

Minutes for District 3 Monthly Meeting
Lee, MA

Friday, May 15, 2015

Present at the meeting:
13 total signed in, 9 groups represented

Handouts:
May Agenda, DCM Report, Western Mass Round Up Schedule of Events

The meeting started at 7pm with a moment of silence, the Serenity Prayer, a reading from page S26 of the AA Service Manual and introductions.

A summary of April's minutes was given. Minutes were accepted without discussion.

Concept 5 and Tradition 5 were read. Relevant questions from the Concepts Checklist and Traditions Checklist were read.

DCM report:

- NERF, Northeast Regional Forum, is May 29-31 at the Albany Marriott. It hasn't been this close to the Berkshires in a long time. This is the GSO Road Show; a chance for us to learn how they operate. There is no charge for this event.
- Area 31 General Service Roundup – June 6 and 7, 2015, La Quinta, 100 Congress St., Springfield. Delegate's report back from the Conference will be Saturday at 1:30pm. There will be a speaker from GSO and a dinner and dance Saturday night. Suggested contribution is \$10.00. Also, District 3 has been given the Alkathon meeting at 8:30pm on Saturday night. Our topic is God of My Understanding.
- Interesting discussion on safety at the Area meeting in May. A District 5 group had a question: "Should we let people who have attended our meeting drunk drive away if they refuse to have someone else drive them? Should we call the cops?" The Delegate's unequivocal answer: "We should never condone or allow illegal behavior. If someone is violent, call the cops. If they insist on leaving drunk behind the wheel, call the cops. If there is destruction of church property, call the cops."
- The Grapevine has a subscription increase challenge running this year. The state or province with the greatest increase in subscriptions will have an issue devoted to members' stories from that state. There is also a "Carry the Message" Fund which allows a member to buy a subscription for someone in need, like a person in jail. The person or group who purchases the subscription will receive a card that they can fill out and give to the person in need. The Grapevine is \$28.00 for a year subscription.
- The International Convention is July 2nd in Atlanta. The Committee is looking for deaf members to share. The fee for the convention is \$90.00.
- The next District meeting will be Friday, June 19, 2015.

Group Wins and Concerns:

- Sheffield 12&12 will celebrate it's 40th anniversary on June 17th. There will be a dinner at 6 pm followed by AA and Al-Anon speakers from 8 – 9:30 pm.
- Jack B. will celebrate 50 years in June.
- So. Berkshire Group has had numerous requests from the place where their meeting is held. The group has consistently complied with all issues brought to them. They have been responsible through their group conscience.
- A GSR reported that an abusive person attended a meeting that he also attended. The person had a threatening manner toward women at the meeting. He was escorted outside.

Circle Back:

- No comments.

Discussion Topics:

- Diversity of Membership
- Diversity in Service

Reports:

- Paul from the Area Committee reported that all information concerning Area 31 is on the website. The Concept Meeting is the 1st Thursday of the month, 474 Pleasant St., Holyoke. The Tradition Meeting is on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. The Area Committee will conduct group inventories and service meetings. Contact the Area for information – areachair@area31aa.org. The Fall Assembly will be October 17th and 18th. There will be 17 workshops and elections will be held.
- Mark from Public Information reported that all presentations done by PI will soon be on the Area Website. Groups can “sponsor a rack” of AA pamphlets for display in a library, hospital, courthouse, etc. The cost with the rack is between \$70.00 and \$80.00. If a group cannot afford a rack, they can get in contact with PI. PI can present information to anyone, not just people in trouble. The oldest surviving radio show involving PI is out of Springfield, MA, on Sunday mornings, 1450AM. PI will do a presentation on anonymity for groups who speak to the public. Contact PI at PI@area31aa.org.

Topics to bring back to business meetings:

- Grapevine subscription challenge and “Carry the Message”
- Upcoming events.
- The discussion on the drunk driving incident.
- Area website.
- Services provided by PI and the Area Committee.

Meeting closed at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie K.