

District 4 April Minutes  
4/16/24

Meeting opens with Serenity Prayer.

Tradition 4 - Jenn M. shares briefly with additional comments from Chairperson.  
Next month: Tradition 5 - Mike M. volunteers

**New GSRs:**

Mike M. from Daily Reflections Meeting in Northampton. They are the first GSR ever elected to represent the group. This is also Mike's first time as a GSR.

**Group check ins:**

James (Greenfield, 6 p.m.): Attendance is up and doing a lot of commitments.

Bonnie (Hadley New Perspectives): Group attendance up for both in-person and online

Patrick (Shelburne Falls Big Book Study Group) Attendance has been steady, a little uptick the last couple of Thursdays

Ramil( Saturday Night Beginners Meeting in Northampton): Ramil standing in this week as alternate GSR.

Dana (Conway Monday night group): Currently a virtual meeting, in the next two weeks making a choice about shifting to a hybrid meeting. The group has an opportunity to go back into the church they were in prior to a tornado in 2017.

Rachel (Florence Eye Opener): Attendance is steady, group has been doing an inventory, worked on item #4 this week about newcomer retention

Dave (Friday night Amherst group): attendance is really strong, meeting has made "a great comeback"

Jenn (Sunderland Security Group): attendance going steady

Mike (Daily Reflections Group, Northampton): The group has been through some really rough times, settling now. Now a very popular meeting where there's "trouble finding enough chairs."

- Mike reports an issue with folks announcing non-AA meetings/happenings at the meeting and causing confrontations.
- Group is thinking about making an announcement up front that there will be a time for AA and non-AA announcements.
- Various GSRs weigh in on possible solutions for the group
- Carl weighs in to remind us about group autonomy/4th Tradition, and that Daily Reflections Group is free to choose whatever solution it sees fitting

Doug (Attitude Adjustment Group): Group has been doing good service, they wanted to do commitments, four times a month

Dan: Alternate GSR for Haydenville, first GSR meeting

**Chairperson's Area Meeting Recap:**

It was mostly Spring Assembly Recap

Spring assembly really well attended - first day around 100 people.

Steve went to the General Service Conference feeling like he had "a very informed position" on Area 31.

Roundup committee event will be coming up this year: a one-day event at St. John's in Westfield on June 1. It will be an all day thing. They need some participation.

Roundup committee meets second Wednesday of the month, right before area meeting.

District 4 has been assigned a joint workshop with District 3. Topic is "Having Had a Spiritual Awakening." More discussion to come during New Business.

Discussion about the area finding storage for all of the standing committees, especially archives.

Mike asks about getting involved with roundup.

Dave asks about "the health of the Grapevine committee."

Bob says it is getting back up to speed.

Chairperson adds that Area website now says "Calendar" instead of "Contribute."

### **Guest speaker #1: Bob**

Updates on storage: They are trying to find a centralized storage area for various items

Trying to get a square footage area they "might be able to do something with" at 30 Carew St. 90-square-foot storage shed to put our stuff in.

Intergroup Golf tournament coming up May 25 ([westernmassaa.org](http://westernmassaa.org)) at the Agawam Country Club

\$100/person

Lunch, dinner, prizes, "hole in one" contest for a swimming pool

District 5 putting on a play in July on the traditions, more info TBA

District 4 is looking to build up its committees. We have 301 groups in the area, and these committees are lucky if they get 12 people per month. Bob recommends bringing this back to our individual groups.

Area offers a group inventory, reach out to [areachair@area31aa.org](mailto:areachair@area31aa.org).

Questions for Bob:

Bonnie: Does the district or area send people out to groups that aren't participating at the district or area level and talk to them about service opportunities?

Bob's response: It's more about groups that have been getting low participation and need help.

Chairperson adds: Years ago we tried to send GSRs to some of the groups in the district that aren't represented at the meeting. The idea was to try and promote the district meeting a bit.

That is something we could look into as a district.

Doug asks if we have an LCM (local committee member). We do not.

### **Guest speaker #2 Carl:**

Carl is area archivist and member of Amherst Monday night group

His response to the question about LCMs: "Part of the Area 31 responsibilities of DCM and co-DCM is to reach out to groups not participating in area general service to go out physically and ask to speak with them and get them to participate. Larger districts often elect a LCM to assist. LCMs do not have a vote at the area committee."

Tradition 4: District is autonomous, can run its affairs as it sees fit and discuss how it wants to handle the situation.

Archives update: As Bob said, storage for archives committee and their display boards in the works. After move from Holyoke, everything was thrown in boxes and moved, took about 1 year to unpack. Carl has been going through that material and sorting that all out.

Carl still going through materials.

It's not just compiling minutes; Archives committee has also provided various needs to groups and individuals needing past information.

If interested in seeing the archives, send Carl an email [through the area website](#).

Chairperson asks if paper copies of meeting minutes are ok. They are preferred, as they will be accessible even when certain technologies get phased out over the decades.

[Tangential questions/remarks raised during Carl's talk

James asks: Group needs financial help with literature.

Doug: No more where and when they are hopefully printing more because they are in big demand]

### **New Business:**

Details for joint workshop:

June 1 at the one-day Roundup

Topic: "Having Had a Spiritual Awakening"

60 Broad St., St. John's Lutheran Westfield

Time slot: 3p.m. - 3.50

Chairperson says it would be a good idea to have a GSR from each district chair

Suggestion: chairs share for a couple minutes then do an open discussion

Chairperson says last year they had 3 speakers talk on their experience with all three phases of AA.

Bonnie: "Spiritual Awakening" is part of How it Works. "It means talking about how the steps led to some kind of spiritual awakening. Anyone could talk about doing the steps and what that has meant as far as reaching Step 12."

Doug Volunteers to speak

Dave has participated in a workshop about the "spiritual experience" topic, the part on page 567, p. 183 out of 4th edition world services was read

Jenn: Suggests speakers with long-term sobriety and just a few years of sobriety

Mike: Would like to hear different types of spiritual experiences

Doug: Suggests Amalia involved to get a good Spanish speaker

Bonnie makes motion to have speaker discussion workshop with two to three speakers with a variety of experiences and audience participation.

5 to 10 minutes a piece and then discussion.

Patrick seconds it

Motion passes

Dave volunteers to chair the panel (and find a speaker)

Doug volunteers to help find speakers

District 3 will find a third speaker

Dave says preference would be to facilitate and instead of qualifying would prefer to read the Spiritual Experience text.

Jenn makes motion

Dan seconds

Motion passes

Do we want to send GSRs out to dark meetings

Bonnie makes motion to table this until next month

Motion passes

Motion to close

Seconded

Passes

Close meeting with Serenity Prayer