

# District 4: Area 31 AA GSR Meeting

Date: August 15, 2023

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Attending: Adam (CDM), Bonnie S, Dan B (Co-CDM), Dana M, Donna C, Jennifer, Liam, Mike B, Nancy P, Rick K

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## Reports:

Donna C - Florence I Opener 7:00 AM for 7 days a week. The agenda is varied each day: Saturday is a topic meeting, another day is Step meeting, Living Sober is another day, and As Bill Sees It is a day. September 10th is picnic at Cannon Park at 12 noon. They do 2 commitments each week: Bridge House and Women's Correctional Center in Chicopee.

Liam - Making Progress in Hadley 7:30 PM. Attendance is good. The format is changing from a 2 speaker meeting to 1 speaker and discussion.

Bonnie - New Perspectives Women's Meeting in Hadley on Wednesday 6:30-7:30 PM is a hybrid group. Attendance is up to about 15 - 20 people. Elections were held at the last business meeting and all positions are filled.

Dana - Conway Group meets Monday 7:00 PM on-line. It is a speaker-discussion group with about 15 people attending. There will be a Seasonal Picnic soon. The group is not considering returning to in-person meetings.

Nancy P - Shelburne Falls Big Book study group. The group has 10 - 15 people and has started to grow. They have worked on a pamphlet for newcomers about the meeting app and groups with special interests.

Rick K (alternate) - Sunday Night Life Group in Haydenville 7:30 PM. All positions are filled. Rick is the new alternate. The group is strong and has a stream of newcomers. All positions are filled and have alternates.

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Tradition 8: Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional, but our service centers may employ special workers.

Liam shared about Tradition 8 and that the non-hierarchical structure is important. Alcoholics avoid structure and this tradition promotes unpaid service. Liam said that money and spirituality don't mix. Administrative functions, literature, and phone services can be paid. AA operates as a true collective with a collective conscience. Additional comments included that AA invented the recovery field when there wasn't any before and that other organizations emulate AA because it works.

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Announcements: Additional Info at <https://www.area31aa.org/>

- \*Berkshire Intergroup Retreat is in September.
- \*Western MA Intergroup is holding a family picnic on 8/20/23 in Chicopee and still needs help setting up. The hours are 11 AM - 6 PM.
- \*Golf tournament sign-up ends on 8/16/23.
- \*District 2 is hold a Celebration of Service on 8/25/23 from 5:00 PM - 9:30 PM in Agawam.
- \*District 3 holds a Traditions Meeting on the 2nd Sunday of the month 7 - 8 PM.
- \*MA State Planning Committee has decided that there will not be a secular meeting at the AA State Convention. This has been decided by the Program Chair and will not be changed.
- \*Fall Assembly will include elections and is held on October 14 & 15.
- \*District 3 has proposed an agenda item to change one of Big Book paragraphs (p. 135) and is interested in other groups thoughts on the proposed change. Mike stated that the GSO has said there will not be any changes to the first 165 pages of the Big Book. The issue is whether to add a footnote indicating that smoking is harmful to people's health. Mike suggested we talk in our groups about adding footnotes to the Big Book.
- \*Concept Meeting is held on the 1st Thursday 7:30 PM.
- \*At the Fall Assembly there will be an Area Inventory on Saturday and on Sunday elections will be held for delegates and other area positions. All positions are 2-year commitments. The Assembly will be held on October 14 & 15 at St. Catherine's in Springfield MA.
- \*District 6 will hold a Traditions Workshop on September 30 at Hazardville United Methodist Church 330 Hazard Ave in Enfield CT.
- \*Next month at the District 4 Meeting Steve will make a presentation on GSR requirements and responsibilities.

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## Old Business:

- ★ The workshop, Balancing Your Triangle: Service, Unity, and Recovery went very well. Steve, Tamara, and Carl did a great job presenting to 30 - 35 people in attendance. The group thought that attendees might consider service work now since it was made less mysterious and more doable.
- GSR Change Forms are available on the Area 31 website.

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## New Business:

No new business.

**Closed 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, September 19, 2023, at 7:00pm on Zoom.