11/17/2021; Group Conscience meeting (GC), SRG 5 PM EST

Host: Courtney S.

Guests: Bob R., Bridget M., Jorge L., Bruce D. (St. Louis), Faith NC, Peter/SF, Robert F., Marty B., and   
 Dan W.

**We reviewed and discussed the minutes of October 2021**. No changes.

**Treasurer’s report**:

Courtney screen-shared the budget - he described each line item and their relevance to SRG and the budget. Bob R. is the new co-Treasurer – Courtney will send him relevant information tomorrow; Peter F. will continue to be co-Treasurer.

There have been regular contributions to SRG since June 2021. Our yearly expense is $1242.08 (hence, our prudent reserve of $1300.00). Our PayPal Master Account balance is $3961.14 as of today (not counting our “prudent reserve”), today’s balance minus our prudent reserve is $2,661.14 [which is our effective operating balance]). The **Group Conscience decision** was that disbursement of funds beyond the prudent reserve will be tabled to January 2022. OIAA serves as an area. We could give money directly to AA, and another % to online AA, to OIAA – we have lots of options.

We’ve made all our *annual* payments for this year.

**Old Business:**

**1**. **Monday Speaker Meeting** – Bridget is the host. After 3 weeks, Courtney has gotten a lot of good feedback about the meeting and the quality of the speakers. Bridget reported a good experience from her perspective. Discussion ensued as to whether a timer is needed for that particular mtg, and whether the time “warning” would be audible or a sign. As some people cannot see the timer, **the Group Conscience decision** was to continue having an audible timer. Robert F agreed to be the timer for the Monday Speaker mtg.

**2. Cross-talk** – Hosts and co-hosts are staying attentive to chats being respectful and supportive, in keeping with our GC consensus on cross-talk. There has been an incident in the past month where a member with years of sobriety gave direct advice several items, which is contrary to our group purpose. We will monitor this and each host/co-host has the option of private messaging people who are giving direct advice.

**3. Resources:** Dan continues compiling a list of recovery resources obtained from attendees’ posting in the chat (books, web sites, YouTube videos, podcasts, etc., related to recovery). Once the list is complete, Dan will email that list to Courtney for his final review. Once Courtney is satisfied the list is “safe” (i.e., free of spam-links), the list of resources will be emailed to all SRG home group members so that the list can be reviewed, assessed, and then be voted on at next Group Conscience meeting as to whether Courtney should post the list on the SRG web site. There will be a disclaimer that the list of resources is not an SRG endorsement per se and is listed as adjuncts to recovery only.

**4. IGR (Intergroup Representative) discussion**: SRG is a member of Online Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous (OIAA), which states that each AA group is authorized to have one IGR and one alternate IGR, with only the IGR having voting privileges. Courtney encouraged each SRG group to have its own IGR so that when voting occurs, the Secular AA community has more of a voice.

**5. Update Schedule for Hosts and Timers**

**Designated Hosts and Timekeepers**:

Sunday – Host: Marty B. - Timer: Mark S

Monday – Host: Bridget; Timer – Robert F

Tuesday – Men’s Meeting: Host: Courtney S. - Timer: Dan W

- Beginners Meeting - Hosts: Robin H and Gail. Timer: not necessary now

Wednesday – Host: Courtney S. - Timer: Mike (Ecuador)

Thursday – Host: Bob R. - Timer: Bruce D. (St. Louis)

Friday – Host: Dan W. - Timer: Ibby (when available – every other week, the   
 in-between Fridays, host will ask for a volunteer)

Saturday – Host: Dan W. - Timer: Robin H.

We talked about a **different host on Saturdays**, for more diversity. Jorge offered to be a co-host on Saturdays to familiarize himself with co-hosting, so he can eventually become the Host. Jorge will join the SRG Saturday meeting, and the host will make him a co-host.

**Hosts**: We agreed more women and LGBTQ+ people are needed to be hosts. We will continue looking for more hosts.

**Meetings**: Discussion ensued as to scheduling an LGBTQ+ meeting. More to be discussed later.

**New Business:**

1. We talked about the importance of **Tradition Twelve**, “Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.” Specifically, **our Group Conscience today agreed** to place in the minutes of this meeting that anonymity within meetings, that is, what is shared at one meeting, should not be discussed or shared outside that particular meeting.
2. **Chat**:

**a**. **Options for chat feature**: only hosts and co-hosts can access the admin security options for chat – there are only 4 (four) options: (1) no one; (2) hosts and co-hosts only; (3) everyone; and (4) everyone and anyone directly. There is no option for “private only.” Each host determines the security settings for chat for that particular meeting. Each meeting host has the option as to when the chat should be opened to everyone; it is suggested that a 10 (ten) minute minimum be observed from the start of the meeting.

(1) If the chat option is set for “everyone and anyone directly,” hosts/co-hosts cannot block the “everyone chat” if an individual attendee chooses to send to “everyone.” It is the responsibility of each attendee to send “private chat” *if* it should be sent to one individual person *only*.

**b**. **Safety:** Discussion ensued as to attendees feeling “safe” in the meeting or chat conversations: **our Group Conscience today agreed** to add a “**safety statement**,” to the SRG format (not in the preamble), as follows: “if anyone feels threatened or unsafe during the meeting or via chat, to contact the host or co-host for appropriate action.”

**c**. During the Monday speaker meeting, the host/co-host has the security chat setting set so that during the actual speakers’ shares, the chat is disabled.

**d**. Attendees often post suggested readings of books or websites, or links for further recovery resources, in the chat. **Our Group Conscience today agreed** that attendees who click on resource links do so at their own risk. We agreed to revisit this at the next Group Conscience meeting to decide if specific wording should be generated to address this.

**3.** It was suggested adding an SRG meeting on Wednesdays at noon EST; we ran out of   
 time to discuss this, so will be tabled till next Group Conscience meeting.

**4.** Announcing topics in advance of meeting – we ran out of time to address this, so it will be   
 discussed at next Group Conscience meeting.

**5.** There have been “zoom bombers,” with video turned off, who have waited until the chat is open to post inappropriate comments. The hosts of the Sober She Devils require a person’s video being turned on, and witnessed by a co-host, *prior to* being authorized to enter the meeting. There wasn’t time to discuss the possibility of this feature being enabled during the other SRG mtgs. - this will be addressed at the next Group Conscience meeting.

Submitted in service

Dan W.