

## **District 5**

### Meeting Minutes

March 4, 2019

#### **Opening**

The regular meeting of the District 5 was called to order at 7:34 p.m. on March 4, 2019 in Ludlow by Andy, DCM.

#### **Present**

16 GSR's were present.

#### **New Members or Visitors?**

Paul , the Alternate Delegate for Area 31 present.

#### **Reading of S26, the GSR**

Bill H, Co-DCM

#### **Secretary's Report from the Previous Month**

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

#### **LCM Report**

Kate V feels odd going to meetings and asking if they have a GSR, she will be talking to Bill after the meeting.

#### **Reading and Sharing on Readings for the month**

**Reading 1 Tradition 3:** Mark B the only requirement for aa membership is the desire to stop drinking. Early AA groups refused membership to homosexuals, inmates, prostitutes, drug addicts and other people that were felt to reflect badly on AA. You are a member of AA if you say you are. We can come from any number of backgrounds and still be a member of AA. Mostly focused on the low bottom drunks, and the inclusion of people who stopped in time has helped more. The secret to the third tradition is not to be a jerk. Treat people kindly, and you will be treated kindly. Think about what this means for your social behavior.

**Reading 2 Concept 2:** Kate V (absent at the time the reading was done) (Bill will read)

The conference is the active voice and the conscience for our society.

#### **Group Sharing Forms**

**Jack, Green Street, Monson Thursday Night**

Financials give to the pie each month. GSR, Chairperson, no secretary, bookie, institutions rep and a back up.

**Juan, East Longmeadow Sunday Night group**

Give to the Pie, Anniversary September, Commitment to Carson Detox. Still no bookie, no commitments at this time.

**Jeff, Hampden Tuesday Night Group, Federated church (alternate GSR)**

Most months they give to the Pie, most service positions are filled. No commitments this month, there is a standing commitment at Detox the first Monday of the month.

**Mark B, Wilbraham Friday Night Group.**

Give regularly to the Pie chart, most of the service positions are filled. A couple new members joined last business meeting. Incoming and outgoing once a month, Ludlow jail every other Wednesday and detox once a month.

**Micky, Monday Night Brimfield**

Give to the pie regularly, most of the service positions are filled. Currently no outgoing or incoming commitments due to group conscience (same people going on all commitments, no new faces, bookie stepped down due to spirit of rotation and no one new stepped in to take the job) they may be changing the business meeting to the second Monday of the month instead of the last Monday to accommodate the GSR as many times the winter business meetings get delayed due to storms or illness of group members.

**George, Belchertown Saturday night group.**

Contribute to the pie, commitment every Saturday at providence hospital detox, Service positions are filled although it's the same people doing the jobs. Newly remodeled space. The group is doing well.

**Art, Wilbraham Thursday Night Men's Group, Grace union church.**

The group gives to the Pie as often as possible. Art has been chosen as the GSR, there is no alternate. Service positions Intergroup, GSR trying to get more people involved in service. Mill street commitment. Last month had an incoming group (another men's group) which went very well.

**KateV, Wilbraham Friday Night, Alternate.**

Everything he (Mark B) said is true about the group, and they are still looking for CPC and Archives.

**Willie, No Name Group, Ludlow, Wednesday Night.**

No alternate GSR, give to the PIE. Incoming and Outgoing commitments, no issues otherwise.

**Jennifer, Cold Spring Group, Belchertown, Thursday Night.**

Donate to the Pie chart when they can, some service positions are filled but it's dwindled a bit. Incoming and Outgoing once a month, LIP service program, and one group member who will be doing institutions when they get back. The group is looking to get one more institution commitment.

**RJ, Singleness of Purpose, ST Rose de Lima.**

Thanks for coming out for the anniversary. Give to the pie quarterly, 31 members, all service positions are filled.

**Catrese, Hampden Tuesday night group(GSR)**

Catrese went to NERAASA and had an excellent time. She learned about minorities in AA and how to address it with her group. Why are there so few minorities at meetings in the area. She doesn't feel that she experienced any issues, other people feel that minorities get treated worse when they come into AA. Catrese is going back to school to learn more about this topic and recovery in general.

**Laura, Back to Reality, Monday, Chicopee. Eddie is the alternate.**

Gave to the pie chart a couple months ago, but very barebone so they don't do it more than once a year. No commitments, very barebone.

**John, Chicopee Group Tuesday.**

Give to the pie when they can, service positions are sparsely filled. Detox commitment the first Thursday of the month, and actively working on incoming and outgoing. Institutions is doubling up as the bookie.

**Vicky, Hitchcock Academy Friday Night in Brimfield**

We still doing Honor court and incoming and outgoing commitments. Give to the pie on a quarterly basis. We do not have an intergroup rep, we have a bookie, secretary, meeting chair, treasurer and GSR. Trying to encourage new members to take service positions and go on commitments. Meeting attendance is improving.

### **Vicky, Courage to Change, Sunday Afternoon at First church in Monson**

No incoming, no outgoing (it's a Step Study Group.) Have recently voted on a format change to do the Tradition of the Month on the last Sunday of the month for 6 months as a trial. Attendance usually 8 to 12 people, but only 4 regular group members who rotate chairing the meeting. We have an Intergroup Rep now as well as a GSR, since the group is so small we really don't have any other offices. We pay rent when we feel we have enough, are starting to talk about donating to the Pie at least once a year.

### **Sharon, Eye Opener Friday at 7**

Apologies, Sharon arrived late to the meeting and did not have her sharing form completed. She has been ill and unable to attend meetings for a bit. Welcome back Sharon!

### **Visitor's Reports**

- a. Presentation on the General Service Representative.
  - i. (Powerpoint Presentation, attached along with minutes.)
  - ii. Right to Participate (you can be there, but not everyone has a vote)
  - iii. Right of Decision (You have the right to make a decision based on new information, even if it differs from the group conscience.)
  - iv. The right of Appeal (assuring minority opinion will be heard)
  - v. Third Legacy Procedure for Electing Officers (Everyone stands, as the qualifications are read off, those who can fill it remain standing.)
- b. 72 Agenda items for the GS conference. One of these items is should we do a 5th edition of the Big Book?
- c. Area Conference April 27th, Business meeting April 28th.

### **Old Business**

Mark still doesn't have his GSR packet, and Art needs a new packet. Take a picture of the form or give Sonja a call and she'll take care of it.

### **New Business**

1. Does everybody have the App for Meeting Finder? Available on Android and Apple.
2. Does your raffle take away from your 7th tradition basket?

- a.i. Discussion ensued. It was decided that it's up to the group conscience whether to continue the Raffle or not, depending on if the group is really benefitting from it.
- a.ii. Sub discussion was on using 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition money to buy Big Books to have available to give to new comers. Again it was decided that it's up to the group conscience on using 7<sup>th</sup> tradition money for Big books. 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition money is meant to pay the rent and other expenses for the meeting space and to donate to the Pie to support AA General Service, Institutions, and Intergroup.

### **Next Month's readings and discussions**

- a. Tradition 4: Catrese
- b. Chapter 7 The annual conference meeting: Kate V.

### **Adjournment, Next month's Meeting Date:**

Meeting was adjourned by Andy D at 8:52 with the Responsibility Pledge.

Meeting date for April is April 1, 2019.

### **Contact Information:**

**DCM:** Andy D.            **email:** [district5@area31aa.org](mailto:district5@area31aa.org)

**Co-DCM:** Bill H.

**LCM:** Kate V.

**Secretary:** Vicky W.