

DISTRICT 9 – MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING

August 14, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Judy M, Richard B., Gene, Ron O., Rick, Margue, Shernie, Kari, Janet, Marc, Jen, Deborah

DCM Judy M. called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm at SonBridge and presided.

OPEN SERENITY PRAYER

TRADITION EIGHT: Janet led the discussion of Tradition 8 – “AA should remain forever non-professional, but our service centers may employ special workers.” She commented that this is the first of the Twelve Traditions to focus on service center, not the groups themselves. In the early days there was tremendous growth that needed support that an all volunteer staff could give without being burned out. “Special workers” also means “special people.” The tradition reminds us that the groups and administration should be volunteer and run by alcoholics. The larger, worldwide organization needs staff. As an aside, there was a discussion about local AA organizations from groups to district to area, and the difference between “intergroup” and “central office” or GSO. Richard B. said AA uses them interchangeably as they are synonymous.

CONCEPT VI: Richard B. led the review of Concept 6. “The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.” He pointed out that AA is truly a democracy in that all have a voice. Groups share their group conscience with the District, then the Area, and then delegates to the General Services Conference. The Trustees of the General Service Board oversee the entire organization. A discussion followed about AA as an organization, and the foundational role GSRs play.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS: Judy M. (DCM), Richard B. (Vice Chair), Kari (Secretary).

Treasurer Ben H. was unable to attend.

ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Rick (Activities Chair and GSR for Touch on Feelings), Shernie (Archives Chair and GSR), Ron O. (Corrections Chair, GSR), Jen (Hot Line Chair, Alternate GSR for As Bill Sees It), Janet (Tech Chair), Deborah (GSR of Early Birds), Gene (GSR for Sunday Morning Eye Opener and Grapevine Chair), Margue (GSR for Watertower).

OFFICER REPORTS:

Minutes- Secretary Kari reported that the corrected minutes of the July 10th meeting were available a few days ago. Gene pointed out that the decision made at the July meeting and reflected in the minutes was to approve the new preamble. By motion made by Gene and seconded by Richard, the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Ben H. was unable to attend tonight meeting, but had submitted a treasurer's report. By motion made by Marc and seconded by Richard, it was approved that the report's review and approval were postponed until the September meeting when it is hoped Ben H. could be present to go over it with the group.

Gene noted that we do not have an Alternate Treasurer at this time. After a discussion it was agreed to discuss this in depth at the September meeting.

DCM – Judy shared a thorough report of recent activities. She attended the Quarterly meeting in Libby, Montana. She was the only representative from District 9. She encouraged more people to attend these quarterly meetings. The next meeting is the Assembly on October 14th in Richland, WA. There are 2 motions that will be voted on in October. Judy urged the group to review the list of questions that came out of the Libby meeting. These will be addressed by the Assembly in October. A discussion followed about the importance of GSR participation in District meetings, and how to encourage this. Several local meetings have few "home members" who can vote in the business meetings. Starting with building home members in the existing meetings is a start.

GSR REPORTS:

Sunday Morning Eye Opener – Gene is GSR. It meets Sunday morning at SonBridge at 10 am. Average attendance is 10. In the last month 2 coins were given – one to Terry O. for 19 years and one to George K. for 14 years. The format is 12 X 12 discussion. Business meetings are held as needed.

Watertower – Margue is GSR. Its business meeting is after the regular Friday meeting (the third Friday of the month) at 1st Presbyterian Church. It meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday at noon. Average attendance is 15. Since the last meeting there was one newcomer, and two coins given, each for 6 months. The format is AA Message. They always read from AA approved literature.

Wednesday First Step – Shernie is GSR. It meets Wednesdays from 7 to 8:30 pm at SonBridge. Average attendance is at least 15 people. District contributions were \$25, and pink can were \$22. The format is First Step, readings, personal stories.

Thursday Night Open – Marc is representing this group tonight. The business meeting is the 3rd Thursday of the month at 8:30 pm. It is located at First Christian Church on Thursdays at 7:30 pm. Average attendance is 7; recently there were 2 newcomers. 2 coins were awarded. The format is open, up to the Chair presiding at the meeting which depends on attendance. The bottom line is that the meeting is still ongoing. He described damage to the church from vandals, not related to AA group meeting.

Early Birds – Deborah is GSR. It meets Monday through Sunday each week at 6:30 a.m. at SonBridge. Average attendance is 9; recently there were 3 newcomers. 4 coins were given in the past month. Format is "pick at topic."

As Bill Sees It – GSR is Carol; Alternate GSR Jen made the report. It meets on Saturday at 1 pm at SonBridge. Business meetings are held as needed. Average attendance is 13. Format is “As Bill Sees It.” She was asked whether the August 12th speaker, Sara from Kennewick (who was outstanding), incurred any expenses. Jen said only transportation and that Sara would not accept any money for gas.

Touch on Feelings – Rick is GSR. It meets Fridays at a private home and Mondays at SonBridge at 7 pm. Average attendance for Mondays is 12, and Fridays range between 16 and 20 people. There have been 4 newcomers and 4 coins given in the last month. Coins were awarded for 24 hours, 11 months, and two for three months. Format is Topic/Share.

Language of the Heart – Richard said it meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays at noon at St. Paul’s. There are 7 to 15 regular members on Tuesdays, but as he doesn’t attend Thursdays he is not sure of the attendance. There are 3 home group members, not uncommon among the groups. He shared that due to an incident, St. Paul’s requires that the doors be locked at all times, and that someone let people in as they arrive. (St. Paul’s used to require the door be locked 15 minutes after meetings start). Richard shared one of the members’ recent story of being sober for 45 years but not a regular AA attendee. This member’s son is an alcoholic but does not acknowledge it, who received a liver transplant due to disease induced by alcohol. It was significant that this person sought support and understanding at AA rather than drink over his concerns for his son.

Saturday and Sunday Night Big Book – Marc said this group does not have a GSR, and its attended by 7 to 8 people. Jen commented that she goes. The Saturday night meeting is still going – Megan is still chairing.

Spiritual Tool Box – Ron O. is GSR. He shared that the pastor of the church where it is held has asked that AA schedule be included in the literature available at the church. He also said that this group does not have any home members.

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS:

Activities – Rick is Chair. At the last meeting the \$150 nonrefundable deposit required by SonBridge for events with 50 or more people, and using the kitchen, caused the group to explore other venues. It was determined that St. Paul’s and First Presbyterian also require the same fee for these events. Between now and the end of the year there are three events that need such a facility. These are the Gratitude Dinner on 11/12, the Standing Committee workshop and New Year’s Eve party. After a discussion the motion was made by Richard and seconded by Marc to keep the Standing Committee Workshop at SonBridge but to get input from the groups about moving the other two events elsewhere. At present these dates are reserved at SonBridge. Groups will be consulted between now and the September meeting as to whether they wish to be at St. Paul’s and/or First Presbyterian for the other events pending availability of these spaces on those dates. The Delegate Feedback will not be using the

kitchen, and encourage people to bring a dish or snacks which will be enjoyed in a separate room, not the large meeting space.

August 27th is the Area Delegate Ben's presentation. Judy will contact him as to whether he needs PPT or other technology for his presentation. The expenses are transportation and food – he has declined lodging as he will not be staying overnight.

ANSWERING SERVICE (HOTLINE): Jen reported that we paid for five calls that we received in the past month. She revamped the system and now has a male and a female on call 24 hours a day. The group commended Jen for this turnaround on the Answering Service.

ARCHIVES – Shernie said she has finished removing the irrelevant material and cleaned all of the storage containers. There is now an empty one ready for new material.

CORRECTIONS – Ron O. reported an issue with the JJC. He had sent a note to them stating he would not be able to attend the meeting there last month. JJC authorities lost the note, and without him there would not allow the 2nd leader, a female, to enter. He is meeting with them 8/17 to resolve the issue. Marc noted that at the Penn that a True North program is starting at the medium custody area. It is a newly registered group.

CPC – nothing to report.

GRAPEVINE – Gene noted that the Grapevine subsidizes the GSO – everyone should subscribe. It costs \$29 a year.

TECH – Janet shared the newly printed, up to date schedule for District 9. If someone has a change please use the webmaster link on the website and she will update the schedule.

NEW BUSINESS: Judy led the discussion about how to get more GSRs involved in the business of District 9 and greater. She said each group should finance their GSR going to the quarterly meetings, and more. Groups should be asked as to whether they want their GSR to attend these events and if so, help support that person in going. The group agreed to address this issue in depth at the September meeting.

Richard urged everyone to pick up the flyer on Area 92 Guidelines which was on the table.

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm with the Responsibility Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

Kari I., Secretary