

AA District 9

June 11, 2023 Meeting Minutes

ATTENDING: Judy M., Kari I., Ben H., Janet, Gene A., Barb H., Jen, Walt, Bill, J.C., Ron, Margee, Chris, Marc M.

CALL TO ORDER: 6:07 pm at SonBridge.

OPEN SERENITY PRAYER

TRADITION OF THE MONTH: In the interest of time, Tradition 6 was delayed so that the group could more fully discuss the Proposed Guidelines. Judy said she attends meetings of the larger AA organization and learned that every District has guidelines, and that it is recommended that Districts update their guidelines every term. She obtained guidelines from seven Districts all of which served as models. She described the background and context of the proposed guidelines for District 9. She said when the proposed guidelines were made, although by a group process, she did not first ask the District's GSRs whether they were in favor of updating them. Gene affirmed importance with updating guidelines, especially finances and handling of DCM expenses, noting that guidelines are basically the District's by-laws. He suggested that we add a purpose statement. Janet said since only GSRs can vote on guidelines, she wondered what the role was of officers who are not GSRs like herself. Jen moved that that the current District 9 guidelines be updated; Ron seconded the motion. J.C. said the current guidelines were approved in 2012. He stated that District level organization has no authority over any GSR; each group is autonomous. The District, however, may make recommendations to groups. Barb H. is standing in for GSR Louise (Monday Night Women's Meeting) and has her proxy. It was confirmed that she may vote. Gene A. called for the question. All agreed that they were ready to vote. The motion to move forward to update District 9's guidelines was approved by a 9 GSRs with one GSR voting against updating.

ROLL CALL FOR OFFICERS: Judy M., DCm, Ben H., Treasurer, Kari I., Secretary, Janet, Chair of Technology Committee, Barbara H., representing Monday Night Women's Group on behalf of GSR Louise, Shernie, Chair of Archives, Literature and outgoing GSR for Wednesday Night First Step, Chris, GSR, Jen, alternate GSR for As

Bill Sees It and Chair of Hotline, Walt E., GSR of Thursday Night Open, Margee, GSR, Ron, GSR for Tuesday Night Spiritual Toolbox and Gene, GSR of Touch on Feelings. Marc M. attended as representing Area's Corrections committee. J.C. attended as alternate GSR for Friday Noon Group.

Also attending was long-time member Bill L.

MINUTES: Minutes of the May meeting were accepted as presented after it was pointed out that the emailed copy had an email attached to it which is not part of the minutes.

TREASURER REPORT: Ben H. had distributed copies of the Treasurers report. The cost of the Post Office box increased to \$176.00. The report was accepted by the Board.

GSR REPORTS:

SMEO – Gene reported it meets at SonBridge with average attendance of 10 to 12 people. It meets Sunday morning at 10. Format is 12 x 12 discussion.

Spiritual Toolbox – Ron said they continue to meet at the Adventist Church on Highway 11 in Milton-Freewater. 10 to 12 people regularly attend. Two coins were awarded in the past month, one for 17 years and another for 49 years.

Watertower - Margue reported that average attendance is 15 to 25 people. There were 4 newcomers last month. Three coins were given.

Touch on Feelings – Rick reported that 12 people usually attend the Monday evening meetings. They usually have some newcomers.

Friday Noon Group – JC said 18 to 24 people usually attend. Recent coins awarded were for two months (2 people), two years (1) and 1 month (1).

Thursday Night Open – Walt said 10 to 12 people usually attend at the meeting held at First Congregational Church. They had two or three newcomers. Coins have been awarded but no further details available. They begin at 7 pm; this allows more Christian Aid Center residents to attend. Topics are AA literature.

As Bill Sees It – Jen reported that the group meets Saturdays at 1 pm at SonBridge. On average 14 are present. There was one newcomer. Their speaker meeting on June 10th featuring Jake was well received.

Wednesday First Step – Shernie said the group meets from 7 to 8:30 pm; attendance is 10 or 11 people. They have had 4 newcomers. Three coins for 30 days and one 24 hour coin were awarded. Format is Big Book.

Monday Night Women’s Group – Barb H. reported that there was a recent rotation of service which takes place every three months. Attendance ranges from 12 to 20 women. There were 5 newcomers. Recent coins awarded were for 24 hours and one for 37 years. Format is group conscious choice – it’s a very active group. There’s a pre-meeting dinner on third Monday of the month and other gatherings.

Ben reported that his group meets at the First Congregational church – format is daily reflection. One 30 day coin was recently given.

LOTH – written report said this group meets Tuesdays and Thursdays at noon at St. Pauls. Average attendance is 8 to 10 people. Format is Big Book, first 164 pages.

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS:

Archives – Shernie said other than that the Archives is stable and safe, there was no new information.

Activities – Rick said upcoming event is 4th of July picnic and fellowship at Wildwood Park in Walla Walla. Budget had \$707.83 for the event – he’s incurred costs of \$40 to date. He thought the budgeted amount was sufficient.

Answering Service – Jen said 25 calls were received in the past month. Ben H. said most of these calls are probably from one individual.

Corrections – Ron reported that inmates are interested in AA. One fellow is only 17 years old with a long history of drug use. Ron is there every Wednesday at 4 pm for meetings. Men and women can participate. Screening of volunteers is pretty simple – basically being fingerprinted. Application is on the website. He encouraged others to volunteer at the Juvenile facility.

Grapevine – Gene – nothing new to report.

Treatment – N/A

Literature – Shernie said she is stepping down from chairing this committee. Barb H. volunteered to chair this committee. After a brief discussion about groups that have requested books, Barb was appointed Chair of Literature.

Web Tech – Janet said there was a glitch on the website by its host and it was down for 24 hours. The host addressed the problem. Janet asked GSRs to let her know if any changes to schedule as she is going to print new schedules.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

The motion for term limits called “Spirit of Rotation” that was tabled at the April 2023 meeting was then discussed. Marc M. had introduced a “Motion for Consideration: Formal Statement Emphasizing the Spirit of Rotation in District 9 Service Positions”, a copy of which he distributed at the meeting. The motion suggests that the District consider recommending, not mandating, that all officers including GSRs, adhere to term limits of three – two year terms or a six year maximum in any position. The motion included extensive background information and history. A lengthy discussion followed about the idea of term limits, the context of the motion, and the tone and content of an email sent to officers. The discussion included frank statements about various individuals’ actions and statements that were hurtful and regarded as personal not only in recent email communications but over the years in meetings. At the conclusion of the discussion, Barb H. suggested that the group of District 9 officers have a special meeting to take its own inventory, and review or create statements of values, mission and vision. A committee should plan this event which would be moderated by an outside experienced person. The discussion continued about the pros and cons of the Spirit of Rotation motion. The group conscious of various groups were shared. The group was reminded that only GSRs can vote. The motion was denied by a unanimous vote.

A motion was then made by Barb H. to create a committee to organize a special meeting for the District 9 officers and GSRs to address the conflict by taking its own inventory in a process led by an outside moderator. The motion was approved. Ben and Ron both promptly volunteered to be on the organizing committee.

There being no further business before the meeting, it was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kari I.

Secretary
