District 5 Service Meeting Minutes

Date: October 5, 2026
Opened With: Serenity Prayer
Chair: Jim
Secretary: Alicia

OPENING and 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, reviewing the responsibilities of the General Service Representative, qualifications for service, attendance expectations, and the GSR's role as the link between individual groups and AA as a whole.

VISITORS

• Visitors included Tyler from Plymouth and Robin, Accessibility Co-Chair.

TREASURER’S REPORT

• No Treasurer Report was available.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

Alicia reviewed highlights from the September meeting, including redistricting discussions, Grapevine subscriptions, treasury updates, Co-DCM discussions, the Alternate Delegate report, Accessibility Committee report, and Service Manual presentation.

GSR REPORTS

Sunrise Group – Joanne
Meets 7:00 am, Three Rivers, MA
Joanne reported that approximately 200 members are associated with the group, with 20 to 50 active participants. The group supports commitments at Mill Street, recovery facilities, and Pueblo Jail. All service positions are currently filled.

Members reported concerns regarding treasury accountability and pie-chart contributions. Questions were raised about maintaining a prudent reserve before contributions are distributed. Additional discussion focused on anonymity both inside and outside meetings. Members also discussed the practice of individuals purchasing coffee, supplies, and literature directly rather than contributing through the Seventh Tradition and seeking reimbursement from the group.

Clearcut Directions Women's Big Book Meeting – Jessica
Meets Tuesday evenings at St. Mark's Church in East Longmeadow.
Jessica reported that the group meets Tuesday evenings at St. Mark's Church in East Longmeadow. The group remains financially stable, all service positions are currently filled, and members continue an alcohol education commitment with Boca Recovery in Springfield. Monthly coins continue to be distributed. The group passed a motion to recognize all anniversaries on the final Tuesday of each month and moved the business meeting to the third Tuesday before the regular meeting to better accommodate members with family obligations.

Tuesday Night 12 & 12 – Karl
Meets Tuesdays at All Saints Church in South Hadley.
Karl reported that attendance remains steady and all major group positions are filled. Monthly chips, anniversaries, and Tradition discussions continue.

Lost and Found Group
Meets Thursdays in Chicopee at 6:30 pm
Alicia reported that the Thursday beginner discussion meeting continues in Chicopee. The group is still seeking an Alternate GSR and Grapevine Representative. Members discussed possible changes to the meeting format because portions of the script and readings appear confusing to newcomers. No active commitments were reported.

OLD BUSINESS

District Elections and Co-DCM Position
Jim reminded members that district elections will be held next month. He explained that a new Co-DCM will be needed when leadership rotates. Discussion included the responsibilities of the position, attendance expectations, participation at Area meetings and Assemblies, and support of local groups.

Justin and other members provided additional information regarding NARAASA, the General Service Conference structure, and the responsibilities of district trusted servants. Members were encouraged to consider standing for election.

A lengthy discussion was held regarding NARAASA expenditures that exceeded the approved budget by approximately $1,500. Karl expressed concern that the overage had not been communicated back through district channels and questioned how regional expenditures could exceed budget projections while district budgets had been reduced.

Justin explained that the Area Finance Committee approved reimbursement after reviewing available funds and prior commitments. He noted that NARAASA continues to be viewed as an important training opportunity for trusted servants. Additional explanation was provided regarding historical reporting practices, voluntary return of reimbursements as contributions by some trusted servants, and the need to accurately record actual expenditures.

Discussion continued regarding budget accountability, communication between the Area and districts, the role of the Finance Committee, and the value of NARAASA as a service-training event. Members agreed that communication regarding budget variances should be improved in the future.

Area Officer Attendance
Karl also shared concerns from his home group regarding attendance by Area officers at district workshops and meetings. Justin acknowledged these concerns and explained that family and work obligations had affected attendance at certain events but stated that Area officers generally make every effort to attend in person whenever possible.

Area Report
Justin reported that the Roundup Committee is seeking ideas for future Roundup locations. He noted that a request for feedback sent to GSRs received no responses.

Justin announced plans to involve Districts 2, 4, and 5 in identifying future Assembly locations and encouraging greater participation in election assemblies. A proposal regarding mileage reimbursement for the Area Technical

Host passed its first vote and will require a second vote. Mike B. was selected as Area 31's candidate for Northeast Regional Trustee consideration.

Justin also reported that more than twenty group inventories have been completed this year. Outgoing commitments remain available, and groups were encouraged to request presentations. Monthly Concept Meetings and virtual Traditions meetings continue to be available throughout the Area.

NEW BUSINESS

Committee Participation
Members discussed the need for greater participation in Area committees. Accessibility, CPC, and other committees continue to seek active members. GSRs were encouraged to bring committee information back to their groups and encourage participation.

CONCEPT FIVE
A presentation on Concept Five, The Right of Appeal, emphasized protection of minority opinion within the General Service structure. Discussion focused on the opportunity for members in the minority to speak following a vote, the possibility of reconsideration when minority opinion changes the understanding of an issue, and the importance of ensuring that all perspectives are heard before final decisions are made.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
District elections will be held at the next meeting. Ray is expected to attend as next month's Area guest. Robin volunteered to present Concept Six. Members were encouraged to participate in Area committees and service opportunities.

CLOSING
The meeting closed with the Responsibility Declaration.

Next Meeting: November 2, 2026

Lost and Found Group – Alicia
Thursday beginner discussion meeting in Chicopee.
Seeking an Alternate GSR.
Grapevine Representative position remains vacant.
Group is reviewing meeting format language and structure.
No active outgoing commitments at this time.

Sunrise Group – Martha and Joanne
Meets daily from 7:00–8:00 AM in Three Rivers.
Approximately 200 members with 20–50 active members.
Supports commitments at Mill Street, recovery facilities, and local institutions.
All service positions currently filled.
Monthly coins and annual anniversary recognitions continue.

Group Concerns Discussed
- Treasury accountability and pie chart contributions.
- Importance of maintaining prudent reserves.
- Understanding and practicing anonymity.
- Reimbursement practices versus direct purchases by members.

4. Old Business

No old business was reported.

5. New Business

NERAASA Budget Discussion

- Significant discussion occurred regarding NERAASA expenditures exceeding budget by approximately $1,500.
- Members expressed concern about budget overages not being communicated back to district members.
- Justin explained the Finance Committee approved expenditures based on prior commitments and available funds.
- Area leadership agreed communication regarding future budget decisions can be improved.

District Elections and Co-DCM Position

- Elections will be held next month.
- Jim reported his final DCM meeting will occur before rotation.
- Co-DCM is a two-year commitment consisting of one year as Co-DCM and one year as DCM.
- Responsibilities include District meetings, Area meetings, Assemblies, and encouraging GSR participation.

6. Area Report – Justin

- Roundup Committee is seeking ideas for future locations.
- An email requesting feedback from District 5 GSRs received no responses.
- Accessibility, CPC, and other committees continue to seek participation.
- Districts are being encouraged to help identify future Assembly locations.
- Mileage reimbursement proposal for the Area technical host passed its first vote and requires a second vote.
- Mike B. was elected as Area 31's Northeast Regional Trustee candidate.
- Group inventories and outgoing commitments remain available.
- Monthly Concept Meetings continue.

7. Committee Participation

Members discussed the need for additional participation in Area committees. Groups were encouraged to send representatives to Accessibility, CPC, PI, and other committees.

8. Concept Five Reading

Concept Five: Right of Appeal

- Protects minority opinion.
- Permits members in the minority to speak after a vote.
- Allows additional consideration and possible reconsideration of decisions.
- Helps ensure an informed group conscience.

9. Announcements

- District elections will take place at the November meeting.
- Ray will attend as next month's Area guest.

- Robin volunteered to present Concept Six.
- Committee service opportunities are available throughout Area 31.

10. Closing

Meeting closed with the Responsibility Declaration:

"If anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there, and for that I am responsible."