

Area 61 Committee
Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)
May 24, 2021

Introductions – 23 in attendance at peak. Hybrid meeting (17 virtual; five in person)

Secretary's Report – Anne M.

Due to technical issues, minutes from April meeting were lost, and need to be recreated. Would like to table approval of minutes until next month.

Approval of minutes tabled.

Treasurer's Report – Joe H.

Joe presented:

Finance report included updates on technology upgrade; discussion of shredding cancelled checks and old bank statements (anything older than seven years will be shredded) and procedures going forward; and securing Area laptop. (Exhibit)

- April 2021 report (Exhibit)
 - Expenses: \$3052.85
 - Income: \$1878.56
 - Available Balance: \$9211.99 over \$10,000 prudent reserve
- Preliminary May 2021 report (as of 5/15/2021) \$8676.39 available over \$10,000 prudent reserve.

Report accepted unanimously.

Delegate's Report – Steve L.

New book coming out – prayer and meditation in Fall. New preamble will debut in July issue of Grapevine, and July/Aug issue of La Vina. GSO revenues comprised historically of 58% Literature Sales and 42% Contributions. Since Covid, ratio has flipped to 60% Contributions and 40% Literature Sales. Jan-March group/member contributions: mail \$1.82M, 72.8%; Online \$680,000. 27.2%. Total 1Q group/member contributions \$2.5M. On track for \$10 million in revenues for 2021. GSO General manager search down to two people. Steve is working on report-back for June Assembly. Very happy with all that was accomplished at the Conference. Expressed thanks for trust and confidence in him.

Alternate Delegate's Report – Alison H.

Encouraging all to generate interest and participation in June Assembly. Northeast Regional Forum registration has been open for a while – encouraging all to register. Commended DCMs for excellent Joy of Service. Expressed concern regarding lack of participation in District 2/4, and encourages all to extend invitation to members of meetings in that district to participate.

Registrar's Report – Donna T.

Attended Fellowship Connection sharing session – with other registrars. Very informative and helpful to discuss and troubleshoot issues. GSO has not been responsive to requests for assistance. Looking for help with 69 groups/meetings with unknown status, as many statuses have changed, and will change, for Covid-related reasons.

Archivist's Report – Don B.

Don continues to input old and new items into the database. Joy of Service and Longtimers' panel flyers have been added to inventory.

Group or District Concerns

Reported again not having District 5 meeting opened last month.

- Suggestion – reach out to Area Chair ahead of time to confirm who will open the meeting, and follow up with them directly.

District Reports

District 1 - (2nd Tuesday - 7:00 PM) - April Y. DCM/ Joe F. ADCM

April reported – Met on 5/11, 13 in attendance. Steve attended and reported back on a couple of agenda items. Open committee positions are posted on Area website. Members have lists of meetings to confirm for updating Fellowship Connection.

District 3 - (3rd Tuesday - 7:00 PM) – Chris C. DCM / Nat S. ADCM

Nat asked if anyone knows of churches in PVD or Cranston, please let him know. No further report.

District 4 & 2 - (2nd Wednesday - 7:00 PM) – Carol B. DCM / Vacant ADCM

Not present, no report. Treasurer has checks for the district. Alt Del is trying to reach out to former DCM. Treasurer will deposit into Area account to prevent checks from expiring, and will remit as soon as possible.

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

District has not met. No report.

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

Kurt reported: Met on 5/13. 14 in attendance. District offers reported. Steve reported on some Conference agenda items. Discussed committee activities. Working on a Joy of Service for the summer open to all districts, and outdoors.

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

Tina reported: 12 in attendance at last meeting. Tradition 5 workshop. District has booked Burlingame for annual District picnic 8/22, 12-4pm. Flyer will come soon. Event hosts and participants will adhere to Covid protocol.

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

Standing & Special Committee Reports

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

Nancy reported: Great Longtimers' Panel. Audio recording is available on website. Collaborating with ISC on digitizing archives. Need Alternate Chair.

Corrections - (3rd Wednesday – 6:00 PM) – Pride I. Chair/ Felicia D. Alt. Chair -
Pride reported: Met on 5/19 - 9 in attendance. Disappointing that they have not been able to enter facilities during his tenure, but committee is lining up applications, clearances, and is in communication with facilities. Has Bridging the Gap cards for those being released from facilities. Planning to purchase copies of new book, "Free on the Inside" to distribute when they can re-enter facilities. He has plenty of Big Books. Continues to follow up on finding other literature misplaced/not distributed to residents. Providence Center contact has been conducting meeting at ACI from mental health or dual diagnosis perspective, and suggested we provide literature to that group. Wants to vet possible Tradition issue (affiliation) around delivering literature to outside group for their delivery within facility. Discussion ensued.

CPC/PI - (4th Thursday - 7:00 PM) - Bob H. Chair/ Vacant Alt Chair
Bob reported: Met on 4/22, five in attendance. Working on books and libraries project – going well. Have contacted many libraries with positive responses. Trying to get English and Spanish copies of Big Book and 12x12 into libraries, and are offering a Grapevine subscription.

Grapevine - (2nd Monday - 7:00 PM) – Kerra M. Chair / Bob P. Alt Chair
Kerra reported: Our last meeting was held on May 10, 2021. 7 people were in attendance, including Steve, our Area Delegate who hosted the virtual meeting. One new Grapevine Representative joined the committee since we began meeting virtually. At the meeting:

- We read an article from page 34 of the May 2021 issue called *Off To Founders' Day!*
- We talked about the hybrid meetings that recently started at the Area 61 office and how the instructions are clearly displayed. At this time the Grapevine Committee will remain virtual.
- Steve provided information on the Grapevine Agenda Items from the General Service Conference.
- Gave extra Grapevine subscription from Convention to AdCare.
- In honor of Founder's Day, Grapevine and LaVina websites will offer free access 5/26-6/10.

Information Services - (2nd Wednesday - 6:00 PM) – Andy L. Chair/ Becky T. Alt Chair –
John reported: Google is now spidering meeting schema and posting on results page (search "Rhode island AA" and meeting list will appear). Put pop-up, custom contact, etc. on website for Corrections Committee. Over 90 downloaded the app, many filled out form, and emailed Alt Chair. Working with Archives Chair to post audio recordings of past two longtimers' panels. 36 listens so far. Working on powerpoint presentation designed to show committees and districts how ISC can help them disseminate information. Refining meeting information to allow more detailed information.

Treatment/ Accessibilities – (1st Monday - 7:00 PM) – Jason D. Chair / Dean P. Alt Chair
Peter (unofficially) reported: New Zoom platform that allows treatment centers to call into them, rather than the other way around.

Convention - (1st Wednesday - 7:00 PM) – Mary K. Chair

Steve reported: Working on contract with Marriott in Newport, which just hit a glitch (no room for entertainment – band or dj). Next convention will be live. Marriott capacity is 750. The following year, capacity will be limited to 800 people. Cannot find a venue for 1200 as in the past.

RISCYPAA - (1st Saturday, 6:00 PM) – Sam G (Chair) and Brian B. (Alt. Chair)

Sam reported: Expressed thanks to those who attended last meeting on 5/1 and lent support. Lower attendance last month. Planning event possibly for July 4 – field day event. RISCYPAA is bidding for EACYPAA. Can be hosted by anyone East of the Mississippi. About 4 or 5 other Areas are bidding. Asking for support for RISCYPAA to put together the bid.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Upcoming Events

- Northeast Regional Forum June 4-6 (virtual)
- Area Assembly – Delegate’s Conference Report-back – June 12, 2021 9am
- Next Finance Committee Meeting – Monday, June 21, 2021 7pm
- Next Area Committee Meeting – Monday, June 28, 2021 7pm
- District 7 picnic – August 22, Burlingame

Anniversaries

Joe F – April 18, 13 years

John – May 18, 22 years

Tricia – May 17, 13 years

Meeting closed with Responsibility Statement.

(Minutes submitted by Anne M.)