

October 21, 2014 District 4 GSR meeting

Present: Larry, GSR Northampton BB Step Study; Peter M., GSR, Sunday Night Life, Haydenville; Kim C., GSR, Amherst Monday Night; Steve C., GSR, Happy Hour Group, Turner's Falls; Tania H., GSR, 11th Step Meditation Group, Florence; Mark M., GSR, Amherst aft the 11th Hour; Melissa W., GSR The Way Out BB Step Group; Aprile, GSR Northampton Saturday Night Beginner's Group; Arthur, GSR Florence IOpener; Tiffany, DCM; Patti, Co-DCM; Paul, Area Chairperson; Mike, DCM District 2

Meeting opened with the Serenity Prayer. Secretary's report from September meeting was read.

GSR Reports:

Peter: Group Anniversary is November 23. Food and Fellowship at 6:30 followed by 2-speaker meeting.

Melissa: Group is strong, good attendance. Recently elected a Grapevine representative

Arthur: Having discussions about Singleness of Purpose and participation of addicts. Group will do an inventory November 2, run by past delegate Sally who did the inventory last year. Discussions re: restraining order taken out against a group member. This is not AA group business, but a personal and legal matter.

Tania: Open meeting. Good attendance although the room can be loud. Founder of the meeting, Satch, has moved back to South Boston. Attended Singleness Fall Assembly. Has been discussing possibility of incorporating meditation into the program for the Mass State Convention. May or may not happen.

Mark: Disruptive person at the meeting and also issues with singleness of purpose. Meeting has had some problems with people who don't like changes; they have faded away.

Steve: Meeting struggling; late start time (8pm) unsteady attendance. Used to be a big group. Any ideas from group to help boost attendance?

Larry: Closed meeting. Group members talk to people who identify as addicts. Attendance is strong, particularly with early steps. Attended Singleness of Purpose Workshop with 2 other group members and thought it was very well done. Group members pay for expenses, and all basket collections go to the pie.

Kim: 55th anniversary was September 29. Well attended. Running into a problem with a disruptive person. Many other Amherst meetings having the same problem. Group will have an inventory on October 18. Participation of addicts & meeting format are still issues.

Aprile: Large meeting serving mostly beginners, but with good long-term sobriety as well. Small and fluctuating number of active group members. Recent format changes going well.

Paul delivered a report from the Area: Final GSO conference reports are out; they have sensitive information in them, so please do not distribute. There are monthly concept and traditions meetings at Intergroup in Holyoke. Fall Assembly was a great success. Brian O. was elected to be a North East Regional Class-B Trustee candidate. There are 27 Trustees: 2/3 Class B (alcoholics) and 1/3 Class A (non-alcoholics). A motion was made to form an ad hoc committee to look into re-districting. If the districts are smaller, we may get more participation. Tiffany will be a member of the ad hoc committee. Tania offered to help reach out to other groups in her role as LCM. Peter mentioned that he has attended meetings in the Berkshires and Hilltowns and they are very disconnected from the District.

Kim and Patti asked for clarification about the warrantees. The Illustrated 12 Concepts pamphlet was pointed out as a helpful resource.

Tiffany delivered the Area Meeting Report: Tiffany will be getting a list of unregistered groups; all GSRs can help reach out to groups that are not participating or registered. Let them know this is how people

are connected to AA and their participation is vital in making AA work from the ground up. In District 4 there are 50 active groups; 12 inactive groups, 1 pending active group, and 1 pending inactive group. An unregistered group is listed in the When and Where but not registered with the GSO. Archives reported they are trying to transfer tapes to CDs and hard drives to preserve them. Check the website if you'd like to participate in a workday with Bobbie at Archives (she can be reached at ###-###-####). If you are sending things to Archives, please clearly mark with who, what, when, where, and why information. If you'd like the Archives boards for an anniversary or other event, please give at least 30 days notice. The webmaster thanked the website committee and asked that everything sent to him be in Word format. Jenny was elected back up webmaster. The committee needs more members and you don't need technical know-how to participate. Accessibility reported on the success of their first speech to text meeting; it is more costly than ASL. Thinking of how to reach out to people with scent and chemical sensitivities. CPC reported that they are updating pamphlets and boards and putting final touches on presentations. Grapevine needs more reps. PI reported on their standing commitments. It may be hard to get the radio show, but you can stream it online (WHLL 1450 AM). Institutions: there is a new meeting at Westover Airforce base in Chicopee on the first Sunday of the month at 5:30 pm. You need to be on a cleared list to attend. Intergroup: please continue to pray for Kevin and his family as he waits for a heart transplant. Changes to the When & Where need to be in by October 31. Book prices have gone up. The Keep it Simple Group and Somers Group have moved locations.

Delegate's report: provided tips on what to read from conference report: pp 6-9 for blow-by-blow of conference actions. GSO inventory, pp. 23-29; Book sales, pp. 34-35; Area 31, p. 59; Finances, pp. 68-80. You can download Box 459 or have it mailed to you. New membership survey will be up late in 2014 or early 2015. DVD will be shown at Mass State convention. Contributions from Area 31 have dipped by 5%; they were 39.62% in 2013 and 35.53% in 2014. 25th Anniversary NERASA will be hosted by Area 31 in 2016; to get a preview, people should attend the 2015 meeting in NJ. July 2-5 is the International AA convention in Atlanta. If you are going, please let Anne know as she gets to nominate some speakers. Text her at ###-###-####. If you have ideas of things you'd like to see change in AA, let Anne know. E-book sales are going great. AA World Services is working on a website template and searchable mobile meeting list. GSO is considering establishing a non-geographic district to represent phone and internet meetings. The new district will be "adopted" by an area. GSO may move offices to the 11th floor

Topics for the Assembly:

1. Trans & non-gendered literature, yes or no (There will be a Grapevine edition on the subject)
2. Should we add the 12 concepts to the 12 & 12

November 7-9 is the Mass State Convention in Framingham.

Old Business

None

New Business

Since District 4 did not put on a workshop, Patti made a motion to spend \$\$ to purchase 10 GSR packets to loan to new GSRs until theirs are delivered. Arthur suggested a friendly amendment to purchase \$100 worth of materials for loaner packets. Seconded and approved.

Discussion re: Steve's query about encouraging attendance for the Turners Falls meeting. Flyers and announcements at close-by meetings (such as those in Greenfield) were suggested.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45