

April 3, 2025

EDRG Group Conscience Meeting Minutes

Dustin opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer.

Secretary Report:

Sammy introduced the new secretary, Andrea.

Treasury Report:

In March the group collected \$672.21.

Putting aside the group's prudent reserve, Nkechi sent \$168.11 to both GEA and WSO.

Zoom was paid \$65.99; EDRG is now operating on a monthly plan.

The group's Zoom subscription used to be annual.

Nkechi shared that GEA and WSO contributions used to be in the \$200 range, and that there was a noticeable change when the group went into lockdown.

This may have been because people were not allowed to use the chat feature.

The suggestion was made that there be reminders about contributions a week before the monthly Zoom payment is due, and that members be informed about the monthly breakdown of expenses; however, the suggested donation is to "give what you can".

The group was reminded that meetings used to mention the group needs to pay for this & that expense.

The previous treasurer, Bill, said that beginning-of-year statements used to made asking for members to please try to contribute more as it makes a difference.

Nkechi said people do give at every meeting, but perhaps there could be a more direct appeal at meetings, giving newcomers the opportunity to participate in this way, right away.

The suggestion was made that the treasury report be posted on the website so people get an idea of where the money is going each month: "contributions to the service arms of Alanon".

Agreement that this would be a good idea was expressed.

Nkechi said that people could be specifically encouraged to contribute, at the meetings. When she started as treasurer, the monthly numbers were higher.

Dustin asked whether this request would be posted regularly in the chat during meetings.

Old business:

Quick recap of the emergency session (March 27) regarding safety issues. This matter has been resolved.

New business:

1. A group member Kacey has volunteered to be phone service coordinator. Sammy shared that, based on her experience of the past year with four phone service coordinators, there may be a need to form a phone service committee rather than have a single person oversee this position, as it has become unwieldy due to the large number of EDRG participants

and members. The new phone list coordinator will observe and report back to the group in May.

2. There was discussion about the need for clarity of expectations for GC chairperson, which are laid out on the EDRG website along with the other service positions.

There was discussion about perhaps modifying the written guidelines for the GC Chair on the website to include the following:

- approximate duration of the GC meeting
- developing agenda based on group input
- familiarity with past discussions/actions, and
- understanding of Knowledge Based Decision Making (KBDM)

A new GC chair responsibility was proposed:

the agenda would be forwarded to the Website chair for posting prior to the meeting.

A member reminded the group that the new web chairperson and group conscience chair positions begin in June; members will be reminded of this after the next GC meeting (May 1) to give time for anyone who may be interested to research what these positions entail.

This will be New Business at the May GC meeting.

3. A member proposed specifying the time frame for the length of GC meetings. There is an immense drop-off from the beginning of the meeting to the end, resulting in skewed voting on issues that might not reflect the wishes of the group as a whole.

The suggestions was made that GC meetings have a clear start time and end time.

There was discussion about this matter. EDRG uses “knowledge-based decision making” [a member reminded the group that this format is detailed in the Alanon website]; discussion of issues is “more organic and not tidy”; doesn’t necessarily get concluded in one hour. All members should have time to voice their opinions, even if this process is “lengthy and messy”. Possible timing of shares was mentioned, in the interest of giving everyone the opportunity to express their opinions.

The group discusses issues for two consecutive meetings, rather than only once.

A member suggested the creation of a downloadable page outlining detailed group responsibilities and how decisions are made. A further suggestion was made about emailing a PDF reminder of an upcoming agenda, a week before a GC meeting.

3. The group was reminded that new business must be brought up at least two weeks before a decision on an issue, so that members can read on the website and have discussion ahead of time, before a vote.

4. A member brought up the section about group business & group conscience “for the purpose of unity” in the Alanon / Alateen groups manual. Perhaps this can be used as a guideline for reference and clarity.

With this in mind, a member proposed that Tradition Two be read after the opening Serenity Prayer. A motion was made and this issue will be on the agenda at the May GC meeting as a new proposal.

5. A member submitted an email expressing concern about whether people should be driving while sharing at the meetings, as a safety issue.

Opinions were expressed that “we learn in Alanon that we can’t control other people’s behavior” and that the group does not have authority to request this.

A member suggested that the person who had emailed about people sharing while driving be directed to speak with their sponsor about this concern.

Dustin recalled that this topic had been brought up previously and the conclusion was that people are going to do what they're going to do, and that we are here to help newcomers, so it is "better to err on the side of 'come as you are'".

Regarding a person driving while sharing, a member offered the opinion that the person might be reminded in a "mindful, not controlling way, with gentle wording" to please take care of themselves.

It was pointed out that most drivers are using their phones hand-free, and that, as such, safety is generally not an issue.

Regarding video distraction during the meeting (i.e walking, moving about while on camera), a member shared that in another meeting they attend a suggestion is made in "gentle not controlling language" to consider turning the camera off.

The tech host may mute anyone who is not sharing, remove anyone who exhibits inappropriate behavior". If someone wants to change this, there will be a new discussion.

6. Dustin said the new group chair position will begin on June 1, so next month's meeting will be his last. If anyone would like to volunteer, please reach out to him.

The meeting was concluded with the Serenity Prayer.

