

District 3 Minutes Report

February 19, 2021

In attendance –

Lisa (DCM)	Jane (GB Women's Group)
Tom (Co-DCM)	Maria (Bushwhackers)
Vinny (LCM)	Glen (Lenox BB)
Karen (Berkshire Intergroup)	Ruth (Watch Your Step Group)
Jennifer (Berkshire Institutions)	Ilene (Southern Berkshire)
Steve (Area Chair)	Tory (Watch Your Step Group)
Sonya (Area Registrar)	Jeff (Keep it Simple Group)
Thea (SOS)	Chuck (Northern Berkshire)
Laura (Stockbridge Tower Group)	Caite (Ray of Hope)

Meeting opened with the Serenity Prayer at 7pm and a review of Concepts 1 & 2 out of the Twelve Concepts Illustrated Pamphlet and a review of Tradition 2 out of the Twelve Traditions Illustrated Pamphlet

Secretary's Report, Tom H. – not voted on. (unintentional omission) Approve Jan minutes in March

GSR Reports:

Thea, SOS

- The group is healthy
- Meets Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday by phone meeting
- The group is considering a Zoom meeting for at least one of its meetings
- Attendance is between 5 and 12 during the week and between 25 and 35 on Saturday
- All positions are filled

Laura, Stockbridge Tower Group

- The group is needs more group members
- The meeting is Tuesday at 8pm on Zoom
- Group is still paying rent to the church to hold their place and still contributing to pie chart
- Attendance is about 10 people
- AA members are being mailed coins and big books
- Participated in bookie schedule doing an outgoing and incoming commitment

Maria, Bushwackers Group

- The group is doing well financially
- A proposed Zoom meeting was unanimously voted down
- The meeting is limited to 25 people, but overflow is being accommodated by a concurrent meeting held downstairs in the church
- The group is concerned that other meetings are not meeting in person and requested that the December 11, 2020 Sector Specific Protocols, issued by the office of Governor Charlie Baker, be brought to the other group's attention
 - The group had discussion about the protocols, including that they are specific to Places of Worship, other guidelines may apply such as contact tracing. It was also brought forward that medical professionals still advise that gatherings be limited to 10 people.

Chuck, Northern Berkshire Group

- Group attendance is about 20 - 25 on Zoom
- The group is still contributing to the pie chart
- The group is considering reopening

Jane, Great Barrington's Women's Meeting

- The meeting is going strong on Zoom with attendance of about 10-20
- Discussion to put the meeting's password on the intergroup website will be moved to next month

Ilene M, Southern Berkshire Group

- The meeting is robust with an online attendance of 80+ people
- Speaker reach out has been going well with speakers being brought in from all over the US and Canada
- The group is committed to keeping the meeting online. As such, it has adapted to create positions to reach out to the newcomer online through greeters and script changes to the format
- All group positions have been filled
- The group submitted an agenda item to GSO about creating a pamphlet about relocating in AA. GSO declined the submission and suggested other avenues such as Grapevine stories.

Tory (with Ruth present as alt-GSR), Sunday Morning Watch Your Step

- meeting attendance has been 40+ with AA members joining from all parts of the country, including people that had moved away from the area, thriving on zoom
- The group continues to contribute to the pie chart
- a motion carried last month to remove the password from the Zoom meeting, with the waiting

room to replace it

- The group usually meets in a small gallery and intends to stay online until they can meet with no restrictions

Caite, Ray of Hope

- 20 + in attendance including a few from out of state
- January contributions were \$102, on pace with the group's average
- February saw two new group members
- The group is now using the [Signal app](#) to encourage group communication including just checking in on people
- The group started a separate literature account, sending out Big Books

Glenn, Lenox Big Book Group

- The group is doing well. 20 - 30 in attendance
- No password
- There are no plans to meet in person at this time
- Two new group members have been added to bring the total to about 15
- Group continues to contribute to the pie chart

Jeff, Keep it Simple Group

- The group voted to get rid of their Zoom password as they have not been any occurrences of "Zoom-bombing" in a long time
- Keenan house has been attending the group weekly
- Group is continuing to contribute to the pie chart
- Sent an extra contribution to Berkshire Intergroup
- Still paying rent to the church to hold their space

Kale, Thursday Night Mens Meeting

- The group altered their contributions in increase funds going to Berkshire Intergroup
- A \$100 contribution was made to the Bill Wilson House
- Rent continues to be paid to the church so that the group may be able to keep their space
- Attendance is consistently around 25 men, with some attending from out of town and newcomers
- members get together outside of the meeting time

Tom, Tuesday Night Mens Meeting

- hybrid meeting with a couple of people online and 15 - 20 in person

- Keenan House attending
- Filled treasurer position
- All \$220 from the treasury was contributed to Berkshire Intergroup

Invited Committees:

Berkshire Institutions, Jennifer

- provided walkthrough of [Berkshire Institutions Website](https://sites.google.com/view/berkshireinstitutions/home)
<https://sites.google.com/view/berkshireinstitutions/home>
The website is not searchable on search engines but can be accessed by anyone with the above link. Open commitments are kept on the website and can be filled by completing the web form provided under the “Sign up” link, available multiple different ways within the site
- can be contacted at berkshireinstitutionscommittee@gmail.com or ###-###-####
- encouraged groups to send institutions reps to the monthly meeting
- Open Commitments include Clinical Stabilization Services (CSS) Fridays: 3rd & 4th of the month and Saturdays: 4th of the month
- BIC Monthly Meeting - next meeting is March 17, 2021 07:00 PM
 - Join Zoom Meeting
Meeting ID: 843 9809 9218
Passcode: odat24

Berkshire Intergroup, Karen

- Intergroup met earlier this month
- The intergroup office is open on Tuesday and on Friday, from 1:30pm to 5:00pm
- a volunteer is needed for Fridays for the office
- group contributions were up last month but continued support is needed and the intergroup continues to operate in the red during the pandemic
- Groups are encouraged to drop their requirement for password access via the hotline only. The intergroup is charged a cost per call beyond their normal plan allotment and many calls are just for meeting passwords
- Groups are also asked to keep the intergroup posted with any group changes so that the information on the website remains accurate
- The 12th Step call list is being updated. People signing up will be asked to keep their phones on for calls that come overnight
- Donations to intergroup can now be made through PayPal by going to the PayPal website and searching intergroup’s email address: berkshireaintergroup@gmail.com

DCM's Report:

Lisa, DCM District 3

- The area treasury is now around \$27,000 and continues to grow. Includes \$8,500 prudent reserve
- A motion was brought to the area meeting last month to create a policy where the area would automatically disperse funds in excess of \$6,000 about the prudent reserve. The motion did not pass.
- NERAASA will take place February 26-28. Sign up at [2021 NERAASA - Northeast Regional A.A. Service Assembly](#). GSR's are highly encouraged to attend.
- District 3 and Berkshire Intergroup will be co-hosting a spring workshop. Volunteers will be needed. The first Workshop Planning meeting will be on Friday, March 5th at 7pm on zoom. GSRs are encouraged to attend.

Area's Report:

Steve, Chairperson, Area 31

- The Spring Assembly will be on March 27th and 28th.
 - Saturday will include discussion from 9am to 12pm on 8 topics done in breakout rooms. The topics will all be new to this year's agenda, though some that were discussed at last year's Spring Assembly will also be carried over to this year's GSC Agenda. From 1-4pm the area will have combined discussion
 - Sunday we will have the area business meeting from 1pm to 4pm.
 - There is a motion to dissolve the Website committee that came up in an area meeting and will be voted on at the assembly
 - A motion to donate \$3,600 to Berkshire Intergroup was also tabled to the assembly
- The Area sponsors two meetings:
 - ["What a Concept"](#) meeting the 1st Thursday of the month at 7:30pm on Zoom. Visit www.area31aa.org for the link. The next meeting is ¾
 - The 3rd Wednesday of every month the area hosts a [service manual meeting](#)
- This month's regularly scheduled area meeting has been canceled in lieu of the Spring Assembly

Sonya, Area Registrar

- AA Worldservice has converted to a new database to keep meeting information
- District 3 has two "unknown" meetings that we have not been able to contact.

- Please feel free to contact Sonya at 413-824-671 with any questions about utilizing the group change form. You are encouraged to call even to let Sonya know if you've sent an email. You can also contact Tom, Lisa, or Vinny at district3@area31aa.org. The form is available at [Registrar | A.A. - Area 31 General Service Committee \(area31aa.org\)](http://Registrar | A.A. - Area 31 General Service Committee (area31aa.org))

Old Business

- The area surplus: Motions were suggested from the GSR's as to what we should do with the area's excess money. No motions were presented. The group was asked if we would be in favor of a similar proposal to the motion that was presented to automatically distribute a certain amount of excess beyond the prudent reserve to GSO. Discussion ensued. GSRs are encouraged to bring this back to their groups for further discussion and ideas
- The area's motion to dissolve the Website Committee was discussed.
 - One proposal is a repurposing of the committee to include technology focus including helping groups get set up online and to support those meetings as they require. The committee may also keep an inventory of any equipment that area possesses.
 - The committee would dissolve if passed at the Spring Assembly. We are unclear if starting a brand new committee would take 1 assembly or 2.
 - GSR's are encouraged to talk to their groups about it and to attending the Spring Assembly to carry forth their group conscience

New Business

- Maria stood for Secretary and was unanimously voted in
- Vinny was confirmed as the district's LCM

Motion to close at 9:22 pm – second and accepted; Responsibility Pledge; meeting adjourned.

Please send any corrections, suggestions or comments to district3@area31aa.org