

Serenity Group



The Woodlands

Group Conscience Meeting Agenda Monday, September 19th, 2022 ~ 7:10-7:50

Meeting Opens – 7:10 PM with Welcome and Serenity Prayer

Review of Minutes: Copies available for review, both paper and on www.serenitywoodlands.com and on the current Newsletter.

Charlie made a motion to accept the minutes, Greg seconded the motion.

Group Reports: GSR limit to 5 minutes, others limit to 2 minutes, please

GSR: I attended the district meeting yesterday, I mentioned this last month. There is going to be a workshop on “What is an informed Group Conscience” hosted by the Atascocita Group on October 22nd. I will leave the flyer at the front. They wanted questions, so do we have any questions we would like answered at this workshop? I will let you think about that, if you think of something tell me. What would we like answered at the workshop, what is an informed group conscience. Are there things that have come up that we might like some guidance on. We are going to have two past delegates there that will answer questions, take questions from groups in the district. SWARSA, service conference, is before our next group conscience. I am planning to go, it's in Tulsa, there is some expenses involved in that. I guess I just turn those into you, Greg?

Greg: Yes

Kristi: We had elections yesterday, that took pretty much the whole meeting, for district.

Scott: So who's leading the district now

Kristi: It will be Karen, I don't know here last name. She will be the DCM. She will take over in January.

Scott: Any questions for Kristi?

Scott: Okay, we will move to the treasurer's report.

Charlie: This is great stuff, I just have a ton of questions I will ask afterwards.

Treasurer's report: For the month of August. Basket collections for August was \$7,034. That is broken up to \$6099 in cash and \$935 through square. 85% of that was paid to SMCAF for room rent of \$5,978.90. That leaves us \$1055.10 for distribution. Of that \$1055.10 we automatically push \$150 into the literature fund. Literature sales for the month of August was \$188. Red can collections were \$455, leaving us a literature restrictive fund of \$1642.12. So remaining \$905.10 for distribution. You can see the distribution, they have remained the same since I've been treasure. So 30% to GSO, 10% to S.E.T.A, 50% to Intergroup and 10% to District 31. The green can collection for the month of August was \$452. Can collections for the month of August was quite impressive. That's it, any questions on the treasurer's report?

Charlie made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, Kristi seconded the motion.

Kristi: Area assembly is the first weekend in October, Serenity agreed to host one of the meals. It's going to be a lunch on October 1st. I'm not sure how we've done that in the past, as far as whether it's a monetary contribution. We do have some members that are willing to take the food time. I know it's not an item in our budget. I was just curious about that. It was a couple of months ago, we agreed to host one of the meals. We will need to feed between 50-60 people, and I don't know how much that would be.

Scott: It's generally about \$10 dollars per person.

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Kristi: That's a pretty big chunk of change.

Scott: Would we need to pay it beforehand or after

Kristi: Honestly I don't know. Whether to get people in here to contribute something, either money or the food itself. Charlie, do you know in the past if we've taken the money out of the group budget?

Charlie: We used to be able to bring them food, but now it's really strict. Even centers, covid or whatever, only interior food. So if they are in a hotel, they are saying they need to use the interior food. We will just have to give them money.

Kristi: Do you want it to be where the person does it, we figure how much it ends up costing and bring it back to the group then? I know what they've done in the past, again this is pre-covid. People brought stuff, they might bring drinks, chips or desserts.

Scott: Do we want to bring it up as a motion to discuss

How much leeway?

Kristi: It's October 1st

Sue: What is this for again?

Kristi: Area assembly, we would be providing lunch

Sue: I'd been to one conference, but a hospitality room. They had the bread and all of the makings to make sandwiches. Is that what you are thinking of?

Kristi: Yes, we would be providing the food. Different groups in our district are doing different times. Someones doing breakfast, we are doing lunch, someones doing dinner, someone's doing coffee.

Sue: How much will this cost?

Scott: We are estimating \$10 a person, 50-60 people.

Sue: So \$600

Kristi: Possibly

Sue: Is the group or the club donating

Kristi: The group agreed to do one of the things, breakfast, lunch or whatever. I didn't think through how much that was going to cost. I found out yesterday we needed it for 50-60 people. I was trying to talk to Eddie, he has done this before pre-covid. I wasn't able to talk to him before the meeting tonight.

Casey: When is the event

Kristi: October 1st. Our district agreed to host, so I brought it to group conscience. We agreed to do one of the things, and know I have more details.

Sue: I won't be in town then, but am willing to donate \$200 if that will help

Kristi: Thank you, Sue. There might be people willing to donate.

Sue: I guess I can just do it through the square and notate what it's for

Kristi: Okay, thank you Sue, I appreciate that.

Charlie: Historically, we have gone all the way to \$500. But usually we are \$250 or \$400 without even blinking an eye.



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Kristi: I think if we get the right stuff, we can probably keep the price lower than that. And if people might contribute, hey I'm not going to contribute money but I can bring some sodas, tea, chips.

Charlie: I make a motion that we donate up to \$350 for the thing. To be better worded by Jessica

Sue: I second the motion.

Doug: I have a question for the treasurer. Do you have any extra money

Greg: Our account is run down to a \$6500 prudent reserve every month and we have restricted funds only being held out for literature. The prudent reserve is \$6500 and restricted funds in literature of \$1642.12.

Doug: Have you made those donations yet? Donations to GSO, SETA, Intergroup and District.

Greg: No, that's distribution right there. I like the way you are thinking. We can make an adjustment to this and financially support before we make the distribution to cover the cost.

Doug: And that is within tradition. Group takes care of expenses first then donates any excess money to these entities.

Greg: You just made a motion up to \$350, can we just support for \$350 and I make the adjustments on the treasurer's report?

Kristi: That can even be for next month Greg. Is that what you are thinking Doug?

Greg: Who would that payment go to?

Kristi: I have someone that is taking charge of it, can she bring receipts

Greg: Either give them to me or put them in an envelope and put them in the safe back there.

Scott: Can you please read the motion

Jessica: Charlie makes a motion to donate upwards of \$350 to the area assembly luncheon.

Scott: WE'll go ahead and vote. All of those in favor raise your hand. Anyone opposed?

Scott: Okay the motion passes.

MOTION - PASSES

Scott: Anything else Kristi?

Kristi: I hope not

Intergroup report: No report

Grapevine report: This month I actually do. It will be posted on the grapevine board, there is a new book in spanish, there's some new things on the telephone (Apps), there are price increases, there are people like me that have a grapevine rep resources page that's on the internet. As opposed to getting a packet, I can go online to get all of that kind of stuff. There is a new book and of course LaVina. I don't know if we have any Spanish speaking people in this group or not. LaVina is important as part of the Grapevine in English. Grapevine does have a way that you can submit your story for upcoming issues and there are some guidelines on how they think you should do that. There are Grapevine workshops and I'm not going

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to ask to go to this one in Tennessee. There is one there that is a national Grapevine workshop. There is a writing workshop in Alaska, but that's virtual, see this virtual stuff we can do now on how to write a story for Grapevine. It will all be up on the board.

PI report: A lot of the work is on those PSA's, contacting people, media outlets is what a lot of the committee meetings have been about. Also checking to see if libraries have Spanish copies of the big book.

Sue: We can't hear.

Scott: We had just had some committee meetings, did some work on PR.

SOT report: This month we started having what we called "Trusted Servant Sessions" on Saturdays at Noon. Crystal has been hosting those. The hosts get together with Crystal and have a conversation about how AA Principles are represented in how we host meetings and try to draw the correlation between what a good host role looks like as it relates to representing the principles. I have a questions regarding website management. I know we don't have a webmaster. I wanted to know in absence of that, who is keeping track of the different plug-ins that expire on the website. We recently had one that did expire, I ended up paying for it through inuit. I'm not asking for reimbursement, it was \$89 dollars. But I don't really know if anyone is keeping track of that sort of thing.

Scott: We don't have a webmaster. I have a login, I think Charlie does too. Larry was managing all of that but he, I think he's helping with birthday night stuff. Like he'll change the sign up.

Kimberely: No, that's me. I'm doing all of that. Just not the actual mechanics of the website itself. Any kind of licensing thing. What I'm hearing is there isn't anybody.

Scott: Like I said, I have a login and provide updates to the front page, I'll post things. But I'm not tracking it. I know there is a lot behind it, like hosting, there's all kinds of stuff going on, that's what we need someone to do.

Kimberely: Yeah, I do all of the stuff for SOT and birthday night sign up. And I do make changes when I see they are necessary. As far as updating references and things of that nature. More specifically about licensing. I will see what I can do to try to reign that in a little bit at least so something doesn't crash and we don't know what it is.

Scott: Kimberely, if there is more expense you can get reimbursed for it. Thank you

Scott: Any other reports?

Literature report: I'm sorry I am late. I just wanted to say I'm going to go to Intergroup to pick up some more Big books and I'll do a check on all the chips that are not out of anything. Someone recently relayed a request to me for large print Big Books and I looked into it a little bit. They cost a little bit more than the regular Big Books, I think they are \$11.50 a piece instead of \$10 a piece. I wondered if anyone has any thoughts on if we should have those just on hand as a regular thing or what?

Greg: What's the difference in cost?

Scott: \$1.50

Charlie: I make a motion that we keep five large print Big Books on stock at all times

Casey: I second

Scott: I would suggest we put in writing in the book that those are not to be taken. So people can use them here, cause they will walk off. Just a suggestion.

Vicki: Are people going to need it, like a big print book. Is there any way the community that came in and walked up to see them what books can be ordered kind of thing. Is there an email address or some way



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to communicate they would like to order one. For themselves.

Ginny: The Intergroup online bookstore is available to anyone. If anyone wants to order a book and pay for it and have it be their book, they can order one and have it shipped to their home. I can make a little sign to that. AA literature can also be ordered from Intergroup Houston or whatever, like large print and other books. I don't know, what do you think?

Vicki: There is a definite advantage to ordering it through the group because the group pays shipping. So if somebody wants the large print book, I guess they will survive paying the shipping. I think let people know that Intergroup has more books, I love that idea, making a sign for that.

Sue: If we are selling Big Books and Twelve and Twelves to people why can't we sell the large print Big Books at the club as well?

Greg: That's exactly what my suggestion was going to be. When someone wants a Big Book we like to give it to them at the point of need. There is no reason we can't carry a supply of large print. We change the sign, we may charge \$12 for the Big Book and \$15 for the large print Big Book. And just keep a supply. I don't think we are going to sell that money, but it shouldn't be hard to keep them in stock.

Scott: Good idea, did you hear that Ginny?

Ginny: No, not clearly

Scott: Greg suggested selling Big Books with large print as well as the regular and charging a little bit more since they cost more and changing the sign to suggest that. And keeping large print Big Books on hand for that purpose.

Ginny: What's your thought about what to charge? Are we charging whatever the cost?

Scott: Greg suggested \$15 for the large print book.

Ginny: Okay

Scott: We should probably round up, I don't know why they are like .50 cents

Greg: Big Book right now is \$11 and large print is \$13.

Ginny: Okay, that would actually cover shipping. It's kinda hard to drive over to Intergroup all of the time to pick up these books all the time. Last time I needed Twelve and Twelves I had them shipped. A box of 20, shipping was \$13.69. They are lighter and smaller.. So a box of hard back Big Books, the shipping would probably be more. I don't how much more the large print Big Books would be, but I can find out.

Scott: So we have a motion, does anyone else have any discussion points.

Jessica: Charlie made a motion to keep 5 large print Big Books in stock at all times, that was the original.

Charlie: I make a motion that we start carrying big print Big Books and sell them for \$13.

Sue: Seconded the motion

Scott: All those in favor, raise your hand. All opposed.

MOTION - PASSES

Scott: Ginny go ahead and get the large print Big Books, we can start with 5 and go from there.

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Old Business:

The YPAA meeting is pretty much dead. Is there anything that needs to get done? It's just no longer happening

Charlie: if it comes back it comes back, we have a spot for them when they are ready if they want to. It's like the 6:30am meeting, it tapered off and it came back. It's like the men's meeting that tapered off and came back super strong. That's what the rooms are for.

Scott: The only reason I ask is because there was this six month thing, so we don't need to do anything? Okay

Scott: So we'll move to new business

New Business:

Casey: I'm asking the group to consider a workshop around speaking, how to be an AA speaker, what that means. I volunteer to teach and facilitate that workshop. And sitting in the seat of service as the honorary for speakers night, we need it.

Sue: We couldn't hear

Scott: Can you come closer

Casey: Tell them what I said Scott

Scott: Casey would like to bring forth the idea of conducting a AA speakers workshop that she would facilitate. We would need a motion to open up a discussion for that.

Charlie: Make it into an actionable item, when would you like to do it. Get busy

Scott: Just tell us when you want to have it and we can make a motion

Casey: I would like to have it on the last Saturday, that's what I want to discuss with the club about. What slot of time, what space would be available in the club.

Scott: That's fine, but we still need to make a motion

Charlie: She wants to know what's a good time slot. Unfortunately, there's not too many time slots on Saturday unless the YPAA is not there. A good time slot is 2:00pm on Sundays.

Casey: That works. I make a motion that a speakers workshop be given on Sunday...I don't have the date in mind. Do I need it at this moment? In lieu of a date, a speakers meeting would be allowed on Sunday.

Charlie: Within 30 days, actually 45 days which would give time to get flyers out to other places

Casey: 30 days, absolutely

Kristi: I'm assuming with you saying that, anyone is welcome?

Casey: Absolutely, it is open to AA members

Charlie: Excellent

Sue: Seconds motion

Scott: Fantastic, thank you Casey

Sue: My only suggestion would be a Saturday vs. Sunday because of football starting

Doug: Saturday has a 2pm

Scott: Saturday has a Coda meeting at 2:00pm

Casey: We've already decided it's going to be at 2:00pm on Sunday

Ginney: What is going to be the content of the AA Speakers Worksho

It will consist of the purpose of speaking, the sacredness of the 12th step call, that it is a 12th step call. I am taking the information from the book from literature. Speakers meeting workshops I have given in the past, workshops I have attended in the past to better prepare our members who speak here on speakers night but also if our members choose to speak someplace else and offer suggestions on how to take



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some of the stress out of speaking. Not everyone is a public speaker, we want this to be a safe place and encouraging space for our new members to speak. And maybe after the workshop I think it will alleviate some of the stressors of speaking. That is some of the information.

Scott: Did you hear that Ginny

Ginny: yeah, sure

Sue: That is wonderful

Casey: If anyone has suggestions, let me know. I want to make this fun, I want it to be interactive, and have skits. Bring in food so that will be an incentive to come

Scott: I would recommend making some flyers

Greg: Is anyone opposed to scheduling a date or just hold out on that? I would suggest November 6th would be perfect.

Casey: I'm not sitting in front of the calendar. I will suggest when I'm ready to do that.

Scott: It will be when Casey's ready. Is everyone clear on what the motion is?

Sue: yes

Scott: All those in favor of having a speakers workshop, raise your hand. Anyone opposed

MOTION - PASSES

New Business (Cont)

Charlie: I've done extensive research on this, I make a motion to close.

Susanne: We've been talking about having a Halloween party here after the 8:00pm meeting. I don't know what day yet.

Charlie: Excellent, we have a volunteer. I will work with you, I will help.

Scott: Suggestion would be to make a flyer to put up and also have a signup sheet for people to bring stuff and let people know that children are welcome. We will pass out candy, bring some scary music or something.

Charlie: And I'll cook some food

Kristi: We don't have a group rep here tonight, but Laura texted me, If there is anything she needs to take to the club tomorrow night. Sounds like two things. Request the space for this workshop as well as the party. Is that correct? Asking the club if we can use the space.

Charlie: I will bring it.

Scott: Any other business we need to discuss.

Sue: I make a motion to close

Greg: Seconded the motion

Close of meeting:

Motion to close meeting made by Sue, seconded by Greg. Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer at 7:45 PM