

District 5 – Service Meeting Minutes

Date: June 1, 2026

Opened with: Serenity Prayer

Chair: Jim

Secretary: Alicia

1. Opening & Welcome

Jim opened the meeting with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

He reminded attendees to **take their trash with them** and noted that **QR codes for Area donations** were available on the back table. Flyers for the District Play were also available.

Sean read **“What is the GSR?”** from the AA Service Manual, emphasizing the GSR as the group’s voice in AA and the importance of participation at District and Area levels.

Visitors welcomed:

- **Carolyn** – Southampton Friday Night
 - **Rick** – Scrambled Eggs, Archives Chair
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2. Secretary’s Report (Alicia)

Alicia read the minutes from April 2. Key points included:

- Intergroup Picnic: **August 16 – Moose Lodge, Chicopee.**
- Intergroup Golf Tournament: **June 20 – Agawam Municipal.**
- Spring Assembly Roundup: **May 29–30 in Hadley.**
- District Play confirmed for **July 18** at All Saints Church; budget increased to **\$160** for kitchen access.
- Preferred time block: **8:00 AM–1:30 PM**; backup block **11:00 AM–3:00 PM.**
- Group voted to repeat last year’s **Traditions Play**; all roles filled and scripts distributed.
- Topic Survey: JC asked how to present surveys; strong attendance needed at Assembly.
- PI Committee shifting from radio project to practical outreach; severe manpower shortage (**9 attendees out of 302 groups**).
- Chris read Tradition 4 and Concept 7; Carl volunteered to read Concept 8 this month.

Jim thanked Alicia and wished her well as she was not feeling her best.

3. GSR Reports

Cold Spring Group (Belchertown) – Shannon

- Thursdays 7:30–8:30 PM at 18 Park Street.
- Still unable to contribute to the pie, but funds increasing.
- All positions filled except Accessibility, CPC, and PI.
- Monthly incoming/outgoing commitments.
- **Group Anniversary:** This Thursday. Food & fellowship at 6:15 PM; meeting at 7:30 PM. Archives boards will be present.

Clear Cut Directions (East Longmeadow – Women’s) – Jessica

- Tuesdays 6:30 PM at 1 Porter Road.
- Treasurer absent; full report next month.
- All positions filled.
- No incoming/outgoing commitments due to being a women’s meeting.
- Institution commitment at **Boca Recovery** (testing 5th Thursdays).
- **3rd Anniversary:** June 9 – food & fellowship 6–7 PM; two speakers 7–8 PM; all welcome.

Southampton Friday Night – Carolyn

- Fridays 6 PM at Morning Star Community Baptist Church.
- Monthly PI commitment.
- All major positions filled; group has ~20 members.
- Working on securing an institutions commitment.
- No major issues except difficulty filling some roles.

Sunrise Group (Three Rivers) – Chris

- Daily 7–8 AM at the Historical Center.
- Strong finances; regular PI contributions.
- Nearly all positions filled; new members joining.
- Commitments include Mill Street and a new rehab meeting every third Wednesday.
- No issues reported.

Hitchcock Academy Group (Brimfield) – Jason

- Fridays 7 PM at 2 Brookfield Road.
- Severe attendance decline; unable to contribute to the pie.
- Only GSR position filled; no commitments due to low membership.
- Group at risk of closure, similar to Chapter 2 in Ludlow.

12 & 12 (South Hadley) – Karl

- Tuesdays 6–7 PM at All Saints Church.
- Contributes regularly when above prudent reserve.
- Attendance healthy; new members joining.
- Monthly chips and anniversary coins.
- Tradition of the month read on last Tuesday.
- Discussing restarting Holyoke Hospital commitment.
- All positions filled.

Do or Die (East Longmeadow) – John Claude

- Wednesdays 7–8 PM at 181 Elm Street.
- All positions filled except Accessibility.
- Two outgoing commitments: Carlson CSS (3rd Monday) and Holyoke Group (25th).
- 23 home group members.
- Contributed **\$400** to the pie this month.

Thursday 7 PM Group – Steve

- Has an institutions commitment at Stony Brook.
- Missed business meeting; will email full report.
- Group donated to the pie.

Jim requested emailed reports from Steve and John Claude.

4. Old Business

District Traditions Play – July 18

Confirmed details:

- **Location:** All Saints Church, 7 Woodbridge Street, South Hadley.
- **Arrival for cast:** 10:30 AM.
- **Doors open:** 11:30 AM.
- **Play begins:** Between 11:45 AM and noon.
- **Duration:** ~45 minutes.
- **Food & fellowship:** Until 2 PM.
- **Cleanup:** 2–3 PM (hall reserved until 3 PM).

Roles confirmed:

- **Dory** – not present
- **Chris** – Eager Beaver
- **Alicia** – Newcomer
- **Jessica** – Politician
- **Jen** – Left-Leaning Leader

- **Joanne** – Moneybags
- **Karl** – Founder

Scripts: Some missing; Sean will print more.

Costumes encouraged.

Quote from Jim: **“Remember, no one has to memorize anything — we hold the scripts in front of us.”**

5. New Business

No new business brought forward.

6. Delegate Report – Bob (Area 31 Delegate)

Bob provided a detailed update:

- Roundup was successful with ~120 attendees at the Delegate Report.
- Delegate Report will be posted soon at area31aa.org.
- Area bid for Nebraska 2029; Vermont won. Area will bid again for 2030.
- Ad Hoc Redistricting Committee reviewing district boundaries to increase participation.
- GSO Quarterly Report available at aa.org.
- **Mass State Convention:** November 6–8, Best Western Royal Plaza, Marlborough.
- **GSO Bus Trip:** July 24; sold out. Waiting list may exist.
- Area offers **Group Inventories** and **Area Commitments** upon request.

Conference Highlights

- **Big Book 5th Edition** expected late this year or early next year.
- **Grapevine outside contributions** proposal voted down.
- Digital downloads now a major revenue source.
- Discussion of the **Everything AA app**; members encouraged to explore it.

Jim added that GSRs are now welcome at the Ad Hoc Redistricting Committee meetings.

7. Archives Presentation – Rick (Archives Chair)

Rick shared an in-depth overview of the Archives Committee:

- Archives preserve AA history to prevent “distortion and forgetting where we came from.”
- Quoted AA pamphlet: **“Only through the systematic maintenance of our written permanent historical record can we prevent distortion and remember where we came from.”**
- Area archives located in the room behind the meeting space.
- Six large display boards available for anniversaries and events.
- Group histories: 302 active groups; ~80 histories collected.
- Groups encouraged to submit histories via paper form or the **Area 31 website**.

Rick shared a historical excerpt from Ruth Fox regarding the writing of the Big Book:

“Originally it was directly written to the prospective alcoholic — ‘you were wrong, you must, you should.’ After a big hassle, this was changed to ‘we were wrong, we must, we should.’”

He emphasized the importance of preserving AA’s story through recordings, interviews, and written histories.

8. Closing

Meeting closed with the Responsibility Statement.

Next Meeting: July 6, 2026 at 7:00 PM.