

Berkshire Intergroup

October 14, 2024

Meeting opened with the Preamble and Articles of Purpose

Roll Call: Robin D (Office Manager), Dwayne M (Co-Chair), Cheryl (Virtual Sober at Sunrise), Craig (Web Servant), Courtney L (Chair), Bob M (Area Chair), Mary E (Watch Your Step), Bob W (Keep It Simple), Peg F (Monterey 11th Step and On Awakening), Michael W (Northern Berkshire), Devin A-S (Great Barrington Men's), Nicholas M (Lenox Big Book Step), Susan B (Secretary)

Secretary: (Susan B) September minutes accepted.

Treasurer: (Absent) September report accepted.

Office Manager: (Robin D) Robin attended her first meeting for special workers of central offices and intergroups. She found it worthwhile and informative.

Website: (Craig) Craig is pulling events from the newsletter and trying to get them up on the website in a timely manner.

Area 31: (Bob M, Area Chair) District 5 will host the Fall Assembly on October 19-20 in Chicopee. On Saturday there will be information on what committees do and don't do as well as a game of Jeopardy, which is hoped to be a "team building" exercise.) The business meeting will take place on Sunday afternoon where 6-month reports will be made.

The area can organize service commitments and group inventories. It holds a hybrid meeting on the concepts on the first Thursday of the month.

The 2025 NERAASA conference in February will be virtual.

The Western MA Young People in AA will host the state young people's convention at the Marriott in Springfield in August, 2025.

There are group anniversary celebrations and a Thanksgiving happening. More information can be found on the Western MA and Area websites.

District 3: (Absent)

Institutions: Elections will be held in November. Approximately 50 groups in our district are covering 32 meetings being held in 4 institutions.

Chair: (Courtney L) Nothing to report.

Co-Chair: (Dwayne M) The chili cook-off went well with 50-60 attending. Dwayne will be acting as the District 3 rep for Western MA Young People in AA. The 2025 Massachusetts State Convention of Young People in AA will be at the Springfield Marriott.

Old Business:

Three “bookies” exchanged speakers at 6:00.

There are still no ideas on how (or if) to acknowledge/celebrate the 35th anniversary of Berkshire Intergroup.

The issue of anonymity and posting minutes on the area website was brought up. There were no volunteers willing to form an ad hoc committee or do any research on this. Further discussion on this was tabled.

New Business:

Elections will take place next month for intergroup, the district and institutions.

It was proposed that officers write up something about their service experience that Susan could include with the newsletter mailing.

Robin D, Cheryl V and Dwayne M volunteered to work on the Christmas alkathon. The first planning meeting will be October 25 at 5:00 pm.

The issue of the office and the possibility of having or wanting to move was discussed. The benefit of having a plan for the future. Bob W relayed the challenging experience he had with Western MA Intergroup having to move very quickly. Robin and Dwayne will begin an ad hoc committee to look into the issue; Possible spaces? Put aside money? Etc. Robin raised questions on long-term planning: What’s next? Does anyone know about commercial leasing? What do groups need? How can we best fulfill our articles of purpose?

Robin suggested that people consider being part of an area committee; CPC, PI, Grapevine, Round-Up, etc and directed people to take a look at the area website for more information. “The more involved I got, the more fun it was.”

Courtney raised the concern that attendance at Intergroup committee meetings has dropped and suggested the idea that reps go to other groups to see if they can generate interest.

Craig brought up the idea that with more events, there are more ways to get involved. The perhaps the need needs to be specific.

Bob W mentioned that it seems as though 10% do 90% of the work.

Meeting adjourned with the Responsibility Pledge.