

District 5 GSR Meeting January 7th, 2019

Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m.

12 GSR's present, and three new GSR's – Jack from Green Street in Monson, Chris from the Ludlow Group, and RJ from Singleness of Purpose.

Andy opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer

Bill H read the Role of the GSR

Vicky W read the Secretary's report - the report was accepted as read.

LCM report: Kate is not here, Bill had two group GSR's that were supposed to be here but did not show.

DCM: Andy asked who hasn't gotten their service packets, he will take their names and get that information to Sonia. She can be reached at registrar@area31aa.org

DCM's have been going and getting service manuals and handing them out to new GSR's. If you don't get your packet by next month, Andy will bring a service manual for you to borrow until you get yours. Please bring the loaners back.

Michael L Read 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.

Michael took away this:

Because A.A. is what has kept us here to this point, it is reaching out to the newcomer and being there for them, and the group being there for the newcomer, that is important.

Bill H read the Three Legacies:

He's heard very often that people finish their term as GSR and they finally feel as if they know what they are doing. Recovery, Unity and Service. Recovery 2nd chance to find happiness, and a purpose for our lives. Unity is a fellowship of people who share our common problem and give us love and support. Service we're familiar with service because we're here tonight and it offers us the opportunity to implement our primary goal, which is to carry the message to the alcoholic that still suffers. Those who participate in service have a significantly better chance of staying sober than those who do not.

General service- has been called the glue that holds AA together. GSR represents the group to the General Services office – if a group has no GSR, it has no voice in the conference and no say in the policies that are created by GSO.

Districts are sections of the Area – each group belongs to a district. District also coordinates and implements various programs.

Massachusetts has two areas – 30 and 31. We are in Area 31, and we are all members of the Western Mass assembly.

The Delegate we choose goes to the annual service conference in New York City.

Group Sharing

Laura back to reality Monday 7 PM Chicopee

Give when we can to the pie, not very often. Our service positions don't really go further than GSR. 8 to 10 people in the group

John Chicopee Group Tuesday 10 am and 6 pm Format Varies ST Stans

Give to the pie when possible. Positions filled internal, have institutions and GSR. Detox commitment once a month at Carlson, filling the room 30 to 40 people. Some weeks it's a little bit less.

Jeff represent the Hampden Group Tuesday 6:30 step 7:30 speaker meeting.

Regularly contribute to the pie, some winter months we give extra to the church for heating. Most service positions are filled. No commitments in January, a standing institutions commitment with detox the first Monday of the month.

Mark representing Wilbraham Friday Night Group 6:30 Living Sober, and 7:30 Speaker meeting Grace union church. We give to the pie regularly. Almost all the service positions are filled except grapevine and archives. Do incoming/outgoing. Detox once a month, jail commitment twice a month.

Mark Wilbraham Thursday Night Men's

Regular pie contributions, one the quarter. GSR and Intergroup. No incoming commitments because it's a men's' group. Attendance has been great, solid membership, trying to push to fill the other service positions.

Neal representing the here and now group Wednesday at 8:30 to 9:30. Need some participation average about 20 people, group members are a bit sparse, having a hard time making commitments. We've been struggling to pay rent, not uncommon for a group member to throw in a 10 or a 20-dollar bill. Finally having a prudent reserve, hope to be able to give to the pie soon. 2 speaker meeting, Carlson detox commitment, incoming and outgoing commitment Most of the outside service positions are filled.

Jack, representing Green Street in Monson. Thursday beginners at 6:15 and 7:30 speaker meetings. Haven't had a GSR for a while, he's also the bookie. They contribute to the Pie most every month. Service positions are held, GSR, Intergroup. There is a core group who stays for the business meeting. They do commitments, have a regular crew that goes on the commitments. The beginners meeting has shrunk possibly due to the church no longer allowing smoking on the grounds.

Michael Barnabas Step Group Tuesday Nights 7:30 to 8:30 avg 30 to 40. Pay pie quarterly, GSR and Intergroup looking into doing institutions commitment because they don't do incoming, outgoing commitments. No real troubles small core of members.

George Belchertown Sat night. Well Attended 80 people on the second meeting, beginners meeting has a lot. Have been moved back to the downstairs. Outgoing commitment to Haydenville. Detox meeting every Saturday morning at 10:30. Contribute to the pie regularly, but the rent is going up. The only positions not filled are CPC and PI. February 2nd is the group anniversary.

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Juan East Longmeadow Sunday Night group. Beginners meeting and two speaker meeting at the same time, just different rooms. All positions are filled, except for bookie. Give regularly to the pie, Carson detox commitment.

Willie representing the No Name group Ludlow Wednesday night.

Do incoming and outgoing commitments. We have a GSR. The other service positions he has no idea, no idea if there are contributions to the pie.

RJ representing Singleness of Purpose Tuesday Grattan Street Chicopee

Pie chart quarterly. Just had elections last month, 24th anniversary Feb 19th. The group is growing, they have greeters Getting some really solid members and good support. Working on a jail commitment for the group.

Peter, visiting from West Virginia. He encourages all his sponsees to get involved in service work.

Vicky, representing the Hitchcock Academy Group, Brimfield Friday Night

We give quarterly to the pie, the only outside service positions currently filled are bookie and GSR. We are trying to get more people interested in service work. Our attendance is down, and membership in the group itself is a bit down. With the meeting being on Friday night, lots of people just want to leave and not stay for the business meeting. Monthly incoming and outgoing commitments, no detox commitments, we do Honor court on a regular basis.

Vicky, representing the Courage to Change Step Group, Sunday afternoon, Monson

This is a very small group, with a core of 4 or 5 members who regularly attend. We haven't had any outside service positions until this year, and we have elected an Intergroup rep. We don't do commitments as it's a step study group. Vicky is holding the GSR position until someone else can take it so the group at least gets the information from the District.

Chris Bettro, The Ludlow Group Thursday nights. New GSR taking over from Ann Marie.

Visitors report

Mike the Area Chair

Jericho Tuesday Night Meeting – used to be the South Hadley Meeting. Moved to Holyoke, not sure if they are really part of District 5, should be part of District 2. GSR is the most important job, bringing the information from District to the group, and from the group to the District and the Area. Also it's important to show up if one takes a service commitment.

2/2/19 GSR/DCM workshop. Noon to 2:30 at the Intergroup office location. The alternate delegate will come to the district and do the presentation for the district.

The service manual meeting is held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, where the group talks about the first section of the service manual. 1st Thursday of the month is the concept meeting. GSR is typically the first introduction an A.A. member has to the concepts.

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The area committee is available for service commitments, looks like a regular commitment. If your group is interested in having a group inventory, contact Mike at areachair@area31aa.org.

Should an LCM contact that group that went to Holyoke? District 2 should reach out to them, but it would be ok if someone from District 5 went and talked to them about it.

NERAASA is coming up Feb 22 to the 24th in Hunt Valley, MD. The area has a 12 person van and it is already overbooked, they are looking to rent another van. About 20 people are going from the area on their own.

Old Business:

Save the Date flyers for the 50th anniversary of the Mass round-up, please take them back to your groups to share as it is the area event. Andy is the hospitality chair. This year the Round Up is being held at the Clarion in West Springfield. See the flyer for more details. (A copy will be attached with the minutes)

The Roundup is for the Delegate to report what he got from the GSO conference in New York, and to have GSR's bring that report to back to their groups.

New Business: There was no new business.

NEXT MONTHS READINGS

TRADITION 2 RJ WILL READ

CHAPTER 1 INTRO TO GENERAL SERVICE: MICHAEL will read

Next meeting February 4th at 7:30.

Any closures will be listed with area31aa.org Andy will postpone the meeting if he feels it's not safe to drive.

Close the meeting at 8:50 pm. With the Responsibility pledge.