

DISTRICT 3 MONTHLY MEETING December 15, 2023

MEETING START 7:00 PM

1. 13 present: 8 Zoom, 5 at the Lee Courthouse.
2. Meeting opened with the Serenity Prayer.

SECRETARY REPORT

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

WELCOME

4. Mike B Area 31 Delegate and Courtney L the Berkshire Intergroup (BIG) co-Chair.

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 12 by Area Delegate Mike B (short form):

"Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities."

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

7. Reading of Concept 12 by Fran from the Berkshire Big Book Group:

“General Warranties of the Conference: in all its proceedings, the General Service Conference shall observe the spirit of the A.A. Tradition, taking great care that the conference never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle; that none of the Conference Members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others; that all important decisions be reached by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; that though the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action.”

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

GROUP REPORTS

8. Berkshire Big Book Group: 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 on the fourth Wednesday of the month. BBB is looking for a slot in the Alkathon for Xmas and is looking to get more service positions filled at the group level to support the Berkshires; also looking for commitments at institutions in the Berkshires.
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; the group now also has a commitment at Berkshire Detox center. All positions are filled and donations continue to be made according to the pie chart. The virtual Sunday night step meeting is reading out of 12 and 12 getting 10 to 12 participants per work. The GBMM notes the new space at the Great Barrington Senior Center is accommodating the nearly 80 plus people and the separate and concurrent Zoom meeting is discontinued at this time due to lack of attendance.
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; the group is working on a rotating chair structure with the position being filled by group members; IDHAC is hosting a Zoomathan, still looking for one more chair for the meetings, the event will run from 9am to 9pm on New Year's Eve and day, flier to be sent to Brian W, BIG News has it in the flier that just came out; daily attendance is still around 13.

11. Keep it Simple: 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 has created a service position acting as the liaison between the in person and Zoom
12. Lee Young People's: The group has about 40 attendees and is contributing to the pie chart with extra money each month to BIG. Currently there are a good amount of young people and lots of anniversaries each month including six in January. The group is looking to have a group anniversary celebration soon, the Group anniversary is at the end of January.
13. Northern Berkshire Group: The group is doing well. The Lee Young People's meeting brought a commitment to the group this month. The NBG is looking to have a group inventory in 2024 and has asked the DCM to reach out to Area Chair to connect them; the group has requested that past delegate Mike B facilitate if he is available. The group noted its checks to GSO are not clearing in a timely manner; it was noted the group should double check it is including the group ID on the check. The annual mid-winter blues get together is being planned the Sunday before Super Bowl week shotgun and potluck, more info to come. Group is donating to pie chart recommendations, the GSO, and the Wilson House.
14. Pittsfield Men's 12th Step Group: 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. 30 to 40 in attendance, service commitment at CSS on the first Friday of the month and a jail commitment to the BC House of Correction. The Group discussed the GSO funding issue and sent extra money to GSO based on the letter that was distributed by the Office Manager at GSO. Group also has a time slot for the alkathon and noted its 5pm Xmas eve to noon on Xmas day.
15. 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. VSAS donated \$800 last month to Berkshire Intergroup. VSAS has an institution commitment and now has a Berkshire Institutions rep; the group is still looking for a BIG representative. The group also has a slot reserved for XMas Alkathon in Pittsfield.
16. 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. The group has simplified the hybrid service structure as it is difficult to fill all the roles.

17. Watch Your Step: Business meeting is the 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; the group has representatives for the Berkshire Institutions Committee and has an Intergroup representative. Donations are being made according to the group conscience and includes donations to GSO and additional donations are being made to Berkshire Intergroup

INVITED COMMITTEES

18. Berkshire Intergroup, Courtney L Co-Chair: The BIG is holding the XMas Alkathon from 5pm on XMas Eve to noon on XMas day at St Charles Church in Pittsfield; there are still volunteer opportunities available and folks can contact the Office Manager Robin directly or call the Intergroup Office. BIG is now doing very well financially and is no longer in the red thanks to the support of Groups in the District supporting the request for additional donations. Courtney noted that if there are any questions specifically about contributions at BerkshireAAIntergroup@gmail.com. The Group is currently updating its by-laws and the hotline volunteer list. There is an open discussion about providing printed copies of the meeting list again that is being reviewed at the committee meeting.

19. Area 31, Mike B Delegate: The Area has Concept meeting first Thursday of every month that is held in person at the Area meeting location on Carew Street in Hadley as well as virtual; Mike B will be taking the lead on the meeting in 2024 as he will become the past Delegate. The new website was launched in December and worked well except email issues that were anticipated. The MA State convention planning meeting for 2024 60th is Jan 30 at 7pm at the Best Western in Marlboro MA; they are planning to make the committee meeting hybrid for participation but the convention will NOT be hybrid. It was noted that there are currently 85 Proposed Agenda Items (PAIs) for the GSC in April 2024, which will need to have been reviewed at the District level by 2/15/24 to support the Delegate Steve M in preparation for the Convention.

20. Berkshire Institutions not present.

DCM REPORT

21. 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. Flyers have been posted to the Area 31 and BIG websites, as well as the Berkshires Facebook page.

22. Treasurer from Budget Meeting: Held last month, treasurer provided three options, Budget A has everything agreed on and accounts for expenses that increased from 2023, noted that OPT C was the voted \$12k on NERAASA, budget C is adopted.

23 Incoming Alt Delegate, Ray will be providing the GSR presentations, Ray will come earlier than 2024 if desired.

24. General Area Reports Notes:

A. Archivist: The archivist requested DCMs print hard copies for 2023 Meeting Minutes and provide to the Archivist for posterity; District 3 will print January through approved December 2023 minutes.

B. Webmaster: migration of Area 31 website to new Wordpress site happened on 12/14/23. Also briefly discussed the option to move the Area to Google Workspace and gets additional cloud storage and would get the Google Meets, would be \$3 per user at this time, about \$75 annually to cover all users.

C. Accessibilities: Bruce Van D last night, Max new chair, 6 members in attendance, looking to update pamphlets and volunteer databases.

D. Roundup: The committee is searching for a venue for 2024 and is in need of many committee members (about 20 people). The next meeting is on Jan 10th at 6pm.

E. Western MA Intergroup: The chair Bob is rotating to Area Chair and Yolanda is the new WMIG chair. The new Area 31 "When and Where's" should be out by mid-Feb 2024.

F. Outgoing Delegate Mike B spoke about questions being asked of the Delegates in a survey regarding the founder's writings; anticipated that there will be a sharing session at conference next year; there are many PAIs in the past few years regarding the founder's writings.

G. Alt Delegate: Steve M, placed on the trustees nominating committee at GSC, GSC is April 14 through the 20th in 2024,, will need about 3 weeks between mini conference and General Service Conference, one weekend in may won't be available. MA State

convention, went well, attendance went up, did make about \$1200, there will be refunds, Ray will be taking over the car pooling is Jan 30th in Marlboro, MA.

Co-DCM REPORT

25. Currently Co-DCM role is vacant.

SAFETY MOMENT

26. No safety moment.

OLD BUSINESS

27. 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.

NEW BUSINESS

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

29. The meeting ended with the Responsibility Pledge.

MEETING ENDED at 8:15 pm