

# **DISTRICT 3 MONTHLY MEETING November 17, 2023**

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

1. 14 present: 9 Zoom, 5 at the Lee Courthouse.
2. Meeting opened with the Serenity Prayer.

## **SECRETARY REPORT**

3. Gigi L. relayed highlights from the October minutes. Motion to accept minutes was made and seconded. Minutes accepted unanimously.

## **WELCOME**

4. Welcome to the new GSR Fran M. from the Berkshire Big Book Group in Cheshire.

## **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 31 website Calendar (<https://area31aa.org/calendar>) or the below links:

Traditions Meeting: <https://area31aa.org/node/579>

Concept Meeting: <https://area31aa.org/node/566>

6. Reading of Tradition 11 (short form):

"Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films."

Link to illustrated version at AA.org: <https://www.aa.org/twelve-traditions-illustrated>

7. Reading of Concept 11:

"While the Trustees hold final responsibility for A.A.'s world service administration, they should

always have the assistance of the best possible standing committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs and consultants. Therefore the composition of these underlying committees and service boards, the personal qualifications of their members, the manner of their induction into service, the systems of their rotation, the way in which they are related to each other, the special rights and duties of our executives, staffs and consultants, together with a proper basis for the financial compensation of these special workers, will always be matters for serious care and concern.”

Link to illustrated version: <https://www.aa.org/twelve-concepts-world-service-illustrated>

## **GROUP REPORTS**

8. Big Book Group, Cheshire: Group meets on Wednesday nights @ 7:30. Meeting attendance is around 20. Currently have service positions filled in the group including an intergroup rep. Business meeting is the fourth Wednesday of the month.
9. Great Barrington Men's Meeting: Service commitments are strong and attendance is strong. The group has regular commitments at McGee, CSS, and the men's jail. All positions are filled and donations continue to be made according to the pie chart.
10. I Don't Have a Clue: Group has officer position filled and has a GSR. The group is currently without an intergroup rep or an institutions rep. With 7 meetings a week and an average attendance of 8 at business meetings the group is glad to have chairs for all seven days and to have officers and continues to encourage service. Daily attendance around 13.
11. Keep it Simple: Business meeting today on 11/17, meeting is mon through sat, virtual and in-person, both doing well, virtual has many regional attendees not just local to District 3. The Group's donation checks to Berkshire Intergroup have not been cashed and the group is making inquiries before making further contributions.
12. Lee Young People's: Continued strong attendance and enthusiasm, 40 something per meeting, positions are filled and commitments at the Jail and McGee. The group gave half of its monthly donations to Berkshire Intergroup and will continue through the year.
13. Lenox Big Book: Humming along with strong attendance. Donating to a modified pie chart.
14. Northern Berkshire Group: The group is doing well, they will be having an incoming

group for a commitment (Lee Young Peoples in December) and will also travel to go to Lee. The group decided to have a Group Inventory, DCM, Brian W., offered to reach out to outgoing Area 31 Delegate, Mike B. and the new Delegate Steve M., the group is hoping that the inventory can happen this Spring. Group is donating to pie chart recommendations, the GSO, and the Wilson House.

15. Pittsfield Men's 12th Step Group: With a successful spaghetti dinner in the rear view mirror, the group elected a back-up treasurer. Group meets every Tuesday 630 to 8pm, read from 12 and 12. Group members number 20 plus and 75% are in attendance at the business meeting and are looking for an Alt-GSR.

16. Virtual Sober at Sunrise: The group is a virtual stand alone group (the Sober at Sunrise group is registered under a separate GSO number).. The group's business meeting is held on the last Saturday of the month following the meeting. Group is currently looking to fill open positions including the Intergroup Rep.

17. Southern Berkshire Group: Business meeting is hybrid. 3rd consecutive month of donating to Berkshire intergroup. Good attendance 45 in person and 50 online, group now has an alt GSR. There is the potential to collaborate with the Sheffield 12 and 12 on a New Year's Alcatraz. Based on the group conscience, the group decided to have "speaker's choice" for the closing prayer.

18. Watch Your Step: Business meeting is 3rd Sunday of the month. Commitments @ McGee on the 2nd and 5th Thursdays of the month. Virtual meeting has 15-20 attendees, 19-25 in person. Currently the group positions are filled; group has representative for the Berkshire Institutions Committee and has an Intergroup representative. Donations are being made according to the group conscience and includes donations to GSO.

## **INVITED COMMITTEES**

19. Area Committee not present.

20. Berkshire Intergroup not present.

21. Berkshire Institutions not present.

## **DCM REPORT**

22. DCM discussed with Area Treasure Steve about utilizing PayPal for D3 rent for 2023;

Steve to release payment.

23. Registrar: 302 total groups in Area 31, asked Districts to check with virtual only groups and their registration to be sure its correct on Fellowship Connection, new GSRs and DCMs/Co-DCMs submit information to registrar, new group/GSR/DCM change form on the Area website.

24. Area 31 new website is set to launch on December 11th and 12th.

25. Delegate: Mike B.

A. MA state convention is November 10th through 12th, starts at 3pm, next years will be at Best Western Crowne Plaza and Trade Center in Marlboro, MA; GSC is meeting for the final time for current Panel and Mike B.

B.. The 59th MA State Convention had 630 attendees and made about \$4k to turn over in support of the 60th MA State Convention Next Year; 60th Convention planning committee will meet in January at the event center and expecting hybrid function as well.

C.. NERAASA 2024 registration is open, NERAASA will be held February 22nd through the 25th at the Hersey Lodge in Hersey, PA; currently the main lodge is sold out of hotel space but available hotels in surrounding area.

D. Area 31 Website has AA Membership Survey available at Area 31 website until November 26th.

26. Focus of the Area Meeting on 11/8/23 was Budget Review:

A. District 3 budget to stay the same for 2024 at \$600; the budget does not include rent or NERAASA which are funded separately.

B. Motion to “fully fund” the delegate, sending \$9000 but this will not “fully fund” but we can send, mathematically it works out to \$10.5k; motion seconded and approved, no additional discussion.

C. NERAASA budget can go to \$12k to reimburse for the Area 31 Committee attendees, up from last years \$9k budget which was not enough to cover attendance as actual costs of \$10.4k; GSRs are not covered by the Area so GSRs should discuss with groups about any reimbursement to attend the conference and participate in panels, roundtables, or just general event.

D. A motion was made to provide a laptop to the secretary and treasurer, discussion talked

about tech and the potential for an ad hoc group to discuss IT policy, motion was seconded; motion does not pass with vote not making it to  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority; D3 DCM believes the Area should move forward with a review of technology SOP as well as consider how to make all roles accessible at the Area committee regardless of financial capabilities including funding laptops as needed.

27. District 3 - Adhoc Service Celebration Planning committee consisting of reps from District, BIG, and BIC has finalized the date and location, January 20th at the Congregational church, 4 Main Street in Stockbridge, meeting will be hybrid and anticipated from 830 to 1 with 3 panels with 3 to 4 speakers Current remaining Budget to support the event from 2023 District funds is \$507.

Planned Budget for event is:

- \$6 to \$8 per person for snacks and refreshments (30 to 40) - \$320,
- \$50 to the location for the event,
- PPE: \$90 which includes a Corsi Rosenthal Box for air filtering if needed (still checking with location about its air filtering equipment),
- Hard copies of pamphlets and handbooks at \$30,
- Total NTE: \$490.

No additional discussion occurred. Adhoc group will continue to update the District.

## **Co-DCM REPORT**

28. Currently Co-DCM role is vacant.

## **SAFETY MOMENT**

29. No safety moment.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

31. Co-DCM Vacancy (11/17/23): Brian W. read the District Committee Member Duties from page 29 of the Area Handbook and asked if anyone was willing to stand. At this time, no one attending the meeting was willing to stand.

32. Vote on Budget (10/15/23) - DCM noted that the budget for 2023 is untouched but expected 300 to 400 will be committed in December to the Service Celebration; motion was

made to utilize the \$600 budget for District 3 for next year, motion seconded, none opposed no further discussion. *[ITEM CLOSED TO BE REMOVED]*

33. Elections (10/15/23) - DCM noted we will need to vote next month on Co-DCM; Brian W noted that he started his term in the end of April and that the GSRs should determine if he retains the role, and that the secretary role may be up but that would be up to the groups; motion to keep Brian as DCM through 2024, seconded and adopted; motion to keep secretary through 2024 was seconded and adopted. *[ITEM CLOSED TO BE REMOVED]*

## **NEW BUSINESS**

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

35. The meeting ended with the Responsibility Pledge.

**MEETING ENDED at 8:00 pm**