

# WESTERN MICHIGAN AREA 34 ASSEMBLY MINUTES

Serving our Fellowship throughout Michigan's Western Lower & Eastern Upper Peninsulas  
*District 4 – Comstock, MI*

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## AREA 34 STANDING & SPECIAL SERVICE COMMITTEES & CHAIRPERSONS

*(Committee Chairpersons – Please inform the Area Secretary of what contact information you would like printed on minutes.)*

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OPEN

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**MORNING SESSION:**

**Opening:** Chair Dominick G. called the meeting to order with a moment of silence followed by Serenity Prayer at **10:37 am**.

**Readings:** Fred F. Read the AA Preamble; Don W. read the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tradition; Mike Y. read the 3<sup>rd</sup> Concept.

**District roll call:** Dominick G. asked Cheri R. to conduct a roll call of all Area 34 Districts present. The following Districts were represented in the assembly: **Districts: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, and 17.**

**New GSR's / DCM/Alternates / 1st WMAA: We would like to thank you for taking part in Service in the Area 34 Assembly. First time at WMAA – All from District 4 – Adam A. Fred W. Jeff B. Travis K is also PI/CPC Chair in District 4.**

**Group Concerns:** A suggestion was brought to the body of Area 34 in regards if hosting Area 34. Warren J. had 3 people from District 1 at the Mini Conference in District 4 and stated hoping to see them here at Area Assembly. District is interested in hosting Area 34. Warren has a contact phone no. to District 1.

**Standing Service Committee:** The Assembly broke before lunch and the following committees for the **Pre-Conference review the GSC Agenda items for each committee of the morning session:** Archives, Corrections, Directories, Finance, Grapevine, Literature, PI, CPC, Special Needs, Treatment, Handbook,

**PLEASE REMEMBER – For the benefit of the person originating any motion, the entire Assembly, the Secretary, and the Chairperson, please write out motion prior to making it and then hand written motions to the Chairperson for restating to the assembly.**

Dominick G. Moved to recess for lunch, motion was seconded and carried. Dominick recessed the morning session for lunch at **12:07** pm with the Responsibility Statement.

**AFTERNOON SESSION:**

Dominick G. reconvened the Assembly and called the afternoon session to order at **1:03 pm** with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer and thanked District 4 for and for the wonderful lunch.

**Announcement:** Our Past Delegate and Past Regional Trustee Jan W. with 40 years of sobriety on March 15 and we wish her many more. Announce having Grapevines for sale \$2.25 each. Our Literature Chair Scott Mcnees has the list for Speaker in Area 34. If anyone would like that list, please contact Scott for Speaker list. Barbara Hazlett has the last update to all Directories we are asking to everyone in our Area 34 too look over your Groups and Contact Person for Directories updates and contact Barbara H. There are many events going on in our District's. Please bring flyers to Area Assembly to pass them forward to other Districts. Spring Round Up in District 7 on April 21, 2016 from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm. 2340 Dean Lake Ave NE, Grand Rapids. MI

**Reports:**

**Secretary:** Cheri R. the reading of the minutes of March 20, 2016. Mike G. move to accept and corrected the minutes as read, seconded and carried.

**Treasurer Report:** Jim H. presented the Treasurer's report for the area finances ending **3/20/16: Beginning Balance \$14,161.04; Income \$1,579.80; Total Expenses \$3,836.28; Ending Balance \$11,904.56; Set aside \$10,459.00; Available Funds \$1,445.56.** We are very Grateful to the following Groups/Members for their Contribution: Meauwatake Backwoods Group – Cadillac. Breton Road Early Birds – Grand Rapids. Awareness Group – Otsego, Charlotte A.A. Group, West Lake Area Group, Nooners Group – Norton Shores, Chapel Hill Men's Group – Portage, Keystone Group – Ada, Friday Night Group – Comstock Park, Rivertown A.A. Group Cheboygan, Unknown Group – Cedar, Straights Area Group – St. Ignace, Norwalk Third Tradition Group, Onekema Mill Street Group, Cedar Springs Group, District 8, West Group – Grand Haven, Fremont A. A. Group. Warren J. moved to accept the Treasurer's Report with; seconded and carried.

**Delegate's Report:** AAWS stated that a net total of 1,195 new groups were listed in the U.S. & Canada with the GSO last year. In 2015 the G.S.O. welcomed 1694 visitors from around the world. The G.S.C. theme Our Spiritual Way of Life: Steps, Traditions, and Concepts, will address a wide range of agenda items reflecting our three legacies of recovery, unity & service. Our statewide Mock Conference and our Area 34 WM preconference Assembly helped me be better informed what the fellowship in my area and the state feels about select agenda items that will be discussed and voted upon at the conference. I am on the P.I. Committee. WE will be discussing the programs role in Social media, and how our presence on the internet will look in the future. Communication within the fellowship and from G.S.O. is changing rapidly. WE all need to look to the future and address how A.A. will communicate with the newcomer and the still suffering alcoholic. Our P.S.A.s will be discussed and any changes that affect carrying the message will be addressed. Don't forget about our upcoming Northern Michigan Round-UP - May 27-29 in Grayling. Thank you for letting me serve Jim Gordier Area 34 WMAA, Panel 66.

**Committee Reports: Written or emailed reports submitted to Secretary by the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month to be included in the minutes.**

**Archives: Present:** 5 Attended. Inventory Area 34 Archives in the repository. We rescheduled the work session for May 21, 2016 due to upcoming Mini Conference, Mock Conference, and Spring Roundup. Inventory may take several work sessions to complete the task. We plan to digitize all this work. With the help of the Website Committee, place this inventory in general terms on the Area 34 website. Additionally, place a request form for accessing the repository for research. Permission to be granted by either myself or Mike. Furthermore, we would like to add interesting historical stories to same website to spark interest to Archives. Then it would be enhanced if the face page of the Area 34 website might add an icon something such as \* Check Out What's New in Archives. Finally, Mike provided a copy of the Motions and Actions Binder to the Handbook Committee as requested. Respectfully Submitted, Luanne Wheeler.

**Corrections: Present:** 4 Attended. Today we discussed Item B. Corrections Correspondence. No new business to report. The Corrections Committee would like to thank the Grapevine for continuing articles of support. Also it would be helpful if each District had a Corrections Coordinator to assist with communications. Respectfully Submitted: Tim Ely.

**Directories: Present:** 6 Attended. Directories for meeting are available. Sending to printer for copy including DCM's and Delegates. Cover and final repairs. Kenny and John working on map. Report & Charter Agenda Item A,4: Consider draft text for "Local Forums" to be added to Chapter 9. The committee unanimously recommends that the draft text for a section on "Local Forums" be added to Chapter 9 of the service manual. Agenda Item A,5: Consider removing "Endnote #4" in Concept Twelve of the Twelve Concepts of the World Service. The committee unanimously recommends removing "endnote #4" in Concept Twelve of the Twelve Concepts of World Service. Agenda Item A,6: Consider request to revise text in the Concept 11 essay regarding "male/female distinctions in the Twelve Concept for World Service. The committee unanimously recommends to revise text in the concepts for World Service. Agenda Item B: Consider A.A.W.S. recommendation an alternative publishing schedule for the A.A. service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service. The Committee unanimously recommends an alternative publishing schedule for the A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts requested by A.A.W.S. Respectfully submitted; Barb H.

**Finance: Present:** A: Review suggested are contributions for delegate expense for the conference. Current expense is \$7,442.00 per conference member. Current suggested donation is \$1,600.00 (2012) Areas donated roughly 20 – 22% of total cost per member. Motion made to increase amount to \$2,000.00 bringing member percentage up to 26%. Motion passed. B. Review conference approved level of \$5,000.00 for individual bequests. Limit was last amended in 2012 from 3 to 5,000. Motion was made to take no action on this item. C. Review conference approved maximum annual contribution to General Service Board from individual member of \$3,000.00 Motion made to increase ceiling amount to \$5,000.00. Motion passed. Regular business. Motion made to reimburse delegate for 1<sup>st</sup> quarter expenses of \$906.00 Motion passed. Respectfully submitted, David Robinson Alternate Chair – Finance committee.

**Handbook: Present:** No report.

**Grapevine: Present:** The committee reviewed the 2016 Grapevine Office Report on audio strategy and requested that the Grapevine Office provide an updated status financial report on the project, including practices, financials, metrics and plans for the future to the 2017 Conference Committee on the Grapevine. The Conference Committee on Grapevine reviewed the list of suggested Grapevine book topics for 2017 and later. We voted to move forward with the book of previously published stories by atheist and agnostic AA members. The book should include stories of members who were initially atheist or agnostic but then converted to belief in God. Suggested prices from the 2016 staff report should be used.

**Literature: Present:** 5 Attendance. For the General Service Conference, we discussed Doc. 1; Item C: The Revision of "A.A. and the Woman" pamphlet to review the existing pamphlet in order to determine which stories should be replaced. We voted to take no action and to continue on. Doc 1: Item A: Consider developing a plain language version of the Big Book Alcoholics Anonymous. Voted no changes should be changed to Big Book. Doc 1; Item E: Review progress report on the "Development of Literature for A.A.S. with mental health issues and those who sponsor them. We voted to take no action and continue. Doc. 1: Item D; To revision of "AA and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic" We voted to take no action and continue.

**PI/CPC: Present:** 8 attended. We discussed and voted on Agenda Item B: Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan in regards to: 1) A proposal to implement both a Google-For-Non-Profit account and a Twitter account and 2) That a guideline be developed on "Carrying the AA Message Online and in Social Media." We voted unanimously to move the agenda item forward for a vote. CPC/PI, the Co-operation with the Professional Community/Public Information Committee of Alcoholics Anonymous was invited by this Association, to have a display table at their state conference, in Grand Rapids, Michigan, at the Amway Grand Hotel, March 15th and 16th. It was a great opportunity for AA to share what this committee does in AA and how we communicate with the professional community. We were able to share information with judges, lawyers, probation officers and various treatment professionals. It was a two-day event that went from 8-4:30pm each day. On Tuesday at 6pm we were asked to facilitate an Open AA meeting, at which we had 9 people attend, one of which was a judge who had never attended an AA meeting. He reports being very impressed and expressed a good deal of gratitude for being able to attend. Overall it was a very enriching experience that gave many court officials a more personal, up close look at Alcoholics Anonymous and the chance to view us in a more positive light. We had 12 volunteers to man the table for the two days of which 9 showed up and I want to thank them for their service. I want to thank the Body for the opportunity to serve. Harry Green – Chairman - CPC/PI AREA 34

**Special Needs: Present:** 3 attended. We had four community members and we voted on how we were going to vote chose the simple majority. Agenda item A: The committee voted unanimously to recommend to remove special needs from the committee name cooperation with the professional community/treatment/special needs and throughout their composition scope and procedure. Agenda item B: As a committee we voted No action. Review content of treatment committee kit and work book due to lack of sufficient background material.

**Treatment: Absent:** No Report

**Website: Present:** Policy & Admissions: Agenda B,1: Unanimous vote. Agenda 2: Due to never being spectators at GSC from other Organizations. Take no action: Recommend goes to committee: Send back to Committee:

**YPAA Liaison: Absent:** Report - I am trying to put together and organized schedule of the Young People – focused meetings in our Area 34 as a resource for both outreach and foster a sense of unity in the Area's Young People. Any Pointer are appreciated. Please contact me (616) 821-8406 [wadr75@aol.com](mailto:wadr75@aol.com) Evan H.

**Old Business:**

1. Bids for facility for Michigan State Conference in 2018 need to be solicited.
2. Web Site, Treatment & Alt. Treatment Committee Chair. Tabled
3. Bids for workshop for September – possible to have workshop on Past-Present Delegates and Trustee. Tabled.
4. Bids for Hosting WMAA 34 in 2016. December is still open. We try to alternate going north/south as much as possible!!

1/17/2016 __7__ District	5/15/2016 __9__ District	09/18/2016 __3__ District
2/21/2016 __7__ District	6/19/2016 __6__ District	10/16/2016 __8__ District
3/20/2016 __4__ District	7/17/2016 __16__ District	11/20/2016 __10__ District
4/17/2016 __11__ District	8/21/2016 __13__ District	12/18/2016 <b>OPEN</b> District

**New Business:**

1. Motion to send our Delegate Jim Gordier to the GSC, informed but not instructed. Voted and passed.

**District Reports:** (Districts to submit any pertinent information/activities in writing to the Secretary, or email to [carsweet1@gmail.com](mailto:carsweet1@gmail.com) by the 1st of the month to be included in minutes.)

**District 1:** Absent: All information and events are on our website [aasouthwestmichigan.org](http://aasouthwestmichigan.org)

**District 2:** Present: No report

**District 3:** Present: All information and events are on our website [www.wm3aa.org](http://www.wm3aa.org) and/or [westmichigandistrict3aa/home](http://westmichigandistrict3aa/home)

**District 4:** Present: No report

**District 5:** Present: No report

**District 6:** Present: All information and events are on our website [wm6aa.org](http://wm6aa.org)

**District 7:** Present: No report

**District 8:** Absent: No report

**District 9:** Present: No report

**District 10:** Present: No report

**District 11:** Present: We have two new DCM's for Kalkaska County - Marv S. Grand Traverse – Amber J. We look forward to hosting Area 34 on April 17<sup>th</sup> at The Rock. Any information and events are on our website [www.district11-aa.org](http://www.district11-aa.org)

**District 12:** Absent: No report

**District 13:** Absent: No report

**District 15:** Absent: No report

**District 16:** Absent. Report is still looking for an Area Speaker for a workshop. Also looking for old grapevines for the Prisons in Kinross.

**District 17:** Presente: \*\*\* Mi gustaría agradecer a todos ustedes en nuestro Distrito en formar parte del servicio en sus grupos habituales. Existe la necesidad de acoger zona de reunión 34. Me gustaría obtener su entrada de este en la organización de nuestra Área 34 Asamblea de West Michigan. Habría estipendios para acoger este de \$ 300.00 para ayudarnos a acoger este. Esto sólo sería por un día en el mes de diciembre a partir de las 9:00 am a 3:30 pm, o el año de 2017. He hablado con varias personas en nuestra comunidad acerca de esto. Esperamos que a mí otra vez. También tenemos traductores disponibles. Esto sería un paso adelante en nuestra comunión en la Unidad de Servicio. Si hay algo que necesita en sus grupos, no dude en ponerse en contacto con mí en cualquier momento. Honrados de servir en nuestro Distrito 17. Respetuosamente, Cheri Ruiz.

**Hosting Districts for 2016: DCM's – Please submit the location and address of the assembly your District is hosting to the Secretary by the second assembly prior to the assembly your District is hosting:** 01/17/2016 – District 7, 02/21/2016 – District 7, 03/20/2016 – District 4. **04/17/2016 – District 11.** 05/15/2016 – District 9. 06/19/2016 – District 6. 07/17/2016 – District 16. 08/21/2016 – District 13. 09/18/2016 – District 3. 10/16/2016 – District 8. 11/11/2016 – District 10. 12/18/2016 – **OPEN.**

**Thought for the Month: Alt. Delegate** Rick Padgett – Alcoholics Anonymous Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions page 187. We are sure that humility, expressed by anonymity, is the greatest safeguard that Alcoholics Anonymous can ever have.

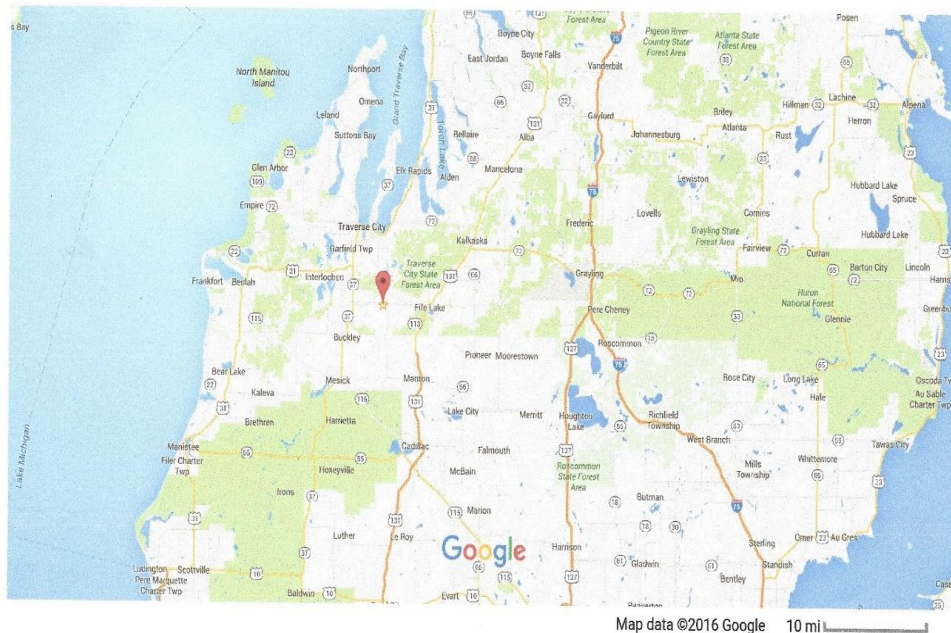
**Closing:** Woody W. Motion to close at 3:16 pm. 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carries.  
Love in Service, Mucho Gracias, Cheri Ruiz Area 34 Secretary

**LOCATION OF WMAA 34 - April 17, 2016 - District 11**  
**The Rock**  
**115 E. Blair Street**  
**Kingsley, MI 49649**



115 Blair St

District 11 \* THE ROCK 115 E. Blair Street Kingsley, MI 49649



Map data ©2016 Google 10 mi

**Next Area 34 Assembly - May 15, 2016 – District 9**

**Lake Township Hall**  
**8105 West Kelly Rd.**  
**Lake City, MI 49651**

**Area 34 Area Assembly**  
**Serving our Fellowship throughout Michigan's Western Lower and Eastern Upper Peninsula**  
**Western Michigan Area Assembly Agenda**  
**April 17, 2016 10:30am**  
**District 11 - Kingsley, MI**

**Opening:**

- Readings: AA Preamble, 4<sup>th</sup> Tradition, 4<sup>th</sup> Concept.
- District Roll Call:
- New GSR's/DCM's/Alternates/First WMAA:
- Group / District Concerns:

**Standing Service Committee Meetings:** Archives, Corrections, Directories, Finance, Grapevine, Literature, PI/CPC. Special Needs, Treatment, Website, Handbook, and Young People. New GSRs/DCMs will meet with the Alternate Delegate for orientation.

**LUNCH BREAK - Noon**

**Announcements:**

**Reports:**

- Secretary's Report/Minutes:
- Treasurer's Report/Finances:
- Delegate's Report:

**Committee Reports** – Chairs: Please submit a written committee report to the Secretary ([carsweet1@gmail.com](mailto:carsweet1@gmail.com)) by the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month!

**Motions** – For the benefit of the person originating any motion, the entire Assembly, the Secretary, and the Chairperson, please write out motion prior to making it and then present motions to the Chairperson for restating to the assembly.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- Elect positions: Website Chair, Treatment Chair & Alt Chair.
- Bids for Workshops for 2016: May is Delegates' Report and October is Inventory.
- Location Bids for 2018 Michigan State Convention need to be solicited.
- Bids for Hosting WMAA 34 in 2016

1/17/2016 District 7	5/15/2016 District 9	9/18/2016 District 3
2/21/2016 District 7	6/19/2016 District 6	10/16/2016 District 8
3/20/2016 District 4	7/17/2016 District 16	11/20/2016 District 10
4/17/2016 District 11	8/21/2016 District 13	<b><u>12/18/2016</u> Open</b>

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Eight volunteers needed as panel chairs for the 2016 Michigan State Convention.
- Discuss sponsoring people to attend the 2016 East Central Regional Conference.

**District Reports:** District Reports submitted in writing or email to Area Secretary [carsweet1@gmail.com](mailto:carsweet1@gmail.com) by the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month.

**Thought for the Month (Alternate Delegate): Rick Padgett**

**Closing:**

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