

# **DISTRICT 3 MONTHLY MEETING February 16, 2024**

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

1. Meeting opened with the Serenity Prayer.
2. 16 present: 11 Zoom, five at the Lee Courthouse.

## **SECRETARY REPORT**

3. Brian W. read the highlights from the January 2024 minutes. Motion to accept minutes was made and seconded. Minutes accepted unanimously.

## **WELCOME**

4. Ray M Area 31 Alt-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 District Three 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/events/district-3-virtual-traditions-meeting/>

Concept Meeting: <https://area31aa.org/events/what-a-concept/>

6. Reading of Tradition Two, short form, by Tom K:

"For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern."

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

7. Reading of Concept Two by Pete C:

“When, in 1955, the A.A. groups confirmed the permanent charter for their General Service Conference, they thereby delegated to the Conference complete authority for the active maintenance of our world services and thereby made the Conference—excepting for any change in the Twelve Traditions or in Article 12 of the Conference Charter—the actual voice and the effective conscience for our whole Society.”

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

## **GROUP REPORTS**

8. Sober at Sunrise (In Person): Group commitment at CSS every Thursday, filled by the group members and booked four months in advance, all service spots in the group filled, no institutions rep; the group looking at providing a subscription to Grapevine to donate to institutions; group added donated additional funds to GSO; business meeting is the first Saturday of the month.
9. Watch Your Step: Group meets in person and zoom, commitments on 2nd and 5th Thursdays of the month to McGee, all commitments filled, 30 to 40 in person, 18 to 22 virtually.
10. Virtual Sober at Sunrise: 25 to 30 people, business meeting is the last Saturday of the month and currently has a commitment to McGee; group contributed extra money GSO; Jill has moved from the role of GSR and Kathy is now gone from alt-GSR to GSR and is registered; alt-GSR Paula attended meeting and is registered; it was noted that a group member, Mark L, has created a roadmap to recovery graphic that the group is reviewing as a tool for working with others; previous GSR Lisa has joined BIG as the VSAS Intergroup rep.
11. Keep It Simple: Group meets 6 days per week in person and on Zoom and the business meeting is the third Friday of every month and is hybrid. Recently the group relinquished Jones commitment as they could not support it. Brian C is now Alt-GSR and will provide info to the DCM; the group is considering discontinuing the Saturday Zoom meeting; group is now making coffee again and bringing snacks again and have added the service position of spiritual timekeeper for 3 and half minute maximum shares during the meeting.
12. Stockbridge Tower Group: 40 to 60 plus for in-person and on Zoom; hybrid is very effective with the tools available within the space. The Group has 4 anniversaries this month; commitments at CSS and McGEE; and is considering an event in the future, more details to come. The business meeting is first Tuesday of the month.

13. Southern Berkshire Group: The group is doing well filling all internal group commitments and external commitments at institutions; the group is still discussing the challenges associated with filling the hybrid format of the meeting; the group is also discussing how to best donate and was looking for the pie chart for the Area (provided via the Zoom chat link during the meeting, thank you Mike K!); and the group is bringing coffee and snacks back to the meeting.

14. Great Barrington Men's Meeting: lots of men are attending the meeting with a great range of new and experienced folks. Group has created the service position of a sponsor liaison; group has service commitments at McGee, the jail, CSS, and a mountainside speaking commitment. Group is currently providing contributions according to the pie chart.

15. 11th step Monterey: The meeting is at the firehouse in Monterey, 9am Sunday; the meeting is outdoor and has coffee and baked goods. At the recent business meeting the group elected new representatives and officers in the spirit of rotation, as well as a new intergroup rep. The group has two nights per month McGee as a service commitment and two group members will be attending NERAASA.

16. Berkshire Big Book in Chester: Group has a commitment to first Sunday at 11 at McGee and is paying attention to the pie chart for its method of contributing. Group has been discussing how to accommodate people based on the layout of the space to ensure everyone has a seat at the table. Business meeting is held on the fourth Wednesday and a few people are coming to meeting; the group is considering moving the meeting to before to get more participation.

17. Northern Berkshire Group: Meeting is every Sunday and Tuesday 730pm. The group held a potluck winter event on 2/4/24 and had a good turnout, in fact, the largest attendance the group has ever had. The GSR is working with the Area Chair for the group inventory. Pete the questions with the DCM; DCM to share with all GSRs.

18. Lee Young People's Meeting: noted that there is a good variety of people attending the meeting. The group is looking to get another commitment at either McGee or CSS and currently needs an alt GSR. They are making contributing according to the pie chart with an extra contribution to GSO last month. Tom noted this is a chip meeting that hands out coins to recognize milestones in early recovery (24 hours to 29 days, 1 to 11 months) which is very beneficial to show the program works and for those new in recovery to have something tangible to hold.

19. Lenox Thursday Night Big Book: the meeting is going well. The format was revamped

taking out the announcement of paypal as it was not being utilized.

## **INVITED COMMITTEES**

20. Berkshire Intergroup, Courtney L, Chair: BIG meeting is the second Monday of each month and is on Zoom; the link can be BIG website (see link below); BIG is asking Intergroup reps to go their groups and see what activities the members would like to participate in rather than just the BIG officers and committee members deciding; BIG is looking to reinvigorating the “bookie” meeting to get groups in the Berkshires to support each other by bringing sharing speakers between meetings as well as get an organized list together to be managed by BIG; the bylaws are still being updated and have been sent back to BIG reps for comment; the BIG office open three days per week on Monday, Tuesday, and Friday, still need volunteers; BIG is also printing meeting lists, if you need more than 10 it is recommended you please just call in advance to be sure there will be enough printed and ready.

Link to Berkshire Intergroup Website: <https://www.berkshireaaintergroup.org/>

21. Area 31, Ray M Alt-Delegate: the Agend Items for the 74th General Service Conference have been released but background information is still not complete yet; The Mass State Convention meets next on March 26th will be hybrid for the planning committee, not for the conventions, Ray M will take some folks if the want to ride from the Chicopee area to Marlborough, please reach out via email to [altdelegate@area31aa.org](mailto:altdelegate@area31aa.org); it was noted that NERAASA 2025 Area 13 (Washington D.C.) has officially backed out of holding the event, other Northeast Areas are looking at what can be done to support (additional information relayed in DCM Report); Alt-Delegate noted the Spring assembly is March 23 and 24th at St. John’s Church in Westfield, 60 Broad Street, times are not yet settled but will be posted soon to the Area website;

The DCM noted that he expressed on behalf of District 3 that we are in favor of Steve M., the Area 31 Delegate, discussing with the other Northeast Regional Delegates (NERDs) the possibility of hosting or sharing the hosting of a virtual or in-person option.

**22. POST MEETING NOTE FROM DCM:** see the link to event below, times are, Saturday 3/23/24 from 9am to 4pm for the mini-conference and Sunday, 3/24/24 1pm to 5pm for the business meeting, <https://area31aa.org/events/spring-assembly-mini-conference/>

23. Berkshire Institutions not present.

## **DCM REPORT**

24. Per request of the Area archivist, DCM delivered hard copies for all approved meeting minutes for 2023, the summary of motions, and the flier for the Service Celebration held on January 20th.
25. The Celebration of Service on Jan 20th was a success with approximately 45 in-person attendees and 25 virtual, thank you to the Area Committee members who made the drive or joined via Zoom to show support for the event.
26. The District 3 Tradition meeting was shifted this month by one week and will be held on Sunday, February 18th and will be at 7pm on Zoom; past Delegate Mike B will share on Tradition 2.
27. Area Committee Meeting Notes:
  - A. Agenda Items have been distributed for the 74th General Service Conference but the background information has not come out yet, anticipated very soon. The Delegate has asked the groups to review the seven items noted as “considered” which will have a vote at the GSC and which will be discussed at the Area 31 Spring Assembly; the DCM will create a google drive folder to share the PAIs and Background information with the GSRs.
  - B. The Spring Assembly is March 22 and 23 and will be held at St. John’s Lutheran Church, 60 Broad Street in Westfield; pizza will be served on Saturday; Sunday is the business meeting, the DCM will present on the happenings in our district for the past 6 months. Location on Google Maps: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/ubz4mXYWq5hShcqD8>
  - C. NERAASA is being held in Hershey, PA from February 22 through the 25; the DCM for District 3 will be attending
  - D. WMASS Intergroup is holding a picnic on August 18th, more information to come; and WMASS IG is hosting a scramble golf tournament on May 25th at the Agawam CC, play will start at 12:30pm, sign up with a team of four or ask to be put on a team,
  - E. WMASS Roundup Committee needs support from anyone looking for a Service position, the committee meets In-person location at 30 Carew St., South Hadley, MA 01075 at 6pm right before the monthly Area meeting; information on both events is not yet on the WMASS IG website: <https://westernmassaa.org/>
  - F. NERAASA 2025 currently does not have a location or an Area to support the event.

Area 13 declined to host the event after the Delegate agreed at the 73rd GSC. Planning typically takes 2 years and requires up to 40 people; the event is anticipated to be self-supporting. Our Area 31 Delegate has been given the go ahead to discuss with other Northeast Regional Delegates (NERDs) about a shared effort between multiple districts and what can reasonably be done. Area 31 has stated it supports the Delegate engaging in the discussions. Information was to be provided by the Delegate at the next Area meeting but next meeting is cancelled due to Spring Assembly. DCM will get feedback from the Delegate or will bring up during Spring Assembly.

## **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.

**2/16/24:** DCM requested that GSRs take this to their homegroups to discuss the need for a member of District 3 to step up for the co-DCM role.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

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 8:18 pm**