

## **EDRG Group Conscience- April 4, 2024**

99 participants at opening

Open with Serenity Prayer

### **1. Group Rep Report-**Laura, read by Amanda.

Laura attended Area Assembly on March 16, reports from delegate include

- Saturday March 30 10-2 EST & April 6, 4-8 EST "Your Delegate Listens" sessions

Open to all group reps/alternates/cma's.

- Looking for input around electronic alateen groups. Let Laura know if you have any input re that.*

- Delegates attending world service conference April 18-22 in Virginia Beach.

Theme is "Our path toward Grace, Unity and Understanding."

- Our rep will meet with others in our district to elect a district rep.

### **2. Treasury Report-** Bill R shared,

As of April 1st, 2024, EDRG has the following.

\$250.00 in the Treasury.

\$403.19 was collected in March.

\$86.00 disbursed to GEA for March.

\$86.00 disbursed to WSO-AFG for March.

\$65.99 was expensed for Zoom in March (Zoom One Pro and 500 Participants monthly charge).

\$165.20 was expensed for Zoom Pro One Annual. (changed from monthly to annual)

\$250.00 kept in prudent reserve.

In April \$600.00 will be expensed for Zoom 500 Participants Annual (changing from monthly to annual). The \$600.00 will be expensed before further GEA and WSO-AFG disbursements.

Anticipated expenses are as follows.

Zoom One Pro Annual \$159.90 due March 22nd, 2025.

Zoom 500 Participants \$600.00 due April 2025.

Website Hosting (3 years) \$396.00 due January 5th, 2026.

Domain Registration (10 years) \$126.10 due January 1st, 2033.

*Meeting is solvent.*

**3. Group Secretary Report**-Sammy S: All positions filled. Next transition will be June 1st, Group Conscience Chair.

#### Discussion

There was a concern that the group only accepts venmo, a member asked for other way to contribute. Treasurer, Bill R. responds to contact him for other ways,

including checks. He comments that the challenge is making sure all money is accountable. Venmo is currently acting as the bank. GC chair explained that group is working towards a conventional bank account.

**4. Group Conscience Chair Announcements**-Amanda B discussed that after transition of roles, it is an important reminder that chair using "mute all" does not activate meeting security settings. The chair must also enter the settings so that people can't unmute themselves in order to prevent inappropriate or intrusive entry into the meeting. Most commonly this is simple background noise that is not intentional but still disruptive. Her question to chairs is whether there is a way to make the instructions easier for new chairs who are still learning the process. She observes that the current use of language from the website may not be simplest way to convey this. The group is considering making a video, but GC chair requests input.

#### Discussion

A member has attempted to modify instructions with snapshots of specific buttons but agrees video may be better. A new meeting chair responded that it was helpful for someone to join at the beginning of a meeting to go through steps with her. GC has entertained the value of a shadow chair or mentor for this. Outgoing secretary, Jen R, responds that information sent at rotation includes the recommendation to connect with an outgoing service member for training and orientation, and that the phone list includes a list of substitutes who can also serve to orient and mentor.

## 5. New Business

### 1. Proposed format change at the closing:

**Current:** Please join me in a moment of silence to use how you wish

**Proposed:** Please join me in a moment of silence for the family and friends of alcoholics who still suffer

The proposing member shared that when she first entered alanon, they had a moment of silence for those who still suffer, which had the effect of creating solidarity, reminding alanon's of their own progress and using time for prayer.

She found this to be a way to put into practice using a spiritual solution to a spiritual problem

GC chair reminded the group that format changes require a lot of discussion and administrative effort to change it on the website and to get communication about changes dispersed.

### Discussion

Several members responded that they preferred the more generic instruction. due to dysfunctional experiences of being told what to think or do, preference for "clean and simple" instructions, limitations of a short meeting. Other comments included newness of the group and that the phrase "to use how you wish" encompasses the possibility of using the time that way.

Several members appreciated the sentiment and the reminder.

GC chair summarized that the general sentiment is to keep it as is but may revisit the idea in the future.

### 2. Updates on Phone List and suggested changes-from Jeannette, Amanda reads email.

Jeanette appreciates her service. The phone list was originally a google doc/word file. The list was in alphabetical order, then by date. She observed that looking for a sponsor required looking through the whole list (approx 500 members) & most email addresses were not on a single line. She has transferred the list to excel, starting with those willing to sponsor, then alphabetical for everyone else. She enlarged the font and put email addresses in bold. She removed duplicates. Phone list coordinator gets 5-10 list requests per week and updates the list every 5 days. *If we prefer google doc version let her know.* She discovered the list occasionally goes to spam folder. *Jeanette suggests changing wording on the google form to include "check your spam folder."*

GC Chair summarized

- Lists are going out but occasionally going to people's spam.
- Is it okay to add a reminder to check spam folders?

#### Discussion

Members liked the excel format and added that wording could include "spam or junk folders." GC clarified that registration is not required but that the option is located in the chat every day, with a link to a google doc. *GC Chair will convey the discussion to Jeanette.*

#### 3. Concerns regarding drivers on video during meeting

A Member open the discussion by explaining that watching someone drive and talk can be anxiety producing, especially for the meeting Chair. She is wondering if hosts can put the video off. As host or co-host she has turned the video off or sent a chat, though doesn't want to add to the tasks of host and co-host. She is curious what others think.

#### Discussion

Members said they have attended the meeting while driving and appreciate attending the meeting this way. There was discussion whether the concern was for driver safety and participation or discomfort and anxiety of those seeing movement on the screen, which could include walkers. Some chat hosts have experienced anxiety about the driving and talking. Other have experienced

discomfort at the movement on screen. This was likened to background noise and

the ability to mute those who may inadvertently be making background noise. Nobody wants to kick drivers off the meeting but a long discussion about whether there should be regulation. Many members were concerned about wording or regulation around this being a slippery slope of trying to control other's. Members felt it was similar to using mute appropriately to permit host and co-host be allowed to turn off videos if it's bothering them, falling under the grey area of "trusted servant." If the chair finds it distracting, they should be able to make that judgment. But members acknowledged it could be a Pandora's box eg finding background or dress or books disturbing. Members made parallels to changes in script to include not sharing more than once a week that still does not control the behavior but makes a suggestions. Members discussed that each day has a different flavor and chairs will make their own decisions. Some chairs have had back and forths. Some chairs have turned off videos followed by a chat or gentle discussion.

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GC chair summarized that there is not consensus, but it is complex. We use knowledge-based decision making rather than parliamentary so that everyone can

share. It prolongs things but allows us to hear everybody's thoughts. Thoughts can crystallize, so she is grateful for this style of decision making. It is helpful to hear how people are thinking.

Close with the Serenity Prayer

33 participants at close.