

## Central Michigan Intra-Area 32 Assembly Minutes from June 7, 2020 – ZOOM

**2020 Schedule:** August: Tentatively District 26, October: District 22; December: TBD

**CHAIR: Jon S. (District 4),** [chair@cmia32.org](mailto:chair@cmia32.org) Jon opened the morning session at 9:39 a.m. with the Serenity Prayer. Jon said the breakout rooms are identified and the agenda is short. The motion from February regarding prayers at area meetings has been rescinded so that is not part of today's agenda. Also, there is no other Old Business to attend to.

Lori C. opened the meeting for **group concerns:**

Ted S. brought up the topic of extra meetings that have popped up during COVID. Sometimes the groups will have conflicting meeting times with previously recognized (registered and officially scheduled) meetings. He asked for input how others are handling this. Lori C. stated that a group she participates in has decided to wait a while to register and identify a specific meeting time / day until things become clearer in the future. Mark M. stated that we can encourage these fledgling groups and inform them about the benefits of registering their groups. He also reminded us that anytime 2 people are getting together to have an AA meeting, this is a good thing. As meetings are opening again, it is up to each group what direction they will take. We must remember that we are guests in the facilities that host our meetings and we need to be mindful to obey all their regulations to remain in good standing. Lori C. said that if the message is being carried, that is the main concern. Competition is a secondary symptom, but the main purpose is more important. Don M., Alternate Delegate. Their church let them back in about three weeks ago. Face to face started out slow and Zoom remained strong. He said this will take time and thinks that the wait and see approach is needed. We need to keep the hand there regardless of format. Jon S: Stated that he met an AA colleague and discussed the changing base of AA. We need to consistently carry our message that the hand of AA is there. Squabbling about returning to past practices exactly as they were is not realistic. The wait and see approach is important. Our actions need to reflect the base purpose of AA, to be there for the next suffering alcoholic.

Jon S. further discussed the seventh tradition on zoom. Noted that it has been largely disregarded. There is a lot of question about taking Venmo as a group. According to GSO digital baskets are a viable way to collect 7th tradition. Lori C. stated that at the GSO meeting this was a big topic. Online at AA.org there are guidelines regarding this.

Jon S. ended group discussions and asked Don M. to get the General Service meeting started. Lori C. created a breakout room for the finance committee meeting. Jon S. asked whether there were any Standing Committees that wish to meet. Tracey G. made a motion to start the General Assembly meeting due to low all around attendance. Her motion was seconded and approved.

**Afternoon Meeting was called to order** at 11:15 with a moment of silence followed by the Responsibility Pledge. Motion to accept the agenda. Agenda was accepted.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT: Stephanie G. (District 18)** [secretary@cmia32.org](mailto:secretary@cmia32.org): Mark R. from District 26 stated that as of now, the school has indicated its cooperation and that the August meeting will take place. Stephanie stated that the normal count on attendees was not able to take place because of the Zoom format. She said that her Saginaw home group plans to hold on site meetings with a zoom component for those people who are not comfortable attending in person or are out of town. Ted said that this is working well in his area as well. Jon S. agreed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT: Kelly D., (District 20)** [treasurer@cmia32.org](mailto:treasurer@cmia32.org) Tracey G. read the Treasurer's report, attached. Motion to accept report seconded and approved. Lori C. reviewed 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition donation options and will put in chat.

**ALT. TREASURER: Janell W. District 20**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT: Tracey G., (District 20):** [finance@cmia32.org](mailto:finance@cmia32.org), \$8,192.50 starting balance. District 26 does require funds for August assembly. \$1,750 in expenses. Remaining balance of \$6,442.50 going forward. Lori said that normally this would come up in the DCM meeting, but she spent \$49.30 for mileage to go sign checks for Kelly.

**REGISTRAR'S REPORT: Kamesha M., (District 12),** [registrar@cmia32.org](mailto:registrar@cmia32.org), Kamesha is experiencing clearance issues with Net Suite to create reports to GSO. She will be contacting GSO to clarify these issues. Lori C stated that she has also experienced glitches and GSO is working to correct and restore.

### **Group and District Announcements:**

Opportunity for attendees to come up to discuss group events and flyers.

District 26 is hosting a workshop June 20<sup>th</sup> in West Branch. Also available by Zoom. Will be posted on DIST26AA.org or use the Area 32 website on the District 26 link.

**DELEGATE'S REPORT: Lori C (District 2)** Panel 69, Area 32 [delegate@cmia32.org](mailto:delegate@cmia32.org) Please see attached report.

**ALT. DELEGATE: Don M. (District 2)** Panel 69, Area 32 [altdelegate@cmia32.org](mailto:altdelegate@cmia32.org); Please see attached report.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** June 7<sup>th</sup> Committee meetings were not held by vote of the available body due to lack of attendees. I am leaving the chairperson information intact here for future use, it does not indicate June attendance.

**LITERATURE REPORT: Mike K., (District 2)** [literature@cmia32.org](mailto:literature@cmia32.org): none

**ARCHIVIST: Jim D. (District 6)** none

**ARCHIVES COMMITTEE: Mark M., (District 4)** [markmocer@comcast.net](mailto:markmocer@comcast.net). A woman who started her recovery journey in Hillsdale in 1981 contacted Area 32 Archives regarding historical information she has dating back to the 1940's about Hillsdale area groups. She was sent AA guidelines on group histories and she is working on more info. Archives is also working within an electronic version to categorize information for ease of locating reference materials in the future.

**CORRECTIONS: Keith S.** [gizmotry@yahoo.com](mailto:gizmotry@yahoo.com) – Keith said that he is not aware of any corrections meetings taking place during the Covid epidemic. Jon S. said that Billy N. questioned why the jails are not using Zoom technology for corrections meetings. He is not suggesting that it would be easy or undertakable but wondered if the corrections committee could follow up. Lori C. stated that GSO is looking for a national distributor of literature (tablets) for correction facilities. Pen pals are needed, it is anonymous, there are several ways to participate. Contact the Corrections desk at GSO and they have a list in need of pen pals, especially males within the corrections system.

**COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY: Don W., District 12** none

**FORUM: Tom R. (District 2)** none

**GRAPEVINE: Kate L.,** [page88line8@gmail.com](mailto:page88line8@gmail.com) (District 2) none

Lori C. Grapevine.org digital content and archives are free to members during C19. All the content is available.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION: Currently open.**

**ACCESSIBILITIES:** [specialneeds@cmia32.org](mailto:specialneeds@cmia32.org) (Carol) none

**TREATMENT FACILITIES: Stanley P. (District 12)** Kamesha said that they had been very active in her area but the C19 has put a temporary halt to treatment center work. She said they will continue to reach out when allowed.

**INTERGROUP LIAISON: Kirk F., (District 4)** [saltcity@comcast.net](mailto:saltcity@comcast.net) Jon reminded the group that local intergroups need donations and to reach out if possible. Annie G. shared about her intergroup and inquired about the donations intergroups made toward hospitality suites and other support services and whether those will be refunded. Lori said to check with the intergroup chair and see if they can follow up that way. none

**WEBSITE: Jamie P., (District 22),** [jamie.payne@michiganpipe.com](mailto:jamie.payne@michiganpipe.com) none

**YPAA: Evan M. (District 4)** [mckay1er@cmich.edu](mailto:mckay1er@cmich.edu) none Lori C. said that YPAA is inquiring how to resubmit their bid package / agenda item and they will be ready to approach the Assembly by December 9, and then it could move on from there.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Host District is still needed for the December meeting. Jon asked people to spread the word that we still need to find a host. We prefer a centrally located venue between Flint and Midland but that is not required.

Jon said that the motion of Don M. regarding prayer has been rescinded and is no longer a discussion topic.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. I made a motion to provide a fillable form on the Area website for committee reports. Seconded and approved.
- B. Wayne K. made a motion that we send money to GSO. Tracey suggested that we have the extra money normally earmarked for corrections and we could go as high as \$1,000 to send to the GSO. Lori C asked to make a friendly amendment that we give \$500 now and an additional \$500 in August based on our incoming Area donations. The motion to send \$500 to GSO was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.
- C. Lori made a motion that she has some additional announcements and would like to send to the Secretary to disseminate to the body. This concerns Area 19 Zoom and GSO finances. Seconded and approved.
- D. Tracey G. asked about Jack W. and how he has been during the flooding in Sanford. Lori C said she has spoken to him twice and he is in Ohio with his daughter. He did not get flooded but he did lose his Sanford Lake view.
- E. Lori C. stated that she is available via Zoom or to travel and meet with groups, speak, etc. Contact her if interested.

**Motion to Close. Meeting closed at 2:25 PM with the Serenity Prayer recited by the group.**

## Delegates Report

April-May 2020

Zoom Meeting on June 5, 2020

You will get to hear my General Service Report during the General Sharing Session in August but overall, it was different but effective.

What recently has been going on at the GSO is "My Portal" which is replacing the FNV is still having issues getting up and running. The quality of the data coming out of the NetSuite is still facing challenges and as of May 29, 2020 is still not up to functioning as it should. More work is ongoing to clear some of this up and while many are waiting for updates for GSR's, DCM's and other group information needed, it still needs more tweaking. According to Greg T. our General Service Manager they are "most grateful for your ongoing patience, cooperation and support as we continue on this path. It has proven difficult for all of us, and we continue to receive and value your ongoing input and constructive suggestions intended to help us to the solution".

Also, in the General Service Arena, Mark E. our current East Central Regional Trustee wrote to the Delegates on June 2, 2020 announcing he is serving on the Trustee's Nominating Committee which is tasked with replacing "eight Trustees at the 71<sup>st</sup> General Service Conference." (I am glad P/A voted in electronic voting for trustees this year for this task). One of these Trustees that are being replaced this year is our East Central Regional Trustee (Mark E.) so we will all soon be receiving notices from the General Service Office to search "our respective areas for candidates to serve as the East Central Regional Trustee and a second candidate to serve as the Trustee at Large-U.S." Both positions require time away from serving at the General Service Conference (I believe Ted may qualify) and you MUST be an alcoholic (Class B Trustee positions. The nominee is chosen by the Statewide Committee level of Service in Michigan (we put up one Trustee for nomination from the three Michigan Delegate Areas). But I am not at all sure how we nominate for at Trustee at Large U.S. It is probably remarkably similar. What I do realize is two-fold. One this nomination process and such comes at different levels for service in Michigan and it is going to happen much quicker than we even realize (Get those resumes dusted off Past Delegates). The second much more personal thing I know is four years of commitment to a service position (2 years Alternate Delegate; Two Years Delegate) goes by quickly. I simply could not believe that Mark's rotation is coming to an end with the 71<sup>st</sup> General Service Conference. In addition, the Chairman of the Board and the Treasurer will also need to be replaced at the 71<sup>st</sup> General Service Conference. Both positions are Class A-nonalcoholic Trustee positions. As of right now, we have an interim Treasurer of the General Service Board, but his position cannot be confirmed until the 71<sup>st</sup> General Service Conference.

On Wednesday June 10, 2020 there is an opportunity to attend an Area Service Sharing Session on Zoom. This comes out of Area 19 Chicago and as a result of the quarantine across the nation has now become available Nationwide via Zoom. The meeting on Wednesday is to share on Voting for Areas, Districts, whatever and how to do this via Zoom and keep in line with all our Traditions. Billy N. a Past Delegate, Past General Service Trustee from Buford, GA and Patrick C. from the GSO staff on the Conference Assignment (our Conference Coordinator for the past two years). They will share on Identification of voters; non-voting observers; Zoom licensing; Script templates and other items of information. They will also share on types of voting such as Election by 3<sup>rd</sup> Legacy, Recommendations, and Consensus Agreements and Proxy Voting. I plan to attend to garner some information to serve our Area and have invited Jon S. our Area chair and Don Mc. Our Alternate Delegate to attend as well. If you are interested, please let me know and I will share the Zoom

meeting information with you. If you cannot attend in June yet may want to attend in July, the topic for that meeting is Remote Communities and Blended Physical and Virtual Meeting, Service Commitment Meetings and Assemblies.

Just a couple of upcoming events to note: The 48<sup>th</sup> Annual East Central Regional Conference of Delegates Past and Present will be held February 12-14, 2021 in Appleton, WI. Hopefully, travel will be less risky by then and I can attend a live service event but this time as a Past Delegate. A reminder for August 2020 for Area 32. We are still planning to be able to hold a live event in District 26 where we will begin the election process for our Area with nominations for Delegate and Alternate Delegate. This will be for nominations only and voting takes place in October. Consider nominating a candidate for these positions as believe it not, October is coming quicker rather than later.

For myself, serving at my second and last General Service Conference this year has made the reality of becoming a Past Delegate even more real for me. While I have enjoyed and been blessed to serve Area 32, I am really looking forward to sitting at the “big boys” table, scratching my chin and looking wise ( and maybe not having to be so dressed up all the time if I chose not to). Wow, what a journey this has been and again, thank you so much for allowing me to serve.

In Love and Service,

Lori Conant; Panel 69, Area 32.

A little more information as a result of today’s meeting on Zoom: First, the Power point presentation will be presented at the August Area Assembly. I had some difficulty with sharing my screen today but...part of it can wait until August so no big deal.

Please read carefully the message about upcoming Trustee openings for Class B Trustees. Resumes/recommendations will happen at the Statewide meeting however, Past Delegates who wish to be nominated should be ready in advance. Ted is the most recent Past Delegate who can be nominated but any of our Past Delegates can be nominated as well. Please, if you know of a Past Delegate who would be interested in serving, please support them in this process. Once Statewide elects someone to represent the Three Michigan Delegate Areas, service resumes and general sharing about the nominee will take place in February 2021 at our East Central Region Delegates Past and Present meeting. It seems as if it may be long way off in the future, however in reality this is timely.

At today’s meeting we voted on sharing a Venmo account number to our attendees who may want to make a donation to our Area and the GSO coffee pot just as we do at face to face meetings. The Venmo account number is #5174147662. Please distinguish if it is to go the Coffee Pot/GSO or the Area Meeting-the basket. The money will go into this account and will be forwarded to Kelly our Treasurer just as it would if we were attending in person. We can still donate in the regular way with a check sent to our Area, but this option may be quicker and easier for some of our members. I just wanted to let everyone know.

Wednesday June 10, 2020 there is an Area Service Sharing meeting coming out of Area 19-Chicago. All our welcome to attend this virtual session. It will be on voting practices for June and of course, presented on Zoom. Billy N. and Patrick C. will share with us. The Zoom meeting id is #949 0569 8995 Passcode 222835. It starts at 8 pm.-In July another Area Service Sharing Meeting coming out of

Area 19-Chicago will be held on Remote Communities and Blended Physical and Virtual Online Meetings, Service Committee meetings and Assemblies. Zoom meeting ID# 999 4926 8013 Password 258440. It is scheduled for July 8, 2020 at 8 pm. If you want to be added to their email distribution list email [casa@chicagoaa.org](mailto:casa@chicagoaa.org).

Additionally, just so that everyone is aware: Past Panel 32 Area 74 Delegate John Heidemann passed away. I do have the information for viewing an obituary if anyone would like it.

Also, Dave Trudell a Past Chairperson from Area 32 passed away on Sunday June 7, 2020. Dave hailed from the Jackson Area (in which I reside) and passed with 51 years of sobriety. He "voluntold" me I was going to be GSR of my homegroup years ago and as a result, helped me in my service journey. I am unsure of planned services for him, but I wanted to share. Dave will be missed as I have had many spiritual moments spent with this gentleman in my years of sobriety and my heart is heavy at his passing. I can take comfort in knowing he did achieve 51 years of sobriety and was a strong supporter of General Service. He is now in heaven at that Big Meeting and a peace with his Creator of this I am sure. Please offer prayers for his family.

I am attaching another document showing what I learned at the General Service Conference concerning the recent plea for 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition donations. I felt that this information is prudent and timely and should not wait for an "official" Delegates report of the General Service Conference. Please read and distribute the information to groups and meetings you may attend.

One last thing, yes, it is time again to schedule Your Delegate to share at your group, District, Intergroup, Unity Council and what not meetings. I can come to you in person or even share on Zoom if needed. I am here for you to share information and hopefully along the way, get someone interested in service at some level. It has been and will continue to be a lifesaver for me. My main service to you is to share the information as to what happened at the General Service Conference, answer any questions or concerns you may have and share the wonderful, bountiful, humbling gift of service. It has been a ride worth taking for this Delegate. Thank you all for your continued support and Thank you Dave Trudell for continually writing my name on that home group wall as GSR no matter how many times I erased it. Another thank you and gratitude is also being expressed in the memory of Van Spanski a GSR of another group in my home town years ago asked me to share a breakfast with him one Sunday morning and took me to an Area meeting in Adrian instead. My breakfast was doughnuts, so he did what he said he was going to do. My interest was piqued, and I found I liked you people. He passed away almost 6 weeks ago and remains in my heart forever.

Your again in Love and Service,

Lori Conant Panel 69 Area 32.