

# District 28 Meeting Minutes

January 2021 / Page 1 of 4  
DRAFT

**Date:** January 20, 2021

## **Attendance—Virtual Meeting:**

Officers (3): DCM, Secretary, Treasurer

GSR or Alt GSR (8): Bel Air Big Book (GSR and Alt both in attendance), Bel Air Women's Big Book (GSR and Alt both in attendance), Bel Air Women's Group, Good News Group, Morning Group (GSR representing Sunday Reflections also), New Beginnings, Rule 62 (counted as Treasurer), Sobriety on Friday, Sunday Reflections

Other (4): Emmorton Group (non-GSR counted as secretary), Intergroup Chair, Area 29 Delegate; CARC 3 leader, CARC 3 recorder

Report sent via email: Never Too Early

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

## **Secretary's report / previous month's minutes:**

- **December minutes:** Motion to accept as presented. Second. None opposed. Motion carries.

## **GSR reports:**

- **Sunday Reflections:** Meets at 9:30 am; totally virtual now. Things seem to be good. Frequently putting contribution links to District, Intergroup, and World Service into meeting chat because cogs still need to run even though we aren't meeting.
- **Morning Group:** Meets Monday through Friday from 8:30 am until everyone shares; virtual only; 30-35 people attending; every couple of days putting contribution information in meeting chat and asking people to contribute
- **Bel Air Big Book:** Alt GSR introduced himself. GSR reported that the group had their quarterly business meeting Monday night; no changes; still a virtual meeting; 15-20 people attending every week.
- **Rule 62:** Meet Wednesdays at 7 pm at St Mathew's Church; not offering a virtual meeting now. The meeting is limited to 10 people due to the size of the room; and group has been doing first come first serve and holding a Big Book study. From their last group conscience, the group is reviewing the possibility of using the gymnasium as it is bigger. A home group member is celebrating a 1 year anniversary tonight.
- **Good News:** Virtual only at 7pm on Sunday; two meetings, two separate virtual meeting IDs; one is a discussion meeting and the other is a beginners meeting. Both are still fairly well attended—10-15 at discussion and a little better attendance with beginners. Group held a group conscience the first Sunday of the month and voted to contribute again for the quarter to GSO, District, Intergroup, and MGS. Made all contributions except for the District; waiting to hand deliver the check to save on PayPal fee; the group also contributed some to the church where they meet when in person.
- **Bel Air Women's Group:** Tuesday 7:30 pm at Calvary Baptist; virtual only at the moment. Group held business meeting last night and decided to continue virtual meeting rather than in person; virtual attracts 15 people but in person attracted 30. The group decided not to give a contribution to the church because it hasn't asked for any; also decided to not contribute to the service structure. The group is keeping the money for any potential costs. Because the bank account is charged \$10 a month the GSR suggested that they get a different bank to not be charged if they aren't using the funds. GSR also motioned to read the full bulletin rather than just the anniversaries but the group voted to read only the anniversaries. GSR also suggested the group hold a business meeting at least once a year, which was voted down.

**I am Responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible.**

## District 28 Meeting Minutes

January 2021 / Page 2 of 4  
DRAFT

- **Sobriety on Friday:** Meet Friday 7:30 pm at Strong Tower Church; Big Book meeting; doing hybrid in-person/virtual meeting. In the last two weeks the group was not able to meet due to a COVID-19 outbreak at the church. The group did meet Christmas Day and New Year's Day in person; Christmas attendance was 25 people and New Year's Day was 40 people. The group plans to resume in person meetings this Friday as church was to open back up yesterday.
- **Emmorton Group:** Group voted to contribute to the church they meet at when in person even though the group isn't holding a meeting.
- **Bel Air Women's Big Book:** Thursday at noon; strictly virtual; attendance is 20-25 and there are 25 home group members. The group shares in the chat about the service structure and requests contributions; the group distributes contributions per its group conscience decision. They had group conscience at end of December and decided to remain a virtual meeting for a couple more months to see how everything continues to develop regarding COVID-19.
- **New Beginnings:** Saturday morning 9:00 am; virtual only now. The group had met in person for a bit but when COVID-19 numbers rose the church closed the space. The group has about 25 people who attend; the speaker getter continues to get a range of speakers from across the state.
- **Intergroup Chair:** Member of By the Book in District 30; Tuesday night 7:00 pm. The group has taken down the tent and moved the meeting inside; can support up to about 30 people with social distancing and masks.
- **Never Too Early (via email; added to minutes only—not read during meeting):** Meeting has been continuing as follows without any new updates.

### DCM report part 1

The DCM presented meeting guests—Area 29 Delegate, CARC 3 leader, and CARC 3 recorder—and turned the meeting over to the CARC leader.

The CARC leader explained the Conference Agenda Review Committee (CARC) process. The General Service Conference happens once per year in New York and is where a lot of decisions are made for our fellowship. Agenda items come through many channels and all get pushed through the upside-down triangle to the conference. The Delegate receives the agenda, Maryland General Service breaks up the agenda items, and each CARC reviews and discuss these to have our delegate armed with the group conscience of Maryland. In February we are supposed to get the list of agenda items for our specific CARC, which includes Districts 3, 4, 10, 11, 14, 15, 19, 28, 30, 33, 34, 39. As DCMs and GSRs it is incumbent on us to explain to AAs what is being voted on in New York so that our opinions are known by our delegate. We study the background information and give presentations, and attendees discuss the presented topic while the Delegate and Alt Delegate listen to the input. It is very important that we attend the CARC and study the agenda items to make sure our delegate is informed and can vote according to our Area's group conscience. At the February CARC meeting, we should have 10 items assigned, two of which are shared among all CARCs. CARC leader hopes the meeting will be relatively short and people will volunteer to take on the study and presentation of given agenda items. The next CARC meeting will be in March when presentations and discussion happen; meetings are all going to be virtual.

Question: A lot of stuff was deferred from last Conference to the 2021 Conference. Will a lot of that be coming as agenda items we will present? Per the Delegate, 57 items were moved forward. CARCs will not be revisiting many of them, but may revisit some of the 5<sup>th</sup> edition Big

**I am Responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible.**

## District 28 Meeting Minutes

January 2021 / Page 3 of 4  
DRAFT

Book items; CARCs will be looking mostly at the new agenda items. The Delegate will get the agenda February 15 and is anticipating 95-100 items to look at with background material. Delegate and other MGS representatives will whittle down the agenda to then share with CARCs for their discussion/presentations.

Question: Are the 95 agenda items shared with all Delegates and then divvied out for discussion? Delegate: Every area does it differently from a single-day review with local fellowship to simply emailing and saying "if you have any comments let me know." Every delegate gets all the information. The Conference only reviewed 37 items last year but this year will be reviewing all 95 items.

Per the DCM, the CARC Initial Planning Meeting is on February 20 at 10:00 am on Zoom. We will meet to divvy up the new agenda items to be presented to the CARC and the mini conference (maybe). The Zoom link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86468588509?pwd=YlhITFJScUs5cmRYbFNDZmhscHplUT09>. Contact the DCM if you need more information.

### DCM report part 2

NERAASA is February 26-28 on Zoom. Registration is \$21. To register go to <https://www.neraasa.org/register/>.

This is a good opportunity to go to NERAASA and hear from fellow GSRs and possibly find solutions to problems you're having with your group.

### Treasurer's report

PayPal contribution sent from Sobriety on Friday submitted a contribution via PayPal, but District did not receive it. The DCM and treasurer are looking into the problem. As of meeting time, the Treasurer has only found generic answers regarding PayPal problems. There is always the PO Box for contributions.

Treasurer presented report. Motion to accept as reported. Seconded. None opposed. Motion carries.

**District PayPal account:** mgsdistrict28@gmail.com

### Committee reports

**Intergroup Liaison:** At the December Intergroup meeting, the Intergroup Chair discussed looking out for one another in this interesting time; reaching out to others is especially important. The council went over upcoming holiday alcathons and meetings. There was an announcement of the then-upcoming Bridging the Gap meeting, and the new District 30 slate of officers. The MGS Intergroup Liaison Committee Chair shared about the IGLC monthly calls, including recent presentation about a HIPAA-compliant Institutions meeting that happens on Tuesday nights. Any facility can engage and show this meeting. The IGLC monthly call also included announcement of CARC. The Alternate Delegate will be the featured speaker for the March IGLC call to discuss the Mini Conference. Beyond a rather standard run through of Intergroup business and reports, the council decided to postpone the February bingo, part of the Ways and Means Committee activities, and will reconsider it again for later in the new year. Also mentioned exploring a potential NEMDAA-sponsored speaker meeting as a way to put forth 7th Tradition support.

**I am Responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible.**

## District 28 Meeting Minutes

January 2021 / Page 4 of 4  
DRAFT

The Intergroup Chair added one plug for all the support up and down the chain; being virtual has the Delegates and the groups communicating more than ever. If you haven't been in the Intergroup Office, we have a lot of new literature.

Question posed to Intergroup Chair: Is there any way the Intergroup can list whether meetings are open or closed even though they are virtual meetings now? That indication isn't immediately visible on the website now. Intergroup Chair will bring this up at the January meeting which is next week.

Question posed to Intergroup Chair: We are financially sound? We were down a little bit in December but will have an update at the meeting next week.

**Outreach:** Outreach committee meeting again after this meeting; still reaching out to virtual meetings; committee chair wants to find out what groups are meeting in person and where they are meeting. Will have a better report when the committee meets after this meeting.

### **Workshops:**

- Workshop with district 30?  
The DCM was approached about District 28's interest in participating in a workshop along with District 30. There are not a lot of details at this time; the DCM is waiting to hear back from the District 30 DCM. The possible timing is March but not sure whether it will be in person or virtual; and the potential topic is emotional sobriety.

After discussion, District 28 does have an interest in helping.

### **Old Business**

- District *Grapevine* issues follow-up  
The two GSRs reaching out to local halfway houses will report on responses next month.

### **New business**

- None

The meeting attendees read and discussed Tradition 1 and Concept 1.

The Intergroup Chair reminded all that tomorrow is the second of a five-part workshop on the service manual. Individuals can get more on the Tradition, Concept, and CARC ideas at that workshop.

Motion to adjourn. Seconded. Meeting ended at 8:05 p.m. and closed with the Responsibility Statement.

**I am Responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible.**