

DISTRICT 3 MONTHLY MEETING September 15, 2023

MEETING START 7:00 PM

1. 14 present: 12 Zoom, 12 at DCM home; meeting at the town hall was canceled as the town of Lee had a town wide event. All were welcome to join in-person if preferred to Zoom.
2. Meeting opened with the Serenity Prayer

SECRETARY REPORT

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

WELCOME

4. Area 31 Delegate Mike B; Berkshire Intergroup (BIG) Secretary Susan B

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 9 (short form):

"A.A., as such ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve."

7. Reading of Concept 9 (short form):

"Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety. The primary world service leadership once exercised by the founders of A.A. must necessarily be assumed by the Trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous."

GROUP REPORTS

8. Great Barrington Women's Meeting: 15 attendees along with cake, cookies, and coffee.
9. I Don't Have a Clue: Group continues to outline terms and length of service for daily chairs, business meeting chair, treasurer, and anniversary chair. Working towards a firm schedule of rotation. Discussion of the importance of rotation of service.
10. Keep it Simple: The group participates in 6 institutional Commitments a month. Both virtual and live components continue to have strong meetings. Michael noted the group will consider shifting to monthly donations; there are some members of the group who have accessibility issues and they are getting virtually 40 participants.
 - A. Gigi noted that numbers do not necessarily reflect quality during discussion for the group and often smaller groups can have better discussions.
11. Lee Young People's: Very big meeting, 50-60 people attending.
12. Lenox Big Book Step: Going strong and continuing to offer cookies and cake.
13. Monterey 11th Step: Jesse G is the new group GSR, the group meets at 9am on Sunday and outdoors with fresh baked goodies and hot coffee; attendance varies on the weather but 35 in good weather; recently the group approved a motion to remove gendered pronouns from the steps; the group added a second night for service for CSS; DCM will get Jesse the forms for registering with GSO as the GSR.
14. Pittsfield Men's 12th Step Group: 35-40 people 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; potluck dessert donations are welcome; the dinner will be followed by a two speaker meeting, 1 AA Speaker and 1 Al-Anon Speaker; location is St. Charles Roman Catholic Church at 89 Briggs Street in Pittsfield.
15. Virtual Sober at Sunrise: Lisa for VSAS, new GSR and Kathy is the alt GSR, meet 7 days, about 25 days per week, do commitments to McGee and CSS; DCM to provide forms to GSR and Alt. GSR to register with GSO.
16. Southern Berkshire Group: In lieu of donating to the pie chart, group donated entirety to BIG last month; attendance is doing well, Zoom 30 to 40, in person 25 to 50 it does vary; GSR Adam noted the Senior Center will be closed next Friday, on 9/22/23; DCM volunteered to post to the AA FB page for Adam.

A. Susan asked a question about if they have a Zoom meeting due to the in person cancellation and yes the Zoom will be ongoing, Gigi observed the contribution to BIG is a change and would like more information

17. Watch Your Step: Business meeting is 3rd Sunday of the month. Group distributes according to the pie chart. Commitments at McGee on the 2nd and 5th Thursdays of the month. Virtual meeting has 15-20 attendees, 19-25 in person.

18. Great Barrington Thursday Women's Meeting: Jane C noted the group is only meeting in person due to no wifi so they are starting a new and building back their numbers; very good cookies and coffee at the meeting but only 4 people last week,

INVITED COMMITTEES

19. Berkshire Intergroup (BIG): Spiritual retreat on 9/23 in Sheffield with Steve D from California, the deadline for signup was 9/15/23 but BIG will be flexible; a \$20 donation is requested by not required although BIG appreciate help with expenses; an ad hoc group was formed to look at the contact information for AA on the Pittsfield Police Department's website; the BIG steering committee is currently looking at the bylaws and may make suggested revisions to bring to the BIG committee; BIG is also looking at the phone service Berkshire Connector and the increased cost to see if it is a valuable service; currently the printer died and next steps are being considered; District 3, Berkshire Institutions, and BIG are planning for service workshop to be held later in the year; Alcahion planning is underway.

A. Tom K asked about printed When and Wheres and if they will become available in the future, uncertain as printer is not working and looking at services for printing.

<http://www.berkshireaaintergroup.org/>

20. Mike, Area 31 Delegate, negotiating with Southbridge for 60th MA State Convention in 2024; the Grapevine and La Vina apps are now available on devices at \$2.99 per month; Mike note that there is a Traditions meeting for District 3 that folks should attend as well as a Concept meeting monthly hosted by the past delegate; the Area assembly is 10/14 and 10/15 at St Catherines of Sienna, Saturday is an Area inventory hosted by the NE Regional Trustee and Sunday is the Area Business meeting for status for the past six months and elections for Delegate, Alt. Delegate, Area Chair, Secretary, and Treasure, if time there will be a discussion of old and new business.

DCM REPORT

21. DCM Report from the Area 31 Committee Meeting on September 13, 2023

A. Treasurer: Area currently has \$32609 in total funds available including prudent reserved, the previously identified fine for late filing of 990 tax form was waived by the IRS, was an \$87 charge

B. Webmaster: Tom H, attended the AA tech workshop in Winchester, VA, Shendahoah university, 50 in person and 150 online, lots of resources and info including a demonstration on tools being used for managing Hybrid meetings, demonstration on the Grapevine App (\$2.99 per month for the app, \$29.99 per year), and the use of Generative AI to efficiently compile meeting minutes from a business meeting. Webmaster also noted the 73rd GSC report is now on line at the Area 31 website and is located in the Delegates corner section on the homepage (follow the link) https://www.area31aa.org/files/delegate/conference/2023_FINAL_CONFERENCE_REPORT_anonymity_EN.pdf.

C. Grapevine: New chair of Grapevine, Joe, grapevine is planning an event to listen to the podcast, will have a speaker, and launch of the grapevine app, October 27 6 to 8pm.

D. WMIG is working on a “card” version of the when and where, DCM has pictures to share and include as an attachment to the report

E. Area Chair, John G: Grapevine and CPC co-chair positions are open, fall assembly on 10/14 and 10/15, 10 to 4, and 1 to 5, show up early on Saturday to set up, more help is appreciated, inventory on Saturday and Business (need 6 month report from DCM in District 3), keep report to only your district meeting, old business

F. Public Information: Mark Chair reported commitments are going well, if folks want to be a part of the radio show broadcast on WHLL Radio 1450 AM at 6AM Sundays, you can provide Mark’s number and email (link to show log <https://www.area31aa.org/radio>), Mark did note that about the next 5 slots are filled

G. Roundup: Tom chair, only 2 for the roundup, meet at 6 prior to the Area meeting, could use 15 or more people, need a co-chair as well looking, secretary position was filled, treasurer all set, lost of time before the next roundup in May 2024, next meeting is 10/11/23 at 6pm, looking to make the meeting hybrid

H. District 6: Justin DCM, D6 will be holding a traditions workshop 9/30 1 to 3 Hazardville United Methodist Church, 330 Hazard Ave, Enfield, CT.

Co-DCM REPORT

22. Currently Co-DCM role is vacant.

A. Brian W noted that elections will be held in November to fill the Co-DCM role for the following year; may have to go with Third Legacy Voting procedure to find a Co-DCM.

SAFETY MOMENT

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

OLD BUSINESS

24. Proposed Agenda Item (PAI) from Paul S. and Susan B., Sober on Saturday Group: ITEM CLOSED ON 9/13/23

9/13/23: Susan B was thanked again for engaging the District; Brian W noted the information related to the PAI is up on the Area 31 website if folks want to review it; Motion was made and seconded to close this old business, vote was unanimous to close, no additional discussion. CLOSED

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.

25. District Meeting Hard Stop at 8pm: ITEM CLOSED ON 9/13/23

9/13/23: Discussion was had concerning the 8 pm hard stop. It often takes over an hour to address District 3 business in it's entirety. A motion was made to extend the hard stop to 8:15 pm, motion was seconded and passed unanimously. CLOSED

8/18/23: 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.

NEW BUSINESS

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

27. The meeting ended with the Responsibility Pledge.

MEETING ENDED at 8:15 pm