MINUTES: EDRG Group Conscience January 4, 2024

Open with Serenity Prayer
Attendance: Started with 110 members

1. Group Rep Report-Laura B.

- Reported on GEA Districting Task Force Recommendations on creating districts in the GEA. Recommendations copied from Written Summary below:

  o All groups registered in the GEA, regardless of whether or not they have a GR, will be placed in districts.
  o Groups will be assigned to districts. Groups will not choose their district.
  o Districts will, whenever possible, consist of up to 20 groups.
  o DR terms will align with the terms of the current panel. Thus, DRs elected during this panel will serve until 12/31/24.
  o Because 57% of the GEA groups do not have a GR, it is recommended that districts include a mix of groups that have and do not have a GR, so as to avoid inadvertently creating districts in which none of the groups have a GR.
  o The UTC meeting start times displayed in the electronic meetings list on al-anon.org are to be the primary consideration for sorting groups into districts. Language and platform will have the next highest priority.
  o To promote unity and understanding in the GEA, each district where possible will include a mix of at least two platforms.

- GEA Districting Task Force Recommendations document to be posted on everydailyalanon.org in the same location as minutes archive or contact Laura B. at laracarroll2@gmail.com or 714-454-8662 for a copy.

- A Vote to accept or reject recommendations to take place Jan 20, 2024. If you want to provide feedback contact Laura B. at laracarroll2@gmail.com or 714-454-8662

2. Treasury Report- Mary Lee B (outgoing) Bill R (incoming)

- $480 total 7th Tradition collected during the month of December.
- After zoom bill paid, $414 to be divided equally between WSO and GEA.
- Prudent Reserve of $250 has been transferred to Bill R.

3. Group Secretary Report-Jen R

- Minutes can be found on our website – everydailyalanon.org (meeting info page)
- Thank you to the chairs for reminding members of new treasurer info & chat hosts for updating the chat with Bill's info.

- GR Laura B. to send the GEA report to Web Chair to add to the website and to be sent out with Minutes to the service roster by Group Secretary.

4. Group Conscience Chair Announcements-Amanda

- Agenda process
  - Information about how to request topics for discussion at GC meeting is included in daily chat host script with GC chair contact info.
  - GC Chair, Amanda, doubles up in chat the week before meeting members they can contact her with new business to address.
  - Agenda is prepared 3-5 days before GC meeting and shared in Chat by GC Chair
  - New topics presented after Agenda is prepared will be addressed at the following month's GC meeting unless deemed an 'emergency'

- Format changes – please refer to past minutes before requesting discussion on format changes. Topics discussed in the past 6 months will not be addressed.

Old Business

1. Orientation document for new Chairs and Chat Hosts is in process

New Business

1. Decision making, applying Al-Anon Concept 12, 3rd Warranty to how EDRG makes decisions *"…that all decisions be reached by discussion vote and whenever possible by unanimity"*

   Background: this discussion topic came out of Dec 2023 GC Meeting regarding format change to add page number. Due to a lack of substantial unanimity based on comments during discussion, GC Chair called for a vote which yielded unclear results (15 in favor, 11 opposed, 10 abstaining) topic was presented to establish group guidelines on determining 'substantial unanimity' when consensus isn't clear.

   Reminder: EDRG uses KBDM (Knowledge Based Decision Making) in contrast to parliamentary procedure. Which favors participation and discussion over expedience.

Discussion:

- What is substantial unanimity? Simple majority, 2/3 or ¾?
Examples: using a simple majority, if a vote was 15 vs 17 would it feel like will of meeting would be met by going with 53% of vote? Or, if there were 5 candidates and 40 voting members a person could have the 'most votes' with 7 votes. Would that be sufficient to be considered a passing vote?

- ==Goal of discussion:== To add group guidelines for what is considered "substantial unanimity*" if* a vote is called when consensus on an issue is not clear.

- Zoom voting challenges:
  - off-screen members, intentional abstention vs. unable to raise hand or forgot to leave meeting.
  - Suggestion to do a practice vote: yes, vote no to confirm who is able to vote.
  - Request for yes, no, abstain to remove confusion
  - Suggestion to use Zoom poll function

- Take a bit more time with vote since we take so much time with discussion.

- There's a packet that covers KBDM from Al-anon – **goal as substantial unanimity**. Simple majority doesn't reflect unanimous agreement.

- Too lengthy a discussion process can reduce member participation.

- Unanimity as described in warranty #3 as ideal but also recognizing when stuck on an issue and move on and let go.

- Last month's discussion about adding page number didn't result in a consensus position and the issue seems to have resolved itself organically.

- ==Request for clarification:== Are there two issues, or just one? 1) that we are using KBDM? **and** 2) what is unanimity and how to determine it?

- ==There is only one issue==. The group has previously decided on and been successful with KBDM so that isn't under consideration. This discussion is to determine the threshold for substantial unanimity if it isn't clear based on discussion and a vote is called.

- Refreshing to feel safe when everyone gets to be heard.

- Are we waiting for a motion? Then putting forward 2/3 majority

- ==Reminder:== Motions aren't part of KBDM. Vote would be used when it isn't clear there is substantial unanimity as a way to take the temperature Group Conscience.

- How is it decided when a vote takes place or not? Discussions as pragmatic – great to have a chance to discuss. When is it time to move on from the issue?

- Point recognized; GC chair honoring the chance for members to speak following KBDM guidelines.

- After many members have spoken GC Chair gauges GC temperature based on comments made and decides whether clear consensus is apparent or to proceed with further discussion.

- The GC chair isn't dominant; any member can request a vote after sufficient discussion.

- Is a simple majority still on the table? Or not?

- Unanimity is "Complete agreement about something among a group of people". Simple majority doesn't comply with Warranty 3. Takes us away from that.

- Voice for 2/3 majority

- WSO uses 2/3 for their percentage.

- ¾ of vote could prove too far out of reach and keep us stuck. Another voice for 2/3 majority.

- Responsibility of members who don't agree to speak. GC is to create safe space for all voices to be heard.

- Learning to deal with disappointment is part of our program.

- Reminder – keep it simple. There are times when a group decides something and members get bummed but get over it. Can always come back and discuss again and change the decision if it doesn't work.

- ==GC secretary requested a vote== by raise of virtual hand in favor of instituting a 2/3 majority vote as substantial unanimity threshold when there isn't clarity based on discussion.

- ==Vote Passed – EDRG to institute 2/3 vote as threshold to meet substantial unanimity when a vote is called based on unclear consensus.==

- Member request for slower vote – asking what count was, felt vote went too fast.
        26 in favor (72%)   10 not raised (27%)   Attendance: 36

- Point of order brought up by member: Because this group uses KBDM based on discussion, it seemed clear the group had reached unanimous support around 2/3 vote. Therefore, a vote wasn't totally necessary because we are using KBDM.

GC Meeting Closed with Serenity Prayer - 36 members in attendance