

November 18, 2014 District 4 GSR meeting

Present: Tania H., GSR, Florence 11th Step Meditation; Mark M., GSR; After the 11th Hour, Turner's Falls; Jean L., GSR, N. Amherst Making Progress; Dana T., GSR Saturday Night Live Group; Brenda P., GSR, Friday Chapman Street; KC, Alternate GSR, Chapman Street; Larry S., GSR Northampton BB Step Study; Peter M., GSR, Sunday Night Life, Haydenville; Kim C., GSR, Amherst Monday Night; 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; Tiffany, DCM; Mark, Alternate Delegate

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

GSR Reports:

Peter: 250 people at recent group anniversary; group will vote on whether they will financially support Peter's attendance at NERASA. He is looking to connect with others interested in going to share expenses.

Brenda: group just had elections, only two jobs not filled. Good attendance and regular Pie contributions.

Dana; subbing for South Deerfield Saturday Night group. Recently changed time from 8pm start to 7 pm start. Group is small but growing.

Jean: Newly elected GSR. Just had elections.

Tania; Received her GSR packet; steady attendance

Ruby: Group is growing; mixture of newcomers and long-timers. Passes out blue cards.

Felix: Incoming GSR for IOpener.

Melissa: Has started talking to her group about support for her to attend NERASA. Ed is GSR Alternate.

Arthur: At biz meeting following the group inventory, group affirmed that they were an AA group and that only self-identified alcoholics could be members. Elections went well—only 3 open positions.

Meeting may have to move one floor down to accommodate renovations.

Jim: Group doing well; 1 new member. Strong core group, but also many people in transition.

Larry: Steady attendance. Recent elections. Lisa will take over as GSR at next meeting

Kim: Beginner's meeting is picking up again as is closed discussion group. Disruptive person has stopped showing up, but group has a plan in place (give this person a focused job to do) for the future.

Aprile: Large meeting serving mostly beginners, but with good long-term sobriety as well. Small and fluctuating number of active group members. Two new group members with solid sobriety. Elections will be in January.

Mark delivered Delegate's report: Mentioned the crucial role of a service sponsor, who is knowledgeable about the traditions and concepts. GSRs play an important role in their group, connecting group to Area and GSO. It is good to get a service sponsor to acclimate to this role. NERASA attendees will be GSRs from 38 different areas; great opportunity to learn about how others do it. Also important to attend Round Ups and Assemblies. Recent report on 24 Hours re: an AA couple where the man killed his girlfriend; girlfriend's mother is suing AA. Following the Concept 12, AA has no official opinion on this matter. Re: the 7th tradition: are we properly educating people on what AA is and what their \$\$ supports. Mass State Convention was a success—661 people attended (down from last year); 206 at Old Timers banquet; January 27 will be the first meeting for the next Mass State Convention. Meet at the Plantation Inn in Chicopee for the ride to the 7:30 meeting in Framingham. Mark is co-chair of the Program Committee; Brian O will chair the 2016 NERASA committee. New When & Wheres are out: 18,000 printed.

Tiffany reported on the Area meeting : Archivist is getting everything sorted; boards are going out. Website needs more support; next meeting is Wednesday, Dec. 17. Ad-hoc committee on district restructuring has not yet met. CPA; Tai thanked everyone for their support—still working on mock presentations. Grapevine will get out to district meetings---need more members (meeting 2nd Tuesday of the month); PI; new contacts with hospitals and schools; talked about getting new info racks. Intergroup: Kevin is working from home. You can use Paypal online to purchase things; cash and checks only on site. Kids Christmas Party is on the 20th from 1-3 at the Intergroup office. Every child leaves with a gift, donations are welcome. Alcothon is filled! Runs from 6 pm, 12/24 to 6 pm 12/25. WMYPAA elections in January—making a bid to host NEYPAA meeting. Trustees decided not to take action on having online/phone meetings form a group hosted by a District. Deadline for Agenda ideas for 2015 World Service conference was December 15. Grapevine will feature state/region that has the most subscriptions. Spring Assembly will be March 28-29 at 395 High Street in Holyoke (corner of Appleton and Maple) 10-3 Saturday; 1-3 Sunday. Tiffany passed around the budget. GSRs asked for copies. Aprile will scan and send. Archives will need to purchase a new computer and scanner. NEYPAA January 2-4 at the Cromwell Crown Plaza, 100 Berlin Road, Cromwell, CT.

Old Business:

Workshop idea on how to run a business meeting. Kim suggested we table and put on the agenda for next meeting. Approved.

New Business:

Phone/email list of District 4 GSRs: Kim suggested that anyone who wants to be part of a contact list give their name and info to Aprile who will type up and distribute. Approved

Mark will give GSR presentation in February to acclimate new GSRs to their roles.

Discussion re: how to advocate on behalf of online/phone meetings to get them representation at the GSO. Mark will look in to it.

District 4 Agenda: Patti will write up agenda with concise area meeting notes rather than deliver report at the meeting to streamline the process. GSRs should give feedback at next meeting on how this works.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm