

Central Michigan Intra-Area 32 Assembly Minutes

June 3, 2018 – District 28, Hillman, MI

2018 Schedule

August 5 – District 26 – Houghton Lake Elks Lodge, 4932 W. Houghton Lake Dr. Houghton Lake, 48629

October 7 – District 22

December 2 – District 4

CHAIR: Mark M, chair@cmia32.org.

Meeting called to order at 1:08 pm. Opened with Serenity prayer and reading of AA Preamble.

Motion to accept Agenda for meeting, seconded and approved.

Chair acknowledges District 28 volunteers for hosting the meeting.

Committee Reports

SECRETARY: Stephanie G (District 18) secretary@cmia32.org. . Attendance = 47; 30 GSRs (5 new-GSRs), 17 Guests (4 Past Delegates)

Motion to accept meeting minutes without corrections, seconded and approved.

TREASURER: Cynthia R, treasurer@cmia32.org.

Motion to accept Treasurer's report (attached), seconded and approved.

Cynthia reminds people to use the donation envelopes for Area 32. Sending checks to past Treasurer address is causing problems with checks deposits.

FINANCE: (absent) Jon S, finance@cmia32.org. **An alternate rep. gave the Finance Committee Report**

Motion to accept Finance Committee report (attached), seconded and approved.

Request of \$800 for Corrections – Approved

Committee Reports (cont'd.)

REGISTRAR: Pete G, (District 2), registrar@cmia32.org. Working on updating invalid addresses in the database. This helps GSO. Discussion of what info is needed for change and new group forms to be accepted by GSO. CMIA website has made an improvement in offering forms 2 ways (PDF and WORD) and by adding registrar e mail for easier submission of forms to GSO. Thanked the many districts working hard to update info.

Recognition of 5 Past Delegates by Mark and meeting attendees. Thank you for continued service.

Announcements / Flyers (F) for events that Flyers were available for:

June 23 – Sponsorship Panel in Saline, and a Picnic in Flint (Fx2), AA Sponsorship for Women in Prison (F), July 22 - Flint Unity Council Picnic at Blue Bell Beach (F), Sat & Sun Aug 4&5- Houghton Lake Alano Club (F), Picnic in Flint (Flyer), State Convention – Kalamazoo August 24 – 26th (F), MI Area 32 Statewide Corrections Workshop Oct 27th in Pinconning (F), MCYPAA XL at Amway Grand Rapids, Nov 23 – 25 (F), A mtg room is available in Pinconning for Dist 20, 22, 26 (F). Extra Flyers to Aug mtg.

DELEGATE: Ted S (District 26), delegate@cmia32.org. Ted filled us in on his trip to New York for the Delegate's Conference. Attached report.

ALT. DELEGATE: Lori C (District 2), altdelegate@cmia32.org. Please see attached report.

UPDATE ON EAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE – Dennis S – Past Delegate – Report Attached

UPDATE ON ELECTIONS: Mark reminded group of upcoming elections and three step process we will follow to do so. (1) Identify vacant positions and the scope of responsibility of each, (2) nomination process including accepting nominations and providing nominee qualifications where necessary, (3) election process itself. It was mentioned again that new people are encouraged to get involved with service. DCM's can encourage attendance from the local level.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

LITERATURE: Don M, literature@cmia32.org. Please see attached report. A new person needs to step forward to take over the Literature responsibility at term's end.

ARCHIVIST: *(absent)* **Jim D**

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE: **Chips C, (District 2)** chipscc@yahoo.com Have been given all the totes and computer to scan items in for the archives.

CORRECTIONS: **Mark H;** corrections@cmia32.org. 10 Attendees. Committee working on hosting the October Statewide Corrections Workshop for Area 32 in Dist. 18. Also discussed the pre-release program's organization. The program is similar to Bridging the Gap with Treatment Centers.

COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY: **John B (District 6),** cpc@cmia32.org. District 12. 6 in attendance. A Safety workshop was held April 28th – great discussion and Q&A. Also, John reports increasing group disagreements re: signing court papers.

PUBLIC INFORMATION: **Tom R,** 3 attendees. Discussion of how to download PSA's from GSO. Approaching program directors at Radio Stations about running PSA's on their station format. This looks promising and a decision will be made in June regarding one director with a large exposure range.

FORUM: **Gary M** *(absent)* **(District 10)**

GRAPEVINE: **Kamesha M** Discussion about donating subscriptions to people inside prisons or to prison groups. Shared info about subscription contest. Ways to use subscriptions as gifts (open talk incentive, giving mag to newcomers at meetings, outreach displays), discussion about play at the State Convention and all the ways Kamesha promotes Grapevine by attending festivals, health fairs, etc.

ACCESSIBILITIES: **Jim C (absent):** specialneeds@cmia32.org. *(No accessibilities written report submitted)*

LIAISON: *No report, vacant committee chair position.* John asks what Liaison is. Mark replies that it is the connection between AA and Intergroups and Central Offices.

TREATMENT: **Thomas (Lou) F (District 18)** 3 attendees. Received 2 temporary contact signatures. Possible future Bridging the Gap workshop with other Areas.

WEBSITE: **Pete G, (District 2),** 7 attendees.

Committee voted to do research for alternate website hosts. Correct site cannot be easily modified. Committee goal is to rewrite the CMIA32 website. Discussed content and improvements planned for new website. **Group input is important.**

YPAA: **Jen L:** no report

OLD BUSINESS: None from floor.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Items up for review- the 3-month trial of the 8 Temporary Assembly Day Modifications recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee is up. Following is the outcome of the voting for each proposed assembly day modification:

PASSED: 1. **Area Committee:** It was agreed that an Area Committee be regularly convened to assist the area chair in service issues, agenda preparation, assembly attendance and the smooth running of area business. 2. **Greeters** will now be provided (if desired) by the hosting district to assist with the registration and welcoming process leading up to the start of the meeting. 3. **Hosting Guidelines** will be available to any hosting district interested in utilizing any portion of the adopted guideline package. 4. **Area Service Committee Meetings:** the service committee chair will meet with one or more past delegates at an Area Service Committee Meeting to discuss their duties, concerns, and to share information. This will assist them in effectively conducting their duties as committee chair. 5. **General Service Information Meeting** (formerly GSR meeting): The meeting name will change to include more attendees at the informational meetings for both new and returning attendees.

6. **Assembly Opening Time:** The assembly will officially open at 9:30 a.m. The Finance Committee will meet from 9:45 to 10:30 am. 7. **Group Concerns:** It was agreed that following the opening of the assembly at 9:30 AM, concerns that might best be dealt with by the entire body will be heard. 8. **Group / District Announcements:** It was agreed that a period of time will be set aside during the afternoon assembly where any attendee wishing to announce an upcoming AA event in their area may do so the entire body can be made aware of speakers, workshops, mini conferences, and other events that are planned for the good of AA. This is in addition to the flyers which will continue to be provided near registration. **FAILED:** 1. Facilities Coordinator: It was agreed that a Facilities Coordinator to assist districts hosting the assembly is not needed at this time.

B. Dennis S (past delegate) suggested that approval by a show of hands instead of ballots at the upcoming elections would be prudent. 2 non-voting members would be (hand / vote) counters. This was agreed.

Meeting closed at 2:15 with Responsibility Pledge followed by Lord's Prayer.

TED'S REPORT JUNE 3, 2018 HILMAN

Report from the 68th General Service Conference: A Solution for all Generations April 22 thru 28, 2018

Greetings fellow alcoholics, friends, and family. I'd like to begin with some basics. Regarding alcohol.

I and many of my associates are a type of human being who, upon consuming one drink of alcohol, cannot guarantee with any reliability, how much they will consume, when they will stop, and what may transpire in the meantime. The commitment to a spiritual solution has joined us together with a bond that surpasses time and distance securing a legacy of recovery, fellowship and service for future generations.

From the Foreword to the Second Edition of Alcoholics Anonymous, I quote.
"As we discovered the principles by which the individual alcoholic could live, so we had to evolve principles by which the A.A. groups and A.A. as a whole, could survive and function effectively. It was thought that no alcoholic man or woman could be excluded from our Society; that our leaders might serve but never govern; that each group was to be autonomous and there was to be no professional class of therapy. There were to be no fees or dues; our expenses were to be met by our own voluntary contributions. There was to be the least possible organization, even in our service centers. Our public relations were to be based upon attraction rather than promotion. It was decided that all members ought to be anonymous at the level of press, radio, TV and films. And in no circumstances should we give endorsements, make alliances, or enter public controversies."

The principle of inclusion was apparent throughout the week as thoughts, concerns, and even controversy was welcomed into the rooms and onto the floor. Even as we trudged thru our pre-judgement of the Manuscript issue and our thoughts and concerns over the Atheist /agnostic pamphlet and others the thought of the final outcome and its effect upon the sick and suffering alcoholic was never out of reach.

From Bill Wilson's 1958 Conference Talk, I quote:

"For ten long years nobody could say whether the forces of destruction would prevail or whether the educational value of trouble would bring the right ideas. If you look at me as the power driver I once was and still largely am, you will see that every single one of these Traditions was a contradiction of my natural inclinations.

But the group conscience was wiser than me: I could not say who the membership would be; I couldn't run this thing from New York; it would be autonomous — and so on down through the list of Traditions, all of them negations of that which I naturally wanted for me. So that was the point at which Alcoholics Anonymous began to educate me. Everybody had learned the hard way. There was immense travail, immense trouble, but this was the kind of trouble that caused growth. This didn't turn out to be destructive trouble — this was constructive.

So, therefore, the art of growth has a good deal to do with making constructive use of trouble. We came to the same situation as we developed the board of trustees, as the headquarters took shape — painfully, every step of the way, these same old drives for prestige, money, ambition, an insane desire for approval.

Our nonalcoholic friends paid a big price. We all paid a big price in suffering and tragedy, and all throughout we could see this one phenomenon: people at their best on the one side, and

people at their very worst on the other. Between these two mighty forces, A.A., under the guidance of God, marched down the middle.

So it was the group conscience and its wisdom, even in spite of the travail that came with the A.A. Traditions, that very largely came up with what we've got here. Because what we've got here had to be set within the framework of those Traditions. So when I learned you'd had a red-hot delegates' meeting,⁴ hotter than anything yet seen in this Conference, I said, "Hurray, we're going to learn something! This is wonderful."

So, The Conference began Sunday morning with registration at 9:30 followed by a warm welcome by Michelle Grinberg, Chair General Service Board. Roll Call is always a thrill, the biggest issue is whether to say "Here" or "Present". I noticed how things that seemed large at my first Conference became amusing on this my second visit to the most awesome tradition of having your needs and wants projected all the way to this strange gathering of folks so different yet so much like me.

Regional lunch and orientation was, as last year, a chance to see familiar faces in a sea of strangers. Followed by Area Highlights and a chance to get to know some of these newcomers.

My first Joint Trustee and Conference Committee Meeting was at three and as last year, David Morris, Class A trustee and Bob Slotterback our trusted Secretary, along with the rest of Finance Committee made a seemingly overwhelming budget appear as we were just balancing our local check book.

Following was the Agenda Committee Joint Trustee meeting and it too went as smoothly as could be, informing us of our duties and parameters. This was followed by opening dinner, awesome food, and great speakers.

A walk every morning seemed to invigorate me as the 9:00 am Committee meeting required our full attention.

I was Alternate Chair of the Finance Committee and our Agenda was much more moderate than last year and the conference call as well as conversations with the Finance Committee Chair helped keep me up to speed on what was important. We discussed the Trustees Committee report and accepted such as well as discussed methods to standardize increases to the limits on individual contributions and bequests to the General Service Board. We also reviewed the Self Support Packet.

More Area Service Highlights and a General Sharing Session completed the agenda for Monday.

At our Committee meeting Tuesday we decided to Recommend to the Conference that the Conference approved maximum annual contribution to the General service Board be raised from \$3,000 to \$5,000, matching the individual Bequest maximum as it had historically been so for many years.

A method for standardizing bequests and annual contributions seemed cumbersome and we decided to take no action. Several suggestions were made for revisions to the Self Support Packet and those are available in your Committee Considerations.

I was asked to moderate a workshop session called "Getting the Message Out". Various topics relating to technology, individual and structural issues as well as misconceptions by the professional community were discussed. We were Blessed to have a Class A trustee Judge in our session who brought great enlightenment.

The Delegates Dinner and Delegates only Meeting was FUN, FUN, FUN, a welcome midweek break. Ben D. from Oklahoma and Joanne L from Northern Coastal California has us in stitches. Thank You Much.

I cannot express enough how much I was impressed with out Wednesday trip to the General Service Office. The subway ride, miscommunicated transit car, lost tickets all made it seem like we were a family out for a beach or amusement park outing. These are my people.

God does Bless us all. The Staff was very kind and showed us how this thing works, in spite of ourselves. One thing stood out with the Finance Department. They will not let it go until they can identify where contributions are from and who is to be thanked, so please, please, please use your Group Service number on all contributions. Those Groups who choose to make electronic transfers do save the office time and money, so that your contributions can go further. Just a thought. Needless to say, I was quite impressed by the Office tour. A chat with the CPC office led to observance of a proposal submitted by our own CPC Committee, still under consideration, indicating to me that these people take Area 32 and our concerns seriously.

Committee Reports and discussion began after the trip reminding us what this trip is all about. I now refer you to the 68th Conference Highlights One.

The rest of the Conference week went quite smoothly, except for maybe the little censure brouhaha, which kept us up til 10:30 Thursday, and after 11:30 Friday night. All good.

I'd like to sum it all up with a story from Bill Wilson's 1957 Conference Talk. And I quote:

"A doctor came into the office the other day from a foreign land where A.A. is flourishing and is doing darn well by any estimate. He said that he'd referred a great many people to A.A., but that the turnover seemed to him unnecessarily large. He had repeatedly discovered that people would say, 'Yeah, I went over to the A.A., I went to x number of meetings, and it didn't work for me.' 'Well,' said the doctor, 'of course the fellow didn't really try hard enough.' But it seems to me there were other things needed. Somehow this fellow didn't make friends over there. Now, he wasn't a psychopath. Maybe this was partly because nobody went out of their way to make friends with him. Numbers of these people came back never having heard that Alcoholics Anonymous had Twelve Steps. Maybe they heard some drunk stories, saw that some people were sober. (Sponsorship isn't just a question of a couple of visits and 'Now you're in the group, boys.' Loving friendship is a part of the sponsorship.) So, size is bound to bring complacency unless we get increasingly aware of what's going on. This Conference — at least we who are soon to pass off the scene believe — will be the inspiration that can overcome complacency. Out of it will come a better communication with our friends and, through every possible medium, to an increasing 'increasing segment of the people we haven't reached. I have a profound confidence in the future of this Conference as an instrument guaranteeing our unity and our functioning. I'm not too good an A.A. in the spiritual sense. A lot of people have done a lot better. Most of my life in the last fifteen or twenty years has been an effort to figure out — God knows, with plenty of help — how this top function can be anchored to this movement, how to keep the cupola on the old A.A. barn so she just can't blow off. So, I'm looking to you with utter confidence — you and your successors — to keep that old cupola on there. Yes, it's been twenty-five years, our trusteeship is twenty-two years old, and you are ten years old. My friends, the future belongs to you."

You and I have been handed a legacy, a legacy of love and hope, and compassion, of non judgement, of open mindedness. A legacy that is charged with maintaining a system of oversight, meaning you overseeing me and other Delegates and petitioning for the needs of the sick and suffering alcoholics, drunk and sober. I beg of you please Keep this thing alive for grandchildren, yours and mine.

Ted Straubel, Area 32, Panel 67 Delegate

Alternate Delegate Report

June 3, 2018

Today at our General Service Information Meeting 18 members were in attendance.

We discussed Traditions 5 and 6 and Concepts 5 and 6.

I discussed information from A.A. on the 7th Tradition and the use of the Internet for online meetings. Handouts were given and information on the Online Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous was shared.

Since our last CMIA 32 meeting, I attended the Statewide Service Committee Meeting where I stood in for our Delegate as he was attending the General Service Conference. I also had the honor of attending the State Convention of the Al-Anon Family Groups with Alcoholics Anonymous Participation May 4-6, 2018 at the beautiful Shanty Creek Resorts. I was asked to serve on a panel discussion for A.A. as well as be the chairperson of another panel. Then on May 19, 2018, I gave a lead at the Kalamazoo Alano Club which is always a pleasure to share my story of recovery with others.

Summer service work opportunities are in full swing and I plan to keep busy most of the weekends during this summer doing what I can to help "carry the message". It is truly a blessing to be of service in any way possible.

With Love and Service,



Lori Conant

Alternate Delegate Panel 67; Area 32

Concept 7: Mark R.

Concept 8: Jim E.

Tradition 7: Lori C.

Tradition 8: Tom R.