

September 16, 2014 District 4 GSR meeting

Present: Larry, GSR Northampton BB Step Study; Jim W., Amherst Sunday Step; Ruby, GSR, I am Responsible, Colrain; Peter M., GSR, Sunday Night Life, Haydenville; Nancy C., GSR, Chapman Street Group; Kim C., GSR, Amherst Monday Night; Stanley C., GSR, Saturday Night South Deerfield; Steve C., GSR, Happy Hour Group, Turner's Falls; Tania H., GSR, 11<sup>th</sup> Step Meditation Group, Florence; Aprile, GSR Northampton Saturday Night Beginner's Group; Arthur, GSR Florence IOpener; Tiffany, DCM; Patti, Co-DCM; Mark, Alternate Delegate  
Visting: Nancy P., Amherst Monday Night

Meeting opened with the Serenity Prayer

GSR Reports:

Tania: LCM election announced at various groups, no one expressed interest. Turn out at the meeting is up. Founder of the meeting, Satch, is moving to Boston. Attended Singleness of Purpose Workshop.  
Steve: Also announced about LCM position; no one expressed interest. Group has regular jail commitment.

Stanley: Group is holding it's own and is financially on an even keel. He is filling in for the elected GSR who stopped showing up.

Larry: Attendance is strong, particularly with early steps. Attended Singleness of Purpose Workshop with 2 other group members and thought it was very well done.

Arthur: Good turn out for the annual picnic; also went to Singleness of Purpose Workshop; group has elected new chair (seated chair resigned); group will do an inventory in the Winter

Kim: 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary is September 29. Food and fellowship 6:30-7:30 followed by 2 speaker meeting. Once a month speaker meetings going well. Group will have an inventory on October 18. Participation of addicts & meeting format are still issues. Attendance fluctuates with student population.

Jim: Good attendance, @ 25-40 people; small but committed group. Financially ok.

Nancy: High attendance, good financial picture; small membership. Arbor House and multiple commitments. Recent group anniversary.

Peter: 25 active members; @ 100 attendees each week. Lots of outgoing and incoming commitments. Announced LCM position & got no takers.

Ruby: small group, max attendance of 16; mix of long-term and new sobriety. No takes on LCM position. Interesting discussion about Tradition 7 today.

Aprile: glad to hear from others that group membership is small and this is not unusual. Large meeting serving mostly beginners, but with good long-term sobriety as well. Recent format changes going well.

Elections:

Need to elect Co-DCM, Secretary, and LCM. LCM will begin service immediately, Co-DCM and Secretary will rotate into position in January.

Used third legacy voting process. Read qualifications for each position, then voting with a necessary 2/3 majority required

Co-DCM: Ruby R

Secretary: Aprile

LCM: Tania

Mark reported as the Alternate Delegate

People should check website regularly for dates and contact info.

Discussed key issue of warantees: believes that groups shouldn't give out books, but to the pie instead; that is supporting the organization rather than individual members, and diverting money from AA as a whole. If sponsors wish to give books, that makes sense, as it is a personal investment/decision.

Stressed importance of Singleness of Purpose and glad people attended and got a lot out of the workshop. Cited an NA article that was supportive of AA's singleness of purpose. To not observe this weakens the process of identification for the newcomer. Related a story about an self-identified addict who came to AA and was told about Singleness of Purpose; eventually came to identify as an alcoholic. Can't be all things to all people.

Arthur mentioned the role of treatment facilities and counselors in sending addicts to AA. CPC has primary role in this type of education. Problems Other than Alcohol pamphlet. Kim pointed out that sober houses also send addicts to AA. Open meeting = open to anyone; closed meeting = confine discussions to alcohol. Groups need to be clear on who we are asking/allowing to do things. It may be confusing to some when a self-identified addict reads "How it Works" for example. Tania observed that sober people need to educate others on the importance of singleness of purpose; doctors, newcomers, etc.; Ruby: often this can be done through telling one's personal experience. How can you do the vital work of carrying the message if you're not a member? Nancy pointed out that each group is autonomous; others added that this only applies when a group decision doesn't affect AA as a whole.

Secretary's report from August meeting was read. Thanks to Nancy P for taking notes. Aprile will scan notes and send them to the group.

Tiffany delivered the Area Meeting Report:

GSO is rolling out new enhancements for website programs, so the site keeps crashing. They are working on it. Registrar will talk with DCMs about getting consistent info from GSRs. This has been a problem. Archives will have boards up at Fall Assembly. Webmaster reported that web-bots were taking up space on the server but that they were removed. A report will be on the website, and a workshop will be presented on the Saturday afternoon of the Fall Assembly. Accessibility reported on the success of their first speech to text meeting; good Q&A session; can also be done remotely. Thinkign of how to reach out to people with scent and chemical sensitivities. Grapevine; there needs to be more general awareness about the Grapevine. Check the site to submit stories—they have topics for future months posted. PI reported on their standing commitments. Doing mock presentations for the website. Round Up Committee is starting planning. Great turn out last year; may make it a three night, 2 day event (Friday-Sunday); holding over some \$\$ from last year for seed money. Intergoup reported that the picnic went well. Book prices are going up next month. Kevin (office manager) coming back to Western Mass & is on the heart transplant list. District 6 is holding a workshop on Service sponsorship/Anonymity in technology on October 4 from 12:30-5 at the Alano Club in Agawam.

Final conference reports are out; they have sensitive information in them, so please do not distribute.

GSO is developing a template for area wwebsites and displaying meeting lists for national areas.

Planning committee for the State Convention will meet to carpool to Framingham at 6 pm at the old Plantation Inn. The Fall Assembly topic is Self Supporting.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Meeting closed at 8:45