

DISTRICT 16 BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Online Zoom Meeting

March 18, 2020

ROLL CALL

Aimee A, Amy V, Chase B, Chuck B, Jennifer A, Jo B, Kelly K, Ken J, Kristin A, Lea W, Lisa G, Michael W, Mollie O, Nick N, Rachel H, Robert H, Sarah P, Terry C, Terry K

Open meeting 7pm with the Serenity Prayer - Terry C

Reading of the Tradition of the month - Amy V

Tradition Three - The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.

Tradition Three Long Form - Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought AA membership ever depend on money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an AA group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation.

Reading of the Concept of the month - Rachel H

Concept III - As a traditional means of creating and maintaining a clearly defined working relation between the groups, the Conference, the A.A. General Service Board and its several service corporations, staffs, committees and executives, and of thus insuring their effective leadership, it is here suggested that we endow each of these elements of world service with a traditional "Right of Decision."

Ask for New GSR's - None Present

Ask for any Visitors - None Present

OFFICER REPORTS

Terry C - Welcomed everyone and introduced Amy V as our three minute timer

Secretary - Nick N

Corrections to the January Minutes? A motion was made by Wayne T and tabled to be discussed at the next business meeting. Jennifer A asked for the corrected version to be sent to the body. Nick N. will be emailing them once the corrections have been made.

Motion to Approve the minutes as corrected - Amy V, Second Chuck B and all approved

Nick N - Thanked everyone for supporting his role as secretary. Also thanked Terry K for helping to create the remote meetings tab on the website and keeping temporary meeting closures and online remote meetings up to date.

Treasury's Report - Robert H

We have \$2,850 in donations. Thanks in large part to Southern Oregon Dog On The Roof for their generous contribution to District 16. Had a few travel expenses for Q1 meeting in Portland and more coming in ie travel to PRAASA and other travel expense scholarships.

Comments:

Terry C - Hopefully we will be able to pump up the travel budgets.

Robert H - With the significant donations we will have funds to support LDCM travel and additional scholarships

Motion to Approve Treasurer Report - Kelly K, second Jennifer A and all approved

DCM - Terry C

My report on PRAASA has been sent out and I hope you have all had a chance to read it. It was an amazing experience and I strongly suggest you all begin saving up for the 2021 PRAASA in Burbank. You won't be disappointed!

There were several times in the last 10 days that I believed my head was going to explode with all the upheaval that happened while I was gone but with the help of a few trusted friends I was able to find my center and my breath and carry on! It is NOT the end of the world, just the end of this phase of it. Breathe ... do the next right thing, Breathe ... Trust!

We have all done some amazing things in these past 2 weeks! I have been blessed to watch what you are doing on facebook, on Zoom and Messenger. We have adapted and overcame like champs! Maybe it's because we have all been to that place of desperation and made it to the other side that we now have patience, humility, love to help others who are struggling. I want to thank all of you for every kindness, every initiation and application of new platforms for meetings, every offer to help someone learn this new technology, every phone call to reach out to others. This is an amazing opportunity for us all and we are proving that we have the strength and the power within to weather this storm of uncertainty.

Comments:

Terry C - My PRAASA report was sent out. I wanted to thank everyone for approving my journey to PRAASA

LDCM-A (Ashland, Phoenix, Talent) - Chuck B

Attended the Area Assembly Late February in Portland. Had a real productive Pre GSC sharing session with former delegate Riley presiding. We covered Public Information, and studied some great topics. Our own LDCM-B Amy took great notes for the group. If you bribe her she might share them with you.

Then the world ended. Many groups have shut doors to contend with. Our Secretary Nick started some killer online Zoom meetings, so I followed suit. My homegroup Crack of Dawn in Ashland now has an online version 6 days a week. This has kept me busier than I'd imagined. Thank you for letting me serve, Chuck B.

Group A GSR Reports - None

LDCM-B (Medford) - Amy V

Needless to say, we are all coping the best we can with the current healthcare crisis. There were to be many informative and engaging workshops this month, but due to circumstances beyond our control, those have been canceled and will be rescheduled to later dates. On the positive side, we are witnessing our fellowship's dedication to carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic. Some of us are meeting online (like tonight) and some of us are having meetings in smaller groups at various members' homes. Necessity is the mother of invention, after all.

The LDCMs and other District members attended the Portland Assembly at the end of February. In addition to some good speakers, and great breakout sessions, each Area 58 District was given some important topics to discuss. These topics are intended to be handed off to the GSRs and talked over in our groups' business meetings. I will be doing so after this evening's meeting in hopes that you will take the topics assigned to our District and discuss them at the group level. We will need the feedback to be returned to me by April 3rd so that we can get those ideas and comments back to our delegate, Jim, in time to take to the General Service Conference. As others have said before, it is pretty interesting to be a part of AA business at any level, but particularly so as we move up, or down, rather, the triangle. Decisions are made oh so slowly, and the process can be frustrating to folks like me, who just want to get things DONE. But with God in charge, AA business goes on exactly the way it is supposed to.

Until next month may you stay healthy and strong, and may the God of your understanding protect and keep you until then.

Group B GSR Reports

Aimee A - I am Aimee, GSR for the Medford Women's "Keepin It Simple" group, the closed women's meeting that meets on Wednesdays at noon. I wanted to let the members of our district know that due to the current state of affairs, our group on Monday held an emergency phone group conscience with our key service members and in lieu of "cancelling" our meeting or turning people away if we were over 10 people, we decided that we would hold virtual meetings at this time.

Our first virtual meeting was today at noon, and it was a smashing success! We had 13 members present including our pre-selected speaker. In less than 48 hours we disseminated information about the change via phone, facebook, text, and we also posted a flyer on the door of the church where we normally meet about how to join the meeting. Because of this last action, we had a newcomer of two days sober join our meeting and she shared, and we were able to have a meeting after the meeting on the phone.....all because she went to the door of the church and saw our sign. And she decided to follow through.

My purpose for sharing this info tonight is to inspire other GSRs and other AAers to go back to their groups after hearing this story to encourage your group conscience to set up virtual meetings for your groups at this time. It is our responsibility to make sure that the fellowship of alcoholics anonymous is available to EVERYONE in our local community who has a desire to stop drinking. The regular attendees and the NEWCOMERS who might not be getting called.

As many of you know, I have always been passionate about bringing AA's connectivity more up to speed with technology, and I feel like this is the Godshot that we need to wake up and get to work! As GSRs and District Members we need to step up and support our local AA community right now. We need to lead the charge to stop the temptation to flat out cancel in-person meetings, and instead, I'd like to urge you to please consider moving them to a "remote" location.

I have 9 years experience working with small businesses who offer remote online services (some bootstrapping some with significant budgets) using a variety of remote communication platforms with video conferencing and conference calls . I am no expert about your group, but I feel confident that I can help guide you with the needs of your group to help keep your group's fellowship alive during this time while your group upholds the 12 traditions.

I would like to offer my time to personally consult with you on what might be best for your group. This includes: Selecting the best technology for your group, set up and train you on the technology that you choose, advice on how to get your members feeling comfortable in this new remote setting, standard operating procedures and some good practices for meeting operations behind the scenes, to make sure that you or anyone else can run the meeting so the meeting doesn't hinge on your presence, and how to make it a safe and calm and sacred place for your existing members and newcomers alike. Please reach out to me at 541-708-1164 or via email at aimee.a.arnold@gmail.com if you would like assistance with bringing your meeting from in person to virtual.

One last thing:

It's important to make sure that the word gets out about your new remote location. I would also like to remind GSRs and District members that if you do start a virtual meeting please be sure to email our District webmaster (Terry K - dist16webmaster@gmail.com) to add your info to the newly created "remote meetings" tab on the District Website so we can make sure that everyone has equal access to attend meetings. And hopefully with Renee's help, our Central Office Liaison, she can help make sure that this remote meeting list is also on the central office website. Heck, maybe we can even have the central office newsletter for April print this listing inside of it! Our primary purpose, as always, needs to stay with the alcoholic who still suffers, particularly the ones who have not been exposed to this message and who have not yet connected with the fellowship.

Comments:

Amy V - HIW Friday Night Group is trying to set up a meeting online ... Aimee A I will forward your info to the group.

Michael W - Medford Fellowship Group and Alano Club will remain open

LDCM-C - (Prospect, Butte Falls, Shady Cove, Gold Hill, Eagle Point, White City, Central Point, Jacksonville, Ruch, Applegate) - Rachel H

Thank you for an amazing month. This past month I was able to be a part of discussions in Portland at the assembly for pre-conference sharing. There were such topics as creating a podcast to carry the message and making a pamphlet more gender inclusive. The facilitator was very good at ensuring all voices were heard. I was a witness to the wisdom of the

group conscience when on the business meeting day it was voted to keep the meeting going later, so that all of the motions could be heard and voted on. My selfishness at first went against it, but was grateful that I wasn't the voice of AA. There were a couple motions of utmost importance to vote on at that assembly that wouldn't have even started discussion if we didn't go over time. It has been a pleasure to be a part of service at area. One that I get to keep on growing. As far as meeting with groups across districts I've only met with a couple more. There has been one more GSR from Central Point that happily registered with GSO and I was able to make a couple calls to see which other meetings needed a contact update. Yours in Loving Service Rachel H

Group C GSR Reports

Jennifer A - I attended the Area 58 assembly in February in Portland along with Rachel, Chuck, Amy, Ken and others. There was fabulous information and many good ideas from our panel expert Riley on the subject of PI during our pre-conference sharing session. I have copies of all that information if anyone would like a copy or you can go to the Area 58 website as well. Our delegate Jim F. will be assigned to this panel during the General Service Conference coming up in April and will take our suggestions to New York. I had the opportunity to be a part of many discussions regarding moving our business meeting to the Saturday of the assembly and, as such, have sent a request to the chairman of the Area 58 committee to for an ad hoc committee to address this issue. There are many moving parts to an assembly and the committee could assess and research any history of required assembly agendas, topics, etc. that have been voted on and approved by the body in the past and that members feel need to be addressed at each assembly. A committee could also help with the business meeting length and re-structuring the agenda to accommodate the necessary changes. More details to follow. Glad to see that everyone is using technology to stay connected during this weirdest of times!

7:30pm Presentation: Report on Assembly information - Michael M (Not Present)

7:30pm Appointed Committee Reports: Please keep reports to 3 minutes. When the timer goes off you will be thanked and we will move to the next report. The full report will go into the months minutes.

Access Committee (AC) – Mollie O

We have Braille copies of the Big Book and several useful pamphlets in Braille. If you run across someone who needs them, call Mollie (on the phone list). We also have a number of AA Pamphlets regarding a number of groups who might experience access issues. They offer experience, strength and hope. We are talking about how to survey groups and individuals for unmet needs. The local online meetings are great, and there are national groups of all sorts available at <http://aa-intergroup.org/directory.php>. Thank you for the opportunity to be of service. Mollie

Archives – Jennifer A

No report

Cooperation with Correctional Facilities (CCF) - Women: Marci S (Not Present)

No report

Cooperation with Correctional Facilities (CCF) - Men: Richard R

Received email from Srgt on hold until further notice. As soon as we are able we will start meetings again. Contacted Matt and the Juvenile facility would also like to have meetings coming into the facility. I will be working on setting up protocol for Juvenile meetings.

Comments:

Terry C - Grateful for CCF setting up youth involvement. Thank you Richard

Amy V - Is it both men and women?

Richard R - To be determined once I get Marci involved and communicate with the facilities

Mollie O - Offered to help if needed

Cooperation with Treatment Facilities (CTF) - Jo B

No meetings at the ARC. I was at the library and did not see anything for AA. Was wondering if we are able to set up a rack of pamphlets and information.

Comments:

Kristin A - Manages library and rack would probably not be allowed but happy to coordinate having pamphlets available in the library. The libraries are currently closed. Happy to help.

Terry C - Asked Kelly K to get involved and help out as well.

Kelly K - Happy to help

Events – Lea W

All events and workshops have been put on hold. The Mental Health Workshop will be rescheduled.

Sub Committee Speaker Meeting - Jane F

The April 25th SOSM has been changed to May 23rd, same time and place. The room and speaker are both confirmed pending confirmation that we will be allowed to gather.

Comments:

Terry C - Vera F will be our speaker and prior to the meeting will give a Grapevine presentation 6pm to 6:45. Lea please bring snacks and coffee for the Grapevine presentation

Aimee A - We may need to reconsider food service at events in future

Grapevine - Gary M (Not Present)

No report

Public Information/Cooperation w/the Professional Community (PI/CPC) – Kelly K

I attended the pre pre conference zoom meeting last night for the PI Topic. It was really informative. Also contacted CASA and dropped off a packet to Andrea the Speaker Coordinator she said they are booked out a year but will keep us

for cancellation or for next year. I also contacted Family Nurturing Center and dropped off a packet, haven't heard back but will contact them again to get the name of the person who handles this. Hoping to create a card for professionals to look at the PSA videos that are available online. Videos are done without AA members, they are actors and very informative for the public. They are located on the AA.Org site.

Schedules - Wayne T (Not Present)

Hard copy schedules are still available at the Central Office.. People need to be aware of many meeting closures. We are keeping up on those changes on the websites as quickly as we're notified. Preferred method for meeting changes is still via either website. Stay Well, Wayne T.

Telephones - Robin P (Not Present)

My report is : 24 calls came in, 5 were 12-step calls. 3 were rides to meetings. All were taken care of by volunteers.
Love & Service Robin

Technology Committee - Terry K

General information about the effects of the COVID-19

- 29 meetings have been marked as Temporary Closure on the District 16 website as of this writing.
- I expect many more will be affected in the coming days. Updates are immediate on the website.
- The Meeting Guide app updates every 12 hours.
- To see if a meeting is temporarily closed on the Meeting Guide app users must click on the meeting listing to look at the details page. The main listing on the app does not display the Temporary Closure as the website does.
- List does not show that Early Birds is a Temporary Closure
- Clicking on the Early Birds listing opens the Details page.
- Please ask members to use the new "Add/Change Meeting page to report closures and in the future when meetings begin to reopen. This method ensures everyone managing a meeting list gets the same info.
- An Add/Change meeting listing page was added. The link on the new page redirects to the Jackson County Central Office meetings change form. This allows the reporter to enter the information once and have the changes reported to all Rogue Valley schedule lists.
 - o District 16 Meetings web page
 - o Jackson County Central Office Meetings web page
 - o Meeting Guide app listing
 - o District 16 printed schedule master for next distribution
 - o District 16 downloadable pdf of printed schedule available on jccoaa.org home page

Remote Meetings Page

A new page was added to list local remote meetings that are being hosted to allow members to attend a meeting via the internet. If you have created a meeting and would like it listed here please send an email to Dist16Webmaster@gmail.com

Business Meeting Minutes, Motions and Treasury Reports

- Business meeting minutes, active motions and treasury reports are now being uploaded to the Resources tab.

Southern Oregon Speaker Meeting Page

- A new Southern Oregon Speaker Meetings Recordings page was added to the site. Since recordings are now available to the public we will need to ask speakers to not use members' full names during their talks to be in line with Tradition 11. (see info below from AA Guidelines-Internet)
- Chuck B. provided the mp3 file from Marty J's talk on January 25th. The quality of the recording is very good. Nice job Chuck. Note: The download function provides a generic file name: download.mp3. You may wish to rename the file with a more useful name for future reference.

Info from AA Guidelines - Internet:

SPEAKER TALKS ONLINE

Members report that audio files of A.A. talks increasingly are being disseminated over the Internet. If a member objects to having his or her A.A. story broadcast publicly, he or she may wish to contact the site's webmaster and request its removal. Numerous members have acted, with good outcomes, on the following suggestion for speakers at A.A. events that appear in the G.S.O. service piece A.A. Guidelines for Conferences, Conventions and Roundups: Experience shows that it is best to encourage speakers not to use full names and not to identify third parties by full names in their talks. The strength of our Anonymity Traditions is reinforced by speakers who do not use their last names and by taping companies whose labels and catalogs do not identify speakers by last names, titles, service jobs or descriptions. In addition, some A.A. members, if being recorded for future play on a public website, may choose to leave out other details of their lives that may make themselves or their families identifiable. In recent years, the trustees' Public Information Committee has requested that G.S.O. contact speaker taping companies and remind them of A.A.'s Tradition of Anonymity at the public level and ask for their cooperation.

Comments:

Chuck B - Crack of Dawn and the 9am Ashland Meeting have a 20 person capacity imposed by the church

Jennifer A - Where is this info on the website for Covid - 19

Terry K - Found on the home page - we can connect after the meeting if there are questions

Terry C - Thanked Terry K for all of his work and service. Thanked Chuck for editing the Southern Oregon speaker meeting. Also, Gary K has all of the previous SOSM recordings and will eventually have them loaded on our website

Chuck B - All speakers are notified before being recorded

Liaisons: Please keep reports to 3 minutes. When the timer goes off you will be thanked and we will move to the next report. The full report will go into the months minutes.

Central Office – Renee H (Not Present)

OSYPAA Liaison – Garrison M (Not Present)

Al-anon – Laurie B (Not Present)

8pm Old Business:

Tabled Speaker Meeting Motion presented by Wayne T last month

Comments:

Terry C - Should we vote on labeling this motion for next month?

Chuck B - Made a motion to table, Jennifer A seconded the motion and All were in favor to move the motion to April

New Business:

Discussion on what we are doing to keep our Primary Purpose our Primary Focus.

Pre-Conference Sharing Assignments

Here is some of what Bill W said at the 1954 Texas Convention about handing over the reins of AA to the Groups

“So, since 1951 we have been holding these yearly Conferences, to see whether this movement was interesting enough, was responsible enough, felt those services were worthwhile enough, to maintain so long as God will need this society. And I think it’s the conclusion of every delegate who has been there that yes, we should take these things over. So, in 1955 we proposed to hold an International Convention, at which time, on behalf of the oldtimers, and of Smithy and me, we shall say to you, here is the remainder of your Third Legacy. This Conference shall become our successor. To you we hand the last torch. Carry on. Face your destiny with surety and courage, and God love you.”

That said ... Here is what we came up with to get you involved at whatever level you can participate. Rachel, Chuck and Amy will be reaching out via email to all the GSR in their Sub District with our Pre-Conference sharing PI categories to gather your input and ideas. This is your opportunity to participate in what our Delegate brings to the table at the Conference. We have until the 3rd of April to gather your input and ideas.

Comments:

Terry C - The three LDCM's will be reaching out to their GSR's to get input on these agenda items

Aimee A - Do we have the information. Not much time to get to our groups

Kelly K - Reminded all GSR's of Their Right of decision ie each GSR represents the voice of their group

Jennifer A - Question we have stuff from Public Information and CPC

Terry C - Focus on CPC Agenda Items unless there is needed information for your input

Aimee A - Asked if we are having a live meeting to discuss with your group

Terry C - Difficult to break out into small groups so we are adapting to new ways to meet. The LDCM's could have their own Zoom meeting with their assigned agenda items.

Nick N - Clarified the process. In the meeting that was cancelled on the 21st the GSR would break out into small groups. That is unfortunately not an option on the Zoom app.

Terry C - Rachel has a great template for Agenda Items

Chuck B - Will organize his GSR's on email for agenda item input

Amy V - Thanked Terry C for all her hard work

Meeting room, Buildings and Facility closures

- Recommended Signs or Flyers on meeting places announcing closure.
- Is this being done so that we can give the newcomer options?
- Giving out our local AA 24 Hour Hotline number (541) 732-1850.
- Make yourself available to the hotline when possible.
- Get involved and support Zoom and other conference call type meetings.

Comments:

Nick N - [Remote Meetings are posted on District 16 Website](#)

7th Tradition. How is this being handled in your virtual meetings?

- How to figure out the seventh tradition.

Comments:

Terry C - Nick N working on a donation button.

Chase B - Shared his appreciation and excitement seeing District 16 come together on Zoom. Joe S helping groups with digital access. Shared with me about other IT groups making digital contributions with VenMo. There is an iphone with a credit card device that gets passed around the room where the donation can be made.

Nick N - How is a motion made on digital formats

Chase B - Hoping that groups and districts are patient with using digital business meetings continue to be patient until more members can participate. Before a button gets put on a page it should perhaps go to the groups.

Kelly K - This is something that should be brought up at group level

Terry K - I don't have the technical expertise to do this and I would be very uncomfortable hooking into the financial component this. You have to find someone else to do this because I do not have the skill.

Chase B - The process to add a button to the website isn't it difficult. When AA World Service was looking into this their concern was identifying whether or not you aren't a member before you do any and contribute money. Nick be sure to describe and consider wording your motion how this would be handled.

Jennifer A - This should be considered especially with the current state of affairs and money being lost at group with temporary closures

Robert H - I hope the donation button is secure

Terry C - I will forward the information and perhaps we can set up an ad hoc committee for further discussion.

Aimee A - Clarify How are the groups collecting seventh tradition? It is important for GSR to figure out how their group is paying its bills.

Chase B - The discussion is for a district donation button. Hoping the groups are figuring out a solution for their group. Is the button on District for receiving individual contributions or group contributions?

Nick N - Shared online example of an [intergroup using the donation contribution page](#) The idea is to have a donation button for group contributions to be made virtually. Or perhaps for individuals to make contributions to District 16. Here is the link to [Oregon Area 58 donation contribution page](#)

Chase B - Is the idea to have money sent to groups filtered through District? That's a red flag to me. Consider looking at how we can bring in revenue but not facilitating sending money to groups.

Terry C - When the treasurer makes the groups contribution they could make the contribution virtually

Jennifer A - Nice to have this option

Amy V - How do groups currently donate? Robert?

Robert H - 80% send checks the rest are money orders

Jo B - The button would also allow for credit card use

Chase B - Love the idea of setting up a monthly individual contribution to district

Nick N - I will put together a motion for next months meeting

Kelly K - Will the motion go back to the group

Chase B - There is no sense of urgency. Since the day Rockefeller denied funding AA has been fine. Group digital baskets are not groundbreaking.

Announcements:

- Gary will begin working on cleaning up all past Speaker recordings. Will need to contact these speakers to gain their approval to post on our District 16 website.
- GSR forms, ask questions, turn them in, and let us know if you are having problems.
- If you have flyers you wish to have printed and available for the District Meeting a file will need to be submitted to the District Secretary 1 week prior to the District Meeting. It is preferred that flyers be Black and White in the interest of saving District funds. A max of 40 copies will be set.

8:46pm Call to Adjourn

Kelly K - Made the motion to close and Jennifer A Seconded ... all approved