

**Area 31 Public Information Committee Inventory
September 22, 2013**

474 Pleasant Street Holyoke, Mass.

10:00 am till 11:30 am

Group Met in Small Lounge on Main floor near Chapel. In Attendance were... Jim W. Chair, Steve R. Co-chair, Garret M. Paul K. Anne F. Alternate Delegate Area 31, Mark N Area Chair, Andy? Brian O. Area Delegate area 31 served as Facilitator.

Brief Statement on Service and Traditions was read by Brian O at start of meeting. Material read, I believe, was from a service conference in the 50's where Dr. Bob was addressing the Group.

One hour time limit was agreed on by group conscious for inventory meeting. (Later exceeded by 30 min.)

Brian O. had some opening comments as well as ground rules for the Process.

Described Inventory as centering on Tradition 5. "Each group has but one primary purpose-to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers."

Group was asked if they could do better in carrying the Message.

Overall consensus was that the group was doing as best as it could with the participation we had.

Groups Purpose was to carry a message of hope and Faith with-in the Area 31

Answer questions about what AA is and what it isn't.

A suggestion was given to revise Meeting Mission Statement/ Format reaching out to past Delegates, PI Chairs and long standing committee members would be a way to come up with a clear, descriptive and welcoming format.

Jim W. stated he would come up with a rough draft and asked others in attendance to do the same and submit it at our next committee meeting on the Second Tuesday of October. Our primary Purpose should be included in which ever statement we decide upon as a group.

Also discussed was the building of a Client list. Schools, nursing homes, IOP's and Hospitals of where we have spoken in the past so this information can be passed on to future committee chairs and members.

Somehow a list that once existed no longer exists and the group feels it would be beneficial to start with a new list. Schools were already started to be contacted and a list is now underway. Longmeadow High, Somers High, Northampton IOP, Phoenix Academy, some of which are already monthly standing commitments.

P.I. Chairperson

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It was mentioned that we have the longest running Radio program amongst all other areas.

It was Suggested that a tradition a month be discussed at our monthly meeting.

Group discussed possibly going through the Tradition Checklist. Traditions are all important but Traditions **3** (Requirement for Membership), **5** (Primary Purpose), **6 and 7** (Finances and Contributions) **10** (Opinion), ***11 (Public Relation Policy)** and **12 (Anonymity)** were of most concern

Ann F mentioned the importance of getting the word of Anonymity and Tradition 11 and 12 out to Groups, especially in this digital age of Facebook and such Social networking sites.

At one time the committee proposed a workshop/forum but it was voted down after a lengthy discussion of about 4 months. Maybe it should be Re-visited.

Service Sponsorship and the importance of having a Service Sponsor were discussed. The Pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" may serve as a guide post for purpose of having a Service Sponsor. The last page of the Pamphlet was read by Ann who spoke of the matter.

A newcomer's package was discussed and what kind of reception was given to the new Prospective members of the Committee. As a group the committee members mentioned that all newcomers were welcomed warmly and all efforts were made to make them comfortable. Most people show up with Enthusiasm but was mentioned that a lot of people just come and go to a few meeting and are never seen or heard from again. We want to work on holding that enthusiasm. Group wants to develop that sense of belonging feeling and importance of participation vibe.

Need to get word out to Districts and attend District meeting and address GSR's of our committee.

PSA Videos could be run at Area Round Up or even area workshops and Assemblies concerning Tradition 11 and other PI Topics.

The Idea of Home Groups Sponsoring Literature Racks with in the Community was discussed and it was concluded that this would be a great way to carry the message of AA within the Community. Ex. Libraries, Treatment Facilities, Churches, Schools could all be possible Venues for These Group Funded Literature Racks.

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Tradition 7 was discussed in where a statement could be made to the groups at your Home group Business meeting thanking them for their indirect support for the PI Committee. Funds contributed by members and groups which go to the Area help support The PI Committee Budget and their continued support is greatly appreciated.

In the area of Guideline in giving a Public Information meeting a few issues were discussed. One is that the group is representing Alcoholics Anonymous. Our comments and views about anything other than the direct effect of Alcohol in our personal lives should not be discussed. Experiences with drugs such as heroin crack and Benzo's and other such drugs should be left for the other Numerous 12 step recovery programs. This is Alcoholics Anonymous.

Time had gone over the 60 minute period by 30 minutes and before The Inventory meeting closed there was a sense of accomplishment that settled over the room. The group expressed Gratitude to Brian O. for Facilitating the Discussion and Brian in turn thanked the group for asking him to serve his Area of Alcoholics Anonymous at this capacity and was honored to do so.

Meeting closed at 11:30 with I am Responsible Pledge

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