**Minutes for the NEMDAA Intergroup Council**

**Hybrid Meeting on 24 May 2022**

The Council Meeting called to order by Intergroup Council Chair via Zoom at 7:00 PM on 24 May 2022. (The meeting is posted on the NEMDAA Website & an email notification was sent out.)

The Chair opened the meeting with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

Roll call:

**Attendance: Total = 17**

**On Zoom (2)**: **Officers:** Intergroup chair, Finance/Treasurer reporter.

**IGRs & Committee chairs (11):**Office Manager, Answering Service, Archives, District 28 Liaison, Stepping into Saturday, District 30 secretary, Area 29 Delegate, Intergroup Liaison, Plug In The Jug, Sobriety on Friday & Happy Hour Alternate.

**At the Intergroup office (4)**: Secretary, 3 Legacies, Sobriety on Friday Alternate & visitor.

**- Chair report:** Area 29 Delegate will provide a summary of the recent meeting. The Intergroup Liaison Council meeting is 6 June @ 630PM on Zoom and is an effective way to network with other Intergroups. Thanks for maintaining safety measures regarding pandemic.

- The Bylaws were amended & approved in January. The Chair, Secretary and Treasurer initialed each page, applied the seal & saved it in the archives. They become effective 1 July 2022.

**- Delegate for Area 29 report -**the Delegate attended the 72nd annual General Service Conference that was held in Brooklyn, NY April 24th to 30th. The link is posted on the NEMDAA website. The topic was ‘Unified in Love and Service.’ The week involved meetings, workshops & dinner attended by 93 delegates from the US and Canada. The last day was for voting according to the Three Legacies. There were challenges due to COVID regarding participation.

 The warranties are six statements on how the General Service Conference / Office operate. It takes three-fourths of the groups to agree to change any agenda item. Unofficial topics were lack of communication to members and groups, misinformation, accurate translation into Spanish / French & fairness.

  Board reports from: 1) General Service: Participation of online groups in the general service structure. 2) AA World Service: continuing the primary function of service, publishing [problems with publishing the Big Book & supply chain issues], archives and finance {contributions were $10.78 million, which was up 5% from 2020. Operating expenses $15.23 million, down 31.6% from 2020. The contributions covered 70% of expenses. Publishing took in $6.3 million, which is down 4.3% from 2020. Which left $250,000 to return to prudent reserve}. And 3) Grapevine: more digital presence but struggling {operating at a loss of $112,000 versus $298,000 in 2020}, are to be posted on the NEMDAA and Maryland AA  websites.

  Contributions increased Online during COVID = saving money. Two-thirds were $100 or less. Revenue from literature was less in ’21 versus personal contributions that increased in ‘21. Expenses: 50% for salaries, 1/3 is payroll taxes and benefits. 44% is supportive services.

  Next up were presentations on “How do A.A.’s go to any length to Recover, Unify and Serve?”, “Going beyond Fear” and “How to reach Anyone, Anywhere.” Special board presentation: “Partition of Online Groups in the US/Canada Service Structure.” There are 700 online groups with 450 having a GSR. In Maryland Area 29, there are 950 registered groups. The average group size is 765 per Area.

  Conference actions: Advisory actions (the meetings that require 2/3 majority and trustees to implement), Suggestions (do not reach 2/3 majority) & Considerations (no action taken).

Agenda: online groups discussing 3 Legacies. Cooperating with Professional Community (CPC)

Suggested revision of the pamphlet with highlight on mental health workers & how AA works in the community.

Literature: Pamphlet on Sponsorship to have different language regarding safety, revision approved.

Living Sober book, additional information to be added regarding safety, with updated version due out soon.

Revision of the Pamphlet “The Steps Illustrated” is in the works. Pamphlet “Young People” has a revision due. Pamphlet for “Black & African American” has a revision pending. The Big Book Spanish version to have more basic language. A study guide for the Big Book and the 12 & 12 was requested to be developed with more information needed. A 5th edition of the Big Book is still in development with a timeline of 2-3 years before it comes to print. 12 Traditions Illustrated has updates pending.

   PI (Public Information) understanding anonymity re: online meetings, social media etc.

Membership survey has not been done since 2014. It was approved and will be done later this year.

   Grapevine & LaVina are tentatively looking at putting out new books. Preamble changes done earlier in the year had mixed reviews.

   Policy had requested to restore paragraph in the upcoming 5th edition, of the story “Freedom from Bondage”, it did not pass.

  Corrections had no changes for the 5th edition of the Big Book.

  Floor actions- Approved 12 steps Illustrated. Member survey questions. 5th edition: No changes to 1st 164 pages, Forward, ‘The Doctor’s opinion’ or ‘Bob's nightmare’. A new forward and appendices to be added.

  Finally, a farewell to rotating delegates and trustees who performed four-to-six-year terms.

As a personal look back there was too much minority opinion, too many floor actions, much excellent work accomplished & it was a tremendous spiritual experience!

Thank you, Kurt, for your review of the 73rd General Service Conference! from the Chair.

  Next up is Officer nominations: The job starts July 1st. District 30 secretary is bidding for the position for secretary along with our visitor. The visitor only has 2.5 years of sobriety. Discussion followed to waive the three-year minimum. A vote was taken, majority went with the three-year minimum. A motion was made to withdraw visitor nominee. Another motion was taken, and District 30 secretary was accepted as the nomination for secretary. Sobriety on Friday home group member bid for position of Treasurer. No others available. Motion to accept the nomination passed unanimously. Called for nominee for Chair, no one available. The next Intergroup meeting is June the 8th and an Emmorton Beginners Home group member will lead in the 3rd Legacy of nominations.

The Chair reported on the following who were not in attendance but reported to him prior to meeting:

**- Institutions –**Orientation has been completed. Perry Point is open, they currently have 3 NA meetings a week and would like AA meetings to begin.

**- Website committee –** The female Sesputia Group member picked up the job as State Literature position. She will be working with office staff in the next 60 days for transitioning out of position.

**- Secretary’s report** – April’s meeting minutes are posted on the website. Changes noted: finance sold 325 tickets & the Finance committee met on May the 9th. Motion to accept minutes as amended. Seconded. None opposed. Motion is unanimous.

- **Treasurer’s report –** Income = $7,357.07. Expenses = $8,448.74. PayPal discount of $27.74. Deficit of $1,119.41 puts us YTD in a surplus of $3,410.24. Total assets = $31,870.28. Annual insurance bill is paid in April. Motion to approve as reported. Seconded. None opposed. Motion carries.

**- Office manager report –**Looking for new leadership with change in officers. New meeting guide is available at the office and on the website. There are 117 physical meetings with 134 meeting times. We have 18 virtual meetings with 30 meeting times. Please check website often for meeting openings and closings. There are issues with publishing. Big Books are not available at AA World Service, but we bought from the Boston Central Office and have in stock. Hardcover and softcover copies of “As Bill Sees It" remain unavailable. Grapevine’s New Beginner book has been on back order since November. Intergroup / AA World Service aware that Intergroups are not getting shipments of literature but Amazon and other are. Website updates are ongoing. You can print a list of meetings from the website.

**-** **Answering service report –** Doing well.

**- CPC/PI report –** Position open.

**- Finance –**Committee met 5 May 2022 @ 7pm via Zoom. Compared current budget vs. projected. Individual contributions were down but the Bingo made up for the difference. Guidelines for prudent reserve remain at six months as previously agreed upon. Archivist continues research on scan and software upgrades.

- Breakfast sold 325 tickets. Expenses = $3952.43 / Income = $3942.43 / Net = $1930.57. Follow up report sent to Harford County Sheriff’s Office.

**-** **Ways & Means –** Not in attendance.

**- Archives report –**Please see my report posted on the website.

**- Old Business –**None.

**- New Business –**The next Intergroup liaison meeting is the first Monday of the month at 6:30 on June 6th. The Area 29 Delegate will provide an update on the recent meeting in New York. The 50th AA Convention will be held June 24th through 26th in Frederick, MD. Registration is for 450 persons, it seats about 600. The banquet is currently sold-out. Translation will be available in Spanish & sign language.

Adjourned at 8:22 PM with the Responsibility Statement & The Lord’s Prayer.