

DISTRICT 3 MONTHLY MEETING 12/18/20

IN ATTENDANCE: Lisa, Tom, Joni, Caite, William, Paul, Jane, Vinny, Susan, Karen, Tory, Glenn

MEETING STARTED AT 7PM AND OPENED WITH A MOMENT OF SILENCE FOLLOWED BY THE SERENITY PRAYER

TOM READ TRADITION 5 OUT OF LANGUAGE OF THE HEART

GROUP REPORTS

Ray of Hope - Caite – The group pined out \$128.71 at the end of October. Attendance has been rising including two new out of state attendees considering making it their homegroup. At the most recent business meeting, new group positions were created and filled for a technical/document position and for a zoom host. Discussion also included how to do a better job reaching the new person in virtual meetings

Kale - Thursday Night Men's Meeting - Attendance has been up. The meeting has been fulfilling a commitment to the Berkshire County House of Corrections that is now biweekly.

Tory - Sunday morning Watch Your Step Group - The group is healthy and making frequent distributions to the pie chart. There is consistent attendance from out of state AA members. This coming Sunday will be their next business meeting

Lenox Big Book – Glen - The group is doing well and is still getting attendance of 20-30 people. A commitment is being maintained with McGee, though participants cannot be seen or heard.

Women's Group - Eugenia – The hybrid meeting considerations have been put on hold until state COVID restrictions have been relaxed. All group positions have been filled for next month. The group has steady attendance of 15-20

Sober on Saturday - Jane - The group is stable and rent is paid. Several attendees are coming from outside the area. The group's Jones II commitment can not be conducted because the facility lacks remote meeting capability.

Mens 12th Step Group - Tom - The group meeting is now hybrid. The group is using an Anker bluetooth conference speaker (about \$60 on ebay) and connecting that to a laptop to join into the Zoom meeting. The speaker moves to three different locations throughout the

meeting to help pick up audio, but attendees do not have to move. The zoom portion is also cast onto a screen with a digital projector. Attendance has gone up in recent weeks with about 17-21 in person and 2-5 Zoom attendees.

INVITED COMMITTEES

Berkshire Intergroup - William - The business meeting occurred on 12/14. There were 11 people in attendance. The intergroup is currently updating the 12-Step phone list that is held by the answering service. The district should receive something next month about the update.

Speaking to the treasurer's report, William outlined the three buckets that make up the intergroup's finances - operating, literature, and prudent reserve. The operating expense budget currently has just under \$3,300. Expenses are \$880 every month and this year donations have been about \$280 on average. The intergroup is not in a "state of emergency" but is having a consistent deficit every month. The literature budget sits at \$2,490. Literature sales were \$383 this month. The literature budget is used to purchase books and materials from world service and purchases are made in excess of \$1500 to get free shipping on the purchase. This budget runs independent to operating expenses. Lastly, the intergroup maintains a prudent reserve of just over \$3,000. Their total balance at this time is \$8,700.

Elections were held at the last meeting. Karen S will be taking over a chair. Susan B is rolling into co-chair. Mike M. is taking over as treasurer.

The intergroup is asking groups to consider that their password be posted on the intergroup's website to eliminate the need for the hotline to be called. The intergroup currently pays for service that allows for 50 calls per month. Additional calls are charged at a flat rate thereafter. The service is costing about \$85 per month. Increasing the call allowance would bring the cost north of \$100. Many calls to the hotline right now are just to acquire passwords for meetings and groups do not seem to be reporting "zoom-bombing" like they were before.

William also announced that all past delegates have made themselves available to conduct group inventories. Also, there will not be a Berkshire-hosted alcathon this year, but one will be hosted by Western Mass Intergroup and the information will be available on <https://westernmassaa.org/>.

Lisa - DCM

Western Mass Intergroup has resumed the bookee meeting via Zoom and the information is up on their [website](#).

There is a newly published AA historical picture book that was printed as a handout for attendees of the international conference over the summer. Because it had to be cancelled, the books will be made available for sale for \$10. World service will have the book, but it will also be made available by our intergroups.

NERAASA will be 2/26-2/28 and registration is now open. There is a cost for registration because there are still significant costs to hosting digital conferences.

The institutions committee is looking to fill 5 commitments for CSS - the 3rd and 4th Fridays of the month and the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Saturdays. Please [email the institution committee](#) if you are interested in picking up one of these commitments.

Area 31 - Paul (Delegate)

The Western US and Canada regional forum will be held 12/19 starting at 11am and lasting until about 9 or 10pm.

AA is putting together a pamphlet for the older alcoholic with stories from those that got sober later in life. They are looking for stories from diverse populations.

The topics for the next general service conference will largely be items that carried over from the previous conference. There are about 20 agenda items right now, but aren't final. They are mostly literature items. One proposal includes the development of a pamphlet for digital best practices in an age of meeting remotely.

OLD BUSINESS

There was brief discussion about the excess money held by the area currently. There was also discussion about Western Mass Intergroup possibly requesting donations from groups to stay open. *There has not been a request directly from Western Mass Intergroup yet* but financial hardship has been made known.

Elections - Vinny was unanimously elected for **LCM**, should he accept the nomination at the meeting next month. Tom asked the GSRs if they would be comfortable with a vote in proxy. Vinny was present at the meeting with interest to stand but had to leave at 8pm for a speaking engagement and just missed the vote.

Secretary - No interested members

NEW BUSINESS

Lisa will be proposing a change to the area structure to adopt a technology position or committee. She cited that Area 30 dissolved the website committee in favor of the technology committee. Area 58 District 10 did similar. The item will be brought to the area, but group feedback is encouraged. We discussed that this is similar to what Ray of Hope is doing to adapt to present times. We also discussed that this may help facilitate maintenance of equipment, should the area move in that direction.

MEETING ENDED 8:25pm with the Responsibility statement