

MINUTES DISTRICT 3 GSR MONTHLY MEETING

June 21, 2019, Lee, Ma, 7:00pm

The meeting was opened and chaired by the DCM, Tim M. After introducing himself there was a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer, he read the statement of GSR duties and responsibilities from page S26 of the AA Service Manual. He then introduced Joan P. Co-DCM, secretary Pete C., and welcomed everyone.

The May secretaries' minutes sent to everyone by email was accepted.

Julia B. the new GSR for Keep it Simple welcomed introduced herself and was made welcome.

GSR Introductions and Reports

David T., Ray of Hope, Lee – Tuesday Big Book here in Lee at 5:30; Doing well, attendance 20-25 people. all service positions filled. Monthly CSS commitment at the first of the month. Normally closed but last Tues of the month is open for anniversaries. This past month had three people with one, twelve and thirteen years. Went to the round up heard delegates report which was very detailed. Plugging along, have a new member.

Kale B., Thursday's Men's Group, Gt. Barrington – Elected another Chairperson, have a very active core. On anniversary night suggesting people donate \$1 for every year of sobriety. Will be sending more donations to institutions as there is a little more. Trying to do group inventory. Was a bit disappointed at the lack of Doctors at the community outreach meeting at the round up. The doctors just don't seem to understand addiction.

John M., Sheffield 12 & 12 – Our Lady of the Valley Wednesday. Attendance down, problem with coffee maker, but it does manage to get done. New Secretary and treasurer. Had the picnic which was ok. Forty-two people, had hoped for more but that was ok. Had made a suggestion to cut down speaker from forty-five minutes to thirty. Would like to have an NA speaker, have AA NA would be good.

Julia B., Keep It Simple, Great Barrington – Holding elections July 19, (Tres, Sec, Intergroup rep) have a good reserve and will be donating \$2300 more. Attendance is good and all is well.

Dan D., Northern Berkshire, Williamstown – Meet Sunday and Tuesday and both are open speaker meetings. Attendance good and contribute as per pie chart. It was pointed out that in the Area when and where the Sunday meeting was listed incorrectly as closed when in fact it is open. Understand they only print a few times a year and takes time for corrections. It has been brought up by a few members that they don't like chanting (individuals repeating or finishing lines in the readings), and wondered if it could be a topic to discuss at next month's meeting. Apart from that everything is rosy.

Rick R., Berkshire Big Book, Cheshire – Meets Wednesday, attendance growing, almost ran out of chairs. There are a couple of offices to be filled. People will say yes, then don't show up. Have had some long-term anniversaries lately 20, 28, and 8 years. Consistent good group. We go through the big book cover to cover, then start over. Have tried to stop chanting but doesn't seem to help.

Steve H. Thursday Park Place, Lee. – Group struggling financially which is a problem. Don't have Big Books. There is a core group of 5/6 people who know each other well and are committed. Sometime there is 10/15 and try to let them know struggling financially.

Bob P., I don't have a Clue, Lee – 6:45 am, one-hour meeting. Doing well. Around ten core members, and get a lot of people investigating AA along with some mid-term people with 5 to 10 years. No pie chart for a while as don't have the finances. Do the BB, 12 & 12, and Living Sober. Certain people take offense with language in the stories, they feel left out. A great group and sometimes get people from Kirpalu center. The rent is high and make a lot of coffee.

Jim T. Southern Berkshire, Great Barrington - Meets Friday 8:00 at the Senior Center, Great Barrington. Two positions open chair for business meeting and secretary. Hopefully someone will step up. Finances good, speaker meeting and getting people from the tri-state area. Good group.

Jane S., Sober on Saturday, Lee – doing well, attendance good around 25 to 40 people. A few new members coming in which is good. Financially doing well, donating as per pie chart. Last meeting changed the procedure for a temp sponsor talk. Only one member will approach a new comer to help find a test sponsor to avoid everyone overwhelming a new comer. Have had share of micro managed meetings (too restrictive or unrestrictive) however not a big issue though. In business meeting try to hash it out with constant tweaking which helps.

Hedley S., Watch your step, Sunday Housatonic – Good group, attendance steady. Still plugging along with the group inventory. Contribute as per pie chart, financially solvent with prudent reserve. Have a McGee once a month which is always fulfilling.

Martha B., Thursday Women's Group, Great Barrington – Steady core, recently did a group inventory. Will discuss at the next business meeting and decide then where do we proceed. Donate as per pie chart, and most positions filled.

DCM Tim M. thanked everyone for their input and made the comment that it was great to have 12 GSR/Alternates attend and showing an active interest. He stressed the importance of having an alternate or someone to fill in if anyone was unable to attend. This shows we are doing what we are supposed to do and that is passing the message.

REPORTS

Mike M., Chair Berkshire Intergroup – Intergroup meets 2nd Monday, 152 North Street, Suite 30C, Pittsfield. If groups don't have an Intergroup Rep it is suggested they get one. Trying to revive the Berkshire Speaker Exchange. There will be a meeting for interested groups at 6pm on the 2nd Monday of the month just before the Intergroup meeting. This will be an excellent to share information and organize speakers for both incoming and outgoing speakers. Western Mass Intergroup does this and sometimes books well in advance of a year. This is a good chance to get people circulating even if your group format isn't a speaker meeting. Talk it up at your group.

Paul H., Area 31 Alt-Delegate – Our delegate attended the week long business meeting in NYC. He gave a summary at the Springfield roundup, and there is a quick reference handout on the front table for anyone wishing to have one to take back to your group. The treasures' report had a shortfall of \$3 million however literature had a profit of \$3.4 million so they were able to make up the difference. If we are self-supporting than can sell books for less. There is a \$15.9 million reserve which the professionals say is good. District 6 is holding a workshop "demystifying group inventory" on Saturday June 29th. With regard to the Mass state Convention (11/8/19 – 11/10/19) there were some comments from last year that many people reading their topics and not talking more from the heart and including their own experiences. The program and entertainment committee are working towards including things like "Fun, Fellowship, and Recovery".

At NERF it was great to see the dedication and commitment of the class A (non-alcoholic) trustees have for AA. They do an excellent job.

People are always welcome to attend the planning meeting for the next Mass State Convention. The meeting repeats every other month on the last Tuesday in Framingham.

In addition to the Convention meetings everyone is welcome to attend the Area Service Manual meetings and the Area Concept meetings, both of which are held in Holyoke. Further information on these meetings can be found on the website area31AA.org

Area 58 in Washington state has made a challenge for donating to GSO to make it fully self-supporting. The challenge is for everyone to donate \$8.06. See the flyer.

Charlie R., Chairperson Western Mass Intergroup – There is a picnic August 21 from 11 am to 6pm at the Moose Lodge, flyers on the table. They have copies of OUR GREAT RECPVERY on sale for \$10. Better to buy through them rather than Amazon. All this can be found at Western Mass Intergroup website.

Tim M., DCM – Attended the CPC presentation at the roundup of how people are referred to AA by the professional community. This is a good way to show non-alcoholics what AA is about, and to see what they think of AA however no one attended from the professional community. Possibly we could have a dedicated workshop on this topic. There was a motion to have this as a workshop which passed. People wishing to join a subcommittee to help organize were encouraged to stay after the meeting.

Area 48 “Hudson, Mohawk, Berkshire” is thinking about changing the name because including “Berkshire” is confusing. The addition of “Berkshire” is a historic reference. A vote from the district is not necessary, but out of respect they wanted comments to see if anyone had objections. A discussion was held and there were no objections.

There was a motion to table the discussion on chanting till next month which passed.

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

Respectfully submitted

Pete C.