

District 28 Meeting Minutes

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Date: February 17, 2021

Attendance—Virtual Meeting:

Officers (3): DCM, Secretary, Treasurer

GSR or Alt GSR (7): Bel Air Women's Big Book (GSR and Alt both in attendance), Bel Air Women's Group (GSR and incoming GSR in attendance), Good News Group, Never Too Early, Rule 62 (counted as Treasurer), Sobriety on Friday

Other (1): Emmorton Group (non-GSR counted as secretary), Intergroup Chair

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m. with the Serenity Prayer.

Secretary's report / previous month's minutes:

- **January minutes:** Motion to accept revised minutes as distributed. Second. None opposed. Motion carries.

GSR reports:

- **Bel Air Women's Group:** Meets Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., at Calvary Baptist Church; closed women's meeting; currently only on zoom; have about 20 people in attendance. New GSR introduced—this is Kathy T's last meeting as GSR; Amy T is new GSR. Group is celebrating 50 years on March 26. GSR spoke to treasurer about bank fees (current bank charges \$10 service fee) and GSR checked with her bank which has a free service for nonprofit orgs; the treasurer is going to explore the possibilities.
- **Sobriety on Friday:** Big Book meeting, Friday 7:30 p.m., Strong Tower Church in Forest Hill; hybrid meeting; 70 people in attendance; require masks, contact tracing, and such. Held group conscience last Friday and discussed whether to end hybrid option—decision was to attempt to make the Zoom experience better. Also, treasurer had been gone for 3 months and recently came back; the treasury had \$2,000; group is going to give \$70 to District and \$700 to Intergroup within the next week.
- **Emmorton Group:** Still not meeting and nothing to report.
- **Good News:** Sunday nights at 7 p.m.; two distinct meetings (beginner's meeting and open discussion meeting) but all the same home group; both meetings have separate Zoom ids; had group conscience in January and decided to disburse funds and still owe to District from that; the beginner's meeting currently opens with the inclusivity statement (written by Bill W) at the beginning of the meeting; —a home group member who attends the beginners' meeting suggested ~~that they also consider a different way of closing the meeting; the group conscience was to let the beginner's meeting go ahead and see how it works.~~ —based on reading that statement—perhaps reading or saying a prayer, per se, Serenity Prayer or Lord's Prayer, could be interpreted as religious in nature whereas a moment of silence or something like that would put off a newcomer less—a newcomer who is having a hard time getting the higher power; no one had any data on this; the group conscience agreed that the beginner's meeting can go ahead and continue doing it that way and see how it goes; **discussion on** meeting attendance is around 10-15 and the beginners' meeting is around 20-25; the beginners meeting is reading out of pamphlets as well as *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* instead of just redoing Steps 1, 2, 3 over and over.
- **Rule 62:** Meet Wednesday night with changed time to 7 p.m. at St Matthew's; group conscience last week decided that the group will do a hybrid meeting only when they have an anniversary; otherwise meeting in person with 10 people or so; no more information on the larger space opening up.

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- **Bel Air Women's Big Book:** Meets virtually Thursday at noon; closed women's meeting; continually have 20–25 attendance; 25 home group members; occasionally get a newcomer but haven't seen many lately; place 7th tradition info in chat and distribute funds per their group conscience; also put sponsorship info in the chat.
- **Never Too Early:** Meets 6 a.m. Thursdays; Big Book / literature study; tomorrow will start meeting at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd rather than the previous private-business location they used; 8–9 attendees; will still keep it hybrid; group member already put meeting-location change into the NEMDAA directory; the group recently opened up a bank account utilizing guidance in the *AA Service Manual* about how to set that up effectively.
- **Intergroup Chair:** Member of By the Book Tuesdays, 7 p.m., meeting inside, socially distanced; size of meeting was 17 this week; so, the attendance has dropped from the previous size in the tent.

DCM report part

CARC: Initial Planning Meeting is virtual on February 20 at 10:00 a.m. Attached to the District meeting agenda email is the entire list of agenda items. The CARC committee picks eight unique items and two items that all of the CARCS will discuss. Ten people or teams will volunteer or pick an item and do some research and report back to the group on March 13 and the items are discussed. The Zoom link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86468588509?pwd=YlhITFJScUs5cmRYbFNDZmhscHplUT09>. The flyer for CARC3 with more information was sent with the District meeting agenda email.

DCM shared the 10 agenda items assigned to CARC 3. The second and third items are shared among all four CARCs, and the rest are only assigned to CARC 3. The literature topics regarding a 5th edition Big Book and the last item for Trustees, to revise procedures, are holdovers from the 2020 General Service Conference. DCM will distribute the topic short-list after tonight's meeting.

These are the items they will discuss at the CARC planning meeting Saturday, February 20, for which a flyer was distributed to all Areas 29 GSRs.

If anyone is interested in presenting an item, reach out to the DCM, who will send the background information.

NERAASA is next weekend. DCM presented idea whether District wants to financially support anyone who wants to go but can't afford it—or just those who want to go. DCM then shared briefly about what NERAASA is and how it works as a weekend conference. NERAASA is virtual on February 26-28. Registration is \$21. To register go to <https://www.neraasa.org/register/>.

Motion made to support the registration fee of anyone interested in going. Seconded. None opposed. Anyone interested can contact the DCM and arrange for the coverage.

Treasurer's report

Treasurer presented report.

Discussed the use of PayPal to submit contributions. PayPal is quick and easy; transfers instantly. The PayPal issue raised at January meeting was resolved. The submitter had the wrong email address. Submitter did say PayPal charged him an 88-cent service fee when he

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submitted the payment and Intergroup PayPal doesn't do that; that may be a personal setting or way of identifying who the funds are being sent to.

Motion to accept treasurer's report as shared. Seconded. None opposed. Motion carries.

District PayPal account: mgsdistrict28@gmail.com

Committee reports

Intergroup Liaison: Attended the Northeastern Maryland Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous Intergroup Council Meeting on January 26, 2020.

- There is a recurring Area 29 Intergroup Liaison Committee (IGLC) Monthly Meeting. All interested are welcome to attend. The January meeting focused on Newsletter Best Practices. The February meeting (February 1—passed at the time of our District meeting) will focus on Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) and Institutions.
- The NEMDAA website meeting list now identifies up front whether a meeting is open or closed. This is thanks to the topic brought up at the January District 28 meeting. Previously you had to click on the meeting to get this information but now it is on the meeting list itself.
- Discussion is underway regarding Ad Hoc Committees and whether to continue them as well as possibly revise the bylaws so ad hoc committee chairs have a vote. Per the bylaws as currently written, committees/subcommittees not named in the bylaws do not get a vote. Ad hoc committee are not named. The ad hoc committees include answering service, ways and means, website, and archives.
- There are budget concerns. December had an approximate \$2,000 shortfall. There will be further review and discussion of the
- The treasurer report that, as mentioned, there was a loss for December, and there was a loss for the whole year. Net loss of \$6,500 for 2020.
- The website team is getting bigger. The office manager and assistant manager are being trained to use the website builder and bulletin builder in order to add anniversaries/bulletin info, meetings, and events to the website. Intergroup is looking for more volunteers to help with this work.
- All grapevine titles are reduced to \$11.50 each; and the office still has one case left of the GSC report from 2020.
- The only change for Answering Service is that one group is not meeting so they asked to be removed from the rotation. So the rotation is now down to 15 groups.
- Ways and Means – Rachael B. Bingo for February was cancelled by Intergroup vote; but the hall also had decided that they weren't doing any events anyway—as of January 1 no events at the hall. The next event is scheduled for April—if we can't have it inside, what about having it outside? The hall is willing to do that and could put that together. With summer coming up, Intergroup could have more outside activities. The chair was trying to put together a virtual bingo; because of the program/software limitations, it's great for fellowship but not good for fundraising; the chair is looking to get people to bounce ideas off of if not actually be par to of the Ways and Means committee. Discussion about holding outside event will continue. Anyone with ideas can contact the Ways and Means chair at the Intergroup office on Friday or Saturday to talk about ideas and support.
- For February the Website Committee will have a stats report that will list most visited pages, etc.

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- Archives chair mentioned the new publication coming out next month—A Visual History of AA. The chair has a copy to donate to the office.
- Office manager will purchase three of the forthcoming "A Visual History of AA" to have in the office for sale as well.

Outreach: At last meeting (held after this meeting last month), committee is updating the list of who they are going to see to avoid duplicate visits. The committee will be meeting after this meeting to go over updates.

DCM got from the Area registrar their list of groups and GSRs and there is a lot of information that needs to be updated on those lists. Sobriety on Friday has the wrong address; Rule 62 group should update their information also as group name changed.

DCM will send the information to the secretary.

Workshops:

- Per District vote last month, the DCM attended the District 30 meeting last week and told them that we would help out with their workshop. It will be virtual on March 6 from 11-1. The plan is to have six speakers talk for 15 minutes on topics related to emotional sobriety. They are currently looking for speakers.
- As of last week, they had one speaker. If anyone is interested in speaking or knows someone who would be a good speaker, contact DCM.
- Is there any other support we can provide? It's short and only a couple hours. Maybe host or cohost. DCM will get information and let everyone know because this will happen before our next meeting.

Old Business

- District *Grapevine* issues follow-up
All four women's' halfway houses that we sent books to previously are all interested in getting some.
Aside from the District stock, others can contribute issues if they have them
DCM gave a GSR some for one of the men's' halfway houses in the District.

New business

- None

The attendees read and discussed Tradition 2.

Motion to adjourn. Seconded. Meeting ended at 8:12 p.m. and closed with the Responsibility Statement.

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