7/20/2022; Group Conscience meeting (GC), SRG 5 PM EST

**Host**: Courtney S.

**Guests**: Bob R, Bruce D (Seattle), Ana C, Vicki (AZ), Ana Maria, Bridget M, 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; however, we are in the process of transferring to a bank so in the interim, Courtney has been treasurer. All information on our website is backed up, which costs over $1,000 per year. The budget is not posted on the SRG website, consistent with majority of AA groups. Courtney reviewed the pertinent items. There have been regular contributions to SRG. Yearly expenses: $1,345.82. Our PayPal Master Account balance as of today is $6915.48 (not counting our “prudent reserve”, which is $1300.00). Today’s balance minus prudent reserve and PayPal fee is $5615.10, which is our operating budget. PayPal publishes all activities with its service. PayPal will not allow more than one name per account. Bob checked with local banks and cannot establish an account unless our group is incorporated, each state has different laws, so far no banks will work with us. The on-line intergroup of AA has been working on incorporation for a long time and having a very difficult time of it. One possibility is Bob generating a PayPal account vs. Courtney in the name of SRG/Florida, then group conscience would transfer funds to Bob. Bob will talk with an accountant he knows, to help us explore options instead of relying on PayPal.

**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 Ana Maria (Domingo Laico & Sobrio) (last day on Sunday will be July 31)

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 (see \* note below).; 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)

- Begin 8-4-2022: 8 PM Brazil (7 PM EST USA): Host: Ana B. and Ana Maria

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

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

Lately not many people coming to the Sunday Portuguese mtg, so the co-hosts are now changing to Sunday to Thursday, beginning August 4 at 7 PM EST (8 PM Brazil time).

\*Wednesday noon EST mtg, Wednesday Winners: Kara comes in from a different country and this has been problematic, so today Courtney hosted the meeting. Courtney said his understanding is that Kara doesn’t want to host the meeting anymore and he asked for a new host for Wednesday – Dan offered to host for the next 6 (six) months, beginning July 27, Bob will co-host. Courtney will continue hosting the homegroup SRG meeting at 8 PM EST Wednesday.

Ana said that there are some people still unable to get into the Brazilian mtg; she believes it may be safety/security issue, so they are being more careful as to whether to allow people in, especially making certain the incoming person’s video is turned on. Courtney was clear with the Cleveland organization, that it wasn’t the SRG folks causing problems. Courtney asked the Cleveland organization to keep the Brazil meeting listed till further information. Security settings are up to each individual SRG group hosts.

3. ICSAA (International Conference of Secular AA) was cancelled for inperson this October; however, they will try having the meeting via Zoom.

1. The SRG Sober She Devils hosted the 16th Higher Palooza meeting on July 17. (subject: navigating through traditional AA as a secular or agnostic or atheist or Apatheist). These meetings are every other month.

5. 2022 SRG Event: Dr. Ray Baker presented at SRG on 5/21/2022, topic “Recovery Capital” (included social connection, lifestyle medicine, community reinforcement, and positive psychology). He preferred that the $100 donation be given to SRG, so Courtney donated it to the On-line AA Intergroup in the name of Dr. Ray Baker.

**New Business**

1. AA GSO has done a survey of online AA groups if they want an area delegate at the GSO level; results are yet to be published. Recall, we talked about IGR (Intergroup Representative) at our December 2021 Group Conscience meeting. Summary of those minutes: 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- each SRG individual group (meeting) can have a “Group Conscience meeting” of their own, and vote/select one IGR and one alternate IGR.
2. Regional Physical/Hybrid meeting of SRG: we talked about this at our last SRG Group Conscience meeting, preferably as one-day event. We need to consider (1) speaker and topic; (2) physical location, and (3) optimal time frame (this will be contingent on the speaker(s)’ schedule(s). Today, Courtney suggested topic of “Adoption and Relinquishees,” including themes involving Adult Children of Alcoholics, etc.) – no other topics were suggested today. Courtney suggested speaker for the topic “Adoption and Relinquishees” of David B. Bohl. He is the author of “Parallel Universes;” his website <https://davidbbohl.com/>. (excerpt from his website: “David offers a unique perspective that consider adoption (and/or addiction) as a developmental and/or chronic trauma or stress that affects everyone: the individual client, and their family – adopted and genetic”). Courtney said he is an excellent speaker and has extensive knowledge and personal experience with adoption and relinquishees. Courtney suggested we poll our members for someone with experience in coordinating these kinds of regional conferences - and we will need a Chairperson. Courtney will post this request on SRG Face Book page.
3. Close-caption availability – for our members who attend the speaker mtgs; and for members who have less-than-ideal internet connections - closed captions could be very helpful. Courtney said that Zoom has the capability to do that at some webinars, with multiple languages. We will table this and continue it next time pending further investigation.
4. One of the members expressed concern because our Group Conscience Decision regarding Chat settings are not being overserved by some of the hosts. Discussion ensued. Courtney said the Zoom default settings are set to open at “Hosts and cohosts only,” and the only way it can be changed is by Hosts or Cohosts. Dan said that in his experience, hosts and cohosts try paying attention to those settings; however, we are human and cannot do it perfectly. Bruce stated that “AA’s primary purpose – when alcoholics reach out, we need to be available,” and the only way that happens if a new person is trying to reach us during a meeting, is having the Chat option set to “host and cohosts only” so that the new person can reach us. Also, chat open to all isn’t consistently done 45 minutes after the meeting starts. Discussion ensued and the Group Conscience Decision was that Dan will send an email to all hosts and cohosts reiterating our Group Conscience decisions of these two Chat items: (1) SRG meetings are opened with default settings of Chat “Host and cohosts only,” and *are not to be manually changed to “no one;”* (in keeping with AA’s primary purpose) and (2) to pay more attention to “Chat is open to everyone 45 (forty-five) minutes after the start of the meeting” to be opened 45 minutes after start of the meeting.
5. Some members expressed concerns that some topics are too narrowly focused on either women, or men, or long-timers or new people. Discussion ensued as to how to address this. Hosts can state when opening the meeting, that people may talk about whatever else is more pending than what the topic was suggested; other options are for SRG members to send an email to hosts as to possible topics.

Submitted in service

Dan W.