

DISTRICT 3 MONTHLY MEETING September 20, 2024

MEETING START 7:00 PM

1. Meeting opened with the Serenity Prayer.
2. 14 present: 12 Zoom, 2 at 25 Davis Street, Lee MA.

SECRETARY REPORT

3. Gigi L. recapped highlights from the August minutes. Motion to accept minutes for August was made and seconded. Minutes accepted unanimously.

WELCOME

4. Steve M., Area 31 Delegate; 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 Nine, long form, by Brian W.:

“Each A.A. group needs the least possible organization. Rotating leadership is the best. The small group may elect its secretary, the large group its rotating committee, and the groups of a large metropolitan area their central or intergroup committee, which often employs a full-time secretary. The trustees of the General Service Board are, in effect, our A.A. General Service

Committee. They are the custodians of our A.A. Tradition and the receivers of voluntary A.A. contributions by which we maintain our A.A. General Service Office at New York. They are authorized by the groups to handle our over-all public relations and they guarantee the integrity of our principle newspaper, the A.A. Grapevine. All such representatives are to be guided in the spirit of service, for true leaders in A.A. are but trusted and experienced servants of the whole. They derive no real authority from their titles; they do not govern. Universal respect is the key to their usefulness. ”

Link to AA.Org Long Version: https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/smf-187_en%201021.pdf

7. Reading of Concept Nine by Steve M.:

“Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety. The primary world service leadership once exercised by the founders of A.A. must necessarily be assumed by the Trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous

Link to AA.Org Twelve Concepts LongForm:

https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/smf-195_en%201121.pdf

GROUP REPORTS

8. I Don't Have a Clue Group: IDHAC four month commitment for the chair appears to be working well and looking to fill the roles for treasurer and secretary; the IDHAC group is working on a Zoomathon or virtual thanksgiving and Xmas and 6 or 8 hour window for the event.

9. Lenox Big Book Group: Lenox BB still has around 30 in attendance during summer and the fall is booming as well; there is a good core group and young people and the group is contributing to pie chart; group has institutions commitments including Tuesday to McGee; Dennis F. is celebrating at the end of September.

10. GB Men's Meeting: Men;s meeting commitments to Berkshire County House of Corrections, CSS, and McGee; the online step virtual meeting on Sundays at 7pm is doing well and is available on Meeting Guide App; the group will hold a picnic at Sheffield town park from 12 to 5pm, food will be provided and group members bringing potluck open to all.

11. Boiled Owls: Boiled Owls meeting has good attendance from 7 to 20, currently no desire to celebrate or take on commitments.
12. Alphabet Soup: Meeting is an LGBTQ+ meeting that meets on Monday at 7pm, 5 members of the group and 10 attendance last Monday; business meeting is after the last Monday meeting of the month.
13. GB Women's Meeting: The meeting is Thursday at 7pm and is anchored by a small core group; still need to fill service positions in the group and the Berkshires; group is talking about a commitment at McGee or CSS; the group provides welcome packets to new women to the meeting; the group is discussing the number of PLBB books to order.
14. Southern Berkshire Group: Chris the alt. GSR will be taking over as the GSR; the group has good attendance (60 to 80) between in person and virtual; commitments in the group and to institutions are being filled, elections held and new positions that have started immediately;
15. Keep it Simple Group: WiFi now is working well in the space in the basement; quarterly business meeting was held and had a record number of people; the Saturday noon meeting will now become a hybrid meeting with the whole group rather than two separate meetings due to the new wifi access; looking at mechanical equipment for air flow with new dehumidifier.
16. Tower Group: meeting is on Tuesday at 8pm and is hybrid; service positions in the group are filled; group has three outgoing commitments to institutions; a dance is to be held at the South County Recovery Center at the end of the Month.
17. Berkshire Big Book: meeting is in Cheshire at 730pm on Wednesday, hour and a half; treasurer will be needed at the end of the year as the current person is rotating out; group has a commitment at McGee and commitment is filled, 20 or so in attendance weekly.
18. Virtual Sober at Sunrise: the business meeting is the last Saturday of the month; meeting is a Daily reflection meeting; the chair rotation commitment has been a challenge that the group is working through; there is a new institutions rep in the Berkshires; the group voted to change prudent reserve from \$400 to \$300 at the last business meeting to align better with the Traditions.

INVITED COMMITTEES

19. Berkshire Intergroup, Courtney, Chair: The business meeting is held the 2nd Monday of the Month @ 7pm on Zoom. Bookie Meeting is a hybrid meeting held at 6pm on the 2nd Monday of the month; BIG is holding another event on Oct 12th at the Pittsfield State Forest, Ski Lodge (same location as summer picnic); Event will be a chili cook off from 11 to 4; BIG is sending its co-chair Dwanye to the MA state convention on Nov 8th through the 10th; BIG 35th anniversary in February 2025 and BIG is asking reps to see what Groups may want to do as a celebration; and BIG is asking groups about interest in orders for the first run of the Plain Language Big Book (PLBB) to be sure there is stock at BIG office.

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

20. Area 31 Delegate, Steve M: Area 31 General Service meeting is canceled for October due to the Fall Assembly; the Plain Language Big Book (PLBB) is coming out and orders can be placed on November 1st; Western Mass Intergroup (WMIG) discussing how to loop in BIG and groups in District 3, will work with BIG; WMIG is holding Thanksgiving alcahthon this and if any group is interested in participating they will need to be at October 10th WMIG meeting to speak; The Fall Assembly is being held at the Morningstar Baptist Church in Chicopee on October 19th and 20th and the meeting will be hybrid. The 60th MA state convention still needs people to help support, registration is currently available and hotel rooms are still open at the Best Western in Marlborough, MA, can find more info on the Mass State AA Convention website: <https://www.aamastateconvention.org/MSA/aamastateconvention.html>.

AD-HOC COMMITTEE DIST. 3 FALL EVENT REPORT

21. Kathy M. reported on the status of the Fall District 3 event:

Committee members: Kathy M., Michael K., and Madison L.

9/20/24: meeting is ready for Oct 5th, 8 speakers, ask it basket; DCM noted that Area may not approve the budget increase but it will be requested if needed.

8/16/24: District 3 will hold an 'Emotional Sobriety Workshop' sponsored by District 3 on Saturday morning in October 5th at First Congregational Church, 4 Main Street in Stockbridge, MA; the topic will “emotional sobriety: from the promises to the bedevilments”; there will be 8 speakers and the committee is still looking for speakers for the event; ten-minute speaking parts with breaks, Q & A, ask it basket; pastries and coffee will be provided; the flier due out in the next week or so; noted that the event may

go over the budget allotted to District 3 and can be brought before the Area Committee for approval over the overrun but there is no guarantee.

DCM REPORT

22. Brian W, District 3 DCM: DCM noted that he was unable to attend the Area 31 General Service meeting on September 11th; there is no co-DCM or LCM to support when DCM is not available.

A. Fall Assembly will be October 19 and 20 and will be held at St. Rose de Lima Catholic Church 600 Grattan St., Chicopee, MA, 8 to 2 on Saturday and 1 to 5 on Sunday.

B. Trustee at large position open in the US, each Area is allowed to put forward one candidate, if multiple people want to go for it there will be a third legacy procedure, and they will choose a candidate, and will be presented to full conference, each region will have a candidate, can read under Delegates corner of the website.

C. International convention will be in Vancouver, BC Canada, in July 2025, rooms at the main facility are no longer available but visit the website as the committee is working to find alternate locations (<https://www.aa.org/international-convention>)

D. Archives committee is having a listening event on Oct 5th at the United Methodist Church, 30 Carew St. South Hadley, MA; event will not be hybrid.

E. NERAASA virtual on Feb 21st through 23rd about lack of registration at this time, not sure it was open at NERAASA.org (<https://neraasa.org/>).

Co-DCM REPORT

23. Currently Co-DCM role is vacant.

OLD BUSINESS

24. Co-DCM Vacancy (11/17/23): Brian W. asked if anyone was willing to stand. No one stood.

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. Discussion held regarding the October 2024 District meeting being canceled due to the Fall Assembly. Limited discussion occurred; groups voted to cancel the meeting.
26. DCM, B. Wilcox noted that elections will occur in November for DCM, co-DCM, and Secretary; Third Legacy voting process will be held as needed and past-DCM Tom H to support the voting procedure.
27. Motion was made and seconded to close the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.
28. The meeting ended with the Responsibility Pledge.

MEETING ENDED at 7:55 p.m.