

District # 3 Meeting Minutes of October. 18th, 2013

The meeting met as usual in the Lee, MA Court House at 7 pm.

Present were Dennis B. (Co-DCM), Anne.(Area 31 Alt. Delegate) Mike B. (Accessibilities) & Tony T. (Intergroup Chair) as well as 6 GSR's

Dennis opened the meeting with a *Moment of Silence* followed by *The Serenity Prayer*.

Dennis read the statement on GSR from page S26 of the A.A. Service Manual as follows:

The General Service Representative (GSR)) has the job of linking his or her group with AA as a whole. The GSR represents the voice of the group conscience reporting the Group's thoughts to the district committee member (DCM) and the Delegate who passes them on to the Conference. This communication is a two-way street, making the GSR responsible for bringing back to the Group-Conference Actions that affect A. A. Unity, health, and growth. Only when a GSR, keeps the group informed and communicate the group conscience, can the Conference truly act for A. A. as a whole.

Secretary 's Report was read by Robin D.(Standing in for District 3 Sec Ruthie.)

Tradition 10 and Concept 10 were read by Dennis B. Dennis then reminded group of Concepts meeting held the second Thursday of the month at 7 pm at 474 Pleasant Street in Holyoke, MA

Group Reports as Follows:

- * **Lauren A. (GSR) of Women's Group** that meets Tuesday, 7pm St. Mark's Rectory in Pittsfield, MA. There are usually 20 people in attendance each week. Using Pie Chart for distributions.
- * Bobbi P. (Area 31 Archivist) and past delegate did a group inventory with the members. Ten members attended. The inventory gave the group a number of things to work on. At the business meeting they changed the format to read "Opinions expressed here are not an expression of AA as a whole." The inventory moderator reminded group members to be kind and loving in the treatment of the sick and suffering and/or the mentally ill individuals attending the meeting. This lead to a change and a board that was used by the Chairperson has been discontinued. Focusing on business meetings that are inclusive not exclusive.
- * **WMYPAA (Standing Committee)** Second annual Bon Fire took place on Oct. 12th after Fall Assembly @ 4:30 @ 65 East St. in East Hampton and was well attended. WMPAA Putting on a Big Book workshop @ 65 East St. also in November, more info will be forthcoming.

- * **Matt (GSR) New Wave of Life Group** that meets on Saturday at 12 noon at Soldiers' on Housatonic Street in Pittsfield MA Strong attendance 30+.
 - * **Michael (GSR) North Adams Sunday & Tuesday Nights...**Attendance healthy. Steady group membership 15-20. Healthy treasury Group Anniversary took place on Windsor Pond, 3 speakers and well attended.
 - * **Robin.(GSR) Berkshire Big Book** meeting at 7:30 pm in Lanesborough, MA well attended. Two anniversaries Mike C. 2 years Dave D. 6 years.
 - * **Brian (GSR) Lenox Thursday Big Book Step Meeting,** that meets at Trinity Church on Walker St. In Lenox @ 7 p.m. Attendance is usually 30-40 people. and the Group members are 10-12 strong. Dave R is celebrating 17 years.
 - * **Dan (GSR) Keep it Simple** meets 6 days a week @ 12 noon, 251 Main Street Great Barrington MA 1st Congregational Church. Motion passed to limit Chair to 6 weeks and no vote for greeter. Using piechart for distributions and will be using larger room for anniversary nights.
- * **Tony T.(Berkshire Intergroup Chair) Highlights as follows:**
 - * **BIG always wants to thank the area and district for attending out committee meetings and helping to keep us informed and providing some guidance.**
 - * **Date, Time, and Attendance:** Meet Second Monday of each month at 7 p.m.@ 152 North St. Pittsfield, MA. 16 people in attendance, 13 voting with 9 groups represented.
 - * General: Elections for a new Co-Chair & Secretary will be in November
 - * Starting 10/5/13, the BIG office will open on Saturdays from 11:30 to 2 P.M.
 - * **Ad Hoc Committee and/or open action items as follows:**
 - * Alkathon committee meeting will be on 10/26/2013. More volunteers are needed! Allocated \$500 funds for the Alkathons
 - * **Actions taken by the BIG Officers on 10/14/13:**
 - * Treasurer's report showed a negative operating fund balance of (-\$451.63) noting that if the trend continues there is a possibility of having to close BIG after 23 years.
 - * Each committee member will take a Treasurer's packet to their Home Group empathizing 7th Tradition and Self-Supporting Green Card. Additionally, committee members will go to other groups and make announcements that BIG needs contributions in order to continue to operate

and inform groups of BIG's purpose in operation: 24 hr Hotline, sale of literature, coins books and meeting schedules.

* **Anne (Alternate Delegate for District):**

- * Check dates for Area events on Website : <http://area31aa.org/>
- * Fall Assembly –Area took it's inventory major highlights – need to be more inclusive of Hispanic community, communication between committees needs to increase and those rotating out need to develop a means of communicating to newly elected individuals.
- * Fall Assembly election results: Web Master made an Area Officer

Those due to 3rd Legacy

- * Anne – Delegate
- * Mark – Alt. Delegate
- * Sue – Secretary
- * Beth – Treasury
- * Paul – Area Chair

* **Mike B. ACCESSIBILITIES:**

- * Committee needs volunteers from the Berkshires to transport people with disabilities to meeting locations. Area 31 wants Accessibility to secure a list of coverage for entire District prior to the addition of their Hotline # on the meeting schedules. Please contact Mike at 413-531-7945 (cell) or 413-315-9033 (home). Anne noted that the Accessibilities' Committee should not have to submit list committee should be autonomous.

DATES to REMEMBER:

- 🕒 50th Mass State Convention – November 8-10th 2013 Sheraton, Framingham, MA
- 🕒 November 24th, Archives will be open @ 474 Pleasant St. Holyoke, MA from 11 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- 🕒 November 20th, 2013 at 7pm is the 1st planning committee meeting for NERASSA 2016.
- 🕒 Round –up June 7-8 th 2014 La Quinta Springfield, MA

OTHER NOTES:

- * Area Open for Service Committee Area Chair Contact Mark N.
- * Announce District meeting at other meeting, Dennis B. Points out GSO can't serve unrepresented groups.
- * Concept Meeting 2nd Thursday/Month 7pm meeting at 474 Pleasant Street Holyoke, MA.
- * Final Conference book that is being distributed is Highly Confidential...Be careful where it is left; treat it as Confidential Information.

NEW BUSINESS

- * Joan P. is rotating out in Dec. November, we should be able to vote, as well as Ruthie in the Secretary position. Anyone who would like to stand for these positions as well as the LCM please attend the November 15th meeting. Third Legacy voting procedure will be used.
- * Dennis B. read the position of Co-DCM and LCM page 2 & 27 of the handbook.
- * Lauren made a motion to close the meeting and it was seconded by Mike.
- * Meeting closed with *Responsible Pledge*
- * **Respectfully submitted, Robin.**