

OPEN ARMS AREA SERVICE MEETING MINUTES

July 7, 2016

Meeting opened by Vice Chair at 7:30 with Serenity Prayer

The 12 Traditions were read by Randy N. and The 12 Concepts were read by Bobby C.

In Attendance:	Chairperson:	Robin V.	845-346-5510	deliadoxie@aol.com
	Vice Chair:	Gil M.	845-346-5510	i22rock@yahoo.com
	Secretary:	Lauren P.	845-820-1274	lpiazza830@gmail.com
	RCM:	Sandy C.	646-261-6215	thechef21@yahoo.com
	Policy & Proc Chair:	Aisha	914-290-9325	aisha@frontiernet.net
	Treasurer:	Craig F.	516-410-4460	craig.f@live.com
	Co- Treasurer:	Open		

Robin welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for being voted in.

First-some housekeeping, our meeting for August will be the second week of the month because the church needs the room. Robin welcomed 2 new GSRs. Robin reported groups that have been updates with NAWs-See list below

IF YOUR HOMEGROUPS NAME IS NOT ON THE LIST BELOW YOU MUST REGISTER WITH NAWs ON THEIR WEBSITE 3-7-11, Addicts R Us, Alive & Free, All Are Welcome, Back From the Grave, Back on Track, By the Book, Hope is Around the Corner, Hope on Thursday, Keep Coming Back, Kicking it Live Gut Level, Man Up, Miracle of Change, Never Alone, Newcomers Group, Pay it Forward, Recovery by the River, Saturday Night Live, Steps in the Right Direction, Some Are Sicker Than Others, Turn it Over

Secretary Report: Previous months minutes read by Lauren P. – copies were distributed. Minutes were accepted by Michael, seconded by Reed.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer’s report was distributed by Craig F., reviewed and accepted by Randy and seconded by Mark.

Policy and Procedure: Robin spoke to Aisha, she is running late. – No policy meeting last month because Aisha was the only one in attendance. Next meeting will be this Saturday at 6 PM at St. Ann’s Church in Washingtonville.

RCM Report: Sandy-went to the emergency meeting-out of that the office was given more money to get through their June expenses paid from the RSO. There were a few motions that came up to try to help the situation. 3 groups did give donations to the area but they are still trying to find ways and means. There are a few possibilities but nothing solid. The literature is not going to carry them. They are trying to get NAWs to give them a big bunch of literature and not have to pay it back so quickly so they can have some breathing room. The location they are renting does not want them to leave because they need a non-profit in the building so they are considering down-sizing again but at the same time, they need the space. The goal is to try to maintain it. There is a lot going on and they are trying to do a convention for 2017-people put in some resumes in to be a part of. There was a fundraiser on the 25th, I don’t know the outcome yet but will find out this weekend. There is another fundraiser they are trying to do now, a boat ride-I will get flyers this Saturday. All these committees have been developed if anyone wants to get involved. There is one on the 24th at my homegroup Clean and Crazy at 6PM, please let your groups know so we can see if we have any interest in terms of the convention. –Robin has been in touch with Lynn the convention committee chair and she would like to come up to our area meeting so I offered her to come in August. –Sandy-yes they want to come and have fundraisers in all the different areas. There is some distention between members on the board and the RSO. They feel they need new leadership and some people don’t want to step down. Regional chair is sick. There is no treasurer or secretary. A lot of positions are open if anyone is interested.

23 GSRs were in attendance; 29 group reports were submitted

Group:	3 – 7 – 11	GSR:	Michael
Day, Place, Time:	Sunday – 6:30 – Montgomery	Donation:	Yes
Format:	Rotate Steps 3 – 7 – 11; 1 st Sunday Tradition of Month	<u>Anniversaries</u>	
Report:		Lori R.	1yrs 7/31/16

Special Needs:		Dan B.	5 yrs	7/31/16
Group:	All Are Welcome	GSR: Donna B.		
Day, Place, Time:	Wednesdays- 3:30-5 PM –309 E. Broadway, Monticello	Donation:	yes	
Format:	Rotating	<u>Anniversaries</u>		
Report:		Rob	1yr	7/27/16
		Janet	1yr	7/27/16
Special Needs:	Need support	Colleen	2yrs	7/27/16
Group:	Back from the Grave	GSR: Lauren P. Filling in		
Day, Place, Time:	Mondays- 7:30-9PM – 2839 Rt 32 Washingtonville	Donation:	Yes	
Format:	Beginner	<u>Anniversaries</u>		
Report:	Great meeting, well attended	None		
Special Needs:	None			
Group:	Back to Basics	GSR: Tim W.		
Day, Place, Time:	Thursday-7 PM-9:30PM – 40 Smith St. Middletown	Donation:	yes	
Format:	Rotating	<u>Anniversaries</u>		
Report:	Group is doing well	Knowledge	27yrs	7/28/16
Special Needs:	None	Nathan	1yr	7/28/16
Group:	Clean and Crazy	GSR: Rafael		
Day, Place, Time:	Sundays – 7PM-9:30PM – 1 st Presbyterian Church Monroe	Donation:	Yes	
Format:	Rotating	<u>Anniversaries</u>		
Report:	Group anniversary 8/21/16 starting at 5:30 PM. Bring a dish if you wish.	Ernesto	37yrs	7/31/16
Special Needs:	None			
Group:	Dopeless Hope Fiends	GSR: Doug B.		
Day, Place, Time:	Tuesday-7 PM-Rock Hill 96 Lake Louise Road	Donation:	Yes	
Format:	Rotating	<u>Anniversaries</u>		
Report:	Average attendance-15 people and 5 at business meetings. Good message and good atmosphere. Have A/C	Nick	1yr	7/26/16
		Jeff	2yrs	7/26/16
Special Needs:	None			
Group:	Friday Night Lights	GSR: Mike R.		
Day, Place, Time:	Friday-10 PM-11PM - Main Street in Goshen	Donation:	Yes	
Format:	Rotating	<u>Anniversaries</u>		
Report:	Going well, average 25-30 people	Jill S.	7yrs	7/29/16
Special Needs:	None			
Group:	Friday Night Time for a Change	GSR: Rodney C.		
Day, Place, Time:	Tues-7PM-8:30PM – 12 Prince St. Monticello	Donation:	No	
Format:	Open	<u>Anniversaries</u>		
Report:	Moving to a new location above. Will now be Tuesday Night Time for a Change	None		
Special Needs:	None			
Group:	Hope on Thursday	GSR: Bobby C.		
Day, Place, Time:	Thursday-7:30 P.M.- First Presbyterian Church Rt 94 Chester	Donation:	Yes	
Format:	Just for Today	<u>Anniversaries</u>		
Report:	Good attendance	None		
Special Needs:	None			
Group:	Innervations	GSR: Laura S.		

Day, Place, Time:	Friday 8PM-9:30PM – Highland Mills	Donation:	yes
Format:	Speaker Topic	<u>Anniversaries</u>	
Report:	Format changed back to 1 ½ hours	Aimee	20yrs 7/29/16
Special Needs:	None		

Group:	It Works How & Why	GSR:	Corey W.
Day, Place, Time:	Saturday 7:30PM – 40 Smith St. Middletown	Donation:	Yes
Format:	Rotating	<u>Anniversaries</u>	
Report:	Work out of the green and gold	Janelle	21yrs
Special Needs:	None		

Group:	Joy Is In The Journey	GSR:	Anthony H.
Day, Place, Time:	Sunday-5:30 P.M- RECAP 40 Smith St, Middletown	Donation:	Yes
Format:	Rotating	<u>Anniversaries</u>	
Report:	Attendance is okay	None	
Special Needs:	Need trusted servants		

Group:	Just For Today	GSR:	Jim B.
Day, Place, Time:	Tues-7:30 P.M/Fri 8 P.M-Port Jervis	Donation:	No
Format:	Rotating	<u>Anniversaries</u>	
Report:	Tuesday attendance is good. Group is interested in hosting a softball game in Port Jervis in Aug/Sept and would like to verse another group.	None	
Special Needs:	Friday night needs support		

Group:	Keys to Success	GSR:	James B.
Day, Place, Time:		Donation:	Yes
Format:		<u>Anniversaries</u>	
Report:	Group is doing well	None	
Special Needs:	None		

Group:	Men on Point	GSR:	Steve R.
Day, Place, Time:	Monday-7:30 PM-New Windsor	Donation:	Yes
Format:	Rotating	<u>Anniversaries</u>	
Report:	All is well. Elections will be next month for all positions. Clean time donation made to help region \$152	Pat H	7yrs 7/25/16
Special Needs:	None		

Group:	The Miracle of Change	GSR:	Reid H.
Day, Place, Time:	Wednesday 7 PM-265 Van Ness ST Newburgh	Donation:	Yes
Format:	Rotating	<u>Anniversaries</u>	
Report:	Everything is great	Ryan	1yr 7/27/16
Special Needs:	None		

Group:	Never Alone	GSR:	Melissa T.
Day, Place, Time:	Wednesday 7PM – Warwick	Donation:	Yes
Format:	Rotating	<u>Anniversaries</u>	
Report:	Group is doing well	None	
Special Needs:	None		

Group:	The Nooners	GSR:	Jaqui
Day, Place, Time:	Mon – Fri, 12:00P.M- 1 st Presbyterian Church, Goshen, NY	Donation:	Yes
Format:	Rotating	<u>Anniversaries</u>	

Report:	Group is doing well	BarbaraT	31yrs	7/28/16
Special Needs:	None			
Group:	New Way of Life	GSR: Randy N.		
Day, Place, Time:	Friday 7 PM – 40 Smith ST Middletown	Donation:	No	
Format:	Rotating	<u>Anniversaries</u>		
Report:	Doing well	None		
Special Needs:	None			
Group:	Reach Out	GSR: Kylee		
Day, Place, Time:	Tuesday 7-8PM-133 Park Place Goshen	Donation:	Yes	
Format:	Rotating	<u>Anniversaries</u>		
Report:	Need trusted servants with time	None		
Special Needs:	None			
Group:	Recovery By The River	GSR: Stacy P.		
Day, Place, Time:	Thursday-7 P.M- 76 First Street Newburgh	Donation:	yes	
Format:	Beginners	<u>Anniversaries</u>		
Report:	No report	Rick	8yrs	7/28/16
Special Needs:	None	Candi	3yrs	7/28/16
Group:	Reflections	GSR: Cory M.		
Day, Place, Time:	Saturday 12 P.M-22 Sweezy Ave Middletown	Donation:	No	
Format:	Just For Today	<u>Anniversaries</u>		
Report:	No report	Janetta	25yrs	7/23/16
Special Needs:	None			
Group:	Relationships	GSR: Diana M.		
Day, Place, Time:	Tuesday 7P.M.-Temple Sinai 75 Highland Ave, Middletown	Donation:	No	
Format:	Open	<u>Anniversaries</u>		
Report:	Meeting attendance is up	None		
Special Needs:	None			
Group:	Saturday Night Fever	GSR: Dan N.		
Day, Place, Time:	Saturday, Methodist Church Goshen, 10pm	Donation:	No	
Format:	Rotating	<u>Anniversaries</u>		
Report:	Meeting is well attended, trusted servants are needed	Darrin	2yrs	7/30/16
Special Needs:	None	Aiyana	1yr	7/30/16
Group:	Spiritual Foundation	GSR: James B		
Day, Place, Time:	Fri, 6:00 to 7:30, Newburgh Ministry, 9 Johnston St. Newburgh	Donation:	No	
Format:	Step Meeting from N.A. 3 books	<u>Anniversaries</u>		
Report:	Group doing well, looking for a need meeting place	none		
Special Needs:	Trusted servants			
Group:	Steps in the Right Direction	GSR: Diana M.		
Day, Place, Time:	Wed, 7:30 to 9:00, Recap, 40 Smith Street, Middletown	Donation:	No	
Format:	Rotating	<u>Anniversaries</u>		
Report:	No report	None		
Special Needs:	None			
Group:	Steps On Sunday	GSR: Stacy P.		
Day, Place, Time:	Sunday-1 P.M- 172 Liberty St, Newburgh	Donation:	Yes	

Format:	Step meeting	<u>Anniversaries</u> None
Report:	No report	
Special Needs:	None	

Group:	Turn it Over Group	GSR: Mark H.
Day, Place, Time:	Tues, 7:30PM, St. Andrews, Beacon	Donation: Yes
Format:	Open Rotating Format	<u>Anniversaries</u> Theresa 7yrs 7/26/16
Report:	All is well with the group	
Special Needs:	None	

Group:	Women's Time for Change	GSR: Ronzette B.
Day, Place, Time:	Mon 7:00 PM 40 Smith Street, Middletown	Donation: Yes
Format:	Rotating Format	<u>Anniversaries</u> None
Report:	The group is doing well, good attendance	
Special Needs:	None	

Sub-committee Reports:

Area Website - www.openarmsarea.com Mark R - 914-447-4566 mark@albrohvac.net	Meeting – TUESDAY BEFORE AREA - 5:30PM 18 Little Britain Road Newburgh, NY
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Report: Website updated as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes from June have been posted E&A event flyer has been added

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES Lauren P. 845-820-1274 lpiazza830@gmail.com	Meets 2nd and 4th Mondays, 6:00PM RECAP, 40 Smith Street Middletown, NY
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Report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The campout was fantastic. It was well attended and we had lots of help. We have a check for \$669.50 and a detailed expense report will be but in the minutes There are more flyers for the water park event – August 6th, 2016. Tickets are \$28 and will go on sale next week WE NEED A CHAIR!!!
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HELPLINE Derek D. 845-803-2211-Steve R. Filling in oaahelpline@gmail.com	Meets First Thursday of the Month 7:00PM Before Area
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Report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All is well 25 calls in June Derek is out west caring for his sister but will keep the committee going until replacement is found
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Hospitals and Institutions Wanda M. (845) 313-8476 wandam_naservice@yahoo.com	Meets every 1st Wed of the month 7:30pm 75 Highland Ave Middletown, NY
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Report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 members present at last meeting 3 new members Submitting receipts for \$300.00 spent on learning day. H&I would like to have 1 learning day yearly instead of 2. (Chair stated it would be a policy change) Literature report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ordered from Free State Region \$433.75 worth of literature Additional fees were added-12% and \$12 service charge RCW requested a women's book study and after much debate it was tabled so I called the facility and let them know at this time the group is not in favor. Need to get rent check of \$120 for July-December
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LITERATURE James T.	N/A
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Report:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We got all the literature. Got literature from Free State and still owe \$23.70 	
MEETING LIST Mark H.	N/A
Report:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,000 new lists were printed for distribution to GSRs for \$75.00 Updates have been made except Website sub-committee meeting address Area meetings have been update on GNYR website and world Open Arms website is not yet up to date but that will be done asap Hope on Thursday open or closed? Hope Around the Corner open or closed, 6 or 7pm? 	
PUBLIC INFORMATION openarmsareapi@gmail.com	OPEN
Report: None	
Speaker Exchange Jim 646-753-2527 jbeaton63@gmail.com	Monthly meeting to be held immediately prior to Area Service at 7:00.
Report:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Had meeting directly before area today All exchanges were filled last month 5 groups exchange for August and 2 attended to bring info to their groups. All GSR's can attend our monthly meeting before area to get info on how exchanges work 	
Outreach John 917-716-3102 jb250@yahoo.com	2 nd Wednesday of each month-Goshen 1 st meeting will be July 13, at 7 P.M
Report: See attached report	

AD HOC COMMITTEES:

Billy K. – 9 members are going to join the adhoc committee. We spoke to Rockland area and Lower Hudson Valley area and they are both interested in joining with us to make a new region. What we've done is we've asked them to nominate 2 people from their area to join the ad hoc committee. I've passed out our mission statement that will be given out to each area to just explain what we're trying to do. I'm going to let Marty come up and explain what we would need to do to become incorporated which would be the first thing that we would have to do to insure all the groups and make sure we are covered. In October, regions insurance is up. Now we don't know the status of them at that time so it may be to our advantage to at least look into this. The other thing about being incorporated is that it allows us to raise money with out being taxed and allows us to do things the legal way. All these conventions have been against the law, just ask the Bronx. They had to go to the IRS and pay back taxes that they owed from 5 years worth of conventions. What we do represents NA and our fellowship and when we break the law it's not a good look. Becoming incorporated will help us do things the right way and raise funds. The purpose is not so much to be against NY as much that is to have a region close to us and us know the regional board and the people who are ahead of the committees. We can streamline our own functions, PI and H&I and we don't have to travel, there's not staying overnight and we can eliminate some expenditures. We'll be more flexible because we'll be smaller. There are 2 other areas that may or may not be interested, we haven't spoken to them yet.

Marty – right now as it stands this adhoc committee, any business we do is for profit. A non-profit status enables us to get better insurance and function as a corporation. There's a lot that goes on and it's not as simple as I thought it would be, I wasn't even here when this went on but I heard every GSR voted for it. There's more to this than what's put out there. The biggest problem I'm seeing right now is that basically what we have is a blank pages but we have 7 other things around it that need to be done. One of those is do we want to be tax-exempt, for profit, or do we want to be a corporation that's tax exempt. I gave the secretary a copy of this that's typed up-committee if formed to review the possibility of creating the Hudson Valley Region of NA. I'm just going to read the first page (please see attached) and read it to your home groups. Basically what I did is that I put down the benefits of doing the non-profit and the benefits of being for profit. The last page has some info on legal services I got after talking to accountants and lawyers. To become non-profit takes 3-6 months and we would need 3 temp members for the BOD and cannot be convicted of a

felony or have any bankruptcy in the last 7 years. As much as I would like to participate in that, I will not be able to however, I believe Aisha could and she'd be a perfect candidate. After hearing Sandy's report, this isn't about trying to hurt anybody, this is about consolidating our services and trying to service our home groups in the Hudson Valley area. Whether or not Westchester or Mid-Hudson comes is another issue. Right now Westchester is going through a civil war themselves. North and South of Yonkers so until that ends no one will listen to anything, we're not trying to break up an area either. We're looking for something feasible and workable. I spoke to two different lawyers and accountants to get this info. In order for us to move forward we need a vote of confidence, otherwise I'm not staying up till 3 AM for nothing. Financially it comes to about \$3,000 to become incorporated. That includes accounting fees, legal fees, certificate of corporation, filings, fed-ex and UPS fees and \$200 in miscellaneous fees totaling approx. \$3,465. More was said that I could not hear on the recorder due to members at the table speaking.

Marty – The big thing with regions is they make their money on conventions. If we're non-profit corporation we save a lot of money including 17% on the rooms. It cost money to start up but to maintain it is very simple. 3 people need to start it out for the first year and then after that you can up to 10 people on the board. There's one glitch, in the event that you decide down to road to close this down the road, the last member of the BOD will have to appear before the supreme court judge.

Laura – is our region now incorporated as a non-profit?

Marty – yes they are. I spoke to a few regions about the insurance. If we add up the groups who would participate in this it's somewhere around 1/5 of what the region pays-approximately \$22 per group. Hopefully the NY region is able to do what they're doing. This is not being done because of the NY region, this idea was formulated 5 years ago up in Mid-Hudson to give groups better services. That was the whole idea, to bring unity to the Hudson Valley Area.

Laura – do we have to bring this back to the group?

Marty – there's no motion so just read it to them. But at some point this area would have to do some fundraising. Right now the lower Hudson valley area has made a motion to take half their donations to region and put the other half on the side for this. That may not pass because I think it would be changing their policy but that shows interest.

Michael – have you looked into it to see if its sustainable and financially possible to do this?

Marty – yes. It's not as much as you think. We're not looking for a big factory. Right now we could run the region out of this place right here.

Robin – but once we have literature and inventory we'll need to rent an office space.

Marty – right eventually, we'll need an office space. But basically we don't need a huge place to do it and a store front around here is much cheaper than what our regional office is paying right now. We looked at some prices along the way too. That's a point I'm trying to make too. If these ideas aren't backed up we can't move forward. And the other adhoc was made so I'm not sure which way we want to go.

Robin – okay so the information will be posted on the website and sent out in the minutes so next month we can come back with some suggestions and maybe you can find out more about the finances and a place to rent to give us more info and see if we can get more areas to participate. The brunt of the financial shouldn't fall just on us.

Marty – in order to do all those things and look for places to rent, we need to get our corporate seal first. Other areas will participate in fundraising too however the adhoc committee did generate out of this area so that's why the report is given to you guys first. This same report will be given out at every area meeting.

Billy – this is in a way time sensitive because we have other areas that are moving. We could keep going back and forth and before you know it it's October and we haven't gotten anywhere. We're simply an extension of the area. Our soul purpose is to do this and then we will dissolve as a committee so we have different lead way and different ways of resolving things. If we procrastinate other areas may take the ball and run for themselves I don't know but we have other areas that are interested. All we're trying to say is that if we're interested, we need to get together on this and do it. We had proposed this a few years ago as far as Open Arms itself becoming incorporated because there was an issue about conventions and everyone was fighting saying Open Arms doesn't want to do conventions. It wasn't that, we just wanted to do them legally. We are for profit right now but our monies stay below the radar because it's not that much. Once you do conventions and fundraisers the money goes up, after our first convention we gave region \$15,000 because we made a lot of money. It was after 911 and we're dope fiends and slimy so we put the money in the bank a little at a time so we wouldn't get audited.

Robin – so when would be your proposed date of inception if we were to move forward?

Marty – to get our non-profit status would take 6 months to be able to do fundraisers and things like that

Billy – and remember it's 3 different areas that would be fundraising. We are pretty much spread into all the other areas around us as it is. By having our own region we can deal with these things a lot better in terms of commitments.

Robin – okay I would suggest maybe to put in a motion to go back to the groups, they take the time to review your proposal and come to a decision next month. Up to you.

Marty – is it too late for a motion?

Robin – it's supposed to be in by the time we finish old business-so do it quick. So can Ryan come up and talk to us about his adhoc committee?

Ryan – I wanted Billy and Marty to give their info first because I've been speaking to people and there is a lot of interest informing this new region. It's 2 different adhoc committees trying to achieve the same thing but going about different avenues. For the GSR's that showed interest in the adhoc committee that my homegroup made a motion to make, we're not stuck in 1 region. We have eastern NY region, Connecticut region, there are other avenues we could go but I haven't had any support from anyone else this is just info I've been gathering on my own. I think that since there is so much interest in creating a new region maybe for my adhoc committee to go on the low and do first things first rather than try to find a new region and make a new region at the same time. I think it'd be more responsible if I just worked with Billy and Marty so I'm open to anybody that has any input or experience.

Robin – so would you like to move to disband?

Ryan – I don't want to make that decision I'd like the groups to do that because it was the groups that voted for me to do this. I don't have a committee and my opinion got me here so... If the GSR's vote for me to disband I would do that.

Robin – So we don't need a written motion for that, Ryan do you want to make a verbal motion to do so?

Happy Jon- so instead of trying to join another region you would just join forces with Marty and Billy to make a new one? How about ABCD region?

Tim – how many regions did you look into?

Ryan – yes, I looked into 2- Eastern NY and Connecticut because they are the 2 closest. I didn't get much info just that they exist and are there. I haven't moved forward to go to the regional meetings or anything. They are both about 2 hours away. We explored ABCD region a few years ago and they were having pretty much the same problems as GNYR. Verbal motion made to disband. Seconded. 16 GSR's present. All in favor- Motion Passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

QUORUM: 16

No motions to vote on tonight.

OPEN POSITIONS:

Co-Secretary(2yr clean time), Co-Treasurer(5yr clean time), E&A Chair(1yr clean time), Policy & Procedure(5yr clean time), Helpline

Alt. RCM position is now open-Stefan cannot take that position (4yr clean time)

PI –Corey W. nominated Steve R.-Steve declined at this time but looking into the position and may consider next month

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion #1

Motion Maker: Marty C.

Seconded: Laura S.

Motion: To move forward with creating a new region in the Hudson Valley NY areas.

Intent: To facilitate resources that unify the Hudson Valley Region to support our homegroups and service structure.

Please bring back to your groups.

GREIVANCES:

Meeting closed at 9:30

In Loving Service,
Lauren P.