

Area 31/District 5 Monthly Meeting Minutes

January 2013

Newly elected DCM Mary, Co-DCM Lynn, LCM Pauline and Secretary Amy present.

11 GSR's in attendance - 2 identified as new: Juan / E. Longmeadow Group; Chris/ Here and Now (E. LongMeadow)

3 Visiting committees present: Mark - Area 31 chair, Karl - W. Mass Intergroup chair, and Paul - Round-up committee

1 visitor – Sally

Mary-DCM opened the meeting promptly at 7:30 pm with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

Lynn-Co-DCM read the role of the GSR from the service manual.

Mary explained the new procedure for reading from the service manual. Now instead of having the concept and the tradition read and discussed each month we will be going through the service manual chapter by chapter according to a schedule pre-determined and the tradition of the month. Since the concepts are part of the service manual it was decided that they did not have to be done every month. It was mentioned that there is a Concepts meeting on the first Thursday of the month in Holyoke for those who would like to delve deeper into the Concepts. All are welcome and urged to attend.

Pauline - LCM - spoke about AA's legacy of service - The 12 traditions - from service manual, and we went around the room with open discussion.

Randy - GSR - spoke about Tradition 1 as he understood it, and Mary went around table for discussion.

Patrick - GSR - spoke about Concept 1, as he understood it, and Mary went around table for discussion.

Group Sharing:

Dale - **Green St.**, Monson - Thursday Beginner's Meeting 6:15 - 7:15 pm, Speaker/Discussion 7:30 - 8:30 pm. Meeting has good membership, has consistent incoming/outgoing commitments. The group is involved with institutions and just had elections. Dale volunteered for GSR and was elected when he was on vacation.

Amy G. - **Tri-Area Group** - Brimfield Monday Night - 7:30-8:30 pm. Speaker/Discussion

Group has about 8 active members. The group is celebrating 39 years on January 14th. Recently it has elected a chair person and a GSR and has been trying to become more of a group instead of just a meeting. Usually has an incoming and an outgoing commitment each month. The meeting fluctuates in

attendance but the last few months, attendance has been really good. Group gives out chips at the beginning of the meeting and medallions at the end.

Jarel W. - **Belchertown Saturday Night** 8:00PM speaker/discussion - Beginner's Meeting 7:00 – 7:45PM, at the Belchertown United Congregational Church 9 Park St. Contributes to the pie chart. Attendance has gone way up. There were 7 new active members to join. * Elections were held, all but three positions filled.

Patrick - **Cold Spring Group** - Thursday 7:30-8:30 pm Belchertown United Congregational Church 9 Park St. This is an Open speaker discussion meeting, chaired on a volunteer basis. The business meeting is held the last Thursday of each month. This group chairs meetings by group members at the Providence Hospital every Saturday at 10:00 AM. 14 active members (2 have retired from group) Elections were held with all positions except Archives, PI, and CPC being filled using the usual nominating method of election. Consistent incoming/outgoing commitments.

Bob W. - **Chicopee Group** Beginner's Meeting reads "Living Sober" followed by discussion from 6 to 7 PM. Speaker meeting 7:30 to 8:30 PM. Contributes to pie 2-3 times a year. Has an incoming and outgoing commitment monthly. Positions are filled. The group does a commitment at Carlson detox.

Bob W. - **Chicopee No No-nonsense Nooner** - Monday/Wednesday/Friday at Noon This group meets three times a week at noon as follows: Monday is Big Book / Step Study meeting. Wednesday is a Speaker meeting; and Friday is Step reading and discussion meeting from the 12 & 12. The last Friday of the month the Tradition is read. Contributes to the pie 1-2 times a year. Anniversaries are celebrated with medallions, given for milestones of sobriety. 12 active members attend. *There is a lack of active members. The group will be celebrating 14 years on Memorial Day 2013. No commitment positions filled, Bob filling in while there for Chicopee Group.

Scott - **Welcome Home** -Tuesday 7:30 - 8:30 pm and Friday 7:30-8:30 pm - Thorndike New Birth Christian Church Formally met at Wing Memorial Hospital on Fridays and at the Palmer Green on Tuesdays. the group went 2-3 weeks with no meeting until it found its new home. Now it is in the same home both nights. *The group needs active members and needs to be reorganized. Tuesday night is a step meeting.

Juan - **East Longmeadow Sunday Night Group** open beginner's meeting 6:30 - 7:15 open speaker meeting 7:30. St. Michael's Parish Hall on Rt. 83. Approx. 25-30 members. Group continues to discuss possible changes to the Beginner's format. Elections were held using the Third Legacy; Juan was elected new GSR. Group is considering a change of location. A committee was formed to look into available locations. Thinking to move to St. Lukes in E. Longmeadow. We submitted a photo of our meeting place 'door' to the Grapevine magazine. The group voted to send our GSR to NERASSA on February 2013. Group also considering taking a commitment at Detox.

Ralph - **South Hadley Tuesday Night 12 & 12** This meeting is held on Tuesday night at 7:00 pm at Falls Congregational Church. Contributes to the pie chart. There is a reading of from the 12 & 12 followed by discussion. The last Tuesday the Tradition of the month is read. Medallions are given out for monthly sobriety. There are approximately 50 to 80 in attendance. The business meeting is held the last Tuesday

after the meeting, and attended by 5 to 8 active members. A commitment is held one Thursday of month at Holyoke Hospital. They now have a librarian for used literature and books at cost.

Jim - **South Hadly Group** Friday Night 6:00 - 7:00 Beginners, 7:30 - 8:30 Speaker. Contributes to the pie chart. Elections being held this Friday night. Seeking to do a group inventory. Group Anniversary in April. Does incoming/outgoing commitments once a month. Gives out monthly Grapevine subscription monthly. Has a monthly commitment to Providence hospital. The speaker meeting gives out medallions to members. Beginners meeting gives out chips for lengths of sobriety. 25-35 in attendance at speaker meeting, 60-70 attend the beginners weekly. Group participates in LIP service.

Chris B. - **Here and Now** - E. Longmeadow - Wednesday 8:30 pm. Alternate Chris present at meeting. Danette GSR. Contributes to pie chart, has a commitment to detox once a month. Just held elections for meeting positions for now, will be holding committee positions asap.

Randy - **Thank you Thursday** - Thursdays 7-8 pm Chicopee, MA. HolyName Church, Springfield MA. The group contributes to the pie, has monthly incoming and outgoing commitments and has a commitment at Providence hospital on Monday nights.

Visiting Committee Reports:

Mark - Area Chair

**Mass State Convention Planning Committee - Jan. 29th begins

**Neerasa 22nd - 24th in Lancaster, PA

**Area 31 mini Conference and Business Meeting April 13th and 14th in Holyoke.

**Area committee will come to your meeting and put on a service commitment. If you have not seen one of these, members of the area will come to your group as an incoming meeting and speak of their experience, strength, and hope as it pertains to service. If you would like to attend one before deciding the area will be putting on a meeting in Enfield on January 26th. To book a commitment you can call park at 860-559-0814 or email him at a31chair@gmail.com.

*****REMINDER*****

Get a SERVICE sponsor

Karl - Intergroup Chair

Get involved as a group, join phone coverage. If your group doesn't want to you can add your name to the back-up list.

The Christmas alka-thon was a huge success. Ended up being a 25 hour instead of 24 hour alka-thon. All slots were fulfilled. Thank you to everyone who attended.

New When and Where will be out by the end of February.

There is a "Treasure Chest of Info at WesternMAAA.Org.

Bookie meeting on the 2nd Thursday of the month, at the intergroup office.

There is a new intergroup rep orientation at 6:30 before the intergroup meeting every month.

Intergroup is low on funds, book sales are up but donations are down. Still \$2.00 donations are needed instead of \$1.00 at the group level. Pie charts are needed to be sent in. Decided to cash in \$2800.00 CD, not used yet but put in bank just in case.

Paul - W. Mass Round Up

-- May 18 - 19, 2013 -- Clarion, Rte 5, W. Springfield

Theme - Area 31 Takes Its Inventory

Looking for volunteers for hospitality room, also for committee members.

email - area31roundup@gmail.com if interested.

Need donations of food and books.

Mary gave report from Area meeting - submitted written report.

Lynn spoke about Box 459 - group conscience vs. group inventory

Pauline had no report but asked Mary to clarify about areas prudent reserve going from 9,000 - 6,000. She thought it was a typo and should be reversed but Mary verified that it was correct.

Mary announced that in February the district meeting would have its regular business until 8:30 and then it would show the GSR video presentation. Discussion was had about whether it should be announced that other districts are allowed to come to view the presentation at other meetings. It was discussed that all District meetings are open to anyone but that if other GSR's wanted to come they would have to respect the time it took us to take care of our monthly business and maybe we should announce at the area meeting that visiting committees should not expect to give reports in February but should come only if they wanted to view the video.

Area meeting is held the 1st Wednesday after the 2nd Tuesday at 6pm at Grace United church 474 Pleasant St. Holyoke MA.

Additional reminder for GSR's and any interested that there is a concepts Meeting Monthly - 1st Thursday @ 7:00PM – 474 Pleasant St., Holyoke MA *All are welcome!

. Scott volunteered to read Tradition 2 and chapter of Service Manual

Next meeting is February 4, 2013 7:30 pm.

Meeting closed 9:15 – Responsibility Pledge

Respectfully submitted, Amy G. – District 5 Secretary