

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, January 26, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

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

ROLL CALL: Cecilia reported there was 24 participants in the Advisory Meeting; a quorum was met.

MINUTES: Lisa asked for a motion to approve October 25, 2021 Advisory Minutes; seconded and the October Advisory Minutes were approved as previously read.

Chairperson Lisa G. requested Operating Committee Members in attendance to introduce themselves. Lisa G. (Area 9), Gary S. (Area 1), Tim P (Area 6), Rachel K.E. (Area 3), Sandy L. (Area 7), Vlad V. (Area 4), Joe H (Area 10), Pat C. (Area 5) and Rob N. (Area 11) introduced themselves. Lisa G. then asked Ruth D. to introduce CDO staff. Ruth introduced CDO Staff members Cecilia P., David G., Jason M. and Bob McK.

Chairperson Lisa G. then requested Committee Reports:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Office and Financial Report: Ruth D.

Ruth welcomed the Advisory Committee and said how grateful the CDO is that our members stepped up and supported the office through the Pandemic. Ruth said that other offices around the county struggled to keep going and many offices are still closed. Ruth praised the AA staff who came down in staggered hours to keep the office open and running. Ruth praised David especially who came down to the office every day to answer phones.

Ruth reminded the Advisory Committee that the CDO needs information from our members and groups in order to have an updated meeting schedule. We do not automatically know when changes are done unless someone calls or sends us an online email with updates. Ruth said we are grateful for your money but we need more from our members. We need updated information so when members call here, especially new people, we can give them correct information.

The year ended December 31, 2021, the CDO received \$345,462 in pledges which was \$84,000 more than 2020 during the height of the Pandemic. Most of the pledges came through credit card contributions as most of the meetings were shut down and the office was only open on a limited basis. With our literature sales, the CDO only wants to break even so that we can give our members the opportunity to purchase literature at the most minimum cost. Leslie S. asked since shipping costs have gone up so much if it was effecting our bottom line. Ruth said that the CDO charges much of our shipping costs to the Operating Budget so that we can maintain a very affordable price for our members to purchase literature. Ruth also said that AA World Service does not charge us shipping when we purchase over a certain amount. Judy M. thanked Ruth for the report.

Desmond from Sunday Night Discussion asked about our Prudent Reserve and where the money that is contributed goes. Rob N. explained that the Financial Statement shows where the expenses go. For example payroll, rent, telephone, office supplies, maintenance of the office, buying of literature, etc. Desmond asked how a Group determines what to give. Tim P, Rachel K.E. and Gary S. all gave examples of how a group determines what to contribute including using the pamphlet from the GSO "Where Money & Spirituality Mix" and the "Group Pamphlet". Ultimately the amount of the contribution and what AA legacies to contribute to is

up to the group conscience. Tim P. said he did research on contributions pre-Pandemic and that if each of our 850 groups contributed \$350 each the CDO would be funded for a year.

Corrections: Gary S. reported that the next Corrections Committee meeting will be at the CDO Monday, February 7 at 6:30 p.m. Gary S. also said that the jails are opening and closing for outside meetings just like the regular meetings are doing depending on what the virus is doing. The Committee is spending down the Pink Can money and distributing AA conferenced approved literature when they are allowed in the facilities.

Activities: Rachel K.E. reported on the December 9, 2021 CDO open house. Rachel said it was well attended by a diversified crowd of members from all parts of Cleveland and years of sobriety. Everyone said they had a good time and we are looking for other activities to promote AA group unity. Ruth asked the Advisory Committee to let us know if they want certain AA activities that we can help promote.

Archives: Bob McK. CDO Archivist gave a talk on the Preamble and the recent change from Men and Women to People. Bob said the next archive topic will be on the LGBT community beginnings in AA in Cleveland. Bob asked if someone in the Advisory Committee knows or knows someone who has information on the histories of these groups to get in touch with him.

Bob also said the CDO wants to record our longtime members about their experience when they first came into AA and the changes they feel have taken place. This is not a lead, the CDO has interview questions available.

Open Forum: Dave G. said that he thought the meetings would be opened and our schedule would be more consistent by this time. Unfortunately, meetings are still opening and closing because of the new strain of the virus. The facilities are driving the opening and closing of meetings. Meetings were dropping zoom and now zoom is starting again. Members with compromised immune systems are still not comfortable going back to in person meetings. Most of the Clubs are still open and that is the safest bet for members to go to in person meetings. The Newburg Social Club is totally closed down but most of the other clubs are open. Dave said that if members have questions, they should go to our website or call office. Dave said we are looking for Spanish Speaking Meetings and need Spanish speaking translators for help with Spanish speaking members. The entire Lakewood Library system does not want to hold AA meetings. Dave said that we are trying to do an updated meeting schedule but with all the changes it is not as accurate as we would like. Jason said right now, the current printed schedule is the most accurate we have printed but not as accurate as the one online. We will continue to update as necessary. The best way to make sure a meeting is open is to go to our web site and if you see something in error let us know. The zoom meetings are on our website but not in the book.

Dave S. asked about when members will be allowed to answer phones at the CDO on weekends. We will follow CDC Guidelines and make a decision about weekend phones as well as the Secretary Workshop.

Next Advisory Meeting: Annual Meeting Thursday, March 24 at 7:00 pm on Zoom and hopefully also at the AA office.

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