Group Conscience meeting 7/21/2021

Host: Courtney S.

Guests: Peter F., Bob R., Donna H., Martin B., Diane B., Fred S., Joshua F., Robert F., Bruce D., Jane G., Robin H., and Dan W.

**We reviewed the minutes of June 16, 2021**. No changes.

**Treasurer’s report**: (Peter C and Peter F)

Peter C. emailed the budget to Courtney, as Peter C. unable to attend today. Courtney presented the budget, which was reviewed and approved. Th annual cost for our web site is $1,141.18, hence the SRG “prudent reserve” is $1200.00 – this amount is held back in reserve, which is one-year expenses (consistent with AA recommendation). Courtney reviewed the items, there are two changes: (1) the “secular meetings” domain has been canceled (had been $28 per annum); the web site <https://secularrecoverygroup.org> continues, and (2) one addition is “Flatsome theme builder,” necessary to help run the web site efficiently and quickly – this is $61.00 annually, so there is a $33.00 net gain annually.

The current budget was reviewed and approved.

**Old business**:

1. Time of shares: we revisited this, as some attendees speak longer than the “suggested” 3-to-5-minute time limit. The Sober She Devils announces at onset of meeting that 3 minutes is the time share limit, and at 30 seconds the timekeeper gives a 30 second notice. That works well for that group. Discussion ensued as to how to facilitate people sharing openly, honestly, and within the recommended time parameters. All agreed that some people, for example, those very early in recovery, or returning from a relapse, or who are experiencing a particular difficult time, may well need more than 3 minutes – in those situations, hosts make a concerted effort to be compassionate in time sharing and allowing those people to share beyond the recommended time limit.

Further discussion ensued as to how the host/co-host can “gently and kindly” limit a person who is sharing beyond the 3 to 5 minutes. One suggestion is that there be a formal “timer,” (or co-host, if no “formal timer”) whose responsibility it is to notify the speaker that the 3 minutes are up and to “wrap it up.” Another suggestion was that after the 3 minutes, the timer or co-host announces that the speaker has up to one minute to “wrap it up.” Further discussion ensued as to what to do if the speaker continues sharing beyond those limits. Some groups in England hold up a “yellow card” at 3 minutes, indicating to “wrap it up;” however, not every person who shares can see the host holding the card.

***The group consensus was:*** *Marty will email Dan W the exact wording to be included in the minutes of this meeting and in interim, the hosts will announce at the beginning of the meeting that we are asking people to share for no more than 3 minutes; at the end of the 3-minute mark, if the speaker is still sharing, the timer or co-host will announce that 3 minutes are up and the speaker has up to one minute to “wrap it up,” and if the speaker talks beyond that, it is up to the moderator to intercede*. This announcement will be done after the 7th tradition announcement and the beginning of the “reading of the day.” We agreed to do this for one month and see how it pans out.

Another member suggested that somewhere in opening remarks, that the host state that “if people feel a need to share more in-depth, please stick around for the “mtg after the mtg,” the 30 minutes after the top of the hour, or talk with your sponsor, trusted friend, therapist, partner, etc.

(**Secretary note of 7/31/2021**: Marty B did email Dan W with the suggested wording of the “time share” announcement, and this is what Dan W has included, beginning August 6, in the Friday and Saturday SRG screen share, between the 7th tradition announcement and the “top of the hour” this is posted and announced: “We ask that you limit your sharing to 4 minutes. After 3 minutes, our timer will announce that you have 1 minute remaining. At that point, please wrap up your share.”

Until the groups have a “formal timer,” the co-host will be the timer. If after 4 minutes, the person is still sharing, the host will intercede if indicated (meaning, nothing “urgent” is being shared)

2. IT backup – no change

3**.** Input is needed from SRG members for the newsletter – “any news worthy of secular information”. The newsletter goes out to over 1500 people.

4. Additional host/co-hosts are needed: Peter F. is willing to cohost some of the time, depending on his travel schedule. Marty offered to co-host Mondays once time change occurs in Hawaii (in November). Robert F. offered to be backup co-host.

**New Business**

1. Due to lots of interest and requests, we are hoping to start an SRG Monday meeting at noon EST. (**Secretary note of 7/31/2021**: this meeting has now started, effective July 26, log in information can be found on our website. Courtney will start as host, with the understanding that another member will “step up” and take over hosting; Bob R. will co-host the Monday meeting).

2. Fred S. said he wants to “crowd source” a book on alcoholism, getting SRG members to contribute to a book as a revenue source, as a “sort of a wisdom from drunks.” One member expressed concern that there are many books like that already. No further discussion ensued - Fred said he would proceed on his own. Two others (after Fred left), expressed ambivalence about it “both pros and cons.” No consensus was reached regarding his request.

Submitted in service

Dan W.