

# **DISTRICT 3 MONTHLY MEETING January 19, 2024**

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

1. Meeting opened with the Serenity Prayer.
2. 17 present: 12 Zoom, 5 at the Lee Courthouse.

## **SECRETARY REPORT**

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

## **WELCOME**

4. Ray M Area 31 Delegate and Courtney L the Berkshire Intergroup (BIG) 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 1 by Brian H:

"Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity."

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

7. Reading of Concept 1 by Melinda:

"Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship."

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

## **GROUP REPORTS**

8. Monterey 11th Step: Meeting is Monterey and meets outdoors even in the winter; noted that two members are going to attend NERAASA.
9. Big Book Group, Cheshire: Group meets on Wednesday nights @ 7:30. They have a changing format and have decided to eliminate their PayPal account.
10. I Don't Have a Clue: Hosted a successful Christmas Day Zoom-a-thon, meeting size varied from 6 to 12 participants. The intimate meetings were enjoyed by all. The position of Business Meeting Chairperson opened and remains open.
11. Keep it Simple: the group has 3 institutions commitments a month and is no longer doing the Jones commitment; the group elected a new alt GSR, Brian C
12. Lee Young People's: five upcoming anniversaries this month; currently have an institutions rep and a BIG rep, an alt-GSR is needed; the group sent extra money to GSO this month; new people joining, good attendance and lots of cake, still looking at having a group anniversary in the spring.
13. Lenox Big Book: Continues to be a well-attended meeting; they are currently looking at changing the format of the meeting and will may eliminate the PayPal account due or lack of use; group positions are all filled and they have a BIG rep and an Institutions Committee rep.
14. Northern Berkshire Group; The group continues to take steps to hold a Group Inventory in the Spring; group will be hosting a post-holiday potluck dinner on February 4th (a week before the Super Bowl) @ 6:30 pm; the group assigned a new position to organize and coordinate speakers from local meetings coming in, and going out from the group; currently positive attendance and the group is sending money to GSO as support.
15. Pittsfield Men's 12th Step Group: The group has an institutions' commitment @ CSS and renewed their subscription to the Grapevine and LaVina which is distributed to the jail as a gift; the group contributes according to the pie chart and is in discussion about a need for alt-GSR position or treasurer.
16. Stockbridge Tower Group: The group has all service positions filled including monthly commitments to CSS and McGee and the group is inspired to have more opportunities for fun and fellowship; group has three anniversaries this month and will have ice cream cakes for the

celebrations; the group is entertaining the idea of hosting a spring dance party at the Southern County Recovery Center in Great Barrington; attendance generally between 40 to 60 people in-person and 6 to 12 typically on Zoom.

17. Sober at Sunrise: The group meets daily from 7 to 8am at the Crane Center in Pittsfield and attendance ranges from 35-50 people; They have an Institutions Commitment @ CSS on the third Thursday of the month; the group's treasurer is changing and the group is still seeking an Institutions' and BIG reps; Contributions were spent evenly between GSO and Area31; SAS is offering more opportunities for members to do service at the group level, right now the coffee maker chooses the chair, and roles are offered for reading how it works and the steps; attendance is 35 to 50 and the business meeting is first Saturday of the month but is not that well attended.

18. Southern Berkshire Group: Coffee and cookies will make their return since hygiene guidelines have relaxed at the Community Center; the group currently is looking for an alt GSR; the meeting chair via the update format now has the choice to close the meeting with either the Lord's Prayer, The Responsibility Pledge, or The Serenity Prayer; based on the GSO letter the group is giving 50% to GSO for the rest of the first quarter.

19. Virtual Sober @ Sunrise: Kathy, former alt. GSR, is now the GSR with Lisa rotating out; thank you for your service Lisa! The group averages 20-30 people every morning. The group is establishing a new business meeting format and a new chair to start in January; group is looking at electing a BIG representative.

20. Watch Your Step: Host an in-person meeting while simultaneously hosting a Zoom meeting. All of the group's commitments are filled through December 2024 including institutions on the 2nd and 5th Thursday each month; the Institutions rep for the meeting is also the Chair of Berkshire Institutions Committee.

## **INVITED COMMITTEES**

21. Berkshire Intergroup, Courtney L, Chair: Courtney has rolled into the Chair role and Dwayne elected new co-Chair; monthly meeting is held on the second Monday of the month; chair noted that the XMas alkathan was very successful and actually made money; BIG is financially healthy thanks to group donations and has asked its reps to engage groups for suggestions for events to host; meets the second Monday of the month, zoom only and can be found at BIG website: <http://berkshireaintergroup.org>.

22. Area 31, Ray M Alt-Delegate: Ray provided new GSR training presentation and will issue

the powerpoint slides to the District for distribution to the GSRs; reported that the Spring assembly is in Westfield on March 23 and 24 and will be an opportunity for GSRs to weigh in on PAIs before the Delegate goes to the General Service Conference for April 13 to 20, the agenda items are anticipated around 2/15/24 and expected that 50-plus are related to literature; Ray noted that if groups want the Area Committee will come as a group and speak about service; the Area roundup will be in June.

23. Berkshire Institutions not present.

## **DCM REPORT**

24. Service Celebration to be held 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.

25. Area Committee Meeting Notes:

A. Registrar: noted the DCM and GSRs are starting to be uploaded in the system as we come into the beginning of the year and said please continue to email the information as needed; Sally will be visiting District meetings; there are currently 300 active registered groups, 2 virtual groups, there was three virtual groups but one become inactive, in the Area.

B. WMCYPAA, Kaitlyn: WMCYPAA is now meeting on Thursday at 630pm, 35 Chestnut Street in Springfield, second Thursday of the month and will need support.

C. Delegate, Steve M: selected to the Trustees committee for the 74th GSC held April 14th through the 20th in Brooklyn; Trustees are looking for resumes for two appointed Committee members with military service.

D. Alt Delegate, Ray: on the Mass state planning committee and the location is moved to Marlborough for the last Tuesday of every other odd month up through October.

E. Area Chair, Bob: Spring assembly is in District 6, March 23 through 24 in Westfield; Area will get a van to go to NERAASA, recommend using the email to communicate, the when and where is going to be produced from the meeting guide, need a Grapevine chair, NERAASA 22nd through the 25th of February, the Chair requested shortening the reports of all committee members.

26. Motion to order the grapevine subscription was put forward and then seconded; after discussion it was then rescinded without objection and the archivist is to work with treasurer to get the grapevine; it was noted by Delegate this is just a function of the archivist.

## **Co-DCM REPORT**

27. Currently Co-DCM role is vacant.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

28. 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**

29. Mike K mentioned that a new meeting has started at the South County Recovery Center and meets seven days per week at 7am.

30. Tom L asked the BIG Chair about printed “When and Where’s”; Courtney stated they are being printed but if you need more than 10 you should call first to the office to be sure there is enough available.

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

32. The meeting ended with the Responsibility Pledge.

**MEETING ENDED at 8:15 pm**