

District 5

November Meeting Minutes

11/4/19

Opening

The regular meeting of the District 5 was called to order at 7:34 p.m. on 11/4/19 in Ludlow by Andy, DCM.

Present

7 GSR's were present. Jim from Friday Night Wilbraham, and Cindy from Cold Spring Group in Belchertown. Cindy is the alternate GSR for Cold Spring Group.

New Members or Visitors?

Mike, the 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

Jennifer – Catrese and Jennifer went to the Way Out group in East Longmeadow. When and Where info is correct. Group does not have a GSR, but they have had one in the past. Currently no one is interested in the position, but they will bring it up at the next business meeting.

Also visited the Randall group – John S. is the GSR at that meeting. The group registration form and the When and Where do not agree as to the time of the second meeting. It is running from 2:15 to 3 right now. They are trying to get it back to 2 instead of 2:15, the book says it starts at 2. They may be combining both meetings into one.

Reading and Sharing on Readings for the month

Reading 1 Tradition 11 – Catrese –I learned about the word anonymity. The condition of being anonymous.

What I got out of it was that If I was the mayor of Springfield and I was an alcoholic or drug addict, and I went to the press and was interviewed and they reported with my entire name, and I spoke about how I love AA and how AA has helped me, and then I had a relapse, it wouldn't look good for AA. It's important to keep our anonymity at the level of press, radio and film and TV.

Reading 2 Concept 9 – Vicky - we are here to lead, not here to boss. We are trusted servants. Do your best and ask for help. Being in service and asking for help taught me to ask for help on the outside.

Group Sharing Forms

Laura, back to reality group, Chicopee 7 PM Monday night. Gave 100 to the pie chart,, do that once a year because that's all they can afford.

Jack Green street group 2 meetings 6:15 beginners and 7:30 speaker, Thursday night – Give to the pie what they can monthly, not too many months they don't. Current service positions are Intergroup, GSR. Just had elections. Incoming and outgoing every month, Dale and Steve still do an institutions commitment. Attendance has been down at the beginner meeting, but the business meetings are not well attended. Same group of guys who fill the calendar every month.

George – Belchertown Sat night meeting Beginners at 7:15, Speaker/Discussion at 8 PM. Contribute to the pie. Attendance has been pretty good, gets pretty crowded down there sometimes. We have a pretty good inventory of books, second to intergroup. If you need a book, we'll sell you one. We do a raffle the last Saturday of the month either a book or a subscription to the grapevine. Everything is going well, we just had a group inventory and it went well.

Cindy – Alternate for Cold Spring Group, Thursday Night 7:30 PM Belchertown. we sporadically give to the pie chart when we have extra money. One of the groups folded, we gained some members that way but it has not increased our ability to fill service positions. Our bookie was unable to book any commitments for November or December. We do the first Saturday at Detox in Providence Hospital. Elections will be next month. We are reviving our discussion about the closing prayer. Some time ago we decided to use the responsibility pledge instead of the Lord's prayer because it's not AA. Leaders are defaulting to the Lord's prayer. Revised the format to read Lord's Prayer, Serenity Prayer or the Responsibility Declaration.

Jennifer, GSR for Cold Spring group passes.

Catrese – Tuesday Night Hampden group Step meeting at 6:30 and speaker at 7:30 P.M. Incoming and outgoing monthly, give to the pie chart, Carlson Detox commitment. Anniversary on November 19th starts at 6:30 for food.

Juan – Sunday East Longmeadow at 6:30 P.M. St Michaels parish hall. Current positions sec, treasurer, institutions, GSR Bookie, intergroup, chair. Elections are in November at the end of the month. Give to the pie. Anniversary was in September. Offer temporary sponsorship. Commitment to Carlson Detox, and one to Mill street for Section 35. Incoming group this month. 12 members, 7 are active, don't have most of the committee members filled. Attendance used to be 140 and now it's like 50 people. But we are still going. Struggling to fill service positions.

Sharon – Eye opener group in Ludlow, Friday night 7 to 8:30 p.m. No alternate GSR right now. We are still working on the pie chart, we just got a new treasurer so that will be getting organized. Secretary, Shepherd, Intergroup, Chair, Treasurer positions are filled. Lots of members but nobody wants to do anything. We do have a bookie, incoming and outgoing every month. No institution commitments right now. At our business meeting there was a discussion to donating to the children's Christmas party. Someone brought it up that it's against the 7th tradition. There was a big discussion about spending \$100 for that if we are not donating to the pie.

There was discussion on the floor that Intergroup clearly states 7th tradition monies are not to be used for donations to the Children's Christmas Party. It was suggested to either pass a separate basket or donate toys instead.

Vicky – Hitchcock Academy Group of A.A. 7:30 Friday Night, Brimfield. We give to the pie on a quarterly basis. We have a monthly institutions commitment, we also have a monthly incoming and outgoing commitment with other groups. Currently we have most of the group positions filled, elections were held off

until November due to district and area elections. We are still having problems with getting people to stick around for the business meeting, and we are trying to get someone else involved in being the treasurer as ours has had the job for over a decade.

John, Randall Group, Sunday and Thursday meetings. Elections are in November, last Thursday of the month. Our 65th group anniversary will be held on 2/23/20

Visitor's Reports

Mike the Area Delegate –

1. The international convention is coming up register at AA.Org. it is in Detroit, MI. July 2 to 5th.
2. Request to area 48 to remove the B from HMB. (B standing for Berkshire) Request came from District 3 to unify their district. Request has gone out and been received.
3. This weekend is the Mass. state convention, 8 through the 10th. Comedians Friday, Dancing Saturday, good speakers coming in. Should be a good show. Lots of panels.
4. The concept meeting on the 1st Thursday of the month. Everyone is welcome to attend. 474 Pleasant street Holyoke. Service manual meeting 3rd Wednesday of every month.
5. Area31aa.org has the district minutes, committee minutes, and the calendar.
6. ASL Big Book has come out on DVD for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

This is my last time as delegate here at the district. It's been a pleasure to see people grow in service in my time here.

Old Business

We need to fill the Secretary's position. Jim F has volunteered to take the position. He was accepted with much thanks. Group History forms were passed out last month, please get them filled out and send them back to the archives committee so they can update their files.

New Business

WMIG is having their Children's Christmas Party is December 14th from 1 to 3 PM. Western Mass 24 hour Alkathon 6 P.M. Christmas eve to 6 P.M. Christmas Day. The area meeting this month is the budget meeting. Round up committee is looking for help. 2nd Thursday of every month at 6 pm 474 pleasant street.

Next Month's readings and discussions

Tradition 12 - Sharon and Chapter 3 - Laura

Next Month's meeting is December 2nd . Meeting was adjourned at 8:57 by Andy, DCM with reciting of the Responsibility Pledge.

Contact Information:

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Co-DCM: Bill H.

LCMS: Jennifer

Catrese

Secretary: Vicky W.