

ADVISORY COMMITTEE Notes June 27, 2023

The Chairperson Charles P. welcomed the Advisory Committee and started the meeting with the SERENITY PRAYER.

ROLL CALL: Cecilia P. There were 19 participants in the Advisory Meeting including in person and on Zoom. Ruth then said there needs to be 20 participants in order for a quorum to be reached and have it be an official Advisory Committee Meeting

MINUTES: Since there was no quorum, the minutes from the March 23, 2023 Advisory Meeting could not be approved.

Charles P. from Area 11 asked the Operating Committee Members present to introduce themselves. Rick T. (Area 1), Dennis T. (Area 2), Alan K. (Area 3), Sandy L. (Area 7), Lee L. (Area 8), and Charley C. (Area 10) stood and introduced themselves.

Ruth D. welcomed the Advisory Committee and introduced the Cleveland District staff: Ruth first gave a shout out to David G. who has passed. Ruth said that David really kept the office open during COVID. David came every day and stayed all day answering the phones and helping members not only in the Cleveland area but all over the United States as well as going on International Meetings. The CDO has always had a good reputation but because we were able to stay open because we had a healthy prudent reserve our reputation improved over COVID while other offices had to close down.

Ruth introduced Cecilia who makes sure the CDO has the necessary approved AA literature as well as other literature that carries the A.A. message. There were some problems getting all the literature we needed in a timely way because of chain supply problems. The CDO supplied literature for many other areas because of the inability for other offices to reopen.

Ruth then introduced Marilyn who has been added to the literature department and has shown to be a dedicated helper at the literature department and carrying the message of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Ruth then introduced the newest member of the CDO Nicki who has taken the Outreach Coordinator job. Ruth said that Nicki has really hit the ground running and in a short period of time has gotten us into facilities we have not been involved with for years as well as done a great job of helping with group problems and updates.

Ruth then introduced Jason who is our tech and website person. Under Jason we are considered to have one of the best A.A. websites as well as being able to implement new software and hardware to make sure the CDO keeps up with the technological changes that our needed to make sure we are ready to keep the office relevant as we move forward as technology is constantly changing.

Ruth then introduced Bob M. who is the CDO archivist and is well known for his expertise in the Cleveland area as well as throughout the county with his knowledge of AA archival history.

Chairperson asks for Committee Reports Charles P.

COMMITTEE REPORTS –

Financial - Ruth gave a brief Financial Summary for month ended May 2023- May Statement: attached

Ruth said that right now we have a very healthy Prudent Reserve and a net income of \$109,819. When you break it down to monthly expenses that means that the CDO can spend \$15,688 each month for the next seven months and not dip into the Prudent Reserve. Ruth said obviously that means we will have to use Prudent Reserve money to keep the office going. Since we hired an Outreach Coordinator and intend to start going back into hospitals, treatment centers, health fairs and schools, we will be funding this outreach with operating funds. The Corrections Committee is funded by the pink can money. Our literature department breaks even because the CDO charges all operating costs that would normally be charged to literature like its portion of rent, utilities and shipping to the operating budget so that we can offer the literature of our program at the lowest cost possible.

Corrections: Rick T., Dennis T, Pat C. The next Corrections Committee meeting will be at the CDO Monday July, 3, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at the CDO office. The Outreach Meeting will be held the third Monday of the month July 19 at 6:00. These two meetings will be combined starting with the August meeting. The meetings will be combined but Corrections is fully funded through the pink can fund and can be used only for A.A. literature going directly for persons incarcerated. The outreach committee supplies will be fully funded by the CDO.

Activities: Alan K., Emilie W. Karin K. – The CDO has purchased 75 Guardian Tickets for the game being held on August 19. We only have 12 tickets left. The Westside Picnic will be held on July 30th. Al said we welcome any ideas our members may have on other group unity activities and to reach out to the CDO and we will consider them.

Archives: Bob McK. Bob's topic was Group histories. He started out talking about the History of the Borton Group which is the oldest Cleveland meeting starting in 1938. Bob then gave out group history forms and reminded the committee that we only have the history of the groups that the groups give to us. Bob gave the history of others groups and the back story of how one of our earliest and controversial members Clarence S. wrote many things down that give us the history of some of the earliest groups. Bob also told the group that even if they do not have their Group's earliest history to start writing their current history and give the CDO a copy. Bob also said we need to continue to get AA history from our long timers.

New Business: Ruth said there was three things she wanted to do when she came to the CDO. One was to get a healthy Prudent Reserve. Ruth said when she started at the CDO in 1997, the reserve was very low and for a number of years the CDO had to go to the Fellowship after the Fund Drive was over in March to ask for additional Funds. The Fellowship always came through. Number two was to get an enhanced digital presence because the CDO website was almost non-existent. Through our Web Master Jason, we have a website and digital presence that has been praised from all over the country. Ruth said we did not accept credit cards for either literature or pledges and now we accept them and those credit card pledges kept us going during the Pandemic. We are working to upgrade our digital system again so that we can have the General Service App to better serve our members in finding meetings. The third thing was to have an Outreach program to carry the message. Ruth said there were no office volunteers when she came which we now have. The CDO started a Corrections Committee in 1999 which has taken literature into facilities through volunteers in the Committee. David G. did outreach with the schools, health fairs and made contacts with treatment centers but as David's health failed and COVID shut down facilities our outreach became almost completely shut down. There was also a change in the way hospitals viewed AA and treatment for substance abuse. MAT or Medically Assisted Treatment is now the preferred way to treat substance abusers and what the government agencies and insurance companies now pay for. After David's passing our part time person Ralph started doing outreach and updating meetings but when he had to leave we decided it was time to hire a full time Outreach Coordinator. We hired Nikki Clark who has really hit the ground running and has been contacting hospitals, treatment centers and has really got the ball rolling. Nikki then gave an update of places she has been going to let facilities know we want to be complimentary to treatment not antagonistic. She has also done a great job handling group problems and group updates.

Bob gave a description of a bail reform program that will help people who cannot afford to get bail get loans to get out of jail before trial so they can continue to help their families. There was a brief discussion about whether AA had any way to help in this effort.

Old Business: Software updates – Jason M. said we are really excited to get the system ready for the GSO meeting app. We are hoping to go live soon after the CDO makes sure the changes are correct and ready to go. We were able to use the new system in creating the new meeting schedule and we have a QR Code on the schedule that will take users rights to the CDO website.

The GSO is continuing to develop this App and it is used worldwide.

Next Advisory Meeting: at 7:00 pm Monday, October 23, at t the CDO and on Zoom.

Charles P asks for Motion to Adjourn, seconded and meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer