

Area 31 Grapevine/ La Vina Committee Meeting
474 Pleasant Street, Holyoke, MA
Tuesday, March 5, 2019
Serenity Prayer
Statement of Purpose
Daily Quote
Tradition 3

Members Present:

Mike S. Area 31 Delegate, Guest

Joe K., Visitor/Ally & Deaf AA Member, Holyoke Daily Reflections, 7 days a week + ASL interpreter

Kim S., GVR, Suffield Monday Night Grapevine Grp, Suffield, CT

Mark, GVR, Sunday Life Grp., Haydenville, MA

Renée K., Co-Chair & GVR, Belchertown, Saturday Night

Tania H., Chair, Hadley Women's Language Of The Heart Group, 7p, Wed, Hadley, MA

- Committee Meeting Agendas were distributed and the GV/LV Boards were on display.
- Chair opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. with a Moment of Silence and the Serenity Prayer.
- “Statement of Purpose” found on the inside cover of the GV magazine was read aloud by Co-Chair, Renee K.
- DAILY QUOTE of the day was read aloud by Tania H. (Free and emailed daily to anyone who signs up to get them).
- Tradition Three was read aloud out of *The A.A. Grapevine* by Kim S. of Suffield Grp.
- Chair invited everyone new to introduce themselves by sharing what brought them there & notified all to provide their emails and contact information in order to stay in touch, receive committee pertinent emails and monthly meeting minutes.
- Chair announced that the MAR 2019 edition is in circulation. Shared her experience on some of the articles she read and invited others to share what they read and enjoyed. Others do not have subscriptions to the monthly magazine yet. Chair mentioned that going forward, we would refer to and discuss the previous month's issue so all have had a chance to read the articles in order to share and discuss.
- **New GVR orientation continued** by informing new members to sign up to register and receive their starter tool kits at <http://www.aagrapevine.org/content/registration-or-change-address>. Chairperson shared on the responsibilities for all new GVRs. We committee members need to be present with the GV/LV Boards at the annual Round Up, Spring & Fall Assemblies, alternating years at the MA State Convention and additionally at any group anniversary which requests the Boards by way of unity & support for each other.
- Chair invited the Co-Chair to present the 2019 NERAASA GV/LV Round Table details. We heard about much of the ideas and suggestions discussed there. A write-up of this was emailed to GVRs. Much enthusiasm and interest was generated. Inquiries were discussed by the 2 new GVRs in attendance.
- Chair reiterated that Area 31 has a RADIO SHOW which could prove an important avenue to raise awareness about all things GV/LV during the 75th anniversary year. Reported speaking to the PI chair who referred us to the Alternate Delegate. More information on this to follow with more inquiries from that angle

- Possibility of a new service position on the Committee called 'La Vina liaison' for commencing outreach in attracting Spanish members to participate on the Committee and to attract La Vina reps.

March Area 31 Delegate's News

- Thanked NERAASA attendees. Said that Northeast Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly was well represented by Area 31 members in Hunt Valley, Maryland from Feb. 22 to 24, 2019. Look at <http://www.neraasa.org/neraasa-2019.html> for more info. The dollar in the basket helps fund area events like this. The GV Committee's Chair, Co-Chair, Joe K. and Doug A. attended along with the Delegate and others.
- He announced that the Grapevine has a new Publisher, Alvin Z. at GSO.
- He mentioned the outcome from the COMMUNICATIONS AUDIT has created a COMMUNICATIONS DESK
- He also requested us to announce that the GSO MEETING GUIDE App is now out. Very helpful while travelling domestically or overseas.
- GSO has published its first book in 30 years called Our Great Responsibility. Feel free to purchase.
- A31 Concepts meeting held on the first Thursday of every month at 7:30p at 474 Pleasant Street, Holyoke. Welcome to all AA Members.
- A31 Service Manual meeting held monthly invites all members, especially those in service, also held at the same location.
- Anyone is welcome and invited to participate in the 2019 MA State AA Convention. Car pool to planning committee meets in Ludlow in order to drive to Framingham Sheraton Hotel, monthly.
- GV/LV boards need to be refreshed/checked in order to reflect the most pertinent and relevant GV/LV news and facts for the 2019 MA State Convention. It's Area 31's turn to display those.

GVR Reports

- Kim shared that the Suffield Beginner's Grp. being a GRAPEVINE oriented home group has inquired about the possibility of purchasing GV published books. We informed her that members can find them at WMIG as well as on the aagrapevine.org site.
- Deaf member from Holyoke Daily Reflections Grp., Joe K., expressed his continued interest in how best to help the committee in his capacity as guest and ally from the ACCESSIBILITIES committee. We requested him to attract other deaf members to come aboard the GV/LV Committee, buy subscriptions and contribute their written and audio stories to the GV magazine/online. The Delegate suggested he continue to provide feedback on the APP.
- Mark, of Haydenville, who could not attend last month was full of pertinent questions and enthusiastic inquires about how and how often to present the GV/LV ideas at his home group. We informed him to utilize the AGENDA & the monthly minutes to deliver his report at the business meeting and make GV/LV announcements to the general body at every Sunday meetings opportunity between A31 Committee Meetings.
- Chairperson announced that the GV/LV Boards will be present at the May 1st, 2019 Women's Language of the Heart Group's 14th Anniversary in 102 Middle Street in Hadley where a deaf member from the Berkshires will be speaking and bringing other deaf sober women. CLOSED Womens' meeting.

Old Business

{ORIENTATION News from last month for new and returning GVRs:

- Last month's reminder: GVRs can take advantage of a meeting's announcement section to share their new GVR/RLV status, announce GV/LV related reminders learned on the role & from the starter kit, share news from our monthly committee meetings and have fun with the position.

Last month's announcement: GVRs need to be aware there is a Handbook and Area Chair info. packet in English and in Spanish/en Español for *La Viña* which the GSO mailed to the Chairperson.

- Last month's news: Chair brought the *A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Services*. It has a whole chapter (Chap 12) about the Grapevine and suggested GVRs (Grapevine Reps) read it for tips on how GVRs can talk to their home groups about *The Grapevine*.
 - Last month's news: GVRs help plan events. We, the GVRs, drive the committee's direction. GVRs are informers about *The Grapevine* magazine as a 12-Step recovery tool. It was started by six members in 1944. GVRs here are part of a larger group. We are GVRs in Area 31 while there are 93 areas of A.A. in North America!
 - Reminder that a home group can buy a subscription and give it away in a raffle if the group treasury can afford it. (Costs \$28.97/year in print.) Always display the copies for members to take/trade/return.
 - Last month, the Chairperson also encouraged all present to extend the invitation to serve as RLVs to Spanish speaking members of the fellowship.
 - Standing news: Inmates can receive a free 1year subscription to *The Grapevine /La Viña* by writing to the Corrections Desk at GSO with their name, address and inmate ID number to the Grapevine office in N.Y. }
-
- Create a new service position on the Committee called Berkshire Liaison in order to reach out to the Berkshires and attract GVRs/RLVs on Area 31 committee. Currently, there is no representation from that geographic. Chair explained that the service role will be similar to that of an LCM's role in districts.
 - Discussion ongoing. Deaf member, Joe K., suggested that we contact deaf member, Karran L. in the Berks, as a start to form future relations along these lines.
 - 2019 GV/LV Committee asked to think about what they would like to plan in 2019.
 - 2019 is the 75th DIAMOND anniversary of the Grapevine.
 - There is support from GSO and Area 30. Do we want to do our own in Area 31 or do we want to collaborate with A30 or the D3, Berkshires?
 - We have a \$500 budget.
-
- Next Grapevine Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 2, 2019, 730p, 474 Pleasant St., Holyoke, MA.
 - Closed the meeting with the AA "The Responsibility Pledge" and the Serenity Prayer.
 - Adjourned at 8:32 p.m.