

District 5 – Service Meeting Minutes

Date: July 6, 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.

Sean read “**What is a 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.

No new GSRs were present.

2. Secretary’s Report

Alicia read the minutes from June 1. Key points included:

- **Traditions Play** confirmed for **July 18** at All Saints Church, South Hadley.
 - Cast arrival: **10:30 AM**; doors open **11:30 AM**; play begins **11:45 AM**.
 - Food & fellowship until **2 PM**; cleanup **2–3 PM**.
 - Roles confirmed: Dori (absent), Chris (Eager Beaver), Alicia (Newcomer), Jessica (Politician), Jen (Left-Leaning Leader), Joanne (Moneybags), Carl (Founder).
 - Costumes encouraged; scripts to be reprinted by Sean.
 - Delegate and Archives reports reviewed.
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3. GSR Group Reports

Wilbraham, Thursday 7 PM Group – Steve

- Saturdays at 7 PM.
- Commitments at Middle Street and Stony Brook.
- Forgot notes; will email full report.

Wilbraham Friday Night – Joann (Alternate)

- Two meetings: Beginners (6:30–7:15 PM) and Speaker (7:30–8:30 PM).
- Chips and Big Books distributed.
- All service positions filled.

- Regular PI contributions.
- Upcoming commitments: Retreat of Boston (June 21), and Southwick Group incoming/outgoing.

Lost and Found (Chicopee) – Alicia

- Thursdays 6:30 PM.
- Chips handed out.
- Missed business meeting due to illness.
- No alternate.

Friday Night Beginners (South Hadley) – Carolyn

- Large meeting: **80–90 attendees.**
- Distributes Big Books, Living Sober, Step books.
- Contributes to pie.
- Voting Friday on new institutions commitment.

Hampden Group – Linda

- Tuesdays: Step meeting at 6 PM; Discussion/Speaker at 7 PM.
- Rent increased; basket contributions down.
- One basket went missing; quote: **“Maybe they need it more than us.”**
- Several members leave after step meeting; group struggling with attendance.

Cold Springs Group (Polter Town) – Jen

- Thursdays 7:30–8:30 PM.
- Unable to contribute to pie since January; donations improving.
- Positions unfilled: Accessibility, CPC, CI.
- Monthly incoming/outgoing commitments.
- **Group Anniversary:** June 4; Archives and Grapevine boards attended.
- Now accepting Venmo.
- Donating a basket for Intergroup Picnic.

4. Old Business

Traditions Play – July 18

Final logistics:

- **Cast Arrival:** 10:30 AM
- **Doors Open:** 11:30 AM
- **Play Begins:** 11:45 AM
- **Food & Fellowship:** 2 PM
- **Cleanup:** 2–3 PM

Food coordination:

- Members will bring assorted dishes.
- District budget will cover pizza, coffee, water, soda, cutlery.

Coffee & supplies:

- Church kitchen available; includes coffee urns and silverware.
- Coolers needed; several members volunteered.

Jim reminded cast:

“You don’t have to memorize anything — we hold the scripts in front of us.”

5. New Business

No new business brought forward.

6. Area Chair Report – Justin (Area 31 Chair)

Justin provided updates:

- **Area Assembly:** October 10–11 in District 3; hybrid format.
- Saturday will include educational sessions with delegates and officers.
- Elections for New England Regional Trustee representatives.
- **Group Inventories:** Are available upon request; conducted by past delegates.
- **Incoming Commitments:** Area officers available to speak on service.
- **Tradition & Concept Meetings:**
 - District 3 Tradition Meeting: 2nd Saturday, 10 AM (Zoom).
 - Concepts Meeting: Thursdays 7 PM (hybrid).
- **Grapevine Event:** July 25 at East Street, Ludlow.
- **State Convention:** November 6–8; hotel rooms are filling quickly.

- **Young People's Committee:** First Sunday monthly at 5 PM, Springfield.
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7. Institutions Report – JD (Institutions Chair)

JD reported:

- They do over **130 commitments** across jails, detoxes, rehabs.
- **36 commitments open**; volunteers needed.
- Mill Street now requires **CORI checks**.
- New **100-bed detox opening in Agawam**; will require significant volunteer support.

Quote from JD:

“There’s a lot of enthusiasm — these meetings are interactive and working out well.”

8. Grapevine Report – Carolyn

Carolyn presented a historical overview of the Grapevine:

- Founded **1944**; first issue mailed to AA members serving in WWII.
- Adopted as AA’s national magazine in **1945**.
- Known as a **“meeting in print.”**
- Archives include articles from **June 1944 to present**.
- Articles do **not** go through conference approval due to volume.
- Anyone (AA or non-AA) may submit stories.

Quote from Carolyn:

“The steps, traditions, and concepts are the magazine’s guidelines — nothing has changed.”

9. Closing

Meeting closed with the I am Responsible Statement.

Next Meeting: August 3, 2026 at 7:00 PM.