

**District 5 Meeting
February 2023 Minutes
2/6/2023**

Opening

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

Groups Present

Sharla from *Wilbraham Friday Night*

Louise from *Morning Light Chicopee*

Carl from *Eye Opener Ludlow*

Juan from *East Longmeadow Sunday Night*

Tim from *Hampden Tuesday Night*

Alex from *South Hadley Friday Night*

Dave from *Hitchcock Academy Brimfield*

Chris from *Belchertown Saturday Night*

Amanda from *Do or Die*

Ian from *Belchertown Cold Spring Group*

Corrina from *Tuesday Night Step Group*

Sonny from *Wilbraham Thursday Night Men's Group*

Alan from *Wilbraham Step Group Monday Night*

Mike from *Wake Up Call Group*

Visitors

Mike, Area 31 Delegate

Renee, Accessibilities Co-Chair

Lara read *What It Means to be a GSR* from the AA Service Manual.

Group Sharing

Sharla from *Wilbraham Friday Night* – Reports they meet 6:30pm-7:15pm and 7:30pm-8:30pm at the Chapel. Alternate GSR is Noreen. They contributed \$1,000. Service positions filled except Accessibilities and Grapevine. Incoming/outgoing commitment with Grapevine Suffield on 2/27, they are incoming 2/24. Institutions commitment 1st Wednesday at Carlson. No issues to report at this time.

Louise from *Morning Light Chicopee* – Reports they meet at 284 Montgomery St in Chicopee, MA 7am-8am. They are hybrid but zoom only on Sundays. Averaging 30-40 attendants with a full room on Saturday. Their Alternate GSR is Katherine. Contributes all to pie. All service positions are filled. Incoming/outgoing commitment with Florence Eye Opener last month. The group will support Louise's NERAASA trip for 1 night stay + registration fee. She is able to room with someone.

Carl from *Eye Opener Ludlow* – Reports they meet 7pm-8:30pm at 51 Center St in Ludlow, MA. Contribute to the pie. Service positions filled are Intergroup, GSR, Treasurer, Secretary. They have an incoming/outgoing commitment with Belchertown Saturday Night on 2/25.

Juan from *East Longmeadow Sunday Night* – Reports that they meet Sunday night 6:30pm-7:30pm at 1 Porter Road East Longmeadow, MA. Alternate GSR is Jean Claude. They contribute to the pie chart. Has an incoming Wild Cats and outgoing to them on Monday 8:30pm. Active service positions are Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Bookie, GSR, Intergroup Rep, PI and Institutions. They haven't filled CPC, Archives and Grapevine.

Tim from *Hampden Tuesday Night* – Reports that they meet 7pm-8pm for a 2 Speaker Meeting at Federation Community Church, 590 Main Street, Hampden, MA. Doing well with financial contributions. The rent to the church is paid through February. They are able to purchase new 12/12 books for meeting as well as other books to sell and Big Books to give out to newcomers. They paid the church an additional \$200 for winter heat. They will contribute to the pie this month. All service positions filled except for Institutions Rep, CPC, PI and Intergroup Rep. Their incoming commitment is Southbridge on February 21. Their outgoing is Southbridge on February 19. For institutions commitment they visit Stoney Brook at the Hampden County House of Corrections section 35 every other Wednesday. No Issues to report at this time. Requesting the sign-up list and link to the Accessibilities survey.

Alex from *South Hadley Friday Night* – Reports they are doing well financially. Business meeting this Friday. Not too sure on incoming/outgoing commitments.

Dave from *Brimfield Hitchcock Academy* – Reports that they meet Friday nights 7:30pm-8:30pm in Brimfield. Have not given to pie for a couple months. Most service positions are filled, minus CPC, Institution and P.I. They have an incoming/outgoing commitment with Pioneer Valley Group of West Springfield.

Chris from *Belchertown Saturday Night* – Reports they have a 7pm-7:45pm beginner's meeting followed by an 8pm speaker meeting. Location is 18 Park St Belchertown, MA. They donated \$500 to the pie. Have a weekly book raffle. Service positions not filled are CPC and PI. Incoming/outgoing with Ludlow Eye Opener on 25th. Mira Vista commitment 3rd Saturday mornings 10:30am.

Amanda from *Do or Die* – Reports they meet Wednesday nights 7pm at St. Andrews Church in Longmeadow, MA. Alternate GSR is Taylor. They contribute \$500 to the pie, paying for portion of GSR to NERAASA. All positions are filled. Incoming/Outgoing is with Scrambled Eggs. Do not presently have institutions commitment. Also notes no changes from January. Still working on getting connected with old church. Parking in fire lane issue has seemed to have improved. They have been persistent with announcing at the beginning & throughout when necessary. Elevator seems to be working ok.

Corrina from *Tuesday Night Step Group* – Reports they meet Tuesday nights 7pm at Jericho Building of 537 Northampton St Holyoke, MA. They contribute to the pie chart in January. Service positions filled are Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Literature, GSR. Institutions commitment at Mira Vista weekly (ish).

Alan from *Wilbraham Step Group Monday Night* – Reports that they have a 6:30pm Beginner's followed by a 7:30pm 1-12 Step Group. They meet at Grace Union Church in Wilbraham, MA.

Sonny from *Wilbraham Thursday Night Men's Group* – Reports they meet Thursday nights in Wilbraham. Mill St jail commitment. Men's group. Donate to pie chart, gives money for heat to the church.

Mike from *Wake Up Call Group* – Reports they meet 7 days a week 7am-8am. Contribute to the pie. Give out Big Books and Daily Reflections on request. Good attendance. Zoom meeting and no commitments.

Visitor Reports

Renee, Accessibilities Co-Chair -

Provides survey link <https://forms.gle/437v9uvthhuYH9QT8>

Topics covered are “do you have a ramp, or an elevator, etc.”

Volunteer sign-up sheet, asking GSRs to bring them to groups and to return.

Seek to aid those in need of a ride, or visiting nursing homes, Linda Manor.

Accessibilities@area31aa.org. Bringing meetings to people. Receive

books/literature to hand out. Asked of those to provide when and where they

want to help. Renee will return next month to collect sheets. Mike, Delegate,

suggests Renee contact Webmaster to post link on westernma31aa.org.

Carl asks, “Does that include someone sick and laid up a couple months, those people?”

Renee responds, “Yes, exactly.”

Mike, Area 31 Delegate -

Meeting app has information on the site. Identified that 13 groups were present tonight, and mentioned the positive vibe with presence as GSRs and group participation seems to be coming back.

Offered updates on “What’s going on in the area?”

Agenda items are coming out Friday. Took a while as the delay was translating to French, English and Spanish.

Compared the stall to last year, which also presented delays to Puerto Rico and Canada.

Looking for venue in District 4. The link will be posted on Area website.

All DCMs will get an email, to then pass on to GSRs. By mail will take longer but is an option.

184 items have been widdled down to 80.

They are working towards reducing duplicate items and make a decision on those that continue to carry over from previous years.

Example: One item has around from when Dr Bob brought it up.

Trying to clean out the repetitive background info/items.

“Really cool to see change happen,” he comments.

Chair of General Service Conference asked to step down. She did. An interim stepped in.

There is a Concept meeting list 1st Thursday of the month info @ area31aa.org.
District 3 meets 2nd Sunday of the month at 7:30pm.

Mass State Convention met past Tuesday and Area 31 handed off excess funds.

March 28th 7pm Sturbridge Hotel (hybrid)

Renee asks, "when will we know of Spring Assembly?"

Mike responds, "you can ask the Chair, but he doesn't know yet."

Mike continues with "the online registration for NERAASA closes 13th.

Can register onsite."

Kate asks the District, "Anyone here plan on attending NERAASA?" (6 hands raised)

Mike goes onto express the importance of attending. "Many benefits. If you're a GSR you'll meet with many people. Helpful topics offered. It's interesting to see the shift or difference in some areas. Like, how AA is lived in other areas. I learned that we have it really easy here. We don't have a lot of the same challenges they have and just speaks volumes to what active participation can provide.

Mentioned the Round Up briefly by name and not into detail and every other year is NERF, this year somewhere in Boston. Information on these events can be provided on the area31aa.org. Plenty of opportunity to get involved and stay active.

Talked about the 2 semi-annual assemblies (spring and fall).

GSO Road Show is mentioned but mostly in tandem with a nudge to read about it on the area31aa.org website.

Renee asked, "both spring and fall assemblies, we vote on Sundays?"

Mike answered, "yes, and then it's the job of Delegate to carry items to conference as a whole for AA not just for Area 31."

Old Business

Old business topics mainly to NERAASA, expectations, responsibilities and importance of a GSR. Upside down triangle approach was utilized to show the structure, communications and how group consciousness plays a role.

New Business

Sharla raises topic idea on changing meeting time to 7pm.

Kate will check with Area Chair on changing the District meeting time to 7pm, and will report back next District Meeting.

Readings

Tim read Tradition 2

“For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority – A loving God as he expresses himself in our group conscious.”

“.....saying that the group decision is just that, a group decision. All members of the group are equal and no member has authority over another member. After a discussion of all aspects of a given situation, including the minority opinion, the group votes on the issue and an agreement is reached with a majority vote. This is called the group conscious. There are service positions, but no one has authority over the group.

Louise read Intro to General Service

“.....1935 when General Service began. 125 groups in 85 countries. Appreciates Mike’s presence and on everything he said, highlighting his topic on importance of GSRs and that they are the group’s voice. Here to service groups in order and carry what is important.

Next month’s readings and discussion

Alan will read and report on Tradition 3

Carl will read and report on Concept 2

Next month’s meeting will be Monday, March 6th @ 7:30pm.

In person: at 30 Carew St., South Hadley.

Zoom: login info at area31aa.org.

Responsibility Pledge.

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 pm.

Contact Information

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