

Berkshire Intergroup Meeting Minutes

August 14, 2023

Meeting opens with the Articles of Purpose (from Bylaws)

Preamble

Serenity Prayer

Roll Call: Robin D (Office manager), Rusty C (GB Men's Group), Craig S (Webservant), Mike B (Area 31 Delegate), Courtney L (Co-chair), Maureen B (Chair), Brian W (District 3 DCM), Ellaine B (Keep It Simple Group; virtual and in-person), Nick M (Lenox Big Book), Mary E (Watch Your Step), Sam H (Treasurer), Bob R (Young at Heart), Michael W (Northern Berkshire), Susan B (Secretary)

Secretary: (Susan B) July minutes were accepted. There were no questions.

Treasurer: (Sam H) July was a "good month" with \$1,266 in contributions and \$330 in sales. An approximate \$2,000 purchase of books will show up on the August report. Sam and Robin will be working together on inventory and pace of sales. Sam would like more information about the people involved in the PayPal contributions from Bruce S for Mark K.

Office manager: (Robin D) Three orders for coins/medallions were made to Bright Star (2) and Wendall's (1). 100 Big Book were purchased from A.A.W.S. along with other books and pamphlets. A.A.W.S. has a new shipping company. Orders will now be brought inside. There is currently a large inventory of miscellaneous Grapevine books. Robin suggested that they be sold at the old prices. Three attempts by McClelland to repair the printer/copier have been unsuccessful. A discussion took place to consider if this printer, at \$5-600 per year, is more than we need.

Website: (Craig S) Website fees are paid through next March. Craig is happy to serve and grateful for suggestions.

Area 31: (Mike B) Mike reported on meetings and events taking place in the Area, most of which are listed in the Intergroup Newsletter or can be found on the area31aa.org website.

District 3: (Brian W) District 3 is doing well. GSRs from 7 groups were present at the July meeting. A 30-minute discussion took place around a proposed agenda item, which the GSRs brought back to their groups. This will be discussed again at the next meeting. The Area 31 Accessibilities Chair, Bruce, will attend the next District meeting.

Institutions: Courtney reported that she did invite the committee to send a representative. The committee is still interested in the idea of a service workshop.

Chair: (Maureen) The Intergroup committee officers have begun meeting monthly. The bylaws are being reviewed and amended. There is a need to understand the history and why things were written the way they were. An additional review is needed before they can be brought to the full committee.

Registration for the September retreat has opened and 34 are registered. (There is a capacity of 70.) All is in order. The ad hoc committee will meet again for last details.

Co-Chair: (Courtney L) No report.

Old Business: A discussion took place about information on A.A. on the Pittsfield Police Department website which Tom H brought to our attention and needs to be updated/corrected. It was not immediately clear what the best course of action might be. An ad hoc committee was formed to look into this further.

Concerns were raised about the effectiveness of using Berkshire Communicators for the hotline and the fact that their fee has gone from \$140 to \$170 per month. It was brought up that a non-alcoholic answers with a script. Questions were raised about whether or not this is the best way for people to get in touch with A.A.

The interest brought up by Michael W to start an LGBTQ+ meeting in the Pittsfield area was discussed. There is the possibility that there are informal meetings happening which are not listed on the Intergroup website. This will be looked into to see if there are more people who may have an interest in this effort.

Sam and Robin will coordinate getting in touch with the landlord to have the phone app be operational.

New Business: The fact that there have been a number of months when contributions did not meet expenses was brought up. A discussion ensued around the question of whether or not reps should ask their groups to contribute more.

Thoughts raised included:

Intergroup might want to "bring more to the table" before asking for more money.

Intergroup could do more for the fellowship if the financial concerns weren't there.

Everything has become more expensive; printing, hotline, books, etc.

The "pie chart" is suggested. How it is or is not followed is up to the group conscience.

Perhaps it could be announced that PayPal is now a direct link on the website rather than a big push for money.

A motion was passed for reps to ask their groups to give more support to Intergroup.

The Young at Heart Group, which meets virtually on Monday nights, is looking for support.

Meeting adjourns with the Responsibility Pledge