

District 5

October 2019 Meeting Minutes

October 7, 2019

Opening

The regular meeting of the District 5 was called to order at 7:35 p.m. on October 7, 2019 in Ludlow by Andy, DCM.

Present

11 GSR's were present.

New Members or Visitors?

Mike the Area Chair 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 by Jennifer and Catrese:

We went to the Palmer meeting on Wednesday nights, at St. Peter and Pauls church.

There is an address change from the when and where. There is some interest in the GSR position.

Reading and Sharing on Readings for the month

Reading 1 Tradition 10 – Kate (absent, was not read)

Reading 2 Concept 10 – Catrese.

Every Service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority – the scope of such authority to be always well defined whether by tradition, by resolution, by specific job description or by appropriate charters and bylaws.

Our service structure cannot function effectively and harmoniously unless, at every level, each operational responsibility is matched by a corresponding authority to discharge it. The ultimate authority and final responsibility lies with the groups. They delegate this authority, through their GSR to the District, who in turn delegates to the Area, who, through the Area Delegate at the General Service Conference delegates the authority to the General Service Board. The General Service Board is in authority over its two subsidiaries – AA World Services and AA Grapevine. The Board delegates the authority

to the directors of the two corporations to run those entities. The directors then delegate the authority to the executives of their respective corporations to run the businesses properly – and then the executives delegate the authority to those under them to proceed with their responsibilities.

This authority isn't just whatever the person feels like doing – these responsibilities are written in our traditions, they are written in our A.A. Service manual, in the Area Service Manual, and in the charters for corporation for A.A. World Services and A.A. Grapevine.

Group Sharing Forms

Jack, Green street, Thursday in Monson - two meetings. Beginners at 6:15 and Speaker meeting at 7:30 PM. We give to the pie on a monthly basis. Service positions are filled (major positions) monthly incoming and outgoing commitments.

Mark Wilbraham Friday Night Group, two meetings (beginners and speaker). Service positions in the group are all filled. Not all the members are staying around for the business meetings. Regular contributions to the pie. No issues with the meeting right now, well attended.

Rob, Miracles in the Making, Saturday Chicopee. We had our 6th anniversary on the 28th. 130 people attended. Attendance at the meeting is pretty good, but we only have about 5 active group members. They are just making their rent every week, looking for someplace to move but haven't found one yet. We have the highest rent in the area.

John - Randall Group, ST. Andrews, Longmeadow. Two meetings every Sunday and another meeting Thursday. Overall is doing good, a long time group member is contacting the church for the 65th anniversary being held in February 2020.

George, Belchertown Saturday Night, beg and one speaker meeting.

Pretty well attended, raffle for a book, on the last sat of the month either a book or a subscription to The Grapevine. Contribute to the pie. NO CPC or PI. Lot of members, but not too many active who want to do anything. Our anniversary is in December, not

exactly sure when we will be holding it because it's usually the week before Christmas but we may have it the week before that.

Felicia, Do or Die, Wednesday night 7 to 8 E Longmeadow. We donate quarterly to the pie, all our positions but grapevine and accessibilities. We do a monthly commitment, just rolled out of a commitment at Phoenix house due to a clash with another group having meetings at the same time. 25 members, a lot of new members. The issue that got brought up at the business meeting was the 7th tradition and what can actually be taken out for supplies. Just rent, or can we pay for coffee and cookies and paper goods? It caused a big issue at the business meeting and was a little uncomfortable. Is asking for an answer to give back to her group.

Catrese, Hampden Tuesday Night group. Step meeting at 6:30, two speaker meeting at 7:30 PM. We give to pie chart, we do go out to Carlson detox once a month, both meetings are going well, they are not hurting.

Sharon, Eye Opener group. Friday Nights at Union Church in Ludlow. Financial contributions - we have had a long hiatus of not having a permanent treasurer, so that has finally been resolved because we did have elections. We have a chair, treasurer, secretary, GSR, Intergroup rep and bookie. Monthly incoming and outgoing commitment, we have no institutions commitments yet. Thanks to the Randall group rep for mentioning using the Shepherd to call people who are supposed to go on to the commitments. Having a hard time getting people to fill in those standing committee commitments. We are trying to be more consistent with donation.

John - Chicopee group, Tuesday 10 am and 6 PM semi-beginners meeting. Contribute to the pie when we can, most of the service positions are filled, the ones that keep the group running. We have a detox commitment once a month. We have the same problems as most groups, getting members to be active is always a struggle.

Jennifer, Cold Spring Group Belchertown Thursday. We are making more financial contributions lately, bringing in more money as well. We need more people to fill service positions. Group elections are coming up at the end of this month. As she is now the one

of the LCM's she is trying to talk one member into doing the GSR position. Institutions: groups does a LIPS commitment and the 1st Saturday at Providence Hospital Detox and considering taking a second Saturday.

Vicky, Hitchcock Academy, Brimfield Friday Night 7:30 to 8:30

We contribute to the pie on a quarterly basis. We are making our rent, have a prudent reserve. Had our 35th group anniversary in August, it went very well. The positions to keep the group running are taken, we have a Secretary, Bookie, Treasurer. Intergroup rep and GSR. We don't have a lot of people staying for the business meeting, not as many as raise their hand to say they are group members. Holding group elections in November due to Fall Assembly happening after the October meeting. We do have a member who is the chair of the website committee, however no one else is interested in taking on other committee positions.

Visitor's Reports

Mike, Area Chair : Concept meeting, 1st Thursday at 474 Pleasant ST at 7:30. Service Manual 3rd Wednesday of the month, same place same time. The Area Committee is available to do a service commitment for your group, and if your group is interested in doing an inventory reach out to Mike and he will get you in touch with a past delegate.

Mike's contact information is :Areachair@area31aa.org.

There is a calendar on the home page of the area website with all this information. There is no area meeting October 9th.

Area Fall Assembly from 10 am to 3 PM Saturday Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, 127 Holyoke Road in Westfield. Area inventory will be held on Saturday. Sunday the Area Business meeting, 1 to 4 PM. Elections are on Sunday. The business that will be voted on is the area handbook, it is suggested that the area chair move the assemblies around the districts. Elections will be held around 3 to 3:30. Elections will happen before new business.

There is a workshop 10/26 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Lenox community center CPC workshop. On December 14th Districts 1 and 2 are doing a joint workshop at Providence Hospital in the same room as Scrambled Eggs.

Old Business

No old business.

New Business

Felicia – Discussion about our 7th Tradition donations.

Andy: The priority is Rent and contributing to the Pie. Cookies and coffee and other stuff is not supposed to come from the 7th tradition basket.

Felicia: It's a big meeting - they were trying to save money by buying the cookies in bulk. The cookies are to entice the newcomers.

Andy - everything is really up to the group conscience. The group has free will to decide.

Mike - many groups feel cookies and cake are part of the expense of putting on the meeting. Other people don't feel that way. Most people don't ask for a receipt.

Felicia: It was a very heated business meeting, it was tabled until the next business meeting. Nothing was voted on.

George - this is NOT a new topic. It's been going on forever. Sometimes they reimburse the people who can't afford to buy the cookies.

Andy: It's down to what the group considers a meeting expense. Take a vote.

Felicia - they want to sponsor scholarships for people to attend the round up from halfway houses.

Andy: There was an issue at the last round up because someone went to a house in Northampton and brought girls down and told them they could get in for free. (without contacting the Roundup committee about bringing them in) The roundup committee does scholarships for folks in the halfway houses.

District Elections are tonight.

Co-DCM, LCM and Secretary. Andy would like Jennifer and Catrese to continue as the LCM's.

Rob would like to nominate both to stand for LCM together. Felicia seconds - It was voted on and passed unanimously by those present.

Co-DCM Mark B. and Vicky stand for Co-DCM, through the Third Legacy Procedure.

Vote was held. 13 votes cast, 9 for Vicky, 4 for Mark. Vicky has won for Co-DCM

Secretary no one has stood for this position, we will table until next month. Vicky will be rolling out in January and rolling into Co-DCM.

Andy was at the intergroup meeting last month with John, and he noticed something. We in the district deal with dark groups, we have our LCMS. In the area we have people who don't want to be a GSR but they will be an intergroup rep. Andy made an invitation to the committees that they are welcome to come share at the District meeting.

What we noticed last month that none of the invited committees were at the Intergroup meeting to give their monthly reports. Which they usually do.

Andy will bring this up to at the Area meeting to the committee heads.

George - for all the committees, you're saying that none of them are going to the area?

Andy - no, they aren't going to intergroup. It's in the job description, they are supposed to go to Intergroup and the Area. More groups have an intergroup rep than have a GSR.

Andy passed out paperwork from the Archives committee: Group History Forms. Please have this filled out. Vicky will find it on the website and attach to the emails for the minutes for those who did not get a copy.

Next Month's readings and discussions

Tradition 11 Catrese

and

Concept 9 Vicky

Adjournment, Next month's Meeting Date:

Meeting was adjourned by Andy D at 9:00 with the Responsibility Pledge.

Meeting date for November is November 4th.

Contact Information:

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

Co-DCM: Bill H.

LCM: Jennifer and Catrese

Secretary: Vicky W.