

## Central Michigan Intra-Area 32 Digital Assembly Minutes from October 4, 2020

**2020 Schedule:** February 2: District 10, Perry Township Hall; April: CANCELLED, June: ZOOM; August: ZOOM, October: District 22; December 5: ZOOM

**CHAIR: Jon S. (District 4)** [chair@cmia32.org](mailto:chair@cmia32.org) Jon opened the morning session at 9:42 a.m. with the Serenity Prayer. He detailed the locations of meeting groups and functions. He opened the meeting for Group Concerns. Ted Straubel stepped up and thanked everyone for getting our Area 32 work done under unusual circumstances. Lori Conant said that they had a virtual General Service Conference meeting, but she has the reports from the meetings in Spanish and English available in hard copy form. Mike Kimling stated that he has a new pamphlet and also there are some reductions in pricing on books so the prices marked in red stickers on the books COULD be even lower and the computer has the correct lower pricing recorded. Keith S. stated that many churches and other locations are still not open for meetings. He asked about in person meetings with the coming colder weather. Jon said that every group is autonomous, and he urges us to live by a code of conduct that tries to mirror those of local and state codes and mandates regarding C19. Joe suggested that the group conscience is important now to regulate decisions for each group meeting in a garage or some like facility that would allow proper space to follow the current mandates. Ted S reminded everyone how important it is to keep the area meeting coordinator in the loop so meeting locations are published currently. Dennis S. mentioned that this meeting is set up to comply with the ten-person maximum on the indoor meetings.

**Afternoon General Assembly was called to order** at 12:56 pm with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. He thanked Area 22 for their hard work at hosting the outdoor event. He asked speakers to come up front when speaking so the Zoom attendees can see us. Motion to accept the agenda. Agenda was accepted.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT: Stephanie G. (District 18)** [secretary@cmia32.org](mailto:secretary@cmia32.org): The secretary estimated attendees at 42 including 12 GSR's, 3 Alternate GSR's, 6 Zoom attendees, and at least 5 past delegates.

**TREASURER'S REPORT: Kelly D., (District 20)** [treasurer@cmia32.org](mailto:treasurer@cmia32.org) Kelly read the Treasurer's report, attached. Motion to accept report seconded and approved.

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

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT: Tracey G. (District 20):** [finance@cmia32.org](mailto:finance@cmia32.org), \$3,845.969 starting balance. Did not donate to the DCM or Forum Funds. ECR was capped out. \$1,450 in expenses including, \$500 Prudent Reserve payback, and Host expense funds for October. Committee request for reimbursement for Go Daddy website fees Ted S.: \$119.88. Remaining balance of \$2,107.80 going forward. Lori had expenses \$187.89 and needs to be reimbursed from DCM committee. This has been motioned and seconded in the Finance meeting. Need a motion and a second. Don M. asked whether Lori would continue being reimbursed from this fund. No, just because Kamesha is out right now. Zoom poll 100% yes. No further comments. Motion was approved. Forum will be virtual this year. The Forum money will not be needed. What should be done with the Forum fund? It tops out at \$3,000. Permission is needed from the body to suspend the bimonthly \$500 from the General Fund to the Forum fund. Comments? Motion to accept suspension was seconded and approved (1 dissent). Kate L. requested an additional \$50 for GV committee to pay for kits from Literature in addition to the standard \$50 request. Motion came from Finance and was seconded and approved with no comments or dissenting opinions.

**REGISTRAR'S REPORT: Kamesha M., (District 12),** [registrar@cmia32.org](mailto:registrar@cmia32.org) Lori C. gave an update that GSO is backlogged by records and registration. Still doing surveys amongst delegates. There are problems with the NetSuite program for tracking registrations. This is slated to be resolved in 2021.

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

Opportunity for attendees to present or discuss group events and flyers. **Ted. S. Past Delegate. Mock Conference committee has been meeting. March 27<sup>th</sup> is the scheduled date of the event at a church. Details will follow.**

**DELEGATE'S REPORT: Lori C. (District 2)** [delegate@cmia32.org](mailto:delegate@cmia32.org) Report given later in the meeting under New Business.

**ALT. DELEGATE: Don M. (District 2)** [altdelegate@cmia32.org](mailto:altdelegate@cmia32.org)

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**LITERATURE REPORT: Mike K. (District 2)** [literature@cmia32.org](mailto:literature@cmia32.org): Checking: \$104.48 and \$208 cash. Today sold over \$500 in Literature. Some of the book prices have been reduced. There is a new pamphlet AA and Mental Health. Whether or not you have a person to person meeting, Mike will still bring literature to the host District, he will travel to sell literature for the district AA's. he lives 10 miles north of the Ohio border, so it is expensive to ship literature.

**ARCHIVIST: Jim D. (District 6)** He thanked everyone for coming. He has group history forms, his sobriety date is Oct 1, 1979. He worked on a history of the Hillsdale group with Mark M. and a lady.

**ARCHIVES COMMITTEE: Mark M. (District 4)** [markmocerri@comcast.net](mailto:markmocerri@comcast.net). REPORT ATTACHED

**CORRECTIONS: Keith S.** [gizmotry@yahoo.com](mailto:gizmotry@yahoo.com) - He commended Jim on his sobriety time. Treasury balance has not changed since February.

**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) Raffled: Pocket calendars, 2 GV Kits, a 3 pack of GV literature, and a new GV Daily Quotes book. Anyone interested in having a GV writing workshop please let Kate know.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION: Currently open.**

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

**TREATMENT FACILITIES: Stanley P. (District 12)** None

**INTERGROUP LIAISON: Kirk F. (District 4)** [saltcity@comcast.net](mailto:saltcity@comcast.net) 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

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

No host volunteer for December 2020 meeting. Meeting be held by Zoom online only.

In the minutes from the December 2017 Area 32 Assembly it was motioned and approved but so far has not been utilized re: the Chairperson Support Committee. Lori supported the idea of it being available in 2021. Mark M. said that there are a few things that were voted in but have gone by the wayside. These things were implemented to assist with future growth. Let us take a look at further action on this in 2021. Lori suggested that the outgoing chair and the incoming chair and the new officers have a zoom meeting to discuss how to utilize these options that were previously voted in. Kirk suggested holding that meeting separate from an Area Assembly. It would be beneficial to have input from a broader range of people when making unusual decisions.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Mac M. via ZOOM stated that host fees may be too high considering Covid. Dennis S. stated that District 22 did not accept funds. Mac then stated that face to face meetings may be an expense we could avoid. Are we using our funds as prudently as best we can? Paul S. stated that we ARE doing the best we can with what we have.

Art M. past Delegate suggested that we consider recording these events. It takes a long time to listen to them. People who travel may be interested in having these recordings available to those who are interested.

Lori C. stated that she will record the December session. Mark M. asked whether on the current computer that is used for archives if we recorded each assembly on Zoom we would need a new computer with more storage.

Art M. stated that we could form a committee to explore this further. Kate L. stated that we have the information in the minutes from every assembly and that recordings may be breaking traditions. The storage issue is another issue. We would be spending money to fund something we already have.

Mark M. stated that when the conventions are put online, they go to great lengths to whitewash faces, names, etc. and do we really have the resources to do that properly?

Art M. withdrew his proposal and suggested forming a committee to explore this further.

Jon S. reminded everyone that this is a password protected meeting and Lori said that the codes were protected.

Mac M. suggested that this could go on a flash drive.

Jon S. asked whether someone would like to follow up with this motion to form a committee to investigate the recording and archiving of future Area Assemblies.

Keith S. suggested that this could be part of the work that the Chair Assist committee incorporate this work with their committees' work.

Jon restated the motion. Motion defeated.

Phil L. asked that we attach on the area Chair committee to explore the task of recording meetings. This motion carried. Minority opinion? Kate L: She stated that we are already documenting the meeting content. She stated that we do not have the infrastructure to support this.

- A. Jon S. asked whether there are any Districts who would like to volunteer for hosting 2021 area assemblies, particularly the Feb. 2021 meeting. He asked the body to take this back to their districts to find a host district.
- B. Elections for Delegate: Don M. was nominated. Don M. was named delegate by acclamation.
- C. Elections for Alternate Delegate. Kate L. and Mark M. were nominated. Through four rounds of voting without a clear majority it went to the hat. Mark M was elected Alternate Delegate.
- D. Nominations for Chair: Jon S. Nominations for Alt. Chair: Evan (not sure which Evan) was nominated, and Jon S. said that he thought he would decline.
- E. Nominations for Secretary: Lori C. nominated Keith S. and he tentatively accepted. No nomination for Alt. Secretary.
- F. Treasurer: Lori C. nominated Sherri L. Sherri L. accepted. Alternate Treasurer: Kelly D. (absent).
- G. 2 positions for Finance committee are open: Sherri nominated Russ W. from District 4. Russ accepted. Jon S. nominated Jamie P. Jamie accepted.
- H. Nominations for Registrar: Lori C. self-nominated.
- I. Jonathan asked for any other nominations. Kirk reminded him that we need to take nominations for open committees. Kate suggested that we typically bring forth a candidate from the existing committee members. Mike K. made a recommendation: noticed that we have problems getting nominees. The person currently sitting in the position either carry on the position if no new candidates are brought forth, OR that person makes a nomination.
- J. Jon S. asked for nominations for current OPEN COMMITTEE POSITIONS:
  - Forum committee volunteers. Kate L self-nominated.
  - Archives committee needs a chairperson. Mark M. nominated Kirk F. and Kirk F. declined.
  - Keith S. nominated Russ W. for corrections chair, Russ declined.

**Motion to Close. Seconded and approved.**

**Meeting closed at 2:54 PM with the Responsibility Pledge recited by the group.**

## Delegates Report

October 4, 2020

### Bay City, Michigan and Hybrid Meeting on Zoom

First, I would like to welcome all of you whether you are joining us in person or are here with us on Zoom. What a crazy year this has been, and I am hoping that today marks the day we are actually back to "normal"????

Now to what is going on around Alcoholics Anonymous. First, we are electing a candidate from Michigan to represent Areas 32, 33 and 34 as East Central Regional Trustee and another candidate to serve as U.S. Trustee at Large. These elections for the representative will be held on October 24, 2020 via Zoom and will consist of the Area Delegates, Alternate Delegates and Area Chairs. Don W a Past East Central Regional Trustee from Area 34 will act as the moderator of these elections. We have no interested parties from Area 32 who wish to stand for either position, but I am aware that Area 34 and Area 33 do. They will be elected by the Third Legacy Procedure.

We have a Statewide meeting scheduled the next day Sunday October 25, 2020 which we were hoping to hold in person, but it looks like it will be held on Zoom instead. More information to follow soon.

Our Mock Conference Planning Committee started meeting already and a save the date reminder for March 27, 2021 should be out for distribution soon.

As a financial savings cost, retirement was offered to General Service Members and more took it than was anticipated. The two persons whom I have worked with personally who are on that retirement list are Mary Cummings and Julio Espallat. I wish them well in their retirement and thank them from the bottom of my heart for their years of service to the GSO and General Service Conference.

The Conference of Delegates Past and Present which is normally held in February of each year is slated to be held in Appleton, Wisconsin. There is ongoing discussion as to if we will be able to hold it in person or will it be held via Zoom. I will let everyone know once I am made aware of the actual venue.

I attended a Strategic Planning Session on September 16, 2020 via Zoom which was held with four different groups of Delegates. We discussed the role of the General Service Board in helping all who suffer from alcoholism by providing the materials which support the Fellowship in fulfilling the 5<sup>th</sup> Tradition by connecting with others, providing materials, engaging diverse populations, utilizing current and relevant media, and supporting unity within the worldwide A.A. movement. It was a rousing discussion with the Delegates in my group with a lot of great information shared. I was disappointed that we were allotted a two hour time slot in which to do this though but it was a great way to stay connected in between Conferences and to share some ideas throughout our country with the General Service Board. They will continue to practice in the future of these Strategic Planning Sessions with future Delegate Panels. We have not received a re-cap of everything that was shared with the General Service Board, but I felt listened to and my ideas respected as we discussed the various issues to A.A.

We also as a Policy and Admissions Committee met via Zoom as a committee in between Conference sessions to discuss a continuing hope of the General Service Board and Trustees to figure out a way to have Equitable Distribution of Agenda Items between Conference Committees. Even though there is still no clear-cut way of doing this, the discussion continues between conferences so I know this is a topic that will be of importance in the next General Service Conference. We also discussed the Conference Advisory Action which we voted to at the 70<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference as to how to elect Regional and Trustees at Large electronically. We needed to clear up some definitions as to how that would look and how to vote in additional Delegate members as needed to serve on the voting committee. We also had to discuss our Conference Advisory Action from 2019 as to how to allow members from other fellowships to attend General Service Conferences as observers only as is the Tradition of the General Service Conference. This was discussed to plan for Conferences that may be held on Zoom or virtually in particular.

The next Regional Forum is going to be held December 5, 2020 via Zoom with the Theme "2020-Experience, Strength and Hope-what it was like, what happened, and what it is like now. We did receive a "loving invitation" from the GSO to present topics and act as presenters for this forum.

In addition to the change this year in the Regional Forum schedule, we were asked as Delegates to approve a revised East Central Regional Forum Hosting Rotation due to this year's forum being held virtually. We did approve it and copy of the changed schedule as been given to your DCM's. Area 32 is on the rotation now for 2031.

Okay, now for the not so good news from the GSO. On Friday October 2, 2020 we received a letter from Greg T. stating that the General Service Board as authorized another drawdown of \$1.5 million from the Reserve Fund to cover cash flow requirements in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2020.

While the Fellowship did increase its 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition donations with "breathtaking generosity" but there is still an expected loss of income from last year of more than \$2 million, which "creates this immediate cash flow pressure".

Unfortunately, the GSO still has not received all the monies owed to them from the insurance company against the International Convention insurance claim and with the recent retirement of GSO staff members taking the cash payment in full rather than draw a pension for years to come the financial woes of the GSO continue. This is the reason for the additional drawdown to the Reserve Fund of \$1.5 million in 2020 even though many steps have been taken to keep the expenses lowered at the GSO. I trust the General Service Board is making the correct decisions for Alcoholics Anonymous and the services they provide for their members.

I have included some information for our Area 32 members on how to attend virtual tours of Stepping Stones if wished to do so. I have done this twice and found it to be very moving to visit the site this way. It does seem more informative virtually than touring it in person.

Also, next weekend via Zoom October 10, 2020 a special evening to benefit Dr. Bob's Home in a virtual event with a tour, historical lecture and speakers have speakers scheduled to speak as well.

As mentioned before, Chicago Area Service Group is holding monthly service-related Zoom meetings for anyone who is interested. The October meeting is scheduled for October 14, 2020

starting at 7 pm on Zoom. This month they are revisiting "Area Assemblies Virtual and Hybrid and Third Legacy Voting". I attended the first one they held concerning this and since I had never partaken in such a meeting, I was somewhat overwhelmed by all the information. Since we have now held a few virtual meetings, I do plan to attend to get and understand it better than I did the first time.

If you cannot tell, this year has been busy. No, I am not traveling around a lot but am attending a lot of service-related events which I have found to be very enlightening. I have attended more out of Conference meetings as a Delegate than I did last year simply because we found out these types of meetings work very well on a virtual platform.

Today, we cast our votes for Delegate and Alternate Delegate to serve Panel 71 to the General Service Conference. I know in my heart that we will choose the best persons to serve Area 32 at this time and for our future. I trust that God will direct our hearts and minds as we vote today. I want to congratulate the nominees for these positions and for our Area Committee positions.

God Bless you all.

In Love and Service,

Lori C

Panel 69; Area 32 Delegate.

## October G.S.I. Meeting

The meeting started at 10 A.M. under the pavillion in Bay City. Meeting attendance varied between 5 at the start and 20 at the high points. We discussed Traditions 9 & 10 and Concepts 9 & 10. There was no set topic for the meeting so we discussed the importance of billing the elected positions. ~~the~~ Group issues were ~~is~~ brought up and talked about. We closed the meeting at 11:10 with the Responsibility Pledge.

**CENTRAL MICHIGAN INTRA\_AREA  
TREASURERS REPORT  
AUGUST 2020 - SEPTEMBER 2020**

**STARTING BANK BALANCE: \$7,415.86**

FORUM ACCOUNT BALANCE \$1,500.00  
ECRC CONFERENCE BALANCE \$750.00

**ADJUSTED CHECKING BALANCE: \$5,165.86**

**INCOME:**

7TH TRADITION \$0.00  
GSO COFFEE POT \$0.00  
GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS \$1,026.80

**INCOME TOTAL \$1,026.80**

**ADJUSTED CHECKING BALANCE \$6,192.66**

**EXPENSES:**

DATE:	TO:	CHECK#	TOTAL
8/1/2020	Walmart	2472 Ink Cartridges for Treasurer	\$42.02
8/7/2020	Don Mc DCM	2473 August/Sept Prudent Reserve Reim	\$500.00
8/7/2020	Committee	2474 Alt/Delegate Expense	\$1,000.00
8/24/2020	Theodore S	2475 Go Daddy Renewal	\$119.88
8/28/2020	Kelly D	2476 Postage & Mileage Expense	\$61.75
9/21/2020	Cartridge World	2477 Refilled Ink Cartridge Treasurer	\$23.32
9/22/2020	Dennis S	2478 Host Expense Dist 22 Bay City	\$350.00
9/30/2020	Transfer for Forum	FOR EXPENSE PURPOSE ONLY	\$250.00

\*Check Not Paid Yet

**TOTAL EXPENSES: \$2,346.97**

<b><u>TOTAL AVAILABLE CHECKING BALANCE:</u></b>	<b><u>\$3,845.69</u></b>
<b><u>FORUM FUND:</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,750.00</u></b>
<b><u>ECRC FUND:</u></b>	<b><u>\$750.00</u></b>
<b><u>SOLVENT TREASURY:</u></b>	<b><u>\$2,500.00</u></b>
<b><u>AREA 32 GENERAL FUND</u></b>	<b><u>\$8,845.69</u></b>

CMIA - 32

Finance Committee Report

Today's Date: 10-4-20

Location: DIST 22 - BAY CITY

Beginning Balance: 3845.69

Standard Monthly Expenses: ~~1450~~ 1200<sup>00</sup>

Committee Reimbursements: 0

Officer Fuel Reimbursements: 0

Ending Balance: ~~2395.69~~ 2645.69

Committee Requests that require approval of the Area Assembly

Corrections: GRAPEVINE 100.00

Other: DCM 187.89

Other:

Pending Approval \$287.89

Final Ending Balance: ~~2107.89~~ 2357.80



## Archives Report – October 2020

- The National A.A. Archives Workshop was held on Zoom this year – Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, from 1 to 5pm. Regrettably, I was able to attend on an intermittent basis, due to business appointments. Still, the ability to take in the history shared is always valuable in learning about the rich history of A.A. and its preservation.
- As always, group histories are kindly requested for to be placed in CMIA32 archives. This is a something for our future generations to gain understanding of where the foundations of the groups they attend began. It only takes a couple minutes and is greatly appreciated. Group History forms are available and have information on how to send your information back to archives.