

DISTRICT 3 MONTHLY MEETING July 21, 2023

MEETING START 7:00 PM

1. 11 present: 6 Zoom and 5 Lee Courthouse
2. Meeting opened with the Serenity Prayer

SECRETARY REPORT

3. Secretary Gigi L recapped June minutes. Motion to accept minutes was made, seconded, and accepted unanimously.

WELCOME

4. Area 31 Alt. Delegate, Steve M in attendance.

TRADITIONS AND CONCEPTS

5. Spread the word and join us at District 3 Traditions Meeting and Area 31 Concepts Study Meeting. The Traditions meeting is held on the 2nd Sunday of the month @7pm. What a Concept is held on the 1st Thursday of every month @7:30pm. Links to these meeting can be found at the Area website at <https://www.area31aa.org>

6. Reading of Tradition 7 (short form) by DCM:

"Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions. "

7. Reading of Concept 7 (short form) by DCM:

"The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the A A. purse for final effectiveness."

GROUP REPORTS

8. I Don't Have a Clue: Rotations in Service are happening in the treasure's position and the anniversary chair. Daily meeting chairs are shifting around. No hard and fast terms of service. Meeting goers are being called upon to fill in if they are not currently committed to a chair/day. Plans for group gathering continue.
9. Great Barrington Women's Meeting: Doing well with the hybrid set up and will continue.
10. Keep it Simple: Going strong. Six active commitments including Mountainside on Wednesday night which is welcoming of attendance by anyone wishing to do service.
11. Lenox Big Book Step: Group has a commitment at McGee, and new large print Big Books have been recently purchased.
12. North Berkshires Group in Williamstown: meeting is up to 50 attendees and is strong. Group service positions are filled. The group meets twice a week.
13. Pittsfield Men's Step Group: the group is organizing their free Annual Unity Dinner to be held October 17. All are welcome. The group has two commitments; Keenan House and ALC House.
14. Sober on Saturday: The group has an in-person meeting with a phone in option that has worked from the beginning of Covid.
15. Watch Your Step: The group now exists in-person and online. Commitment at McGee on 2nd and 5th Thursdays.

INVITED COMMITTEES

16. Berkshire Institutions: Did not attend
17. Berkshire Intergroup (BIG): Represented by Secretary Susan B, BIG will host a Spiritual Retreat with Steve D at the Christ's Church in Sheffield (Sheffield 12 and 12 location) on September 23, 2023; there is a suggested \$20 donation and no one will be turned away due to cost; Register on the Intergroup website <http://www.berkshireaintergroup.org>. Additionally, BIG will also look to work with Institutions, District 3, and the Area to support a Service oriented mini-conference in Fall 2023
18. Area 31 - Area 31 Alternate Delegate Steve M reported on upcoming events:
 - A. Webmaster noted that a new fillable, Group History form is available on the Area 31 website for download and can be submitted electronically.

- B. Cooperation with Professional Communities (CPC) in Western Mass is looking for referrals from Groups and Districts, the CPC is willing to travel to provide outreach
- C. Western Mass Intergroup (WMIG) will be hosting upcoming events:
 - i. Golf Tourney at Agawam Country Club on August 25th, start is at 9:45 and cost is \$45 and includes lunch.
 - ii. Picnic at Moose Lodge in Chicopee on August 20th starting at 11am.
 - iii. Area has purchased a new monitor for the hybrid meetings held at United Methodist Church, 30 Carew St., South Hadley, MA; new monitor is a way of supporting accessibility to all groups in the Area.
 - iv. Planning service positions are available for the Mass State Convention.

DCM Report

- 19. DCM Brian W Report from Area Meeting 7/12/23:
 - A. Registrar reported that the Fellowship Connection has been listing groups as status "unknown" if GSR information is not updated every couple years, may result in groups being removed from the registry, registrars to meet with member services
 - B. Webmaster meets internally on 7/19 to continue process of development for new Area 31 website; Jen T has stepped up to be an assistant webmaster
 - C. Accessibilities committee will attend the District 3 Meeting on August 18 to discuss accessibilities questionnaire
 - D. Delegate noted General Service Office is looking for new staff positions if anyone is interested; Grapevine is hiring for a new position at the publication as well; Proposed Agenda Item from Group in District 3 being discussed.
 - E. Area Chair noted the Fall Assembly is scheduled for October 14th and 15th and elections will be held for Area Officers, full information to be on the Area Website.

Co-DCM Report

- 20. Currently Co-DCM role is vacant.

SAFETY MOMENT

21. No safety moment due to anticipated New Business. Safety Moment will resume in August.

OLD BUSINESS

22. DCM Brian W. reached out to the Chair of the Accessibilities to extend an invitation to July's meeting.

7/21/23: Reminder to groups to contact accessibility@area31aa.org for a new accessibility questionnaire so groups can update all info related to meeting accessibility. DCM noted the Accessibilities Chair on vacation and will attend the August 18 District 3 meeting as an Invited Committee.

NEW BUSINESS

23. Proposed Agenda Item (PAI) was presented by Paul S from the Sober on Saturday group with the support of group member Susan B regarding changes or modifications to the existing language on page 135 of the Big Book. Changes included, but were not limited to, the removal of two paragraphs or potential footnote. All registered GSRs for groups in the District, with available email information, and those the DCM spoke to at meetings, were provided access to the PAI and supporting documentation via email from the DCM prior to the meeting.

A. Paul S initiated a motion asking for District 3's support of the PAI, as prepared by Susan B and the Sober on Saturday Group; support would include bringing the PAI as New Business to the next Area 31 General Service Meeting and for submission to the General Service Conference coordinators. Discussion was held including the present group GSR's, Alt. Delegate, DCM, and other AA members. The discussion lasted approximately 30 minutes; a vote was held with 2 in favor, 4 opposed, and 0 abstentions; the minority opinion was brief and heard, and did not change any of the votes.

B. A second motion was initiated for the GSRs to take the information in the PAI and the District's group conscience back to the groups for further discussion, and to return at the August meeting to see if the District would support the PAI. The groups requested Paul S and Susan B consider the group conscience and suggestions for revision and provide any update as quickly as possible to allow the GSRs to bring any new information to the groups. The motion was unanimous with 6 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

24. New Business carried on well past 8pm.
25. Motion was made and seconded to close the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.
26. The meeting ended with the Responsibility Pledge.

MEETING ENDED at 8:25 pm