

Central Michigan Intra-Area 32 Assembly Minutes from June 2, 2019 – District 24, Sebewaing, MI

2019 Schedule: August 4th – District 28 – Hillman Senior Center, 421 Pineview Court, Hillman, MI

October 6 – District 6, Grand Ledge City Hall, 300 Greenwood St. Grand Ledge, 48837; December 1 - TBD

CHAIR: Pete G., (District 2) chair@cmia32.org Pete opened the morning session at 9:30 a.m. with the Serenity Prayer followed by the Responsibility Pledge. Motion to accept the agenda as printed was approved. Pete thanked District 24 for the venue and hospitality.

He then opened the meeting for **group concerns**:

Ted S. announced the AA sanctioned Meeting Guide and encouraged attendance at the committee website meeting to find out more about this exciting app. Get your district to support the app on your local website.

Mark M (DCM) received a letter from GSO regarding group donations to GSO. His group is passing a second basket at group meetings for donations to District, Area, and GSO.

Stacy from We are not a Glum Lot Group announced a picnic on June 15. (flyer available)

Thumb Area Unity Council announced that there will be an open ALANON meeting in the dining room down the road past the playground @ 9:45.

John B. group concern – District 6 put in an agenda item for the 2018 conference regarding a guideline about servicing the still suffering alcoholic. Committee rewrote the guideline with virtually no change. They have reached out to delegates and past delegates across the country and have been encouraged to exercise their right of appeal. He suggested an ad hoc committee or a meeting set for future discussion of this topic. See John to discuss further.

ALT. CHAIR: Jon S., (District 4), altchair@cmia32.org **Absent.**

Afternoon Meeting was called to order by Pete G. at 1:08 pm. Opened with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity prayer. Motion to accept Agenda for meeting, seconded and approved.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Stephanie G., (District 18) secretary@cmia32.org

Attendance was read = 67 attendees: 31 GSRs, 7 Alt GSR, 29 Guests, including 6 Past Delegates.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kelly D., (District 4) treasurer@cmia32.org, Kelly read the Treasurer's report, attached. Motion to accept report seconded and approved.

ALT. TREASURER: Heidi G. (District 2), 918 Francis Shores Ave., Sanford, MI 48108

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT: Gary M. (District 10), finance@cmia32.org Tracey read the Finance report. Motion to accept Finance report (attached), seconded. The committee had to front \$1,800 to cover the Delegate to attend the NY convention. The part that was loaned was repaid right away. Corrections Committee was granted \$800 for literature, motion to approve and seconded by the body. Tracy announced 2 vacancies on the finance committee. Steph G. volunteered. Seconded and voted. Mark M. had previously been nominated. He accepted the nomination and it was seconded and approved. The two vacancies are now filled by Stephanie and Mark.

REGISTRAR'S REPORT: Kamesha M., (District 12), registrar@cmia32.org Kamesha went over the new Group Change Forms and the DCM forms. If the group remains the same one does not need to fill out areas of the form that have not changed. There is not an official change for the FMV but she will make the changes in the database if you send her the information. Kamesha is working on and will have it done by the next meeting.

Six Past Delegates were Recognized.

DELEGATE'S REPORT: Lori C. (District 2)

Panel 69, Area 32. Please see attached report. delegate@cmia32.org

ALT. DELEGATE: Don M. (District 2) altdelegate@cmia32.org; Please see attached report.

Group and District Announcements:

Pete asked for attendees to come up to discuss group events and flyers.

Jerry: Friends of Bill W. Picnic at Oasis Lake. Free admission by mentioning Bill W. Flyer.

Pete: District 20 Flyer at Sanford Park – Check the CMIA32 website. Flyer.

Ted: Dance June 22, Lutheran Church Grand Blanc. Ted is the speaker. Flyer.

Lori C: Has typed copies of her report available.

Pete: State Convention Aug 22 – 24th. Check CMIA 32 website. Flyer.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

LITERATURE: Mike K. (District 2) literature@cmia32.org Encouraged the body to take a service position that is beyond one's current knowledge realm. The previous person will be willing to assist. Mike did an inventory of every piece of literature and the value of the inventory is \$5,723.64. Cash in account is \$832.72, not including today's sales.

ARCHIVIST: Jim D. (District 6) Jim encouraged the body to encourage their groups to take their time and create a written record of their group histories. This does not need to take a lot of time but is very important. Keep a copy for your group history. Get the copies to him so they can be recorded. He went to a mini conference In Tecumseh April 28th which was well attended.

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE: Mark M. (District 4) markmocerri@comcast.net. Encouraged attendees to fill out the archive history form for their group available on CMIA32.org. Mark will be attending the National Archives Convention at the St. Regis Hotel in Detroit Sept. 5 – 8th. GSO members and Trustees will be there. Please attend and learn something. Forms on back table. Archives are available for review. Individual Group Histories are requested. They are short and simple forms. Scan them and e mail or take a pic and send via phone or bring copy to next Area Assembly.

CORRECTIONS: Keith S. 7 Districts in attendance. Discussed possible ways of equitably distributing funds to districts for literature. Updated corrections meeting inventories. There is a workshop in East Point on October 16th or on Statewide website. Got a pre-release request for District 6 from Area 33. Bal \$229 with a reserve of \$200. Hoping to purchase some Grapevines in the future. E mail info to corrections@cmia32.org.

COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY: Randy K. (District 4) cpc@cmia32.org –If anyone needs the help of this committee to present at local districts, please contact thru the CMIA32 website or by e mail. Currently working on a presentation for AA's interested in doing AA work.

PUBLIC INFORMATION: Open Position.

FORUM: Tom R. (District 2) Met with the 11 people selected to attend Forum in Romulus in July. Received the \$ to do so.

GRAPEVINE: Kate L. (District 2) – 2 attendees Next Assembly there will be a GV subscription giveaway. There will be a skit at the Statewide Convention with a Wizard of Oz theme. Reviewed GV website and updates.

ACCESSIBILITIES: specialneeds@cmia32.org Need an accessibilities Chairperson

INTERGROUP LIAISON: Kirk F. (District 4) saltcity@comcast.net 6 attendees. Discussed the relationships between the Districts & Central Offices. He feels these two groups can work together. If you have a Unity Council or an Intergroup he encourages sending a representative to the next Area meeting.

TREATMENT: John M. (District 4) murphyjb89@gmail.com NEED REPORT

WEBSITE: Ted S. (District 26), tedstrauble@yahoo.com. Gave information about the Meeting Guide App. It will be available in Hillman and will be e mailed out to each District. Safe Site certification issue is on hold for the time being.

YPAA: Ethan M. (District 4) 3 attendees. Working on a letter of endorsement for YPPA packet to be placed on agenda. Trying to get Areas 33, 34 & going to MIDYPAA to support the letter as well. Skit went well at Northern MI Round Up. Reminder that that is a field day, use flyer & CMIA 32 website.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Need a location for the October 6th, 2019 Assembly Meeting in district 6. GRAND LEDGE CITY HALL was announced.
- Need a District to sponsor the December 1st, 2019 Assembly meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Discuss Statewide CPC Committee, seeking financial assistance from Area 32 (and areas 33 and 34). Lori C. and Mark M., CPC was formed in 2018. When a committee is formed, they give you a room for the meeting, and the room costs \$30 to rent. Sometimes they get enough by passing the basket, sometimes not. These meetings are quarterly. If your committee does not have the money the statewide service committee is supposed to pay but they always do not have the money.
Mark said that the Statewide group itself is solvent. Each group (CPC, Corrections, and Grapevine) needs to be self-supporting through its own contributions according to tradition and cannot or should not ask areas for the funds.
Art M. said this has been discussed many times at Statewide and it needs to be handled at the Statewide meeting.
Kate said that the Treasurer for the (each) group should pay for the room(s).
- Kamesha asked the body to go back to their groups for donations of Literature for the raffle that takes place after the Grapevine skit at Statewide. Contact Kamesha if anyone wants to donate.
- Lori – International Convention – the Delegate does not get reimbursed for attendance at the International Convention. She is asking for money for the registration and room fees etc., for the Delegate and Alternate Delegate to reimburse for the International Convention in 2020.
- Mark said that we need to start thinking about the 2020 area assemblies.
- Pete thanked District 24 for hosting and that a few people stay behind to help clean up.

Motion to close

Meeting Adjourned at 2:16 PM.

Delegates Report

June 2, 2019

Lori Conant Delegate Panel 69

Please keep in mind: **This is not the "Official Final General Service Conference Report"** from your delegate. This will only be a summary of some of the items of what I saw, heard and felt going to the 69th General Service Conference held May 19-25, 2019.

My flight out of Detroit did not go as well as I had hoped. Apparently, I look like a terrorist because I was randomly picked out by TSA to undergo a more thorough search. I had a TSA agent wand me, pat me down and test my hands for traces of explosives. This is standard procedure when a person is randomly picked out yet, I was not happy it was me. My carry on was inspected thoroughly by a TSA agent and when asked if I had anything sharp in my bag I replied no until she found a small pair of fold up scissors stuffed in one of the pockets that I had not known was in there. I really thought they were going to cart me off to TSA jail but she accepted my explanation of not knowing I had them and let me go finally. One hurdle overcome.

I arrived in New York City at the height of rush hour. LaGuardia Airport is also undergoing a major restoration/remodeling project. I got off the plane, got my bags from baggage claim and followed the sign to the taxi's as directed by others who have traveled before me. As I walked out the door to find the taxi stand, it was not where I had been told it should be. I did not even have a chance to figure out where I needed to go next when I was approached by a man who asked if I needed a taxi. I said yes and he quoted me a price. I agreed and off we went to the parking garage to a personal vehicle. I had been told repeatedly to look out for "gypsy" cab drivers and I was pretty sure I had gotten one. I made sure he knew I was looking at Google maps on my phone as we were pulling away from the airport so I could tell if he was taking me the wrong way or not. After many delays as it was rush hour and a couple of major accidents in our route, I arrived at the Crowne Plaza in one piece after about an hour and half. He then gave me a total amount and I said that is not what you quoted me at the airport and after some excuses about it being more because of the delays he changed his mind and I paid him what he had originally quoted me. Another crisis done.

I arrived at the hotel and there is also a lot of construction remodeling/renovation being done in downtown New York and the area around the Crowne Plaza is no exception. I was unsure of where to go once I went into the hotel to find the registration desk. The main door to the hotel was not being used due to the construction projects. Luckily for me, Mark E. (our East Central Regional Trustee) and his wife were also arriving at the hotel at that exact moment and helped me get to where I needed to go. Not a crisis but a confusion. I had booked a room at a travel site for Friday night and they had not placed me in the room that was reserved for me by the Conference. My mistake, I

should have booked my extra night through the Conference. That meant, I was staying the first night in one room and then was going to have to move to another room for Conference week. The registration clerk asked me "why did I not follow the protocol" and since I did not know about it (remember to always read every email thoroughly) I had made yet another mistake. I asked if I could simply keep the same room for the entire time. After many phone calls to someone, it was agreed that I could keep the same room for Friday and the remainder of the week because my room for the Conference had someone else in it on Friday night. I ended up getting a way better room out of the deal but I was feeling somewhat dismayed at my mistakes and issues with traveling up to that point.

I was unable to meet up with the other Michigan Delegates as I was late getting to the hotel and they wanted to eat earlier than when I got there. I was therefore on my own in New York City on a Friday night for dinner. I ended up paying \$12.00 for a small sandwich at the hotel coffee bar/ deli but hey, it was edible and close.

I ventured out into the streets on my own a slight bit on Friday night. I did not go far from the hotel but I did walk the two blocks down to the official "Times Square" took some picture and found a M and M's World store where I spent quite a bit of time looking at all they had to offer. Went back to my room and relaxed some prior to going to sleep.

I awoke Saturday morning and checked with the other two Michigan Delegates as to the agenda for the day. I was under the impression that we were not going to start anything until later early evening with an optional "Remote Communities" meeting. Again, I was wrong in my plans. We had a meet and greet scheduled for 1 pm which they would like us to attend. I had looked at the schedule, felt I was informed but totally forgot about the meet and greet. I am glad I did not have more time to freak out over this because these types of events are not my strong suit. However, it worked exactly as it was supposed to. I met a lot of people, got a lot of trinkets and pins etc. did not remember a name and tried my hardest to feel as I was a part of this prestigious body. We then had a couple of meetings prior to the General Service Conference and that evening, I was able to go out to dinner with the other two Michigan Delegates which helped me feel more supported and in my element.

Saturday evening was more meetings and some additional less formal fellowship opportunities so I ended up in a way better space emotionally than I had been up to this point.

Sunday May 19, 2019, the 69th General Service Conference officially opened where we received our conference week manuals and our name badges, we had to wear for the week. This is the time for the official role call where they state your name from the dais and you may answer "here" or "present". I have heard from many past delegates that this can be a very emotional time when this happens for the first time and I believe it could have been for myself as well. Unfortunately, they said my name wrong so it did

not hold the same emotion for me as it could have. Anyway, I was "officially" named as a voting member for the record for the 69th General Service Conference as I stated "present" even though my name was pronounced incorrectly.

Sunday, we had our first committee meeting. Policy and Admissions does not have a corresponding trustee's committee so we got right to work. One member of the committee had brought in seven additional questions about our agenda items prior to even discussing the items. I immediately felt intimidated by this but understood he was a panel 68 Delegate and he understood the process way better than I. We had a gentleman who spoke very little English serving on our committee and we had French interpreters in the room with us which at first was very distracting. By the end of our committee process, I barely noticed that they were there so this turned out to be a beautiful way for those whose primary language is not English to be able to participate fully. The G.S.O. prints conference manuals and committee manuals in French and Spanish so that conference members who are from non-English speaking areas can fully participate in the General Service Conference as well as interpreters available throughout. After our first committee panel discussion, I felt ready to tackle our agenda items with the same knowledge and expertise as anyone sitting in that room after my first feeling of inadequacy.

Sunday evening is the big formal dinner of the conference for conference members and guests. I got out of my comfort zone and picked a table with people that I did not really know. The meet and greet from the day before had given me the courage to step out of my bubble and reach my hand out to others. I was glad I did. I ended up sitting with a guest who is a professional chef from New Orleans, a delegate from New Mexico with her guest who is a younger member in our program and two trustees one from Eastern Canada Region with her guest and one from the Pacific Region with her guest. As well as Steve S. and his guest from the General Service Office. The food and fellowship did not disappoint as the entire event was wonderful. I kept hearing that the 69th General Service Conference was way less tense than the 68th as all of these people had been in attendance the year before.

We had among other things our first General Sharing Session and I decided I would go to the mike for the first time. I did and that feeling of intimidation was gone in a snap. Feeling at ease and excited about doing more work at this conference, I went to my room to pray and get ready for bed. I shed my first tears of gratitude and humility during prayer and finally understood; I do belong.

Monday morning it was back to work in our conference committees. I made some enemies during that morning as I was adamant that the Policy and Admissions committee did not turn over our admissions part of our committee to the General Service Office although with our first vote I was in the minority. However, minority opinion is asked for and I shared yet again. I convinced one member to state they wanted to change their vote. After even more discussion (over an hour with me being the most vocal over keeping the admissions portion of our committee) we came to a

compromise of sorts within the committee and when the final vote was taken the compromised/revised admissions policy as adapted by the committee. It also passed on the floor of the conference with no concerns. (back pat, back pat LOL). At the end of our session, some of our agenda items went the way I had wanted them to and some did not, I changed my thoughts on some, but I truly trusted the committee process and felt what we were going to present to the General Service Conference was the voice of our group and the best for Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole.

Monday afternoon consisted of Area highlights from Panel 69 Delegates and reports. A pretty easy afternoon all in all although some contentious subjects left over from last year were brought up from the floor. These were quickly shut down as the 68th General Service Conference had not passed certain recommendations from the year before and this was considered "old business". I was grateful these issues were handled in such a manner and I believe most of the Panel 68 Delegates felt the same way.

Tuesday morning was much the same as Monday with committee meetings in the morning. The Policy and Admissions committee was able to agree to our recommendations for the conference with no further ado. I truly felt we did this as a committee, not one prevailing member on any one issue but by working together, making adjustments as needed and in keeping the entire program of Alcoholics Anonymous in our hearts and thoughts. Trust the committee process I was told and I did.

Tuesday afternoon started with the East Central Region Panel 69 Delegates presenting their Area highlights. I had run over the allotted time at the CDPP so I had tweaked mine some which I felt made them better. However, they had forgotten to time our Region's Area highlights so we could have gone over our allotted time and never had the bell rang on us!

Early Tuesday afternoon we had a treat with David Morris' "Around the Picnic Table" financial report. As per usual, he was engaging, funny, knew way more from his feet than anyone should and what I liked the most, does not report from the podium but down on the floor walking around. I will share more about our finances in my final report but we are okay financially. Just please remember to submit donations to the GSO when possible. It saves us 20 cents on every dollar donated. It is easy and convenient. Okay, that is all I am going to say about that for now, but it is something I am passionate about. However, I can tell you that on August 6, 2019 if EVERY AA member across our nation donates just \$8.06 to the GSO we will become fully, totally self-supporting. So, remember, \$8.06 on 8/06.

Tuesday afternoon we also had a workshop session which they changed up a lot. It was a lot of fun with collaboration from everyone including trustees and board members. We walked around, singing and dancing to Beatles music for the first part of the workshop and shared our Big Bold Ideas for AA. (Remember the writing of the Big

Book came from a big, bold idea of Bill W's so yes, it was an important topic). We had fun and I hope provided some information needed to the New York office.

Tuesday evening was a Delegates only dinner and meeting so it made for an early night. This is planned in such a manner so that everyone is rested for the work that begins in earnest Wednesday afternoon. I was fully prepared for an early night until I ran into two of the guests I had met at the Sunday dinner and we sat together outside the hotel smoking and talking until 1:30 am. The lack of sleep was truly made up for by the fellowship and emotional closeness I felt with complete strangers from across our United States as a result of suiting up and showing up. God truly does work His miracles when we get out of His way and let Him.

Wednesday morning, we made the trek to the General Service Office. We rode the subway and it was my first time ever on such transportation so it was exciting. When we got to 475 Riverside Drive and entered into the G.S.O for the first time, I felt a rush of emotion that surprised me. I was filled with gratitude for our many of our Special Workers and could have taken hours just asking them what they thought about AA. However, time was limited but yes, the office is nice and some of views spectacular. My eyes were opened as to what a corporation we truly are at that level but happy to be there. Of course, I took a lot of time in the Archives reviewing our history and saw the famous Lasker Award although not displayed prominently which surprised me.

Wednesday afternoon we returned to the Conference room and received our electronic voting clickers. As much these items bring to help the anonymity of the voting process and the ability for quick results, they sure caused a lot of issues at first. We kept trying to get a test done and were unable to get all of them to work. After much going back and forth with the tech guy trying to fix issues it was found out that many have them had been set to the incorrect channel. Trying to help alcoholics fix something simple often takes a lot of love and patience and this was no exception. After about 45 minutes of testing, fixing, checking, fixing, group instruction, private instruction and many laughs, we were finally able to vote electronically.

We had the elections for the Northeast Regional Trustee, the Trustee and Large Canada and the Southwest Regional Trustee and although the body at large is not a part of the voting process we witnessed all three votes going through five ballots only to have been "drawn from the hat" to fill the position. It truly was a spiritual election of our trustees. In between voting ballots, we were read jokes from the new Grapevine publication "Take Me to Your Sponsor" and even if not funny, they were hilarious when told by one of our predominantly French speaking members.

Committee reports and voting on recommendations began Wednesday afternoon and I "hit the wall" as I had heard from Panel 68 Delegates sometimes happens. I got frustrated, angry, discontented and you name it, if it was negative, I was feeling it. There were two members who I swore spoke one more time at the mike I was going to go and pull them back into their chairs. I was warned this may happen so I was not

surprised and had to utilize "love and tolerance" of others as my personal code. I was glad dinner came sooner rather than later and I could take a minute out of the conference room to disengage and pray.

Wednesday evening, I met with my secondary committee International Conventions/Regional Forums. During our discussions Greg T. G.S.O. manager looked over at me after I shared some about my first Regional Forum and said "You are from the East Central Region, aren't you?" I said yes. He said "your Forum is in July isn't it". I said yes. He replied "have you been assigned a presentation?" I said yes "Enthusiasm in Service". He looked over at Sandra W. who is the Forum coordinator and said "Thank you!". They laughed. I guess my impromptu "audition" went very well.

Wednesday evening, we heard from two additional committees and their recommendations and called it a night. There were no real big issues debated but lots and lots of questions so it took longer than anticipated but there was lively discussion and comments so I felt even with the wall I hit earlier, I got myself out of the way and did the work I was asked to do with my mind and heart opened.

Thursday morning, we opened with the Public Information Committee and their recommendations. This discussion took all morning and went way into the afternoon. We had some important decisions to make and members had a lot of questions. It sometimes got contentious, confusing and bordered on mean however AA will have a larger presence online with Google as our Conference Advisory Action allows us now to apply for a Google ad note which allows us to be way further up on the list whenever anyone searches for us. It is confusing and I will get into this more in my final report.

Thursday evening the committee in which I served Policy and Admissions gave their report and even though we had some spirited discussion in committee and from the floor, all of our recommendations were approved by the General Service Conference.

Thursday evening ran late as we had taken up a lot of time with the Public Information Committee and we decided as a body to work later Thursday as to avoid a very late-night Friday. We ended up working late both evenings.

We did have an off-Broadway production/presentation by the General Service Staff with the International Convention complete with singing and dancing. It was wonderful and we do have some rather talented singers and actors amongst us.

Friday morning started early with more committee presentations, more voting, more debate and more recommendations passed and failed. It was the bulk of the conference work with some of the most talked about agenda items to discuss. There were some good things that happened on Friday and some that may not be so popular amongst our members but remember, it is the Conference and who you elect that decides on these agenda items. Sometimes we make a popular decision and sometimes we do not. However, there is always next year to revisit the issue. What I am most referring to here is the 5th edition of the Big Book. The process for publication

will not start in 2019 as there are greater concerns going on at the office at this time. We are changing our computer platform that will cause many a headache and costs of lot of money. (The ERP project) so the 5th edition Big Book really needed to be put on hold for now. Remember though, there is always next year so you never know what can happen. This decision was not made lightly by the body but it was a Conference Advisory Action to wait so trust the process.

We closed the 69th General Service Conference officially at 11 pm or so Friday evening getting through all our business in the spirit of the General Service Conference utilizing the Traditions and Concepts for World Services as our guide.

Overall, I felt we as a body did a great job and kept within the scope and procedure of the General Service Conference. I got to experience it all. I got to meet new friends and practice these principals in "all my affairs". I got to eat great food, learned so much about Alcoholics Anonymous and got to really experience the Hand of AA reaching out to help another alcoholic recover from this seemingly hopeless disease. I don't have the words to express exactly how I feel about all of this, but I can tell you this. I came home tired, worn out, drained. I sat down to write this report of what I saw, heard and experienced at my first General Service Conference. I am humbled, grateful and ready to do it all over again next year. The next time I see a Past Delegate and say "Thank you for your Service" I will understand how deep those words really are. Yes, this is service. Service that is difficult but oh so worth it in every way. I will never be able to look at the program of Alcoholics Anonymous the same way as I did before. I am in total awe of the process and feel so much joy that this thing works. Yes, it works, it really does!

Thank you from the bottom of my heart Past Delegates for paving the way. Thank you to this body for electing me to serve. Thank you to God for making this possible. Thank you to Alcoholics Anonymous for being the program that you are.

I may never express exactly what serving at the 69th General Service Conference meant to me. But I do know I am forever changed from the experience and forever humbled by the honor of serving.

In Love and Service,

Lori Conant

Panel 69 Area 32 Central Michigan Delegate

Good Afternoon, At today's General Service Meeting we had 31 registered attendees with 20 being GSR's.

We discussed TRADitions 3+4 and Concepts 3+4. I handed out the Bi-annual Area Inventory questionnaires, and discussed the importance of filling them out and returning them so that ~~then~~ our Area has an idea on what we are doing right and need improvement on.

There was discussion on attendance at Area as well as the duties and responsibilities of the GSR. We closed at 11:20 with the Responsibility Pledge.

In Service
Don McLean
Area 32 Panel 69