

District # 3 Meeting Minutes of August 16, 2013:

The meeting met as usual in the Lee, MA Court House

There were 5 GSR's in attendance along with Mark (Area Chair) and Tony T. (Intergroup Chair) and Ann (Alt Area Delegate).

In the absence of DCM-Joan & Co-DCM, Dennis, --Ann the Area 31 Alt. Delegate chaired the District meeting by opening it with a Moment of Silence, followed by the Serenity Prayer.

Ann then read the statement on GSR from page S26 of the AA Service Manual as follows:

The General Service Representative (GSR) has the job of linking his or her group with AA as a whole. The GSR represents the voice of the group conscience reporting the Group's thoughts to the district committee member (DCM) and the delegate who passes them on to the Conference. This communication is a two-way street, making the GSR responsible for bringing back to the Group-Conference Actions that affect A.A. unity, health, and growth, Only when a G.S.R. keeps the group informed, and communicates the group conscience , can the Conference truly act for A.A. as a whole.

Secretary's Report: was read by Ruth D.

Tradition 8 was read by Tony T.

Concept 8 was read by Ruth D.

Ann said Issue # 1 taken up by the Area Committee as follows: /third Legacy Voting will be enacted at the Fall Assembly and the Question was --Should voting be held on Saturday which is the longer day of the Assembly or Sunday which is the shorter day. And it was decided by the Area 31 Committee to have the voting on Sunday and have a longer day if needed.

Issue # 2 --Should the position of the treasurer(not the individual) be Bonded? Are there any viable options to Bonding? Was not taken up by the Area 31 Committee at this time.

Group Reports as follows:

- 🕒 Karen D. (representing Tues. Women's Step Group) which meets @ 7 p.m. @ St. Mark's Rectory, Pittsfield, MA, said there are two new people that joined her group and there were 9 people in attendance @ her Business Meeting. Ongoing problem with person distracting group by Costumes * & Speaking up at meetings without identifying self as a member of AA or looking to join AA.
- 🕒 Karen also said: that the Next Business will be open to all who wis to attend, not only Group Members but also people who attend their meetings. So that they could read the Concepts . Ann asked " For verification why did your group decide to open your Business meeting to all who attend the meeting?" Karen said: Because the ones that are doing all the complaining about other personalities being disruptive are people who do not attend our regular business meeting. so we wanted to give them a chance to bring complaints up. And Lauren (GSR)said they were going to table their Group Inventory at this time.
- 🕒 Bruce P.;(GSR) of I don't have a Clue Group that meets in Lee @ 6:45 a.m. bout 35 people attending meeting , one person is quite disruptive & would like input from other GSR's about

how to handle such a person, this individual makes coffee on Sunday morning and Bruce would like to see him continue that, but this person is very volatile in that no one (including himself) knows when he will take off on a tangent & being disruptive and Bruce has taken a rather lasai-faire attitude toward him, but Bruce doesn't want to lose this person who has been in & out for the last 10 years.

- ⌚ Also this group has about \$900 in the bank & Bruce told Tony (Intergroup Chair) that this group will be making a substantial donation to Intergroup soon.
- ⌚ Their group continues with their jail commitment & McGee Commitment , & is otherwise o.k.
- ⌚ Dan (GSR) Keep It Simple Group...Great Barrington, MA.= Good attendance of 10-30 people business meeting 6 days ago...\$1700 in Bank and during the next week will be making a donation to Intergroup as well.
- ⌚ About the issue with the Chair Persons as reported last District Meeting, this group made announcement to others at their meeting & invited others to go to their business meeting to

Pick a chairperson, Problem solved hopefully.

- ⌚ Michael(GSR Northern Berkshire Group said his group will have a picnic @ Windsor Lake on Sept. 28, 2013 which will include 3 speakers, one from Southern Berkshire meetings, one from Central Berkshire meetings, & one from Northern Berkshire meetings Items needed to donate are flatware/plates/cups, etc. picnic items..Flyers will be printed & sent around to all meetings soon.This group may celebrate their group Anniversary here.It is still a work in progress.
- ⌚ *Upcoming Dates:*
- ⌚ Mark (Area 31 Chair) said 50th State Convention going smoothly. Brought Registration forms to be distributed to all meetings.
- ⌚ Fall Assembly will be Oct.12-13, 2013...Saturday 10-4..will pass the basket...go to area Website for more details...www.area31.org
- ⌚ Area committee most recently spoke in Dalton and are available to speak at any group in this area. Just ask/invite us.
- ⌚ Concept meetings @ 474 Pleasant St. starts @ 7 p.m. first Thursday- Every Month- 474 Pleasant St. Holyoke, MA.
- ⌚ The
- ⌚ Tony T. (Berkshire Intergroup Chair). Provided Berkshire Intergroup Highlights from August 12,2013 committee meeting:

Thanks to the area and district for attending our committee meeting and helping to keep us informed and providing some guidance.

Date, Time and Attendance:

- ⌚ Meet second Monday of each month @ 7 p.m. @ 152 North St. , Pittsfield , MA
- ⌚ 12 people in attendance, 11 voting with 7 groups represented.
- ⌚ **General:**
- ⌚ Group Contributions were up for the month of July and looking good for August.
- ⌚ Still looking for office volunteers for Monday thru Friday 1:30P.M. to 5 P.M. Volunteers to have six months of sobriety.
- ⌚ Volunteer needed to chair the Alkathon committee.

Ad Hoc Committees and/or open action items:

- ⌚ Joint Committee (District # 3 and BIG) met on 8/12/13 to review groups that have no contact information. Info Sheets give to Mark and Eric/Larry to contact identified groups. Also discussed was using the Northern Berkshire Group picnic, which will be held on 9/28/13, as an opportunity to discuss service and encourage participation in the district and Berkshire Intergroup. Groups need/ and are getting info about Intergroup, volunteering, P.I.E. charts and Tony said recently he had a member who was the treasurer of a group who told Tony, "Gee, our group gets a lot of money & sends it off to General Service Office, but now will be able to contribute according to the P.I.E . chart, and thanked Tony for sharing his info with him.
- ⌚ Alkathon has been going on for so long & there is all the Info one needs to run an Alkathon: such as all contacts needed to run this Alkathon, Church contacts. Police Contacts Group Contacts, etc. are all in a folder waiting for someone to step up & take it over.

DCM Report: Ann

- 1) On Sept. 7, 2013 1-4 p.m. @ 474 Pleasant St. Holyoke, MA. District # 6 is hosting a workshop on Home Group with 3 speakers.
- 2) On Sept. 21st, District 4 is hosting a workshop on sponsorship from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. in Greenfield @ The Grapevine Building , Chapman St., Greenfield, MA
- 3) Your group may/may not have Public Info Committee. They are doing their own on Sunday , Sept. 22, 2013, from 12 a.m. to 12 p.m. @ 474 Pleasant St., mostly for schools, public info, etc.

Subject to be discussed at this meeting:

Ann brought up : Challenges with disruptive people at meetings

Michael: Meetings need a lot of input about this problem. Among other things-Higher Power in Group Conscience.

Tony: Agrees

Bruce: Great Barrington: Spend time with these disruptive people...1:1 attention..Bruce had a person who said rather than go to Jones II, he would hang himself, Newcomers are scaring him..Hands off?

Ann:said she had a Home Group of her own and she said they loved her back to health. This woman was asked to leave other meetings around,,

The meeting was closed: With the "I am Responsible Pledge".

Respectfully submitted:

Ruth Doherty, District # 3 Secretary