

Area 82 Executive/DCMs

July 28, 2024

Anne B opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer.

Members present:

Michael – D 01	Bernie G. – D 02	Danny – D 02	Mark Z. – D 03
Al G. - D 04	Steven D. - D 06	Mike - D 10	Gary O - D18
Marie M. Webmaster	Dwayne DCM	Debbi C. Secretary/Registrar	
Darrel Observing	Anne B – Chair	Basil M. - Treasurer	

12 Traditions read by Michael H.

Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting April 28/24 read by Deb C.

Motion Deb to accept minutes as read. Seconded by Michael

Business arising:

Marie How do we get updates on things in the minutes that need action? (i.e. NS 211)

Steven To answer Marie's question – we reached out to them, and they told us that they go to the website to get information and contacts. As long as website is up to date – we're good!

Dwayne Suggest we forward one sheet to NS211 because they took only one contact off the website and used it for the whole of NS.

Anne Right. Between Marie and I, we'll have NS211 updated.

Treasurer Report

Basil had a power outage and lost his reports.

Michael Moved that Basil just present his report at the Fall Assembly.

Dwayne suggested we meet in two weeks when Basil has his report ready.

Michael rescinded his motion.

Steven Relax Basil. We're not in any rush for this. If you can just give the balances

Basil gave the group the numbers for the end of June.

Prudent Reserve	\$35,050.82	Operational	\$7,281.54
-----------------	-------------	-------------	------------

Total at end of June \$ 46,332.36

Gary So if we vote in the a 35,000. budget are we still short or are we above?

Basil That will depend on what comes in between now and end of year. About 1500 came in during July.

Chair **So, should we meet in two weeks when Basil has his reports ready?**
We'll meet August 11 @ 6:00 p.m.

Steven The budget was \$25,595. and not 35,000.00. Half of that is the Prudent Reserve.

Gary So we need \$37,000. And we have \$39,000. Right now.
Chair We have two assemblies coming up shortly in NL. Budgets will be going up.
Mark One of the recommendations by the Ad Hoc Committee was for the Treasurer to use e-transfers for distribution of funds to the Area Officers. I will send out this recommendation to the committee for all to have a look at.
Basil 1) currently I am not a signer on the bank account, and I will put into motion to have Gerry removed and myself put on.
2) Treasurer Budget was never advanced to me. I have the cheque issued to myself for the rest of the year.
Steven I was not aware you were not a signee. Are you making plans to change from Gerry to you?
Basil Yes, I'll have it done very soon.
Dwayne muffled – could not make it out
Basil Will we need to cover the cost of CERASSA?
Dwayne It is a GSO event. There is a Guideline regarding CERASSA. Michael will send a copy to Basil.

Motion from District 6 – AA Literature

Steven This was the conscience of District 6 to ask Area 82 to present our proposal to the General Service Conference 2025. If it passes here, it will go to GSO, and if it fails here, it goes no further.

The proposal goes as follows: That all AA conference-approved pamphlets have both the Declaration of Unity and the Responsibility Statement.

Background a newer member in District 6 asked where they would find the Responsibility Statement. It was mentioned that it could be found on the back of any AA conference-approved literature. The member picked up a random pamphlet from the rack, and there was no Responsibility Statement on the pamphlet. This brought some interest! Was it a mistake by GSO services, or simply left off this particular pamphlet? The GSO was contacted and had no answer. It was discussed at the home group, then at District 6 meeting. District 6 decided to ask Area 82 whether or not this proposal should be taken to the General Service Conference 2025 as a proposed agenda item. I enclosed four different pamphlets we found which were missing the Responsibility Statement. They are "Circles of Love and Service", "AA as a resource for the Health Care Professional", "The 12 Traditions Illustrated", and "Problems other than Alcohol". We found that these pamphlets are missing either one or both the Declaration of Unity and the Responsibility Clause. The deadline for agenda items for the General Service conference is September 15. Therefore, we cannot wait until our Fall Assembly for full assembly participation. We do, however, present this to the Area 82 committee.

Chair Do we have any discussion on this?

Michael My question is "Is there a pamphlet standard", and if not, are you asking for pamphlets to be standardized? What is it that you are asking for?

Steven We are asking that this be an agenda item to have standardization in the pamphlets

Dwayne Steven, do you know if there is a policy in place about pamphlets?

Steven I don't know.

Chair Should we not be asking GSO this question?

Steven I did call GSO, but I didn't get an answer, the person I spoke to said they didn't know.

Dwayne If it's ok with this committee, I will call the staff member assigned to literature and have a conversation with her. Since we will get together on August 11 – I should have more information

regarding this then. I will ask what the policy is, and if there isn't one, I will ask if one can be made. Area 82 could submit as a proposal.

Steven Sounds good to me.

Mark The only thing, I would change the word "mistake" to "oversight" . It sounds less accusatory.

Steven Thanks for that. Yes, we could change that.

Motion to Update Webmaster Guidelines

Marie presented a motion regarding updating webmaster guidelines, to ensure that the content of the website align with the Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous. Motion was previously sent to DCMs. Marie shared the screen and explained the document.

Questions & Feedback

Michael Just a comment – the personal pronouns should be taken out of the motion.

Marie Ok. Thank you, I will change that

Dwayne Pg. 15 - The spirit of area service is the spirit of Alcoholics Anonymous working within the Traditions and Principles of the AA program. This is already how we work together. I believe this is redundant and a change that we don't need to make. This makes it sound like the spirit of area service is not the spirit of Principles of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Marie Thank you. I didn't know what "- The spirit of area service" meant, so I felt it needed to be called out, and I don't know if there was autonomy. This was my reason for calling it out.

Steven You have done a fantastic job, Marie. I think that this should be changed. I believe that the things you have here, I don't see the area actually supporting traditions or principles of Alcoholics Anonymous. If it is put in there, then we can, at least follow it.

Marie It did pop out to me with the flyer we questioned this month. I would have felt more comfortable addressing the flyers if the traditions and principles of Alcoholics Anonymous had been called out. This would add clarity for the reader, that was my only reason.

Dwayne This needs to be voted on by the entire body, so will go to the Assembly.

Marie Pg. 23 – it relates more to Tradition 11 than Tradition 12 (could have been a typo)

Pg 23 – App X – calling out that autonomy will be respected. Just a reminder to keep the traditions and principles front and center when posting to the website

Pg 24 – change responsibility from AGSD to Webmaster as strict oversight not necessary

Dwayne In speaking with Dale, who did our inventory, many people who responded started by saying they hadn't been around long enough to know how things work....and then set about saying we need to change things. I think we should have a conversation about why the A-GSD has always given the committee reports before we add this bullet to the guidelines. Traditionally, the Alternate Delegate has always presented the Alternate Delegate report and then read the committee reports out. If we add this, then all committee chairs would give their respective reports and it will certainly add time to our assembly agenda.

I propose that we put a hold on this until we have a discussion around that agenda.

Marie Fair point. Thanks

Steven I am reading it differently. What I am hearing is that you want the webmaster to present the report on the website. For the last two years, we haven't even had a report. You are just looking to clarify, is that right?

Marie Well, right now, it says that the webmaster will give a report at the Fall Assembly, and the Alternate Delegate will give the report at the Spring Assembly. I wasn't proposing we change that; I was just proposing changing the website report to the webmaster responsibility – moving the bullet down to the webmaster responsibility instead of it being under policy.

Dwayne A-GSD has always presented the committee reports

Marie Oh...I see...let me take this one away then. I think I have just confused things

Dwayne Suggest we just put on hold until we discuss with greater body

Marie Pg 24 – Move from Website Policy to Section VIII – Area webmaster responsibility
Add a section on flyers & events

Many members commented positively about this section! Great work Marie!

Add sections – Search Engine Optimization

Content Management

Technical Search Engine Optimization

Change Log

Michael Could you put explanation of the SEO

Marie Apologies! I will not use the jargon

Mark To the first amendment pg 15 – if we made that amendment and took out the words “the spirit of area service” it would solve the amendment and address Dwayne's issue as well. If we eliminate those words, I think everyone could be happy with that.

Marie That's a good point.

Gary This is presented to gather feedback and then present at Fall Assembly for vote, correct?

Marie That's right.

Dwayne I said it should come from the Area Committee to the Fall Assembly.

Steven I move that this document be forwarded to the Fall Assembly “as is”
Seconded by Bernie

Dwayne I move to table this motion until the webmaster has an opportunity to review our feedback. .
Webmaster can then present the document to our committee again in September, then brought to Fall Assembly.

Seconded by Michael H.

Seven I withdraw my motion. Bernie agreed.

Dwayne I withdraw my tabling motion. Michael agreed.

It is left on the Fall agenda as Motion 3.

Flyer on Website – possible violation of traditions and principles

Steven There was a flyer on the website which was questionable. I contacted Dwayne, who talked to some others, did some research and came back to me within a week. He said it was an outside issue, and would be best left at that. I reported back to my district meeting where there was a motion put on the floor any flyer which breaks our traditions, be removed from the area website. When I requested that the flyer be removed, I got a response asking that I respond to all the DCMs. I did this, even though I don't think this was my responsibility. I was asked what the issues were on the flyer. I named them. After I did this, not one area officer responded. I tried to speak to a few DCMs about this. I never received any emails from any DCMs. I was feeling

absolutely let down that no area officer or DCM would even respond. I had people accuse me of being homophobic. This is the hardest month I have ever put in during AA service. My district directed me to bring this up and I believe that this issue was a violation of our traditions. I stood up and said "I don't care what anybody says about me, this has to be addressed" Nobody stood with me...nobody. I am not asking for you to take sides, I am asking for you to show some leadership. I am not looking for a big discussion, I'm just saying I am disappointed that there was a clear violation of tradition and I was the only DCM who stood up. District 6 was the only district which stood up. As leaders in AA, we need to speak up if something is not right.

Dwayne We all have a right to feel as we feel. It is unfortunate that you feel nobody stood up with you, but I will be damned if I will sit here and listen to you say that nobody answered you. I did the research, I spoke to GSDs across two countries, as well as GSO to get an answer to your question. I brought you the answer – I am sorry if you don't like to answer that I gave you. I will not have you say that I did not lead, or didn't do my service to get you an answer.

Steven My apologies Dwayne. I said I never I got a reply after requesting that the flyer be removed. I still have no reply from area officers or DCMs.

Dwayne The reason I did not respond to a request from one district, with no basis in the guidelines, to take an action which affects the total body of Area 82 was

- a) It was not my job to respond to that
- b) The information I gave you said that It was an outside issue. I gave you the info and left it at that

Gary As our GSD, Do you feel the flyer in question was a break in tradition?

Dwayne No. But it's not my feeling. I have no opinion on it. I asked delegates, past delegates, from San Francisco, New York, Oklahoma, and Ontario, as well as GSO, and the answer I got is that it is an issue which keeps coming up in the States as well, and that it is not violating tradition. BUT the fact that people are coming after it is a break in traditions 1, 2, & 4. This is what I was told. From what I was told, it did not break tradition to be on the website, but it is up to the area to decide, not for us to decide.

Steven Just want to read something here – everybody has a different interpretation. At the bottom of the flyer, there is a QR code – it takes you to another website – which says " The Rainbow of Recovery Group is excited to bring together 2SLGBTQ alcoholics and allies to meet about alcoholism and AA's solution. This Roundup is open to the public, friends, non-alcoholics, family, alcoholics - and those curious about sobriety are encouraged to come. It will be four panels...etc..." It's telling you that it is going to bring together numerous communities. It does not say that it is an Alcoholics Anonymous event. It just says that it's going to bring together a few communities. Here's the point I want to make – bringing a few communities together, who don't affiliate, we don't imply affiliation. It could be alcoholics coming together for a specialized group. That's just one thing. I have other points. I'm not here to discuss those points – it's a clear violation of traditions.

Michael This is the 2024 difficult subject – nobody likes to talk about it; nobody wants to be the 'bad guy', but I'm not even sure what the issue IS. Is the issue that this is an outside issue or what?? You know, the Pride flag is rejoiced in AA everywhere! The website aa.org talks about this community in a very positive light – where people who under the Pride umbrella come together in AA and become sober! This fits in with our third tradition – THE ONLY REQUIREMENT FOR MEMBERSHIP is a desire to stop drinking. My point is Let's bring together a whole bunch of different kinds of groups/peoples and share sobriety!

Anne To me, Steven, what you read is a concise description of an open AA meeting. It didn't sound like different groups being drawn together.

Marie I think the issue with the flyer is the Pride Flag. I have not seen anywhere in AA, websites, flyers, newsletters, literature, where they use another logo. The only other logo I have come

across is a logo for an International convention. The LBGTQ pamphlet uses a stylized rainbow – so they use the rainbow and I think that’s wonderful. The use of the rainbow is about inclusivity – I assume it’s to show people that they don’t exclude. Our conversations needs to be “HOW?? how do we show support in another way, without using the Pride flag. It could be ANY flag – Canadian, Go Trump, Pro-Palestine - this puts us on a slippery slope. I think we should stick using our own logo – but strive to include those who struggle with being included. I believe it does break tradition.

Gary A question arose at our Provincial Roundup this year why there were no LGBTQ meetings listed? This is a question that we need to be asking ourselves now.

Bernie I got a call from DCM District 6 re the flyer. I looked at the flyer, some of it made me laugh. I contacted the committee people that their flyer had come under fire and that perhaps they should make some changes. They didn’t. I’ll be going to the event, and I’ll bring a multi-colored cheesecake. As the DCM for that district, I will do this to show that I support their place in Alcoholics Anonymous, no matter what their sexual orientation. The theme of this Roundup is LIVE AND LET LIVE so ... maybe we should. Marie’s presentation was well taken, and these are things we can learn from without biting each other’s heads off.

Dwayne Our area has a logo – you’ll often see cross-border roundups with Canadian/US Flags. When I discussed this with two different people at GSO, they both answered the same. This is not a PRIDE event – this is an AA event specifically aimed at LGBTQ people, therefore lies within our traditions. Also, this is not a new thing, it has been going on in our area for years. This kafuffle around it has brought it into the light, so to speak. This is a good thing. I think it is well named this year!

Mark I have no opinion on the flyer. I want to address the question Gary brought up. “Why aren’t their LGBTQ meetings at provincial roundups?” I asked this question at the Area officers meeting and the answer is that if we start having meetings for special groups, we will need 40 rooms.

Steven We are not against specialized groups – we need them all! The reason I brought this up was because I got nothing back once I addressed the flyer. I am not homophobic and have been called that . This is not the case.

Marie 1) Please could I get a list of positions which are up for election in the Fall, as I will put that info on the Website.

Chair Yes, I will forward that to you

2) When are my receipts/ expense report due to the Treasurer?

Basil At the end of each month

Chair She wants to know when she should put in her proposed budget for 2025?

Basil I am unaware of that process – I’ll ask those who were here before me.

Dwayne We will get together as an Area Committee and do our sheets together. It will happen around the end of August.

Chair The form is in the Guidelines

Monies being sent from Groups to Treasurer

Basil Request DCMs go to GSRs – Jocelyn is still having money sent to her. Please inform GSRs AGAIN. I will send this request to DCMs for you to forward.

Also – some GSRs or Treasurers have sent money to me with AA Treasurer – and my name and address. This is a break in anonymity. Let’s educate everybody.

- Gary It's not a wonder to me that this info is not getting through. At our last Assembly there were only 6 districts represented. Can this information be put on the website?
- Marie That is an amazing call out, Gary. That's a very valid point. I am happy to put on the website. There are a number of solutions besides snail mail.
- Dwayne With the account we have, e-transfers are not available. We may need to talk about changing banks and getting an account which accepts e-transfers.
- Basil Our account does accept e-transfers in. No e-transfers out.
- Dwayne When I was doing treasurer, money came in from groups to the previous treasurer – maybe we could look at treasurer having a p.o. box. Just a thought.

Next meeting August 11, 2024 @ 6:00

Steven moved that meeting close.

Meeting closed with the Responsibility Clause.