

## **Berkshire Intergroup Committee Meeting**

March 11, 2024

Meeting opened with the serenity prayer and preamble

**Roll Call:** Courtney L (Chair), Joan P (Southern Berkshire), Ray M (Area 31 – alternate delegate), Dwayne M (Co-chair), Robin D (Office manager), Michael W (Northern Berkshire), Jaydin C (Berkshire Big Book), Craig (Web servant), Brian W (DCM), Mary E (Watch Your Step), Peg F (Monterey 11<sup>th</sup> Step), Sam H (Treasurer), Michael S (Men’s 12<sup>th</sup> Step), Elaine B (Keep It Simple), Rusty C (Great Barrington Men’s), Susan B (Secretary)

**Secretary:** (Susan B) February minutes were reviewed and approved. Reps were reminded and encouraged to send news and announcements of anniversaries to [berkshireintergroupnews@gmail.com](mailto:berkshireintergroupnews@gmail.com). Reps were reminded to send in corrections to meeting information.

**Treasurer:** (Sam H) The February report was presented as a summary and approved.

**Office Manager:** (Robin D) The office manager’s report was summarized and approved.

**Website:** (Craig S) The literature tab on the website has been updated. The ownership of the website is being migrated to the Intergroup email address. Craig is working with Sam on registration issues.

**Area 31:** (Ray M) Ray reported that he went to NERAASA in Hershey, PA and that it was a success. He also attended NERD (for regional delegates) in Albany.

As alternate delegate he is serving as the program co-chair for the MA state convention. The next planning meeting will be on March 26. Interest in joining Ray’s carpool can be sent to [altdelegate@area31aa.org](mailto:altdelegate@area31aa.org).

The proposed agenda items are now available. Several will be discussed at the mini-conference on March 23 from 9:00 to 4:00 in Westfield. The area business meeting will take the next day from 1:00 to 5:00, but is likely to end earlier.

The hybrid concept meeting is still being held on the first Thursday at 7:00 pm.

The area website has been revamped and is more “user friendly.”

The area continues to offer to send people who can speak about service or facilitate group inventories.

**District 3:** (Brian W) 26 people attended the sharing session held on March 9 which looked at the agenda items that have been chosen for the mini-conference.

District 3 is planning on hosting a workshop the first week of April for people who might be interested in submitting stories for the “Do You Think You’re Different” pamphlet or Grapevine.

People interested in hearing MP3 recordings from NERAASA can write to [berkshirecountyyaa@gmail.com](mailto:berkshirecountyyaa@gmail.com).

**Institutions:** (absent) An invitation sent by Courtney was not responded to.

**Chair:** (Courtney L) Topics would be brought up in old business.

**Co-chair:** (Dwayne M) Nothing at this time.

## **Old business:**

### *2024 event planning*

Mary E reported that the Watch Your Step group expressed the interest in the idea of having

- picnic in the summer
- dance
- another 11<sup>th</sup> step retreat.

Other reps have not been able to get feedback yet.

Event planning was tabled to April.

### *Reinstating "Bookie" meeting*

Watch Your Step: Interested in participating in outgoing meetings but not incoming

Stockbridge Tower: Enthusiastic about participating

Northern Berkshire: Already has a network but there is some interest

### *Bylaws*

These will be looked at by the steering committee in April.

## **IT ad hoc committee:** (Rusty C, chair)

### *Hotline*

Some discussion took place. The majority of the committee voted that a live 24/7 reception is preferable to a call forwarding service. Concern was expressed that the service could be improved; that calls are sometimes not returned. It was expressed that the idea of training, a workshop or more guidance on how to be effective as a hotline volunteer might be useful. The "script" used by the receptionists might be worth taking a look at. Sam reported that the reception service cost \$170 or more for 6 of the past 8 months and \$300+ for the others.

### *Payment alternatives at the office*

Rusty reported that setting up a credit card option would be difficult and expensive.

The options of PayPal and Venmo with a possible QR code were discussed. Sam noted that since we are not a 501 3c, we would not be eligible for a lower fee rate. Ray said the area is registered as such.

Robin reported that interest in alternative options for payment is expressed less than once a week. Currently approximately 60% pay with cash; 30-40% by check.

One person thought an alternative payment method might be attractive to younger members and newcomers. Most did not perceive a strong need to go further.

### *Phone service*

Services, including cloud-based, that could offer significant savings are being investigated.

### *Online meeting lists*

The interest of many to have the option of being able to print meeting lists on 8 ½ x 11 paper in a spreadsheet format is in process.

## **New business:**

The idea of planning an event was tabled pending additional feedback from reps.

The proposal of whether or not documents such as committee minutes and bylaws should be posted on the website was tabled.

Meeting closed with the responsibility pledge.