

EDRG Group Conscience Minutes - July 4, 2024

Open with Serenity Prayer

116 participants at opening, Chair Dustin

1. Group Rep Report– Laura: Not present

2. Treasury Report– Bill R:

As of July 1st, 2024, EDRG has the following
\$2,510.49 in the Treasury. (Including \$250.00 kept in prudent reserve).
\$374.87.00 was collected in June.
\$0.00 disbursed to GEA for June.
\$0.00 disbursed to WSO-AFG for June.

Anticipated expenses are as follows:
NO MORE ANTICIPATED EXPENSES IN 2024
Zoom One Pro Annual \$159.90 due March 22nd, 2025.
Zoom 500 Participants \$600.00 due March 22nd, 2025.
Website Hosting (3 years) \$396.00 due January 5th, 2026.
Domain Registration (10 years) \$126.10 due January 1st, 2033.

Proposal: As the Group is solvent, Treasurer put forth a proposal last GC meeting to establish the following:

Prudent reserve: \$250.00
Zoom One Pro Annual reserve: \$160.00.
Zoom 500 Participants reserve: \$600.00.
Website Hosting reserve: \$396.00

Discussion

-Service manual says 3-6 months prudent reserve depending on groups financial solvency

-Sitting on \$2500 with prudent reserve of a year seems excessive because behavior of the group (typically collecting \$300+ per month) doesn't reflect risk of not having enough

-Try to practice corporate poverty so that we don't spend time talking about money

- Proposes alternative recommendation to disperse funds immediately
- The treasurer is waiting for guidance from the group. He has had proposal open for several months, but no discussion opened until now
- When an appeal was made for a specific expense, a significant amount was donated
- Let's disperse to be consistent with al anon traditions and to reduce the time spent in discussion
- What about dividing annual expenses into monthly items and using that number for prudent reserve
- Sitting money is stale
- Grateful that GC is used for decisions, suggestion to reserve 6 months out, and likes the idea of increments of what we are going to owe
- Suggestion to use some funds for the group rep to attend meetings
- Meetings are virtual so perhaps no expenses involved
- Q: Has the group approved a budget? The reserve fund guideline is to prorate expenses
- The treasurer clarifies that the group does not have a budget. Part of the impetus for discussing expenses is because the budget hasn't been defined. The solvency allows for consideration of expenses. He notes that electronic format changes how things are paid (often annual rather than monthly) so the budget changes. Because he doesn't hear unanimity, he suggests leaving 250 reserve and contributing the rest to the service arms
- A suggestion to earmark money for literature for newcomers
- Reminder that the treasurer's numbers are always available in the monthly GC minutes available on the website
- A proposal to have a budget set up, then reconsider the prudent reserve
- A proposal to keep a prudent reserve of 6 months, disperse the rest, then create a discussion group for the budget
- Historically the budget has included only 4 expenses. A previous vote in 2022 agreed to disperse any remainder 50:50 to the GEA and WSP

-Let's disperse the money quickly and have treasurer come back with budget

-Next month GC could discuss adding expenses such as literature for newcomers, attending conferences or other proposals for the budget.

No vote was held as discussion consensus was to continue to disperse any money beyond current prudent reserve. Additional expenses and Budget review may be future topics of discussion.

3. Secretary Report– Sammy S.:

Service transition nearly complete, still looking for Friday chat host! Warm handoffs were helpful.

New Business:

None presented

Old Business:

1. Changing Script to be more welcoming to newcomers. Member shared proposed script changes from the committee:

"If you are new to our group please join us for the after-meeting with any questions."

The committee proposes this be added to the script at 8:29 (before the closing and before the serenity prayer) where it says: "...*please find information about our phone and sponsor lists in the chat.*" **INSERT HERE** Or at some other point in the script that is agreed upon.

Discussion

-Make it more specific: i.e. "if you are new to al anon..." And more descriptive of the after-meeting i.e. "We meet after the meeting to answer questions and continue sharing."

-Suggestion: "In this meeting we gather for 15 more minutes, you are invited (or welcome), as it is a good place to ask questions"

-“If you are new to al anon, this group meets for 15 minutes after the meeting and we encourage newcomers to join us and we will answer any questions you might have.”

-Close enough!

-Wonders whether “this meeting is coming to a close” is confusing and contradictory and may trigger people to leave before hearing the invitation for after meeting

-How to welcome newcomers clearly?—keep it simple, “stay!..”

-“We’re winding down the meeting, however we have a 15 minute parking lot,” We need to keep honing the language...

-Keep it simple! Stay with the structure, the language will work itself out

-“That’s all the time we have but stick around for 15 minutes...”

-Gratitude to those who stick around for full discussion

The following script was put to vote:

At 8:29:

That’s all the time we have today for sharing.

If you are new to Al-Anon, this group meets for 15 minutes after the meeting and we encourage newcomers to join us and we will answer any questions you might have.

If you’d like to reach another member, or find a sponsor, please find information about our phone and sponsor lists in the chat.

I’d like to thank all the people who do service for our group.

This group meets seven days a week at the same time.

Please join me in a moment of silence to use how you wish, followed by the serenity prayer.

Vote: 9 for adding, 4 against, 0 abstain

Action: Secretary will make script changes and distribute

2. Adding a tech host: Proposal to move update from the committee to next month.

Comments:

-A lot of bombers in S. African meeting so the chat host will need support on that

-Having a tech host is urgent, or providing more training to protect meeting security

Meeting Closed with Serenity Prayer

21 present.