

District 4 GSR Meeting Minutes

October 19, 2021

Minutes taken by Leah D

Welcome GSRs

Moment of Silence followed by Serenity Prayer

Group Check in

- **Susan (Conway Monday Night 7-8pm via Conference Call):** Group will continue in the phone meeting format for now; they have speakers from everywhere with newcomers, old group members returning, and a small core of group members.
- **Jared & Suzanne (Florence "I" Opener daily at 7am):** Meetings daily on Zoom as well as in person. They are running two separate meetings that are not connected. The numbers in person have been decreasing perhaps due to COVID restrictions. The Zoom meeting is between 50-high 60s in attendance. Group has a "Fun Committee," to stay connected in fellowship. Group has regular Saturday hikes & Sunday walks at 11am at Look Park. They are looking for ideas of how to streamline this information so everyone is aware of these activities.
- **Adam & Todd (Better Safe Than Sorry):** Group took on a couple of commitments and got an institutions rep. Are going to an in person commitment in Greenfield as well as the jail in Greenfield once a week. Meeting is going well, about 30 people on average with newcomers.
- **Joseph (Sunday Night Northampton Big Book Step Study):** In person meetings started July 1st. Things are going well with attendance from 20-30 people per meeting.
- **Arthur (Friday Night LGBTQ in Northampton):** Things are going well. Group is meeting hybrid. They went back in person as of September with masks mandatory by church and City of Northampton. Group is running smoothly. Group is trying to figure out the budget surpluses, inquiry about Pi.
- **Tania (Hadley Women's Language of the Heart):** Group meets Wednesday evenings in a hybrid format at 7:00pm. Face to face meetings resumed June 1, 2021. Masks are required at live meeting space (Middle Street in Hadley). Meeting also has a concurrent Zoom where AA members all over the world attend. Once a month group reads How It Works in both Spanish and French because they have attendees who speak those languages. Group is going to have a group inventory. Will register for a slot for the alcathon. 1st Week, Tradition 10. 2nd Week, Big Book chapter and personal story. 3rd Week: Read and discuss Language of the Heart. 4th Week: Tradition Meeting as well as Grapevine Traditions. 5th Week: Sober Woman to speak, read favorite passages out of AA literature, and discussion.
- **David E (Making Progress Group):** Things are going well in their hybrid meeting. About 6 people online,

6 people in person. Hybrid is working well. Speakers can either be on Zoom or in person.

- **Linda (Sunderland Security):** Sunderland meeting is back live, Tuesday 7pm in Sunderland. Masks required by the town.

Presentation on Tradition 10:

Adam D to share on Tradition 10: “Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on out- side issues; hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy.” Tradition 10 is one of the biggest reasons why this fellowship works so well, has been around for so long, and continues to grow at such great numbers. It’s really important for AA to stay out of public controversy (i.e. politics, how we handle COVID). There is so much controversy in this world, so much that divides people, and alcoholism is life or death; we don’t need controversy to get in the way of our sobriety. One might be turned away from a meeting if someone says something along the lines of public controversy and they could die. The important thing is, we are all here with this common thing that’s bigger than our opinions and views on public controversy. God brings us together to be able to put that aside, not worry about that, and help each other to stay alive and sober.

Fall Assembly Recap

Area 31 Elections:

Delegate: Mike Alternate Delegate: Steve M

Area Chair: John G Area Treasurer: Steve B Area Secretary: Ray M

- Western Mass Intergroup will be holding the Christmas Alcahthon at 474 Pleasant Street (live). Looking for people to get slots and for volunteers. Next meeting 11/11 at 7pm on Zoom. Attend if you want a slot at alcathon. Info at westernmassaa.org and area31aa.org. Email Kevin with group changes and updates. Having elections next month.
- NECYPAA: Halloween Event “Freedom from Fear” 10/23/21 599 Main Street in Somers, CT. December 31st 2021 – January 2nd, 2022 Sturbridge Host Hotel – 366 Main St Sturbridge, Ma 01566 necypaahost.org
- District 6 Workshop on 11/6/21 at United Methodist Church from 2-4pm (hybrid). Topic: Getting sober and staying sober through COVID.
- Grapevine Podcast - Monday mornings at 9am (<https://www.aagrapevine.org/podcast>). New Book called Prayer & Meditation. You can order it through grapevineaa.org
- The area can speak at meetings as a commitment at your groups :) and can help moderate a group inventory with a past delegate as a moderator. Email area chair. areachair@area31aa.org
- Recommended for groups to donate to the regular Pi Chart. This can be found in the Area Handbook on

Area 31 website, including information on where to send donations for the Pi Chart.

Invited Guests:

- **Steve M, Area 31 Chair:** NERAASA 2022: Northeast Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly, February 25-27, 2022 in Pittsburgh, PA. Registration is open now! <https://www.neraasa.org/>

Old Business:

District 4 Workshop

- Date: Saturday, December 4, 2021, 11am-12:30pm on Zoom.
- Title: Ways to Carry AA's Simple Message in a Complicated World
- Format: Speakers speak on one topic for fifteen minutes then Q&A
- Three speakers to share on one topic:
 - Reaching out to people who have left the rooms (Laura P finding speaker)
 - How can we be of service and connect outside of service committees? (Tanya E sharing)
 - What are ways that we as AA members can assist the non-virtual members?
 - Speaker seekers: Susan M found Tanya E
 - Laura P (not present tonight), and David E (still searching)
 - Ideas for speakers: Paul, Delegate. Joe.
 - **Steve will reach out to Frank (Accessabilities).**
 - Susan and Adam will both be on hold to ask a past delegate.
 - Chairperson: Adam
 - Co-Host: David
 - Flyer: Jared

New Business:

- Idea for District 4 Virtual Alcathon for New Years from 6pm 12/31/21 to 6am 1/1/21
 - The Serenity Club usually hosts a NYE Alcathon so there may be competition
 - Tanya will look into the serenity club to see about the format there.
 - Tabled until next meeting
- Tania H will present on Tradition 11
- Upcoming elections next month: Co-DCM, Secretary, LCM (Recommended that instead of LCM, use

entire District 4 to drum up support for the district.)

Motion to close at 8:24pm.

Close with Responsibility Pledge.