

District 5

May Meeting Minutes

Date May 6, 2019

Opening

The regular meeting of the District 5 was called to order at 7:31 p.m. on Date May 6, 2019 in Ludlow by Andy, DCM.

Present

13 GSR's and one Alternate were present.

New Members or Visitors?

Mike, the Area Delegate. New Alternate GSR Franco from the Wilbraham men's meeting

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 went to the conference and Assembly. She did go back to the Three Rivers meeting to talk to Ginger, but she has not shown up.

Reading and Sharing on Readings for the month

Reading 1 Tradition Five – Kate V

Tradition 5 – the long form is in the service manual. Each AA group ought to be a spiritual entity with one purpose – to carry the message to the alcoholic that still suffers. This ties to the responsibility pledge. It is important to us as GSR's to remind our groups that not only does someone need to be there to greet at the door, there needs to be people doing service so AA structure continues to exist.

Reading 2 Chapter 9 the General Service Board- Vicky W

The General Service Board being the chief service arm of the conference, they act for the most part custodial in nature. The General Service Board has the freedom to act upon

routine conduct of the policy and business affairs of the AA service corporations (AA World Services and AA Grapevine), unless such actions would affect AA tradition or seriously affect AA as a whole.

There are 21 Trustees, divided into 7 Class A (non-alcoholic) and 14 Class B (alcoholic). The 14 Class B trustees are further broken down into 2 Trustees At Large, 4 General Service Trustees, and 8 Regional Trustees. There is a large time commitment associated with being a trustee, especially a Regional Trustee or a Trustee at Large. Both include more travel, in and out of the country, to attend either quarterly meetings, Regional Forums, The General Service Conference, The World Service Meeting (held every 2 years) or the Meeting of the Americas (held in the off years) General Service trustees are also asked to attend an additional 8 board meetings for their respective boards (AAWS or AA Grapevine)

Trustees are chosen for a balance of AA service experience and business and professional experience and expertise.

Trustees may also serve on one of the 13 General Service committees:

1. Archives
2. Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities
3. Corrections
4. Finance and Budgetary
5. General Service Conference
6. International
7. International Convention/Regional Forum
8. Literature
9. Nominating
10. Public Information
11. Audit Committee
12. Compensation Committee
13. Legal Affairs Committee

During each quarterly trustee weekend there is a General Sharing Session to give an opportunity for sharing among trustees, directors, committee members and AA staff.

Group Sharing Forms

Art from the Wilbraham Thursday Night Men's Group.

New Alternate GSR named Franco. Donations to the Pie on a quarterly basis. There is a commitment to Mill Street on the last Thursday of every month. One thing has changed – the Intergroup rep stepped down because he was stepping into another service committee. Hope to fill that position at the next business meeting.

Willie from the No Name Group 7:30 Wednesday night, Ludlow. Group makes a yearly Pie contribution. GSR and Bookie positions are filled, as are the internal group positions to run it. There is incoming and outgoing commitments every month, but they do not have an institutions commitment at this time. The meeting is running smoothly.

Mickey from Brimfield Tri Area group, Monday nights, 7:30. Sending \$100 to the Pie, first time in a few months. We have a GSR, Treasurer, Secretary, and Intergroup rep. We need a bookie. We have an outgoing commitment in June, but no one wants to take it as it is always the same few people. We are interested in having an institution commitment and are looking for help to get that started. We stopped the raffle a few months ago, and we noticed we are collecting more money. That may be coincidental with the weather improving. Our rent is paid through August, we have a prudent reserve of 4 months rent.

Rob, Miracles in the Making, Saturday Night Chicopee. They have lost pretty much all their group members, the rent is very high and the pastor will not budge (\$70 a week) Suggestion was made to hold the business meeting after the meeting to see if they could guilt more people into staying and helping keep the meeting running. It's important to have the meeting there, it's the only meeting locally at that time.

John, Chicopee group Tuesdays (10 am and 6 PM) Meetings are both well attended. Contribute to the Pie when they can afford it. Most service positions are filled. Within the last couple of months they have added 3 active members. Getting more into incoming/outgoing commitments. There is a commitment to the Detox on the 1st Thursday of the month.

Kate, Wilbraham Group, Friday Night. 6:30 to 7:15 Living Sober meeting, 7:30 to 8:30 Speaker meeting. 3rd Friday of the month celebrate all anniversaries in the group. Grace Church on corner of Maple and Chapel. They have most of their service positions filled, they are looking for a CPC and Archives rep. No issues at this time. They had a great anniversary meeting with a speaker from the district. Usually 25 to 30 members are the business meeting.

Jennifer, Cold Spring Group, Belchertown Thursday Night at 7:30. Some service positions are filled. Pie contributions are done when we can afford to. There is an Incoming and Outgoing commitment, LIPS (donated La Vina) They are celebrating their 47 year anniversary June 14th. Someone took a service position but is not showing up to the business meeting or Intergroup – wondering if they should replace.

Gwen, South Hadley Friday Night Group 6 to 7 PM, Beginners meeting. They do outgoing commitments, but they do not have incoming commitments. (this was voted on as a group) They do a jail commitment. On the last Friday of the month they celebrate the anniversaries for the month.

Catrese, Hampden Tuesday Night Group. step meeting at 6:30, Speaker at 7:30. All service positions are filled, contribute to the Pie on a monthly basis. They do a monthly incoming and outgoing commitment, as well as a monthly commitment at Carlson Detox on the 1st Monday of the month. The group is doing well.

Juan, Sunday East Longmeadow group. GSR, Treasurer, people take positions and people do not stay in the service positions. A lot of the service positions have faded out. Give to the pie every month. Carlson detox commitment on the second Monday of every month, and Unit 3 on Mill street. Bookie is not going to the bookie meeting.

RJ, Singleness of Purpose, Tuesday at 7:30 speaker meeting, Chicopee. Alternate is Charlie. Pie contributions are done quarterly. 28 people at the business meeting, but still three positions short. Incoming and outgoing commitments are good. Institutions rep is a Letter Carrier so she can't get to the meetings. Financially stable, 2 speaker.

Jack, Green Street, Monson Thursday. 6:15 to 7:15 Beginners, 7:30 to 8:30 Speaker meeting. Give to the pie monthly, Major service positions are filled that keep the group going. Incoming/Outgoing commitments are good. Low attendance in the beginners meeting lately it used to be full. There are not a lot of women who attend the meeting, women are not attending because they feel it is more of a men's meeting. He would like to know how they can fix that. Also concerned that there is low attendance at the business meeting.

George, Belchertown Saturday Night at 8:00. Beginners meeting 7 to 7:45. Good attendance at the speaker meeting. Contribute to the pie, everything except CPC and PI. Incoming and outgoing once a month. Commitment to Providence Hospital Detox every Saturday. 15 to 20 people at the business meeting, only 7 to 8 will actually take a meeting even though we have 13 monthly commitments to full. Have a very good book and pamphlet section to rival the Intergroup office bookstore.

Vicky W ,Courage to Change Step Study, Sunday at 4:30 in Monson.

The meeting is small but well attended, there is a core of about 6 people who regularly attend. Only 4 or 5 will stay for the business meeting. We pay our rent and have a prudent reserve of about two rent payments. Mostly the members contribute coffee, cups and cookies without asking for reimbursement. It's a good meeting, we have an intergroup rep and I am looking for an alternate to take my place as GSR since I should not be serving for two groups at the same time.

Vicky W, Hitchcock Academy, Friday night 7:30 to 8:30, Brimfield.

We contribute quarterly to the pie. We have the treasurer, bookie, and a GSR, but we have no other service positions as our secretary stepped down and has not yet been replaced. We have a monthly incoming and outgoing commitment, a monthly commitment to Honor Court, and one to the Ludlow Men's Correctional. There is concern because less people are joining and staying for the monthly business meeting the same people are doing the service positions and are getting burned out. We have no intergroup rep at this time, and no alternate GSR.

Bill, Co-DCM – asked Mike (Area Delegate) to get with Micky for information on an Institutions commitment for that group. Same people taking on outgoing and service commitments all the time. If you are sponsoring someone, highly encourage them to become active in their home group. Filling positions seems difficult for the smaller meetings. Invite them to the District meeting to see what service is about.

Visitor's Reports

Mike the Area Delegate:

Concept meeting 1st Thursday of the month. At the Intergroup office, 474 Pleasant Street, Holyoke, MA in the upstairs meeting room.

Service Manual meeting 3rd Wednesday of the month. Same place as the Concept meeting, Upstairs at Intergroup.

May 31 to June 2nd NERF North East Regional Forum, Tarrytown, NY. Known as the GSO Roadshow, no cost to register.

Mass State convention Planning committee has moved until June 4th. Carpool from the Bowling Lanes at Exit 6, they leave at 6:15 pm to drive to Framingham for the meeting

AA Meeting guide app is now available. New section – News. Messaging section, GSO can notify of new information. The new book is Our Great Responsibility – Bills Conference talks from 1951 to 1970.

GS conference coming up May 18th to May 25th. Report of the conference will be at the Round Up. AA is trying to adapt to the information age, looking to set up a Linked In account to give professionals a way to get more information on AA. This is Mike's last year as a Delegate.

Willie, from No Name Group – **question** – if you want to start a meeting, do you just call Intergroup and start a meeting?

Answer - NO, you would come to a district meeting and get a form to register the group with the GSO. Then you receive a group number, and that's what makes you a real AA group. The Delegate has the authority to ask to de-list a group. Groups that tend to survive are groups that practice the traditions. Groups are being formed without GSO being informed, just calling Intergroup and getting put into the When and Where and not contributing to AA.

There was some discussion of groups splitting because people are letting their personalities overcome the principles of AA. (A resentment, a coffee pot, and a place to hold the meeting.) This has been described as The Dilution of AA. Also, there are more people in the younger generation who have done more drugs than alcohol. People whose problems are mostly about drugs should probably not share their drugalog, and should seek NA meetings. It is in the literature.

Rob from Miracles in the Making – I understand that there are more people who have done drugs and drank, but I don't want to hear a 45 minute drugalog when I'm at an AA meeting. We are here to talk about our Alcohol problem.

Micky, Brimfield Tri Area – Shared that when he shares, it is 98% about his drug use, because he is an addict and has not had a problem with alcohol.

This prompted discussion about how much one shares of one's drug use if they are an alcoholic. Most people now have drugs in their story. Most of them focus on their problems with Alcohol when they are at an AA meeting.

Andy, DCM asked Micky to step down as GSR, because Micky said he didn't have a problem with alcohol. There was discussion, Micky said he mispoke. Micky believes he should remain as the GSR, even though he identifies as an Addict/Alcoholic. There was prompting from some members of the meeting for Micky to admit he was powerless over alcohol.

Old Business

There is a stack of Save The Date flyers for the Roundup, as well as schedule for the weekend of the Roundup. Registration starts at 4. \$15 for the roundup, \$25 for the banquet, \$10 for the dance. Registration is good for the whole weekend.

We had a good showing for District 5 at the assembly, considering it was quite a ways away.

New Business

We are going to have a workshop for District 5. It was suggested that we go to the NERF, but as we will not be reimbursed this was shot down. Andy would like to hold the workshop in August so we can hear at the Roundup what the next year's topic for the workshops.

CPC committee is asking anyone who has any attachment with anyone in the professional community, if they can bring one of these papers with them to any of their acquaintances to encourage them to attend Friday night of the Round Up. Their attendance is free.

Next Month's readings and discussions

Reading 1 Tradition 6 - Jennifer

Reading 2 Concept 6 – Bill H

Adjournment, Next month's Meeting Date:

Meeting was adjourned by Andy D at 9:15 with the Responsibility Pledge.

Meeting date for June is June 3.

Contact Information:

DCM: Andy D. **email:** district5@area31aa.org

Co-DCM: Bill H.

LCM: Kate V.

Secretary: Vicky W.