

District 5

Meeting Minutes

June 3, 2019

Opening

The regular meeting of the District 5 was called to order at 7:32 p.m. on June 3, 2019 in Ludlow by Andy, DCM.

Present

12 GSR's were present.

New Members or Visitors?

Paul , the Alternate Delegate for Area 31, Mike the Area Chair

Reading of S26, the GSR

Art P, GSR

Secretary's Report from the Previous Month

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

LCM Report

Absent

Reading and Sharing on Readings for the month

Reading 1

Jennifer – Tradition 6. The moment we saw an answer to alcoholism, many AA groups thought they could go into the business of curing alcoholism. It was thought that AA could solve all problems with our twelve steps and our way of life. People became confused the message became diluted, too many cooks spoiled the broth. AA became mired in politics and became bogged down. It became imperative to remove the AA name from clubs and sober houses. AA saved my life, it comes first.

Reading 2

Concept 6 – Bill H was supposed to read concept 6 but he is absent. Mike will summarize concept 6. GS Conference structure – they do the day to day, but listen to the trustees because they have the final word and the legal and fiduciary responsibility for the fellowship.

Group Sharing Forms

Art P, Wilbraham Thursday night men's group, 8 pm Thursday at Grace Union Church.

Give to the Pie quarterly, GSR and PI are the service positions filled. Good attendance last month at the Institution commitment to Mill Street. 8 members and 9 inmates attended the meeting.

Willie, No Name Group, Wednesday 7:30 Pm meeting Corner of Center and Church in Ludlow.

Yearly Pie contribution, GSR only service, 36th anniversary just held, group is doing well with no complaints. They do a monthly incoming and outgoing commitment with other groups in the area.

Mark, Wilbraham Friday Night Group, Grace Union church.

Two meetings 6:30 beginners meeting and 7:30 speaker meeting. Some service positions are filled they still need a Grapevine Rep and an Archives Rep. Group makes regular contributions to the pie. Our group also has detox and institutions commitments, as well as incoming/outgoing commitments with other groups. Well attended meeting, a lot of group members but quite a few skip the business meeting.

Jennifer, Cold Spring Group, Thursday 7:30 Belchertown.

Financial contributions are as we can, we just contributed to the Pie chart last month. We need people to step into service positions. We contribute to LIP service, our group donated La Vigna to the institutions which made them very happy. Doing Providence Hospital Detox once a month. Our group Anniversary is June 13th Food and Fellowship starts at 6:30, 1 speaker meeting at 7:30.

John, Chicopee Group Tuesday Front Street 10 am and 6 PM.

Donate to the pie chart when they can, service positions are kind of filled as needed, or most needed. Detox commitment first Thursday of the month, it is a group commitment. We seem to have only 8 or 9 people who are active in the group, a lot of people listed as group members and they come to collect their coins but they aren't showing up to do any service. We are doing two lists now – one for active group members and an anniversary list so folks can get their coins. Other than that going pretty well.

Rob, Miracles in the Making, Saturday 7 to 8 p.m., Chicopee street in Chicopee.

Participation is improved, they have 2 new group members. We are now booking incoming and outgoing on months where there are 5 meetings in the month. This is an important meeting to keep alive as it is the only meeting in the Chicopee area on Saturday night.

Juan, East Longmeadow Sunday Night 6:30 to 7:30, St Michael's Parish, Rt 83 East Longmeadow.

Most service positions are filled, still no active bookie, trying to find reps for archives and grapevine. Carson Detox 2nd Monday of each month, also Mill ST Unit 35 third Thursday of the month. No incoming or outgoing meetings at this time because the bookie doesn't want to go to the bookie meeting. People are taking commitments and not sticking to the commitments they make for service.

Jeff, Hampden Group, Tuesday night 6:30 step meeting, 7:30 2 speaker meeting. Alternate GSR.

Catrese is the GSR. Contribute to the Pie almost every month, except in the winter when it gets a little thin. Most service positions are filled. Monthly commitment first Monday of the month at Carlson Detox.

Micky, Brimfield Tri Area Group Monday Night 7:30 to 8:30 PM

No business meeting last month due to many people being on the road. There has been talk of moving the business meeting to the second Monday of the month, but it has not come to a vote yet. Financial contributions two times a year to the Pie. No Bookie, we have an incoming group but no outgoing for this month. Micky is interested in taking an institution commitment. 4 months rent in prudent reserve. Did away with the raffle because it wasn't making financial sense.

Jack green street group, Thursday, Monson. Beginners meeting at 6:15 PM, Speaker meeting at 7:30 PM.

Service positions filled are GSR, Intergroup, Institutions. Same people doing the jobs and filling the positions. Jack is also the Bookie for the group. Group Anniversary August 15th.

Catrese, GSR, Hampden Tuesday Night. Deferred to Jeff for his report.

George, Belchertown Saturday Night meeting, 7 pm beginners and 8 pm 1 speaker meeting.

Contribute to the Pie, a few people who are active in service. Currently do not have a PI or CPC rep. The group does an Outgoing and incoming commitment every month, as well as a detox commitment at Providence Hospital every Saturday. Excellent literature rack, second only to Intergroup.

Laura, back to reality group, 7 PM Monday night Chicopee.

Alternate is Eddie. Gave to the Pie chart recently, we give when we can. We have a greeter now which wasn't hard to get someone to step. We are trying to ease new members into service positions.

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

We give to the pie on a quarterly basis. Our current service positions are Bookie, GSR, and we finally have an Intergroup rep again! We did have our secretary step down due to scheduling conflicts and do not have one at this time. We do a monthly outgoing commitment, and have one come in on the second Friday of every month. Our group does an honor court commitment. We are still concerned that we can't get people involved in service positions, or even to get group members to stay for the business meeting.

Vicky W, Courage to Change Step Group, Sunday 4:30 to 5:30, High street in Monson.

Small group, we have a GSR and an Intergroup rep but we don't have any other assigned officers. We are talking about doing a yearly Pie contribution as our rent is fairly low and we do pretty well for a small group. We changed our format slightly at the beginning of the year to include doing the Tradition of the month on the last Sunday of the month, and while we have lost one regular attendee because of it, mostly folks are enjoying the chance to look at the traditions in depth.

Visitor's Reports

Charlie, Intergroup Chair – Here to introduce himself. The Intergroup Family Picnic is happening August 25th, 2019 (Sunday) from 10 am to 4 PM. The groups are taking collections to put baskets together for the raffle at the Picnic. Intergroup connects the groups with the sick and suffering alcoholic with AA through the hotline. Please encourage your intergroup reps to attend, and your groups should be encouraged to take phone service. Picnic information is on the website, flyers will be available.

Mike, Area Chair – looking for a facility to hold the area assembly in. Please email him at areachair@area31aa.org or reach him at ###-###-#### call or text with a place to hold the assembly, preferably a place with some break out rooms. Looking for District 6 or 5. Suggested St John's Lutheran in Westfield, or Christ the King Church in Ludlow.

Paul, Alternate Delegate for the Area – our delegate did go to the GS Conference (week long) and our trustees carry on that work throughout the year. Our delegate will give his update at the round up from 1 to 2:30. As part of his role as the alternate delegate, one of his committees is the program chair for the Mass State Convention. There were a lot of topics that were more service oriented than a fun convention. They are still talking about it and want people to talk from the heart rather than speaking from a note card. He has information on the concept meeting, the service manual meeting, and the state convention meeting. He went to NERF this last weekend it was a very detailed treasurers report. Last year they had the 7.40 challenge, \$7.40 if every individual member donated \$7.40 they wouldn't have to raise the price of the books. This year it's \$8.06.

Archives committee gave a presentation on how they put together the new book Our Great Responsibility, they put a lot of work and time. They are looking at the shipping policy because it costs too much to ship – if you buy more the shipping goes down. If you buy it from intergroup you don't pay any shipping.

If you put together a list and group them together, you get better pricing.

Willie – Is the book available on Amazon?

Paul – If you buy it through Amazon, AA doesn't get very much money.

Mike explained how fulfillment works and why it costs so much. Maybe giving people the option to use Media Rate instead of regular shipping, because it costs less even though it takes longer. It is strongly suggested we go to Intergroup to purchase books to help support Intergroup.

Old Business

District 5 workshop – we are waiting for the Roundup as far as discussing what the topics would be. we need a place to have the Workshop. Last Spring we had it in Palmer. Discussion was held and suggestions were made for the following locations: United Church in Wilbraham has a good function hall, good parking, right on Main Street; Belchertown church on Park Street, has excellent parking; Hitchcock Academy in Brimfield also excellent parking and easy to find; First Church in Monson has excellent parking and a kitchen available to use for food. 413-323-6653 for the church in Belchertown.

New Business

The round up is coming up June 14th, 15th and 16th. District 5 has a commitment at 6 to 6:50 on Saturday in Salon C and Bill is going to be putting on a meeting about Life on Life's Terms. If you would like to help Bill with that, please feel free. Part of your gig as GSR is to be there to listen to the delegates report on Saturday from 1 to 2:30. There is a schedule available.

Next Month's readings and discussions

July

Tradition 7 Rob

and Concept 11 Jack

Adjournment, Next month's Meeting Date: July Meeting

Meeting was adjourned by Andy D at 8:48 with the Responsibility Pledge.

Meeting date for July is July 1st, 2019.

Contact Information:

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

Co-DCM: Bill H.

LCM: Kate V.

Secretary: Vicky W.