

## District 4 GSR Meeting: January 19, 2016

Present: Jae M., GSR, Florence I Opener; Chris H., GSR, Sunday Night Life, Haydenville; Alex B., GSR, Tuesday Step Study Group; Jade M., GSR, Sunderland Security Group; Rob W., GSR, Northampton Saturday Night Beginner's Group and secretary; Patti support; Ben E., Co-DCM, Tania, Hadley Women's Grp. Molly L- Happy Hour Group.; Ben C. Tues Episcopal Amherst K.C. S. – Chapman St. Mari pat R. – Diane – new GSR for Amherst Mon. Nt. – Eleventh Hour – Dwight B. Northampton Been There/Done That –

Visitors: Sue from Area; Sally S. -

Ben introduced the reading. Chapter 2 in the service manual—The Group and it's GSR. Ben also brought Group change forms (from the chapter) for new GSR's. Ben opened up the meeting for discussion, requesting more experienced GSR's share for the new incoming GSR's any GSR duties they feel are important for them to know.

- Alex suggested that the GSR pamphlet was a useful additional information.

### GSR Reports

K.C. S. – Chapman St.

Tania H. – Hadley Women's Grp – reported on format changes – each week is a different format with recurring monthly format; group is looking for secretary; this group is newly represented

Mari pat R. – Eleventh Hour – group voted to pie in and sent an additional \$45 to intergroup

Diane – new GSR for Amherst Mon. Nt. – meeting is growing. They have a beginners and discussion meeting at same time. They have outgoing commitments.

Sally S. -visiting

Chris – Haydenville – now the GSR – smaller attendance (football?)

Dwight B. Northampton Been There/Done That –

Alex B. Tues. 5:15 12 step and study group – changed format at last business meeting, which happens often; may suggest making format changes only once per year; asked who puts together area FYI; Some suggested it may be Joy. Needs to put a funeral into the FYI.

Jade - Sunderland Security – Jade celebrated 30 years on this date.

Jae M. - Florence Eye Opener – Had anniversary meeting last month.

Sue A. Area Chair – see below

Molly L. - Happy Hour Group – had a successful new year’s party. Looking to figure out how to increase attendance, and probably didn’t donate to pie because of it.

Rob- Northampton Saturday Night Beginner’s Meeting. Large attendance. We monthly give to the pie but this past month we gave an additional end of year pie contribution. We held our elections a month earlier than scheduled as all the elections were unanimous. Due to low attendance at our regular business meeting, we held an additional business meeting two weeks after our regular meeting.

**Ben delivered co-DCM report.**

- **Archives new chairperson is Dick, phone # ### ### #### Please call at least one week in advance to schedule AA history boards for group anniversaries.**
- **Grapevine encouraging groups to send a rep to the committee and spread the word to acquire subscriptions.**
- **PI (public information) could really use more participation from folks who might have some daytime hours available, or anyone, PI has 13 standing commitments each month!**
- **Website in in need of support, please tell your groups this committee meets regularly as a standing committee. Job description can be found on the website.**
- **Berkshire Intergroup will be looking for a new office manager in the near future.**
- **Institutions Greenfield Min. security jail is in desperate need of mtg. commitments. Thursdays.**
- **WMYP Dance!! Jan. 29<sup>th</sup> mtg. from 7-8pm and dancing to follow look for flyers, and spread the word.**
- **NERAASA – Please plan to attend! Cannot stress this enough to GSR’s. Make yourselves better servants to your fellows and enjoy this amazing conference being held in OUR AREA for the first time ever!**

**Old Business: none (see red notes from last month’s minutes) Correction: Bob W. is trustee at large**

**New Business:** Need to know if anyone has a desire to chair the mtg. assigned to us at NERASSA on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> 11:00 PM – 12:00 AM (CONFIRMED) (will need to jot down their contact info. For the planning committee) – we had a concern that two districts were assigned the same time. Jae and Jade volunteered to co-chair the meeting. Format will be predetermined. Jade ###-###-####. Patti added that they are looking for people, even local, to book rooms at the Sheraton. Sue explained that in order for AA to get a discount on the hotel for conference, we have to get enough attendees to book rooms and buy meals. It was also suggested that home groups could reasonably pay the way for GSR’s to

attend for the \$20 fee. (Chapter 2 of Service manual supports this). Sue will confirm the double booking and it's not breaking tradition to pay your own way.

We should begin to think about a workshop, primarily where it might best be held to serve the District, Let's start a little conversation/dialog to let GSR's know this is expected of them! We want to put it around a time that isn't around the same time as another bigger AA event in order to not affect attendance. We need topics. K.C. suggested not doing it in the fall as that time has too many workshops. We will talk more about it after NERAASA.

Jade brought up another topic for new business. How do we as GSR's get more AA members and groups to donate? KC reminded that each group is autonomous. Jade suggested just bringing up at meetings that AA is hurting for money (in general). Alex brought up the problem of new meetings that pop up that don't give to the pie. Patti reminded that not all the groups with GSR's representing are actually reported as having donated, so we should check back with our groups to confirm pie donations. All the sublets of the Eye Opener get reported as existing but not as donating, since they give to the main Eye Opener group which then gives to the pie. So one group gets the credit for several group donations. Ben suggested that even though we can't tell others how to run their groups, we can share our own experiences with how we work our service and provide an example. Tania suggested the pamphlet on how spirituality and money mix. In her previous group, after reading about how putting the hand of service out there (and in the basket), their incoming donations doubled. Molly suggested educating members (newcomers) on where the money goes (not just for coffee). Sally suggested General Service Office puts out "the green card" which has language useful for meeting formats. She also suggested our GSR's could try to make contact with GSR's of other groups and find a way to talk and get them to come here.

**Sue delivered the Area Committee report.**

474 pleasant – what a concept meeting, first Thursday of the month, February 4 concept meeting

Jan 20, tradition meeting 7:30 at same location – both chaired by past delegate

Mass state convention planning begins now for November – 7PM at Sheraton in Framingham on Tuesday. 6Pm plantation, Paul will be carpooling from Chicopee, January 26. Meetings every other month.

NERAASA – celebrating silver anniversary in golden west. Sue read the mission statement from the flyer/application. Theme is spiritual way of life, steps, traditions and concepts. Feb 26 – 28.

Sue is looking for hospitality volunteers.

If your group wants Area to come in for service commitment, contact Sue.

Website – all the information Sue provides is on the website. Area 31 website and intergroup website. Area31AA.org.

Invited committee report- None.

The meeting closed at 8:03 PM