

# **DISTRICT 3 MONTHLY MEETING August 18, 2023**

## **MEETING START 7:00 PM**

1. 14 present: 10 Zoom and 4 Lee Courthouse
2. Meeting opened with the Serenity Prayer

## **SECRETARY REPORT**

3. Secretary Gigi L. recapped July 2023 minutes. Motion to accept minutes was made and seconded; minutes accepted unanimously.

## **WELCOME**

4. Area 31 Chair, John G and Chair of the Accessibilities Committee, Bruce Van D

## **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 8 (short form) by Bruce Van D :

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

7. Reading of Concept 8 (short form) by Tom K:

“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. Great Barrington Women's Meeting: Meeting experienced an inability to connect to Zoom at their new location, The First Congregational Church on Main Street in Great Barrington. The meeting currently has limited funds and are looking for additional support.
9. Great Barrington Men's Group: meeting is now being held at the Senior Center, has strong attendance and has 4 Institutions Commitments. The group hosted their annual barbeque on Saturday, August 19th at Sheffield Town Hall to which all were welcome. Morgan is taking over the GSR position from Alex.
10. I Don't Have a Clue: Group picnic was successful in providing group members with an opportunity to be together and for many to meet each other for the first time. Positions are rotating according with the key principles.
11. Keep it Simple: Meetings held M-Sat. and can be quite large. Online and in-person meetings continue to function under the same umbrella. The group participates in 6 institutional Commitments a month.
12. Lee Young People's: Very big meeting, 50-60 people attending.
13. Lenox Big Book Step: Meeting is well attended and has new large print Big Books. Cookies are a continued draw.
14. Pittsfield Men's 12th Step Group: 35-40 in attendance. The group will be hosting a Spaghetti Dinner on October 17. Dinner will be served first come first served beginning at 6:30pm. Pot-Luck dessert donations are welcome. The dinner will be followed by a two speaker meeting, 1 AA Speaker and Al-Anon Speaker. Location is St. Charles Roman Catholic Church on Briggs Avenue in Pittsfield.
15. Sober at Sunrise and Virtual Sober at Sunrise: In-person and virtual meetings conduct business under one umbrella. Attendance is strong for both meetings.
16. Southern Berkshire Group: Group continues to confront the difficulties of recruiting enough volunteers to manage the hybrid format citing the number of tech people needed to manage the on-line component. Large attendance both in-person and online.
17. Watch Your Step: The group is holding both an in-person and an online meeting while working as a single unit concerning group business. The group has commitments and contributes according to the pie chart.

## **INVITED COMMITTEES**

18. Berkshire Institutions represented by Courtney L: Institutions continues to look for volunteers for commitments. The Institutions committee meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month. See either/both Area 31 website or Berkshire Intergroup website.

19. Berkshire Intergroup (BIG), Represented by Secretary Susan B:

A. Retreat with Steve D. from California will be on September 23. Spots were still available as of August 18. There is a suggested \$20 donation. No one will be turned down. Register on the Intergroup website. Please submit group anniversaries to be added to the website.

B. The Pittsfield Police currently have a phone number to give out to possible alcoholics that is a Boston Phone Number. Intergroup is working to connect possible alcoholics to an area number in the Berkshires.

To reach BIG website use the following link: <http://www.berkshireaaintergroup.org/>

20. Area 31 Chair, John G.

A. A Group History form is available on the Area 31 website for download and can be submitted electronically.

B. Concerning the Fall Assembly: importance of GSR attendance at the Fall Assembly was highlighted. This will be a voting meeting. Attendance is open to all AA members.

C. Planning service positions are available for the Mass State Convention.

21. Area 31 Accessibilities Committee Chair, Bruce Van D: The Accessibilities Committee meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month. The meeting is hybrid and @ 7:00pm. The in-person address is 30 Carew Street, South Hadley. Volunteers are needed to give rides to meetings. Zoom information can be found on the calendar at [Area31aa.org](http://Area31aa.org). Bruce Van D. email address is [jvandolson@gmail.com](mailto:jvandolson@gmail.com) and phone number is 413-554-1658.

## **DCM REPORT**

22. DCM Brian W. determined that due to time constraints he would email his notes directly after the meeting to all the GSRs and those at the meeting. The email was issued on 8/18/23, the content is included in this report below identified as paragraph 24, subparagraphs A through K.

23. DCM Report for 8/18/23, from 8/9/23 Area 31 Meeting:
- A. Treasurer reported \$27,525.15 in total funds
  - B. Registrar reported there are currently 180 groups in Area 31 that are deemed active, 60% require updated GSR or Alt GSR information, DCM requested a list in District 3 to cross check and discuss with groups to obtain current information
  - C. Webmaster has purchased a new hosting plan at \$4.95 per month; Webmaster will be attending an AA and Technology on Conference, currently budgeted at \$1500 for the travel
  - D. Accessibilities chair will be attending the D3 monthly meeting on 8/18/23.
  - E. CPC, Grapevine, and Roundup not in attendance.
  - F. Public Info: meeting on the 8th, 5 attendees and Delegate Mike B, 4 commitments currently and the Radio Show, anyone looking to be a part of the Radio Show can email the PI committee chair
  - G. Western MA Institutions: 13 attendees, \$1350 in contributions, \$200 for convention, 793 books on hand.
  - H. WMIG is holding a picnic on 8/20 at Moose Lodge starts at 11am; Golf outing at Agawam Country Club on 8/25, was four, four-some slots left as of 8/9/23.
  - I. The Delegate noted the conference report is expected soon and will be dropped onto the Area 31 website once available.
  - J. The Alt Delegate spoke about Mass State Convention being held 11/11 through 11/14, rooms are available and Steve asked you book through the hotel so the block is credited rather than outside brooker (ie. Expedia), online registration should be available soon.
  - K. New Business: Susan B presented PAI on page 135 to the Area Committee and requested the info be brought back to the groups in the district; limited discussion by the Area Committee.

## **Co-DCM REPORT**

24. Currently Co-DCM role is vacant.

## **SAFETY MOMENT**

25. No safety moment due to anticipated review of Old Business.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

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

8/18/23: Chair Bruce Van D. in attendance. Item Closed.

7/21/23: Reminder to groups to contact [accessibility@area31aa.org](mailto: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.

27. Proposed Agenda Item (PAI) from Paul S. and Susan B., Sober on Saturday Group:

8/18/23: GSR's reported back to the District with their groups' conscience regarding the PAI submitted by Paul S and Susan B. from the Sober on Saturday group. Groups were unanimously opposed to changes to the Big book. Some groups were amenable to the idea of a footnote or appendix. All groups were open to the possibility of a pamphlet. A motion was made to hold a vote for District 3 to support the PAI as written; the motion was not seconded and did not move forward. Item will continue to remain open for discussion through September 2023.

7/21/23: 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.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

28. Gigi L. mentioned discussing the hard stop at 8pm at the next District 3 Meeting in September noting that the amount of time needed to conduct business seems to be more than the current allotment of 1 hour.

29. Motion was made and seconded to close the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

30. The meeting ended with the Responsibility Pledge.

**MEETING ENDED at 8:25 pm**