

## **Berkshire Intergroup Committee Minutes**

January 8, 2024

Meeting opened with the Serenity Prayer and Preamble

**Roll Call:** Courtney L (Chair), Bob (Area 31 Chair), Kellie (Sober at Sunrise), Evan (visitor), Robin D (Office Manager), Bob W (Keep It Simple), Rebecca B (observer), Rusty C (Great Barrington Men's), Michael (Men's 12<sup>th</sup> Step), Dwayne M (to become new Co-Chair), Sam H (Treasurer), Brian W (District 3 DCM), William (Stockbridge Tower), Tom L (Sheffield 12&12), Casey (Lee Young People's), Joan P (Southern Berkshire), Bob R (Young at Heart), Michael W (Northern Berkshire), Mary E (Watch Your Step), Susan B (Secretary)

**Secretary:** (Susan B) December minutes viewed and accepted

**Treasurer:** (Sam H) December report and 2023 month-by-month summary viewed and approved.

**Office manager:** (Robin D) Report summary: The office was open 12 days in December. Jim H has returned to volunteering on Tuesdays. Ellen has become a new volunteer. Robin would like to set a goal to have the office open 5 days a week again. It has been suggested that the office invest in surge protectors. Robin asked for guidance with this. (Sam H later recommended a basic inexpensive surge protector—that one with battery back-up is not necessary.) There has been significant progress with the hotline phone list.

**Website:** (Craig – absent) There is an instruction on the website to call the hotline for passwords, which was established for security reasons. It has been deemed to be no longer necessary. Robin would like to see it be removed.

**Area 31:** (Bob W) NERAASA will take place this February in Hershey, PA. Rooms are still available in the area but not where it is actually being held. More information can be found on NERAASA.org. The Area is working on a van to transport people there.

The Spring Assembly will take place March 23-24 at St. John's Episcopal Church on 60 Broad Street in Westfield.

The first (hybrid) planning meeting for the Mass State Convention (which will be in November at the Best Western in Marlborough) will be held on Tuesday, January 30 at 7 pm. (Subsequent meetings will be held on the last Tuesdays of the odd months and October.) A car pool leaving from the end of 291 will be available. (Those who are interested can write to [altdelegate@area31aa.org](mailto:altdelegate@area31aa.org).) The departure time will be posted on the Area website.

A plain language Big Book information session will take place Sunday, January 14 at 4 pm EST.

**District 3:** (Brian W) A celebration of service which has been coordinated with the Intergroup and Institutions Committees will take place on Saturday, January 20 from 8:30

am to 12:30 pm at the First Congregational Church in Stockbridge. The doors will open at 8:30 for fellowship. Panels with speakers will begin at 9:00. The event will be hybrid.

**Institutions:** (absent) No one had anything new to report.

**Chair:** (Courtney L)

**Co-Chair:** (vacant)

**Old Business:**

Alkathon numbers and attendance were reviewed. The contributions exceeded the expenses by \$140. The committee approved \$250 to go the St. Charles Church.

Reps reported that their groups are strongly in favor of having printed meeting lists available; that they are especially useful for newcomers to also have a place for phone numbers. Interest was expressed for a pdf to be available on the website or by email. The issue was brought up that when the current list is printed on an 8 ½ x 11 piece of paper, it is too small. Rusty volunteered to look at formatting.

Bylaws: Courtney will send them out.

Hotline list: Reps have been sending them in.

**New Business:**

Dwayne M expressed interest and was elected to the position of co-chair.

Reps were asked to see what their groups would like to see Intergroup organize in 2024.

Courtney proposed that an ad hoc committee be created to look at technical issues such as phone expenses and cloud-based models. Dwayne, Rusty and Courtney expressed interest.

Robin reported that a Berkshire County attorney contacted Intergroup regarding a will. The question of limit was raised. It was noted that contributions to AA World Services must be under \$10,000 and from an AA member.

Meeting closed with Responsibility Pledge