

District 49 Minutes Friday January 10th, 2020

1. John R opened w/ "The Serenity Prayer" & "The Declaration of Unity."
2. Guests/Visitors-
3. Roll Call-Groups in attendance: 2nd Step Group, Center City Group, Choices Group, Conyngham Group, Daily Reflections Group, Friday Nite Group, Greater Lehigh Group, How It Works Group, Last Chance Group, Promises Group, Serenity Sunday Group, Sober Saturdays Group, Tamaqua Group (13/24)
4. Tradition & Concepts
 - a. Tradition 1- "Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity." Read and discussed by Monica.
 - b. Concept 1- "Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship." Read and discussed by Frank B
5. Officers Reports
 - a) DCM Report-John R-Not much happening, quiet meeting last month, not much in between. Apologize for running out of agenda's, Vickie is not present today who usually brings extra copies of the agenda. No quarterly report from GSO or Intergroup.
 - b) ADCM Report- Joe L-Due to coming off the Holiday, not much going on. John and I are discussing the Quarterly meetings coming up with GSO and Intergroup and are planning on attending. No announcement of location for the GSO has been announced yet, but it will be held in March. John said it will be in District 47 somewhere (Montgomery or Bucks County)
 - c) Secretary Report-Lou D-Was able to get November minutes out. I was unable to attend December District due to business obligations and work, however, I may be able to get an abbreviated minute out. If not, I am here for January and these will get out without fail. Lou asked for any Flyers for upcoming events and for any changes to contact information. I do have extra copies of November minutes if anyone needs them. Report accepted.
 - d) Treasurer's Report-Vickie B-Not Present-Working on an outline for the budget.
 - e) Intergroup Report-Joe L-next Tuesday is the Intergroup meeting. District 40 is having a Workshop in Sawyersville. Things have been quiet around the Holidays. If anyone is interested in a Commitment at Intergroup, I have a list of commitments, most of which are in the Wilkes Barre area unfortunately.
6. Group Problems, Issues, or Question on the District, Intergroup, Area, and GSO
 - a) Paula-Greater Lehigh Group is having a hard time getting Home Group members involved in attending our Business Meetings. It seems like a lot of folks are not interested in staying after the meetings. We have tried both Tuesday's and Friday's. We as GSR's are bringing a lot of information to share with the Group and are unable to share it with them. Judy asked, when do most of our Home Group members attend the meeting? Friday night is the most heavily attended. Monica suggested we announce the night of our Business meetings during our Secretary announcements. This gives members an opportunity to discuss issues they have at the Group level and to understand what goes on at the District, Area, and GSO level. Joe L-

remind members that if they want to be a part of decisions about changes within the group that they need to be a part of the Group Conscience. This is where their voice is heard about decisions made regarding structure of the Group. Wayne-We don't accept ballots from members when they don't attend Group Conscience. We watch Home Group members walk right out when they know about Group Business Meetings. It's the individual's responsibility to be a part of the Group, which means attendance of Group Business Meetings. There was much discussion that followed by Joe, Steve, Fred, and others.

b) Steve-Saturday Noon Big Book study could use support.

7. Committees

a) Archives-Dan B-Not Present-Steve-Archives are currently housed at Steve's house. Easy access, Dan and I are available to take Archives whenever we are asked.

b) Corrections Men-Chris H- Not present.

c) Corrections Women-Millie-has taken over for Vickie-Not too much to report. Passed out a flyer to draw up more interest within the Groups and will be attending different groups to introduce herself to the ladies who are involved. She plans on meeting with Vickie within the next few weeks to get the rest of the paperwork. She plans on meeting with Chris to try and get some of the approvals needed for members to attend the Prison meetings. She does know someone within the Facility and is hoping they can help her speed up the process.

d) Hospitals & Institutions- John R-We have a rack in the waiting room at the Hospital, and he spoke with a woman who works at the Hospital. She said she was getting pushback from the higher ups there. They still do not want us there, but they still want books. It's hard to furnish books when we are not welcome. The Hospital asked for books. Frank said if they want books, they have to take us. Another GSR did not agree with that, that we should furnish books if they want them. Frank stated that the Hospital is only a 2 or 3 day stay. John mentioned that the books disappear many times in both the Hospital and Jail. Paula stated that it only takes a few pages read to plant the seed, and regardless, it might save someone's life. Joe feels that it doesn't matter, we should furnish them. There was much discussion that followed. John stated that his contact at the Hospital will accept books. Monica-asked if the Hospital has a Library. Mike-Felt that we should always be willing to give out Big Books, to help someone struggling. If Prudent Reserve allows it, take a vote to furnish some Big Books to the Hospital. Steve- Question-Can we replace Big Books to the Hospital every 6 months or year? I feel that would be a good idea. We never know how important it is, and not everyone gets it right away. And if so, who pays for it? Is it Intergroup or out of the District funds? Joe- Stated that he will find out at Intergroup if they would be willing to pay for the books? John asked if we wanted to take a vote on providing Softcover books-Lou motioned to table it until after Joe finds out if Intergroup will provide books. There was much discussion following. Joe stated we should add this in New Business and follow up as Old Business next month. John called for a vote to supply books to St. Lukes, Vote was unanimous. John explained that if Intergroup was not going to supply them, we would have further discussion and a Vote on funding the previous Motion. Joe L-Asked how many Groups are in the District, Lou responded 23. Joe suggested that District supply 1 Big

Book and 1 12 & 12 for each Home Group to give freely to Newcomers. Frank expressed concern, not that he didn't want to supply books to Institutions, but that how is it determined who to give the books to, when the Hospital is not part of the fellowship? John said the person who is his contact at the Hospital said that she would make sure the books stay there and are only given to folks who want and need them. Paula-Have an idea-Lehlighton Group-uses a Stamper which would identify where the book came from, so they stay at the Hospital. Paula felt it was a great idea that every group get a Big Book and 12 & 12. Joe reiterated that it would be every Group getting 1 Big Book and 1 12 & 12. It would be up to individual groups to determine who to give them too. Joe said he wants to determine who would be responsible for the expense, most likely a District expense if the District approves of it. This is all based on our Budget and what our Reserve is. Again, Joe said this is just an idea and we need to get more information about cost, look at our Budget, and that we have a lot of other expenses throughout the year as well. Just as a note, Frank mentioned that 1 Big Book (\$9.10) and 1 12 & 12 (\$8.25) for every Group would cost \$424.00. John brought up the Pink Cans that Intergroup uses to collect donations for Prison literature.

- e) Public Information-Frank B-No requests for any functions over the last month. The Adopt-A-Spot program is going well, still trying to shore up all the locations. He is distributing pamphlets so it must be working. Please text him with requests, do not call as he does not answer phone calls. It is functioning well. It seems like the amount of pamphlets being distributed right now is manageable. John suggested that any requests for additional pamphlets be given to Joe as he is our Intergroup Rep.
- f) Unity Breakfast/Workshops-Steve-The tickets will be \$14, he is not sure if the tickets were printed up yet, but the first Business Meeting as a Committee on January 26th. There will be no tickets at the door. Fred had asked if the tickets were available yet for the Unity Breakfast.
- g) Grapevine-Monica-Not present.
- h) Website Report-Vickie B-Everything is going well, Shout Out still going out, please continue to send information to me about upcoming events. Steve asked if Vickie had submitted the change to GSR for his Home Group. She said she had, John mentioned that the person in charge has a lot on his plate and advised Vickie to contact him again if nothing comes back to Steve.
- i) Unity Report-Celia-Still going to Dark Meetings, trying to get Dark Groups involved. Steve is helping Celia with a couple meetings.

8. Upcoming Events-

- a) Joe-Conyngham Group is having a 29th Anniversary Party, December 11th, meeting starts at 7:00PM. Asked Vickie to put on the Website on
- b) Steve-Saturday Night Live-Jane D will be telling her story on Saturday December 7th, meeting at 6PM, Speaker at 7PM.
- c) John-Had an idea about having a Group of people to attend Founders Day. He knows a Manager at a Red Roof Inn that he could get a good rate on. He discussed what a great event it was.

9. Old Business-

- a) Vickie-Structure Manual-There are things that we are doing that are not set up in our Structure Manual, such as appropriating money for individuals who should be responsible for their own expenses, not the District. All Officers are reimbursed for expenses directly related to District 49 attending EPGSA and Assemblies, ADCM is required to attend during election years. Any other expenses must be approved by the voting body (District 49). Vickie stated that we need to change the Structure Manual if we wish to pay for the ADCM to attend during non-election years. Chris made a Motion to change the Structure Manual to reflect that DCM and ADCM be reimbursed for all expenses for Assemblies and Conferences on a yearly basis, not just during election years. Motion was 2nd. Dan mentioned that we had discussed helping GSR's whose Groups could not afford to send them. It was stated that Groups are responsible for sending their GSR's, and that other Officers would be reimbursed if the District voted and approved such appropriations. There was a call to vote, the Vote was unanimous to make this change. Dan mentioned there was a lot of confusion regarding who was representing the District, and with regards to who gets reimbursed for attending the Assemblies and Conferences. There was no Group Conscience as to who should go and who would get reimbursed. We need to plan these things better and make decisions with Alternates in place for future events.
- b) Chris made a motion to make a change to the Structure Manual, that in the event the DCM and/or ADCM could not attend, that the Secretary and then Treasurer to fulfill the obligation and be reimbursed based on the previous Amendment to the Structure Manual. Motion was 2nd. Vote was unanimous.
- c) Vickie-Page 12, in 2013 the District established \$500 prudent reserve for the Unity Breakfast and Workshop, however, nothing has been established for the Website or Grapevine. Vickie wanted to add a Reserve for the Website and Grapevine. Chris stated that there is already a reserve of \$250 for the Grapevine. Lou brought up that Generally, there is a Prudent reserve for Committees that don't have Bank Accounts holding funds, and that perhaps we can set up a General Prudent reserve of \$400 to cover large bills that come up such as Grapevine and Website expenses. Chris mentioned that we need to review Subscriptions and vote on them at the time, based on our current funds available. Vickie asked about the Website once again. Chris stated that we need to vote on these bills before they are paid, that things should be brought to the floor and voted on. Lou stated again that if we had a Prudent Reserve set up that we could cover these expenses. Chris stated that we should not be using a Prudent Reserve for such expenses, as they are general business expenses, and that Prudent Reserves should be reserved for Meeting expenses and such. There was much discussion that followed regarding what the Prudent Reserve should be. Chris motioned that the Prudent Reserve be \$350 for the Unity Breakfast. Dan asked that we table the Motion until he can come back from the first Committee Meeting to advise if there are any further expenses. Motion was tabled until next District. John suggested that perhaps we form a Finance Ad-Hoc committee to come up with a budget to better manage our expenses.

- d) Vickie-Archives-The new Archivist will assume the responsibility as of Jan 1 2021. She feels that should be removed because the Commitment is 5 years. Vickie mentioned that there should at least be a reminder by changing the date in the Structure Manual. Steve felt that the Manual should simply read that the Archivist will hold the position for 5 years, and that having dates in the Manual are not necessary. There was a Motion to remove the dates, it was 2nd and Vote was unanimous.
- e) Chris-The 12 & 12 and Big Books are now in our possession. The Big Books were donated by Vickie so anyone who wants one for their Group can take one. I am not sure about how many of the Living Sober or 12 & 12 Books were purchased at Intergroup. There are 8 returned Living Sober, and 10 returned 12 & 12. We don't know where the bill is. Joe stated we can figure out what was purchased at Intergroup. John asked if we could table this until we figure out what's what. They will stay at the District Meeting location until we figure out what is going on. Discussion was tabled until next month after Joe attends Intergroup.

10. New Business-None

11. Motion to Close- John asked for a motion to Close. Closed with- I am Responsible.

Yours in Service

Lou D

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