

District 4 GSR Meeting
Tuesday, August 17, 2021
Meeting Minutes taken by Leah D

- **Call to Order at 7:00pm**

- **Open the meeting with the Serenity Prayer**

- **Jared C to share on Tradition 8: “Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.”**

- **Group Check Ins (9 GSRs in attendance)**
 - Jared GSR/Suzanne Alt-GSR (Florence “I” Opener): Meetings daily on Zoom as well as six days in person in Florence. They are running two separate meetings that are not connected. Zoom meeting has ~40-50 people in attendance and the in person was going strong, but with the new indoor mask mandate and COVID restrictions, the numbers went down a little this past week. The meetings are both going well, with one meeting on Saturday at the First Churches in Northampton. Group will be holding a picnic outdoors in September.
 - Adam GSR/Todd Alt-GSR (Better Safe Than Sorry): Group meets on Zoom every night at 6pm. Things are going really well with the group with attendance on average ~30 people. Group had a picnic get together recently where the group got to meet in person for the first time. Things have been smooth within the group since they had their group conscience last month.
 - Laura (Monday Night Amherst Beginners Meeting at 7pm): The church was going to allow group to be in person starting in September. Many group members would not go in person if masks were not required so group decided to stay remote until further notice. Group is well attended.
 - Dave H (South Amherst Friday Night Group): Church told group they will be able to go back into the church the second week in August. Group members are antsy and looking forward to going back to in-person meetings and have not yet discussed group going hybrid.
 - Arthur (Friday Night LGBTQ in Northampton): Group is currently meeting virtually, but having conversations about switching out of Zoom or to stay meeting virtually.
 - Susan (Conway Monday Night): Group still operating via telephone conference call with many people who wouldn’t have been able to meet in person. This is likely to stay the same into the fall as they meet at a school, but TBD. Group is talking about having an in person picnic to see each other face to face.
 - Sam (Haydenville Sunday Night Life): Group is still hybrid and going strong. The attendance in person has slowly been going up each week.
 - Dave E (Making Progress Group): Group went hybrid on July 29, 2021, at Leslie Church in Hadley. There were a few glitches to begin, but it has been going quite well. The attendance has increased due to being in a hybrid format, with attendance regular to the Zoom and more people attending in person.

- **Highlights from Area 31 Meeting**

- **Hear from invited guests**

- Paul H - Area 31 Delegate/P70:

There is a Final Conference Report of what happened at the General Service Conference, which is available virtually and will be available in print over the next few weeks. Email delegate@area31aa.org if you would like a copy virtually. If you would like a printed copy, please provide your address and Paul can mail it to you when the physical copies are available.

If groups have any agenda items they would like to present at the conference, the deadline is September 15, 2021. Email delegate@area31aa.org and Paul will send you the form to fill out.

NERAASA is scheduled to be in person in Pittsburgh, PA, on Friday, February 25th to Sunday, February 27th. You can book through www.neraasa.org. If all goes according to plan, if the funds are available, the area can help out with reimbursement of peoples' expenses if people are interested or with a van service. Information is listed on www.area31aa.org. There are meetings for each position (GSR, DCM, Intergroup, Institutions, CPC, etc.) and you can learn from people all around the country what people are doing within the positions. Two agenda items are: Policy and Admissions committee recommended that the US/Canada service structure recognize online groups and encourage their participation. This supersedes a previous motion which did not allow online groups to participate in the service structure. The next motion is to have the General Service Committee to have a committee to assist with this.

Grapevine is on Instagram, which started on July 7, 2021. Information on the Area 31 website.

All area committee meetings are all being held hybrid at 474 Pleasant Street in Holyoke.

- **Old Business:**

District 4 workshop

- Date: Saturday, December 4, 2021, 11 am-12:30pm on Zoom.

- Topic: Ways to carry the message

- Reaching out to people we have lost.
- How can we be of service and connect outside of service committees?
- What are ways that we as AA members can assist the non-virtual members?

- Format

- Three different speakers/topics with breakout rooms or speaker discussion. Will vote on format at the September 2021 meeting.

- **New Business:**

- No new business
- David E to share on Tradition 9.
- End with the responsibility pledge at 8:09pm.