

District 28 Meeting Minutes

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DRAFT

Date: April 21, 2021

Attendance—Virtual Meeting:

Total attendance: 9

Groups participating: 8

Officers present (3): DCM, Secretary

Groups represented by GSR or Alt GSR (6): Bel Air Women's Big Book Group (GSR and Alt both in attendance), Good News Group, Never Too Early, One Day at a Time Group, Sunday Reflections

Groups other (2): Emmorton Group (non-GSR counted as secretary); Morning Group (reported by Sunday Reflections GSR); SOS Group (will hold elections for official GSR soon)

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

Secretary's report / previous month's minutes:

- **March minutes:** Motion to accept minutes. Second. None opposed. Motion carries.

Grapevine Presentation: Brandi D, Area 29 Grapevine Chair

DCM invited Area 29 Grapevine Chair to share with us what *Grapevine* offers. Chair shared her move from GSR to Grapevine Rep (GVR) for District 36 (St. Mary's County). Served as GVR for 3 years. Currently serves as DCM for District 36. Brandi shared that members can read from the magazine and share the experience and can use it as a tool—to share with sponsees, to use for meetings (including the GV books). Brandi asked if District 28 has a GVR either for the District or whether any of the groups have a GVR. The GVR brings information to the group about what's come out new. The magazine is a relatable tool to use—read alone, read with friends, read with the group. Chair was involved in the GV roundtable at NERAASA. GV has its own YouTube channel. "Record Your Message" at the GV is an open phone number where members can call and share up to 7 minutes of their experience and these shares are uploaded to the GV YouTube. There is an app also with access a history of articles and new issues/stories, and the website is aagrapevine.org. Brandi shared a GV YouTube video on being a GVR. Brandi is available to come visit groups, events, etc. There is also a workshop June 26 on the history of the GV.

Morning Group shared that the group is going to do a Group 4th Step; one of the questions is are you doing anything with the GV?

The Area 29 Grapevine Committee meets every 4th Tuesday. All are welcome.

Question: Has Chair written a story for Grapevine yet?

District 36 threw a writing workshop 3 years ago. Also, in Area 29 we have had several people submit and be published. Chair can send along information shared by the speaker at that workshop on what the GV looks for and what to include.

GV also has a calendar that individuals can submit photos for and you can also submit jokes.

GSR reports:

- **One Day at a Time Group:** In Jarrettsville; meet Thursdays at 7pm; trying to do the right thing and get involved. Will need to do a lot of learning because not sure how it all works.

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- **SOS Group:** New group meeting at American Legion in Bel Air, 9:30am Sundays; meet live; all precautions followed; small group now; group going on for about 6 months or less; group doesn't have a GSR and will need to vote on it and District-meeting attendee plans to volunteer.
- **Good News Group:** Meet Sundays, 7pm; group has two meetings, both exclusively on zoom; typically have 10 people at regular discussion meeting; and not quite sure how many go to the beginners meeting, but it is very well received; lot of newcomers go to that meeting; did not have a group conscience in April because it conflicted with the Easter holiday; at next group conscience they will be discussing when they will get back into the current church or if they should look for another location that will allow them to meet in-person; group contributes to the service structure quarterly but have cut down contributions because not as much coming in via the virtual meeting format.
- **Emmorton Group:** Still not meeting. Nothing to report.
- **Bel Air Women's Big Book:** Meet Thursdays at noon; as of the last Thursday in March had group conscience and decided that starting in April will have a live meeting at Christ Our King Church—all covid protocols in place—and also will continue the virtual meeting for those not ready to go back to live; these are two separate meetings—they are reading the same things but are separate; attendance is 18-20 live and 8-12 virtual; next group conscience will be at end of June and will discuss whether to keep dual pattern or to go all live; treasurer collects money via Paypal and Venmo and also passing the basket at the in person meeting.
- **Sunday Reflections:** Still virtual, 9:30-10:30am Sundays; for now looking to see if they can get back in the hospital; will be virtual indefinitely; attendance is about 15 people.
- **Morning Group:** Meet 8:30-9:30 Monday through Friday; group is in communication with the church to start live meetings again; attendance is 30-35 every morning.
- **Saturday Meditation Meeting:** Meets live and are starting to think about having service positions—Sunday Reflections' GSR will visit them and share the group pamphlet including the suggested contribution percentages; attendance is 10-20.
- **Never Too Early:** Meet Thursdays, 6:00am; meeting in-person only at Good Shepherd Church on 924, typically have about 10 attendees; social distancing, mask use, contact tracing; had group conscience recently and changed positions and created a service chair to work with institutions and such and streamline how they serve. GSR shared a concern about whether the group's work (taking in meetings) with a specific local halfway house raised any Traditions issues.

Treasurer's report

Treasurer presented report for April 20, 2021. No change between last month and this month. Motion to accept as distributed. Second. None opposed. Motion carries.

Question: Did DCM contact Bel Air United Methodist Church about a contribution to hold our space? DCM did send an email but has not gotten any response yet. Don't think they will kick us out, but if we want to start meeting again in person, we may need to look for another location. Outreach Committee Chair noted that Attraction Rather Than Promotion has been meeting in person at the church for at least a month now. DCM will look into that.

District PayPal account: mgsdistrict28@gmail.com

DCM report

- The General Service Conference is going on this week. They'll be discussing the agenda items and assigning new Trustees. Our former delegate Don B. is a U.S. candidate for

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“Trustee at large” who acts as the delegate for the World Service Meetings and the Meetings of America’s as well as regional forums.

- At the next assembly on May 15th, our Delegate Cynthia T. will report back to the area what went on at the conference. They usually suspend all business that day and the Delegate has the whole meeting to give the report back.
- At our next District meeting, May 19, I have invited Cynthia to join us and give a shorter presentation of the conference. DCM is also going to invite District 30 and 11 if they would like to join us.
- Attachments to the agenda included the Grapevine Newsletter for May, Box 459 and the Delegate report for March. There is also a flyer for a Grapevine workshop on June 26.
- Question: Is District 11 even happening? There are groups in District 11 but no active District officers or activities now.

Committee reports

Intergroup Liaison: I attended the March 23, 2021, Intergroup Council meeting. Highlights from the meeting include mention that all District 11 officer positions are vacant. The budget is still a concern and the chair and finance committee have met to discuss options. For now there are no changes in services. As for the treasury, it is in the negative and will not change because Intergroup expenses don’t vary much at all; the only way to get out and stay out of the red is via contributions. Intergroup is OK in the cash department; it’s just the profit and loss statements don’t look good. During the meeting we found a new Ways and Means chairperson—Kelly U. of the SOS Group is taking this on. The Institution Committee chair resigned so someone is needed to fill this position. This is especially important as the state begins to open up more. The possibilities to resume institution visits will pick up at some point. In particular, Perry Point is already interested in having meetings come back in. The Office Manager archived a recent *Grapevine* edition because it has an article regarding the local Better With Age meeting. The IG Office Volunteers ad hoc committee will be fleshing out how to bring in volunteers—safety, cash handling, etc. And the Council is continuing its review of the existing ad hoc committees. The purpose is to decide if any of the ad hoc committees should become formal committees in the bylaws.

Outreach: Meet after the regular district meeting. Updating the list of visits each time. Hanging in there and trying to complete the list of groups that we have. Will have to talk about what to do after that.

Workshops: No chair. If someone would like to volunteer that would be nice.

Old Business

- District *Grapevine* issues follow-up
Bel Air Women’s Big Book GSR picked up the GVs and wrote a note and mailed them out to four women’s recovery homes in the District. Each got 4-5 issues of the GV and all were very enthusiastic about it.
Howard took some over to a local men’s house.

New business

- None

The attendees read and discussed Tradition 4 and Concept 4.

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

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