

## Central Michigan Intra-Area 32 Digital Zoom Assembly Minutes from April 11, 2021

**2021 Schedule:** February 7: ZOOM; April 11: Zoom; June 6: Hybrid Meeting; August 1: TBD October 3: TBD; December 5: TBD.

**CHAIR: Jon S., (District 4), (734) 660-8641 [chair@cmia32.org](mailto:chair@cmia32.org)** Jon opened the meeting at 9:30 with a moment of silence followed by the serenity prayer. He then opened the meeting for group concerns. Terry from Marshall Miracles stated that their in-person meetings pre-covid used to average 10-15 people has double that zoom attendance. The concern about returning to in person meetings is the attrition of those Zoom participants and their loss of participation. He asked for ideas from other groups how they are handling this. John B. stated that the return to face to face may not be depriving those Zoom attendees from recovering as they can return to face-to-face meetings in their home area and that sometimes it is not possible to be all things to all people. Barbara stated that there has been interest in hosting a workshop about transitioning from Zoom back to face to face. She put her e mail address in the chat so people can contact her with suggestions and requested that this topic be revisited later in a breakout room or committee. Sherri L. stated that Last Chance in Saline has had success in keeping the zoom meeting at the same time as the face-to-face meeting and that it had also been tried to have a table at the face-to-face meeting attached to the zoom meeting but that ended up being a bit difficult. Barbara suggested having some discussion of gender-neutral titles (separate topic from the above).

Mark M. stated that when he found that he wanted to make changes at the home group he was attending regularly his sponsor suggested that maybe he should try attending some other meetings.

Keith S. said that Holt Never Night group has experienced venue restrictions and may not ever be able to return. He had an idea about asking whether only vaccinated people would be allowed to use the venue. Lori stated that it is each person's choice how to attend in Jackson, F2F or virtual. She stated that we all have a responsibility to consider affecting AA as a whole when deciding to meet in a way that might be against whatever current Covid protocols are in place.

At this time, John called for the Finance committee to begin. A vacancy is available on that committee and volunteers were encouraged to attend the meeting and see whether it interests them. Barbara volunteered.

**ALT. CHAIR: John B., (District 6) (313) 999-8367 [altchair@cmia32.org](mailto:altchair@cmia32.org)**

**Afternoon General Assembly was called to order** at 12:15 pm with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

Motion to accept the agenda seconded and approved.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT: James P., (District 12) (313) 613-3703 Absent [secretary@cmia32.org](mailto:secretary@cmia32.org)** James asked the committee chairs to forward him their reports. (The Secretary's report normally consists of a count of the different attendees (GSR, ALT GSR, DCM, Past Delegates, and all others who are categorized as guests), but it is not possible to do this with the Zoom Format. Jon said that the Secretary's Report will be a good place for James to communicate any information he has for the body or requests he would like to make.

**Alt Secretary: Russ W. Jr., (District 4) (734) 223-7719 [altsecretary@cmia32.org](mailto:altsecretary@cmia32.org)**

**TREASURER'S REPORT: Sherri L., (District 4) (734) 834-5386 [treasurer@cmia32.org](mailto:treasurer@cmia32.org)** Sherri read the Treasurer's report, attached. Terri asked when the money will be disbursed. Sherri explained that because of the pandemic there has been little activity. The checking account requires 2 signatures to withdraw any significant amount of money. Don M. stated that the treasury is artificially high because of not having normal area officer expenses and the committee expenses. John noted that Corrections has not been drawing as normal. Lori C. stated that we are looking for someone on the Finance committee. Motion to accept report seconded and approved.

**ALT. TREASURER: Tracey G., (District 16) (989) 330-1262 [alttreasurer@cmia32.org](mailto:alttreasurer@cmia32.org)**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT: Open Position (District 18)** [finance@cmia32.org](mailto:finance@cmia32.org) Lori served as the interim Finance Committee Chair. Lori asked Sherri to put the Finance Committee worksheet on the screen and reviewed it for the body. Committee reimbursements were \$525 back to prudent reserve.

DCM committee bank account is not set up yet. We owe money for the Delegate conference in 2 weeks. Lori has asked for a motion to have the \$1,800 to GSO for Delegate attendance fees. Voted unanimously. Motion to pay \$525 back to Prudent Reserve (from International Convention obligation between 3 MI Areas). Motion approved.

Lori asked for a second for another motion and John S. reiterated: Terri W. being elected to fill the finance committee vacancy. Approved. Jamie P. was elected in committee as the Finance Committee Chair.

The last item for discussion is Bank of America creating problems with changing signers on accounts every two years as elected members change. They have been unable to work with the bank. There is only one signer on the account presently due to others being eliminated. Sherri submitted paperwork to B of A in March and made an appointment yest. AM, and the records were missing. A new file was started but it is difficult working with B of A so Sherri looked at some other banks having availability across Area 32. There is a motion out of Finance committee to allow Treasurer and Delegate to investigate options for new banking and decide to open a new bank account. Don M. asked Sherri if she has a bank in mind.

Dennis S. Past Delegate stated that it is the Treasurer's job to make sure that the banking goes smoothly. It is part of the job description and a vote is not necessary. Dan stated that Huntington and TCF will be merging in the future so that may make it easier to decide. Mark stated that when he was treasurer of Statewide and they transferred the account to where he is from where Tracey was. Now that he has passed it to the new treasurer it will be up to that new person whether to move it again. John asked Lori if she would like the motion to be rescinded. YES.

Kate L. asked a question about committee funds for Corrections committee being needed. Lori stated that \$400 was requested and approved in finance committee. District 4 offered money to District 2, who had been previously contacted about these funds, last week by e mail and by phone message asking if they wanted the money. At the corrections committee meeting no one came forward from District 2 to claim the funds, so they were returned to Finance. Kate stated that she would have attended the Finance committee meeting to request funds, but the e mail made it seem that it was handled.

Sherri stated that \$200 was earmarked and available for corrections from District 4. Kate stated that District 2 has many corrections facilities in within its boundaries, and all can use funds. There are a lot of people waiting for literature. We need to make sure that District 2 has access to funds. Lori again reiterated her efforts to contact one person in District 2. Kate stated that there are many other contacts, and we need to find a way not to overlook this district's request in the future. Lori stated again that District 4 is willing to share with District 2. Keith S. stated that that as past Chair of Corrections, funds are only given to those Districts that were present.

If someone were at an Assembly but in a conflicting meeting (time), they could request and receive the funds anyway if he were aware of that request ahead of time. Evan (District 4 Treasurer) stated that he has not paid any invoice for \$200 so if it needs to be paid or reimbursed, he needs to know to whom. Russ W. stated that a bill was not sent since they had the literature on hand to give. John recapped to make sure that the books are in hand (they are). He asked for anything else for the finance committee. Finance report approved. John recognized three past delegates. (insert applause)

**REGISTRAR'S REPORT: Ted S., (District 26) 317 (989) 429-8100 [dist26@gmail.com](mailto:dist26@gmail.com) Absent.** Lori requested that all DCM's contact Ted to report what is going on in each of their Districts. He has something called a Fellowship connection report that will allow everyone to use the reports and keep in touch with what is going on elsewhere.

**ALT. REGISTRAR: Lori C., (Past Delegate Panel 69, Area 32) (District 2) (517) 414-7662**

[altregistrar@cmia32.org](mailto:altregistrar@cmia32.org), [loriconant01@live.com](mailto:loriconant01@live.com)

**Group and District Announcements: NONE**

**DELEGATE'S REPORT: Don M., Panel 71, Area 32 (District 2) (517) 416-9635. [delegate@cmia32.org](mailto:delegate@cmia32.org)** See attached report.

**ALT. DELEGATE REPORT: Mark M., Panel 71, Area 32 (District 4) (517) 861-6379 [altdelegate@cmia32.org](mailto:altdelegate@cmia32.org)** report attached.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**LITERATURE REPORT: Mike K., (District 2) (517) 403-2764 [literature@cmia32.org](mailto:literature@cmia32.org): Absent. No report.**

**ARCHIVIST: Jim D., (District 6), (517) 694-9753. Absent. No report.** Sherri asked whether people with Dignitary Group information are supposed to share their info, because they are not listed groups.

**ARCHIVES COMMITTEE: Position to be Filled. Outgoing Archives Chair: Mark M., (District 4)** Position is open and seeking a new Chair. No one had anything to add.

**CORRECTIONS: Lori C., Past Delegate, Panel 69 Area 32, (517) 414-7662 [loriconant01@live.com](mailto:loriconant01@live.com)** Four attendees were present. Discussion re: how the message will be carried during and after the pandemic. Russ W. reminded the body that each district needs to send a representative to the Corrections Committee meeting to be eligible to receive corrections literature funds.

**FORUM: Jon S., (District 4), [chair@cmia32.org](mailto:chair@cmia32.org)** Forum already occurred in 2021 via Zoom. He will gather more information by the June meeting. He acknowledged Kirk F., Past Delegate who just joined the meeting.

**GRAPEVINE: Molly L., (District 4) (734) 358-7180 [grapevine@cmia32.org](mailto:grapevine@cmia32.org)** Discussion of gender-neutral language regarding the AA Preamble. Brainstorming on language to improve the first sentence of the preamble. These types of changes are very personal and of a sensitive nature. The Group discussed the history of changing language in general in AA literature in the first 164 pages of the big book. She noted that most of the gender-neutral language updating that is happening is within Grapevine and their publications. Literature coming out of World Services is not changing that rapidly since they have different editors and publishers than Grapevine and they have more of a chain of command to go through for approval. She expressed the importance of spreading the Grapevine's word within home groups and suggested purchasing GV subscriptions for new group members who may not be able to procure Grapevine, as well as for individuals or other groups. Report Attached.

**COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY / Public Information: Keith S., (District 6) (517) 803-5045 [cpc@cmia32.org](mailto:cpc@cmia32.org)** Keith warned the body of spam e mail requesting funds. He had a misdirected request for information and passed it along as it was for Lakeville not Otisville.

**ACCESSIBILITIES / TREATMENT CENTERS: Don W., (District 6) (517) 282-4586 [specialneeds@cmia32.org](mailto:specialneeds@cmia32.org)** Treatment Centers first, things are slow because of the pandemic. He is exploring written guides with excellent information and ideas about reaching people who are getting out of treatment. He also said that he has read some great checklists for groups to use to ensure that their meetings are accessible to people with disabilities. He looks forward to in person meetings where he can disseminate information more efficiently at his table.

**YPAA: Evan K., (District 4)** Evan said the ICYPAA (International Convention of YPAA conference will occur this year (zoom or F2F). The DAYPAA committee is asking for assistance with a letter of support, and he is going to be working with them as needed.

**WEBSITE COMMITTEE: Kate L., (District2) (517) 962-1445 [webmaster@cmia32.org](mailto:webmaster@cmia32.org), or [page88line8@gmail.com](mailto:page88line8@gmail.com)**  
3 attendees. The current web design is not user friendly. The goal is to create it in Word Press. It would allow for more people to assist with updates and be more mobile friendly. Many of the Districts in Area 32 have a problem accessing Meeting Guide. There have been inquiries about taking online contributions and a secure certificate will need to be implemented for that to happen. Fillable forms and submit buttons or print buttons are all things that have been suggested as feedback to make the website more robust. Being mobile friendly is a big concern as technology continues to explode and Kate has asked for interested volunteers / districts to reach out to her to discuss rolling out meeting guide in their districts and help build seamless connections to Area 32.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Archives Committee chair remains open. Tim H. was nominated, and Jon asked if anyone else would like to stand for the position. Tim elected by proclamation.

Jon asked for any more commentary on the topic of online payments. Sherri L. stated that she is looking forward to doing it, but it is premature until the bank account is transferred and up and running. Ditto for the security certificate.

Jon moved that the October meeting be changed from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> to avoid conflict with the Michigan State Convention. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Jon screen shared a letter from Andrew B. bid chairman for DAYPAA. [www.daypaa.org](http://www.daypaa.org). They are placing a bid to host International convention in 2022. There are not enough large hotels in Area 32, but they have dates and venues identified in areas 33 & 34. He asked area 32 for a letter supporting their bid and stated that they will not hold their convention conflicting with any scheduled Area 32 events.

Motion for Area 32 to provide the letter of support to the bid package chairman was requested and carried unanimously.

Jon opened the floor to New Business from the body. Kirk F. asked for a contact (to send a check that is getting old and in need of deposit) and Lori C. said she would assist.

Mark M. made a motion that Don. M. be affirmed of the "Right of Decision" covered under Concept 3 at the upcoming. Motion carried with one minority vote (Don M.) He likes to be told what to do by the body but will do what is asked. (:P)

Motion that the June Assembly be ran as a hybrid assembly, F2F, and Zoom.

Kate L. suggested that a record of attendees at the F2F meeting including phone numbers so that immediate contact can be made if there is a positive covid occurrence. Alt Secretary Russ and Stephanie both agreed.

Jon said that the first weekend in June is his Sponsorship Retreat so he will be attending the meeting via Zoom.

Mark M. stated that vaccinations are going extremely rapidly now.

Lori C. acknowledged the wind issues and Ted (District 26) has secured an indoor venue where social distancing can occur.

Jon reiterated the motion that we try to make the June Assembly hybrid with virtual and physical components. Motion carried with one vote of dissent and no minority opinion.

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

**Meeting closed at 2:13 PM with the Responsibility Pledge recited by the group.**

**Website Committee.**

Three in attendance.

We discussed the redesign of the CMIA32.org website. The website currently is designed in a way that would require someone with a very specific skillset to be on the committee, in most cases having a web committee chair and a webmaster. This at a time when we are struggling to get enough people cover service opportunities.

**MOBILE FRIENDLY**

Shifting to the new WordPress format will also allow the website to be mobile friendly and better utilized by those using mobile devices.

**MEETING GUIDE APP**

The upgrade utilizing WordPress also will allow the ability to integrate with the meeting guide app as well for districts that may not have been able to connect with the Meeting Guide app.

**FORMS**

We also will be trying to make more of the forms posted online fillable and include SUBMIT buttons to directly email where needed, PRINT for printing, and CLEAR for those completing multiple forms for submission.

**ONLINE DONATIONS**

We have had requests to accept online donations which will require secure certificate.

Yours in service,

Kate L

[Page88Line8@gmail.com](mailto:Page88Line8@gmail.com)

PH#: 517-962-1445

Molly L Chairperson Grapevine Committee,  
Minutes from the Area 32 March Assembly  
April 14, 2021

Early in the Group Concerns opening of the Assembly, I asked if other people would join me in the Grapevine Committee Meeting in the morning session for a discussion of the gender-neutral language proposed for the AA Preamble. Today's committee members were Johnny B, Barbara S., Dan W, Randi K, Bradley, and Molly L. Today it was helpful to hear pros and cons to the proposed language of the AA Preamble, and our discussion kept a tone of respect, patience, and tolerance to other points of view. We accomplished what I had hoped we would do.

I began the committee meeting by stating briefly what might be the underlying reasons why people oppose or propose changing "men and women" to "people" in the opening sentence of the AA Preamble. Specifically, the phrase "men and women" in the AA Preamble, which is read at every AA meeting, does not include trans-sexual people. This is my understanding of the polarized discussion about gender-neutral language. Advocates for change want language changed to gender-neutral words and pronouns that would signal inclusion to everyone. Their argument is that those people in AA who are not white, not heterosexual males, and not Christian see themselves on the margins of AA, will be turned off and leave AA. Other AAs' unwillingness to consider language change in any AA literature comes down to a fear of weakening the AA message in the printed materials, and, thereby, weakening the program. Alcoholics, new or sober a long time, would lose confidence in AA and also in their ability to stay sober. Our Committee briefly considered changes to language and content that have already been made in the *Grapevine Magazine*.

I relayed to the Committee that our Delegate Don McL. had told me in a recent conversation that the editorial staff of *Grapevine Magazine* emphasizes inclusivity in the language of its stories and its readability. The editors of GV solicit stories from AA members about timely subjects, for example, its Prison Issue or staying sober through Thanksgiving. This editorial body of Grapevine Inc. can act fast and modernize language because they are a separate corporation from AA World Service and not subject to the same constraints as are AAWS editorial staff.

The Committee addressed several questions raised by attendees: (1) the AA Preamble is not the same as the Prologue to the BB of AA; (2) the Trustees of AA can veto the Delegates' voted recommendations at the annual meeting; (3) nothing that Bill W. wrote can be rewritten without a three-quarter (or two-thirds?) vote of the entire AA membership.

# CMIA 32

## Finance Committee Worksheet

Today's Date 4/11/21

Meeting Place: Online

District:

Finance Committee Members Present

<b>Jamie P.</b> <span style="color: green;">■</span> Chair thru '22	<b>Don M.</b> <span style="color: green;">■</span> Delegate, Panel 70 , Area 32	<span style="color: red;">■</span> Fin. Comm. Reviewed Area Treasurer's Last Bank
<span style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px;"></span> At Large thru 2022	<b>Sherri L.</b> <span style="color: green;">■</span> Area Treasurer	<span style="color: red;">■</span> Fin. Comm. Reviewed Area Literature's Last Bank
<b>Keith S.</b> <span style="color: green;">■</span> At Large [2021]	<b>Kim</b> <span style="color: red;">■</span> Area DCM Treasurer	<span style="color: red;">■</span> Fin. Comm. Reviewed DCM Treasurer's Last Bank
<b>Russ W.</b> <span style="color: green;">■</span> At Large [thru 2022]		<span style="color: green;">■</span> Fin. Comm. Reviewed Solvent Treasurer's Last Bank

Standard Monthly Expenses	
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DCM Committee	<i>\$1,800.00</i>
Secretary	\$39.96
Treasurer	\$0.00
Chair	\$0.00
Registrar	\$0.00
Forum Fund	\$0.00
ECR Conf	\$0.00
Host Expense	
<b>Total:</b>	\$1,839.96

\$9,104.82 Beginning Available Checking Balance as

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee reviews all requests for monies from the Officers and Committee Chairpersons of Ir... This group makes recommendations to the GSR board or denial of all requests. This Committee also monitors expenditures and income to ensure a solvent treasurer and all financial obligations are met.

Committee Reimbursements	
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<i>Reimburse Prudent Reserve</i>	\$525.00
<b>Total:</b>	\$525.00

Every Committee Chair has the automatic fifty dollars (\$50.00) seed money each year

*Requires approval of the Body*

Officer Fuel Reimbursement @ \$0.XX per mile	
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Chair	
Registrar	
Treasurer	
Secretary	
<b>Total:</b>	\$0.00

- 1 Literature
- 2 Treatment Facilities
- 3 Archives
- 4 Special Needs
- 5 Corrections
- 6 Grapevine
- 7 Cooperation with the Professional Co
- 8 Public Information
- 9 Forum
- 10 Website
- 11 Registrar
- 12 GSR Meeting, Alt Delegate
- 13 Finance
- 14 Liaison
- 15 Host (Potential \$700.00 +/- Bi-Month = \$4,200 Per Year)

Committee Requests: [Requires Approval of the Area Assembly]	
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Corrections	\$400.00
<b>Total:</b>	\$400.00

**Total Expenses:** \$2,764.96

**Beginning Balance:** \$9,104.82

**Ending Balance:** \$6,339.86

## **Finance Committee Report**

**04/11/21**

**Beginning Balance: \$9,104.82**

**Expenses: \$2,364.96**

**Ending Balance: \$6,739.86**

Jamie P. was elected to serve as Finance Committee Chairperson.

Terry W. was elected to serve on the Finance Committee to fill a position that has become vacant.

A motion was made to the body to pay the Delegate Fees to the General Service Conference of \$1.800 and was approved.

A motion was made to the body to finish the repayment process to the Prudent Reserve of \$525.00 and approved. The Prudent Reserve account has been paid in full.

Sherri L. as the Area Treasurer will begin the process of securing a new banking facility for the Area 32 Checking account. When a new account has been opened, she will close out the account at Bank of America and transfer all funds to the new bank account.