

DISTRICT #3 MONTHLY MEETING 3/17/2023

MEETING START 7PM. 14 present 10-Zoom / 4 Live at Lee Courthouse

Opened with the Serenity Prayer.

Readings: Tradition 3 (Inclusion): The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.

Concept (Trust) 3: To ensure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A. -- the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives -- with a traditional "Right of Decision."

Thanks to Gigi L. who has volunteered to take tonight's minutes we will return to this topic under old business.

GROUP REPORTS

Great Barrington Men's Group (registered as Thursday Night's Men's Group w separate name GB MENS GROUP with separate designation for each meeting description.) - strong participation, 25-40 people attend.

Great Barrington Women's Group-meeting has 15-20 regulars. The group has been online since Covid. The group will be hybrid beginning May.

IDAHC (Lee)- all going well, group donates according to the pie chart in the Western Mass Area 31 handbook. The District is not represented on the pie chart and the group has not made a donation to the District.

Keep It Simple Group-awesome: attendance both in-person and online is strong, the group has an Institutional Rep., there are three monthly commitments (2nd Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of each month) between CSS, McGee, and BCHC.

The live meeting held an in-person business meeting.

Lenox BB Step-the group has elected an alternate GSR. Group donates regularly, has a commitment to McGee and it's positions are filled.

Men's 12 Step Group (Pittsfield)- 20 ish people attend the group which has a monthly commitment to BCHC. The group has interest in the pie chart.

Northern Berkshire Group (Wmstn)-group has concerns about anonymity regarding cell phone usage during meetings. Input during discussion centered around "every group is autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or aa as a whole."

Souther Berkshire Group- the group is having healthy ongoing discussions about how to make the hybrid experience better. The group has 2 new service commitments. The GSR and Alt GSR made themselves available to group members to discuss agenda items covered at the Workshop. No takers.

Stockbridge Tower-GSR and ALT GSR elected. Congratulations, thank you, and welcome.

Watch Your Step Group-meets online and considers feasibility of in-person meetings at their monthly business meeting. The group donates to the pie chart and has an institutions commitment.

INVITED COMMITTEES

Berkshire Intergroup: Courtney, Co-Chair.

Berkshire Intergroup is planning a bus trip to the General Service Office on June 30, 2023.

40 spots will be available at a cost of \$25 per participant. Berkshire residents will be prioritized. Registration and details will be available on the Berkshire Intergroup website next month.

Office Mgr needed 1-2 hours per week

In-office volunteers needed Mondays & Fridays (1:30-4pm) 1st Saturday (11-2pm?)

www.berkshireaintergroup.org

Area 31 Report: Mike B Delegate

The Mini-Conference and Business Meeting will be held at Holy Family Catholic Church in South Deerfield on Saturday March 25 and Sunday, March 26 and will be run by Alt. Delegate From 9am-4pm on Saturday there will be four breakout rooms each discussing 3 of the 12 topics our Area has highlighted. One of the four rooms will be hybrid via Zoom.

The Business Meeting will take place on Sunday from 1-5pm. Zoom link and flier can be viewed via the Area 31 website.

<https://www.area31aa.org>

Concepts are studied and discussed on the first Thursday of the month at the “What a Concept” meeting. The meeting in Hybrid-Virtual and In-person @ The United Methodist Church, 30 Carew Street, South Hadley, MA. See link for Zoom id and other information.

<https://www.area31aa.org>

The next meeting for planning the Mass State Convention is on March 28. Meeting in Hybrid and @ the Sturbridge Host Hotel in Sturbridge, MA. See link for more information.

<https://www.area31aa.org>

The 55th Annual Western Mass RoundUp will be held May 19-21 @ Clarion Hotel in West Springfield, MA. Registration will be available at the Mini-Conference and Business Meeting.

There is no online registration. For more information see the related link.

<https://www.area31aa.org>

NERF-The Northeast Regional Forum (otherwise referred to as the GSO Roadshow) will be held June 2-4 at the Boston Marriott Burlington Hotel.

<https://www.aa.org/regional-and-local-forums>

DCM Report

DCM has purchased the recordings from NERASSA and mounted them all on our google drive and shared access. Please respond to let DCM know if you were able to access the recordings without difficulty. Alt DCM attended the Area 31 meeting last weds.

Alt DCM Report & Safety Moment

Presentation of Safety Moment on managing medical and other emergencies at the home groups.

Time ran out on business meeting and Alt DCM was not able to present his report on the Area 31 Committee meeting of 3/15/23. Here are his notes:

Prepared by Brian W Co-DCM

- Archives Listening Party to be held on 3/18/23 at 7pm to 9pm (See flyer in figure 1 below), may be a virtual meeting as well, not decided as of 3/8/23
- Grapevine is planning writing workshop in June; noted the new Grapevine app is in testing and anticipated to launch in September from most mobile and device app stores; Grapevine committee noted that there is a decrease in subscriptions that is consistent with numbers in the publishing industry (do not have the percentage); folks encouraged to check out grapevine podcast, new episodes drop on Mondays (link is <https://www.aagrapevine.org/podcast>)
- Public Information is always seeking volunteers for the radio show (link to page <https://www.area31aa.org/radio>), contact the PI rep to discuss (pi@area31aa.org); currently PI has a session set up at a local school to discuss with students about AA, will almost be like a booth setup in the cafeteria, not a presentation but only if students want to discuss, may lead to additional outreach after planned discussion with guidance department.
- The Roundup is scheduled for 5/19 to 5/21, its \$25 to register online or call the roundup chair; the roundup committee will be at spring assembly both days and folks can register then (see flyer below in Figure 2)

- Berkshire Intergroup had 16 in attendance, they have a new webmaster, new treasurer, created printed lists for the first time in a while for the CPC and PI folks, not intended for meeting distribution
- Area Institutions had 26 members in attendance, still working through getting commitments at facilities, looking for support, bridging the gap is virtual at the area level; District 3 Co-DCM noted that Berkshire Institutions has commenced work at CSS, McGee, and the Men's Jail, and the group has been announcing the intent to establish a commitment in Area 48 (Hudson) at Women's Jail
- West Mass Intergroup had 25 people, three new members, they are looking at donating a TV to the landlord of the Carew Street location to better assist hybrid meetings; noted that groups may sign up to run the hotline but not individuals due to missed commitments; additionally WMI is looking at an upcoming golf tourney more to follow.
- District 3 Co-DCM Brian W present notes (see attached) to the Area.
- Delegate Mike noted there was a resignation at the board, limited information; the District 3 Co-DCM requested guidance on where to direct questions regarding the resignation, Delegate noted any inquiries can go direct to the delegate (email is direct any info to delegate via email
 - Northeast Regional Forum (NERF) is coming up and is free on June 4th
- Alt delegate noted there was currently limited info on trustee resignation but had inquired to the regional trustee, mass state convention planning committee meeting in Sturbridge, In Person Location is the Sturbridge Host Hotel at 366 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA (link to more info (<https://www.area31aa.org/node/619>))
- Alt Delegate spoke about the Mini conference is the 25th and the 26th (Link is <https://www.area31aa.org/node/624>), idea is to emulate the process of the General Service Conference, break off into roundtable discussions and report back to the main room; the 26th will be the business meeting where GSRs will be able to propose motions, vote, raise group conscience, etc.
 - District 3 will present based on the past 6 months
 - If attending virtually, a separate roundtable for one of the 12 agenda items selected by the Delegate and Alt. Delegate will be the focus, will not be able to be in multiple breakout rooms due to limited technology setup.
- Alt Delegate requested groups attending for the district not report on the information provided by invited groups limit report to your committee, gsr gets a vote and motions at the meeting
- New area speaking commitment: "A Wake Up Call" group on 3/15 at 7pm (the meeting is held at 7am and 7pm, the commitment is for 7pm)
- There was a motion to cancel April business meeting as the mini conference is on 3/25 and 3/26, motion was seconded, there was limited discussion but noted that due to the close timing of the mini-conference the General Service Conference, and the April meeting, it could be shifted; vote was taken, the Co-DCM for District 3 voted in favor of the motion, majority voted to cancel, no minority opinion; cancelled and moved to May 2023 for next Area Gen Service meeting.

Old Business

A motion was made and seconded and an affirmative vote was tallied to elect Gigi L. as District Secretary.

Reminder to gather info from meeting places of meetings regarding accessibilities questionnaire.

ADDENDUM:

GSR from Northern Berkshire Group arrived late to meeting. DCM / ALT DCM remained after meeting to orient and register him. Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm