

AREA 31 DISTRICT 2 GSR MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 14, 2021

Participants: 16

Anne M., 2nd year Co DCM

Chris K., 1st year Co DCM

GSR's and Alternates = 12: Kerri GSR, Carol GSR, Peg C GSR, Gina GSR, Diedre M GSR, Paula D GSR, Alisha B. GSR, Megan GSR, Evan C GSR, Joe I Alt GSR, Bill L Alt GSR, Debbie G Alt GSR

Visitors = 1: Paul H., Area 31 Delegate

Opening- Serenity Prayer

Secretary Report: Motion to accept secretary's report unanimous.

Concept 6 Summary Report of Concept 6 by Paula D

Volunteer to summarize Concept 7 in July, 2021 is Evan C.

Home Group Business:

Kerri announced that the Wild Cats 5-year Group Anniversary was successful. They hosted 202 people throughout the evening of celebration.

Carol announced that Daily Reflections Group has decided to stay a virtual meeting on Zoom. There is also a new in-person morning meeting in Holyoke, called South Street, that meets at the same time as Daily Reflections.

Old Business: There was a motion for this District 2 GSR Meeting to start offering a hybrid format starting with our next meeting on Monday July 12, 2021 at 7:PM. This Motion was passed unanimously.

Anyone wishing to attend in-person will meet on the first floor of the church at 474 Pleasant Street in Holyoke. As one enters the church foyer, the meeting room is to the right of the sanctuary.

Anyone wishing to attend via zoom will continue to use the current Meeting ID: 884 1126 9312 and Passcode: 1e5Dje

New Business:

A question was presented by Debbie from Daily Reflections about the AA Preamble and how groups will be informed about changing the wording. Paul had mentioned during his Delegate Report at the Round-Up that there had been a strong suggestion at the General Service Conference to change the words "men and women" to "people". Since Paul was present at this District 2 meeting, he explained that the Preamble does not have a copy right. Therefore, anyone can change it in any way they choose. For lack of a better term, in our fellowship, the AA Grapevine sort of "owns" it because the Preamble was first published in its magazine. The Grapevine has continued to print the preamble in every new edition. The conference did approve the suggested change for print in the Grapevine. Members will notice the new language published starting in the July 2021 edition. Homegroups can use to keep or change the language they use in their meeting format.

DCM Report: (from two Area Committee Meetings held since the last District Meeting – May & June) The 2021 Unity & Service Conference will be held July 9– 11, 2021 on zoom. This consists of topics and speakers addressing the Traditions and Concepts. The website address is unityandservice.org. Individuals need to pre-register on the website to attend.

GSO New York has a new General Service Manager, Bob W. Bob is an Area 31 Past Delegate, was Trustee at Large US, and is a long-time member of the Holyoke Group right here in District 2.

Bob, the Area Webmaster and Kevin, from Western Mass Intergroup have been working together to link the in-person & virtual meeting lists on both the area and intergroup websites. The Western Mass Intergroup site also offers a barcode that members may scan to create an icon on their homepage to easily access the meeting lists. Groups must submit any changes about their meetings to Western Mass Intergroup in writing, using the change form, so they can input accurate information. This is especially important for newcomers to have access to correct information in regards to where and when AA meetings are being held.

The Round Up Committee will be starting from scratch because they anticipate that the Fall 2022 Round-Up will be an in-person event. The planning committee will be meeting in person July 14th, 2021 at 474 Pleasant Street in Holyoke. Please, encourage every homegroup to send a member to serve as a representative on the planning committee.

The final report from the General Service Conference will not be available until later in the summer because GSO has implemented a new policy to wait on releasing the English version until it's been interpreted into both Spanish and French ... then, releasing all versions at the same time.

The MA State Convention is going to be a virtual event on zoom this year – on Saturday November 13 and Sunday November 14. Please, announce at meetings that the committee needs help to plan and implement the convention. Anyone interested in serving should attend the next zoom planning meeting on Tuesday July 27th.

The International Convention is going to be held in 2025 in Vancouver Canada. It's not too soon to start announcing this at homegroups and to advise any members, who may have background court issues that may cause difficulties at the border, to start the process of cleaning those up sooner rather than later so they'll be able to get into Canada.

Probably the biggest order of business at the Area Committee Meeting was the announcement that all area committees are going to start using hybrid formats in July. To accomplish this, one motion was made to allow Area 31 to purchase tech equipment needed to support the hybrid format. That motion passed unanimously. Another motion was made to allow Area 31 to enter into a 2-year contract with Comcast to put WiFi in the church at 474 Pleasant Street in Holyoke. The cost for WiFi will be \$98 per month. If the area moves somewhere else prior to the end of the 2-years there will be no penalties. If the move is to a location where Comcast provides service, then the WiFi will also move to that location. However, if the move is to a location where Comcast is not available, then the contract will end. Also, if Area 31 decides that WiFi is no longer needed before the 2-year contract ends, then the contract can be broken by paying 75% of the balance at that time.

Visitor: Paul H., Area 31 Delegate presented an update: Bob W is the new General Service Office (GSO) Manager. Many of the GSO staff have returned to work in the office in New York City.

Two notable agenda items that passed during the recent 2021 General Service Conference: A recommendation that passed for the General Service Structure to recognize on-line groups with default option. This action supersedes the past practice of listing on-line meetings as International Communications ... which had kept them from participating in the General Service Conference.

There was a 2nd motion that passed which was to form a committee to develop offerings of virtual on-line Service Structure Meetings. A big emphasis at the conference was accessibility.

Mike R. sent a message via Anne asking for GSR's to announce at their homegroups that the Intergroup Family Picnic will be held Sunday, August 22, at the Moose Club Lodge in Chicopee. The event will include everything it has in past years including live music, horseshoe contests, games and prizes for all children, a raffle, and food for a nominal cost. Lots of fun & fellowship. Please, spread the word!

Also, after the Western Mass Intergroup move, their hours will be as follows: Monday-Friday 9AM-1PM. (no more weekend office hours)

Closing "I Am Responsible"

Respectfully submitted: Paula D., Secretary for The General Service Meeting