

District 3 Meeting Minutes - June 19, 2020

Meeting started at 7:05pm

Opened with Serenity Prayer

Secretary's Report not available for last month

GSR Reports

Eugenia – GSR – The Great Barrington Women's Meeting

- Nothing to report

Tom Hamilton – Member - Mens 12th Step

- No GSR report
- Group is still getting attendance of around 14 online.
- Met outside in parking lot at Taconic last week for first business meeting since February. Discussion limited to determining group's feeling on finding a physical meeting place going forward. Decided to leave Crosby if group can find a new home. Elected 3 people to Ad-Hoc to find a location.

Glen B – GSR - Lenox BB

- Meeting online going well

Maria C – GSR – Ray of Hope

- Zoom attendance 10+
- Treasurer did a Venmo account
- Meeting solvent

Jeff – GSR – Keep it Simple Group in GB

- Meeting 7 days per week on Zoom but looking to drop Sunday meeting due to lack of participation.
- Venmo for contributions.

Invited Committees

Tim M – Berkshire CPC

- Meets 4th Tuesday of every month at 6pm. Zoom login information for CPC: ID 6440308102 Password 701534.
- 145 attendees at Connecticut CPC conference.
- Committee approaches professionals who see alcoholics - doctors, clergy, lawyers, counselors, etc. Opportunity to give them information by Zoom meetings making things easier.

- CPC Chair for Area 31, Dawn, posted letter on [Area 31 website](#) a template for a letter that can be used to be sent to a doctor or to someone who might be a professional to offer more information if interested (*follow link above*).
- Two new members bringing the membership up to a half dozen.

Connel M – Institutions Chair

- Commitments unable to be filled with current restrictions.
- Committee has been going down to Holyoke to get literature to provide to institutions.
- Some units have been giving patients back their phones so that they may attend online meetings.
- Brief discussion on [Berkshire Eagle article](#) about new virtual tool in prison that may allow contact with AA.

Lisa L - DCM

- Attended Area 31 meeting.
- Roundup on Zoom on July 12 at 2pm and will be posted on [Area 31 website](#). Requested that the link *is not* posted on social media.
- District 2 – one of the Alano clubs never shut down. In contact with Department of Health at their discretion about how to safely reopen.
- Virtual Mini Conference went well (minutes attached).
- GSO drew \$3MM out of reserve fund, but not a substantial draw. \$8MM 2019 contributions and literature sales. Contributions from last year up 5.17% from 2018.
- Reopen workshop 6/20/20 in southeast NY. 10am-12pm Return of in Person Meetings ID 825 2828 4808 PWD 287 451 –
- Concept meeting first Thursday of the month via Zoom

Paul H – Delegate

- Financial information is not yet official. \$3MM prudent reserve draw was out of a ~\$10MM reserve fund.
- Last year sold \$14.5MM in literature – gross profit 9.3MM -\$8.8MM contributions. Biggest contributions yet.
- Aahmbny.org has tremendous amount of information about reopening (though, may be NY specific)
- Michelle G – Chairperson of General Service Board expires 4/20201 – search for new general service chairperson open to all class A and class B
- 3 Class A opening (non-alcoholics) no salary but expenses are covered. Provide references if you know anyone interested

Old Business

- Ideas for NECYPAA workshop –
 - Tom – Pass It On From 6 Feet Away – How we can be accessible to those who cannot safely attend in person meetings or otherwise might not feel comfortable. How to keep unity of groups with populations able and not able to attend in person. Can a "hybrid" meeting work? Workshop could cover these topics.
 - Jeff – Utilizes catch phrases for newcomer as a reference point for how we were when we came into AA. Have a workshop to present a list of points that could be distributed throughout the district to groups to discuss how to reach the newcomer. A great workshop would be to put together a list of bulleted points to be introduced as a possibility to inclusion as part of daily preamble. Giving them a reason to stay. Used to be because of snack bars that people would stay and go to meetings. This comes from general counsel. In summary, how to reach out to the beginner.
 - **Two proposed ideas as above may be presented to groups at next business meeting to gain feedback from group (or any other ideas for a NECYPAA workshop topic)**

New Business

- Website committee – would like to translate the area 31 website to Spanish. Cost for that would be \$1,600. **Bring back to groups for discussion.**
- Looking to discuss reopening – Read tradition 4. "The law of the land does not stop at the doors of AA"
 - Jeff spoke to tradition 4 that we take no outside position on anything to cause liability to occur. If there was legal liability for people serving in good faith, we could hire attorney to look at it
 - Steve – host venue would get fined – Every state has good information on guidelines – make sure to follow the right ones
 - Paul – spoke to possible repercussions of violation reopening guidelines – tracking may necessitate people saying who they were with if infected, warnings, fines, arrest
 - Jeff – In respect to guidelines people are either working a program or not working a program. A lot of people are entitled and misinformed. The majority of the population is not working a program. World is selfish right now, politicized. 1 out of 270 has COVID in Berkshire County but in open spaces outside with airflow risk goes down. Asymptomatic carriers, smart virus and contagious. With respect for self and other individuals, this is what is lacking. Personally, won't be doing to physical meetings due to risk.
- Lisa – Topic for consideration - AAWS and the Grapevine are legally owned by the trustees- If AA was sued, trusted servants would be sued. Should this be the case?
- District needs a Co-DCM – table and **bring to groups**

Steve - Area

- Area finance committee met for first time in a while.
- Area now has a debit card to pay for Zoom and website.
- Committee made recommendations for which app for virtual donations. PayPal for non-profits will be used. Lower fees and no smart phone needed to maintain
- Decided to reach out to hosts for district meetings (not meeting at community center to ask hosts how to proceed due to lost use of building for rent payment.
- Another motion needing discussion quickly to change first page of handbook to include area email addresses. May already be in online version.
- Discussion about Area meeting going to zoom.
- Service manual meeting info on website.

Closed at 8:20pm with Responsibility Statement