

# DISTRICT 3 MONTHLY MEETING March 15, 2024

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## MEETING START 7:00 PM

1. Meeting opened with the Serenity Prayer.
2. 15 present: 11 Zoom, four at the Lee Courthouse.

## SECRETARY REPORT

3. Gigi L. read the highlights from the February 2024 minutes. Motion to accept minutes was made and seconded. Minutes accepted unanimously.

## WELCOME

4. Steve 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 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 Three, short form, by Steve:

"The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking."

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

7. Reading of Concept Three by Tom K.:

“To ensure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A.—the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives—with a traditional ‘Right of Decision’.”

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

## **GROUP REPORTS**

8. Big Book Group, Cheshire: Alternate GSR communicated that she and other members of her group had just heard about the Plain Language Big Book. Area 31 Delegate, Steve, gave some background and Dist.3 DCM, Brian W. committed to send an MP3 file from the NERAASA Conference that has many talks including information and discussion about the Plain Language Big Book. Files are available from DCM.

9. Boiled Owls: A young group whose attendance varies widely, Boiled Owls has collected a lot of money and is learning about where it can be sent and spent. There are not enough group members to fill all service roles. The business meeting is on the 2nd Monday of the Month, and Brian W., Dist. 3 DCM has offered to attend and help as he is able. DCM will loop the Boiled Owls in with Berkshire Institutions.

10. Great Barrington Women’s Meeting: Sometimes it is the GSR alone that is setting up the meeting. The group is working to make the space beautiful, hospitable, and functional by adding plants, carpet, and a fridge. They are finally making coffee on a counter instead of the floor! The business meeting is on the 1st Thursday of the Month. They give to the pie chart and are looking at positions and commitments. A nearby recovery center holds a meeting an hour earlier which may be contributing to the Group having lower attendance. The DCM is willing and able to attend a business meeting and to be of assistance in any way needed.

11. I Don’t Have a Clue Group: The Group is now entirely virtual having ceded its Sunday morning in-person meeting space to former IDHAC members who wanted to be autonomous and form their own group. The vote to relinquish the in-person space was, like all decision making votes, taken twice to implement the change. Healthy discussion amid strong emotions was a gift of the program in action.

12. Keep It Simple Group: Business meeting is well attended. The group has decided to make their donations quarterly going forward. The rodent problem is being addressed with traps. The in-person meeting has incorporated a time keeper with a limit of 3 1/2 minutes per share. No

dogs in person on Saturdays. The doors will remain open for the scheduled hour even if in-person meeting finishes early.

13. Lee Young People's Group: The Group will be discussing the Agenda Items for the General Service Conference at their next business meetings. The Group has commitments at the jail, and detox and are adding a commitment to CSS. The Group participates in self-scheduled bookie meetings, trading commitments with other groups.

14. Lenox Big Book Group: Chugging along as members with newer sobriety step in to fill service positions. It feels healthy. Karen reported that The Unity Group, a group that met @ Lenox Community Center on Friday nights has, for the time being, stopped meeting. The Unity has, as of now, paused and not dissolved.

15. Northern Berkshire Group: The Group will meet on Wednesday, March 20, to do a Group Inventory. The purpose of the Inventory is to discuss, review, and consider possible actions. DCM to attend.

16. Virtual Sober at Sunrise Group: The group's business meeting is held on the last Saturday of the month following the meeting. The group sends out chips, Big Books and Daily Reflections upon request. A group conscious meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, March 20th to discuss agenda items prior to the Spring Assembly.

17. Southern Berkshire Group: Business meeting is hybrid and the set-up could be tweaked to make the business meeting feel more cohesive. There was a bit of a false start with the reintroduction of coffee and cookies, but all is worked out. There have been only a few newcomers and service is being encouraged.

18. Watch Your Step Group: Business meeting is 3rd Sunday of the month. All group positions are filled in addition to having a Berkshire Intergroup rep.

## **INVITED COMMITTEES**

19. Berkshire Intergroup, Courtney L, Chair:

The business meeting is held the 2nd Monday of the Month @ 7pm on Zoom. There are many new Intergroup Reps. and more are welcome! Intergroup Reps and GSR's are asked to bring ideas from their groups regarding what events Berkshire AA's would like to see Intergroup organize and host. Annually Intergroup hosts the Christmas Alkathon and one other event.

Meeting lists are being created that fit on a foldable 8 1/2 x 11 sheet of paper with lines on the back for phone numbers. An ad-hoc committee has been formed to explore better possibilities for the phone/hotline system. The “Bookie” Meetings, meetings where one group visits another and the visiting group members share their experience, strength and hope, are not yet organized, and will be in place soon.

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

20. Area 31, Steve M, Delegate:
  - A. When and Wheres will be available Monday, March 18.
  - B. The Round-Up has a new location @ St. John's Church, Westfield. Lunch will be served for all and there will be a catered dinner for which reservations are required.
  - C. The Massachusetts State Convention Committee will be meeting on March 26 and next on May 28 and can use more volunteers. The Convention will be held November 8-10 in Marlboro, MA with Al-Anon participation. Planning meetings are hybrid.
21. Berkshire Institutions not present.

## **DCM REPORT**

22. DCM, Brian W.:
  - A. NERAASA 2024 was held February 22nd through the 25th, 1300-plus registered attendees; District 3 purchased the full suite of MP3s
  - B. Sharing Session and Workshop held in person and virtual to discuss Agenda Items to be “considered” at the 74th General Service Conference and a presentation on the status of the Plain Language Big Book; 12 attended in person, 14 virtually.
  - C. Area Assembly is coming up on March 23rd and 24th and will be at St John’s in Westfield, 60 Broad Street; Saturday the 23rd will be the mini-conference from 9am to 4pm with lunch provided, and Sunday the 24th will be the Area business meeting from 1pm to 5pm.
  - D. Current Spend on District 3 Budget for 2024:
    - i. NERAASA MP3s - \$60
    - ii. Agenda Items Workshop - \$75 for venue for 4 hours, \$95 for food
    - iii. Remaining (\$600 - \$230) = \$370

E. DCM noted there was interest in holding a writing workshop regarding the “Do you Think You’re Different” pamphlet which is being updated this year, as well as for the Grapevine or La Vina. Session to be held hybrid in early April 2024.

## **Co-DCM REPORT**

23. Currently Co-DCM role is vacant.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

24. 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**

25. Motion was made and seconded to close the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.
26. The meeting ended with the Responsibility Pledge.

**MEETING ENDED at 8:15 p.m.**