

District 28 Meeting Minutes

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DRAFT

Date: November 18, 2020

Attendance—Virtual Meeting:

Officers (3): DCM, Secretary, Treasurer

GSR or Alt GSR (6): Any Lengths (*not* counted: there briefly but GSR experienced technical difficulties and had to drop out of the meeting), Bel Air Big Book, Bel Air Women's Big Book (GSR and Alt both in attendance), Bel Air Women's Group, Good News Group, Morning Group, Rule 62 (counted as Treasurer), Sobriety on Friday

Other (2): Emmorton Group (non-GSR counted as secretary), Intergroup Chair (By the Book group), Sunday Reflections

The meeting began at 7:01 p.m. with the Serenity Prayer.

DCM's attendance delayed; meeting run by Good News Group GSR.

Secretary's report / previous month's minutes:

- **October minutes:** Discussion over suggested change to replace specific church name in two places with more generic wording. After discussion, motion to accept other changes in minutes (typo corrections) but retain church name. Second. None opposed. Accepted unanimously.

GSR reports:

- **Bel Air Women's:** Held group conscience last night and decided due to new COVID restrictions will continue in-person meeting next week and starting in December will return to virtual meeting only. Last night had 20-25 people attending.
- **Bel Air Big Book:** Now virtual only until further notice.
- **Bel Air Women's Big Book:** Strictly virtual now. Attendance is 20-25 each week. People willing to sponsor present themselves in chat. Held group conscience at end of October; church was willing to open space for indoor meeting; canvas of meeting only had two individuals willing to reopen in-person and the rest wanting to stay virtual; holding another group conscience tomorrow to decide again about live and virtual.
- **Sobriety on Friday:** Meeting in person still; require masks, doing contact tracing; GSR was unable to attend meeting last Friday, however there were 39 people there—the lowest attendance since meeting in the new location; plan to still meet in person until further notice—no one has requested a group conscience to change that.
- **Rule 62:** Still doing in-person meetings; now meeting inside; the church can hold a maximum of 23 people with 6 feet between chairs and masks required. Have not discussed returning to virtual yet.
- **Morning Group:** Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m.: **goes on** until **finished everyone shares**; 25 plus people attending; meeting is virtual indefinitely.
- **Sunday Reflections:** Meeting is virtual only right now; had an issue and some home group members stood up and followed the Traditions and handled it and group is going to continue virtually as Sunday Reflections; will look for a new place if and when possible to do so; typically get 14-18 attendance.
- **Good News Group:** Continuing to meet virtually for both meetings, Beginner Step Meeting (Steps 1–4) and the Discussion meeting; meet at the same time but on separate virtual spaces; no proposed date to start back in person; meeting location has not indicated they are planning on letting the group meet there. Have tapered back contributions but are continuing with contributions in some fashion.
- **Emmorton Group:** Nothing to report.

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- **Intergroup Chair:** Continuing to attend District meetings; home group, By the Book, is in District 30; group is still meeting in outdoor tent; pending the governor's recent declaration, group will need to revise practices to meet the current restrictions.

DCM report

Read by Good News Group GSR on behalf of DCM:

- The next Area Assembly is on December 12 from 9 am-3 pm. They will be voting on agenda items that will be sent to the General Service Conference (GSC) review committee to see if they will be presented at the conference. This will be a good experience to see the process of suggesting changes in AA. The 71st GSC will be held remotely in 2021.
- NERAASA [Northeast Regional AA Service Assembly] will also be held remotely on February 26 thru 28. The registration fee is \$21. This is a good opportunity to attend since there are no travel expenses. See neraasa.org for more information and to register.
- *Grapevine* and *La Viña* subscriptions and literature sales are down due to the pandemic. If you're thinking about Christmas gifts maybe a subscription would be a good gift idea. There are also several books available at the Intergroup office.
- The DCMs and Delegates of Areas 29 and 28 (Maine) will be co-hosting a workshop series, "Journey through the Service Manual," beginning in January 2021. More details on this series will be available next month.

Supplement to DCM's report

With the December Area Assembly focused on GSC agenda items, secretary gave short overview of Area 29's Conference Agenda Review Committee (CARC) process. District 28 is in CARC 3.

Treasurer's report

Motion to accept as stated. Second. None opposed. Accepted unanimously.

District PayPal account: mgsdistrict28@gmail.com

Committee reports

Intergroup Liaison:

- Council is now posting secretary's report for reading before the meeting and only discussing comments; a discussion will only reflect changes and votes.
- Revenue is down, although individual contributions are going up and more group contributions this month than last month. Intergroup needs revenue now that they are paying salaries again
- New PC installed and virtual-meeting capable. IG officers can now use the office to attend or hold a virtual meeting.
- *Meeting in a Pocket* is in and for sale for 0.75 cents.
- AA World Services is having a book sale in December and January. If groups place orders through the office, Intergroup can batch orders and get an additional 15% off for every \$100.
- Approved the 2021 budget.
- Institutions Chair is calling all facilities this week to see which if any are now letting outside groups in.

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- Ways/Means is postponing fall bingo originally scheduled for November 28 due to numbers of people unwilling to attend an in-person event; will revisit for possible February 2021 date.
- Technology Committee / Website are working on a "bulletin builder" allowing real-time editing and changes. Once coding is complete and the bulletin builder is turned over to the office, any code will automatically load so no one needs to code each time. Any thoughts, desires, suggestions on the website can be sent to Georgia and Jeremy.

Intergroup Chair added that if you hadn't been to the office lately should stop in and see it. It's still a little, dingy place but they have done a lot of work.

Outreach: Held a virtual committee meeting November 11 and resolved a lot of issues. Committee is meeting after tonight's District meeting to determine further actions going forward.

Workshops: As in the DCM report, Areas 29 and 28 will be holding a workshop series beginning in January 2021. District 28 can support that workshop by spreading the word and attending.

Old Business

Christmas Alcathon: Sobriety on Friday and Good News Group GSRs both excited to get this going for Christmas. From Sobriety on Friday GSR's end, there are no changes: the church is still available, and District is responsible for deciding restrictions. However, conditions have changed since District last met, and GSR understands either way a vote may come out.

Discussion ensued.

Motion that District 28 host a live alcathon on Christmas Day. Second. With a vote of 2 for and 5 against, the District will not hold a live alcathon.

Discussion continued regarding a virtual alcathon. It was mentioned that there was no need for District to do this given the availability of existing virtual meetings. No District action taken.

New business

- District *Grapevine* issues: what to do with them
Brief discussion held. Treasurer will get count of how many issues District has and we will discuss again next month. One possibility is to give issues to Intergroup which has a box of old *Grapevines* that can be taken for free.

Motion to adjourn. Seconded. Meeting ended at 8:08 p.m. and closed with the Responsibility Statement.

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