

MINUTES DISTRICT 3 GSR MONTHLY MEETING

February 15, 2019, Lee, Ma, 7:00pm

The meeting was opened and chaired by the DCM, Tim M. After a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer, he introduced himself, Co-DCM Joan P., and secretary Pete C.

There followed the statement of GSR duties and responsibilities from page S26 of the AA Service Manual The January secretaries minutes sent to everyone by email was accepted.

The tradition and concept for the month of February was read by Joan P. Co-DCM.

There were no new GSR to introduce themselves.

Current GSR Reports

John M., Sheffield 12&12, Sheffield; Luckily staying above water, have GSR & Treasurer, group has dwindled but has a good attendance of a few committed people, hard though to get people committed and motivated. Had to give up institution commitment. Worried about upcoming dinner. Would welcome suggestions on this problem.

Bob P., I Don't Have a Clue, Lee; 645-745am Every day, meeting has been around some +/- 40 years with some original members still there. Have around 15 basic hard-core members everyday then some others. There is anywhere from 24 hours to +30 years in attendance. Several people have had anniversaries lately. Donations have been good, donating to pie chart and have made a contribution to my attendance at NERASSA. The group is on a strong path at moment but has seen its ups and downs.

Jen M., Dalton Young at Heart; As from last month's report attendance still down along with difficulty of service positions, still no coffee maker but people are stepping up.

Ruthie D., Berkshire Big Book, Cheshire; Doing well after the move from Lanesborough to Cheshire, around +25 every week, donations ok and donate to pie chart. Talked about the problem with the Dalton YaH meeting as mentioned above. Have been a member for several years and attendance is down to around ¾ what it used to be. Group participation just doesn't seem to be there. Still donate to pie chart and give a donation to help the church. Discussed changing meeting times. Looking for solutions.

There followed a brief discussion without anything being settled other than talking about it helps to raise awareness which may help, and possible group inventory.

Chuck C., Northern Berkshire Group, Williamstown; Meet at St. John's on Park Street, Steady attendance which ranges between 15 to 20 people. Doing good with donations, contribute to pie chart, and pay rent four months in advance and have a prudent reserve. Trying to do a group exchange every month where a small group will visit an away group and they return the favor. Last Monday went to Dalton YaH. It helps stir the pot so to speak and has been good. It is sad to say but there are so many meetings that often we compete with each other. Years ago, had to reschedule their meeting time because of "competition".

Jim T., Southern Berkshire, Great Barrington; Friday at senior center, business meeting last week was well attended. Have an institution coordinator, literature coordinator, and treasurer. Meeting well attended around 60 people. It's an open speaker meeting. A good solid group with plenty of coffee makers.

Jane S., Sober on Saturday, Lee; Doing well at least 20 people (plus) on Saturday morning. Number up in summer with visitors. There is an increase of participation with new commers. Two years ago, was concerned with participation problems and brought in someone from another group to consult which helped. Sometimes it's tough to look at yourself. The group is financially sound, all positions filled. There was a question at Jones, how to handle situations that can arise. It's important for at least 2 people to be present in case a staff member has to go out. Seeking opinions.

Glenn B., Lennox Big Book; Things going well. There is a sober house which adds to the meetings. Positions filed, Joanie C. is new Alt GSR. Contribute to pie chart and have a McGee commitment once a month.

Hedley S., Watch your step, Sunday Housatonic; The group took a hiatus from the group inventory over the winter. The last business meeting questions of accessibility for disabled, English as a 2nd language, and welcoming the newcomer were discussed. It is painful to look at our shortcomings especially when people are passionate. The space is small and hard to hear so there is an emphasis on speakers to be vigilant to speak up. Approaching members with English as their second language to see if interpreters are needed. Attendance varies depending on weather. New members taking on commitments, have an alt GSR, contributions good. There is a new lock on the bathroom which was actually a big deal. Things going good.

Area Delegate

Mike S., Area Chair; It is my personal opinion that sometime there are just too many meetings in a small area. The spring area assembly will be held in district 3 this year at BCC on April 27/28. The meeting Saturday from 10am – 4pm will be to discuss agenda. The area business meeting will be held Sunday 10am – 3pm. This is the time to voice your group's opinion regarding possible agenda items, and to have your vote counted on Sunday at the business meeting. It will be held on the BCC campus, building A in the cafeteria. There is parking in lot C, central parking. The assembly is earlier this year because of a conflict with the area round up which is being held on June 14th to 16th in West Springfield at the Clarion Hotel, Riverside St., West Springfield. Further information is on the website www.area31aa.org There is discussion to opening the monthly concept meeting to smart phones, and tablets. This meeting is held monthly the first Thursday of every month.

NERAASA is week after next and there are two places available in the vans that are going down. They will be departing early Friday morning February 22. If you or anyone you know wants to take a final place contact Mike S. Area chair.

The area service committee is available and very willing to visit any group and discuss the benefits of service work to your group.

A group inventory is excellent to help groups that are struggling. Just like a personal inventory it doesn't just focus on debts, but on the positive things group do that is good. Email areachair@area31aa.org if you would like to arrange one.

DCM Report

Tim M.; Attended area meeting. Many of the items have been discussed already such as NERAASA, the Spring Assembly, and the Area Round up. It has been mentioned that it is an opportunity to try and fix your group if it is struggling. Take the suggestions and use the resources available.

Co-DCM

Joan P.; volunteered to chair an ad hoc committee with Ruthie D., Hedley S., Bob P., and Jim T. to arrange the hospitality for the Spring Assembly.

There being no other business there was a motion to close and the meeting adjourned with the Responsibility pledge at approximately 810pm.

Respectfully submitted

Pete C.