

# District 3 Secretary Minutes Report

March 19, 2021

## ***In attendance -***

Lisa L., DCM; Tom H., Co-DCM; Maria C., Secretary & Bushwhackers Group; Karen S., BIG Chair; Jennifer C., Institutions Chair; Paul H., Area 31 Delegate; Thea B., SOS group; Thomas D., Men's 12-Step Group; Jane C., GB Women's Group; Glen B., Lenox Big Book; Ilene M., Southern Berkshire Group; Tory, Watch Your Step Group; Jeff R., Keep It Simple Group; Caite, Ray of Hope Group.

*Meeting opened with the Serenity Prayer at 7 PM. Glen B. read an insert from the GSR pamphlet and our Area Delegate gave a very informative presentation on Concept 3. **Note:** Concept Mtg. is the 1st Thursday of every month on Zoom at 7:30 PM.*

**Secretary's Report, Tom H. & Maria C.** - Maria read last month's Old Business and New Business. The group approved the Minutes for January and February 2021.

## **GSR REPORTS**

- **Caite, Ray of Hope** - ended with \$67 last month, which was disbursed accordingly. Three (3) new Home Group members; ordered new AA books through Western MA through Joy; and the group is taking a commitment once a month.
- **Tory, Watch Your Step** - having very large attendance. Working with the newcomers, and changed their format to invite them to hang out after the meeting for fellowship. Group is financially healthy and is able to make good contributions.
- **Glenn B., Lenox Big Book** - also having a large attendance with over 30+ on zoom; this number includes CSS attendees. Taking a commitment every other month at McGhee on Tuesdays. Fifteen (15) Home Group members now, and the group is able to make contributions.
- **Ilene M., Southern Berkshire Group** - group is populated and generous with more new members. The Ad Hoc committee which was formed last year on the guidelines of the pandemic is now being reconfigured to address re-opening. Ilene talked about being a part of Outbound Speaker Groups and including other members of your group when participating.
- **Jane C., GB Women's Group** - more newcomers attending. Attendance is between 15-20. Password for group is now being published on Intergroup website, and a Waiting Room is now being used.
- **Jeff R., Keep It Simple** - group rotates meeting format to include 12 & 12, Living Sober and the Big Book. Group had a group conscious last month re: third stepping with the individual being contacted privately. Also, healthy distributions with some going to the Church.
- **Maria C., Bushwhackers** - the group is financially solvent; making contributions to Intergroup and to the Church. Attendance is very large and growing; getting newcomers from CSS and the Keenan House. Maria posed the question to the District as to what are the new guidelines for the 22nd of the month for in-person meetings. Tom H. said 100 for indoor gatherings; however, only if

the meeting place can accommodate the safety measures of social distancing for that many people. Lisa L. said that's why she believed it was % of the capacity of the location. All agreed that it would be best to check with your landlord.

- **Tom D., Men's 12-Step** - the group has been reviewing the conference topics. Next Tuesday, March 23rd, is their business meeting. They put on a hybrid meeting and the in-person meeting is limited to 25; the group will vote if it gets larger than this as to what to do.
- **Thea B., SOS** - had a group conscious as to change their format to zoom or not. It was voted to keep it on the phone. Continually having discussions on whether to take institution commitments. Pie chart is balanced and they currently have about 25 members. Attendance on Tues. is about 3-6, Wed. about 9 and Sat. between 20-25. All positions filled except for Secretary. The current Secretary would like to step down.

## INVITED COMMITTEES

- ***Berkshire Institutions, Jennifer C., Chair*** -
  - Changes need to be addressed on how we bring meetings into institutions. Black screens seem to be an issue. Hospital vs Public. Need more feedback from the groups as to what happens when they take a zoom meeting for commitments. Also Jennifer mentioned that by having zoom meetings, it can allow for places like CSS to be able to go to outside meetings.
  - Compiling a list of all institutions for Berkshire County.
  - AA literature is going out to multiple places.
  - Bronwyn is Co-Chair, which will be a great help.
  - The website is <https://sites.google.com/view/berkshireinstitutions/home>. Jennifer can be contacted at: [bershireinstitutionscommittee@gmail.com](mailto:bershireinstitutionscommittee@gmail.com).
- ***Berkshire Intergroup, Karen S., Chair*** -
  - Intergroup is doing well with Tuesdays and Thursdays now being covered in the office. Also, operating in the black for the first time in a while with contributions from the groups totalling \$1,516.06 in February.
  - If voted in favor of, Berkshire Intergroup will accept a contribution from the Area.
  - There is a google form on the website for the groups to submit, which should include the password and link for their zoom meetings. Also, there is a link for Berkshire Institutions on the website.
  - Currently still in the process of updating the **12-Step Call List**.

## DCM's REPORT *sa, DCM District 3* -

- Went to NERAASA; was very informative and various agenda items were covered. The ones listed below will be discussed at the mini conference:
  - Corrections, Item B: Discuss innovative ways of carrying the message to alcoholics in Correctional facilities/programs.
  - Literature, Item M: "The Twelve Traditions Illustrated" pamphlet
    - M1: Discuss Draft update of the pamphlet "The Twelve Traditions Illustrated"
    - M2: Consider not retiring the existing version of the pamphlet "The Twelve Traditions Illustrated"
  - Item X: Consider revising the pamphlet "The AA Group" to reflect the importance of the group as a spiritual entity as stated in the Long Form of Tradition Five

- Policy/Admissions, Item F: Consider revising the process for polling the General Service Conference between annual meetings to make use of virtual meeting technologies
- Item H: Discuss the revised proposed process for equitable distribution of workload
- Spring Workshop - no date yet. There are four topics that are being considered for the workshop: (1) A virtual tour, possibly of the GSO; (2) A drive in movie, documentary on Bill Wilson; (3) Technology and Traditions; and (4) AA in the Time of Change. Polled the District and (4) got the most votes.

## **AREA's REPORT** *Paul H., Area 31 Delegate -*

- The General Service Conference will be Sun. April 18 - Sat. April 24, 2021. The conference will be full days into the evening.
- The Meeting Guide App is going global and will be adding all virtual meetings. Paul will pass on more details once he receives them.
- Mini Conference is Sat. March 27th, 9am - 4pm and the Area Assembly is Sun. March 28th, 1-4pm. Zoom Id is 883 8073 2359, and Passcode: 715386.
- Update on unaudited financial details for 2020
  - GSO Finances, contributions revenue reached an all-time high of \$10,204,185; of this amt. approximately 21% or 2.16 million were received online. We are grateful to the fellowship for contributing \$1,442,421 in December to propel us past the \$10 million mark for the year. As near as anyone knows, the December 2020 total of \$1.44 million is the highest single month of 7th Tradition voluntary contributions ever!
  - Revenue, gross literature sales revenue is \$9,098,578 compared to a reforecast amount of \$9,856,109, for an unfavorable difference of \$757,531. Although gross sales did not reach the reforecast amount, our cost of goods sold was only 28% of gross sales as compared to a reforecast 35%. Therefore, gross literature profit has exceeded reforecast by \$113,607.
  - The revenue split between gross profit on literature sales and contributions in 2020 is about 37% literature and 63% contributions (compared to the historical split of 58% literature and 42% contributions).
  - We also recovered our losses from the International Convention through our insurance policy we took out for the convention. We paid \$57,507 for the insurance and received a payment for \$2,152,134.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- Dispersing a surplus of money from Area to Berkshire Intergroup - Glenn's group (Lenox Big Book) was in favor of Intergroup receiving the money as was Caite's group (Ray of Hope). Area Business Meeting on Sunday March 28, 2021, which is after the mini conference will vote on this.
- Technology Committee - does District 3 feel they need help with technology. A poll was conducted amongst the members and 86% said "yes".

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- District Facebook Group Page - it's a secret and private group. If you would like to be added just send Lisa L. a friend request and she will take care of it.

Motion to close at 8:45 pm - second and accepted; Responsibility Pledge; meeting adjourned.

*Please send any corrections, suggestions or comments to ... before the next meeting on April 16, 2021.*