

District 5

July Meeting Minutes

July 1, 2019

Opening

The regular meeting of the District 5 was called to order at 7:34 p.m. on July 1, 2019 in Ludlow by Andy, DCM.

Present

12 GSR's were present.

New Members or Visitors?

John, new GSR for the Randall Group. Scott from Friday Night Step group visiting.

Mike , the Area Chair for Area 31 present.

Reading of S26, the GSR

Kate, LCM

Secretary's Report from the Previous Month

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

LCM Report

Kate has put together a binder with the meetings in the area, she's tried to get to some more meetings but is having some health issues at this time. May need to step down in September. She has a note book and a plan and will be willing to help the person who wants to step in.

Reading and Sharing on Readings for the month

Reading 1 Rob, Tradition 7

Each group ought to be self-supporting, declining outside contributions. However, If we get 4 newcomers we can't expect them to support the meeting. The other group members need to step up and contribute as well.

Andy, sharing: one of the first things I learned from my service sponsor in order to be a part of AA you need to envelope all of it and even if you only put a dime in the basket, you are contributing. Even when I've only had a couple of dollars in my pocket I've put one in.

Reading 2

Jack – Concept 11 – Summary from the Service Manual

While the trustees hold final responsibility for A.A.'s world service administration, they should always have the assistance of the best possible standing committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs and consultants. Therefore, the composition of these underlying committees and service boards, the personal qualifications of their members, the manner of their induction into service, the systems of their rotation, the way in which they are related to each other, the special rights and duties of our executives, staffs and consultants, together with a proper basis for the financial compensation of these special workers, will always be matters for serious care and concern.

1. Status of executives
 - a. There must be one person, supported by such assistants as he needs, to give competent and sustained executive direction. This person needs to have ample freedom and authority to do his job and should not be interfered with so long as his work is done well.
2. Paid workers, how compensated
 - a. Paid works should be recompensed in reasonable relation to the value his or her similar services or abilities would be paid in the commercial world. Cheap help is never cheap. You get what you pay for, and you need to have people in place and treat them not just as employees but as people who do their jobs well.
3. Rotation among paid staff workers – change every two years.
 - a. Most staff members assignments are changed every two years. When engaged, each staff member is expected to possess the general ability to do, or to learn how to do, any job in the place with the exception of office management.
4. Full participation of paid workers.
 - a. Key paid personnel have voting representation on our committees and corporate boards.

As I get more involved in service, I do it quietly and I get a lot more out of and I do it to help someone, not to get that pat on the back. I do it to give from my heart.

Group Sharing Forms

Catrese, Hampden Tuesday Night group 6:30 to 7:30 step meeting and speaker meeting 7:30 to 8:30. Alternate GSR is Jeff. 1st Monday of the month institution commitment to Carlson Detox. We have a full meeting. We have incoming and outgoing commitments to other groups as well. We have an Intergroup rep as well.

Mark, Wilbraham Friday Night Group. 6:30 beginners meeting and 7:30 speaker meeting. Give regularly to the pie chart, incoming and outgoing, detox last Thursday of the month, Ludlow jail every other Wednesday. Filling service positions is getting more difficult even though we have a lot of group members. 40 to 50 people at each meeting, Not as many show up and less step up to fill service positions. He's been putting it out at business meetings to bring folks to Pleasant street for an Intergroup meeting. Financially group is doing well and is very stable.

Service positions filled are GSR, Alt GSR, and PI

Kate – one of the other problems we have is that a lot of people come for the beginners meeting and they don't stay for the speaker or the business meetings.

Scott asked what are the service positions – Mark explained the different positions outside of the group (intergroup, GSR, committees)

Mike, Area Chair: Many groups send a GSR or Intergroup rep, most don't send people to the other committees. Some groups decide to back off of certain committees that don't need too many people on them (website) Getting people to participate has always been difficult. The averages there are 312 groups in the area, and about 70 groups send GSR's, and then 30 of those groups are actively represented by the GSR. 15% is a big number of groups who participate. Only 25% or so feel that they need a GSR.

Mark – is that number of people participating declining? **Andy** – yes it is, when he came in all the group positions were filled. **Mike** – the groups are sending less GSR's.

John – Randall Group, Thursday 7:30 to 8:30 PM and Sunday 1 PM and 2:15 PM

Overall we are ok. The doors are open every Sunday and Thursday. There were about 6 of us in attendance, a couple of years ago we had 15. We've been having difficulty getting the calendar filled for the next month to chair the meeting so what ends up happening is that people will chair at the last minute. It does create a bit of chaos but it does get done. Two longtime treasurers, no spirit of rotation as far as that goes. Every month Intergroup puts out an FYI lists the groups that contribute each month. Our two treasurers frequently verbalize that Randall contributes to the pie chart, three of our group members recently had a conversation without the treasurers present that the Randall group name has not appeared in the FYI as contributing to Intergroup or on the Institutions monthly report.

Andy – Has your group number appeared?

John – no one is making accusations – we don't know where they are making the contributions, could be making them to one or the other.

(In reference to accusations) None are being made and none will be made, but some group members are wondering what's going on here? And there was a time when our group had money and now we don't have that much anymore. The group members are discussing this treasury issue but no one wants to go to the treasurers and ask. It's also been said many times to the treasurers that there is a spirit of rotation.

Rob – Miracles in the Making, Chicopee, Saturday night 7 to 8 PM.

4 new group members have joined, donations are up, we are now covering the rent 3 out of the 5 weekends. Have someone picking up Intergroup information on a temporary basis, and someone who is going to Institutions.

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

We donated \$50 to the pie, we still need more positions filled, we have a once a month incoming and outgoing, do LIPS for Institutions, the first Saturday of the month we go to the Providence Detox sharing this commitment with the Saturday Belchertown group.

Laura, Back to Reality, Monday 7 PM Chicopee

Eddie is the alternate, Laura is now the treasurer as well, they give \$100 to the pie yearly. No other positions are filled but the news of the phone hotline being in trouble stirred up some stuff. No incoming or outgoing commitments, no institutions commitments.

Gwen- South Hadley Friday Night Beginners meeting 6 to 7 PM

Contribute to the pie when funds allow, we just had our institutions rotate out and I don't know if we got a volunteer to fill it. We only do outgoing commitments when we changed to a one meeting group we wanted to remain a beginners meeting. Not many people want to have a one-way commitment.

Juan, Sunday Night East Longmeadow 6:30 to 7:30

We meet at St Michael's Parish Hall. Most positions are filled, Bookie has finally booked some meetings for August and September. Commitment to Carlson Detox second Monday of the month and unit 35 on Thursdays. We have 40 members, but only 8 showed up to the business meeting last night. We contribute to the Pie every month.

Jack Green Street Monson Thursday Night beginners 6:15 to 7:15 and speaker 7:30 to 8:30 PM.

We contribute monthly to the pie as much as we can. Main positions are filled, same group of people at the business meeting each month taking meetings, some people are

taking double duty positions. I also serve as bookie. The size of the meetings, people taking commitments and doing service work has all declined in the last few years. Anniversary is changed, being held on the 22nd of August.

Scott, Friday Night Ludlow – just a little over one month sober, just here to find out how all this works.

George, Saturday Night Belchertown group 8 to 9 PM speaker/discussion, 7 to 7:45 beginners meeting.

Contribute to the pie, service positions are filled except PI and CPC, but some of us are doing double duty. Incoming, outgoing every month. Detox every Saturday except the first, which is when Cold Spring goes. Has an excellent book display. They sell a lot of books. Some people taking the chair every month. A lot of members, but they don't ever seem to come with newcomers. Also belongs to a couple other groups that don't have a GSR.

Vicky Hitchcock Academy, 7:30 to 8:30 Friday Nights in Brimfield.

We give to the Pie on a quarterly basis. Service positions filled are GSR, Intergroup and Bookie. We no longer have a secretary, she stepped down and no one has stepped up to fill her spot. We do incoming and outgoing commitments monthly, and we have a monthly institutions commitment to Ludlow. We are starting to get some interest in service, we have a new person who joined the group step up to be our intergroup rep. Our group Anniversary will be Friday, August 23rd.

Visitor's Reports

Mike, the Area Chair – This is a good job, don't stand for it unless you have the time to commit to it.

October 12th and 13th the Fall Assembly will be taking place. Area inventory on Saturday, and on Sunday the business meeting. Being held at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament church in Westfield, 127 Holyoke Road in Westfield. Area elections will be held on Sunday at the business meeting. The \$8.06 challenge- for A.A. to be self-supporting through our own contributions. 1.4 million people in AA. If every member were to send \$8.06 it would make AA fully self-supporting for this year. They are looking to have this donated by 8/6 this year. If you go onto the GSO website there is a contribution button. If they were self-supporting they would be able to lower the literature prices.

Grape Jam is happening on September 14th in Becket, the information will be under Grapevine or on the first page of the Area website.

Old Business

The 2020 GSO conference theme is A clear vision for you.

We have a theme for our workshop: Attraction through Action.

Topics are:

Recovery – who is missing in our rooms?

Unity – Practicing Our Principles.

Service - Keeping AA Relevant

Looking at September 21st or 28th calling First Church in Monson, Belchertown. Grace Union in Wilbraham? First Church in Ludlow? Hitchcock Academy in Brimfield? Andy will call around and check for either of those weekends.

Next month, think about if you know someone you would like to speak on these subjects.

The Western Mass Intergroup Family Picnic is August 25th from 11 to 6. Young people are talking about having a kick ball game at the picnic.

New Business

Kate is looking for someone to step up as LCM, is anyone interested? Vicky did say yes, but she is currently serving as the Secretary. LCM is a one year position, elections are held in October. Jennifer from Cold Spring is interested as well.

Description of the LCM – from the area service manual.

The Local Committee Member(LCM) : If a large district chooses to divide itself into smaller areas (sometimes called subdistricts or local districts), an LCM may be elected to serve that local district. The LCM may be a past GSR, outgoing GSR, or even a past or outgoing DCM. Each district is autonomous when deciding whether to have LCMs, the number of LCMs they will have, how long the LCM will serve, and whether to follow the same guidelines as suggested for election to a DCM position.© A.A.W.S. S34

What our LCMs do:

- Assist DCMs in the effort to visit all meetings/groups in their districts in hopes to inspire greater involvement, cooperation and unity.
- Attend monthly district meetings and is encouraged to attend the Area Committee meetings.

- Attend Spring and Fall assemblies and the Round-Up.
- Be a voting member at their district meetings.
- Possibly stand in as alternate DCM.
- May assume voting rights of either DCM if they are absent from either area meetings or assemblies
- Gain experience for a future service position

Next Month's readings and discussions

Tradition 8 -Vicky

Chapter 5 the Area Committee - John

Adjournment, Next month's Meeting Date:

Meeting was adjourned by Andy D at 8:49 with the Responsibility Pledge.

Meeting date for August is August 5th

Contact Information:

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

Co-DCM: Bill H.

LCM: Kate V.

Secretary: Vicky W.