

## District 3 Minutes - August 21, 2020

Meeting Open : 7:00pm - 11 in attendance

Reading of Tradition 1 from Language of the Heart

(Screen sharing of the text was not available but will be enabled for the next meeting)

### GSR Reports

Bushwacker's Group - Maria - Bushwacker's meeting met at Pilgrim church for the last month. All meetings at the location (Fri, Sat, Sun) were asked to discontinue meetings at the location due to exceeding the 25 person limit. The meeting self-reported to the Board of Health. Is looking for ideas to continue to meet. Group called emergency business meeting to discuss ideas

*Brief discussion from the group recommended bringing the meeting online with the possibility of members joining online meetings with others at their house should they be unable to access online meetings alone. Also discussion about all members going to another online meeting together that meets at the same time.*

Women's Group - Eugenia - The meeting is currently meeting online and in person - considering hybrid approach. The group is saving up to purchase the required equipment (speakers and microphone) to make hybrid work. The group is determined to not fracture

Southern Berkshire Group - Ilene - A group ad-hoc committee determined not to pursue a hybrid format. Group is looking for ways to reach and recognize newcomers.

*Mike recommended, based on a California online meeting, that newcomers and those celebrating anniversaries are asked to identify themselves in the chat so that they may be recognized*

Ray of Hope- Caite - group discussed starting a hybrid meeting but does not have the funds to do so - continues to contribute to area and GSO

Lenox Big Book - Glenn - Group continues to meet online. Currently a women's sober group is in regular attendance - a hybrid meeting will continue to be discussed but is unlikely

Men's 12th Step - Tom (for Terry) - The meeting will start meeting in person on 8/25 at St. Charles Church at 100 Briggs Ave in Pittsfield. Same time. Meeting will be limited to 25 people and masks will be required. Some group members will be asked to leave if newcomers show up and the meeting is at capacity. The online meeting will continue, concurrent with the physical meeting. Group has a new GSR, chairperson, and treasurer.

### DCM's Report - Lisa

- Group inventories may still be requested from the area. Past delegates are able to facilitate group inventories through zoom - Contact Area Chair, Steve, if interested
- Area contributions have been down, as have expenses
- Encouraged groups to check out the [Area 48 reopening guidelines](#) for ideas
- NYC Intergroup is offering free Zoom accounts to groups
- The final 2020 General Service Conference report is available. [Email the delegate](#) to request a digital or print copy
- 2021 NERAASA will be virtual as will NERF
- Contributions to the GSO in June and July were up 30% over last year - very encouraging
- There were audio issues in the recording of the delegate's report at the Roundup so the audio version is unlikely to become available

## Area Report - Steve (Area Chair)

- Bob, the area Webmaster, is currently updating the GSO records for online meetings using the information that was provided to intergroup. Groups had been forwarding their online meeting information to Intergroup who, for an undisclosed reason, had not been updating the records of the GSO. This caused online meeting information not to show up in the AA Meeting Guide App, whereas this information was updated for other area. As a note, Bob is taking on this tedious task to be of service, while such a task does not fall within his position's responsibilities.
- Fall Assembly (October) will be held online. More information will be available by the next district meeting. The fall assembly will include conference agenda items carried over from the spring assembly
- His homegroup has been able to switch to meeting in person for the last three weeks following the guidelines of the church that is hosting their meeting
- [Area Concept meeting](#) "What a Concept" continues to meet online every first Thursday of the month
- [Service Manual Committee](#) continues to meet online every third Wednesday of the month
- The area is looking for an assistance website chairperson - contact Steve if interested

## Old Business

The proposal of translating the area website into Spanish was discussed. The cost is \$1600 and includes translation of all *permanent* information on the website. This would not include the Service Manual or any temporary information.

*Steve suggested that this has been an effort to make the Spanish speaking community more included in the area. He advised that this effort in itself would not likely serve that purpose.*

District workshop - The district voted in July to go forward with doing a workshop. Ideas for a topic were thrown out to the GSRs.

*The GSRs brought forth the following input:*

- *Information about reopening and state restrictions is already out there - why would we need a workshop about it?*
- *There's a lot going on at this time. Maybe a workshop would be counterproductive*
- *A workshop would be better in the middle of winter when people have less going on*
- *There have been times where the district has forgone doing its semiannual workshops. A good idea for a workshop would be how to reach out to the newcomer during this pandemic and continue to fulfill our primary purpose*
- *Group members have been showing up to the Intergroup office noting that their groups are in chaos and are looking for help and ideas. There is lots of fear of groups splitting*
- *Groups who are doing well should serve as a contact to groups that are struggling*

An ad-hoc was formed to explore a workshop format to take into consideration the group's ideas. Volunteering for the committee were Maria, Mike, Ilene, Lisa, and Tom.

Motion to close 8:24pm