

District 3 Meeting Minutes January 17, 2014

The meeting came to order w the serenity prayer. In attendance were Tony T (DCM), Joan P (sitting in as secretary), Mark N (Alt Delegate), Mark (BIG Chair) and 5 GSRs.

Reminder that all meeting minutes are located on our website at area31aa.org.

Tony explained to those present that he has stepped up as DCM as Dennis B, our current DCM had to step down from the position due to a personal conflict. Tony asked the group if anyone was willing to step us as secretary (as Ruth D has rolled on) and no one has stepped up for that position. One of our GSRs asked for information about the positions. No one was able to stand at this time for the positions.

Joan P read from our Area 31 service manual what the requirements are for these positions. Tony asked that everyone go back to their groups and make announcements asking for someone to step up to these service positions. Michael L (GSR) mentioned that there may be someone from his group willing to be secretary.

GROUP UPDATES VIA GSR'S

- 1) Barbara –Berk Big Book meeting – no new news to report
- 2) Michael – No Berk Group –
 - ⌚ Reported that the glitch with having people attend to stepping up as chair of the meeting seems to have improved since the calendar suggestion has been implemented.
- 3) Jessica- Women's 12 Step –
 - ⌚ 25-35 women in attendance
 - ⌚ 9 different service positions filled
 - ⌚ Institutions commitment is being met
- 4) Irene- Dalton Young at Heart Group
 - ⌚ 30-40 in attendance (more for anniversaries)
 - ⌚ All group members involved in service
 - ⌚ Business meetings are well attended
 - ⌚ Jones commitment is being met
- 5) Marianne- Southern Berk Group-
 - ⌚ Last business meeting there were 22 members present (very active group)

- ⌚ Continuing working on our inventory points-this meeting we focused on how we are carrying the message to the newcomer.
- ⌚ Decided that we will rotate the greeters at the door
- ⌚ Asking Asst coffeemaker to step up as greeter.
- ⌚ 50-60 present at meetings
- ⌚ Speaker meeting w incoming group speaking the first Fri of the month
- ⌚ 2 mos ago we revised our pie chart donations to donate more to Berk Intergroup than Western MA Intergroup

Mark (Alt Delegate)

- ⌚ Their role is to bring to the District meeting what it happening at the Area level and GSO.
- ⌚ Come to hear what can the area do to improve carrying to message to Alcoholics.
- ⌚ When he hears us talk about how hard it is to have more people involved in service; he is reminded that back in the 60's there were maybe 5 groups from Greenfield to Holyoke?
- ⌚ We as members of AA need to think-how will AA run in the future...as we continue to carry information from GSO down through the chain to the GSR who speaks for his/her homegroup.
- ⌚ In talking about Spring and Fall assemblies, Mark reminded us that the GSR is the most vital part of the assembly. We know that sometimes bringing all that info (from Assemblies) back to our groups can sometimes be delivered to deaf ears; but we keep delivering the message.
- ⌚ Even though being present at these assemblies may be confusing at times, keep showing up because it becomes clearer w time.

UPCOMING DATES:

- 1) Jan 28th is the next MA State Conventtion Planning meeting in Framingham at
- 2) Spring Assembly will be April 12th (Mini Conference-workshops) and April 13th Business meeting at 395 High St in Holyoke. Agenda topics will be coming so that we can discuss them w our home groups.
- 3) Round Up will be held at the La Quinta in Springfield on June 7-8th. We will be having a banquet, dance, countdown, meetings and workshops. Come for great fellowship.
- 4) First Thu is the Concept meeting at 474 Pleasant St, Holyoke, MA at 7 pm

Mark- BIG Chair

- 🕒 5th Annual Christmas/New Year Alkathon was a great success. Thank you to the Committee for a good job done.
- 🕒 The BIG meeting on Mon Jan 13th had 15 in attendance with 9 groups represented.
- 🕒 Thanks to the announcements at meetings, BIG is sustaining itself. Please keep announcing that your support is needed.
- 🕒 Lori T is the new Treasurer and is working with the office volunteers to get the inventory precise.
- 🕒 Thank you to Tony for his service as the past BIG chair (he did a great job).
- 🕒 Mark is hoping that BIG can get more groups to send BIG reps.
- 🕒 Mark talked about his group and that there are very few members and there is not a great serviced structure but he still stepped up as BIG co-chair because he has been taught that we all need to do service work.

Michael- N Adams group

- 🕒 For groups to be healthy there are things we need to remember.
- 🕒 We need to each have a home group.
- 🕒 Question on reimbursements for gas money to get to events such as assemblies, etc.

Joan P commented that her group does help to provide financial support for our GSR to get to certain service commitments such at Ma State Convention, etc.

Mark N Commented that groups need to be sure that all who donate at meetings are aware that the group may provide financial help for such things. We need to make sure that we are taking care of our 7th tradition responsibilities before we contemplate reimbursements for group's GSRs.

Tony T – DCM

The following is info from the Area 31 meeting which was held on Jan 15th in Holyoke.

- 🕒 Betty from the round-up committee has given the theme for the meetings that will be held. It is "The Way Out-The Promises of Each Step"

⌚ Each District will have time slots that we will be responsible for.

Mark N reminded everyone that if they are having any issues within the group and wish to do a Group Inventory that they need to contact Paul at (###) ###.####. (email: area_chair@area31aa.org)

Tony said that he hopes that we can get someone to step up as Secretary. In the interim, he stated that Ruthie passed along the digital recorder which he will be using. He hopes to get out to groups that do not have a GSR present to encourage their service.

Motion to adjourn

Meeting minutes submitted by Joan P.