

AA District 9 Minutes
August 13, 2023 Meeting

CALL TO ORDER: 6:04 pm by Ben H., Interim DCM

TRADITION: Rick read Tradition 8, "Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers." He shared his commitment to service.

ROLL CALL: Present – Ben H., Interim DCM and Treasurer, Kari I., Secretary, Rick, Shernie, Chris, Jen, Marque, Gene, Louise, Charles (an observer), Aiden (an observer), Ron, Janet,

OPEN SERENITY PRAYER

OFFICERS REPORTS: The Minutes of the July 11, 2023 District 9 meeting and the Treasurer's Report for the August 13, 2023 meeting were reviewed. Gene said the income item of \$50 was actually two donations to District each of \$25. One was made by Sunday Morning Eye Opener group and the other by Touch on Feelings. The correction was approved. By motion made by Ron and seconded by Rick, both the minutes and the Treasurer's Report were approved as corrected.

GSR REPORTS:

Touch on Feelings – GSR Rick said it meets Mondays at 7 pm at SonBridge and Fridays at 644 Juniper also at 7 pm. Average attendance on Mondays is 10; on Fridays is 20. There have been a couple of newcomers. A coin was given for 17 years' birthday. The format is Topic Share. Business meetings are held as needed.

Wednesday Night First Step – GSR Shernie reported that it meets Wednesday evenings from 7 to 8:30 pm in the SonBridge conference room. Average attendance is 3. Format is general conversation and recovery oriented. She commented that as in past years attendance as plummeted during the summer. She expects it to pick up again after Labor Day.

Night Owls – GSR Chris said it meets Saturdays at 9 pm – format is open discussion. Attendance is 3 people on average. No coins distributed.

As Bill Sees It – Alternate GSR Jen said it meets on Saturdays at 1 pm – average attendance is 13 or 14 people. The third Saturday of each month features a guest speaker. Otherwise, format is reading As Bill Sees It.

Watchtower – GSR Margee said they meet at noon on Monday, Wednesdays, and Fridays. They had one new sign up for home group. They gave out the following coins: 42 years, 1 year, 6 month and 30 days. Business meeting is every 3rd Friday. Last Friday is when birthdays for each month are celebrated. She announced that on August 25th they are hosting a hamburger/hot dog luncheon to which everyone is invited. It will be on the big lawn next to the church.

Sunday Morning Eye Opener – GSR Gene said it meets every Sunday at SonBridge at 10 am. Average attendance is 12 people. Recent coins given was a 20 year coin to Terry O. Business meetings are held 4th Sunday of the month at 9:30 am, just before the regular meeting starts. Format is 12 x 12.

Monday Night Womens' Group – GSR Louise said it meets at St. Paul's from 6 to 7:30 pm; average attendance is 15. There were two newcomers. Format is Big Book and 12 x 12. Business meeting is 2nd Monday of the Monday following the meeting.

Toolbox – GSR Ron said they meet at the Adventist Church on Highway 11 in Milton-Freewater. Format is to speak from the heart. One 17 year coin was recently given.

Tuesday Promises – GSR Ben H. said average attendance is 3 to 8 people. Recently a one year coin was given. Format is Daily Reflection or topic of choice by the group. They meet at FCC from 7:30 to 8:30 pm.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Activities: Rick said the 4th of July event was a success. The next event is the District 9 Inventory gathering on September 17th from 12:30 pm to 5:30 pm at SonBridge. It is a potluck. Beverages will be provided. Also upcoming are the annual Gratitude Banquet in November and the New Year's Eve party. There was a discussion about activities, program and games for the Gratitude Dinner.

Answering Service: Jen reported 4 calls; Ben said he handled one call where someone from a social service agency asked for the identity of a member which of course he declined to provide. He had not had that kind of a request before.

Archives: Shernie said no report.

Corrections: Chair not present.

Literature: Louise said more literature needs to be ordered.

Web Tech: Janet, webmaster, asked everyone to let her know as soon as possible when more schedules are needed rather than waiting until they run out.

Juvenile Justice: Ron said two new volunteers are now in the program – Heidi and Tomas. There is interest by the young people in Juvenile Justice Center and these volunteers are a great help.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Ben H. asked everyone to share the questions for the Inventory that their groups wished addressed. Ron said Spiritual Toolbox asked “What does District 9 do?” and “Are suffering alcoholics being reached out to?” Louise said the Women’s Group questions were “What is District doing to meet young people’s needs? What kind of outreach is being done?” Gene said the basic question out of SMEO is “What is District’s job?” Margee said her group wondered whether District 9’s members listen with an open mind to questions from groups? In the spirit of unanimity are we being respectful, open-minded and fair? Jen said she had a question herself, and that is “how is the spirit of rotation being dealt with?” Chris asked “Why is it OK for District to be judgmental about newcomers and up and coming newcomers in relation to holding positions within District 9?” Shernie said her group did not have questions. Rick said he didn’t get a lot of feedback from his group but he asked about whether actions to fix things will be part of the Inventory event?

Ad Hoc Committee Report: Janet said the group met on July 23rd at Barb H.’s home and largely discussed logistics and schedule. Barb volunteered to produce a flyer about the event since everyone in AA in District 9 is invited to participate. Janet distributed copies of the flyer, and asked for help to make it even more appealing and effective. The last meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee before the event will be virtual on Google Meets on August 30th at 7 pm. Their goal is to refine the questions to be addressed to five. The facilitator is Benjamin from

Area. His only role is facilitator. Ben H. emphasized that all are welcome to the District 9 Inventory meeting, GSRs, members of each group and officers. Margee said her group wants to see all of the questions that were suggested as well as the final five questions. Ben H. said these will be provided. He thanked Janet for her good work on the Ad Hoc Committee. Ben H. noted that an anonymous donation of \$50 had been received for the Inventory.

NEW BUSINESS: Ben H. said \$100 should be approved for expenses related to the Inventory event. Should this \$100 come from Activities' budget or District 9's general fund or split between the two? Rick aid budgets are low at this time. After a discussion, by motion made by Rick and seconded by Gene, spending \$100 on expenses related to the 9/17/23 Inventory event was approved. The budget was split between Activities and the General Fund at \$50 from each.

Following New Business was sharing:

- 1) Ron said Juvenile Justice just received another inquiry from a resident there about whether a Young People's meeting existed. He asked Aiden what he thought about a Young People's meeting. Aiden said he gets a lot out of the meetings with old people who have succeeded, and can teach him things to help him get and maintain sobriety. Then there was a discussion on how to make the Inventory meeting more attractive and interesting to people. Ideas such as having a theme so people could wear costumes were tossed around. By motion made by Gene and seconded by Shernie, the green light was given to holding the Gratitude Banquet in November. Rick said a date will be picked at the September meeting.
- 2) Area 2023 Conference October 21 and 22 in Spokane: Gene said this is the meeting where new officers will be elected. These are two year terms. Every GSR has a vote.
- 3) Sad News: Janet shared that Judy M. has suffered a stroke and is being cared for in Spokane. All were asked for their prayers. All expressed deep concern and good wishes for her speedy recovery.

Ben H. thanked everyone for their service. The group then said the Responsibility Statement. The meeting was adjourned.

- Kari I., Secretary