

Berkshire Intergroup Committee Minutes

April 8, 2024

Meeting opened with the Serenity Prayer and Preamble

Roll Call: Bob M (Area 31), Joan P (Southern Berkshire), Tom Y (Institutions Committee), Karen L (Thursday Night Women), Dwayne M (Co-chair), Courtney L (Chair), Mike M (Website), Brian W (DCM), Michael S (Men's 12th Step), Elaine B (Keep It Simple), Michael W (Northern Berkshire), Sam H (Treasurer), Peg F (Monterey 11th Step), Craig (Web Servant), Bob R (Young at Heart), Kaitlyn B (Sheffield 12&12), Susan B (Secretary)

Secretary: (Susan B) March minutes summarized and approved. Reminder given for anniversaries and events to be sent in by the end of the week. Will be making an effort to get minutes out sooner.

Treasurer: (Sam H) March treasury had a \$630 loss due to a deficit because of low contributions. Sam reported that this has happened before at this time of year and therefore is not all that surprising.

Office Manager: (Robin D – absent) Questions about Robin's report, which has been sent out, can be directed to her.

Website: (Craig and Mike M) Bills have been paid and transferred over to the Intergroup's current debit card. The website literature page has been updated. The domain had to be transferred to the Berkshire Intergroup email address. It was approved that, as a safeguard, Mike M will stay on as co-owner. Craig, Mike and Sam will work out the details.

Area 31: (Bob M – Area Chair) Bob did not have a lot to report because the Area meeting will be taking place this Wednesday.

This year the Round-up will take place on one day only on June 1 at St. John's Lutheran Church, 60 Broad Street, Westfield. Hours to be determined.

An ad hoc committee has been created to find a solution for storage of supplies.

Western Mass Intergroup will be having their golf tournament on May 25. Lunch and dinner will be included. A flyer is available on the Western Mass Intergroup website.

The Fall Assembly will be hosted by District 5.

The Area 31 website has a lot of information.

Past delegates are available to help groups with inventories.

The area is able to bring service commitments to groups where how service has helped members' recovery.

District 3: (Brian W)

The district will hold a meeting on tradition 4 at 7 pm on Sunday, April 13.

A "mock conference" to help people understand better what happens at the General Service Conference will take place on the 2nd Monday at 8 pm for the rest of 2024.

Chair: (Courtney L) Courtney spoke of the successful writing workshop hosted by the district. The focus was on writing and submitting articles for consideration for inclusion in the revision of the "Do You Think You're Different" pamphlet and the Grapevine. Access to the slides presented by Vera F can be requested by contacting Brian. Courtney reported that she will be submitting a piece she wrote during the workshop.

Co-chair: (Dwayne M) Dwayne gave an update on the actions of the IT *ad hoc committee*. There is no need for the capability to pay by credit card at the Intergroup office. There does not appear that there will be significant savings by switching vendors who provide a 24/7 reception service.

The meeting list can now be downloaded onto an 8 ½ x 11 sheet of paper. Bob B made the spreadsheet format possible. It will be updated regularly.

Looking at switching to a VOIP type of phone service has been put on hold because more information is needed re: the infrastructure in place and uncertainty about the future of the office. If a change is made before August, 2025, Verizon will charge \$110.98 to break the contract.

It was decided that it is not necessary to continue meeting at this time. They will resume when the need arises.

Old Business:

Bylaws

The steering committee met, reviewed and approved the current version of the bylaws. The committee decided that they can be amended and proposed changes can be entered into a document. The idea of revisiting this annually in April was suggested. A clean copy was sent along with one marked up with changes to the reps. A motion to approve the current bylaws as written was passed.

Activities

A discussion took place around the ideas reps have brought to the committee. There was considerable interest expressed around the idea of having a picnic which could possibly include other activities such as a chili-cookoff. Unfortunately, no one except Craig volunteered to be on an ad hoc committee which could look into planning. Peg and Joan said they would go back to their groups to see if there were any people who might be willing to serve on such a committee. Anyone who wants to be on the committee can let Courtney know.

Bookie Meeting

Mike M thinks it would be a great idea to bring it back. At one point 4-5 groups were booking speakers in advance. He reported that groups from Pittsfield were particularly interested but were not well represented at this committee meeting. A bookie list is also available from Western Mass Intergroup.

Bob M said the Western Mass has been holding hybrid bookie meetings but believe they work better when held totally in-person and are headed in that direction.

Susan offered to open the Intergroup meeting early to make beginning this process possible.

The sentiment was expressed that the committee was not ready to move forward at this time until reps can come back with names of people willing to act as "bookie reps."

At least one committee member did not feel it was necessary to be that formal.

New Business: None

The meeting closed with the Responsibility Pledge.