

Central Michigan Intra-Area 32 Assembly Minutes from April 7, 2019 District 8, Howell, MI

2019 Schedule: June 2nd – District 24 – Bay Shore Camp, 450 N. Miller Street, Sebawaing, MI

August 4 – District 28; October 6 – District 6; December 1 - TBD

CHAIR: Pete G., (District 2), chair@cmia32.org Pete opened the morning session at 9:36 a.m. with the responsibility pledge. Motion to accept the agenda as printed was approved. Pete thanked District 8 for the great venue and hospitality. He then opened the meeting for group concerns. John B.: brought a flyer called What is An Informed Group Conscience. He reminded the body that the Ad Hoc committee spent 8 or nine months researching how the exchange of information works at CMIA 32. He suggested that we need to shift the current mindset and we need to listen to all persons expressing views on a topic, not just listen to senior members who share THEIR viewpoints about how something should work. John encouraged attendees to read the flyer so they will know how to apply group conscience principles so groups can make informed group decisions. Currently it seems like the loudest voice is the one that sways a vote. Everyone has a voice. Pete announced that there is information in the hall on where all meeting locations will take place for scheduled groups.

ALT. CHAIR: Jon S., (District 4), altchair@cmia32.org, 6097 ABSENT

Afternoon Meeting was called to order by Pete G. at 1:07 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 = attendees: 29 GSR's, 2 Alt GSR's, 39 Guests, including 6 Past Delegates.

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

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

ALT. TREASURER: Heidi G.,(District 2)

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT: Gary M., (District 10), finance@cmia32.org, Absent. Tracey read the Finance report. Motion to accept Finance report (attached), seconded. Corrections Committee was granted \$800 from the Finance Committee, motion to approve and seconded by the body. For the prudent reserve to be switched over, Don McLean will be the primary account holder, with Lori Conant and Mike Kimling as additional signers.

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. Kamesha thanked the body for their patience in her getting the registrations entered and thanked everyone for their assistance to her and reiterated her commitment to the position. District 24 asked their meeting list to be mail-merged and she learned how to do this so anyone else interested in this can see her after the meeting.

Six Past Delegates were Recognized.

Group and District Announcements:

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

DELEGATE'S REPORT: Lori C., (District 2) Please see attached report. delegate@cmia32.org

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

UPDATE ON EAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE – Dennis Soto – Past Delegate

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 attendees to start working on the history form for Home Groups. He encouraged the body to encourage their groups to take their time and create a written record of their group histories. Get the copies to him so they can be recorded. Keep a copy for your group history. He said he enjoys the research and attending workshops to display his collection. He took note of all the upcoming workshops.

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. This is brief and takes very little time to complete. He noted different districts that have groups with very long histories, and it is important to capture those for our Area archives. He is looking into having digital and written archives & records available for groups to utilize, and access to those archives will be on a case by case basis. Mark will be attending the National Archives Convention at the St. Regis Hotel in Detroit Sept. 5 – 8th. They will be subsidizing their own expenses to attend the convention. Flyer to follow.

CORRECTIONS: Keith S., gizmotry@yahoo.com Looking for a new Treasurer & Secretary. Updating an inventory tool kit and prerelease information. Need volunteers at Literature Sales at upcoming Statewide Conventions. Disparity between districts of the # of meetings being held in each area vs the distribution of funds to each District. E mail info to corrections@cmia32.org.

COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY: Randy K., (District 4) cpc@cmia32.org – second meeting for the CPC committee. They are moving forward to work on a CPC presentation.

PUBLIC INFORMATION: **Open Position.**

FORUM: Tom R., (District 2). Trying to put together a block or rooms for Forum. Will be making calls and thinks we should be able to sponsor about 20 people. He said last time he called 50 people before he got 10.

GRAPEVINE: Kate L. (District 2). First meeting of the Grapevine Committee. Kamesha attended the meeting to help with the transition of the committee activities and cover aagrapevine.org. Discussed ways to get the word out to groups about GV, how to become a GV Rep. District 22 purchased 2 subscriptions for the jail. Discussed that Grapevines are also needed at Treatment Facilities. Discussed GV bags to help get the word out. Encouraged attendees to submit stories and artwork to GV.

ACCESSIBILITIES: Cynthia R., (District 20) specialneeds@cmia32.org Absent

INTERGROUP LIAISON: Kirk F., (District 4) Liaison committee was created six years ago and has been dormant for the past 4. Five attendees. Liaison Committee is a very important asset for Districts to utilize to overcome obstacles of conflict between the district conference structure and the local offices. Discussion about how Districts, Central Offices, Intergroups, and Unity Councils could better coordinate their service activities while recognizing that each entity is separate and distinct. If there are Districts with Central Offices who would like to send a representative to the next Area meeting, please do. Need to elect Alt. Chair and a Secretary positions in June.

TREATMENT: John M., (District 4) Discussed working with CPC to talk to treatment center directors as a unit so the TC's are not overwhelmed. Discussed Bridging the Gap program. He wants treatment chairs from other districts to attend area assembly to put together a wider scope of coverage.

WEBSITE: Ted S., (District 26), Three attendees. Discussions about adding Geolinks to website. 65% that use the local website where Ted is that 65% of the web traffic is from mobile devices. The mobile availability of schedules has put the written schedule out of business. Local AA website goal is that navigating the site should be able to do by a drunk. Working on getting web certificates. Google browsers require this. Credit cards are not taken on our website so that is not a big issue, but they would still like to follow the times.

YPAA: Ethan M., (District 4) 2 attendees. Discussed how to grow attendance. Discussed contacting YPAA meetings in the area of the upcoming area assembly to encourage attendance. Getting information to young attendees is the #1 goal. YPAA meetings are open. Shared YPAA info with Jean so she can take back to her groups. Update web info with Ted.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Discussion of the last Statewide meeting not discussing the decision of Area 32 not to host the State Convention in 2020 at their last meeting. This would mean that the next time we host Statewide Convention will be 2023.

Pete G. covered the previous meeting's discussion of whether we should go to the Statewide meeting on April 27th to ensure we do not lose our place in the rotation of the Statewide Convention hosting.

Lori C. reminded the group that asking to get back into the rotation could throw off a future ERC date or a Forum date because they are planned so far in advance and we should carefully consider asking to alter rotation. **OPINION:** Do not mess with it.

Dennis: the history of the other 2 areas wanting to host the ERC swapped rotations and it did not affect us. He gave an example of last year, and how the State rotation does not affect those other two events. Dennis asked if whether as a body we should either say that we would support by attending or not support and not attend on an individual basis. If we vote that we would support it, that still does not mean that it will happen.

John B: Thanked the group for having the discussion during the meeting and not in the hallway. His understanding that no one in Michigan will host a State Convention in 2020, in deference to other already planned events in the State as well as the International Convention. Mentioned we already decided not to host Statewide, but should we go humbly to the State Meeting and ask for our spot back.

Mark M. Noted that a vote was taken, and the decision was to forgo the hosting in 2020. The other 2 areas host the coming 2 years and it would be up to them to decide whether we would ask for the change in rotation.

Don made a motion to forgo the hosting and it was voted on and passed. No dissenting opinions offered.

- Pete G. reiterated that they will need 5,000 volunteers to put on the International Convention.

- Lori C. will be a conduit of information between the area and the international planning committee.
- DCM's have information and a questionnaire about CMIA participation for home groups. Please distribute and bring back.
- Pete G. asked whether there is a need for outgoing committee chairs to confer with the new committee chairs so that information can be exchanged. Kate stated that this is already occurring. Pete encouraged this to continue.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Lori C.: there is no finance committee chairperson. A person resigned and is needed to serve on the Finance Committee. Lori nominated Sherri L. Sherri accepted the nomination.
- Lori will hand over all the past Forum sign up sheets to Tom in the coming days so he can make reservation arrangements.
- Scholarships are also available for the ERC in October 18-20th in Milwaukee.
- Ethan asked for a Floor Motion that Area 32 write a letter of endorsement for GSO about YPAA that allows YPPA to write a bid to create a pamphlet for YPPA that contains info about Bid Committees, Bid Meetings, YPAA conventions, activities and functions.
- Mark M. had a Floor Motion that the Chair appoint an Ad Hoc Committee to investigate the development of guidelines for CMIA 32 including but not limited to, voting eligibility & procedure, to be presented to the body for consideration of their further action.

Sherri from District 4 asked why this is necessary.

Area 32 has no by laws or other governing other documents regarding voting.

There is a document from 1990 but it was never voted on. Adelia said that they were guidelines.

Area 34 has by laws and so does Area 33 and they are different.

Mark said that another document was created in 2002 but again not voted on.

This is the reason for the requested Ad Hoc committee so that we can determine who was and who was not allowed to vote.

The 2018 voting method was different than the way elections were held in 2016.

Ted recommended that we make a basic list of guidelines that we can refer to. Not to get too carried away.

Jesse W. stated that there are a few problems with this. We have guidelines in Area 32, he has been coming for 25 years and we have not had any issues. Area 43 and 33 are different than us. We have operated with no by laws all this time. He questioned that it may not be wise to follow in the footsteps of other areas who may not even be enjoying success with their bylaws.

Lori C: agreed with Jesse. By Laws denote rules and regulations and in AA we do not do that.

Guidelines are preferable to By Laws.

Mark could not find anything in print about who is eligible to vote and who is not.

Pete: Discussion has concluded.

Mark submitted a motion in writing: Motion that the Chair appoint an Ad Hoc Committee to investigate the development of guidelines for CMIA32 including but not limited to, voting eligibility & procedure, to be presented to the body for consideration of their further action.

Kate stated that there already was a committee for this purpose, and they made their recommendations.

Art asked that the previous guidelines be circulated at the next meeting.

Pete said there is a motion on the floor. A vote was taken, and the motion failed.

- Pete thanked District 8 for hosting and requested that a few people stay behind to help clean up.
- Motion to close.
- Meeting Adjourned at 2:20 PM.

Delegates Report

Lori Conant Panel 69 Area 32 Delegate

April 7, 2019-District 8; Howell, MI

Happy Spring to All.

Since our last Area 32 meeting in February, I have had the opportunity to attend the Conference of Delegates Past and Present in Shamburg, IL. February 8-10, 2019.

This conference is held yearly for all current seated Delegates and Past Delegates of the East Central Region. Our Regional Trustee Mark E. chairs the event. I have had the opportunity to be in attendance now for my third year. I love these types of events as I can catch up with some old friends from across Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, and Michigan. This year was no exception.

The biggest difference this year than in year's past when I attended as your Alternate Delegate, was that I could speak at the microphone, share my thoughts and opinions and Friday night, I gave my first ever Area Highlights from the dais. I did go over the allotted time of two minutes with my Area Highlights and received the bell to remind me politely to stop which I did. I was reminded on Saturday of another minor faux pau regarding the verbiage used at the microphone which all in all was a wonderful learning experience to prepare for the General Service Conference for which this event is intended.

A few personal highlights taken from this service weekend was first I shared travel expenses by sharing a ride from Kirk F.-Past Delegate Panel 65; Mike Kimling-Past Delegate Panel 59 and Mel Weaver-Past Delegate from Area 34. A wealth of service guidance was in the vehicle and I took advantage of this time to ask questions and hear stories. Of particular importance was the time I shared with Mel W. from Area 34. Being a fellow female delegate, she shared some personal stories which were of importance to me and gave me her advice about packing the correct clothing for the General Service Conference. I truly needed her advice on this issue and it is with much gratitude on my behalf for her tutelage. On another note, I was placed into the "hat" (there really wasn't a hat, but I was told there was one when I volunteered) to lead the Early Bird 7 am Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous at the 2019 Conference of Delegates Past and Present. I am happy to be of service but 7 am??

The next event in which I took part in was our Michigan State Mock Conference held in Mount Pleasant March 23, 2019. This is the event that is planned by our Michigan Statewide Service Committee to help your Michigan Delegates become fully informed on agenda items prior to attending the General Service Conference this year being held in New York City May 19-25, 2019.

As this is my first year being Area 32 Delegate I had an entirely new perspective on this event looking at it as an information gathering day rather than just as a committee participant. It truly was and is a wonderful event and was much needed by myself. I have read the final agenda

items to be presented at the General Service Conference and had made my own "opinions" and thoughts as to how I would like to see the conference vote on them, however, from attending various committees while still in discussion in the morning and then hearing these committees final recommendations to the body, some of my "opinions" and thoughts have been changed. I believe this is the intent of this event. I need to be informed as to how our members feel and those in attendance provided some much-needed information and for that, I thank the attendees.

From Area 32 we had six DCM's in attendance as well as a group officer and one of our committee chairpersons. We had an abundance of Past Delegates as well attend this valuable event. I also met and talked with some group members from Area 32 who many of them were attending their first Mock Conference and I trust that they found this event to be as valuable to them as I have. I have attended the Mock Conference for many a year and felt that this year's event was the best one ever. I truly want to thank all who attended and all who helped put this yearly event together. Now more than ever, I can fully see the importance of holding a Michigan State Mock Conference.

As always I am in contact with New York, our East Central Regional Trustee, and my Committee Chairpersons to prepare for the General Service Conference. I am excited and ready to serve as your Delegate.

A few personal notes I would like to share. One on March 6, I achieved 20 years of continuous sobriety for which I thank God, the AA program and your trust in me to serve you at the Area level. Two days from now, I will celebrate another sober belly-button birthday and for someone that wanted to be dead by age 30, I also thank you. On May 11 I will celebrate my sixth wedding anniversary with my husband (we have actually been together as a couple for almost 18 years now) who is also a member of this program and personally for me, without the program of AA guiding me in "All my Affairs" I would have never kept this blessing.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns or just need to talk about service in any capacity, you can always reach out to me and I will try my best to guide you. Trust me, if I do not know the answer I will reach out to someone that does. Hopefully, you all have my contact information.

In Love and Service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lori Conant', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lori Conant

Panel 69 Area 32 Delegate

Serving the General Service Conference on the Policy and Admissions Committee and International Conventions and Regional Forums.

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 Parcel 69