

June 17, 2014 District 4 GSR meeting

Present: Caitlyn, GSR, Sunderland Serenity Group; Larry, GSR Northampton BB Step Study; James, GSR South Amherst Friday Night; Felix, alternate GSR Florence IOpener; Aprile, GSR Northampton Saturday Night Beginner's Group; Arthur, GSR Florence IOpener; Eric, Greenfield Grapevine Sunday; Tiffany, DCM; Mark, Alternate Delegate; Carl, Chair of the Website Committee

Meeting opened with the Serenity Prayer

Felix read Concept 2

GSR Reports:

Caitlyn: Group has good attendance and levels of contribution

Tiffany (reporting for Haydenville): Strong group with good level of service and mix of ages and experience; attendance is up; lots of new people

James: Meeting is well attended and contributions are healthy. Group held a group conscience about ongoing theft. Voted to let the church know what was going on. Group asked the person responsible for stealing not to come, but person continued to attend. Church then took active action to bar person from the premises.

Arthur: Friday meetings are now open because it is chip/coin day.

Larry, GSR Northampton BB Step Study; Strong attendance and contributions

Aprile, GSR Northampton Saturday Night Beginner's Group; small group, large meeting; Thanked GSR group for help on the issue of intoxicated people at meetings. Group now has a procedure.

Eric: New group meeting at the Grapevine on Sundays from 6-7:15; meeting is variable format and off to a great start with a very active membership of 10-15 people. Trying to coordinate with other GSRs in Greenfield and boost active involvement from Greenfield meetings

Mark reported as the Alternate Delegate

People should check website regularly for dates and contact info.

He is Co-Chair of the Mass State Convention Planning committee to be held November 7-9 in Framingham. Next planning committee meeting is July 29. Group meets at the Plantation Inn in Chicopee at 5 pm to carpool. This meeting will be envelope stuffing.

Reiterated the four main topics being discussed this year:

1. Anonymity
2. Singleness of purpose (Need to stress openness and inclusivity, but can't be all things to all people)
3. Safety
4. Perception of AA as a religious organization

Stressed that GSRs should be bringing up these topics with their groups and bring back information to the district so groups' ideas/thoughts can be shared.

Carl pointed out two good pamphlets about Singleness of Purpose: The AA Group, and Problems other than Alcohol>

Carl reported as Chair of the Website Committee: www.area31aa.org has email contact for all the committees, and minutes. Intergroup website is different site (Intergroup coordinates activities & service for groups), General service is about carrying the message.

Website committee is responsible for making sure website content follows the traditions. Needs more participation. Monthly meetings are open to all.

Tiffany read report from Intergroup on behalf of Eddie K (see attached)

Tiffany delivered the Area Meeting Report:

The full report from the delegate Anne should be up on the website within the next few days. Tiffany will email it out the link when it is up.

-The round-up was a great success! Thank you to everyone that was able to attend. We had a great turn out for the district 4 meeting on "I am Responsible" at 6:30 on Saturday.

-Ann talked to the DCMs about bringing topic of conversions to the district meeting and stressing to the GSRs to bring them back to the group level to be talked about at business meetings, then back to the district meeting so that the DCM can bring it back to the area meeting.

-Anonymity online (notes attached)

-GSO is looking for a class A trustee. This is a non-alcoholic trustee, please nominate anyone you can think of who might be willing and able to serve. The trustee will be elected at the 2015 NE regional conference.

- Who is not being represented in district 4? How can we get them in the serves structure so their voices can be heard?

-Again I am going to stress please bring these issues to your business meeting and talk about them. Because we are an upside down serves structure what you talk about at the group level dictates what happens on the District, Area, and World levels.

- The delegate Ann will be starting to send out bullet points on what we need to be talking about. I will make them available to you when I get it.

The first Traditions meeting will be held tomorrow night (6/18) at the Grace United Church in Holyoke. There will be an Archives/Grapevine Open House this Saturday at the Grace United Church in Holyoke from 11-1

Old Business

Do we want to do a fall workshop? Discussion has been tabled for several meetings. Last year's workshop grew out of an issue (sponsorship) that one group was struggling with. Several members of

the group took the initiative to organize, and District 4 provided some capital. Last workshop was well attended.

Eric suggested a reprise of the sponsorship workshop: with many half-way and program houses, 25% of the AA population in Greenfield is transient.

The idea of taking the discussion back to groups was floated. Mark made the point that workshops are about educating people, not necessarily giving them what they want.

Discussion was tabled to next business meeting to see if there was initiative and enthusiasm among people to take this on.

New Business

Tiffany brought up the fact that one district provides new GSR member packets to new GSRs. It can take some time for materials to be mailed out to new GSRs (Caitlyn hasn't received anything after over a year!) Larry suggested recycling old materials. Tiffany pointed out that they change year to year. Packets are available at Intergroup. Caitlyn said she would purchase one (that her group would pay for)

Meeting closed at 8:15