

May 19, 2015 District 4 GSR meeting

Present: Kim C., GSR, Amherst Monday Night; Tania H., GSR, 11th Step Meditation Group, Florence; Aprile, GSR Northampton Saturday Night Beginner's Group; Felix, GSR Florence IOpener; Chris, GSR You Chair It You Name it Group, Hadley; Jade, GSR, Sunderland Security Group; Sarah, GSR, Conway Group; Michael S.; Alternate GSR, Conway; GSR, Alex B., GSR, Tuesday Step Study Group; Gary, Alternate GSR, Haydenville; Moira T., Alternate GSR, Sunderland Security; Justin S., GSR, Happy Hour Group, Turners Falls; Jay, GSR, Florence Hopeful; Matt S., Alt GSR, Florence Hopeful; Patti, DCM; Steve C., Co-DCM.
Visitors: Lina M., WMYPAA; Jack, Registrar; Walter

Opened with the serenity prayer

Steve introduced the reading: an article from Box 459 about Anonymity and the challenges of the internet. A lively discussion ensued.

GSR reports:

Alex: Tues 5:15 Step Study: good meeting today. Meeting fluctuates with weather. Starting to contribute to the pie. Will discuss anonymity at his biz mtg

KC: Chapman street group. Small group with large meeting. Children at the meeting. There is a playroom, but there is a problem with noise. Would love feedback

Chris: Attendance is going well. Donating to the pie

Moira: Passed

Michael: Passed

Sarah: Conway, good attendance. Contributed to the pie

Jade: Sunderland. Attendance is consistent

Justin: happy hour group: going to soon make pie contribution. Jail commitment

Matt: Florence hopeful alt

Tania: More group members. May get alt GSR. Last biz meeting group voted to move biz meeting to 3rd Thurs of the month. Group recently celebrated 7th anniversary

Kim: Amherst Monday night: open beginners and closed discussion. Treasurer change temporarily messed up books.

Jay: 1st GSR from the Florence Hopeful Group; speaker discussion, Tuesdays at 7:30. Recently celebrated 31 year anniversary

Gary: alt Haydenville: good attendance, monthly pie contributions

Felix: full range of meetings range of recovery times. May change Monday, Tuesday formats. Discussing lease terms

Aprile: Sat Night Beginners meeting: big meeting small group; small children & noise problem. Would welcome ideas about being open/hosting children

Steve reported on the District meeting:

2015 Round Up: June 6 & 7. \$10 Registration. More info and the calendar is online: www.areas31aa.org

NERF (Northeast Regional Forum) in Albany, NY May 29-31.

All changes to area meetings need to be in by June 26 for the next printing of the When & Where

CPC committee is considering "co-sponsoring" a booth with Area 30 at the New England Association of Drug Court Professionals in September. If you have feelings/concerns about this, you should attend next CPC meeting on the 2nd Tuesday at 7:30 pm

PI Committee is updating info for the radio show. If any groups have events or anniversaries to share, they should email PI committee.

Website Committee is looking for participation at their meeting. Groups should consider sending a rep if anyone is willing to serve.

Intergroup: Eddie extends his thanks to the groups for doing a great job with phone coverage. This great service would not be possible without the support of the groups!

Old Business:

Workshop topics; Sponsors introducing sponsees to service was preferred by 5 groups; Service from the bottom to the top was preferred by 2 groups; 1 group preferred How service changed my life, and two meetings liked all three topics. Decision made to have workshop integrating all three topics. Ad hoc committee to brainstorm about workshop: Moira (maybe) Jade, Chris, Kim, Alex

District 4 is in charge of 9:30 am meeting on Saturday June 6 at the Round Up--3 Pertinent Ideas: who would like to chair? Patti/Kim/KC/Aprile will organize.

Two topics: dealing with difficult people/breaking stuff, etc. Patti brought this up at district meeting. Was advised to call the police if illegal behavior is happening.

Supporting parents. Children/noise at meetings. Moira shared that when she lived in California, some groups had childcare provided by group members. Volunteers would babysit for 15 minute slots; also provided bags with children's toys.

Anne Reported as the Delegate. Encouraged people to attend NERF--GSO people talk about what they do; great opportunity to introduce people to service. Go to talk about what is working and what is not working. May 29-31. No fee for registration.

Also stressed that GSRs have a responsibility to attend the Round Up. Delegate's report is at 1:30 on Saturday.

Visitors:

Walter expressed his concerns about several recent events. Recovery Project--sponsored a movie that he felt violated traditions. That was announced at an AA meeting. Attended a meeting where people were invited to take money out of the basket if needed. Patti addressed concerns about recovery project--it is not AA affiliated

Jack (Registrar). Thanked all for submitting group forms. Should be getting new GSR packets soon, but asked that people please be understanding if it's not until July

Meeting closed at 8:30

Steve reported as DCM: round up at La Quinta in Springfield. June 6-7. Spring Assembly was well attended. April 25 Archives open house. Please contact Keith if you want archive boards for special events. District 6 Workshop, May 2, 12-4. In Granville Federated Church @ GSR, Tradition 1 & Sponsoring Newcomers. NE Regional Forum May 29-31. Ask questions or get feedback. International convention. July 2-5 Atlanta. Still plenty of room.

Old business: Feedback and ideas @ workshop: general enthusiasm but no suggestions. How do we get people interested in and involved with service.

Group whittled the field to three topics:
How service changed my life and/or supports my recovery
Service from the bottom to the top (from the group to the GSO)
Sponsors introducing sponsees to service

Take these back to groups. We will discuss further next month and appoint a subcommittee

Business for May:

District 4 is responsible for a 9:30 am meeting at the Round Up on June 6. The topic is "three pertinent ideas." To be discussed at next meeting
dealing with difficult people & supporting parents at meetings
Letter of support for the bid from the District for the MSCYPAA conference.

Paul reported for area committee: issues discussed at the mini conference are what Anne is discussing at the conference. Two GSO speakers. Banquet often sells out. So get your tickets. Monthly Concept meeting 1st Thursday of the month. Area committee can do incoming commitments. GSO Road Show. NERASA 2016 in Western MA. Big planning committee. Grapevine committee needs a co-chair announce at your meeting. Jack will celebrate his 50th anniversary on June 17 at the Sheffield 12&12 anniversary meeting

Lina reported on activities for Young People's groups: WMYPAA (Western Mass Young People in AA) meets 2nd Sat of month at Intergroup. Designed to get young people involved in service. Would love to get more reps. Send your young people! MSCYPAA (Mass State Convention of Young People in AA) meet 3rd Sunday at same place. Putting together a bid to host young people's conference in 2016.

Alex had three suggestions for Fall Assembly
Hold wrap up meeting
Leave boards up longer
Take 2 breaks at biz meeting
Paul said that these would be looked into.

The meeting closed at 8:45 pm