EDRG Group Conscience Minutes - May 2, 2024

Open with Serenity Prayer (118 in attendance)

1. Group Rep Report-Laura, No updates.

2. Treasury Report- Bill R

-As of May 1st, 2024, EDRG has the following

       $1,606.62 in the Treasury. (Including $250.00 kept in prudent reserve).

       $1,906.00 was collected in April.

       $0.00 disbursed to GEA for April.

       $0.00 disbursed to WSO-AFG for April.

          $567.12 was expensed for Zoom 500 Participates Annual in April. (Prorated for April 12,2024 - March 22, 2025).

          $17.74 was credited for Zoom 500 Participates Annual in April. (Prorated for April 12,2024 - March 22, 2025).

       No other expenses in April.

-Treasure highlighted the participation of the group & Alanon at work with the following data:

       On April 4th $600.00 Zoom Annual cost discussed in business meeting.

       On April 10th Zoom Annual mentioned in Chat. $61.00 collected.

       On April 11th Zoom Annual mentioned in Chat. $79.00 collected. On April 12th Zoom Annual verbally mentioned. $1,202.00 collected.

       Between April 10th to 12th, $1,342.00 collected!

-Anticipated expenses are as follows:

       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.

-As the Group is solvent, Treasurer put forth a proposal 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

ACTION: GC chair suggested adding the above proposal to the June agenda for discussion.

3. Group Secretary Report-Sammy S

-We are at the midpoint of daily service commitment. The group can anticipate prompts for July service transitions beginning June 1.

-Look for an upcoming change in the chat script reflecting the new GC chair's contact to submit agenda items. **ACTION: Dustin can provide desired email for contact and secretary will change the script and send to service roster.**

-Web chair will also transition June 1. *Thanks to Gordy for his service and Welcome to Jen R!*

4. Group Conscience Chair Announcements-Amanda B

-The new GC Chair, Dustin, begins June 1.

-Begin contacting Dustin with agenda items.

Old Business

1. Concerns regarding drivers on video during meeting

-Chair summarized the following possibilities for moving forward: 1-Put language in the format with instructions for individual to turn off videos while driving

2-Leave format as is and give individual chairs discretion to turn off distracting videos

3-Settings can be set to not allow individuals to turn videos back on

Group Discussion

-A member asked whether the concern is for worry for the person who's driving or worry for the distraction it causes to those in the meeting? -A member doesn't find it distracting when someone is driving, but finds it distracting when someone is walking and sharing.

-A member discusses keeping the camera off whenever she is doing something you wouldn't normally do in a meeting. She suggests it is the

hosts discretion to close the camera if distracting and communicate with the individual.

- A member suggests that what is most important is that an individual who signs on while driving needs the meeting.

-A member believes she is in alanon to recover from managing other people. She suggests that if we don't like someone driving, we don't have to pay attention, otherwise we are back to managing others. -A member who initially brought up the discussion says that the issue for her as chair is multitasking plus movement makes it difficult to focus. She does not want to take away individuals' rights to be in the meetings but wants to address her own difficulties. When she has turned cameras off to do this, no one has mentioned it. She would leave it up to other chairs to manage as they wish.

-A member emphasizes that one possible action is no action, to let the meeting be.

-A member feels it's okay to listen while driving and observes that most people pull over to share. He also believes it is okay for a chair to shut the video off and uses self as an example that most people would prefer to not distract others when they need to move but may forget. He has been meditating on the hula hoop image and finds that helpful. -A member expressed concern that action presumes there will be change. She believes in the chair as a trusted servant who will take care of themself, including if that means turning a participant's video off.

-A member shares that in a neurodivergent meeting script it specifically states that "you may see something that disturbs you on video so you may turn off your video or look away." She likes a script that includes the idea that "if you're doing something distracting, you are encouraged to turn off the video" because she wouldn't want the meeting to be unwelcoming to anyone with specific sensitivity.

- A member who is in the car when listening suggested possible verbage, "if host is affected by your video, they may turn it off."

-A member emphasized Principles above Personality. He says it is a self-acceptance program: I come here to learn about myself. He suggests the lesson might be that given the conditions, hosting isn't a good job for me. He doesn't think changing the meeting to make it comfortable fits with alanon.

-A member suggests that the later discussion about a tech host might apply

because she agrees that the role of chair is difficult to manage given both flow and tech issues. She also mentions that participation is key to harmony so hopefully group participants refer to the minutes on the website to learn about issues like this that affect the group. -A member is unsure about a change in verbage but does believe the chair should have the option to turn off a video that is disturbing. She keeps her video off because she knows she moves around. She emphasizes that the minority voice is also important.

-A member appreciates the perspective that if the job is disturbing it may not be the best job. She is concerned for any decision that includes walking in judgment. She believes some language she has heard in the discussion has possible judgment in it, which doesn't belong in alanon meetings. She prefers that individuals look away.

-A member offers the words that come to mind: "Principles above personalities," "Safety," "Choices," "I can't control anyone," "Important to have rules," and "Boundaries."

-A member summarizes the discussion as 1-no action, 2-change the script, 3-host can shut off video if it is interfering, 4-change in security settings. She comments that if the host is multitasking and is stressed, in her case, her brain stops. She wants to minimize the stress of the host so many would feel capable of doing the job.

-GC chair asks for a vote
      33 Raise hand if in favor of leaving things as they are
      5 Raise hand if in favor of taking some action

-GC chair summarized that the general feeling is to leave things as they are for time being but it may be an evolving area of discussion..

New Business

1. Proposal: Form a committee to explore reinstatement of a daily Tech Host position.

-GC chair summarized that group used to have 3 daily commitments:
Host read the script,
Chat host put things in chat,
Tech host was responsible for settings and to protect meetings from disruptions.

-Proposal is to have a committee discuss reinstating "tech host," with the thought that as meeting numbers grow, it may not be difficult to fill and will
allow the chair to just focus on meeting format. A committee could discuss the details of separate roles then return with a proposal to put before the business meeting.

-GC asks for vote.
Several members interested in creating a sub-committee raised hands. No one opposed the formation of sub-committee.

ACTION: Please email Amanda if interested in being part of the committee to discuss reinstatement of tech host.

<u>2. GC Chair closed by expressing gratitude for the privilege of service over the past year.</u> *Many Thanks to Amanda for her service!*

Close with the Serenity Prayer (45 in attendance)