

District 28 Meeting Minutes

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Date: October 21, 2020

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, Good News Group, Never Too Early, New Beginnings, Rule 62 (counted as Treasurer), Sobriety on Friday

Other (2): Emmorton Group (non-GSR counted as secretary), Intergroup Chair (By the Book group), Area 29 Alternate Delegate (Beware the Four Horsemen group)

Report submitted by email (2): Morning Group and Sunday Reflections (GSR supports both groups)

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

Secretary's report / previous month's minutes:

- **September minutes:** Motion to accept as revised. Second. Accepted unanimously.

GSR reports:

Area 29 Alternate Delegate: Home group is Beware the Four Horsemen; meeting in person and virtual (hybrid meeting); outdoor meetings weather permitting and plan to keep it up for next few weeks until the weather makes it impractical.

Sobriety on Friday: Now an in-person only meeting at **Strong Tower Church a new location** in Forest Hill; meeting live for 3 weeks now; social distancing and originally masks optional; but with between 65-80 people attending, they held a group conscience last week and will now have masks required beginning this week.

Rule 62: Meeting outside with attendance of 60–80 people; because of the attendance numbers, group is unable to move inside—the church can only accommodate 35 people (100% masks required); group conscience coming up and the group is thinking about making it a hybrid meeting of some type.

Never Too Early: Continuing as hybrid: in-person attendance up a bit at 10–11 and a couple people online as well. No other news to report. Group is in discussion with the previous meeting facility whether they will be returning to their original location or not.

New Beginnings: Went to in-person meeting about a month or month and a week ago; in-person is working well; church has strict COVID regulations and the group is following them; masks required, socially distanced chairs, no coffee, cleaning afterward; in-person attendance is 15–18 with 20 at the most, and they are also still a virtual meeting at the same time.

Good News Group: Sunday nights virtual only. Still holding both the beginners meeting and the regular discussion meeting are separate virtual rooms/calls. Decided as a group that they will wait until the beginning of the new year to hold a group conscience to reevaluate how they are holding their meetings. The beginners meeting is getting a good number of newcomers attending; the discussion meeting is getting 5–20 attendees.

Bel Air Women's Big Book: Meeting strictly virtual; strong 20–25 home-group membership and that is about how many attend every week with one or two newcomers; individuals post info in the chat for people willing to sponsor; their next group conscience will be the last Thursday of December and they will discuss possibilities for remaining virtual or going in-person.

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Emmorton Group: Home group members meeting together but not as a meeting. Unknown when meeting will reactivate.

Sunday Reflections: Virtual and in-person meeting: in-person meeting gets 12–20 people and the virtual gets 10–16. Group encourages online donations. Group is doing well.

Morning Group: The Morning Group is virtual only and gets 20–27 people. Online donations are encouraged. No word from the church yet on when the group can return in person. Group is doing well.

Bel Air Women's Group: Has been holding indoor meetings for the last 3-4 weeks combined with virtual attendance option; going well—several anniversaries; usually have 30-45 attend in person; unsure how many attend virtually; had 50–55 people in person on October 20; following church rules for social distancing, masks required; doing contact tracing; clean chairs before and after. Group is likely to continue as combined in-person/virtual but not sure how long.

Intergroup Chair: Home group is By the Book. Group is still going strong as in-person tent meeting—taking temperatures; masks are hit and miss; they are social distancing; have brought in a heater to brace for winter.

DCM report

ConTra Study (Concepts and Traditions Study). There is a ConTra Study on Thursday evenings at 9:00 pm. Info is posted on the NEMDAA.org website. This is a good way to learn about the Traditions, Concepts, and the Service Manual. The schedule is on the website. DCM urged attending as one can—just pop in to see what it's like; just attend the concepts portion, etc.

Area Assembly. At the Area Assembly on Saturday, the Area voted for our candidate for the Trustee-at-Large position at GSO. There were two candidates, Morgan J and Don B, both past delegates. Don B was elected. Don is the nominee from this area and has to be vetted by the region and be voted on at the General Service Conference, when they will have one candidate from the U.S. and one from Canada. Question arose about how long the Trustee at Large serves: the position is for four 1-year terms.

Also discussed at the Area Assembly was the Maryland State Convention. The contract with the Clarion needs to be signed by November 7 in order to assure the venue; the Convention would be in June. Polling showed that most people would not attend an indoor conference unless there is a COVID vaccine at that point.

Assembly attendees discussed Area inventory questions in breakout sessions. DCM was asked whether anything interesting came out of the inventory. DCM shared that there was a lot of talk, a lot of suggestions. The Area council is going to let everything sink in for a few days then the chair will convene Area officers to go over the results. Likely to see some changes over the coming months as the officers respond to the feedback.

GSO Finances. GSO has requested another \$1.5 million drawdown from the reserve to cover expenses through the end of 2020.

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Would help the GSO and the Intergroup if we could mention during meeting announcements that they are still functioning and need contributions. DCM sent a document along with the meeting information that includes what GSO does.

Treasurer's report

Motion to accept as read and submitted. Second. Accepted unanimously.

Committee reports

Intergroup Liaison: The September Intergroup meeting included a report back from the Area 29 Delegate. Also, the Intergroup is going to purchase "meeting in a pocket" booklets from the Boston Intergroup. Local contact information will be added to the booklet. Per Intergroup Chair, these are available now at the office.

The DCM added that Intergroup is thinking of doing the fall bingo and want to get a feel of whether individuals would attend or not. Level will allow 160 people. Can't bring food in; limit to four people per table for social distancing; need to wear masks if walking around; the fire hall staff will make and sell food. DCM called for a show of hands how many here would attend: four individuals raised their hands

Outreach: Nothing to report. Will meet with committee members in the coming weeks to discuss and get ideas on what **they can** do through virtual meetings. Chair will be in touch with committee members in the next week or so.

Workshops: Nothing to report.

Old Business

2021 Preliminary budget: DCM asked for feedback. Consensus of group that comfortable voting **long it tonight**. Vote occurred. None opposed. 2021 budget approved.

Christmas Alcathon: **Strong Tower Church Suggested venue** has no Christmas Day service and is willing to host an in-person event. We would determine our own COVID restrictions. With 6ft distancing, the facility can handle 40 people. There is no kitchen facility but a fridge and microwave are available if we decided to do any food or beverages.

DCM asked if the district wanted to go forward with it. GSR of Sobriety on Friday is supportive of doing it; cannot be there all day but is willing to accept some responsibility to be there for a portion and get a speaker. Good News GSR is interested.

DCM doesn't think having food is a good idea—if we aren't having such at meetings, then we should follow the same process for the alcathon. Do we have enough people willing to secretary the meetings—10, 12, 2, 4, 6, and 8? GSR Sob on Fr volunteered to handle the last meeting. GSR Good news thinks its needed and is willing to be there all day—setup, cleanup. Do we need to do contact tracing? Per the pastor it is up to us. Sob on Fri decided at last group conscience that they are going to start contact tracing this Friday. Also it is a nonsmoking campus.

Of those present, five (about ½ the attendees) are in favor of going forward with the alcathon. For the show of interest vote, five said yea but of those opposed, no one actually voted nay. Those not voting shared the following concerns: with COVID coming back, worried about people coming together as things get worse over the cold weather; two individuals will be away: for one, if COVID cause a cancellation of that trip, then that would add to concerns about getting

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together in person; the other is in favor of holding the event, but felt unable to vote and commit the District to an activity they can't attend and support. Another GSR mentioned the availability of virtual meetings and wonders that with amount of time and effort to go into it, who's going to show up. This GSR had raised the alcathon question at their last group conscience and only got one or two hands of people interested in attending. Not sure folks will be willing to attend, especially if cases go up in the next couple months.

Per the DCM, we have support and a venue. We will discuss again next month. A lot could change in a month.

District PayPal account: mgsdistrict28@gmail.com

New business

- None

DCM did not plan on doing any of the pamphlet study.

Motion to adjourn. Seconded. Meeting ended at 8:02 p.m. and closed with the Responsibility Statement.

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