

Area 61 Committee
Meeting Minutes - DRAFT
April 26, 2021

Introductions – 18 in attendance at peak (virtual meeting).

Secretary's Report – Anne M. – Presented minutes of March 29 meeting.

Minutes approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Joe H.

Joe presented:

- March 2021 report
 - Expenses: \$5896.17
 - Income: \$2819.07
 - Available Balance: \$10,386.28 over \$10,000 prudent reserve
- Summary of Finance Committee 4/19 meeting
- Presented preliminary April 2021 report.
- Discussions regarding lower contributions in first quarter 2021 compared to 1Q20, including causes and acknowledgement of unpredictability during pandemic. Also mention of Finance Committee recommendation to shred some financial records older than seven years.

Report accepted unanimously.

Delegate's Report – Steve L.

Steve reported: Conference just ended. An incredible conference. Last year was rough – 17-20 recommendation that turned into advisory actions. This year, conference was eight days. Final day was 18 hours. 48 recommendations; 45 passed. Got it all done. Six floor actions, four passed, one failed, one withdrawn. Theme was AA in a time of change. Delegates were advised not to disclose info until after Board meets, which typically happens within hours of the close of conference. But due to the end time, Board cannot meet until next Saturday, so some delegates are opting to withhold information until then. He asked for questions.

- What happened with Preamble?
 - Grapevine Committee had five or six agenda items, and came out with one agenda item, and took no action on the Preamble. Issue then arose as a floor action, followed by another floor action with a different version of Preamble.
 - Both versions of Preamble passed, and will be presented to the Board to determine.
- Motion to censure failed – 52% voted in favor – no substantial unanimity.
 - There may be increased (quarterly) meetings with Board and delegates to improve transparency.
- Fifth Edition of Big Book?

- There will be a new Fifth Edition, with new forward, preface, changes to appendices iii and v, as well as a plain language version of the Fourth Edition, and a Fourth Edition of the Spanish-language version.
- New Service Manual passed unanimously. Should be out in Sept/October. Cannot disclose new manual until probably late summer/early fall. Discussion of rewriting Concept 11 to update, and include as an addendum also passed.
- There are a couple of new PSAs as well – cannot be shown yet.
- Fifth Edition not likely to be published for about five years.
- Hybrid/virtual meetings and how to organize within service structure?
 - Committee recommended that they be allowed into service structure, into the district/area they choose, with a preference for geographic location. Those groups will be registered with GSO and given group numbers. Minority opinion changed this vote, and on several other items.
 - New groups can register with new group form, and can have GSRs, who have an Assembly vote.
- History of AA book? No action taken – sent back for further exploration.
- Archives Workbook? Nothing came out of committee.

Alternate Delegate's Report – Alison H.

Northeast Regional Forum registration has opened – will be virtual. Great opportunity to hear from GSO staffers, Trustees, lots of sharing.

Registrar's Report – Donna T.

Last month, she reconciled D4/2 meetings; prepared group/district report for District 8 and sent. Sent group change form to webmaster with revised instructions to submit forms to Area Registrar, not directly to GSO. Send group changes to her.

Archivist's Report – Don B.

Don reported from his submitted written report: "I have identified nine of 40 storage boxes containing bank records. I've printed a first draft of the Area Holdings, which consist of 26 pages of all categories. As a result of the archives presentation at the RI Convention, a member offered several of her AA items to the Archives."

Group or District Concerns

None

District Reports

District 1 - (2nd Tuesday - 7:00 PM) - April Y. DCM/ Joe F. ADCM – Not present.

Met on 4/13. 14 in attendance. GSRs will be helping to update Fellowship Convention. Still need Archives and Convention coordinators in district. A bunch of groups will start meeting in-person/hybrid – she asked that they coordinate with website.

District 3 - (3rd Tuesday - 7:00 PM) – Nat DCM / Vacant ADCM

Nat reported: Treasurer now set up with bank account, and disbursements made. Met last Tuesday. Not much to report.

District 4 & 2 - (2nd Wednesday - 7:00 PM) – Vacant DCM / Vacant ADCM

Alison reported: Without a DCM, and one active GSR. Other DCMs are diving in and giving support by holding next Joy of Service. Encourages anyone attending a D4 or 2 meeting to do what we can to encourage them to connect to service structure, and to have a voice.

District 5 - (4th Thursday - 6:00 PM) - Jackie R. DCM/ Peter C. ADCM

Jackie reported: Have not met since last meeting – no report.

District 6 - (2nd Thursday - 7:00 PM) – Kurt A. DCM / Keith R. ADCM

Kurt reported: Met on 4/8; 12 in attendance. Does not have details. Discussed decreased group contributions. They plan to discuss groups who are not registered at later meeting.

District 7 - (3rd Thursday - 7:30 PM) – Tina DCM / Nancy H. ADCM

Tina reported: Met last Thursday with 13 in attendance. Working on getting ad hoc committee to meet to. Planning to resume D7 picnic at Burlingame in August. District still has unspent funds from last year.

District 8 (Hispanic) – Enrique, Spanish Intergroup Chair – Not present.

Report on Joy of Service

Kurt reported: All DCMs meeting and planning a Joy of Service to be hosted by D4/2. Plan is to have members in different service positions share experience, and how service has helped them in recovery. Flyer is on Area website.

Standing & Special Committee Reports

Archives - (4th Wednesday - 7:00 PM) - Nancy R. Chair / Vacant Alt. Chair

Nancy reported from her submitted written report: “Longtimers Panel May 15, 10:00-11:30. Flyer is on Area website. 4 panelists got sober in RI then relocated to Fla. Thanks to all who e mailed names to me. Next committee meeting is this Wed the 28th. Becky from ISC will be speaking to us about ways in which ISC and Archives can work together. We will also be devising our questions for panelists. If anyone has a panelist question, please e mail Archives chair.”

Corrections - (3rd Wednesday – 6:00 PM) – Pride I. Chair/ Felicia D. Alt. Chair -

Pride reported: Met last Wednesday. Eight in attendance. Thanks to ACI coordinators Bob and Linda for working to update applications/clearances. If you want to seek clearance, reach out to them. ACI will start slow, and open up with one meeting per week. It will be a slow process, trial by fire. Received literature donations – they are appreciated. Bob has created “recruitment” flyers for the Committee. Wyatt is still shut down. Pride will reach out to see if he can help get things moving.

CPC/PI - (4th Thursday - 7:00 PM) - Bob H. Chair/ Jeff O. Alt Chair

Bob reported: Met last Thursday, five in attendance. Working on BB and 12/12 initiative to get them into public libraries. They will also get Spanish versions in, and are working on getting Grapevine subscriptions. Many of the bus ads are still up, as there have been no ads to replace them. They will look into running them for shorter periods. Looking at running ads in newspapers. Jeff O. is new Alt Chair; Kat is Secretary.

Grapevine - (2nd Monday - 7:00 PM) – Kerra M. Chair / Bob P. Alt Chair

Kerra reported: Last met on 4/12, eight in attendance. New books coming out in April. Read article from April issue called “Silver Lining.” Committee elected to donate two subscriptions to newcomers from Convention, but only got contact info for one – will donate to a treatment center. Exploring hybrid meeting next month.

Treatment/ Accessibilities – (1st Monday - 7:00 PM) – Jason D. Chair / Dean P. Alt Chair
Dean reported: Met on 4/5, seven in attendance. Discussed possibility of starting new treatment meeting. Phoenix House going well. Had to give up Thursdays for NA, but AA is in six days per week. Schedule is working well. But they will transition into new format, which will allow individual facilities to use Treatment Zoom account.

- Butler – any movement?

Information Services - (2nd Wednesday - 6:00 PM) – Andy L. Chair/ Becky T. Alt Chair –

Andy reported: Met on 4/14. Up to almost 1400 subscribers to Friday update. 9500-10,000 sessions per month, or about 4500 unique users. Have been able to address some technical issues – theme. Launched some initiatives – e.g., reaching out to Archives to develop more ways to use website; also reaching out to Corrections. Just completed new coding, which will allow increased filtering (e.g., just virtual; just in-person; etc.). These filters will only apply locally, not to Meeting Guide app. Had 30-40 requests in the last month for list of in-person meetings. Filter will make this easier.

Convention - (1st Wednesday - 7:00 PM) – Mary K. Chair

Andy reported: He attended the last Convention Committee. They are looking to have an in-person convention next year if they can find a location. Discussion of theme – possibly using last year’s (cancelled) theme. Hoping that hotels are trying to entice people back in with lower rates, but not so – hotels are looking to recoup their losses.

RISCYPAA - (1st Saturday, 6:00 PM) – Sam G (Chair) and Brian B. (Alt. Chair)

Sam reported: Expressed gratitude for all who attended last (hybrid) meeting. About 24 in attendance. Very beneficial to have hybrid meeting – seemed to increase participation. Hoping to organize an event for the summer – stay tuned. They have a contact at CCA, who has said they will be opening to in-person meetings again.

Old Business

None

New Business

Area Committee going hybrid.

Discussion:

- In favor. We're equipped.
- Who might want to attend?
- Approx. 10 or 11 of the 17 present expressed an interest in attending in person.
- No need to bring individual computers.
- On May 7, occupancy rate increases to 25
- Will go hybrid next month.

Upcoming Events

- Longtimers' Panel – May 15, 10 am
- District 4&2 Joy of Service – Sunday, May 16, 2021 10-11:15am, hosted by Room to Grow (virtual meeting)
- Finance Committee Meeting – Monday, May 17, 2021 7pm
- Area Committee Meeting – Monday, May 24 2021 7pm

Anniversaries

Happy Wanderers – 61st anniversary on 5/16, 11am via Zoom.

Meeting closed with Responsibility Statement.

(Minutes submitted by Anne M.)