

**May 6, 2020**  
**District 1 GSR Minutes, Butler Area A.A.**

**Opening Session:** (Deb F.) The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Serenity Prayer. Tradition 5 was read by Deb K. Concept 5 was read by Becky P.

**Roll Call and Secretary's Report:** (David E.) Present. A motion was made to accept the March 2020 minutes. The motion was seconded. No discussion or corrections. The minutes were approved. [Note: Since there was no District 1 meeting in April, there were no minutes from April to approve.]

**Roll Call:** *15 of 32 GSRs present; 5 of 10 coordinators present; 2 of 4 officers present.*

**Secretary's Report:**

- If you are submitting a coordinator report, a home group report, or mark your calendar event, please give it to the secretary by the end of each month's GSR meeting. It **will not** go into the minutes unless you write it down and turn it in. If you need a form, please see the secretary.
- If you are a new GSR or if any home group information has changed, please see the secretary to fill out a Group Information Change Form.

If you have not received the minutes and you are a GSR, coordinator, or officer, please contact the secretary. If you see a mistake, please email the secretary: [davidmetzel@hotmail.com](mailto:davidmetzel@hotmail.com).

**DCM (District Committee Member) Report:** (Deb F.) Present.

- Thanks to all GSRs, Coordinators, Officers, alternates, and interested individuals for attending and supporting District 1 via Zoom in these challenging and unprecedented times.
- Thanks to Garrett E. and David E. for their efforts in organizing the Zoom meetings and updating the district meeting list during the weeks when the meeting schedule was changing and being updated daily.
- Reminder that only GSRs, Coordinators, and Officers are permitted to speak on the floor during district meetings. This is especially important in navigating the Zoom format. Also, a reminder to "mute" your sound when not speaking during a Zoom meeting. This improves the quality of the pictures and sound.
- Addressed an issue that caused some confusion during the last district meeting. The monies collected in the "gratitude can" at the Gratitude Dinner is sent to the General Service Office in New York on behalf of District 1 – all of it. This is District 1's annual contribution to the GSO.
- Since the Area 60 Pre-Conference Assembly Weekend (PCAW) was cancelled, Deb will be giving the money provided for her to attend the weekend back to the district.

**Alternate DCM Report:** (Rob M.) Present, no report.

**Treasurer's Report:** (Gary F.) Absent.

- A motion was made to accept the February 2019 treasurer's report. The motion was seconded. No discussion or corrections. The report was approved.
- A copy of the March 2020 and April 2020 treasurer's reports are attached at the end of the May 2020 minutes.

**Answering Service Report:** (Bruce B.) Present.

- Bruce B. (coordinator) and Robin G. (alternate coordinator) have been maintaining the answering service phone during the past two months and will continue to do so until meetings reopen and there is another in-person District 1 GSR meeting.
- July – Sobriety Hill 12 & 12
- June and August through December 2020 are open.
- ***WE NEED 12-STEP CALLERS! Please consider signing up.***
- **Reminder: Use only the numbers on the call list, even if you have a different phone number for someone.**
- ADDITIONAL REMINDERS: (1) ANSWER THE PHONE! (2) Please remember to log all calls received and put the name of the 12-Step caller in the log; (3) Remember to check the voicemails and call the individuals back; (4) Keep the phone charged.
- If you are interested, Bruce can show you how to set the phone to ring directly to your cell phone so that you do not have to carry the district phone with you. All you must do is ask him to assist you.
- This is what we do!

**PI/CPC Coordinator Report:** (Chuck J.) Absent, no report.

**Web Chair Report:** (Garrett E.) Present.

- There are currently 20 meetings per week (not including the committee meeting which is on Sundays at 2:00 p.m.). See the district website for a complete list of meetings which can be downloaded to your computer and printed out for your convenience. The website also has a set of directions that will walk you step-by-step through the process of getting started if you are unfamiliar with the Zoom meeting format.
- Matt has been hosting the morning meetings. Garrett and Barbara have been doing the afternoon and evening meetings. Mary Ann has been taking care of the Friday night speaker meeting. (Forgive me if I got any of this wrong. Taking notes via Zoom is a work in progress. I think this is what Garrett shared.)
- The morning and afternoon meetings have been averaging 10+ people; the evening meetings have been averaging 20+ people per day. There have been as many as 50-100 people for the Friday night speaker meeting at 9:00 p.m. The weekly average is about 380 people.
- A motion was made for the district to reimburse Garrett for the money required to operate the Zoom accounts. Currently there are 3 paid accounts at a cost of \$15.00 per month each for a total of \$45.00. The motion was seconded. This was followed by discussion of the pros & cons of the district covering these costs, the uniqueness and

challenges of the current situation, and the spirit of the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition which states that "Every A.A. group out to be self-supporting, declining outside contributions." The discussion also touched on ways to make it possible for members to support the Zoom meetings. (More on this discussion below.) Following the discussion, the motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

- A motion was then made to open a Venmo account which would allow individuals to make online contributions to the district to cover the cost of the Zoom meetings. For those who are unfamiliar with it, Venmo is a mobile payment service much like PayPal. (In fact, PayPal owns Venmo.) Venmo account holders can transfer funds to others via a mobile phone app. Both the app and the service are free. Discussion on the motion followed and included the above explanation of what Venmo is, how it works, and how the district would go about implementing it. This will include linking the account to the district checking account so that donations can be deposited directly to the district. The donated money will be used to reimburse Garret E. for the \$45.00 per month (\$15.00 x 3) to keep the Zoom meetings active with any money over and above that amount going to the district. If the Venmo donations fall below the \$45.00 threshold, the district will reimburse Garret the difference. Following the discussion, the motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

**Activities Committee:** (Mindy F.) Present.

- The "Singing Taco" meeting scheduled for May 2<sup>nd</sup> has been POSTPONED. The American Legion is going to allow us to move the date without losing our deposit. Once venues and meetings open back up, we will select a new date. Tickets already sold for May 2<sup>nd</sup> will transfer to the new date so HOLD ON to your tickets. Anyone who needs a refund should email Mindy and she will mail you a check for your \$5.00.
- As of this time the "End of Summer Celebration" picnic is still scheduled for August 15<sup>th</sup> at Alameda Park – the Pine Shelter. The time is TBD. We will keep you informed as things begin to open and we get more details.

**Hospital Coordinator Report:** (Jan H.) Absent, no report.

**Gaiser Center Coordinator Report:** (Raeann B.) Absent, no report.

**Davis Archway Coordinator Report:** (Matt S.) Absent, no report.

**Men's Jail:** (Dave W., alternate) Absent, no report.

**Women's Jail:** (Jen H.) Present.

- Literature has been picked up and is available for when meetings resume.

**Open Positions:**

THE FOLLOWING DISTRICT SERVICE POSITIONS REMAIN OPEN:

- PI/PCP (alternate)
- Web Chair (alternate)
- Archives Committee Coordinator
- Archives Committee (alternate)
- Men's Jail Coordinator
- Women's Jail (alternate)

No action was taken on Open Positions. Please share this information with your home group members and at the Zoom meetings. Anyone interested in these positions should attend the next District 1 meeting on June 3, 2020. As of this time we are planning for this to be another Zoom district meeting. If this changes we will send out an email notification.

### **Old Business:**

- The Day of Sharing was POSTPONED. As of this time the plan is to reschedule the Day of Sharing once things are reopened and meetings resume. Tickets already sold will transfer to the new date once it is selected, so HOLD ON to your tickets. Anyone who needs a refund should contact Deb F. or the committee and they will make arrangements to refund your money. Please be patient – this is going to be a work in progress.

### **New Business:**

- Discussion about recoverytapes.com recording the speakers from the Friday Zoom Speaker Meeting and what needs to be done to make it happen. Only the speaker would be recorded, and the recording would be placed into their archive of recovery speaker tapes. It does not cost any money. A request was made to have these recordings put the recordings on the district website so they would be readily available to all AA members in District 1. There was also discussion about whether written consent would be required from the speakers to allow the district to do this. The online meetings committee was going to investigate these questions and make the necessary arrangements to move forward with this.

### **Home Group Reports:**

- When your homegroup eventually schedules to reopen, please send your information to the district secretary (David E.) via email. He will compile a list of the meetings that reopen and forward it to all the GSRs, Coordinators, Officers, and the Web Chair so that everyone knows what is available in District 1. This is true for the hospital, jails, and treatment facilities as well.

### **Mark Your Calendars:**

- No events to announce currently.

***For more information on what's going on in our area, please visit the Area 60 website at: [www.wpaarea60.org](http://www.wpaarea60.org).***

The next District 1 GSR Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 3, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. At this time, it is scheduled to take place via Zoom. If anything changes you will be notified. I will send out a reminder the week before the meeting. Remember, you do not need to be a GSR to attend. Attendance is a great way to see how your local AA works.

Motion to close at 7:52 p.m. Seconded. The meeting closed with "The Responsibility Declaration" and "The Lord's Prayer."

Respectfully submitted in love & service,  
David E.  
District 1 Secretary

This is confidential information pertaining to Butler Area Alcoholics Anonymous and is intended for A.A. members only. If you are not the named A.A. member, you should not disseminate, distribute, or recopy this document. If you have received this by mistake, please destroy or delete it. If this is an email transmission, it cannot be guaranteed to be secured or error-free as information could be intercepted, corrupted, lost, destroyed, arrive late, be incomplete, or contain viruses. The sender therefore does not accept liability for any errors or omissions in the contents of this message which arise because of such transmissions.

**Officers and Coordinators:** Their phone numbers and emails will now be on a separate page. It will be attached to GSR email, but it will not be attached to the minutes posted on the district website.

**Treasurer's Report:** The treasure's report will now be on a separate page. It will be attached to GSR email, but it will not be attached to the minutes posted on the district website. Please make checks payable to **District One A.A.** Group contributions should be mailed to **P.O. Box 1725, Butler, PA 16003-1725.**

*Note: Any person(s) wanting to go into the prison needs to complete the Orientation Program at the prison. The orientation is held on the first Friday of every month from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. At that time, volunteers complete the forms necessary to check their background and they receive instruction on how to comport themselves within the prison. Available slots for the orientation training are allotted on a first-come, first-serve basis. To reserve a spot, please call or email Counselor Kelly Long at the Butler County Prison. Phone: 724-431-1347. Email: [klong@co.butler.pa.us](mailto:klong@co.butler.pa.us). AA jail volunteers are required to be clean & sober and off paper (parole/probation) for at least 1 year.*