

DISTRICT – MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING

MAY 1, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Judy M., Richard, Ben H., Rick C., Shernie, Megan, Gene Marc, Margie, Janet, Carol, Ron, Deborah, Louise, Kari, Megan

DCM Judy called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm at SonBridge and presided.

OPEN SERENITY PRAYER

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS: Judy M., DEC, Richard, Alt. DCM, Ben, Treasurer, Kari, Secretary

TRADITION FIVE: Rick. C. read the Fifth Tradition “Each group has but one primary purpose ... to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers” and led the discussion. Copies of “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated” were distributed to everyone who wanted one.

MINUTES: The minutes of the March 13, 2022 meeting had previously been sent to the Board and posted on the website. Megan said the Doughty Home referred to in the minutes has been disbanded. Shernie said the minutes should be corrected to state that there are four containers not nine of archival material. By motion made by Richard and seconded by Louise the minutes were approved with these changes.

TREASURER: Ben distributed a copy of the Treasurer’s Report for the period of March 1st through April 30th, 2022, a two month period. He reported revenue of \$213.98 and expenses of \$477.88. The Treasurer stated that literature was to be provided Doughty House out of the District’s general funds, and now that it is closed these funds will be returned to the General Fund. By motion made by Richard and seconded by Rick, the Treasurer’s Report was accepted.

GSR REPORTS: GSRs then gave updates of their groups for the month of April.

- Monday Night Women’s Group: Louise reported that attendance is regularly 10 to 12 women, with one to three being newcomers. The 2nd Monday of the month is the business meeting. The meeting is hybrid, both in-person and by Zoom. The format is Twelve By Twelve and Big Book.

- Language of the Heart: Richard is the contact for the group. It is held Tuesday and Thursday noon, and regularly attended by nine people. Richard leads the Tuesday meeting, and the leadership of the Thursday meeting floats among participants. The meetings are going well.
- Early Birds: Deborah is the GSR. Regular attendance is ten to twelve people with a few newcomers not uncommon. One newcomer is a young man fresh out of treatment.
- Dawg Pound: Ron stated the group meetings Friday evenings at 8 pm in Waitsburg, and is attended by five to ten people usually. Ron received a coin for thirty-three years of sobriety.
- As Bill Sees It: Cheryl said it meets on Saturdays, usually attended by between five and eighteen people – it varies! There is solid sobriety among this group.
- Watertower: Margie reported that it meets at the Walla Walla Presbyterian Church. The Monday meeting is open but Wednesday and Friday meetings are closed. There are monthly business meetings. Watertower is often attended by ten to fifteen people, and as many as twenty people.
- Sunday Morning Eye Opener (SMEO): Gene said the meeting is from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and a continental breakfast is available. The meetings are held at SonBridge, and attendance is usually ten people.
- Wednesday First Step Meeting at 7 p.m.: Ben reported that on average twenty people attend the meeting, sometimes as many as twenty-five. There is usually a newcomer. Shernie recently celebrated her 20th birthday. The group meets at SonBridge. During the past six weeks at least three coins were distributed. Also there was a recent business meeting where the decision was made to distribute certain funds. The format of the meeting is both Daily Reflections and the Big Book.
- Touch on Feelings: Rick reported this group meets Monday and Friday, or “as needed.” The location is also at SonBridge. Monday’s Touch on Feelings group is attended by five to ten people; the Friday meeting is attended by eighteen to twenty-five people. There are usually newcomers there. In the past month, coins for three, seven and eight months of sobriety were given. Two coins for twenty years of sobriety were given

and one coin for twenty-three years of sobriety were given. He noted that the Friday night group will return to meeting at Juniper location for the summer.

- Thursday Night Open meeting: Marc reported that it meets at First Congregational Church, and is usually attended by twelve people. There is a mix of newcomers and old-timers in the meetings. Coins were recently given for five, ten and eleven months of sobriety. Cecil received a coin recognizing thirty-eight years of sobriety. The group recently changed officers.
- Christian Aid Center: It was noted that Lisa leads a women's meeting there on Sundays. The men in the program however may go to any meeting they wish; there is no meeting at CAC for men.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: The group then heard committee reports from the Chairs who were present:

DCM: Judy then gave a report of activities since the last meeting. She read the report that was previously sent to members. Richard, Judy, Marc and Louise (via Zoom) participated in the Area meeting, including pre-conference activities, held in Coeur d'Alene. Sixty-two GSRs attended. The importance of the Handbook and its revision were discussed. One of the motions discussed and voted upon was to allocate up to \$1500 a month for the organization's Archives, and to move it to Spokane. The case for doing so rested on inadequacy of current site, both in terms of size and conditions. The motion was voted down 61 yes to 44 no (2/3rds in favor of the motion was needed). Judy noted that this is a real need, and probably a future meeting will revisit the topic. Another hot topic was editing the Big Book, particularly to make pronouns gender neutral rather than male. Most people would like the Big Book to remain unchanged. Gene suggested that Judy's written report be attached to the minutes; the group applauded her work. Richard suggested that DCM should be sent by District 9 to the Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Services Assembly (PRAASA) in 2023. Also discussed was the PNC which is a smaller regional meeting consisting of Oregon and Washington groups only.

ACTIVITIES: It was noted that the chair was absent. Ron moved that Rick be made Chair in Ronnie's absence, that he is already a co-Chair. The motion was seconded by Gene. After a brief discussion the motion passed. When Ronnie returns he may still be a member of the committee. Ron had a Pig Roast flyer for anyone interested. Another activity is the picnic on the 4th of July – it was noted that the park needs to be reserved and insurance coverage obtained. Another potential activity is revival of the monthly potluck dinners at SonBridge that are Speaker Meetings. Jenn will present more information at a future meeting.

ARCHIVES: Shernie said Marc and Judy got handboxes from Area 92 but this material does not apply to the District. District 9 does have material however that needs to be organized. The boxes include artwork by a late member (Rita). Shernie plans to display the photographs in the archives of unidentified persons at an upcoming AA event in hopes people will help identify these people. She said the storage containers need to be cleaned and sterilized.

CORRECTIONS: Marc made a report, filling in for the Chair. A meeting began at the Penitentiary on May 14th. The meeting rotates among Tri-Cities, Spokane and Walla Walla. He said before Grapevine newsletter is begun for the Penitentiary he wished to know how it would be used. Kevin is to follow-up with the Penn. Marc said Ron is still trying to nail down the program at Walla Walla County juvenile detention.

TREATMENT & ACCESSIBILITY: Louise is chair. Ben ordered pamphlets for her distribution to treatment centers. She made a delivery to Hope House and to Oxford Houses (there are three of them in Walla Walla). We have not ordered Grapevine for Doughty House yet. She said people are happy to receive the material.

WEB TECH: Janet said she is getting new schedules ready to print. The ones in use now are outdated and should be discarded (they were printed on green paper). As of May 1st the printed schedule and the online schedule actually are the same – an achievement!

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Richard noted that most of the District 18 meetings on Area 92 list do not exist.

NEW BUSINESS:

ANSWERING SERVICE: A major issue is the District's Answering Service. Richard said it is a bit of a mess. He's trying to communicate with someone at the service about recent usage of the helpline. The service reports no calls for referrals, just informational calls. No one is available to answer any referrals from the answering service. This is very much needed. Someone needs to take the service on as their responsibility. People in Dayton have no one to help them. He is creating a survey to share with the staff at the answering service and will hand deliver to them. It was suggested that a phone tree be created to channel calls to the right places. This would keep the phone numbers of the volunteer members answering the referral calls anonymous. Someone from District 4 in the Tri-Cities had suggested combining answering services and through the use of a "phone tree" ensure calls are directed to the right person. It will cost something to update our phone tree. At present the District receives a 50% discount on the usual monthly charge since marketing calls are a high percentage of calls. The regular price is \$1.20 a call; we pay half of that.

UPDATE DISTRICT 9 HANDBOOK: Judy said an ad hoc committee should be created to update the handbook. Richard agreed and volunteered to lead the group.

STANDING COMMITTEE WORKSHOP DECEMBER 10th: Gene noted that meals and places for attendees to stay need to be planned. Richard asked if the activities committee should take care of these duties. A discussion followed but no clear resolution.

REIMBURSEMENT OF MEMBERS ATTENDING CONFERENCE: Judy said Richard should be reimbursed for cost of gas to attend the Area conference. He paid for his own hotel. Richard has receipts to prove \$90 was spent on gas. By motion made by Gene and seconded by Marc, reimbursement to Richard in the amount of \$90 for gas was approved.

It was noted that the District covers the cost of the DCM registration and meals; her hotel cost is covered by her husband.

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m. with the Responsibility Statement.