

SARA-MANA INTER-GROUP MINUTES

January 21, 2020

Call the Meeting to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by the Chair, Jim C. A quorum of at least ten was achieved.

Moment of Silence Followed by the Serenity Prayer:

12 Traditions:

The 12 Traditions were read by Jen.

Introductions:

All Reps introduced themselves and their Home Group. Jeffrey B. is the new Intergroup Rep for A. Literature, Janet for Early Bay Group, Lisa W. for Early Big Book and Joanna K. is new for Happy Cookie Hour.

Chair Report:

Jim apologized for not having the Newsletters ready to go and promised to have them at Central Office and available by noon tomorrow.

Co-Chair Report:

Matt D. said that the Gratitude Dinner had gone extremely well. He circulated a financial breakdown which showed a net income from the event of \$143 (attached). Excess funds will be forwarded to GSO in NY.

Secretary Report:

Brian had an excused absence and had asked Ross J. to serve in his absence. Ross J. read the minutes from the November 19, 2019 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as presented.

Treasurer's Report:

Joe A. said that he had not had the time to prepare a financial report but said that all of the bills were paid and there was money in the bank. He had just collected the group contributions but had not yet tallied them. There has been no change in the status of our bank account.

7th Tradition:

The 7th Tradition was passed.

Finance Committee Chair Report:

Ross J. reported that he had finally gotten in touch with General Services in New York, seeking guidance. They had directed him to the "A.A. Guidelines" on the subject of Finance. These are an array of guidelines published by GSO and intended to guide the AA community through various issues. They are available at the Central Office and can also be found on-line. This document had no directly relevant advice but referred to several IRS publications and he was currently reading through those publications for insight. We can still deposit funds and write checks so the situation is not dire. We just can't make any changes to our account, such as adding or removing authorized persons and our account would eventually be frozen if not corrected, when bank audits reached that point.

The issue is the IRS requiring banks to crack down on identifying the holders of funds to combat money laundering related crimes. The fix will not be difficult, expensive or time consuming but Ross is trying to research the issue to be able to have the smallest, simplest possible solution. There does not seem to be a way to get around associating a particular individual as responsible for an account so there will be the eventual work to switch the responsibility to new individuals as the positions rotate.

Mick suggested contacting Sharon K., the Treasurer for General Service, who had recently addressed the same problem and contact information was passed after the meeting. Samantha had suggested using the IRS help line.

Helpline:

Chris C. reported that the same four shifts listed last month are still open. They are:

- Wednesday – 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. and 12:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.
- Friday – 12:00 A.M. to 9:00 A.M.
- Saturday – 12:00 A.M. to 9:00 A.M.

Jeff B. volunteered for an open shift and met with Chris after the meeting. Anyone interested in filling a shift should contact Chris C. at (941) 780-3808.

Where & When:

Samantha M. said that the new Where & When was coming up soon and that she was putting the finishing touches on it. She was having some trouble with the Microsoft Publishing software and asked for help from anyone present that had knowledge of the software.

Samantha is coordinating with the Accessibilities Chair on identifying those meetings that are handicapped accessible in the Where & When. She asked all members to take this issue back to their groups and examine their own meeting spaces for accessibility and then get back to her with an update. She said that, in order to be listed as handicapped accessible there couldn't be a protruding lip that might stall a wheelchair and that the bathrooms needed to be accessible, also. Powered automatic doors are not necessary. Group members can update her at: waterbirthmw@gmail.com or at (239) 222-1044.

Ross J. informed her that GSO NY had given permission for using the Meeting Guide folding chair GIF on our Where & When's to indicate that they were integrated. Mike B. is already using it in the Newsletter and can provide it to her.

Newsletter:

Mike B. was absent, and no report was given. Ross J. reported that the Meeting Guide GIF has been approved for use in the Newsletter and is in use. The January edition is done but not yet available on-line. The physical copies are at the printers and should be available at Central Office after noon tomorrow. Alan T. had previously suggested that an electronic version of the Newsletter be available as electronic subscriptions but that has not yet been done.

Central Office Report:

Chris L. was not present. Doug had no report. Matt D. summarized from the report he had received from the last Central Office Board meeting. He said that they were still looking for one voting and one non-voting (alternate) member from Intergroup. The new QuickBooks program was live as of 1/1/20 and they were now producing monthly financial reports. They meet every third Thursday. Jeff B. volunteered to be the alternate member.

We neglected to discuss the fund raiser but I am including that information in these minutes. The Central Office fund raiser is under way, from 1/1/20 to 4/15/20. Our goal is \$28,000. IG reps should bring contribution envelopes back to the groups that they serve and encourage individual donations. They should also mention that their contributions could be tax deductible and they can ask the Central Office for a receipt for their taxes. An article about this is in the January edition of the Newsletter.

General Service District 4 Report:

Mick G. reported that General Service met on Saturday, January 18, 2020. It was the first meeting of 2020 and no one passed out!

They only did a few minutes of housekeeping and financial reporting and then used the rest of the meeting to test drive their new website: www.dist4gsaa.org. They were pleased with the new website and, although it is up and running now, they plan some additional improvements to make it even better.

The New Year's Eve event was a success.

District IV will be co-hosting the convention with District V at the Sarasota Hyatt in January 2021.

Current Practices:

Doug was not present and there was no report.

Old Business:

Jim C. said that we are still on the hunt for a larger venue with a serviceable kitchen for our Gratitude Dinner.

New Business:

Jim C. reported that we still need to appoint one board member to the Central Office Board.

The Gratitude Club in Sarasota will be celebrating their fifteen year anniversary on March 15th, 2020. The Gratitones will provide the entertainment.

Although it was not mentioned during the meeting, I am attaching this information in these notes to be relayed back to the group members: Tony, our long-serving Central Office manager who only recently retired, passed away on New Year's Day. There will be a memorial gathering at the Central Office on February 2, 2020 from 2 PM to 4 PM. It is open to anyone who would like to attend and remember this man and his service.

With no further business to discuss Jim adjourned the meeting at about 7:43 P.M. with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Ross J.