

MINUTES

SARA-MANA INTERGROUP MEETING

April 19, 2022, at 7 PM
Central Office & Zoom

[Zoom ID: 733 4126 4918 PW: 912785]

- Call the Meeting to Order: Matt
 - Moment of Silence Followed by the Serenity Prayer: Matt
 - 12 Traditions: Aaron
 - Quorum was established with 20 members present or on Zoom
 - Welcome and Introduction of New Intergroup Reps: Danielle, OMD and Dustin Sarasota YPG

- Reports
 - Chair Report: Matt – Paul will need to step down as Co-Chair due to medical needs. Laurie was nominated for the position in the last meeting to be elected on today. A new Newsletter Committee Chair is needed to replace Christine who is caring for family. There was a small discrepancy in the bank reconciliation, but it will be resolved.
 - Co-Chair Report: No report
 - Secretary Report: Melissa asked for a vote for the minutes of the previous meeting, which had been sent to the group via email for review. Motioned to accept was seconded. All approved.
 - Treasurer's Report: Craig reported the following for March 2022:

March 31, 2022 balance was \$18,880.70
Group Contributions totaled \$1,935.66
Expenses totaled \$1,238.34
Balance (\$19,578.02), less \$6,500 prudent reserve totaled \$13,078.02
 - Jimmy stated that the balance is too high and asked what was happening with buying literature for H&I. Ross said he would address this in his Finance Committee report. Dave asked why CS&L was just being paid when they had done the work months ago. Craig said the bill was paid as soon as it was received.
 - Committee Reports
 - Finance Committee Chair Report: Ross – The Finance Committee meeting had been postponed. Account balance is off, and he is trying to reconcile. Ross explained why literature has not been purchased. Janice, H&I representative, requested \$4,000 to meet their needs. Intergroup had voted to purchase \$11,000 in literature. Leslie K. is new as chair for literature services and Ross reached out to her. Leslie thought they could use new racks and maybe they could use the money to buy books for different home groups, but she wasn't sure. Manatee County jail will accept Grapevines. Sarasota County jail would require Grapevine

subscriptions for 1,000 electronic tablets for each inmate. Ross connected both jails to the Grapevine office who may be able to work on fulfilling their needs.

- Laurie's group, The Steps We Take, met and discussed the concepts/traditions surrounding this motion. Her group felt that Intergroup was taking a back door to not giving the money to the District since the District can't accept earmarked money to buy literature for H&I. And that it was wrong to not go through District just because Intergroup wanted to buy literature. Laurie made a motion that the excess funds go to General Service, District IV, and be disbursed to committees. Gary seconded.
- Jimmy asked why we aren't splitting the funds to General Service and New York. Todd said the group voted to keep the funds local. Susan commented that at the time of the vote, both Intergroup and General Service had large balances and that General Service was in favor of Intergroup handling their funds however they wished. Matt shared that with the large excess of contributions, Intergroup heard that H&I need books for facilities they serve. That included hospitals, detox centers, and other institutions like Salvation Army. Dave added that the amount of excess funds was unusual, that it had not happened previously. He added that we knew it was a one-time thing to be able to be in a position to help with literature. If the funds go to General Service, they will be budgeted into each committee. He added that Intergroup was not usurping General Service; they were fully aware and in favor of Intergroup's idea. Alan, General Service Committee Chair, said that Laurie is correct, Intergroup cannot earmark funds that go to General Service to H&I, but those groups that need literature can submit a proposal to request funds or items. Alan added that General Service is conducting a three-month media campaign – TV, radio, print; and if Intergroup gave the funds to General Service, this campaign could be extended to up to 10 months. Jimmy was concerned about rehashing the matter because a motion was approved to buy the books. Laurie added that this is an opportunity to change what Intergroup had not handle appropriately. Alan added General Service also had a \$16,000 divestiture that are helping with the media campaign, digitizing archives, and automation of registrar database – groups and key contacts. Laurie said Intergroup needs to follow the traditions and not make things up as we go. Ross asked if General Service would look favorably on receiving these funds. Alan, said yes, as a general contribution. Any committees who need funds for literature are welcome to submit a proposal for funds.
- Dudley asked about the fees owed to IRS. Matt and Ross reviewed the errors are on the IRS side. All forms were filed correctly and there were no fees owed. IRS has been slow to resolve, but each request IRS has made has been completed to resolve the issue.

- The discussion returned to the motion made by Laurie. A vote was taken. Minority voter, Jimmy, shared we should stay with our original motion and vote and keep our word and maintain trust with those committees we made promises to.
- Matt asked if anyone was changing their vote. None did. He then declared the motion to send money to General Service passed 21 to 1.
- Ross returned to concerns about unresolved issues – Sunbiz, IRS, bank fees – all have been addressed with multiple attempts with no rebuttals or responses from IRS or Suntrust.
- Finance Committee has an open seat. Gary addressed the fact that there have not been any meetings since October (REV – last meeting was in November). Current Committee is Ross, Todd, Gary, and Craig. Susan offered to join the committee.
- District Intergroup Liaison: Donna – No report. She was unable to attend the District Intergroup meeting in Boca Raton because there were no affordable rooms in the area.
- Helpline: Greg submitted report:
 - Helpline is working well, as is the Spanish voicemail. We are looking into adding the Spanish Helpline onto the RingCentral account to save money.
- Where & When: No Report. Matt shared the new listing – on blue paper – is available. Bring copies back to your home group.
- Newsletter: Christine is unable to continue in role. A new Newsletter Committee Chair is needed. Please bring the opening to home groups and have them contact mattykins@gmail.com or call (843) 670-9312.
- Central Office Report: Matt reported for Greg
 - General Service, Open House Book Sale, Saturday, May 14th, 11 AM to 3 PM at 1748 Independence Blvd. Refreshments and snacks.
 - New hybrid equipment is installed in the Central Office meeting room.
- General Service District 4 Report: Alan
 - Next assembly will take place on July 22 to 24 at Miami Marriott Dadeland Hotel.
 - Florida State Conference is in August in Fort Lauderdale.
 - Founders Day will take place on June 11th at Sarasota Community Church from 5 to 8 PM with 3-dinner choices – pork, chicken, or vegetarian - and guest speaker, Misoon W. from Naples. Cost is \$20 per person with the ability to make reservations on the District website: dist4gsaa.org.
 - Jimmy added that there is a need for volunteers in the morning for food prep and set up, with food service, and especially with cleanup after the event.
 - General Service will have officer elections at the October 15th meeting for Chair, Alternate Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary – nominations are welcome.
- Current Practices: No past-chair representative. No report

- Old Business:
 - Bylaws: Susan reviewed any questions sent by groups. Most were grammatical, one for changing the word donations to contributions. Alan, Ross, and Laurie added in comments regarding ability for officers to vote, language about group vs meetings, and financial reporting. Following discussion, a motion to approve the bylaws was voted on and passed 20-1, with 1 abstaining. There was no minority opinion.
 - Matt shared that Paul had officially stepped down from Co-Chair for the time being due to medical issues. Laurie had been nominated for the position and an email was sent out 10 days prior to the meeting. Gary made the motion for Laurie to become Co-Chair for the remaining term. A vote was taken and she was elected unanimously.
- New Business: Matt said that the Newsletter Chair/Editor position was open, as was an alternate for the Central Office Board. Todd said he would serve as the alternate for the Central Office Board.
- Motion to close was made by Susan. It was seconded by Craig and all were in favor. Meeting closed at 8:22 PM. Next meeting May 17, 2022.