

District 33 March 2024 Meeting Minutes

Attendance: (9) Jen P, Steve P, Jennifer N, Jay K, George “Stu” S, Brent F, Jeff B, Charlie T, Jeff B

District 33 of Berks County PA meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at St Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church at 117 E Arch St in Fleetwood PA at 6:30 PM. All members of Alcoholics Anonymous are welcome to attend. The next District 33 meeting will be Thursday April 18th, 2024 at 6:30 PM.

Open with Serenity Prayer

Tradition 3: Brent F

Concept 3: Stu

Secretary Report: Secretary Report emailed and printed and reviewed and accepted.

Treasurer Report: Jay K - Checking account balance is \$2,196.77 which with \$65.00 petty cash = \$2,261.77. With \$600.00 prudent reserve, our operating balance is \$1,661.77. We still have 1 outstanding check yet to be cashed related to the joint workshop from the Fall for \$223.69. Additionally we are pending some transactions: \$688 and change for our DCM's expenses for attending NERAASA, a \$100 deposit (donation from the Topton Group), and \$112.82 for DCM expenses for attending the Area meeting. These would make our functional operating balance approximately \$737. Report reviewed and accepted.

DCM Report: Jen P

- The Pre-Conference Sharing Session is April 6th. It is not a pre-approved expense in the Structure Manual to send the DCM and Jen left it up to us whether we wanted her to go or not. It is 50 miles each way and would be a total of \$47 mileage for her to go. We voted unanimously to have Jen go to the Session and approved the expense.
- The Delegate asked that Jen distribute a survey for the Pre-Conference Sharing Session which Jen forwarded with her DCM report email. If you or your groups want anything shared at the Sharing Session, please let Jen know.
- Also in Jen's email were questions from the Delegate about potential changes to the Founders' writings. E.g. should changes be considered or not and if so what processes should be followed. You or your groups can fill that paper out and forward it directly back to the Delegate or you can give to Jen to present at the Pre-Conference Sharing Session.
- Additionally on those questions, some groups were sending them directly to GSO. That created extra work for GSO to go through them and forward them to the appropriate Delegate. Please avoid creating this extra work and time by forwarding them to either Pete B or Jen and not the GSO.
- Jen thanked us for sending her to NERAASA. There were over 1300 attendees. It was a record attendance.
- Next year, NERAASA will be held virtually, hosted by Southern New Jersey. There was an issue with the bid and in the end they were not able to secure a venue. NERAASA for 2025 will be held in Maine.
- Area 59 Grapevine sold \$3,743 in literature at this year's NERAASA.
- The 2nd Area Quarterly meeting was held March 10th.
- Jen will mail the post card we filled out with encouragements for our Delegate Pete B while he attends the General Service Conference.
- The Service Calendar has been updated and Jen distributed that to us as well.
- The Digital Communications subcommittee has released a binder with QR codes for all the pamphlets and that is available on Area59.org and they are available in English, Spanish, and French. It is a cool document that they put a lot of work into preparing.
- The General Service Board held an Inventory in January. If you recall, this resulted from the issues with the Board resignations last year. The results should be released at the General Service Conference at the end of April. If they are, Pete will let the DCMs know and Jen will let us know.
- The trustees Literature Committee has discussed three titles for the Plain Language Big Book and has made a decision but not released the title yet. That will be done at the General Service Conference.

Date: 3/21/2024

- Pete B is on the Literature subcommittee and he will have extra time to read the completed manuscript for the Plain Language Big Book. They will be deciding if they want this to be out before the General Service Conference or not. If so, it will go into the voting process. If not, it will be going back to the drawing board.
- Pete B also shared video about changes to the Founders' writings and he laid out a whole time line. Jen shared the link for this video with her DCM email. This goes to the questions the Delegate shared and Jen shared noted above. Again, if you or your groups have any suggestion you can let Jen know to take to Pre-Conference Sharing Session.
- The trustees Nominating Committee has recommended a slate of officers for the General Service Board and it includes the first alcoholic chair in history.
- Area 59 and Area 60 are co-hosting the hospitality suite at for the 2025 International A.A. Convention.
- The registration fee for the International Convention has been increased and will now be \$180 (it used to be \$160).
- Please make sure your group has the correct address for contributions to Area 59. This changes every 2 years as the Area 59 treasurer changes because they have to use their address. Also, they do electronic payments and that is available on the Area's website.
- There was a motion presented at the Area Quarterly meeting that the Area should strive to offer all Pre-Conference Sharing Sessions and at least one of Mini-Assemblies online or hybrid. After a lot of discussion and 1 motion amendment, this motion failed.
- The Archives subcommittee moved to implement the revised history section into Structure Manual. The Area 59 Structure Manual has a history of the Area in the front of the Structure Manual. They went through this and updated it, made sure it was all correct, and removed things that were not directly related to Area 59. This was not a structure change; this was strictly the history section, pages 6 to 14. This motion did pass unanimously.
- Jen distributed 2 other proposed motions she asked us to take back to our groups for our group consciences:
 - The Finance subcommittee wants to add a paragraph to the Structure Manual about what Area 59 should do when there is an overage in the budget. The budget for Area 59 for this year alone is \$104K. The subcommittee wants to come up with a plan to spend the additional funds when there is an overage above the prudent reserve. They want to involve the Area panel as well as all the DCMs when this happens. There have been recent overages from COVID due to the reduction in expenses with the shutdown. So money built up more quickly than in the past and the Area had to create ways to spend that extra money and they did special projects. Prior to COVID there have been instances where excess funds have just been unilaterally decided by the Area treasurer to be donated to GSO. The subcommittee wants to make sure these decisions are talked about and discussed with everyone. Jen wants us to bring back any question and discuss at the next District meeting and we will vote our District consciences in May and Jen will bring that to the Area Quarterly meeting in June.
 - The Structure subcommittee unanimously recommends that the 2 subcommittees of Public Information and of Cooperation with the Professional Community be combined into 1 joint subcommittee. This is not the first time Area has combined 2 subcommittees: Treatment and Accessibilities used to be separate subcommittees. (RBI itself has their P.I. and C.P.C. combined like this.) We will discuss and bring question at the next District meeting and vote on the proposal in May and Jen will take our District consciences to the Area Quarterly meeting in June.
- The 67th EPGSA is November 8 to 10 in Lancaster. This year will be a voting year where we will elect the officers for the next Panel.
- Area 59 has a library of CDs, USBs, DVDs that is free and available on line.
- The Hispanic A.A. convention will be held in May but website unfortunately is not functioning.
- Since EPGSA this year is a voting year, Jen asked that we please attempt to make ourselves available to meet the Area officers. Generally, there is an understanding of who might be next in line for certain positions but that doesn't necessarily mean they will be good fit. The Area officers have a lot of duties and responsibilities and we should strive to meet and see how current officers are handling their roles.
- Jen also included a list of upcoming Area events. Those are also great opportunities to meet Area officers.

Intergroup report: Steve P

- NERAASA was held February 22 to 25 and was a record attendance.
- The prudent reserve for RBI is \$3,020. It is a large reserve because of the insurance policy they carry. Since the premium was paid back in the fall, RBI has actually been into the prudent reserve but now this is the first month RBI is back into the black and General Funds is positive by \$142. For the Activities Fund, donations have to be marked specifically for the Activities Fund.
- One of the commitments, Clare of Assisi, has closed.

Date: 3/21/2024

- There are 2 meetings that have been removed from the schedule in the past month. One is in D33, the Friday meeting in Blandon that recently changed their name to The Bottom of the Barrel Group. Their Tuesday meeting is still being held.
- There are old Alternative newsletters available on the RBI website, some from the 1990s, which show what peoples thoughts were back then.
- The Unity committee is putting together a meditation and mindfulness skills session at the end of April but a date and location has not been set yet.
- Prison commitments are always looking for new volunteers.
- Bridging the Gap is also always looking for new volunteers.
- District 66 held a workshop on the General Service Conference agenda items.
- The Archives position at RBI was filled.

Workshop: Jen advised our District 33 Inventory is now set and scheduled for April 27th from 11 AM to 2 PM at the same church as our monthly meeting but will be in the large room.

PI / CPC: Jen advised the PI committee for District 33 is in need of some manpower. Please take back to your groups to see if anyone is interested in volunteering. There is plenty to do at the District level or if they want to venture outside of D33 there is plenty to do in all of Berks County.

Grapevine:

GROUP REPORTS

The Bottom of the Barrel Group:

Come as You Are: Jay K – Sundays at 7 PM. Attendance has been slowly increasing; they had about 25 at their most recent meeting. They are working on planning a spring picnic. Potentially in May but they do not have the pavilion booked yet.

End of the Line:

Glenside:

Hamburg Thursday Night BB:

Kutztown Group: Brent F – Thursdays and Fridays at 7 PM. Their attendance is picking up and they have had a couple of newcomers. They are getting some people from the discontinued Friday night Blandon meeting.

Kutztown Sober Living: Steve H – Mondays at 7 PM.

Leesport Group: Charlie T – Saturdays at 9:30 PM. They are doing about the same. They held their Start Your Day Over with Pancakes event and will be having their 41st Anniversary event in May that is being planned.

Mustard Seed:

New Life: Chris H – Fridays at 8 PM.

Live and Let Live:

Shoey Group:

Spirit of Recovery: Mike R – Mondays at 7 PM. They always been a smaller group, 6 to 10 people attending. They had a couple of visitors few weeks ago, about half a dozen including 3 men from the Caron partial hospitalization program. Good to see fresh faces. Their church recently merged as Mike mentioned prior and that is still up in the air but he feels better about their situation now and does not seem like they will have to move.

Date: 3/21/2024

Sunday Morning Speaker: Stu – Sundays at 11AM. Our attendance has been pretty steady, averaging around 25. We've had good speakers. We get several of the EDI residents attending as well and 1 recently became a new home group member.

Time to Start Living: Eric D – Wednesdays and Fridays at 6:30 PM.

Topton: Jeff B – Tuesdays at 7 PM. Their attendance has been steady, about 6 to 10 people. They are having their 30th Anniversary April 2nd. Start time is 7 PM. From 7 to 7:30 they will have food and fellowship and then 2 guest speakers going from 7:30 to 8 PM with potentially going to 8:30 with discussion after the speakers.

Underground Garage: Jennifer N – Wednesdays and Sundays at 7 PM. Attendance has picked back up at their Sunday meetings now and they are averaging about 20 at both meetings.

Old Business:

- Motion made for District 33 to spend \$204 to get literature into the schools and colleges in D33. Motion passed uniamously. Jen had passed out the info and list of schools and colleges at our Feb. meeting.

New Business:

- Mike Y has resigned from his Officer At Large and PI / CPC duties. His work schedule prevents him from regularly attending our District meetings and he does not want to hold D33 back by not being able to attend. Please take back to your groups that these positions are open.
- We will add the District 33 meeting info to the D33 minutes. (See top above)
- We discussed the possibility of creating pre-addressed envelopes for donations to D33. Jay has a stamper that was passed down and has the D33 PO Box address. We also discussed whether we should include postage. We decided Jay will stamp a bunch of envelopes without postage for now and he will hand out to us.

District Night Out: We attended the Bottom of the Barrel Group on Tuesday March 12th. D33 had 5 in attendance (Jen P, Steve P, Jennifer N, Steve H, and Stu). Thank you for attending!

Next District Night Out: We will be attending The Topton Group's 30th Anniversary on April 2nd. The meeting starts at 7 PM and the location is St. Peter's Church at 122 West Franklin St in Topton.

Next Month's Tradition (4): Jennifer N

Next Month's Concept (4): Steve P

End with the Responsibility pledge

DMC: Jen P **ADCM:** Steve P **Secretary:** George "Stu" S **Treasurer:** Jay K **Grapevine:** Nikki P

Workshop Coordinator: Mike L **Intergroup Liaison:** Mike L **Officer at Large:** OPEN **PI/CPC:** OPEN