

# Central Michigan Intra-Area 32 Assembly Minutes

June 4, 2017 – District 26, East Tawas, MI

## 2017 Schedule

August 6 – District 28, Hillman

October 1 – District 8, Brighton

December 3 – District 2

**CHAIR: Mark M;** [chair@cmia32.org](mailto:chair@cmia32.org)

Meeting called to order at 1:04 pm. Opened with Serenity prayer followed by reading of AA Preamble from Bob.

- Phil L motions to accept Agenda for meeting, seconded and approved.

Chair acknowledges District 26 volunteers for hosting the meeting.

Tradition 5 was discussed by Nathan B

Concept 5 was discussed by Tom R

Tradition 6 was discussed by Lori C

Concept 6 was discussed by Kamesha M

Volunteers for next meeting:

Tradition 7: John S

Tradition 8: Margie B

Concept 7: Dennis S

Concept 8: Jessie P

## Committee Reports

**SECRETARY: Doug R;** [secretary@cmia32.org](mailto:secretary@cmia32.org). Attendance = 81; 41 GSRs, 2 alt-GSRs, 38 Guests, 4 past delegates, 1 past trustee

- Motion to accept April 2017 meeting minutes, seconded and approved.

**TREASURER: Cynthia R;** [treasurer@cmia32.org](mailto:treasurer@cmia32.org)

- Tom R motions to accept Treasurer's report (attached), seconded and approved.

**FINANCE: Phil L;** [finance@cmia32.org](mailto:finance@cmia32.org)

- Phil L motions to approve \$800 for corrections committee, seconded and approved.
- Motion to accept Finance Committee report (attached), seconded and approved.

**REGISTRAR: Pete G;** [registrar@cmia32.org](mailto:registrar@cmia32.org). MANY group changes logged into database for Eastern US AA Directory revision. Registrar has visited Districts 10 & 12 to discuss Registrar and importance of having groups registered. Change forms available on CMIA website and can be submitted via email, fax, or US mail.

**DELEGATE: Ted S;** [delegate@cmia32.org](mailto:delegate@cmia32.org). Please see attached Delegate's Report from General Service Conference.

**ALT. DELEGATE: Lori C;** [altdelegate@cmia32.org](mailto:altdelegate@cmia32.org). Please see attached report.

**LITERATURE: Don M;** [literature@cmia32.org](mailto:literature@cmia32.org). Please see attached report.

**ARCHIVIST: Jim D;** Had a display at Tecumseh workshop in April, sent some stuff to Vermont for their archives. Working on State Convention. Going to be a fun and busy year – love it.

**ARCHIVES COMMITTEE: Phil L;** Focusing on gathering homegroup histories from CMIA 32. Specialized form will be at registration table at future Assemblies to be filled out and returned to Archives Committee.

**CORRECTIONS: Mark H;** [corrections@cmia32.org](mailto:corrections@cmia32.org) 16 in attendance, \$404 in treasury. Chair will contact warden at Saginaw women's jail to start meeting there. Discussion of difficulties getting ahold of proper authorities to start meetings in jails and getting volunteers to commit. JPay to be discussed at next Assembly. Working on jail sale at state convention, looking for volunteers to help. Voted to buy 3 cases of old GVs to distribute to committee next Assembly.

**COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY: John B;** [cpc@cmia32.org](mailto:cpc@cmia32.org). District 12 was unable to coordinate with Unity Council for a workshop. Looking to discuss with 3 state delegates on education of State Supreme Court.

**FORUM: Gary M;** ECRF is Nov 17-19<sup>th</sup> in Springfield, IL. Will begin calling people to go in September, please sign the forum sign-up sheets at all Assemblies.

**GRAPEVINE: Kamesha M;** Attendance: 4. Discussed work with PI/CPC in getting GV message/resources out. Reviewed skit (Victor E and the Slogans), discussed roles and props, and did one read-through. Skit scheduled for July 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 at State Convention.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION: Tom R;** Talked with former committee chair Pete S about PSAs and their content. Looking for more participation in this committee.

**ACCESSIBILITIES:** Lisa R; [specialneeds@cmia32.org](mailto:specialneeds@cmia32.org). Provided CDs of AA speakers to representative from District 12 for member in need unable to access digital recordings.

**LIAISON:** No report, empty committee chair position.

**TREATMENT:** Thomas (Lou) F; Attendance: 7. Discussed Bridging the Gap, the importance of AA Conference approved literature and purchasing kits for everyone on committee.

**WEBSITE:** No report, empty committee chair position.

**YPAA:** Matt D; No written report.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Lori C motions to research the cost of a portable sound system at a price of no greater than \$500.00 to be used for the GSR meeting and to become property of CMIA 32 for use at this meeting. Motion seconded.  
Discussion: John B suggests using mic to side of main table. Ron asks what's wrong with current system? Mark says lots of noise, little voice. Martin asks if acceptable to amend motion to include repair/upgrade current system in addition to research new system. Tracey suggests using the old, possibly underpowered system as the new GSR one and buying a new one for general assembly. Don asks for consideration of size as literature trailer is small and it needs to fit in there. Stephanie G and Dom M volunteer to research.  
*Vote to approve motion, none opposed, motion carries.*
- Michelle C motions to request a letter of support from CMIA 32 for MINTYPAA (the Michigan bid for the International Convention of Young People in AA) that states Area 32 will not plan any major events within the three weeks surrounding Labor Day weekend 2018. *Vote to approve motion, none opposed, motion carries.*
- Corey K motions to request a letter of support from CMIA 32 for AAYYPAA (the Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti bid for the MCYPAA) that states Area 32 will not plan any major events over Thanksgiving weekend November 24-26<sup>th</sup> 2018. *Vote to approve motion, none opposed, motion carries.*
- Martin W motions to request a letter of support from CMIA 32 for FLYPAA (the Flint bid for the MCYPAA) that states Area 32 will not plan any major events over Thanksgiving weekend November 24-26<sup>th</sup> 2018. *Vote to approve motion, none opposed, motion carries.*
- Kamesha M motions to request \$50 for props for Victor E and the Slogans skit at State Convention.  
Discussion: \$50 seed money for standing committees does not need Assembly approval.  
*Motion withdrawn.*

Phil L. resigns as Finance Committee Chair and Archives Committee chair due to unavailability. Gary M nominated to replace now vacant position on Finance Committee uncontested. Committee will elect new chair internally at next Finance Committee meeting.

Liaison, Archives, and Webchair all vacant Chair positions need filling. No volunteers.

- Motion to close seconded, *motion carries.*

Meeting closes at 2:39 with Lord's Prayer.

Panel 67 Area 32  
Rye Brook New York  
2017 Delegate's Report by Ted Straubel

The theme of the 67<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous was "Supporting Our Future" and I quote directly from pg. S20 of the A.A. Service Manual:

We need it because we, more than all others, are conscience of the devastating effect of the human urge for power and prestige which we must ensure can never invade A.A. We need it to ensure A.A. against government, while insulating it against anarchy; we need to protect A.A. against disintegration while preventing over integration. We need it so that Alcoholics Anonymous, and Alcoholics Anonymous alone is the ultimate repository of its Twelve Steps, its Twelve Traditions, and all of its services.

We need it to ensure that changes within A.A. come only as a response to the needs and the wants of all of A.A. and not of any few."

And from S49: The Delegate

Though the high point is the Conference meeting, the Delegate's job goes on year round and involves all aspects of the Conference structure. The Delegate should: Attend the annual Conference meeting fully prepared. Immediately upon election, every Delegate is put on the GSO's mailing list to receive Conference materials. Communicate the actions of the Conference to Area committee members and encourage them to pass on this information, and the Delegate's enthusiasm, to Groups and to Intergroups/Central Offices. And so forth.

This to me means that the information that I receive at the General Service Conference is mine only to transport to the Area, Districts, Groups, and hopefully to the alcoholic who needs to know that he is not alone in the endeavor of one alcoholic helping another. I hope to do that today.

The Conference experience began for myself in a conference call the second week of April 2017 with fellow members of the Finance Committee. This was to get the committee members familiar with each other and to discuss voting procedure. A simple majority method was chosen as the intent was to just get the chosen items to the floor where the vote would require a two thirds majority to pass. In this process, I met Linda J. Kenny B. Jim C. and Kelly D, all panel 66 and my fellow Panel 67 newbies Elliot B. Joann L. and Tom F from Arkansas who had a distinctive southern drawl.

On Friday April 21 myself and Jim G from Area 34 were graciously taken to the Detroit Metro Airport by past Delegate Kirk F who had kindly given me lodging the night before and a hearty breakfast that morning. Thank you Kirk.

Upon arriving at Westchester County Airport and taxiing to the terminal Jim G and I were discussing the upcoming Conference and were overheard by a passenger in front who turned around and said "What panel are you on?" Recognizing the Arkansas accent I replied "Finance Tom, same as you". That started the week off with at least two people that I knew and when we hooked up with the others from East Central Region I felt right at home in New York.

Friday was a relaxing day with no commitments so a casual dinner with fellow delegates and our outgoing Regional Trustee and his wife was in order.

Saturday was a different thing as there was a "Meet and Greet" followed by a Delegates meeting and some guidelines for the Conference were laid out.

Sunday was the official beginning of the Conference with Registration, roll call, and the first presentation by someone that I knew personally. Derek T. from the UP of Michigan. I was beginning to integrate.

East Central Regional lunch was a great time to feel even more comfortable as we all pretty much knew each other from Delegates Past and Present, Forums, and ECR Conferences.

After presentations on Diversity, Safety, and Communication we headed off to the real purpose, in my mind of the Conference. The Committee. I am on the Finance Committee and we had a fairly large agenda. The conference call a few weeks back eased the load and we dove right into the work. The entire process was assisted by Bob Slotterback, Director of Finance for GSO and a little fellow named Albin Z. Both of these gentlemen know how to take our thoughts and put them into a form that would be easily understood, not an easy task sometimes as we know what we meant but their experience was of great value in the presentation.

A few words about the Committee system. Most all of us have used some form of this system but I really felt that in this case that the entire Conference was hinged upon how well the committee researched the agenda items and background, discussed possible action and recommended such so that the entire Conference floor could have a clear and concise picture of just what the committee was recommending. I also learned a new word, it was "wordsmithing". I take it to mean, not stretching out a thought with so much complicated wording that it is not easily comprehended by the common person. I take it to mean that the thought be conveyed in the most descriptive and generally understood terms. Our Past delegates do a great job of that at our own Mock Conference.

The Finance Committee met Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday and I was amazed at the way the committee handled the work load. In three meetings we addressed the issues of Area contributions to Conference, raising the one time bequest amount to GSO, raising the yearly contribution from individuals, and the frequency with which we addressed these issues. Also on the agenda was to consider adding text to the pamphlet Self Support Where Money and Spirituality Mix indicating that there is no limit to the amount a

Group may contribute to GSO. The request to add text to the Committees Composition, Scope, and Procedure regarding option to meet by conference call prior to the General service Conference. Our final item was to review the Self Support Packet. The Committee took or didn't take action as per a simple majority vote. Those items passing this vote were sent to the floor as Committee recommendations to be voted on there.

On Monday we were treated to a Power Point presentation by David Morris, General Service Board Treasurer the sum of which indicated that AA Membership levels remain flat. Contributions show a small growth. Literature sales show a small growth, and expenses continue to grow slowly, around 2-3% per year. This will be shown in more detail at District Presentations. Please schedule with your Delegate.

Area Highlights were very interesting, especially when they showed the local scheduling of Area Assemblies, ranging from monthly to 4 per year. One fellow from South Carolina even rhymed his way thru the entire 2 minute presentation. I informed the Conference about our Districts, our geographical territory, committees and Statewide Service meetings with the resulting Mock Conference.

There were also general sharing sessions and a staff eager to answer any questions that may come up.

I was also assigned to the Archives Committee and we met for dinner Wednesday and lunch Thursday to review our assigned items. We Recommended that a draft or progress report of "Unity in Action" Bill W's General Service Talks" be brought back to the 2018 GS Conference for review. We also reviewed the Archives Workbook and suggested that the shared experiences section be refreshed with new stories from local archivists. We also suggested that a section be added to the Archives and History" portal of the GSO website to include any updates at the discretion of the Archivist. The young lady doing that job presently was very well informed

about her job and quite eager to be useful in her position. A feeling that I also got from all staff, Trustees, and Directors that I talked with.

Our committee reports went well and there was a minimum of discussion which I attribute to the committees attention to detail and the assistance from staff members with the wording of our recommendations. The Chair read the report but all committee members were prepared and ready to go to the mike to answer any questions from the floor.

The other Committees all presented their recommendations and had their recommendations voted upon. There was some lively discussion but as a whole it was a much more civil affair than was reported in previous years. All of the results from these committees is available on the Newsletter.<sup>55</sup>

The Workshop on anonymity was useful and it was good to hear how other areas handle concerns and what their experience was in that area.

During the Conference we were treated to a function called "Floor Actions". These are may be introduced at any time other than General Sharing Sessions and are items that were not on the Agenda. These issues may be seconded, voted in with a two thirds majority or not, or they may receive a motion to decline consideration. Three Floor Actions were approved by the General Service Conference. One was the timely preparation of Conference background material in English, Spanish, and French. The pamphlet "Too Young?" be revised, and the establishment of a Google for Non Profits account, limited to "You Tube", with restrictions granting anonymity for those viewing the material.

There were elections for Regional Trustee for Our East Central Region, we elected Mark E from Ohio. Southeast Central, Cathy B from South Carolina, and Trustee at Large, Newton P. I am just now beginning to see the value of Regional Trustee and will be making regular contacts with Mark thru my term as Delegate. Congratulations Mark. I look forward to working with you and seeing you at regional functions.

There were many things that I have not mentioned such as great speakers on service and recovery topics, a great Serenity Meeting from 7:30 to 8:30 in the morning. One thing that was, I thought interesting, was that during the General Sharing Session the topic of the last Grapevine contest came up and I had spoken with an editor from the Grapevine Staff the day before about Area 32 and how hard we worked during the “Grow Your Grapevine” contest. Jon had told me to get them moving on an Area 32 story about these efforts. Well, when the topic was mentioned on the floor, your Delegate went to the mic and asked the question, “What Area won that contest?” Jon came up and replied and replied enthusiastically, “Well Area 32 of course” to a large round of applause for our work. Good job Central Michigan Area 32.

I have many thoughts about the entire Conference experience. When I first arrived I thought, “I can do this whole thing much cheaper and with much less pomp and circumstance. This was tempered as we went along with the feeling that tradition is a large part of Alcoholics Anonymous and maybe a little can be a good thing. I know that we are looking at the consideration of having the Conference in different locations around North America. They tell me that a snap decision at AA usually takes 5 to 10 years so I am sure we will be meeting in New York and Rye Brook for a while yet.

I liked the idea of conference calls and maybe a Google Hangout or visual conference call is in the works. I still like meeting face to face and having dinner with my new friends tho.

Social media, with anonymity safeguards may be in the future for Grapevine and PI and CPC but we are treading lightly in that area, there will be no rush.

The issue of transparency was emphasized all week, perhaps as a result of last year’s difficulties and never was there a feeling of discord.

The very last thing on the agenda was a farewell brunch with the outgoing Trustees speaking about their experiences in service. Our outgoing



Trustee Bill F gave a very inspiring talk and made the point that recovery from alcoholism is what the General Service Conference is all about.

We took the hotel shuttle to the airport and there was Gilberto V from Puerto Rico and we had a fine discussion about his service in the islands. Can you imagine having a District meeting on a boat or as Jade, my fellow Archives panel member from British Columbia must experience to serve their Districts and Area. I, for one admire their dedication and aspire to be as unselfish as all of those who devote their lives to service for Alcoholics Anonymous.

I'd like to finish up with a short excerpt from A Members Eye View of Alcoholics Anonymous.

There must come a day, it seems to me, when every alcoholic, in or out of A.A., finally sits down in the presence of his enemies. When he does, he will be amazed to discover that he is attending a meeting of one — himself. The day the alcoholic in A.A. realizes that his enemy is within, that the tigers are largely creatures of his own design and lurk in his own unconscious, that is the day when for him A.A. becomes what I believe its founders meant it to be: a flight into reality. I happened to be in San Francisco not long after I had attended my meeting with my enemies, and I took a ride on one of those wonderful little cable cars, down Powell Street, to Fisherman's Wharf. It was then I saw something strange and wonderful happen. All the passengers who had ridden the car down the hill with me piled out, and, not waiting for the crew, proceeded to turn it around themselves and head it back up the long, steep hill it had just come down. And I rode it all the way back up with them, all the way back up to that breathtaking view of the Golden Gate. It occurred to me then that this is what A.A. had been for me, and, I hoped, would always be for others: a ridiculously simple, jerry-built, noisy, clanking but sturdy, fiercely loved, and joyous kind of vehicle that had asked me and all its other passengers to turn it and ourselves around so that all of us could head

back up the hill we had come down, back up to where we could once again see the bridge — the bridge to normal living.

Please take one of the Newsletters. They do explain the results of the Conference. I have only printed 60 so please just take one. There will be many more to come and I can also email to you.

I look forward to seeing you and others at your local Delegate Report soon.

Thank you

Ted Straubel

Panel 67 Area 32

Delegate

## **Alternate Delegate Report**

**June 4, 2017**

**Today at the G.S.R. Meeting we had 50 people in attendance. 2 were first time G.S.R.'s and the other were seated G.S.R.'s and other members interested in the meeting.**

**We discussed Concepts 5 and 6, and the 65<sup>th</sup> Michigan State Convention which will be held July 28, 29 and 30<sup>th</sup>. A reminder to register and to sign up to volunteer during this event was given.**

**The Bi-ennial CMIA 32 Inventory was discussed. I gave a reminder to have one filled out and returned to me by July 15, 2017 so the ad-hoc committee for Area 32 can discuss ways to make our meeting better and more attractive to members.**

**We opened a discussion during the meeting on what "I am Responsible" means to the members present. Information on group inventories, Traditions checklist for individuals and groups and a Concepts checklist was given to the members present for additional information.**

**We will continue this discussion in August 2017 at the CMIA 32 meeting on what it means to be "Responsible" and how members can apply the saying "I am Responsible" at their groups and beyond.**

**I did attend the Statewide Service Meeting and met with the CPC committee, the Grapevine committee as well as the general service meeting. I am reminded yet again that "Service is the Secret" to contented sobriety as a result.**

**In Love and Service,**

**Lori Conant**

**Alternate Delegate Panel 67, Area 32.**