

November 18, 2014 District 4 GSR meeting

Present: Larry S., 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; Melissa W., GSR The Way Out BB Step Group; Ruby R., GSR, I Am Responsible Group, Colrain; Jim W., GSR Amherst Sunday Step; Aprile G., GSR Northampton Saturday Night Beginner's Group; Arthur A., GSR Florence IOpener; Felix H., Alternate GSR Florence IOpener; Patti, Co-DCM; Anne F., Area 31 Delegate

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

Patti looked online for past agendas and is following that format. Group did a reading from the Service manual, Chapter 2; The Group and its GSR, pp. S25-S26.

Patti reported on the Area meeting: Last meeting was a budget meeting, so not much to report. District 4 has asked for \$300 for next year to possibly host a workshop and purchase more temporary loaner GSR packets. NERASA 2015 will be held February 20-22 at the Doubletree in Somerset New Jersey. Registration opened September 22 (www.nerasa2015.org); this meeting is particularly important to connecting GSRs across the Northeast, and Patti encouraged everyone to go and ask their groups for financial support (which was mentioned in the reading). Anne contributed the fact that the Area pays for area committee members, and that it is important for GSRs to ask their home groups for support so that they can be further connected to GSO and learn more about general service in AA. NERASA has 800-1500 attendees. Next year, NERASA will be hosted by Area 31, so this is a great opportunity to check out how an event of this size works. District 5 is hosting a workshop on Saturday at Intergroup in Holyoke (474 Pleasant Street) on the subjects of Self-Supporting, Spirituality, and Anonymity.

GSR Reports:

Peter: 34th Group Anniversary is November 23. Food and Fellowship at 6:30 followed by 2-speaker meeting. He is thinking of proposing a group inventory and asked about the process.

Melissa: Group is strong, and drama free with good attendance.

Arthur: Sally facilitated an inventory for the group in early November which went well; it was an educational endeavor with a lot of talk about Singleness of Purpose. Next business meeting will deal with questions re: that topic that were discussed at the inventory. There will also be group elections.

Jim: 24-40 people per meeting, and financially healthy, but need more active group members, as there are only 5-6.

Steve: Group is doing well. Are no longer being charged rent, but maintain a liability insurance policy. Hosting a New Year's Eve potluck dance with a meeting prior (8-9).

Larry: Attendance rises in winter months; group will be scheduling a group conscience soon.

Kim: 2 meetings; discussion and beginners. Beginner's meeting is dropping in attendance, perhaps because a local sober house in South Amherst has begun to host a meeting. Group inventory went well and sparked some new initiatives, particularly about trying to run more streamlined and civil business meetings. Also recommended mentors for new group officers to shorten the learning curve. Group may stop handing out chips.

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.

Delegate's report: Anne had nothing to add.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Discussion re: how to schedule an inventory, responding to Peter's query

Discussion about how to make business meetings better: Arthur suggested that District 4 consider making this a workshop topic. He thought this would be most helpful as a yearly event rather than a one-off, as group officers change each year and there are always new people who would benefit. There was widespread enthusiasm for the idea, which will be discussed at the next meeting

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm