

District 5 GSR Meeting  
February 2022 Minutes  
2/7/2022

**Opening**

The regular meeting of District 5 was called to order at 7:30pm by Tom, our DCM.

**Groups Present**

3 GSRs were present:

John from *Randall Group*

Keith from *Thursday Night Wilbraham Men's*

Lara from *Friday Night Wilbraham*

**Visitors**

John G., Area 31 Chair

**Reading of S26, The GSR**

Kate read the description of the GSR from the A.A. Service Manual.

**LCM report**

There are no active LCMs at this time. Tom explained that a Local Committee Member visits meetings in the district to encourage groups to elect a GSR who will attend the district meeting.

**Group Sharing**

Keith from *Thursday Night Wilbraham Men's* reported they meet at 7pm at Grace Union Church in Wilbraham. They continue to have 25+ people in attendance. Contributing to pie. Most service positions are filled. Monthly Mill St. commitment.

Keith also reported for *Ware It's At*. They meet Monday through Friday at 1pm at the United Church of Ware, with a rotating format. Attendance is typically 8-10 people, with a high of 20. Very few service positions are filled. Business meetings are not currently held. Masks are required. The church has a new pastor.

John from *Randall Group* reported they meet on Thursdays at 7:30pm and Sundays at 1pm at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church on Route 5 in Longmeadow. The church is handicapped accessible, and the Sunday meeting has an ASL interpreter for hearing impaired and deaf A.A. members. Hoping for more attendance at Thursday meeting, last week had 7 people. Sunday had 33 people. Celebrating 67<sup>th</sup> group anniversary on Sunday, February 27 at 1pm. Stash from Three Rivers will be there with some of his wood carvings as part of the raffle, following the meeting. Food also to follow. Looking to book in person incoming/outgoing commitments for 2022. Contact bookie John S.

John also reported he is on the Western Mass. Round Up Committee. They are accepting A.A. books, coffee, and monetary contributions. He can accept them, or they can be contributed at the monthly Round Up Committee meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month, prior to the Area General Service meeting at United Methodist Church, 30 Carew St. in South Hadley.

Lara from *Friday Night Wilbraham* reported attendance continues to be good at both the Beginners meeting at 6:30 and Speaker meeting at 7:30. Meeting at Grace Union Church in Wilbraham. Virtual option available for group members only. All service positions filled except Archives. Incoming/outgoing commitments. Contributing to pie.

Tom is not the GSR for *Morning Light*, but he reported they still need a GSR. Meeting at Church of Christ on Montgomery St. in Chicopee at 7am daily. Hybrid meeting every day except Sunday, which is virtual. A lot of newly sober people attending in person, with daily attendance around 30. Most wear masks. Coffee is served, and sometimes snacks. Policy is to carry your trash out with you. Some service positions are not filled. Incoming/outgoing commitments. Contributing to pie.

Tom also reported for *Back to Reality*, there is no designated GSR currently. Meeting at Church of Christ on Montgomery St. in Chicopee. Hybrid Big Book discussion meeting Mondays at 7:30pm. Service positions filled are chairperson and treasurer. Usually 5-8 people in attendance.

## **Visitors Reports**

John G. reported the Area continues to host a Service Manual meeting the 3rd Wednesday and a Concepts meeting the 3rd Thursday of every month at 30 Carew St., South Hadley. Both are hybrid, as are most Area meetings. All info at [area31aa.org](http://area31aa.org). District 3 hosts Traditions meeting virtually the 2nd Sunday of every month. District 3 will host a hybrid presentation on March 5 from 10am-noon in Pittsfield, on upcoming agenda items for the General Service Conference. Next Mass State Convention Planning Committee meeting is on March 29 at Sturbridge Host Hotel. Meet to carpool at 7pm at the bowling alley at the end of Route 291. Round Up Committee looking for support, meets the 2nd Wednesday every month. State Convention and Round Up meetings are both hybrid, flyers on Area website. Area needs new Webmaster to take over for Bob after all his time in service. Area needs couple of people who are comfortable hosting Zoom meetings, including setting up and tearing down equipment. Area holds 7-8 Zoom meetings every month. John asked that we bring this request to our groups, and to speak enthusiastically about service in general, and the need for it. Area Committee is available for service commitments, to share on how service has changed their lives. Area has commitment at Randall Group for their anniversary on February 27 at 1pm. NERAASA will be 2/25 – 2/27 in Pittsburgh. There's a new Service Manual out for 2022-2024, it's red, available at [area31aa.org](http://area31aa.org), and the Area printed 100 copies.

## **Old Business**

Kate had asked those in attendance at the January meeting to invite members from other District 5 groups to the February meeting, but we had fewer in attendance this month than last month. As we have no LCMs at this time, Tom asked that we make a renewed effort to visit as many District 5 meetings as we can and encourage attendance at the monthly district meeting. Tom will get the list of District 5 groups from Cindy. Tom will get copies of the new Service Manual at the Area General Service meeting to give to us next month. Tom will get a list of upcoming agenda items for the General Service Conference from our Delegate, Mike B.

Tom shared the information he had on changing District 5 meeting to hybrid. He can add a hotspot to his phone for \$10/month and use his personal laptop computer. John G. shared that the Area pays \$35/month for Zoom account and purchased hundreds of dollars in equipment to offer hybrid meetings. Tom said

that would cost more than the district has in the annual budget. John G. shared that there are more people in attendance on Zoom than in person for every Area meeting he hosts. Discussion included: concern about accessibility, we want to be inclusive. Zoom is convenient, but some feel that people should show up in person. More GSRs might attend if meeting is hybrid. Tom will reach out to other districts to find out how their hybrid meetings are working out, but we shouldn't compare to other districts. When is the church being sold? Can we hold hybrid meeting at Area in South Hadley, which is in District 5? John G. said Area has an agreement with United Methodist Church to hold meetings on specific nights, so it might infringe on the church to add one more day to the agreement, but he will check with the pastor. Can we email groups about the district meeting? Can we mail postcards to the churches where groups meet? Kate will draft language for postcards.

**Next month's readings and discussion**

Carol will read Chapter 8 of the Service Manual, *Conference Committees*.  
John will read Tradition 3.

Next month's meeting will be Monday, March 7 @ 7:30PM.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM**

**Contact information**

DCM - Tom	email: district5@area31aa.org	
Co-DCM - Kate	email:	
Secretary - Lara	email:	