

District 4 Meeting
Tuesday, February 16, 2021
Meeting Minutes Taken by Leah D

- Call to order at 7:00pm
- Welcome to any new GSRs: Susan (GSR for Sunderland Security) and Dan B (alternate GSR for Haydenville)
- A share on Tradition 2 Next month: "For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern."
- Group check ins
 - John from Amherst Sat Night - going well, steady, nothing new to report.
 - Adam from Better Safe than Sorry - meet every night at 6pm. New group, just got their meeting ID, ever growing, a lot of newcomers, a lot of good sobriety, very welcoming
 - Laura - Amherst Monday Night
 - Susan - Conway Monday Night. They often hear from speakers that it's their first meeting doing a telephone conference meeting, but people seem to be managing well. Format is welcoming and helpful to speaker and participants. Has stayed steady at 22-24 people. They have an intergroup rep and GSR rep. People are feeling they'd like to get together to meet in person at a Grammar School. Waiting to hear about that.
 - Arthur from Valley LGBTQ Thursday Night Meeting. Switched Zoom over from an Intergroup into their own name, which went smooth. Things are going well. Curious to hear people's thoughts about new ways of doing zoom. There is a lot of zoom security and wondered how other
 - Linda from Sunderland Security. Group has held steady, with 50-60 attendees per meeting. Had elections last week. Zoom is working well. Taking it one week at a time. Group does commitments and have commitments come in.
 - Sam - Haydenville Sunday Night Life Group. Just had elections last month. Everything is going as planned.
- Notes from Area 31 Meeting
- Hear from our invited guests:
- Paul, visiting as the delegate. delegate@area31aa.org Will be attending the Mini-Conference and Spring Assembly. Eight topics will be covered at the mini-conference:
 - Agenda committee (Discuss or request to provide additional avenues; How can people in AA provide more input)
 - Institutions (Discuss ways of alcoholics to carry the message to correctional facilities)
 - Finance (Discuss concept 12, warranty 2, in the prospect of selling our books at cost or less)
 - 12 Traditions Illustrated Pamphlet (discuss draft updates)
 - Literature (Consider revising pamphlet The AA Group to reflect the importance of the group as a spiritual entity)

- Policy & Admissions (Consider revising the process for polling the General Service Conference)
- Consider requests regarding participation of online groups in the general service structure
- Trustees Committee (Review the statement of concern in motion to censure for submission to the 71st General Service Conference)

Information on finances: Contribution Revenue reached an all-time high at \$10,304,000 in donations. Gross sales was 37% literature, 63% contributions. Historic split is generally at 58% at literature and 42% contributions. General service conference 4/18-24/21.

- Dan B from Steering Committee (Western Mass Intergroup). Thanks groups for donating to Western Mass Intergroup. Dan is bookie coordinator so if groups need help getting in contact with other groups for commitments, please contact him... Intergroup would like to have every group represented at Intergroup. They are working to make sure that the bookie contact list is as updated as possible. If any groups are struggling, send them to intergroup and they will help as much as they can. intergroup/bookie meeting is on the second Thursday of every month at 6:30 pm at zoom id 575 606 2145, password Intergro4
- Old business - Reminded GSRs to fill out GSR Change Form on area31 website.
- New business - Arthur was curious to hear people's thoughts about new ways of doing zoom. There is a lot of zoom security (per Zoom bombers) and wondered how other groups were doing to prevent disruptions to the meeting.
 - Use of waiting room, moderators/co-hosts to monitor safety of meetings.
 - One group has kept the same meeting ID and password to keep consistency and lack of confusion.
 - One group has greeters who can co-host and others who are there in case something happens to keep an eye on the meeting so the host doesn't have to do everything and a great way to have group members do service.
- How to (or experience with workshops at the group level) of introducing ideas or discussion around inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility, in order to make our meetings as inclusive and welcoming as possible to newcomers. Open for discussion and to bring back to the groups.
 - Greeters
 - Group liaison (for new members or new attendees)
 - Open up the meeting 30 minutes early (or 30 minutes after the meeting) to make people feel welcome, break the ice, get to know people
 - Designated person to stay on after the meeting (in reality 4 or 5 people) to offer phone numbers and so on.
 - Idea of having a workshop like has been done in the past
- What are folks doing during discussion meetings in terms of formatting how people are speaking (i.e. time keeper) and how do we keep people from getting lost?
 - Identify by first name

- Chair person will say the name in order of who came into the meeting, people can pass, or share. Most everyone gets to speak during the discussion.
- Laura to share on Tradition 3 for next month: "The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking."
- Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 (3rd week of month)
- Ended meeting with the Responsibility Pledge at 8:07pm