sold \$4191.27, for a Gross Profit of \$5118.84. Office Expenses were \$5836.20 and Committee Expenses were \$246.99 for Total Monthly Expenses of \$6083.19. Checking Balance \$10,008.88, Debit Account Balance \$0, Petty Cash \$150.00. Committee Remaining Budget Balance \$10,716.92. Available funds \$10158.88 minus Prudent Reserve \$8000.00 for Net Available Funds of \$2158.88.

Office Manager's Report: (Brandy H.) 2020-A have printed and are orchid in color. Gift certificates are now available and can be used for anything in the office or for special orders. We will need to no use plastic bags by 4/1. There wukk be contest for reusable bags, and a winner will be selected on 4/30. Group contributions in January 2020 were 2352.09, up from February 2020 by \$433.69. YTDD is 5819.09 Up \$142.06,

Website Report: Website had 13470 hits in February 2020, an increase of 887 hits from previous month. Busiest day was February 24, 2020. The intergroup Delegates meeting and District 25 GSR meeting are now added back on the website.

Alcathion Report: February Meeting was cancelled due to injury. The next meeting will be 4/27 at 6 pm at the intergroup office.

Treatment Facilities Report: (Ray M.) – Looking for people to serve on a joint District 25 and Intergroup treatment committee as advisors. Currently due to COVID-19 all incoming commitments have Stopped to Spectrum, CHL, and Washburn.

Corrections: (Steve O.) Recent orientation occurred. Worcester County Jail and HOC. Will get back to us with open dates and coverage needed.

HALT Line: (Donna H.) All shifts currently covered but only between a few people. Any volunteers please contact Donna.

Area 30 Liaison Report: All groups now have new ID numbers at GSO. CPC is looking at retiring the pamphlet "AA in your community" Preconference assembly is 3/22 at South Shore Tech School.

District 25 Liaison Report: (Steve O.) Still has open positions, Case of big books were donated to Washburn House. Looking at seeing if local libraries have big books and 12& 12's and consider donating.

District 26 Liaison Report: No Report

Public Information Report: Has looked in to health fairs but has not found an appropriate one. Looking into speaking at schools. Will f/u with Bill S.

Social Committee Report: (Jeff W.) Next events – spaghetti dinner (Due to COVID19- likely in the fall Emily & Brandy), 1st Annual Whoopie Party, Saturday 6/20 3-6pm At Green Hill Park Estimated upcoming expenses Green Hill Pavillion for 5 hours (2 for set up, 3 for event) \$500, Food \$300, prizes \$100, games \$200

Beacon Report: (John M.) Will have 2 closing dates for April, Deadline for print edition is March 17, 2020 , Deadline for online edition is March 22, 2020 . March 2020 issue available at the intergroup office.

BookieXchange Report: (Bill S.) BookieXchange responded to 25 requests in last month. Increase of 7 from previous month. Currently posts are 68, total posts for 2020 is 101 – 9 new posts since last report.

MSCYPAA: (Ray M) Theme: Keep it on the firing line. Upcoming event with Boston MSCYPAA bid- Sponsor/Sponsee brunch. 3/21 10 am – 12:30 pm UU church Mendon

Old Business: None

New Business: Kim N. was nominated and approved for Trustee. Continue to need Alt. Chair, Alt. Secretary, and Alt. Treasurer

What's On Your Mind?:

Please help with cleaning up. Adjournment 7:56PM Serenity Prayer
Next Meeting: April 9, 2020

Office Managers Report

April 2020

- Group Contributions for March 2020 were \$2594.97 as compared to March 2019 at \$3186.85 – **DOWN** \$581.88. Year to date is \$8380.06 compared to 2019 at \$8921.38 – **DOWN** \$541.32.
- Member contributions Year to date are \$2359.04 compared to 2019 at \$160.30.
- Product sales Year to date are \$14655.70 compared to 2019 at \$17541.05.
- The contingency plans approved by the Steering committee went into effect much sooner than we thought but are going well. I have lots of inventory at home so I can fill bookstore orders and ship them out. Two specials went up on the bookstore to help people celebrate milestones. Other specials are in the works, but not definite yet.
- We have an awesome committee of Zoom Warriors making sure our meetings still go on. A report will be given under new business.

In Service,

Brandy Harris
Office Manager
Worcester Area Intergroup

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WEBSITE REPORT 4/9/2020

We had 17394 hits to aaworcester.org in March 2020 compared to 13470 hits in February 2020. This is an increase of 842 hits. Our busiest day was Wednesday, March 25 with 842 visits.

The information on the website is updated as of April 6, 2020.

We have information on the website on postponed meetings due to Covid-19 and also listing of virtual meetings that are being held while face to face meetings are suspended. Also the new Weekly Beacon. All of this can be accessed from the info in green on the main page and the box marked Covid-19 Information.

If you have an A.A. event, notify webmaster@aaworcester.org and we will put it on the web site "calendar of events" as soon as possible. If you have a flyer in electronic format please send that along and we will included.

Our monthly payment to our webhosting company of \$16.99 was paid for April.

Our committee balance is \$449.03

John H.
Fred F.
Emily D.
Website Committee
www.aaworcester.org

Alcathon Committee Report

April 2020

- Meeting cancelled due to isolation protocols. When/if ban is lifted, we will resume looking for a new location.

WORCESTER AREA INTERGROUP Joint Treatment Committee Report

April 2020 | Ray Marsh, Matt Hicks, Jeff Warren

Next Virtual Joint Treatment Meeting is Friday January 17th at 7:00pm.

We continue to be really happy with the conference call option for the Area Joint Treatment Committee. We are hopeful that the ability to dial in remotely will encourage greater attendance, even when Covid is over. I will be on the next call this next Friday. Anybody that would be interested in joining me on the call, especially individuals that were interested in being advisors on the treatment committee, the link is: <https://zoom.us/j/929134960/> or dial in at 929-205-6099 | 929134960# / Meeting ID: 929 134 960

Virtual AA Commitments - Daily at 7:30pm - Headed by Jeff Warren

Jeff is heading the virtual commitments. You may reach him by phone at 774-290-3258 to book your group. The daily re-occurring Link for now: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/699702597>. We will need to look at a couple 30 minute commitments back to back since all facilities cannot have more than 10 people in a room at a time.

Who is taking patients?

As of last week: CHL, Washburn House, Spectrum. Independence Hall is planning to start taking patients again perhaps next week. This changes day by day. As for CSS beds, many of the facilities are now keeping that within their own network instead of taking from a different detox. Spectrum is giving extensions to place people.

Bridging the Gap

We are in process of compiling this list for "Temporary Contacts" to help virtually for now and then in person when live meetings start again. Anybody looking for sponsees would be a good fit for Bridging the Gap. Email treatment@AAWorcester.org or call Ray 781-600-3510.

This is designed to help the alcoholic in an alcoholism treatment program make that transition. As you know, one of the more "slippery" places in the journey to sobriety is between the door of the facility and the nearest A.A. group or meeting. Some of us can tell you that, even though we heard of A.A. in treatment, we were too fearful to go."

Respectfully,

Raymond Marsh IV - Worcester Area Intergroup - Treatment Chair – 781-600-3510 –
Treatment@AAWorcester.Org

HALTline Report April 2020

All shifts are covered but always looking for people to step in. We have 2 new volunteers step up this month!!

If you know anyone who can do just a couple hours a week, please have them contact me!!

Please email me at haltline@aaworcester.org with any questions.

In service,
Donna H.
HALTline Chair



**District 25 Area 30
General Service Committee
P.O. Box 4553-Turnpike Station
Shrewsbury, MA 01545**

District 25 Committee Meeting Minutes, April 7, 2020

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. We recited the "Declaration of Unity". Members read AA daily reflections, tradition and concept of the month. **Declaration of Unity:** This we owe to AA's Future; To place our common welfare first; To keep our Fellowship united. For on AA unity depend our lives, and the lives of those to come.

Anniversaries: Noreen 11 months April 4th, Al 25 Years April 3rd, Renee 28 Years April 3rd. Carol 8 months April 7th.
Group Anniversaries: None

- **Chairperson:** Aaron P- Present
- **Alt Chair/Registrar** – Al S. – Present – new GSRs see Al to register group with GSO.
- **Secretary's Report** – Kim – Present emailed March minutes, approved, Alt Secretary Sue -Present
- **Treasurer's Report** - MJ-Handed-Present. Emailed treasurer report-approved
Our balance on March 3, 2020 was \$5,076.61 Total group contributions for March was \$463.10, total expenses in the past month were \$49.70 for postage and \$210 in Big Book Donated to Washburn House. We have outstanding committed funds from the March District meeting of \$200 for libraries in need of A.A literature. New cash balance on April 7, 2020 \$5,280.01, less the prudent reserve of \$1,000.00 leaves us with an available balance of \$4,280.01.
- **District Committee Member (DCM) report:** James S– Not Present & Alt DCM Ray -Present
Ray will be emailing everyone a link to a survey that GSR are encouraged to share with their groups. The survey Can be taken by anyone in A.A. this will help the delegate know how the groups feel on the agenda items. The General Service Conference will be virtual. More to come on this.

Conference Committee Reports:

- **Archives** – Position is VACANT
- **CPC** – Position is VACANT
- **Corrections** – Andy-Present. No one has been allowed into the corrections facility for over 3 weeks, due to the current situation. The facility does not allow virtual meetings currently. Maybe sending care packages with recovery material would be helpful? Andy is looking for any suggestions on how to reach out and carry the message.
- **Grapevine**- Bill – Present. Attended the Grapevine monthly meeting VIA Zoom. Al inquired about obtaining additional Grapevine packets to hand out to other groups out in his area. There is in interest from other groups. Grapevine is offering free online literature for this month.
- **Literature**-Nancy – Present Attended the Literature monthly meeting VIA Zoom. Literature is looking for a new literature chair for the area.
- **Public Information**- William- Not Present
- **Treatment**-Matt –Present It has been close to 4 weeks since a commitment has been able to go into a treatment facility. Many treatment facilities are logging onto the active online meeting already set up. There is a daily zoom commitment meeting at 7:30, If your group would like to do a commitment please contact is Jeff W 774-290-3258. The treatment facilities still accepting patients are: Spectrum, Washburn. You can also try CHL & AdCare.
- **Worcester Area Intergroup Rep:** Steve-Present A contingency plan was created due to the current pandemic. This

plan was set up to keep the Intergroup staff safe and healthy. As well as keeping the functions of the office running. Currently the physical address on Grove St. is closed, however they are open for business. Brandy is managing this by working from home. In addition, there was an upgrade to Quick Books, a new credit card process in place. The online BOOKSTORE is now available. Steering Committee approved a Business Zoom account for the implementation of the online meetings. Currently there are 12 Members who help facilitate the meetings online. Summer hours have been proposed

- **Events Committee**- Sue N Present. No news to report, everything is on hold currently.
- **Alcathon**: Bill – Present There have not been any meetings recently. Bill will be reaching out to his contact Mike this week regarding the use of Holy Name for the Alcathons.

Old Business:

\$200 Dollars allocated to purchase A.A. literature for local Libraries.

Joan, Ray & Brandy will be working together. They will compile a list of what libraries are in need and determine if would it be better to supply hardcover books or E-Books to the libraries. More information to follow next month.

MJ reminded Ray & Jamie to submit their NERASSA receipts

New Business:

Karen D reached out to Ray and asked for AA literature for 4 Shelter facilities that she is active with. It was voted On to Supply a case of Big Books to be split up between the facilities. Cost \$210

Discussion on the rents due to the churches where meetings are held. Are groups going into their prudent reserves to cover the rent? Are other groups willing to help groups that are struggling financially? The answer seems to vary. Some churches are waiving the fee until the hall is accessible again. Some members are contributing online to help cover the cost of the ZOOM meetings. Some members are sending their donations to the treasurer of their group. MJ volunteered to reach out to GSO and inquire how they are handling this.

24 Attended

Meeting ended at 8:30pm, I am responsible & The Lord's Prayer. **Responsibility Declaration:** "I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA to always be there, and for that I am responsible.



The Beacon

Committee Report

April 2020

- Due to the coronavirus pandemic and the closure of A.A. meetings, *The Beacon* was revamped becoming a digital-only publication and a weekly. The primary reasons for the changes are:
 - The rapid emergence of virtual meetings as an alternative to in-person meetings demanded that local A.A.'s have access to crucial virtual meeting information more often than once per month - so once per week was chosen, subject to change as needs evolve
 - A digital format publication enabled fast and no-cost option for Beacon readers to forward updated info to fellow A.A.'s
 - A digital format supports the addition of helpful 'How To' user training and reference information for inexperienced web users
 - A digital format supports the addition of direct web links in the publication, enabling fast and easy access to a range of useful A.A. info
- Deadline for each week's 'issue' will be the Friday of every week for the time being...
- These decisions were made without the approval of Intergroup officers as the situation evolved - if the group decides to alter or revoke these changes - please instruct me otherwise. Some options are:
 - Weekly or bi-monthly publication
 - Range/type of articles included
- I also seek any suggestions, comments, opinions on these changes - the publication must serve the needs of its readers as much as possible. We also need to decide how to compensate subscribers of the paper edition. I suggest we print copies of the digital newsletter and mail them to subscribers for the duration of their subscription.

- If the group approves of the changes, I also suggest that we attempt a subscription campaign to increase the subscriber base allowing Intergroup to disburse fast-changing information to as many area A.A.s as possible at zero cost.
- I am considering fielding a blind research survey with readership to probe their new info needs in a purely digital environment, and probing what features they like/approve, what they don't, and what suggestions they have for new content additions. This can be discussed at the Intergroup meeting.

~John Mc. - 2020 Beacon Editor

BOOKIE EXCHANGE COMMITTEE REPORT
WORCESTER AREA INTERGROUP
April 8, 2020

- The Bookie Exchange email site has responded to 30 requests since 9:00am on 3/11/20 to 9:00am on 4/8/20 to the WAI bookies distribution list for commitments. This is an increase of 5 requests since last month's report.
- The Bookie Website posts for the current year to date is 56.
- The total number of posts for the year 2020 is 101. This is the same as last month and most probably due to the Corona virus eliminating face-to-face meetings.
- There are 12 fewer posts for 2020 since the last report.
- The committee has not received any concerns regarding Bookie Website issues since May 22, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill S. (aka Stoney)

Fred F.

BookieXchange Committee

Worcester Area Intergroup of A.A.

bookiexchange@aaworcester.org

<http://aaworcester.org/AABookieX.aspx?GRP=WAI>

Zoom Warrior Committee Report

04/09/2020

We have an awesome Committee of 12 Zoom Warriors and 2 Honorary Zoom Warriors who are doing the necessary things to ensure our meetings continue even when our physical meeting places are closed!

Since March 16th, our WAI Zoom Account, which has 10 Hosts, have held:

- 471 virtual meetings
- With 16,264 participants
- Using 551,498 meeting minutes

While the vast majority of people have logged in from the US, we have also had people join us from Canada, Serbia, Australia, UK, Brazil, Philippines, Hong Kong, Netherlands, Poland and Iceland. People who have moved out of state or country can attend their old Home Groups and reconnect with friends.

We have trained 61 Zoom Troopers to date with more trainings being scheduled as interest arises. Many of these people have Zoom Pro accounts and are Hosting their own meetings and/or making themselves available to Host for other groups. We are trying to utilize them for the smaller meetings, as they can only have up to 100 participants.

With input from the committee I have put together a training manual that resides on a google drive. Troopers are given the link, so they always get the most up to date information .

SECURITY AND PRIVACY CONCERNS: Yes, a few of our meeting have gotten 'Zoom-bombed'. Mostly at the beginning of us learning the system and training people. I currently attend webinars, read documents from other AA entities and participate in the Technology in AA forum to keep us up to date on new information and how others are handling concerns.

Brandy Harris (Zoom Captain)

Office Manager