

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

- Call to order at 7:00pm
- Welcome to any new GSRs: No new GSRs this month.
- Laura shared on Tradition 3: “The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.”
- Group check-ins:
 - Jared from Florence I Opener (Suzanne Alt-GSR): 60-90 people a morning, almost doubled from pre-pandemic. Financially stable. Members are wondering about in person, but will determine when that will happen at a later date.
 - Dave H from Amherst Fri Night: 20-25 people in the meeting, but had 30 last night. A lot of people have zoom fatigue. The church is not opening up yet for meetings.
 - Adam from Better Safe than Sorry: Celebrating their anniversary this Thursday, 3/18/21. Making their first donation of \$2500, which they are excited about and is great for a new group.
 - Laura from Amherst Monday Night: Group continues to grow in terms of participation and has a lot of newcomers. Based on newcomer participation and sharing first, they have about 30 minutes of the meeting with newcomers.
 - Susan from Conway Monday Night: Attendance has been varying. People are shy in sharing, but they can talk with other members and hear experience, strength, and hope over the phone. Talked about zoom fatigue.
 - Arthur from Valley LGBTQ Thursday Night Meeting: The group chose not to get a full-year plan on zoom and are paying month to month. There is more interest in the group in terms of how to do commitments and do speaking engagements at institutions.
 - Linda from Sunderland Security: Just had the one-year anniversary on zoom. Have about 50-60 people there per meeting. The group does commitments and does many of the things the group would normally do.
 - Sam from Haydenville Sunday Night Life Group (Dan B Alt-GSR): Have a solid core group that does many commitments. Attendance is lower than it was in person, but the group has faith that when meetings return in person the numbers will rise. Everything is going well.
- **Notes from Feb Area 31 Meeting (No March meeting):**
 - NERAASA was on February 26, 27, and 28.
 - Spring Assembly mini conference March 27th 9am-12pm and 1pm-4pm, business meeting March 28th 1pm-4pm. Discussed topics which will be covered at the mini-conference.
- Hear from our invited guests:
 - 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 Intergr4.

Old business

- Remind GSRs to fill out GSR Change Form on area31 website.
- How to (or experience with workshops at the group level) introduce 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.

New Business:

- Is anyone else paying rent for a physical place even though you're not meeting in it? The group has been paying rent all along and now realized that they cannot
 - One group was up until two months ago. Initially, members wanted to support the church because it has a food bank and they wanted to continue donating. It was a difficult decision that was made to decide to stop donating because they .
 - Sunderland doesn't pay rent or collect money. They have people donate directly.
 - Conway group meets at a school and it's by donation only. They are giving what they used to in person, but they do not pay rent.
 - Haydenville has not been paying rent, but they borrowed some chairs from the church and give a donation every now and again for the
- Dave H to share on Tradition 4 next month.
- Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 7:00pm (3rd week of month)
- Ended meeting with the Responsibility Pledge at 7:48pm