

**District 4 GSR Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, February 15, 2022**

**Welcome GSRs:** Terri S, new GSR from Saturday Night Beginners Meeting (Northampton)

**Moment of Silence followed by Serenity Prayer**

**GSR Description from *Your group's link to A.A. as a whole, A.A. General Service***

**Conference-approved literature:** "By choosing its most qualified member as G.S.R., a group helps secure its own future — and the future of A.A. as a whole." When you're a general service representative (G.S.R.) You are linking your home group with the whole of A.A. In 1950, a new type of trusted servant, "group representative," was suggested to help in the selection of delegates to the newly formed General Service Conference. By 1953, the job of group representative was also seen as a good means of exchanging up-to-date information between individual groups and "Headquarters" (now the General Service Office). That's still an important side of your work. But now, as general service representative, you have an even bigger responsibility: You transmit ideas and opinions, as well as facts; through you, the group conscience becomes a part of "the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship," as expressed in the General Service Conference. Like everything else in A.A., it works through a series of simple steps. (For the complete picture in detail, read The A.A. Service Manual.)

**Group Check-Ins:**

**Linda (Sunderland Security):** Group is not moving (yay)! Church had raised rent to \$75/meeting. After having several meetings with church, talking to them, explaining what they do. Church wouldn't commit to long term, but they did cut their rent to \$35 a meeting, which group can afford. They will revisit this conversation in the summer. Group is extremely happy they don't have to move! It was helpful for GSR to hear from other groups about how they were navigating transitions when this situation arose for Sunderland Security.

**Todd C (Better Safe Than Sorry) -** Meets seven nights a week at 6pm with different meetings daily. Virtual only. Started virtual, remains virtual. Has a very strong following and remains so today with 25-30 people a night, seven nights a week. A lot of newcomers attend. About 80-100 different people per week.

**Dan B (Haydenville Sunday Night Life):** Attendance in and out of the holiday seasons/NFL playoffs has been spotty, but for the most part we are getting 50+ people per night. We recently voted to change the format of our anniversaries to the last Sunday of the month, which is something Haydenville has never done to recollection.

**Jared/Alt: Donna (Florence "I" Opener):** 70-80 people daily with a robust fun committee doing any number of great fellowship, social activities. Group just started a meditation session that will happen weekly. Many newcomers that have been able to get the support from group members. There is also a small contingency that meets in person. Group is having an anniversary meeting on Sunday, 2/27/22, in lieu of their normal meeting with two speakers. Usually group has a breakfast and potluck, but this year it will be just virtual.

**Arthur (Valley LGBTQ+ Meeting) -** Group is going well in hybrid format with elections next month. The live portion of the meeting is at St. John's Episcopal Church in Northampton, MA.

**Jared to share on Tradition 1:** *“Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward.”*

- The whole is greater than the sum of the parts. The union is far greater than each one of us individually, which is the opposite of what life was like before we got sober; it was all about us. Now, in order for us to be sober, we have to support this notion that putting the group ahead of ourselves comes first because of the importance of that group for each of our sobriety. This tradition is a good example of that gray area: we will do almost anything for that newcomer, that person that is really struggling and may take way more than that allotted 2-3 meetings because if they don't they might drink. How far do we go for the group at the expense of that individual.

### **February 2022 Area Meeting Recap**

- Please visit [www.area31aa.org](http://www.area31aa.org) for upcoming events
  - **NERAASA 2/25-27/22** in Pittsburgh, PA
  - Service Manual Meeting (Hybrid format, 3rd Wed of month): 2/16/22 at 7:00pm
  - What a Concept Meeting (Hybrid format, 1st Thurs of month): 3/3/22 at 7:30pm
- **GSR Change Forms:** <https://area31aa.org/node/513>
- **District 3 Workshop** on the 2022 agenda items: Saturday, March 5th 10:00am-12pm HYBRID format. Information can be found here: <https://area31aa.org/node/582>
- **Bridging the Gap:** Sonja is the new bridging the gap coordinator. Making a list of AA members who would be willing to bridge the gap for those coming out of an institution. Call to express interest in being on that list at (###)###-####. She will coordinate to help individuals give someone a ride to their first meeting.
- **MA State Convention:** 11/11-13/22 LIVE and in person at the Sturbridge Host Hotel in Sturbridge, MA. No program yet. Planning meeting at 7pm on last Tuesday of the month 3/29/22. Carpool from the bowling alley and Mercedes Dealership on Burnat Road in Chicopee (end of 291) at 6:15pm if you'd like to attend in person. Plenty of open positions and jobs that need to be done! Hotel rooms available \$127 a night.
- **Grapevine** is promoting Carry the Message pamphlet to display at meeting: For any group/individual who purchases a subscription, the Grapevine then sends a free subscription to someone in need.

### **Invited Guests:**

- **Mike B:** Conference had 178 proposed agenda items (35 dealt with the Twelve & Twelve from 2021, 32 dealt with the Preamble, and 30 dealt with the language): **Total agenda items this year are 82 items.** These will be discussed at the Mini-Conference at the end of March/early April 2022 (Date is being finalized). Please discuss and share these agenda items with your group! *Mike will email Leah the agenda items for the 2022 conference, and she will forward these onto all GSRs.* District 3's workshop about the Agenda items on 3/5/22 will be great for AA members to attend.
- New [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org) website is very search/newcomer friendly.

### **Old Business:**

- Elections: District 4 Secretary. TABLED until further notice.

- Todd C to present on Tradition 2 in March
- David E to present on Tradition 3 in March
- Workshop ideas for 2022
  - District 4 Thanksgiving Alcathon TABLED

**New Business:**

- GSRs attend meetings in District 4
  - GSR picks one group (outside of homegroup) to attend in District 4
  - Reply-all to [district4@area31aa.org](mailto:district4@area31aa.org), notifying GSRs you are attending
  - Ask for a group contact (i.e. the group's chairperson)
  - Ask for when they are having their business meeting and either attend or email date and time to Leah at [district4@area31aa.org](mailto:district4@area31aa.org)
- GSR Presentation: Steve would be willing to come and present
  - Reach out to other groups who don't have GSRs and they could attend a District 4 meeting with the GSR presentation.
- Potential Agenda Item Workshop
  - This would have to take place at the end of March/early April 2022

**Linda R motions to close at 8:13pm, seconded by Todd C. Motion passes.**

**Close with Responsibility Pledge:** I am responsible... When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, March, 15 2022, at 7:00pm on Zoom**