

Area 31 Grapevine/ La Vina Committee Meeting
474 Pleasant Street, Holyoke, MA
Tuesday, February 5, 2019
Serenity Prayer
Statement of Purpose
Daily Quote
Tradition 2

Members Present:

Mike B. Area 31 Chair, Guest

Joe K., Visitor/Ally & Deaf AA Member, Holyoke Daily Reflections, 7 days a week + ASL interpreter

Doug A. Florence, "I" Opener Group, GV/LV Boards Transportation

Amanda S., GVR, Tue Women's Discussion Grp, Holyoke, MA

Dana T., GVR, The Conway Grp., Conway, MA

Kim S., GVR, Suffield Monday Night Grapevine Grp, Suffield, CT

Mark C., GVR, Joy of Living Grp., Feeding Hills, MA

Mike, GVR, Daily Reflections, Holyoke, MA

Sam for Mark, new GVR, Sunday Life Grp., Haydenville, MA

Signe O., GVR, Holyoke We Can and Tues. BBSS

Ella A., GVR & Secretary, Florence, 11th Step Meditation Group, Thursday

Renée K., Co-Chair & GVR, Belchertown, Saturday Night

Tania H., Chair, Hadley Women's Language Of The Heart Group, Wed, Hadley, MA

- Committee Meeting Agendas were distributed and the GV/LV Boards were on display.
- Chair opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. with a Moment of Silence and the Serenity Prayer.
- "Statement of Purpose" found on the inside cover of the GV magazine was read aloud by Signe O.
- DAILY QUOTE of the day was read aloud by Chair. (Free and emailed daily to anyone who signs up to get them).
- Tradition Two was read aloud out of *The A.A. Grapevine* by Co-Chair
- Chair invited everyone to introduce themselves by sharing what brought them there & notified all to provide their emails and contact information in order to stay in touch, receive committee pertinent emails and monthly meeting minutes.
- Chair announced that the FEB 2019 edition is in circulation. Shared her experience on some of the articles she read and invited others to share what they read and enjoyed.
- Area 31 chairperson helped us clarify that each month, the GV magazine is a compilation of English speaking members and their contributions. The LV is a compilation of the Spanish speaking members and their contributions. One is not the translation of another.
- Chair mentioned that going forward, we would refer to and discuss the previous month's issue so all have had a chance to read the articles in order to share and discuss.

Chair also announced that a member has approached her with the news that she will serve as RLV/GVR for her home group but wasn't in attendance that night.

- **New GVR orientation continued** by informing new members to sign up to register and receive their starter tool kits at <http://www.aagrapevine.org/content/registration-or-change-address>
- Chairperson listed out aloud the responsibilities for all new and returning GVRs. We committee members need to be present with the GV/LV Boards at the annual Round Up, Spring & Fall Assemblies, alternating years at the MA State Convention and additionally at any group anniversary which requests the Boards.

{ORIENTATION News from last month for new and returning GVRs:

- Last month's reminder: GVRs can take advantage of a meeting's announcement section to share their new GVR/RLV status, announce GV/LV related reminders learned on the role & from the starter kit, share news from our monthly committee meetings and have fun with the position.
Last month's announcement: GVRs need to be aware there is a Handbook and Area Chair info. packet in English and in Spanish/en Español for *La Viña* which the GSO mailed to the Chairperson.
- Last month's news: Chair brought the *A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Services*. It has a whole chapter (Chap 12) about the Grapevine and suggested GVRs (Grapevine Reps) read it for tips on how GVRs can talk to their home groups about *The Grapevine*.
- Last month's news: GVRs help plan events. We, the GVRs, drive the committee's direction. GVRs are informers about *The Grapevine* magazine as a 12-Step recovery tool. It was started by six members in 1944. GVRs here are part of a larger group. We are GVRs in Area 31 while there are 93 areas of A.A. in North America!
- Reminder that a home group can buy a subscription and give it away in a raffle if the group treasury can afford it. (Costs \$28.97/year in print.) Always display the copies for members to take/trade/return.
- Last month, the Chairperson also encouraged all present to extend the invitation to serve as RLVs to Spanish speaking members of the fellowship.
- Standing news: Inmates can receive a free 1year subscription to *The Grapevine /La Viña* by writing to the Corrections Desk at GSO with their name, address and inmate ID number to the Grapevine office in N.Y. }

FEBRUARY Area 31 Chairperson's News

- Area Committee invited to speak & visit the Anniv for Singleness of Purpose Grp. On 2/19. Meeting starting at 7:30p in Chicopee. Area Chair invited us to bring the GV/LV boards. Food at 6p.
- NERAASA (Northeast Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly) will be in Hunt Valley, Maryland from Feb. 22 to 24, 2019. Look at <http://www.neraasa.org/neraasa-2019.html> for more info. If interested, let Chair know to get on the list. Goal is for all interested parties to go. The dollar in the basket helps fund area events like this. 4 more seats are still available. The GV Committee's Chair, Co-Chair, Joe K. and Doug A. will be going. Last day to sign up will be Feb. 7th or sign up on the day of departure.
- A31 Concepts meeting held on the first Thursday of every month at 7:30p at 474 Pleasant Street, Holyoke. Welcome to all AA Members.
- More information on the 2019 Spring Assembly to follow
- Reminder that when any group would like to carry out a GROUP INVENTORY, we can contact Area 31 Chair, Mike B., to access a GI Facilitator. He can be reached at areachair@area31aa.org

• **GVR Reports**

- Doug A. shared that the I opener group will host their 29th anniver in the Florence Community room on Sun, 2/10 from 8a-10a. The GV/LV boards will be there. 2 speaker meeting at 9a with food starting at 8a
- Kim shared that she's a newly elected GVR from the Suffield Beginner's Grp. Welcome!
- Co-Chair of the GV/LV Committee is happy to have an AA service commitment and using her new role to serve as GVR for her home group Welcome!

- Mark from the Feeding Hills group reported that for the first time in a few years, their group has every open service position filled after they conducted a GROUP INVENTORY. Welcome and Congratulations! The format varies weekly: Topic, Conference Approved Literature, Speaker, and incoming group. They have a commitment to the Providence Detox on the third Thurs every month.
- Deaf member from Holyoke Daily Reflections Grp., Joe K., shared that he contributed an article to the GV in order to help other deaf members find recovery. He will be attending NERAASA.
- Sam, of Haydenville, sat in for this sponsee and new GVR for the Haydenville Sunday Life Grp., who could not attend that night. He shared his experience, strength and hope from his past GVR role in 2018. He encouraged other GVRs to talk about the GV & LV as 'a bathroom reader' and a meeting your pocket' due to the quick & short nature of the reads. He responded to an inquiry about the attendance at past Grapejams by explaining how format of the 2018 Grapejam was different from the 2017 one and thus, successful at attracting more members. He referred to the current 2019 Chairperson's involvement and attendance at the Area 11 Grapejam in 2018 which helped craft and facilitate the one in 2018. Attendance went up from 60 in '17 to 135 in '18.
- Chairperson announced that the GV/LV Boards will be present at the May 1st, 2019 Women's Language of the Heart Group's 12th/13th Anniversary in 102 Middle Street in Hadley where a deaf member from the Berkshires will be speaking and bringing other deaf sober women. Not OPEN meeting. No men at anniversary, either.

New Business introduced:

- Create a new service position on the Committee called Berkshire Liaison in order to reach out to the Berkshires and attract GVRs/RLVs on Area 31 committee. Currently, there is no representation from that geographic. Chair explained that the service role will be similar to that of an LCM's role in districts. Discussion ongoing. Deaf member, Joe K., suggested that we contact deaf member, Karran L. in the Berks, as a start to form future relations along these lines.
- 2019 GV/LV Committee asked to think about what they would like to plan in 2019.
- 2019 is the 75th DIAMOND anniversary of the Grapevine.
- There is support from GSO and Area 30. Do we want to do our own in Area 31 or do we want to collaborate with A30 or the D#, Berkshires?
- We have a \$500 budget.
- Next Grapevine Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, Mar. 5, 2019, 730p, 474 Pleasant St., Holyoke, MA, weather permitting.
- Closed the meeting with the AA "The Responsibility Pledge" and the Serenity Prayer.
- Adjourned at 8:29 p.m.