

District 4 GSR Meeting: June 16, 2015

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; Alex B., GSR, Tuesday Step Study Group; Moira T., Alternate GSR, Sunderland Security; Justin S., GSR, Happy Hour Group, Turners Falls; Jay, GSR, Florence Hopeful; Matt S., Alt GSR, Florence Hopeful; Jessica L. , GSR, Beginners Group, Tuesday Night Greenfield; Rob W., Alt. GSR, Northampton Saturday Night Beginner's Group; Christine H., GSR, The Only Requirement/Women's BBSS, Greenfield; Kate H., GSR, Sunday Leyden Woods BB Step; James M., GSR, Friday Night Amherst; Patti, DCM; Steve C., Co-DCM. Visitors: Carl G., Amherst Monday Night; Mark N., Alternate Delegate; Eddie K., Intergroup Chair

Meeting opened with the Serenity prayer.

Steve introduced a reading from the traditions checklist. Patti began a discussion. These questions are used in the monthly traditions meeting. Steve specifically wanted to start a discussion about tradition 4; Splinter groups dilute the \$\$ and resources. 53 registered meetings in District 4; 6 meetings donated this past month. Some meetings contribute quarterly--it would be ideal if groups donated monthly. Need to educate people about the need for self-supporting and to not organize competing meetings--how it affects AA as a whole.

GSR Reports

Aprile: Group is still working with making meeting child friendly, but keeping down noise. Group arranged a children's area in the corner of the meeting room. Group had voted to make quarterly donations. She will introduce the idea of making them monthly.

Alex: small meeting. Treasurer paid rent through September so no \$ for pie, although group agreed they would contribute after \$150 over prudent reserve. Talked about CPC participating in drug court event. Tabled. Also talked about anonymity.

Tania: Group elected alternate GSR

Kim: Amherst Monday night. Attendance goes up and down. Old Timers like closed discussion meeting. Group was ok about CPC commitment

Justin: jail commitment picking up. Meeting going well

Jessica: Tues beginners group Greenfield. Attendance is low

Christine: Sunday night 6 pm & BB step study. Great attendance, but low contributions. Women's meeting sends basket around saying they didn't make rent. She is torn about that. Would like to hear others' experience.

Jay: 40-60 ppl. Low contributions just started talking about picking up jail or detox commitment. Has passed the basket more than once per meeting with good results

Moira: Group is in good shape. Will try to contribute monthly

Ben: strong group. Will encourage to contribute monthly

Chris: making rent. Steady attendance. Will also talk to group about monthly contributions

Dana: meeting is small. Will lower prudent reserve in order to give to the pie. Group is breaking even now. 3 members. 15-20 people. Changed time to 7-8 pm

KC: Friday nights at 7 pm. Also had noise problem. August 14 anniversary. Small group with large meeting. Suggest talking about low basket collections

Rob: alt Sat Night Beginners group

Felix: talked about format changes, no changes. Opened up idea of newcomers sharing first at Tuesday Living Sober Meeting, but group voted to keep format the way it is. Discuss issue of evening meetings.

Jim: Sun night 12 step in Amherst. Coffee maker stepped down. Few new members. 25-40 people per week. 6 members. Chair now makes coffee. Will bring up monthly contribution ideas.

James: South Amherst Friday night. Will talk about Monthly contribution

Kate: way Out BB Step Study. New secretary. Contributes. Watershed commitment. Have had trouble filling commitment. May ask for assistance

Steve reported on the Area Meeting

NERASA June 25 planning meeting. 2016 meeting is being held in Springfield. ASL Interpreters at the Round Up. PI committee is working on anonymity workshop presentation to be done at district meetings.

Website committee needs support—currently only has 3 members. Redistributing committee disbanded August 31 picnic. Needs themed raffle baskets. There was a long discussion about 7th tradition and the need for groups to contribute to the pie to keep AA running. Grapevine challenge is ongoing. Online subscription gives you access to current & past editions

Discussion re: Passing the basket twice. Anne thought that was a reasonable suggestion. Also--timing of basket passing also helps. Moira--in CA it happened frequently. Some groups mention their rent to encourage contributions. Dana mentions that sometimes the basket doesn't make it all the way around.

Report from Workshop Ad hoc Committee

Service workshop three topics: Service from the Bottom to the Top; How Service Saved my Life; Sponsors Introducing Sponsees to Service.

Jade trying to get in touch with district 5 about integrating more than one workshop topics. Moira laid out basic plan for the workshop: Intro 15 minutes, 50 minutes with 5 speakers from all levels of AA. 10 minute break. 50 minutes on how service saved my life with a speaker (Bob A?). 10 minute break. Not sure how to present Sponsors Introducing Sponsees to Service; thinks the workshop should not be organized around a mealtime, possibly to be held 1-5 pm Patti suggested 45 rather than 50 minute programs. Once program is set, Patti & Steve will request funds from the area to support

Mark reported for the Area Committee: He is co-chair of Mass State Convention. During the odd months the group carpools from Plantation Inn to the planning meeting in Framingham. Suggested that workshops relate topics from general service conference. Contributions and membership are both down, both of which are big issues/problems that need to be discussed at the group level. Laid out key topics from the general service conference. Clarified tradition 4: groups can run their format the way they want to. Group guidelines about contributions. Grapevine cards. Giving \$1 today is like giving 8 cents in 1965.

Eddie reported for Intergroup: He pointed out that \$1 in 1935 = \$13 today. Intergroup relies on contributions and is grateful for them: it costs \$3200 per month to run Intergroup. Phone coverage is very important. Making rent isn't a 7th tradition responsibility. Need to support local services--same 40-50 contributing groups out of over 300. New When & Wheres will be out in July. Website is always most current. By June 26 1 pm changes to meetings for the When & Where need to be submitted by GSR, Chair, or Intergroup Rep in writing at the Intergroup office. August 23 family picnic in Chicopee, food is sold, bounce house, etc. 1-6pm. Bobbie P is in charge of raffle. Themed baskets contributed by the groups. Intergroup staff does commitments. Can buy Intergroup materials online via PayPal. You can always be on the calling back up list as an individuals.

Meeting closed at 8:45 pm