

District 4 GSR Meeting: December 15, 2015

Present: Felix, GSR, Florence IOpener, Jae M., Alt. GSR, Florence IOpener; Ben E., GSR, Sunday Night Life, Haydenville; Kim C., GSR, Amherst Monday Night; Chris H., Alt. GSR, Haydenville; Alex B., GSR, Tuesday Step Study Group; Jade M., GSR, Sunderland Security Group; Moira, Alt GSR, Sunderland Security Group; Rob W., GSR, Northampton Saturday Night Beginner's Group; Jim W., GSR, Sunday 12 Step Amherst; Justin S., GSR, Happy Hour Group, Turner's Falls; James M., GSR, Friday Night South Amherst; Patti DCM; Steve C., Co-DCM, Tania, LCM. Visitors: Molly L.; Tara A.; Mark N. Alternate Delegate; Eddie K., WMI Chair

Steve introduced the reading. Chapter 1 in the service manual--Introduction to General Service. Kim encouraged new and continuing GSRs to figure out how to make their reports more engaging and try to spread the work about how vital service is and can be.

GSR Reports

Alex: treasurer has a chronic illness, but group is adjusting. Group is finally has a new script

Justin: New Years eve dance 8:30: and there's a meeting. Group is small, hoping the New Years Eve dance will recruit members

James: things are good, predominantly male business meeting. Good attendance. Competing meeting at the local Halfway house was disbanded. Decided to stop buying coins for inactive members. Elections will be held in February.

Jade: not a lot new, making monthly contributions

Jae: new GSR for IOpener

Kim: attendance ebbs and flows with academic term. Did a year end donation to pie chart of @\$400.

Have a new GSR Diane V. She could use rides from Amherst as she will have to take a bus otherwise.

Rob: new transgender meeting that starts 1/2 hour before Beginner's meeting so there should be a slight drop in attendance. Will have script change & elections at January business meeting.

Tania: rolling out as GSR for Thursday meditation meeting. No new GSR stepping up

Jim: meeting is going well. Regular contributions 5-6 at biz meeting.

Chris: alt GSR Haydenville

Ben: big anniversary meeting, regular attendance can be light during football season. Will have elections.

Moira; alt GSR Sunderland Security

Felix: rolling out as GSR. Jae will be taking over. Anniversary on January 9. Food and fellowship at 8am, 9pm two speaker meeting. Florence Community Center. Working out terms of use for other groups meeting in the space. Have two jail commitments & good range of sobriety in the group.

Patti delivered a report as outgoing DCM: area committee meeting minutes are posted online. Check it out. DCMs get monthly report on who is donating--only 4 donated last month, so if you think you're donating monthly, you should check with your treasurer to make sure. Thank you to all the GSRs and Steve for making her two years as DCM such a wonderful experience!

Steve delivered co-DCM report. Bobbie will serve as Archivist for 2 more years. Standing committees gave end of year reports. Western Mass Round Up info is posted online! Area31aa.org is the most up-to-date listing of meetings. There is now a downloadable PDF of the When & Where online. Also please download flyers for upcoming events and announce them to your groups

Old Business

Election of new secretary. Question arose as to whether the Secretary needs to be an active GSR: it is

encouraged that the secretary be a GSR, but it is not a requirement. However, if they are not an active GSR they will not be able to vote on business or at the assemblies. Ben & Steve will decide if they need a LCM. Rob W. was elected Secretary

New Business:

District 4 is invited to host a meeting at NERASA. We should do it! To be discussed next meeting. February 27: 11-12 pm at the Monarch Room. Format will be provided.

Mark delivered the Area Committee report. He will assume the duties of the delegate as of January 1. There is a vacancy for a non-Trustee director at AA World Services. If you want to communicate with the area committee, check the website for contact info. Topics for the next year conference and also the spring assembly: Connecting with the newcomer, connecting with each other and connecting with AA as a whole. NERASA is a big deal so GO! December 17 planning committee at the Sheraton at 7 pm. 34% of district 4 contributes which is low. We need to step up and contribute & to educate people about why service outside the group is important. Re-doing Area Handbook and talking about contribution limits and outside contributions. Conscience needs to be an informed conscience. Kim asked if GSR presentation could be put on website. No; there isn't enough explanation. How do you counter the idea that all you need is a coffee pot and a bunch of drunks when people ask you why they need to support Intergroup and get people to support service? Ask them the question "how did you find AA in the first place?" Because someone made it available

Eddie reported for Intergroup Intergroup working group has been working on guidelines for 4 years. Still not done. Bob M is trustee at large so has been busy. Process is slow. New officers elected at November meeting. Tamara elected chair. Steven A. Treasurer, Kim is Secretary. 24 Hour hotline. Groups volunteer to fill time slots when office is closed. Monetary donations are important--@ \$3,200 to keep the lights on. Kids Christmas party on the 19th. December 24 Alcathon 6 am to 6 pm. Lots of food and donations of coffee. Ron cooks breakfast at 4 am. Come on down! Please take flyers. Don't take credit cards, but you can pay online with Paypal. Intergroup will do incoming commitments. Kevin is back full time. Joy is running the store. Office will close at 1 pm on Christmas & New Years Eve

The meeting closed at 8:25 pm