

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Monday, January 25, 2021 7:00 pm

The Vice -Chairperson Lisa G. welcomed the Advisory Committee and started the meeting with the SERENITY PRAYER.

ROLL CALL: Cecilia reported 29 participants present enough for a quorum.

MINUTES: Lisa G. asked the Advisory Committee to approve the October 27, 2020 Advisory Committee Minutes for approval. There was a motion to approve the minutes; a second and the Advisory Committee approved the October 27, 2020 Minutes.

Vice-Chairperson Lisa G. requested that the Committee Members in attendance introduce themselves. Gary S. (Area 1), James T. (Area 2), Rachel K.E. (Area 3), Vlad V. (Area 4) Pam L. (Area 7,) Lisa G. (Area 9) and Joe H. (Area 10) introduced themselves.. Lisa G. mentioned that we need an Operating Representative from Area 5 Lisa then asked Ruth D. to introduce CDO staff. Ruth welcomed the Advisory Committee and introduced the CDO Staff in attendance Cecilia P, David G., Jason M. and CDO Archivist Bob McK.

Lisa G. then asked for Committee Reports.

COMMITTEE REPORTS –

Financial - Ruth gave a brief Financial Summary for December 2020
Pledges 12/31/20 \$260,777 12/31/19 \$308,140 decrease \$47,363

Ruth said that although \$47,363 is a large sum for an organization as small as the CDO, she felt blessed with all the support we had considering how many members were hurting and how few meetings were going on face-to-face. Ruth said that the CDO staff and Operating Committee were very grateful to our AA members for continuing to send us contributions.

Literature Rev. 12/31/20 \$131,678 12/31/2019 \$ 239,745 decrease by \$108,067

We are still breaking even on Literature because of the reduced cost of goods sold and purchases. The CDO is open again for two people at a time wearing masks. We are also shipping literature again and members can go online or call us for literature orders.

Archives: Bob McK., Archivist Bob gave a talk on Dr. Harry N. , one of the early members of Borton and Orchard Grove. In 1941, Dr. Harry started hospitalizing patients at St. Vincent's where Harry was known as the Patron Saint of AA.

Old Business:

Rachel K.E. stood up and introduced herself as the Operating Committee Representative from Area 3. Rachel said she got sober at fifteen on August 16, 1989. Rachel's Home Group is Full Circle Women. Lisa G. asked for a motion, a second for the nomination and the Advisory Committee voted Rachel in as Operating Committee Representative from Area 3.

Lisa G. reminded the Advisory Committee again that the CDO still needed an Area 5 representative from zip codes 44102 Cleveland, 44107 Lakewood, 44111 Cleveland, and 44189 Cleveland. A nominee must have 3 years of sobriety and live or have a home group in the area they represent. A nominee must be nominated by a member of their home group.

Open Forum: Dave G. gave an update on meetings. Dave said the best bet for going to face-to-face meetings are the Clubs. Dave gave a list of the Clubs that are open or partially open. (List on website). Dave said the meetings at the Churches are very unstable. They open up and then they close; sometimes because members are not attending; sometimes because the Church members do not want to continue to have meetings because they are afraid the meetings are not following CDC COVID guidelines, someone has tested positive for COVID or they do not want to incur the expense to keep the meeting area sanitized. Most meetings in hospitals, libraries, community centers, government and service agencies have remained closed to meetings until further notice. Dave said we do have several meetings that are still meeting face-to-face and members should call the office and find out where they are as they change frequently.

Often Zoom meetings change their codes and passwords and do not let us know of the change. After a meeting is zoom bombed, groups do not want to have their codes posted. Members can go on the CDO website and see what meetings have been reopened following CDC guidelines. If you have questions, the best thing a member can do is call the office and make sure they have the latest information that we have. Dave said the CDO has received complaints from the Health Department regarding Groups not following CDC guidelines. These complaints are not coming from us but members who go to meetings and report them. Dave said he tells the Health Department, who are on AA's side, that he will call the Group Secretary and tell them. Dave said he tries to tell them of the seriousness of the complaints and that the meeting can be shut down and fined. These Groups have been contacted by the Health Department.

James T (Representative from Area 2) said that Cuyahoga County has issued a Health Advisory that only 10 people are allowed at any type of meeting. James went on to explain that it was hard to determine how to limit an open meeting to only 10 people. He said it might be easier if it was a closed meeting to do so. James also said that the Health Advisory expires on January 31st but it is possible it will be extended. Leslie S. (Committee Member Area 28) gave an example of a meeting who broke their bigger meeting down into smaller groups. Leslie also asked if the fine was going to be levied against Central Office, the Group or the facility where the group meeting is held. David said he did not know the answer to that but his interactions with the Health Department have been very positive and they are looking to help Alcoholics Anonymous meetings stay open not to close them down. James T said he believed the fine would be levied against the location for breaking the Health Advisory. A member asked Dave if the groups were being fined because of no masks and social distancing or because there were more than 10 people at the meeting. Dave said he had not heard of any fines being levied but that the Health Department seemed to be concerned more with no mask wearing and social distancing than with the number of people in the meeting. A member said that members contacted the Health Department in Columbus and they said AA meetings would be treated like churches and they would not have to comply with the only 10 people rule but would have to comply with masks, sanitation protocols and distancing. Dave again reiterated that the complaints are coming from members who are calling the Health Department. Gary S (Area 1 Representative) said alcoholics hate to follow rules but we have to follow the guidelines that have been set out. He said we need to be responsible members of Alcoholics Anonymous. Each Group is responsible for their Group's behavior. Bob M. said that he got COVID and he was seriously ill but did not have to be hospitalized and this must be taken seriously. He gave Club 24 as an example of a club that demands strict protocols. Club 24 takes temperatures and insists on anyone who comes in to a meeting wears a mask. The club has mask minders ensure that masks are worn and worn correctly. A member asked where the guidelines were listed. Ruth said the guidelines are listed on the CDC Website and in the beginning of the Pandemic the CDO had information on COVID on our site. We provide information that the Groups give us on whether they are following CDC guidelines. We follow them at the CDO office and only allow two people in at a time. We do not get involved in outside issues and each group is autonomous and must take responsibility for its own behavior. Lisa G. said it was each person's responsibility to make sure they are safe.

Ruth said that the Fund Drive was shut down in the middle when the quarantine was implemented. This year we also have to do things differently. Since most of the meetings are still shut down and we do not have a

verifiable face -to face -meeting schedule or a verifiable zoom schedule; we have to decide the best way to implement our Fund Drive. We have had several ideas that members have put forth including a video that could be on our website and played at groups. On Zoom, we can have someone designated to give our fund drive pitch and put our website in the chat to donate. We are not going to send out the material we usually send out to secretaries unless they ask for it. We do have slips and our pitch on the website that could be read at meetings. Ruth asked if anyone at the meeting had any ideas. Ruth also said that with Zoom meetings; members come from all over the country and all over the world and may not be interested in supporting the local fund drive. Also members are getting sober on zoom and may have no idea what the Central Office does. Ruth said that we so appreciate that our members have continued to support us and we are financially stable right now. Ruth said her concern is that we are now in our second March Fund Drive where we have not returned fully to face-to-face meetings and we have no verifiable meeting or zoom meeting schedules. Denise from Solon Log Cabin said that they have a Venmo account and members are donating and that they continue to support the CDO. A member asked if we could send out information to the meetings who have reopened face-to-face. Ruth said that we could and send out abbreviated material. Dave S. said that he felt it was very important to continue to send out material to face-to -face meetings that our verified and have someone give the pitch to support the office. Leslie S. said that GSO stated that since all events and travel have stopped they have a reduced budget. Ruth said that we did not put on any events or travel and that our budget would remain basically the same with reduced costs for something like office supplies but rent, maintenance and salaries were basically the same. Ruth said that our general expenses are between \$250,000 and \$300,000. Lisa asked about having each zoom meeting put our website address in so they can donate Gary S. said we should make sure that each Secretary gets our Fund Drive Pitch either through email or regular mail and that we ask them to read it at each meeting or designate someone to read it at each meeting. Rachel K.E. (Area 3 Representative) said that she would like us to check out Venmo and see if there are any problems for us using it as it is a peer-to-peer app. Rachel said her group uses it and it is very easy to transfer money. Jason M. said he would check it out and see if it applies to businesses.

Ruth introduced Kathleen C. who has been a media consultant for 30 years and is a member of the fellowship who has given the CDO some suggestions on marketing our Fund Drive during this time. Kathleen showed a profile overlay that could be used when a member on zoom is reading our pitch that says I am Responsible and gives the CDO website where donations can be made. Kathleen C. said that a number of members could use this overlay during their meetings. Members appreciated Kathleen's suggestion. Another member asked for more financial stats on website as to what the CDO needs.

Denise M. asked that the Website be clearer on what is Conference Approved Literature and what is not. Jason said that he would make the site more user friendly to make sure that all Conference Approved literature comes up. Bob M. talked about the non-conference literature like meeting schedule books or Four Absolutes that are not Conference approved but important to our members.

Next Advisory Meeting: Annual Meeting Thursday, March 25, 7:00 p.m. Meeting ID: 854 4466 8033
Passcode: 012910

Lisa G. asked for Motion to Adjourn, a second and meeting ends with the Lord's Prayer