

# MINUTES

## SARA-MANA INTERGROUP MEETING

January 18, 2022 at 7 PM

Central Office & Zoom

[Zoom ID: 733 4126 4918 PW: 912785]

- Call the Meeting to Order: by Matt
  - Moment of Silence Followed by the Serenity Prayer: Matt
  - 12 Traditions: Dusty
  - Welcome and Introduction of New Intergroup Reps: Susan, Early Big Book; Brian, Twilight Hour; Erin, Under the Rainbow; J.D., Sunrise Lakewood Ranch; Jimmy, High Hope; and Dave, Siesta Key.
  - A quorum was established. 15+ members present
- Reports
  - Chair Report: Matt showed the group the new Intergroup page on AASRQ.org. The site is shared with Central Office. The site holds meeting minutes from back to April. More documents will be uploaded over time. Ross asked about a donation button. Matt said one would be added.
  - Matt, wishing to quell a rumor about Intergroup spending \$1,000 on a CPA without approval, reminded the group that the Intergroup representatives voted to approve spending up to \$1,000 for CPA's advice. Melissa confirmed the vote as noted in the November 16, 2021, meeting minutes.
  - Co-Chair Report: No report.
  - Secretary Report: Melissa shared the minutes from the last meeting were dispersed via email and asked if there were any questions or a motion to approve. Todd motioned to accept. Ross seconded. All approved.

- Treasurer's Report: Ross reported for Craig. Ross briefly got the group up-to-date with the October, November, and December finance reports. The numbers are as follows:

**October**

Sept 30 Balance: \$14,673.28 | Oct Donations: \$2,501.91 | Oct Expenses: \$902.11

New Balance: \$16,273.08 | Less Prudent Reserve: \$6,500 | Oct 31 Balance: \$9,773.08

**November**

Oct 31 Balance: \$16,273.08 | Nov Donations: \$2,203.65 | Nov Expenses: \$1,627.94

New Balance: \$16,848.79 | Less Prudent Reserve: \$6,500 | Nov 30 Balance: \$10,348.79

**December**

Nov 30 Balance: \$16,848.79 | Dec Donations: \$1,494.95 | Dec Expenses: \$915.94

New Balance: \$17,427.80 | Less Prudent Reserve: \$6,500 | Dec 31 Balance: \$10,927.80

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report made by Todd. Seconded by Donna. All in favor.

- Committee Reports
  - Finance Committee Chair Report: Ross
    - Ross mentioned that the committee adjusted the prudent reserve. (Previously reported in November.) Gary, the newest member to the Finance Committee, had suggested the prudent reserve was too high and that Gratitude Dinner, which takes place in November, budgeted amount was too low. Prudent reserve was lowered from \$6,500 to \$4,500. The budget for the Gratitude Dinner was increased by \$2,000.
    - A letter from IRS was recently received in the mail regarding the invalid Civil Penalty issue with the IRS. The letters from the IRS was in response to a form mailed from Intergroup in months before, disputing the Civil Penalty over unpaid fees that were in fact paid and documented. The letter said that the wrong form was submitted and included what form to use. The Committee will take the next action. Multiple phone calls have been attempted to reach an IRS representative and attempts to use an IRS advocacy group; however, it has been reported that IRS is

overwhelmed and understaffed, so the committee will respond to this request and take each step required until the matter is resolved.

- District Intergroup Liaison: Matt
  - There is no current rep. Matt asked if anyone was interested in the roll. Donna agreed to taking the position, which will require attendance at quarterly meetings with travel reimbursement. Next District Intergroup meeting will be held on April 8 to 10 in Boca Raton.
- Helpline: Greg
  - New helpline system is working. There have been no complaints or concerns. They discovered that the new Ring Central system only allows for up to 10 volunteers. The committee is considering increasing the user limit to allow for more volunteers. This will cost more, so the need is being carefully evaluated. The Spanish helpline is still down and only one person knows how to fix the problem. That person has been out of the country. This has been a real concern and problem. Once the member returns, others will be cross trained so that this issue doesn't occur again.
  - The new 12-Step call list and training is being developed. Individuals and groups have been very helpful in this process.
- Where & When: Samantha
  - Samantha shared that her term was up.
  - She expressed the need to have Where & When brochures moved to the meeting room from the front office to have available to Intergroup representatives at each monthly meeting.
- Newsletter: Christine – Next newsletter will be ready at the end of the month. Please submit all written contributions to [info@asrq.org](mailto:info@asrq.org). Short articles sharing experience, strength, courage, and hope are welcome

from AA members. Group history and bios are welcome. Todd asked if the Saturday Night Speakers article was received.

- Central Office Report: Matt – Upgrades are being made to Central Office. New chairs were purchased. Old chairs will go to the Gratitude Room. A deposit was made on a new, upgraded audio/visual system to be purchased and installed by a professional company.
- General Service District 4 Report: Alan
  - Area 15 Assembly was held last weekend, including the southeast region including Nassau, Bahamas, St. Thomas, and Cayman.
  - Alan mentioned the April Conference will address literature changes.
  - District IV has fillable new group registration and change forms.
  - AA.org website had a facelift and is more user friendly for looking up meetings, reviewing the calendar of events, submitting changes to Where & When, submitting articles to the newsletter, and reading and submitting newsletter articles.
  - The New Year's Eve event at the church on Beneva had 250 attendees and was a great success.
  - There is a new P.O. Box to send contributions to General Service in New York. It is General Service Office, PO Box 2407, James A. Farley Station, New York, NY 10116-2407.
  - The new 30-minute variety style Grapevine AA Podcast is uploaded every Monday morning and available to listen to on AA.org.
  - A chili cookoff is being planned to take place in March. More to come.
  - Next Area Assembly will take place on April 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> in Boca Raton.
- Current Practices: No representative (usually filled by the past chair, but he does not live in the area any longer). No report
- Old Business: Gary
  - Gary shared the email sent from CS&L, the CPA firm hired to help Intergroup decide if it needs to change from the 501c4 status it recently registered as to a

501c3 organization. The difference is that any donations made to a 501c4 organization are non-tax deductible, which may not be a problem. The process to file as a 501c3 is lengthy with some costs attached. Questions were posed asking if the CPA firm could perform the change for a fee and if Intergroup could just remain as a 501c4 even though donations would not be tax deductible. The answer was yes to both questions.

- **New Business: Matt**

- There was a discussion about traditions when it was understood that the CPA firm wanted to donate their services. The group voted to pay the regular hourly rate for the work performed, totaling one hour within the \$1,000 voted on in the November meeting.
- A motion was made and seconded to stay as a 501c4. The motion was later amended, seconded, and voted on to allow all area groups a chance to discuss and provide input and vote. Representatives will be provided with a description of 501c4 and 501c3, and the pros and cons to help members make an informed decision. CS&L will be asked to create a one-sheet description and pros and cons and paid for those services, staying within the original \$1,000 (also approved in the amended motion and vote). Intergroup will vote group conscience at the February 2022 meeting.
- There was a brief discussion about Intergroup using the year-end divestiture to purchase Big Books, 12 & 12's, Grapevine, and other AA-materials to local donate to H&I (hospitals and institutions) groups, rather than give to AA World Service in New York. The topic was tabled until the next meeting.
- First Step women's meeting on Fridays at 7 PM needs women to attend and volunteer as sponsors.
- A Bylaws adhoc committee was formed to review and make changes to the current bylaws. Members are Susan, Gary, and Dave.

- Matt addressed that the election of new officers is overdue. Representatives will bring the opening of officer positions – Chair, Co-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Finance, and other committees. Anyone AA member can be nominated and fill the roles without being an Intergroup Rep. Elections will take place at the February meeting.
- Motion to close was made by Jimmy. Sam seconded. All were in favor. Meeting closed with the Responsibility Prayer. Next meeting February 15, 2022.