

## District 33 May 2024 Meeting Minutes

**Attendance:** (8) Steve P, Jennifer N, Jay K, George “Stu” S, Charlie T, Mike L, Chad W, Mike R

*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 June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024.*

### Open with Serenity Prayer

**Tradition 5:** Mike L

**Concept 5:** Charlie T

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

**Treasurer Report:** Jay K - Checking account balance is \$1,575.65 which with \$65.00 petty cash = \$1,640.65. With \$600.00 prudent reserve, our operating balance is \$1,040.65. Report reviewed and accepted.

- We still have the outstanding, un-cashed check for \$223.69 from the joint workshop last Fall. We have pending deposits: donations from Leesport Group (\$100), Kutztown Thursday/Friday Group (\$100), and End of the Line (\$90). These would make our functional operating balance \$1,106.96.
- The expenses for our April 27<sup>th</sup> District Inventory were donated back. Those who paid for items for the inventory donated their costs. To account for this, Jay is going to enter the expense along with a donation in kind. This way, even though there is no net financial effect, the expenses are still logged for accuracy and the historical record for our reference.

**DCM Report:** Steve P

- Steve provided printed copies of Jen's DCM report. He noted the items in blue font are actually clickable links on the copy of the report she emails.
- The 74<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference occurred back in April and the 1<sup>st</sup> Mini Assembly happened the weekend prior to our district meeting. The Mini Assembly was in King of Prussia and it was extremely well attended. They first ran out of chairs and then got more but then ran out of room to put the chairs. People are passionate right now.
- Steve extended Jen's gratitude and thanks for everyone who attended the District Inventory. The input was fantastic.
- Any new GSRs and new AGSRs, please fill out the group change form on [area59aa.org](http://area59aa.org). The link is <https://form.jotform.com/EPGSA/a59groupchange>. There are several important reasons to update the information with any GSR/AGSR changes: 1) So that Area has an up-to-date contact for your group. 2) If you are in the communication group, you can sign up for emails and various things with Area like the Area calendar. Steve has his Google calendar synced with Area's.
- They raised literature prices again and on a little bit of a short notice. Steve advised that at the Mini Assembly, a question was asked about literature and if AA makes money on literature sales. GSO's current price structure for literature is the cost of publication plus 10%. That's a low mark-up compared to what a business would have and doubtful if even covers their overhead. (So basically, they either don't make money or very little.) Another interesting thing said there was that is every AA member in North America donated \$6.42 as an individual, GSO would be in the black for the year and not need anything else. This led to brief discussion about the common thought / complaint that GSO costs so much because they are in New York City. Steve advised there may be more info with the Delegate's report but Pete B's has advised this was looked into and considered and researched. They narrowed down alternatives to 4 cities (Philly being one!) but they discovered that approximately 80% of the GSO staff would not move. So that was not pursued further.
- The 67<sup>th</sup> EPGSA is November 8 to 10 in Lancaster. It is a voting year. It is not too late to volunteer and you can sign up at <https://form.jotform.com/EPGSA/epgsavolunteer>.

**Intergroup report: Mike L**

- Intergroup is in need of an alternative treasurer. The current treasurer, Tammy G, is stepping down at the end of this panel. She has held the position for several years. They are hoping for a candidate soon so that Tammy can assist them step into his/her duties between now and then. They also need a new co-signer on the bank account.
- Intergroup passed a \$1,200 yearly budget for the PI / CPC committee so they have a fund to draw from for their work.
- Institutions had all commitments taken.
- Intergroup is still looking at the costs associated with the Hotline and if any saving are available. (Basically, we are paying advertising charges. Decades ago, you had to pay to have the AA Hotline appear in the Yellow Pages and now it is much more web-based of course and they are looking into what we are paying for and what we are getting from what we are paying.)
- The Hotline had 3 calls to talk, 15 for information. They handed out tear-off flyers as well as sign up form for members to volunteer.
- Website: Mike deferred to Steve to talk about “attack hits” to the RBI website. They are international hackers attempting to take over the admin portion of the website and hold it for ransom. They also attack school districts and water companies, basically targets that might not have the best security protection. We are protected though and Steve maintains a personal back-up in addition to the one we are provided from the web service. However, while not a threat to us, it does mean our traffic data like how many visitors the site gets is not any good as these attacks generate many separate hits to the website. Visits to the RBI site might be up a lot but also a lot is from outside U.S. (Columbia, Czechoslovakia, Russia, etc.) generated by these attacks.
- Steve also advised he, like Tammy G, is looking for a back-up website volunteer to be trained and eventually rotate into the webmaster role. Please pass the word around for anyone interested.
- Shirl O is the new archive representative.
- Literature: Inventory lists are available online. Bill has new Intergroup rep packets as well.
- Alternative: Stu does a great job!!!!!!!!!!!!!! We have also put in the Alternative each District’s donation / contribution addresses and thanked groups that donated to D33 and invited the other districts to give me names any groups they would like to thank as well.
- Unity: 30 people showed up for the meditation / mindfulness workshop they held. A motion was made to approve a deposit for the Unity picnic to be held at the Red Caboose Park in West Lawn in June and would have been \$185. That was a deposit for the park and as such had to come out of the General Fund. Rent is the one cost for these events that does not come out of the Activities Fund. That motion failed though after discussion, 16 for, 14 against which did not meet 2/3. There might not be a picnic this year.
- Bridging the Gap had 1 call that was filled.
- Men and Women’s Prisons are regularly taking the message to the prisons.

**Workshop: Mike L**

- We had our District 33 Inventory April 27<sup>th</sup>. 8 people attended including our moderator, past Delegate Hugh H. Mike pointed out 1 idea related to finances. Recall Jay’s report and how he is accounting for the expenses from the Inventory that were donated. We should strive to still turn in any expenses even if we are covering the costs ourselves and not seeking reimbursement. AA Service positions should not depend on anyone’s financial situation and these expenses should be reported. We also talked about reviewing the Structural Manual.

**PI / CPC: Steve P**

- The RBI PI / CPC Committee \$1,200 yearly budget was approved as Mike mentioned.
- For D33 PI / CPC, we are going to be doing the school outreach to schools and colleges in our area. We have discussed and approved that at our prior meetings. That outreach has not started yet, there has been some churn on our committee and the school year is soon ending.
- Volunteers are needed. You do not have to hold a service position to volunteer so please pass the word around your groups. Steve mentioned it’s a great idea for sponsees if you have some that are asking or looking to do some service work.

**Grapevine:**

## GROUP REPORTS

### **The Bottom of the Barrel Group:**

**Come as You Are:** Jay K – Sundays at 7 PM. They are having their Summer Kick-Off picnic on Sunday May 26<sup>th</sup> at Fleetwood Park, starts at 3 PM with speaker at 5 PM. They will not have their normal 7 PM meeting that day. It will be at Pavilion 1, the one closest to the band shell and also closest to the bathrooms. Attendance is good, they are figuring out the new security protocols at the church with the new automated / electronic locks.

### **End of the Line:**

### **Glenside:**

### **Hamburg Thursday Night BB:**

**Kutztown Group:** Brent F – Thursdays and Fridays at 7 PM.

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

**Leesport Group:** Charlie T – Saturdays at 9:30 PM. Attendance is about normal, 15-20. They had a car load of 5 people show up at their most recent meeting. They are having their 42<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary at their next upcoming meeting May 18<sup>th</sup>, it is an open meeting for them and doors open at 8 PM with speaker at 9:30 PM.

### **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. Attendance averaging about 6-10 people, a little bit of an uptick for them. They have been having guests regularly from the Caron Partial Hospitalization Program. This is a newer program at the Caron Wernersville campus where the people in that program are allowed to leave the campus on their own freely in the evening and they return for the night and then classes / treatment the next day. Basically a cross between in-patient and out-patient treatment.

**Sunday Morning Speaker:** Stu – Sundays at 11AM. Our attendance is averaging about 25. Mentioned prior, but we purchased new Steps and Traditions banners with chain and are now hanging those. We have a new home group member, a fellow EDI resident.

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

**Topton:** Jeff B – Tuesdays at 7 PM.

**Underground Garage:** Jennifer N – Wednesdays and Sundays at 7 PM. Attendance has been around 25. They are having a pancake breakfast on June 9<sup>th</sup>. Jennifer had some flyers. Breakfast will be at 9 AM and they will have pancakes, sausages, eggs, juice, coffee, probably potatoes. Home group members will be doing the cooking. There will be a speaker at 10:30 AM and then games after like volleyball and corn hole outside. This will be in lieu of their normal Sunday meeting that day.

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**Old Business:**

- We discussed pre-addressing envelopes for donations to D33. Jay will prepare some envelopes with the stamper we have. We will not include postage / stamps with those. He will just bring the pre-addressed envelopes to our District meeting to distribute.

**New Business:**

- We voted our conscious on Area 59's Finance subcommittee motion to add a paragraph to the Area Structure Manual about what Area 59 should do when there is an overage in the budget. Motion passed 4 to 2.
- We voted our conscious on Area 59's Structure subcommittee motion to join the 2 subcommittees of Public Information and of Cooperation with the Professional Community into 1 joint PI / CPC subcommittee. Motion passed 5 to 1.
- Mike L received an email forwarded from RBI Chair Kay. Marty M, the pastor of Christ Mertz Church in Dryville, is offering to host an AA Group. Marty is an AA Member. That was the church the RBI meetings were last held before they moved to the current location. Pass the word if you know anyone that might be interested.
- Steve discussed if we want to do anything as a District to establish an Archive to keep and retain our bank statements, meeting meetings, workshop notes and documents. Almost everything would be electronic. We discussed possible use of a hard drive / USB versus cloud storage like with a Google Drive. Something to think about over the next 6 months before we have District elections and a new panel.

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**District Night Out:** We attended Live and Let Live on Sunday April 28<sup>th</sup>. D33 had 4 in attendance (Jen P, Steve P, Jay K. and Stu). Thank you for attending!

**Next District Night Out:** We will be attending the Glenside Group on Sunday June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Their meeting starts at 7 PM and the location is Christ Lutheran Church at 1301 Luzerne Street in Reading 19601.

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**Next Month's Tradition (6):** Eric D

**Next Month's Concept (6):** Stu

**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:** Mike L    **PI/CPC:** OPEN