****

**Secular Recovery Group**

Minutes of the Monthly Group Conscience Meeting

November 18, 2020 5:00 PM EST

Location of Meeting - Zoom Video Conference

**Meeting Attendees** – Brijet M., Carol P., Claire, Courtney S., Dan W., Gail L., Jane, John S., Lindsay, Lioba, Metrognome (Bruce Seattle), Peter C., Peter F., Peter G., Robin H., and Sara Y.

The fifth Group Conscience meeting of Secular Recovery Group was called to order at 5:05 PM EST on November 18, 2020 by Courtney S.

**Agenda for the November 18, 2020 meeting is as follows:**

* Update search for a backup IT person – ongoing, no need to discuss unless there is a suggestion or update. Person preferably would be expert level / webmaster, and a sober member of AA
* Treasure report – Peter C.
* Present an accounts payable report - Courtney S.
* Leaving meetings open 30 minutes past the hour
* Fearless Friday Host rotation -
  + Carol P. to update – Does Stacey L. want to do the March 5, 2021 rotation
* Addendum to last month’s minutes – The Beginner’s meeting was missing from the list of meetings.

**NOTE**: Robin H. was looking for someone to fill in for her Tuesday Lead/Host and her Co-host on Saturday commitments for a few weeks in November. **UPDATE**: Since the last meeting, Lioba J. offered to fill in for Tuesday’s meetings and Carol P. will co-host on Saturday’s.

**Open Action Items:**

**Meeting Positions to fill:**

*Wednesday’s Closed Discussion, 7:00pm ET* - **Need Co-host and Leader**

*Secular on Thursday, 12:00pm ET* - **Need Co-host and Leader**

**On-going:**

**Group –** If you consider SRG to be your ‘home group” send Carol P. your email information if you would be available to step in to temporarily host a meeting in the event Courtney is unavailable.

**Group** – Find an SRG member who would be available to be a backup IT person

----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**Update search for a backup IT person – ongoing, no need to discuss unless there is a suggestion or update. Person preferably would be expert level / webmaster, and a sober member of AA.**

There was nothing new to report, this will be an on-going action item until the position is filled.

**Treasure report – Peter C.**

Peter C. presented the accounts payable report which Courtney set up. (See next page)

Peter also explained that Courtney S. keeps a balance of $40 in the PayPal account to reimburse himself for minor charges he might incur, sending a copy of the receipt and invoice to Peter C. for the records.



**Present an accounts payable report – Courtney S.**

Courtney explained each line item.

Server Fees

SRG Domain – license fee

Secular Meetings Domain – license fee

WP Rocket Plugin – software which improves the speed of the website

Short Pixel – images are process through this

Gravity Forms – form manager for interactive forms on the website i.e.: contact form, meeting forms, etc.

Clean Talk Spam Plugin – spam filter

CDN Charge – Contact Delivery Network reduces latency work and is a product of Rocket Plugin

(Latency = delay. It's the amount of delay (or time) it takes to send information from one point to the next.)

**Leaving meetings open 30 minutes past the hour**

A member had asked for this to be put on the agenda. The day of the meeting he said it worked itself out. No further discussion or action to report.

**Fearless Friday Host Rotation - Carol P. to update – Does Stacey L. want to do the March 5, 2021 rotation**

Carol reported she did connect with Stacey L. and Stacey does want to take the March 5th rotation. Stacey did say she would only be able to commit to the hour meeting only, not the 30 minutes following the meeting. The Group discussed this and suggested if Courtney S., as the host, was unable to attend the 30 minutes after the meeting, that we, or Stacey, will ask someone prior to the meeting for the 30 minutes of coverage.

**Addendum to last month’s minutes – The Beginner’s meeting was missing from the list of meetings.**

Carol P. inadvertently left off the new Beginner’s Meeting to the meetings list. For the record it is added here. (In red) Also updated from the NOTE below: Robin H. did find coverage for the meetings she will be missing late November & early December.

Secular Sunday – John C is the Leader and Host, with Courtney co-hosting.

Sober She Devils have a meeting on Sunday morning and Monday evening – Has 7 hosts/co-hosts and already has their own rotating system

Tuesday Men’s Meeting – Courtney is the Leader and the Host, with Bob R. stepping in to Co-host

***Beginner’s Meeting – Gail L & Robin are the Leader’s and Hosts, alternating lead every other week***

Wednesday’s Closed Discussion - Courtney is the Leader and the Host

Secular on Thursday - Courtney is the Leader and the Host

Fearless Friday – Leader currently is Peter G. with Courtney as the Host

Secular Saturday - Courtney is the Leader and the Host and Robin H will Co-host

**NOTE**: Robin H. was looking for someone to fill in for her Tuesday Lead/Host and her Co-host on Saturday commitments for a few weeks in November. **UPDATE**: Since the last meeting, Lioba J. offered to fill in for Tuesday’s meetings and Carol P. will co-host on Saturday’s.

**Open Action Items:**

**Meeting Positions to fill:**

*Wednesday’s Closed Discussion, 7:00pm ET* - **Need Co-host**

*Secular on Thursday, 12:00pm ET* - **Need Leader**

Courtney said he would like to keep the Wednesday meeting as it is currently, where he is the leader & host, so we would only need a co-host for this meeting.

For the Thursday meeting, Peter G. offered to co-host for this meeting, leaving the leader slot still available.

It was discussed to give other folks who regularly attend the SRG meetings the opportunity to Lead the meetings – otherwise the same folks will always be filling in. It is important to offer others the opportunity to do ‘service’ work in the Zoom meetings.

As for hosting & co-hosting the meetings, because of the way the Zoom is set up, it is necessary that any new hosts are SRG members and have been attending for a while.

**New Business**

**Zoom**

It is time for another Zoom update. Everyone should update their Zoom accounts as soon as possible. There are a few ways to do this. As Peter G. suggested, from your Zoom account, click on your profile pic, or the default pic they give you, on the upper right-hand corner. Once you click on that, from the dropdown menu, click on ‘check for updates’ then follow the prompts. (Depends what your default screen opens to when opening Zoom if this will work)

Otherwise, click on ‘Resources’ in the upper right corner above your profile picture. From there click on ‘Download Zoom Client’ which takes you to the download screen. Click on the download button.

The latest version is 5.4.3

Zoom Bombers! Once you have the updated version of Zoom, as a host you will be able to easily find and remove bombers from the meeting. There will be an added feature at the bottom of the host’s screen call “Suspend Participant Activities”. This will put the meeting in suspension, freezes the screen, so the Host can then remove the bomber while the meeting resumes.

**Communication Avenues –**

Currently we use the SRG Facebook page. There are several folks who do not, nor want to use Facebook. Courtney suggested he make a secure Facebook page that would run off our current software and existing website. Still not desired by the non-Facebook users so we discussed another feasible option, which is to communicate though the website, which Courtney was open to setting up.

**Standardized format for SRG meetings**

In trying to keep the meetings consistent, a standardized format for each SRG meeting was discussed. We want the meetings to be a place folks can come where there’s no drama and peaceful environment. To use as a meeting guide/script, Dan W. will send the format his group uses to Carol P., who will in turn send it along with the meeting minutes to the group. If you have suggestions, concerns or additions, please review and return to Carol no later than Monday, December 7, 2020. Carol will then compile them together and send to Dan. He will present the findings at the next Group Conscience meeting.

Once we have an agreed pre-amble and script, it was suggested to have it available for the new/rotating leaders for each meeting. Again, this will assist in helping the SRG’s meetings familiarity, and quality control. Each meeting is saying the same thing.

The current pre-amble used is:

“This group attempts to maintain a tradition of free expression and conduct a meeting where alcoholics may feel free to express any doubts or dis-beliefs they may have, and to share their own personal experience. We do not endorse or oppose any form of religion or atheism. Our only wish is to assure suffering alcoholics that they can find sobriety without having to accept anyone else beliefs or having to deny their own.” Please refrain from Politics …

**Add the Responsibility Pledge?**

Several members discussed adding the Responsibility Pledge to the meeting. We did not vote on it, nor did we decide if we add it, when to say it during the meeting. This is also in the script that Dan sent, which again, is included in the email the members received with these minutes.

For those of you unfamiliar with the Pledge:

*I am responsible, when anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help,. I want the hand of AA always to be there, and for that. I am responsible.*

**Speaker Meeting**

Peter G. suggested we have a speaker meeting. In the past when new meetings were brought up, Courtney S. said we do have capacity for a few more meetings, depending on the day and time, and the commitment that comes with a new meeting.

We discussed what having a Speaker meeting would entail. Would it be a 10 – 15 minute speaker followed by a topic or open discussion?

A few suggestions were:

Peter F. suggested at the end of each meeting ask for someone willing to speak at the next weeks meeting.

Gail L. thought the leader could go to different meetings to scout out folks that would be good speakers.

-- No final decisions were made.

**Need to review & establish guidelines for service positions. What are the requirements to hold a position?**

Currently, we are a part of OIAA Assembly (Online Intergroup of AA inc.) Courtney S. is our representative and Carol P. is the back-up. This position usually changes annually. Since we are still establishing ourselves, we don’t have a date which these current positions would expire.

Courtney explained that it took some doing and help from our UK friends to get us listed. This gives us a bigger voice and extends our reach.

In the past we did discuss the need to establish guidelines and requirements for Service Positions. At that time, we decided to wait until we were a bit more established before proceeding.

It was brought up again and Courtney said instead of reinventing the wheel, he would review his service manual and see what he finds.

We also discussed the need to follow a set of 12 Traditions similar to AA, but without the ‘god’ stuff.

-- No final action as to who and how to do this was made.

**Email Addresses**

We do not currently have an email address list for the SRG members. Several members have a @secularrecoverygroup.org email addy for privacy. If you want to be listed on an SRG email list, please let Carol P know and we will make sure you get a SRG email address. IF she already has your email address, she will automatically give it to Courtney S. so he can create you a SRG email addy.

The way it works -the emails will still go to your regular email in box, so there is nothing more you need to do.

***CAUTION***- When corresponding with an SRG member, remember to use your SRG email address on your outgoing mail – otherwise it will still show your personal email.

**Action Items:**

**Group -** If you have suggestions, concerns or additions regarding the meeting script, please review and return to Carol P. no later than Monday, December 7, 2020.

**Courtney S. -** Review his service manual and see what he finds regarding establishing guidelines and requirements for Service Positions.

**Courtney S. –** Set up a SRG member communication page on the SRG website.

**Carol P. –** Gather emails for Dan W. regarding meeting scripts and send them to him on December 8, 2020.

**Carol P. –** Send Courtney list of folks attending the SRG Group Conscience meetings that do not have a personalized SRG email so he can set them up with one.

**Dan W. -** Will present findings from the suggestions received regarding meeting script at the next Group Conscience meeting.

**On-going:**

**Group** – Find an SRG member who would be available to be a backup IT person.

**Group -** Meeting Positions to fill:*Wednesday’s Closed Discussion, 7:00pm EST* **-** Need Co-host,*Secular on Thursday, 12:00pm EST* - Need Leader.

**Group –** If you consider SRG to be your ‘home group” and you would be available to step in to temporarily host a meeting in the event Courtney is unavailable, send Carol P. your email information.

**Members available to host, co-host or lead a meeting if a substitute is needed:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Carol P. | Gail L. | Peter G. |
| Bob R. | Robin H. | Lioba J. |
| Sara Y. | Aaron N. | Kathy B. |

If you Host, Co-host, or lead a meeting and need coverage for any reason, please contact Carol P and she will assist you in finding coverage by contacting the folks list above. If your name is not on the list and you want to be added, please contact Carol P. via email.

Courtney S. – [srgit@secularrecoverygroup.org](mailto:srgit@secularrecoverygroup.org)

Carol P. - [srgsec@secularrecoverygroup.org](mailto:srgsec@secularrecoverygroup.org)

**Next SRG Group Conscience Meeting – December 16, 2020 5:00pm EST**