9/21/2022; Group Conscience meeting (GC), SRG 5 PM EST

**Host**: Courtney S.

**Guests**: Bob R, Jorge Lc, Robert F, Bruce D (St Louis), Peter – SF, John S., Maria T., Todd F., Bridget, and Dan W.

**There was no SRG Group Conscience meeting for August 2022**

We reviewed the minutes of Group Conscience meeting from July 2022 and approved them.

**Old Business:**

**1. Recovery resources** which have been accumulated from SRG Chat for the last 18 months (books, websites, podcasts, etc.) have been posted on the SRG website. They also include a disclaimer that these are suggested as adjuncts to recovery, not specifically endorsed by SRG, with an additional disclaimer that anyone clicking on any resource or link does so at each attendees’ discretion and risk. Those resources can be found at SRG website [https://secularrecoverygroup.org](https://secularrecoverygroup.org/) under “Recovery Resources” then under “Recovery Resources.”

**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)

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: Dan W.; Timer: Louise W. (IQ Wednesday)

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

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

- 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)

3. **The October ICSAA** (International Conference of Secular AA) meeting will be via Zoom.

4. **SRG Event**: possible future theme: “Adoption/Relinquished Children in the Recovery Community;” suggested speaker: David B. Bohl – author of “Parallel Universe” Discussion ensued as to Dr. Gabor Mate’s ideas on primary causation of alcoholism; another speaker was recommended to be considered, Dr. Bessel van der Kolk, who is an expert on trauma and recovery. Two of the attendees said they were parents of adoptive children, and one attendee said that he himself was adopted. Courtney said those topics are also covered in Dr. Bohl’s talks/writings. Courtney said we will need a planning committee for this event, and a chairperson. It was suggested that Dan W. be the chairperson – Dan declined due to extenuating circumstances. One of the attendees said he was willing to be a co-chairperson. Further discussion was tabled for today

5. **SRG has been registered as an AA group with AA GSO** (General Service Office in New York). We are registered as virtual group, on a 30 day “pending,” which is standard with new groups being registered. Usually new groups are to be registered locally, versus the GSO; however, Courtney purposedly bypassed the local area because some are so anti-secular. He went directly to GSO, which is another way to register as a group. Now he wants to pursue further representations of other secular AA meetings. There are currently 2 (two) virtual groups, one in western Washington, Area 42, and one in NY – they have districts and areas within those groups - and their Group Conscience decisions can be sent up the “chain” all the way to GSO, so that is what Courtney is suggesting for SRG. Eventually, the hope is that a secular AA person can be sitting at the GSO meetings for the first time ever. Courtney wants to reach out to Canada Secular AA for input. Jorge offered to help Courtney.

6. **Treasurer’s report**: Courtney said several people have asked that the Treasurer’s Report be presented at the end of the meeting, not at the beginning. Since the Treasure’s report is part of “Old Business” the furthest he can move it toward the end of the meeting, is at the end of “Old Business,” which is why he is presenting it now. Courtney screen-shared the budget. 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 $6366.23 (not counting our “prudent reserve”, which is $1300.00). Today’s balance minus prudent reserve and PayPal fee is $ 5066.23 which is our operating budget. PayPal publishes all activities with its service. PayPal will not allow more than one name per account Bob R spoke with an accountant he knows, who said that SRG will need a Tax ID number if SRG makes money or not, Courtney is trying to have no one’s name on the account - rather have the Bank be name on the account with co-signers being the SRG members’ names. Further information is pending.

**New Business**

**1. Treasurer’s report**: Courtney said several people have asked that the Treasurer’s Report be presented at the end of the meeting, not at the beginning. Details about this and the ensuing discussion and decision can be viewed at item # 6 under “Old Business” above.

**2.** **Closed Captioning** (**Live Transcription**): Courtney said he recently started this without a Group Conscience meeting decision, “so we as a group had some practical time using it before we vote on whether to use it regularly or not.” He said that he has announced that phrase during several meetings which he has hosted, to inform attendees why it was being implemented. There have been many requests from SRG attendees to have Closed Captioning availability at SRG meetings. Closed Captioning doesn’t start automatically, it is *only started by the host* once an attendee has requested it in private chat to the host. Courtney said that he has programmed the default settings of SRG meetings so that when the host or co-host starts the meeting, both “meeting recording” and “Closed Captioning recording” are disabled for our meetings. Courtney added that traditional AA has been asking for Closed Captioning in AA meetings for over 5 (five) years, so this is not a new topic for AA meetings. Technology Intergroup of AA, of which Courtney is a member, has gone through all the things for people who have sensory/other challenges or limits (hearing, vision, etc.) and that the Technology Group have implemented technical solutions so that the devices used by attendees (with those challenges or limits) can detect the settings so the recovery message can be carried to those that have such challenges or limits. Courtney said each attendee has the option of disabling the Closed Captioning once the host enables it. Peter asked where the transcription takes place, Courtney said it is a Zoom thing, not something that he himself programs for SRG meetings. Peter said it is transcribes almost in real time.

Bob made a motion that Closed Captioning (Live Transcription) be continued as is; it was seconded, and all in attendance voted to continue Closed Captioning.

**3.** **People talking before the formal meeting starts**: concern has been expressed by an attendee about this and opined that that person does not want to be exposed to it. Also, that particular person stated that part of the reading at the beginning of the formal meeting is “the meeting room is quiet until the host joins.” That person said that it is not being observed by all hosts. Much discussion ensued. Comments included: “each group is autonomous,” and so each host determines whether “talking” is allowed before the formal meeting starts. One host said he has removed that phrase from the reading he does; the other hosts present agreed to remove the sentence “the meeting room is quiet until the host joins,” and the other Hosts will be contacted and asked to do the same. Courtney said that he has programmed the SRG meeting settings so that when the host starts the meeting, the default setting is “unmute all, ” so that those who want to join in on the “talking” before the formal meeting starts, can do so, and those who do not want to participate or listen to the “talking” during that time, can start listening once the formal meeting starts. One idea was to add a graphic at the beginning of each meeting that says “the meeting will start at the top of the hour and in the meantime, there will be pre-meeting talking in which anyone can participate.” (this last item, about a graphic be added at the beginning of each meeting, will be tabled till the next meeting).

**4**. **Maria has new topic**: Maria needed to leave the meeting early and Dan W agreed to bring up this topic for her; however, we ran out of time to do so. This is a text Maria sent to Dan today before she left the meeting: “SSD (Sober She Devils) needs a tiny amount of money. We have an armature videographer who creates a milestones video we show the last Sunday and Monday of the month. We purchased a one month trail for 16.99 CAD and want to purchase the annual app access for 149.99 CAD for a total of 166.98 CAD Will have to accept the current exchange rate. The 16.99 has been paid by our member already and would want to be reimbursed. Thank you!” *As we ran out of time, I will request that we address this in Old Business at the October meeting, and in the meantime I will send a private email to Courtney regarding this request.*

Submitted in service

Dan W.