

District 4 GSR Meeting: March 15, 2016

Present: Rob W., GSR, Northampton Saturday Night Beginner's Group and secretary; Steve DCM; Ben, co-DCM;

Visitors:

Steve introduced the reading. A handout on Service.

- Diane spoke on the importance of business meetings and speaking of them positively.
- Jae shared about the importance to speaking more on service at meetings. Ben concurred with that.
- Rob shared on creating positions for those who join business meetings
- Alex shared on how meetings can sometimes consist of signing up for making coffee.
- Jim talked about how people join the groups just to leave after a few meetings, and only a few members stick around and do all the work, but you just do what's needed to keep things going.
- Tonia discussed how we don't currently have someone to go to "dark groups", an LCM.

GSR Reports

- Alex – Amherst Tuesday 5:15 step/tradition – someone came in to ask group to do an outgoing commitment, group voted no, but tabled to next month
- Diane – Amherst mon 7 pm – newcomers and closed discussion – have been reviewing group inventory; Diane raised question that on website, it says closed meetings are for those with a desire to stop, does not mention alcohol.
- Sue from Area
- Angel lee – Friday night meeting –
- Anna – alt from Conway mon speaker/discussion– nothing to report but considering moving meeting time to earlier
- Jade – Sunderland security, Tuesday 7 – brought some anniversary envelopes for us
- Jim – Sunday night step Amherst 7:30 – nothing Earth shattering; having anniversary April 3, 6:30 – 8:30
- Jae – Florence I opener – currently discussing whether meeting should be open or closed because jail driver can't come to closed meeting, but then neither can the guys from jail who need the meeting. They are several thousand dollars over what they thought they were for budget. They are looking for properties to move to a new meeting location.
- Chris – Haydenville, 7:30 Sunday, football is over so attendance is up

- Andrew – alt Haydenville
- Tonia – wed 6:30 Hadley women’s – talking about making meeting closed since it’s a women’s meeting; had a group inventory; Sue from Area invited to fifth Wed of this March; Changing name of business meeting to home group meeting and making it a pot luck; childcare is not an option at this meeting but it gets brought up and they are considering it.
- Brian – big book step study, greenfield, sun, 10am – new to position of gsr;
- Bob – 6Pm Sunday, chapman, greenfield – didn’t attend last business meeting, but they had elections; anniversary coming around June or July
- Rob- NoHo beginners- group elected a new secretary, changed business meeting time to 6:15, our attendance has been averaging about 140 with our basket intake doubling, so we are contributing more to the pie. We had a lot of new members join the business group in January, and then a very small turnout for the Feb. business meeting.

Ben delivered co-DCM report.

- Sadly, we lost Area 31’s alternate delegate, Paul H. who decided to step down as alt delegate for personal reasons. Paul has served our area faithfully for many years and it will be a great loss to see him leave. A new alternate delegate must be voted in at the spring assembly, which will be held Saturday and Sunday, **April 2nd and 3rd**. All GSR’s should attend to give your group a vote in this important process.
- Accessibility committee is looking for 4 – 5 groups to hold a meeting at **Saint Mount Marie** Nursing home in Holyoke on Tuesdays, up to 10 group members can attend and put on a meeting. Contact Pauline D or Marc C for info
- CPC is opening up this year’s Round-Up (**may 26, confirm on area 31 website**) with a presentation for the professional community and is asking AA members to invite professionals (Doctors, Corrections, Lawyers, or any professional who comes in contact with alcoholics in a time of need). This can be very helpful to explain to professional what AA does and does not do. The presentation will be Friday evening, more details to follow.
- Grapevine announced that they have launched a new app for smart phones and they will cost \$23.99 per year. Go to the website for more details.
- Round up registration forms are now ready for the 2016 round up on May 20th, 21st, and 22nd at the **LaQuinta** suites in Springfield. The hotel has arranged special rates for those who will attend and wish to stay overnight. There will be a banquet, dance, and most importantly, the delegate

will give his report which all GSR's and DCM's should attend. District 4 is chairing a meeting on sat the 21st at 11am at the round up – please come represent district 4. **Bring registration forms back to your home groups. Anna asked “why register?” Sue answered “it puts you into a contact system to let people know of future but also it gives a rough number of attendance for planning. “Convention fees pay for the hotel for the conferences. Alex raised the question of getting in for free if just coming for delegate’s report. Sue wasn’t sure of that. Steve said that likely GSR’s can attend with a waiver for that. Sue also mentioned there are scholarships and Alex mentioned that groups will sometimes pay for GSR attendance and of course carpooling is available. Groups paying for their GSR attendance is dependent on each group conscience as groups are autonomous.**

- **Mass state convention of young people committee** is hosting a catered pasta dinner on Friday, march 25 \$10 at 474 pleasant street Holyoke. They are also having a campout June 10 – 12 in Dorsett Vt.
- We would like to thank everyone who was able to attend nerassa this year. It was the first time area 31 hosted nerassa and it was a great success. A special thanks to jade and Jae for chairing the aa meeting Saturday night.

Old Business: updating group information sheets. Deadline is April 29. Packets will arrive once this is done. We have loaner packets to lend until they come in the mail. A question was raised on the importance of filling out the number of members in a group. Sue spoke that having more than one home group skews numbers and divides up the focus and attention. Filling out this information also puts us on a directory.

New Business: district 4 workshop topics and discuss possible dates and times. Maybe form an ad-hoc committee?

- Suggested topics should come from General Service Conference – topics will be revealed at Spring Assembly; topics are also on NERASSA pamphlet
- Diane suggested “Are we reaching out to the newcomer and each other?”
- Another topic was translating big book to “plain language”, as in modernized language
- Jade - Motion to all attend spring assembly and pull topics from that. Motion passed.
- District 1 workshop April 1, 1PM – Serenity club – “Sponsorship and singleness of purpose/primary purpose”- opened to anyone, not just their district.
- Committee volunteers? -- think about it for next month.

Sue gave the Area Committee report. –

- “Dark Groups” are actually called “inactive groups”
- Changes to groups need to be submitted to intergroup by April 29
- Area 31 website has all the information you need. Area31aa.org
- Sue is areachair@area31aa.org. Webmaster@area31aa.org for website information and changes.
- Announcements from groups can be submitted to website. Minutes are also on website.
- Area will come to groups for commitments to speak on service. This Saturday (3-19) at 474 pleasant street, Holyoke (where intergroup is) is area meeting. 7:30 PM. It’s in the “when and where.”
- Spring assembly is the biggie on the table. Most important on Sunday, area business meeting and elections.
- Saturday will be the day for discussing the topics for workshops and to provide Mark with what he needs to bring to GSO, and a discussion on gsr service duties.
- Encourage committees to join in on workshops “for instance, accessibility committee for accessibility topic or PI for topic on anonymity”
- Sue read off the topics for the assembly.

Invited committee report-

- Alex – western mass young people in aa – young people conference being held in western mass this year; need representatives from more groups; need to fill positions; need someone who can vote as delegate; please let your home groups know they need reps.; young person’s convention is planning on doing outgoing commitments

The meeting closed at 8:36 PM.