

March 7, 2016

March Area 31 District #5 GSR Meeting Minutes

11 People were in attendance

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm

- * Angie: DCM opened the meeting with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.
- * Jerry: Co-DCM read the GSR Role out of the Service Manual.
- * There were no corrections from the previous month's minutes.
- * There were no new GSR or Alternate GSRs present.

Andy shared and led the discussion on Chapter 2: The group and Its GSR.

Tina shared and led the discussion on Tradition 1.

STARTING IN MAY DISTRICT #5 GSR MEETING, THE MEETING TIMES CHANGED FROM 7:30 PM TO 7 PM.

GROUP SHARING

- * Green Street Monson; GSR: Andy; no concerns.
- * Chicopee Group; GSR: Patty/Alternate:Eddie; Changing group format starting in APRIL: Tuesday nights at 6 pm; NO MORE 7:30 PM MEETINGS; WEEK 1: Living Sober, WEEK 2: Speaking (incoming group), WEEK 3: Living Sober, WEEK 4: Speaker (anniversary) and if WEEK 5: Living Sober or Speaker. The 10:30 AM MEETING WILL REMAIN THE SAME.
- * Randall Group; GSR: Bob: No concerns.
- * Ludlow Group; GSR; Ann Marie, 3 NEW members, No concerns.
- * Wilbraham Group; GSR: Mark: No concerns.
- * Here and Now: GSR: Tina: 1 NEW member; No concerns.
- * Sunday Night East Longmeadow Group; GSR: Karen Alternate: Mark; No concerns.
- * Saturday Night Belchertown Group; GSR: Renee; No concerns.
- * Keep It Simple: GSR: Enrique; No concerns.

Jerry completed a NERAASA rundown: Highlights of Things Discussed at NERAASA.

1. Spiritual Way of Life: The conference theme.
2. Connecting with the newcomer: Handout newcomers packets.
Provide group lists with phone numbers.
Potluck Meals.
Brainstorm with the home group for different unique ideas.
3. Contributions: \$1 in 1962 should reflect to today's income to \$8. How do we get people to start contributing more money. Suggestion: Chairperson includes at the beginning of the meeting to PLEASE contribute a little more.
4. To we include drug users in our fellowship?? Do AAs look at drug users with contempt??
5. Discussion had about the Pie chart and what amount goes where. Currently it is: 40% to Intergroup, 30% to Area, 20% to Institutions and 10% to the GSO. Should individual groups decide what percentage goes to what?? GSO provides so much to individual people and groups, shouldn't they get a bigger percentage? Would this help resolve the money issues or would this adversely effect the others?
6. Discussion about giving AA literature instead of coins, so the GSO will make money. Coins are not AA approved, so the money collected from them stay at the area level and not to GSO. Do we make the Coins AA approved so then the money goes to GSO?
*** Group can make their contributions on line at AA.org

*** AA Birthday Plan: Envelopes will be provided to GSRs at next month's meeting: Contribute to GSO on your Anniversary (Group or Individual). Contribute a dollar (\$1) per year sober or a penny for every day sober. Individuals can also obtain envelopes at AA.org.

7. It is believed that if a group has an intergroup representative they are being represented at the GSO level and have a vote BUT actually the ONLY way a group is represented and have a vote is by having a GSR and the GSR attending the District Meeting.

8. Connecting with the DARK GROUPS: It was suggested that instead of calling them DARK GROUPS, we call them:

Suggestion 1. In the Dark Groups.

2. Non binding group

3. Non voting groups

District #5 Co-DCM Jerry made of few suggestions he obtained from the DCM's round tables at NERAASA:

1. Buddy System: go with other GSRs to dark groups in your area.

2. Visiting the groups, don't go unannounced: Possible go to their business meetings.

a. Ask the groups: How can we support you? Is there something we are doing or not doing?

b. Handout the pamphlet called CIRCLE OF LOVE: Explains service... Jerry will be providing GSRS more pamphlets to be utilized by the BUDDY's going to Dark Meetings, so Information can be provided and discussed with them.

3. Visit Young People's Groups; get the young people involved.

4. Establish a District #5 Calendar; indicating individual groups Anniversaries and Events, Potlucks.

5. District #5 will have a PIZZA PARTY>>>> Flyers will be made and handed out to these dark groups and individuals will be invited to attend the PIZZA PARTY and be more informed of the role of a GSR.

AREA ASSEMBLY will held on Saturday, April 2nd, from 9 am to 4 pm and Sunday, April 3rd, from Noon to 5 pm.

Being held at the Second Congregational Church, 300 Appleton Street in Holyoke (Corner of Appleton and Maple Street). There will be a GSR Workshop on Saturday from 9 am to 10 am. Sunday will be the Area Business Meeting.

VOLUNTEERS FOR NEXT MONTH'S READINGS APRIL 4TH AT 7:30 PM

CHAPTER 10 AND 11: MARK

TRADITION 4: RENEE

THERE WAS A MOTION TO HAVE THE TRADITION COINCIDE WITH THE MONTH NUMBER. THE MOTION WAS VOTED ON AND PASSED.

THERE WAS A MOTION TO CHANGE THE MEETING TIME FROM 7:30 PM TO 7 PM THE FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH. IT WAS VOTED ON AND APPROVED; 8 YES AND 0 NO. THE NEW TIME WILL START IN MAY 2ND.