6/15/2022; Group Conscience meeting (GC), SRG 5 PM EST

**Host**: Courtney S.

**Guests**: Bob R, Peter F, Bruce D (Seattle), Jane G, Jorge Lc, Ron M., Chelsea F, Nancy, Maria T., Mike H (Ecuador), and Bruce D (St. Louis), and Dan W.

**There were no minutes from the May mtg**.

**Treasurer’s report**:

Courtney screen-shared the budget. Bob R. and Peter F. are the co-Treasurers. The budget is not posted on the SRG website, consistent with majority of AA groups. There have been regular contributions to SRG. Yearly expenses: $1,335.13. Our PayPal Master Account balance as of today is $6197.48 (not counting our “prudent reserve”). Today’s balance minus prudent reserve and PayPal fee is $4897.75, which is our operating budget. PayPal publishes all activities with its service. Courtney provides Bob R. a monthly report of PayPal activity with SRG to enhance transparency and accountability of SRG finances. PayPal only allows one name per account; right now, it is Courtney. Discussion ensued – *plan is that Bob will research this*, hopefully he will be able to open his own PayPal account for SRG, then Courtney still stop his SRG PayPal account. Bob will report back on this next time.

**Old Business:**

**1. Resources:** Dan continues compiling a list of SRG chat resources (websites, Podcasts, books, etc.) and once complete, will forward to Courtney for his review – Once Courtney is satisfied the list is “safe” (i.e., free of spam-links), the list 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, and that attendees who click on any links do so at their own risk.*

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

**Designated Hosts and Timekeepers**: all time in EST

Sunday – 1 PM: Host: Marty B.; Timer: Louise (Secular Sunday)

* 4 PM Brazil: Host: Ana B. and Anamaria (Domingo Laico & Sobrio)

Monday – noon: Host: Bridget M.; Timer – Robert F. (SRG speaker mtg)

Tuesday – noon: Host: Courtney S.; Timer: Dan W. (Men’s mtg)

- 8 PM: Hosts: Robin H. and Gail L. (co-host is the Timer) (Beginners Mtg)

Wednesday – noon: Host: Kara F.; Timer: Louise W. (Wednesday Winners)

- 7 PM: Host: Courtney S. - Timer: Mike H (Ecuador) (SRG Homegroup)

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

Friday – noon: Host: Dan W.; Timer: Maria T. (Fearless Friday)

Saturday – 1 PM: Host: Jorge L.; Timer: Robin H. (Secular on Saturday)

Currently there is an issue with Kara coming in from a different country (Wednesday Winners); Courtney sent a letter to Zoom to straighten it out. Until that is sorted out, Bob R. will open the meeting and allow Kara in, and then make her host.

Courtney recently received two complaints from the traditional AA Worldwide meetings organization in Cleveland, who also lists all Secular AA meetings in the world and keeps them current. An attendee at the Brazil meeting had complained to the Cleveland organization that they were not allowed entry into the Brazil mtg two weeks in a row; Courtney was notified and he has reached out to Ana for her input. It’s possible that it was a zoom bomber being blocked, or zoom controls weren’t utilized properly, or the meeting was closed after 10 minutes for security. Courtney asked Ashley at the Cleveland organization to keep the Brazil meeting listed till further information.

3. **Specialty meetings**: LGBTQ+ meeting or other special interest meetings: SRG hosts have been announcing our openness to starting these specialty meetings for the last 6 (six) months, and has been listed on Sober She-Devils website. So far, no one has come forward to be a host or co-host. Until someone does come forward, we cannot start specialty meetings. A motion was forwarded and passed that this topic will be removed from further minutes until someone comes forward who wants such a meeting and to be a host or co-host. If someone is interested, please contact one of SRG hosts or hosts. This will also be posted on SRG website.

4. **Disbursement of funds beyond the prudent reserve:** Courtneysent $100.00 donation to[www.secularrecovery.online](http://www.secularrecovery.online/). At our April Group Conscience meeting, a suggestion was made to make a donation to ICSAA (International Conference of Secular AA); however, the ICSAA website is in disarray. Maria has reached out to Joe C., an ICSAA board member, to find out whether the meeting is still scheduled, she is awaiting his input. Maria said she will also reach out to Greg O., the host-city chair, for ICSAA. The next ICSAA had been scheduled for Bethesda, Maryland, October 28 to 30, 2022 at the Hyatt. Maria will report back to Courtney and SRG when she has update from either Joe or Greg.

5. **2022 SRG Event**: Dr. Ray Baker presented at SRG on 5/21/2022, topic “Recovery Capital” (includes social connection, lifestyle medicine, community reinforcement, and positive psychology). Well-attended. Can be accessed on our website under “Events.” In lieu of an honorarium to Dr. Baker, he asked that a donation be given in the name of “Ray B.,” to Vancouver AA Intergroup, <https://www.vancouveraa.ca/for-aa-members/contributions/> and if a donation in a specific name isn’t appropriate, then he asks that a donation be made in the name of his home group, “ASUR, in White Rock.”  A motion was passed that SRG donate $100.00 to the site Dr. Baker requested. Courtney will follow-up.

**New Business**

1. 12-step requests at OIAA (“Steppers Group”). Bruce D, Seattle, requested a discussion whether urgent 12-step secular requests be submitted to Secular AA members first, before being referred to OIAA, which is traditional AA. Courtney said that there would need to be a list of Secular AA members who are available 24/7, every day, especially for people with suicidal thoughts – at the time this came up previously, the only group that was immediately available was OIAA, who have been handling all 12-step requests. Cleveland Beyond Belief has newcomers representatives who address and support newcomers. OMAGOD (Orlando, FL) also supports newcomers – Courtney said that the OMAGOD brick and mortar meetings have the resources – our SRG group does not have those resources. Maria said the Sober She Devils has a service position for newcomers. There was concern expressed as to level of training needed for “crisis support” for 12-step requests, especially people with suicidal thoughts. Since OIAA has the infrastructure, a motion was made and passed that OIAA continue doing what they are now doing.
2. Regional Physical/Hybrid meeting of SRG: members were asked to consider: (1) a general theme, (2)   
    physical location, and (3) optimal time frame, and bring to the next Group Conscience meeting.
3. Bob asked about a format change for Secular on Thursday meeting from “host reading” to “topic meeting.” Courtney’s understanding is that the host chooses format. SRG members concurred.
4. Maria asked for a discussion for SRG to fund the domain name for the website of Sober She Devils, an estimated $40 to $50.00 annually. A motion was made and passed that SRG make a donation to fund the Sober She Devils website, [www.SoberSheDevils.com](http://www.SoberSheDevils.com/) .
5. Sober She Devils is hosting the next Higher Palooza mtg (initially hosted by Beyond Belief Toronto group, subject: navigating through traditional AA as a secular or agnostic or atheist or Apatheist). These meetings are every other month. The 16th Higher Palooza meeting is on July 17 mtg and is hosted by Sober She Devils. Maria asks that SRG hosts start announcing at SRG meetings this next Higher Palooza meeting. The flyer reads: “Sunday, July 17, 2022, 11 AM PDT, 2 PM EDT, 7 PM Ireland/UK, 4 AM (Monday) AEST. Connect via Zoom ID: 852 1300 4064; passcode: 121212. There will be 3 speakers, who “share how they applied the 12 steps of AA, while maintaining the integrity of their non-traditional beliefs of a Higher Power.”

Submitted in service

Dan W.