

District # 3 Meeting Minutes of Sept. 20, 2013

The meeting met as usual in the Lee, MA Court House at 7 pm.

Present were Joan P. (DCM), Dennis B. (Co-DCM), Brian M. (Area 31 Delegate) & Tony T. (Intergroup Chair) as well as 5 GSR's & 2 Visitors.

Joan then opened the meeting with a *Moment of Silence* followed by *The Serenity Prayer*.

Joan then read the statement on GSR from page S26 of the A.A. 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 GSR, keeps the group informed and communicate the group conscience, can the Conference truly act for A. A. as a whole.

Secretary 's Report was read by Ruthie D. (District # 3 Sec.)

Tradition 9 and Concept 9 were read by Dennis B.

Group Reports as Follows:

- ⌚ Lauren A. GSR of **Tues. Eve. Women's Group** that meets @ St. Mark's Rectory in Pittsfield, MA. There are usually 20 people in attendance each week.
- ⌚ Lauren reported her group recently had a Business meeting and encouraged all people who attend that meeting, not just the Group Members, to attend and vote on the subject of Disrupting people that attend that meeting, They made a motion to make a sign that will be used by the Chair person if someone tries to disrupt the meeting, in loving way of course.
- ⌚ Bobbi P. (Area 31 Archivist) and past delegate will do a group inventory with the members at a different time and ? Place
- ⌚ Also Liz L. will celebrate her first year # 1 the last Tues of the month which will be open to all so that family & friends can also attend the anniversary.
- ⌚ Michael questioned whether anybody in a meeting can vote? or is it just reserved for group members? Brian (Delegate) responded w Concept # 4 says anyone can vote.
- ⌚ **WMYPA (Standing Committee)** Second annual Bon Fire will take place on Oct. 12th after Fall Assembly @ 4:30 @ 65 East St. in East Hampton as it did last year. It will be a Pot Luck, 2 Live Bands. Last year a good time was had by all.
- ⌚ Putting on a Big Book workshop @ 65 East St. also in November, more info will be

forthcoming.

- ⌚ Michael (GSR) **North Adams Sunday & Tuesday Nights**...Attendance healthy. Active Group of drunks wanting to stay sober, showing up. There will be a Picnic Hosted by the Northern Berkshire Group, celebrating their 58th Group Anniversary...1-5 p.m. Speaker Meeting @ 3 p.m. Pot Luck ...Michael said he feels there is a Guiding force helping this activity along, they are they are doing the best they can with what they've got and it seems to be working out just fine.
- ⌚ Irene (visitor) asked Michael "Do you need donations?" Michael said, " any donations of cash would be acceptable right now because someone is getting paper goods & other things, and to bring things from point A to point B would be difficult at this time." Directions to the Picnic will be made available soon. It's confusing as to how exactly to get there. There will be Sign Posted at Strategic Places in order to find Fish Pond -Windsor Lake in North Adams.
- ⌚ Joan P. said "In the beginning, we don't know what to expect, but when the Sheffield Group started their Spaghetti Suppers years ago, and it is well attended every year and is very successful. It will not be on the Western Mass Group Website seeing that it is a Group Anniversary , Joan wanted to put it on the Area 31 Website...Speakers from Central Berkshire & Southern Berkshire will be speaking as well . Area Zip Code for No. Adams is 01247.
- ⌚ Robyn.(GSR) Berkshire Big Book meeting well attended. Next Month will do a PIE. Chart distribution with the group's Treasury. Rick R. is Alt. GSR and they are seeing new faces at this meeting. They have no commitment for Sept. as far as out-going Speakers go but they are Outgoing for Oct.
- * Brian (GSR) Lenox Thursday Big Book Step Meeting, that meets at Trinity Church on Walker St. In Lenox @ 7 p.m. Attendance is u sua30-40 people. and the Group members are 10-12 strong. Recently they had a couple of new members. Activity---Brian gae up Group Chair & GSR gave up Chair .Ned is now Group Chair & Dennis F. will be celebrating 32 years of continuous sobriety on the last Thursday in Sept. ...Brian's Goal is to make more announcements @ meetings, not only his group, but any group that he attends as far as announcements of District/Area Activities goes.
- * Dalton Young @ Heart Group Ruthie D .(GSR) who is rotating out next month's elections .We have a few more people rotating out: Jen, as Group Chair, Dennis, as Treasurer, as well as Ruthie, GSR. We are celebrating our 43rd Group Anniversary (Flyers will be distributed) on Oct. 21, 2013. Bobbi P. Area 31 Archivist will be Guest Speaker, and we will have Archive Boards as well as Grapevine Boards brought to Dalton at that time. It will be a Pot luck meal provided at 6:30-8 p.m. Then the Meeting will begin til 9 p.m.

- * Brian said Sept/21st from 1:30 -4:00 p.m@ 93 Chapman St. Greenfield There will be a Sponsorship meeting. All are welcome...Also the very next day, on Sept. 22nd there will be a P. I. Information committee meeting @ 474 Pleasant St. Holyoke.
- * 24th Planning for State Convention...Over 50 % rooms are reserved at Discount rates
- * November 24th, Archives will be open @ 474 Pleasant St. Holyoke, MA from 11 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- * November 20th, Wed., is the 1st planning committee meeting for NERASSA 2016. Going over Guidelines. Brian said" Conference Committee Chair is looking for Themes & ideas , Concepts- for the 65th Conference 2014 .Have to be in by Dec; 15,2013...
- * Area Open for Service Committee Area Chair Contact Mark N.
- * Concept Meeting 1st Thursday/Month meeting.
- * Final Conference book that is being distributed is Highly Confidential...Be careful where it is left; treat it as Confidential Information.
- * Last planning committee for State Convention is coming up soon Date? Brian talked about carpooling at Exit # 6 on the Mass Pike to travel down.
- * **Tony T.(Berkshire Intergroup Chair) Highlights as Follows:**
- * **BIG always wants to thank the area and district for attending out committee meetings and helping to keep us informed and providing some guidance.**
- * *Date, Time, and Attendance:*
- * Meet Second Monday of each month at 7 p.m.@ 152 North St. Pittsfield, MA
- * 18 people in attendance, 9 voting with 7 groups represented.
- * **General:**
- * **Due to the Treasurer resigning, there was no Treasurers report for August.. See the Blow explanation and actions taken by BIG Officers;**
- * **Elections for a new Co-Chair & Secretary will be in November**
- * **Starting 10/5/13, the BIG office will open on Saturdays from 11:30 to 2 P.M.**
- * **Ad Hoc Committee and/or open action items as follows:**
- * **Joint Committee (District # and BIG) continues to visit groups that have no contact information . Info Sheets given to Joan, Mark, and Larry to bring to identified groups**

- * **Northern Berkshire Group will have a picnic to celebrate their 58th Anniversary on /28/13 at Fish Pond-Windsor Lake (Flyers have been distributed and are attached w the minutes from our meeting)**
- * **Alkathon committee had been started. Committee meeting dates and flyer to be determined**
- * Actions taken by the BIG Officers on 9/16/13:
- * **The officers of BIG have appointed Lori T., on an interim basis to perform an audit and to align reporting to coincide with a cash basis accounting method-income & expenses reported & deposited or paid in the month they occurred. This will be for a period of time sufficient enough for her to get the financial system running properly and to write a procedure that will be used by the next elected Treasurer. The Office Manager (Larry B) will write the check and make bank deposits and the Chair/Co-Chair (Tony/Mark) will present the monthly report to the BIG committee.**
- * **Respectfully submitted, Tony T.**

DCM Report for Sept 20th, 2013 District # 3 meeting was INFO from AREA 31 SEPT 11TH MEETING:

* **ACCESSIBILITIES:**

- * Application to the Commonwealth for funding for ASL Interpreters at the MA State Convention was approved for \$ 4000.00]
- * Committee needs volunteers from the Berkshires to transport people with disabilities to meeting locations.

* **INSTITUTIONS:**

- * Bridging the Gap (BTG) received 10 calls- ages ranging from 31 to 58
- * BTG now has hand out cards that have been printed and given to Institution reps/
- * These cards are given to alcoholics who are being released soon and then they are given to their counselors who send them to the office to make the appropriate connections.

* **WMYPAA**

- * **Next event will be a bonfire held on Sat. Oct. 12th after the Fal Mini Conference.** There will be 3 live bands and a 2 speaker meeting. Donations will be accepted at the event so that it can be self-supporting.

* **DELEGATE**

- * There is a procedure to submit suggestions to the General Service Conference, Themes & Presentations, If interested, let me know (I have a copy of the form)
We have the final 2013 General Service Conference report...Please remember that this is

CONFIDENTIAL!

AREA CHAIR shared that:

- * Past Delegates Tanya E will facilitate our Area Inventory at our Fall Assembly
- * There will be no Oct. Area 31 meeting due to the Fall Assembly
- * November's meeting will be devoted to our 2014 budget
- * **NEW BUSINESS**
- * Our Area delegate Brian made a motion that we **sponsor the hospitality room at the NERASSA 2016** and that the projected expenditure will be approx. \$4500.00 The motion was made to put a line item of \$1500 each year over the next 3 years so that we can allot for it. Motion was passed unanimously.
- * Respectfully submitted, Joan P.
- * Berkshire Intergroup needs Group Reports. Brian--Lenox-- told his group to increase their contributions % use of what they had...Michael--Northern Berkshire Group, wants to know what would be a reasonable expectation of group/meeting.
- * Dennis B.(Co-DCM) **NOTES FOR ROUND-UP**
- * --Secured Hotel LaCita for Springfield before the Area meeting, but there's no Area meeting in Oct.. Dennis B. is the PROGRAM CHAIR FOR THE ROUND-UP
- * **NEW BUSINESS**
- * Joan P. is rotating out in Dec. so she would like us to Nominate in October so that in November, we should be able to vote
- * Dennis B. read the position of Co-DCM and LCM page 2 & 27 of the handbook.
- * DCM & LCM
- * Page 33 of the A. A. Service Manual (yellow soft cover cpy)
- * Irene made a motion to close the meeting and it was seconded by Ruthie D.
- * **Respectfully submitted, Ruthie D.**