

District 3 Meeting Minutes of October 17, 2014

The meeting was held at 7PM in the Lee, MA Court House. There were 15 attendees, 11 Groups with 8 GSR's, 2 Alternate GSR's, 1 Stand-in, 1 Visitor, Mark N. Alt. Delegate, Tony T. DCM, Connell M. CoDCM and Jessica D. Secretary.

Meeting started @ 7:00 PM. Tony opened with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer and read the statement on the GSR from page S26 of the Service Manual.

Irene R. read Tradition of the month and checklist. Robin D. read Concept of the month and checklist. Jessica D. reviewed District 3 meeting highlights from last month's secretary's report.

GSR's in Attendance:

Jessica D. G.S.R. Women's 12&12 Group
Ed M. G.S.R Friday Night Beginners Meeting
Ann F. G.S.R Mother Town Group
Robin D. G.S.R Northern Berkshire Group
Kate L. G.S.R Sober at Sunrise Group
Irene R.G.S.R Dalton Young at Heart Group
K. A. Alt G.S.R New way of Life Group
Tom Y. Stand-in G.S.R Southern Berkshire Group
Tracy C. G.S.R Lenox Thursday Night Group
Nick visitor Central Berkshire Group
Michal S. G.S.R Stockbridge Tower Group

GSR group reports:

Each GSR gave a basic group update, attendance, commitments, anniversaries, donations, etc. The Sheffield 12&12 will be sponsoring a New Year's Eve Alkathon. No major issues or concerns were reported.

Area 31 Committee report:

Mark N. Alt- Delegate reported and shared on the following:

- Fall Assembly, NERAASA and Mass State Convention. The Mass State Convention need Alkathon speakers. If interested contact Nate at ###.###.####. For additional information go to www.area31aa.org.
- New or revised pamphlets - Many Paths to Spirituality and Circle of Love and Service.
- Concept 12 Warranty 2 as it related to charity and giving away books. This subject turned into a lively discussion, which ended with the group making the final decision regarding giving away books.

Berkshire Intergroup not present.

Tony reported that BIG has a new computer, looking for a new copier and will again sponsor a Xmas and New Year's Alkathon. For additional information call BIG at 413 448-2382

Tony, DCM Report:

- Elections for new service positions at the district will be held in November's district meeting. They will include Co-DCM, LCM and Secretary. Please encourage past GSR's to attend the November meeting and stand for these positions.

Tony, DCM Report Continued:

- LCM position explained. Stands for Local Committee Member. Their primary responsibility is to visit groups to encourage participation in the district.
- Discussed the challenge of keeping group information (in particular location and time of meeting) current for the FNV database managed at the General Service Office. Typically, groups remember to have this information updated at the Intergroup, but forget to update it with the district as well. We want to increase awareness so that any changes in location, time or type of meeting are given to us by the group's GSR.

Connell, CoDCM Report:

Connell gave an orientation of the report for the 2014 General Service Conference. Suggested we start to read the most important parts together at district meetings. Reminded all that the Report is confidential – it includes full names of participants.

Safety in AA discussion:

Tony discussed the service piece that he found called the 62th General Service Workshop – Safety in AA -Our Common Welfare. He emailed this service piece to all GSR's in his mailing list prior to the meeting.

As he discussed this issue with people in the rooms, he found that some people frequently don't feel safe at meetings and others always feel safe. The 62th general service workshop piece recommends increasing awareness of safety issues at the group level and sponsorship level by discussing it at business meetings and sponsorship workshops. In particular, groups can add language to their format to encourage safety and to remind members of the value of doing their 12-step work "men-with-the-men, women-with-the-women".

Discussion from members present:

- An example of a North Adams meeting where a person threatened violence to the meeting.
- A male member described the experience of being present when a man seemed to be flirting with a newcomer woman, and not being sure how to stop it.
- Another member described how at their home group the women in the group would "swarm" any newcomer women present. This way, men who may want to talk to the newcomer don't have an opportunity. This practice offers support and protection to women new to the program.

No Old or New business.

The meeting ended at 8:40 PM with I Am Responsible.

Meeting minutes submitted by Jessica, Connell and Tony.