

District 13 Business Meeting Minutes

August 11, 2012 – St. Thomas of Canterbury Church – 10am

1. Opening: Jim M. opened the meeting at 10:04 am with the Serenity Prayer. Sign-in sheet passed around.

2. Welcome and Introductions.

3. Special Presentation: Intergroup Alcathon – Skitch F. Skitch announced that the New Year's Eve Alcathon is indeed on and will be on a Monday this year. It will be held at the Shepherd of the Valley Church which is where some of the recent Intergroup Speaker meetings have been held as well as the most recent Women's Sobriety Fests. It is located on Montano just east of Rio Grande. There will be people patrolling the lots. Instead of doing round-the-clock marathon meetings this year, there will be meetings hosted by districts beginning late in the afternoon on New Year's eve Day, followed by a Speaker Meeting with a Potluck dinner which will be followed by a Dance and one AA meeting after that. The schedule will then break until a Breakfast hosted by Dawn Patrol accompanied by a meeting on New Year's Day. Skitch credited Ilse G. with getting this effort going again. He asked for one person from District 13 to be active on the steering committee of the Alcathon which meets immediately after the monthly Intergroup meeting held on the Second Tuesday of every month at 2pm at the Brownbaggers location. Skitch also asked for some feedback on a few things. One, if childcare is a concern to the groups and two, if Spanish translation is a consideration. Skitch's email address is alcathon@albuquerqueaa.org. He added that there are going to be some fundraising aspects including a raffle for the alcathon; all proceeds of which would go to supporting the Central Office, but that any emphasis on that would wait until after Women's Sobriety Fest raffle is over. An Intergroup Table will be at the Alcathon and a faithful fiver opportunity will be there as well.

4. Special Presentation: Pass It On – Steve R. Steve introduced himself as a member of the intergroup Steering committee and as the Editor of Pass It On. He is visiting meetings that don't normally go to Intergroup or contribute to Central Office to introduce them to the Pass it on and let them know about the services that the Central Office provides for them. He reported that there are at least 199 groups represented by Central Office. Of those groups, 85 have so far contributed to Central Office. The group contributions are the only thing that keep Central office afloat. It is a non-profit. Intergroup, which guides the Steering Committee runs Central Office. Intergroup should be comprised of all of the groups that contribute to Central Office, but only 25 groups regularly attend Intergroup meetings. Central Office is the most visible face of AA in the overall community. He then referenced a very good article from Box 459 on Central Offices and Intergroups. He urged the District to ask their home groups to consider sending Intergroup reps. He added that there will be a vote on a new Masthead for the Pass It On tomorrow.

5. CONCEPT PRESENTATION: Ben A. presented on Concept 7 – and he stated that it deals with the basic distinction between the Trustees and the Conference. They talk about the type of paradox in that the Trustees have all the Legal authority, but the Traditional Authority resides with the Conference. The Idea is that having Legal Authority with the Conference would be too cumbersome and unwieldy. Whereas the Trustees can be trusted to act as an instrument, backed by the Group Conscience of the Conference. They have gone to great lengths to head off problems before they have them. Basically, it is set up so that AA can get it's primary purpose done. Also, this way, there is no way that the Trustees can come up with some wacky idea on their own. They are instruments of the Conference's

will. He ended by stating the Concept: The Conference recognizes that the Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments: that the Trustees are thereby fully empowered to manage and conduct all of the world service affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is further understood that the Conference Charter itself is not a legal document: that it relies instead upon the force of tradition and the power of the AA purse for its final effectiveness.

6. Next Month's Concept Presentation will be provided by: ALLY T. (Concept 8)

7. MINUTES: Previous Meeting Minutes were accepted as emailed and mailed.

8. TREASURERS REPORT: Tom C reported that last month our ending balance was \$902.46. We received \$13.00 in 7th tradition and no group contributions at this time. Tom wrote a check to Rich in the amount of the approved expense of \$103.50 for Literature for the PI/CPC committee so our total balance today is \$811.96. Tom assumed we would have an expense this month for between 100-200 dollars for the Intergroup Speaker meeting. Francisco asked what the group used money for. Jim answered that we purchase literature for MATS and other groups, put on Workshops (usually one or two per year), host an Intergroup Speaker meeting, and every few years put on an Area Assembly. Tom added that we hosted a pancake breakfast this year as well. The report was accepted.

9. DCM REPORT: Jim M. reported that Bill L, the Area Registrar, reached out to him for help on verifying all the information for the meetings in our District. Some really good things came out of that; that is how he got a hold of Steve. He sent out the corrected list back to Bill. ALT DCM REPORT: Jim reported that we are supposed to choose one today. One of the persons that expressed interest is not present which is unfortunate.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Archives: No Archives report. The archives position is OPEN.

Bilingual: Ben A. reported that he saw some of the other people involved in the Bilingual efforts at the SWRAASA meeting but that there is nothing new to report.

Bridge the Gap: No report.

Intergroup Liaison: Kristen reported that the main brunt of the report had already been made by Skitch and Steve. She pointed out that Steve had brought copies of the minutes as printed in the Pass It On. Half of the Intergroup Steering Committee will begin rotating out on the Odd years beginning in January, which is new. She hoped that the Speaker meeting the district would be hosting that evening would be a successful one.

Treatment: Charlotte B. reported that they have changed the requirements for Speaking at MATS so that they now require a year of sobriety which has affected the amount of her speakers. She has also been informed they will be doing a Warrant check and a Urinalysis. She is not sure if this is for her meeting only or if this is for all groups that are bringing Meetings into MATS. Ally mentioned that she is scheduled to speak there this Wednesday for another group and for that group she was informed the changes were that you can only bring in five people including the speaker, you cannot cuss when you tell your story and that you need to wear closed toe shoes. Rich asked how much advance notice is normally given, Charlotte answered that it is usually just the weekend prior. Francisco noted that since MATS is not an AA institution, it may be in our best interest to accommodate their requests to the best of our abilities. Even dress and language rules are very common on H&I committees and though we can always decline to go in, he thought that they might be responding to something that we may not want to go up against. Charlotte's concern is that it is going to minimize the amount of volunteers they may offer to speak there. Steve offered to pinch hit if Charlotte needed a speaker for Monday and commented that he was most sad to hear of the sobriety requirement being one year as in his experience the residents at MATS responded best to people newer in sobriety who were also residents at MATS. No word as to whether this was applying also at Turquoise Lodge as of yet.

Corrections: No report.

PI/CPC: Rich reported that his committee did distribute the Big Book and 12&12 to the three public libraries within the district as planned and he will follow up to make sure they are on display as intended and in their database. They are both English copies, so next they will look at providing Spanish copies.

Website: No Report. Tom will help coordinate.

Grapevine: No Report.

11. **SWRAASA** – Ally shared with the group that she has a lot of sign-up sheets for volunteers and that once filled out, the sheets can be sent to Les H. for submittal. She announced that they are looking for Cub Reporters for the Highlights Newsletter and then there was a discussion about whether she would or would not be able to take over for Joe on the Volunteer committee. She would email Meredith about it.

12. 7th Tradition: Basket was passed.

13. OLD BUSINESS:

- Intergroup Speaker Meeting – Jim mentioned that the benefit of the other District Information Pamphlet was that there was a section on Events Planning Committees, which may have been helpful in preparation the Intergroup Speaker meeting, but thankfully, we have this meeting to prepare. We then prepared a shopping list for the night's festivities. Kristen estimated paper goods at around \$50. There was some discussion as to the reality that our location; Monte Vista Christian Church, is undergoing some construction and as a result we will be unable to use the kitchen. In fact, the kitchen appliances will be moved into the Meeting Area (Bethany Hall). Jim will be bringing hot plates to allow people to bring things. We voted to provide a meat and vegetarian lasagna. Kristen will do the shopping and will be compensated up to \$100. Jim scripted the agenda. Tom will chair the meeting and Ally will run the 50/50 raffle. Michael W., the Central Office coordinator was asked to speak on behalf of Central Office. Francisco suggested that we make copies of How We Work available at the Speaker Meeting.

14. NEW BUSINESS:

- **Alternate DCM** – Kristen nominated Rich for Alt DCM. He had a provision that Mary Jo would take over as PI/CPC chair which she agreed. Rich mentioned that he did talk with Dave who said he was still interested in the position as well but he was not able to attend today and suggested that should be taken into consideration. Rich stood for disapproval, hearing none, he is our new Alt DCM. ☺

- **Next MEETING** - Due to the next meeting, we voted to change the next meeting of the District meeting to September 15th at 10am.

- **ASSEMBLY HOSTING** – Tom asked if we wanted to start thinking about hosting the December 2013 Assembly as we would have to start thinking about it now and book the location prior to putting in the bid at the Assembly this December in Carlsbad. Jim suggested that we form an Assembly Committee at the next meeting.

- **Group Announcements** – Steve R. announced that the Saturday Night Alive group is having a Labor Day Extravaganza at the Desert Club on September 1st starting at 8pm. Ally T. announced that Straight Pepper Diet is having a group Inventory on August 17th at 7pm on St Mark's on the Mesa Church.

- **ELF Suggestions** – No suggestions at this time.

Jim closed the meeting with the Serenity Prayer at 11:28am. The next meeting will be held at St. Thomas of Canterbury Church at 10am on September 15th. Please join us!