

## Unapproved DRAFT minutes for July 10<sup>th</sup> 2014 District 18 business meeting

Thank you Greeters: *Mike & Derek!*

### Serenity Prayer (6:30)

**Introductions (6:35)** Our Alt-DCM Kevin chaired the meetings.  
33 members of AA were present for introductions.

**Welcome New GSRs and Others (6:40)** New visitors, GSRs, and Alt-GSRs attended from several meetings:

A member shared that today they celebrated 12 years in service and sobriety.

### Introduction and Announcements (Alt-DCM (Kevin) 6:48)

- Open Committee Chairs for 2013-14: Archives and Literature (until Jan 2015)
- **July 19<sup>th</sup>: “Archives Alive”:** Beginning the Quest of Finding AA in the 60s & 70s; Presentations, followed by BBQ from 10-1pm. Archives Workshop @ 712 East 10th Street, Glencoe, MN
- **August 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>:** Keep it Simple Weekend (roundup) @ Camp Chicagami (South of Eveleth, MN; info on area36.org calendar)
- **August 9<sup>th</sup>:** Area Committee Meetings @ Best Western Hotel, 1111 Range St, Mankato, MN
- **August 14<sup>th</sup>:** District 18 Business Meeting & Group Records Blitz
- **September 11<sup>th</sup>:** District 18 Business Meeting
- **September 20<sup>th</sup>:** Area Inventory @ Wooddale Church, 6630 Shady Oak Rd., Eden Prairie, MN
- **September 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>:** Area 63 (So. Dak) Fall Conference @ Ramkota Best Western Inn 2111 N LaCrosse St., Sioux Falls, SD
- **October 9<sup>th</sup>:** District 18's Elections & Business Meeting
- **October 18<sup>th</sup>:** Area Election Assembly @ New Ulm Community Center, 600 N German St, New Ulm, MN 56073

Other Announcements: Change to Area Finance Policy (Alt-DCM)

### Discussion of Area Finance Policy change regarding the proposal for discussion at Area Committee Meetings:

GSR: my homegroup was confused about what precisely was being proposed and would like it re-written so that it can be clearly understood.

spirit of change, disagree: importance of general service

clarification: \$3100 would be saved.

GSR: language also confusing for them. Divided on what thought that it meant that affected opinion. Against it and would like it put forward again with additional information and in clearer language.

An Committee Chair: currently all officers and committee chairs are fully reimbursed at WSRC,

RUSc, Forum (everyother year). Proposal: don't reimburse (fund travel for) the Area Chair, and others... The Area Chair is responsible to create and sustain relationships with other areas and to make arrangements for area events. Also, Area Chair has for past two rotations become Alt Delegate or Delegate, so often this is part of their training. Not to send them is unwise, I think.  
Alt DCM- don't hear anyone saying that they are for this motion to be put forward. Agreement from the floor that we don't support this motion going forward.

### **Intergroup Report:**

Individuals and groups may contribute online now. Great experience with Intergroup hospitality suite at Gopher State

annual election at sss Board Meeting.

August 2<sup>nd</sup>: Unity open house! Check it out!

Sat Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> is the 2015 date for Gratitude Night. Speaker will be

Member question: What is the Sobriety Requirement to do an AA information talk?

### **GSR sharing: Problems & Successes**

Center City Hazelton people are coming to their meeting; this has been really exciting and the meeting have been great! (Liz)

Experience as GSR, pocket our pride (Gary)

Alt DCM: Pink can position needs an alternate.

Secretary: No minutes from June meeting (Because the Delegate's Report replaced our June meeting, it wasn't a business meeting, so only a memo of announcements was circulated by email). I still haven't finished March and April minutes. I apologize for the interruption to AA business that this may be causing. I will get both March and April minutes done and circulated as soon as I am able.

Treasurer: See Treasurer's Report (handed out at meeting)

### **Committee Chairpersons Reports: 3 minutes each (7:17)**

**CPC and PI** (Maggie) [d18publicinfo@gmail.com](mailto:d18publicinfo@gmail.com) work is rocking because the committee chairs within are doing great work. Pride was great D7 let us borrow a tent, great relationships are being forged with other districts.

Looking for AAI to do an event; chair and committee member are interested in getting trained to do these, so that they can start doing these. CPC breakfast: lots of activity; collaborating with D22.

Committee Funding Request: (being made now, because I need to leave early.) Every year we do a breakfast where professionals in the community are invited to come to breakfast and hear about AA. Total cost will be about \$1400.

Marketing, rent, and ... 10-12 per plate; hoping to triple numbers from last year. \$750. Total committee expenses to date = 333.73 (out of 2,000 for annual budget). Last year we contributed \$300 towardsthe event. 22 usually has more money than us, but last time we didn't pay 50%.

First come, first served is how we do it now. Last time we had 50 people attend. This time we want 150 professionals to be at the breakfast.

**Motion:** That D18 contribute \$750 for CPC breakfast: 25 of 26 voted for motion  
minority opinion: I believe it shouldn't cost so much

Discussion: committee chair: 5<sup>th</sup> meeting that I've attended; we are being very careful about costs and very well organized.

Send ideas for professionals to invite to Jason or Maggie (CPC).

No one wanted to change their vote based on minority opinion. **Motion passes.**

**Website/Newsletter** (Sarah): [d18newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:d18newsletter@gmail.com) ; [d18webchair@gmail.com](mailto:d18webchair@gmail.com) web is updated; June newsletter is done and on tables and online.

**Grapevine Flow:** 612-374-2491 (no email access) A great reminder that Grapevine Inc. is the publisher of a great deal of literature that AA members and groups use on a regular basis. Pamphlets, books, online information, as well as the grapevine and La Vina. Much more than a meeting in print.

**Group Records:** [d18grouprecords@gmail.com](mailto:d18grouprecords@gmail.com) 243 meeting listings; some have moved, merged, disbanded, etc.

90 meetings are listed with both Intergroup and our list. We know these meetings exist. Wondering how to proceed. Shall we do some group outreach and go out to these meetings so that we can get the majority of these completed?

Used the Intergroup website to identify all meetings that are listed in both GSO and Intergroup. So now we know that there are 90 meetings that are the "definitely active" groups, of the 243 that are listed with GSO. For all of these groups, he updated the information from the intergroup website about type of meeting (open/closed; mixed/men/women; size of group, etc.) So now all is needed for these meetings is updated contact information.

Suggest that there are two ways to proceed:

1. Go from District side to do group outreach and at the same time get updated contact information for these groups.
2. Some meetings are listed with Intergroup, but not District. We may want to do outreach to those groups as well.

Asked for information about how the listings with Intergroup and Area 36 and GSO.

Point of information: A group can inform Intergroup that they want to be listed. This is different from what we get from GSO, which has a larger (or smaller?) list of active and possibly inactive meetings. The idea of this inventory/outreach is to confirm that inactive meetings are indeed inactive. This means that we also need to somehow do this.

Area Chair asked intergroup rep whether Intergroup gets list from GSO.

Alt-DCM requested that all AA members offer their assistance to our Group Records Chair so that we can get this done.

**RC/SN:** [d18remotecommspecialneeds@gmail.com](mailto:d18remotecommspecialneeds@gmail.com) report attached. In may approved expenditure for \$164. Library said didn't want braille or foreign languages. Braille library only wanted one copy of the items that they didn't already have (very big books and limited space). Spent \$120 and D7 contributed to this, so full final cost was \$76.40

**Treatment:** [d18treatmentfacilities@gmail.com](mailto:d18treatmentfacilities@gmail.com) Haven't had a lot of new requests. Is looking for people to join his committee. 173 treatment services in our District. Micha house commitment being taken over by Shoulder to Shoulder group so chair is turning attention to Detox.

Corrections (Rhoda); [d18corrections@gmail.com](mailto:d18corrections@gmail.com) And Finance (Mike C.); [d18finance@gmail.com](mailto:d18finance@gmail.com) Were absent; no reports.

### **“What service means to me”**

Carla N. from Bridge to Shore was asked to share “What service means to me” (invited speaker wasn't able to attend: She discussed the importance of the 3 Legacies in her life: the steps help to grow individually, the traditions teach me to play well to others, and unity teaches me how to work collectively. How do I take what I've learned through my program into family, workplace, community organizations, church, and other communities?)

Service has saved my keester numerous times; has helped me walk through two experiences as a long term care giver. Service rocks my program!

### **Concept 7: Malcolm**

#### **Group Records Update (Drew; 5 mins)**

#### **Reimbursement Policy Review & Archivist funding request (Treasurer; 8 mins)**

Cliffhanger at last meeting. We didn't have very much information about the Archivist request for reimbursement of funds for travel to the Big Book celebration last spring. What our treasurer learned is that what our Archivist had submitted following the event (\$213 including mileage and lodging) to bring Archives to the Event were beyond what D18 had pledged to support the event (\$200 to support activities). D18 group conscience last month was that the Funds would not be reimbursed until we had information about that, and now we have that information. It was above what we had pledged for the event. The decision that is now before D18 is whether we will reimburse the Archivist as an additional expense above what we had pledged. An additional addendum to this story is that the Big Book Anniversary Celebration Committee didn't use the full \$200 that we pledged. They refunded us \$103.02. Question before us: Are we ok with reimbursing the \$213 Archivist expense. It would be about \$96.98 above what we had originally pledged.

(Secretary's note: At the last meeting there was discussion about whether we should reimburse the expense and there were numerous members who felt that if it was to come out of the \$200 we had already pledged, that we would reimburse the expense, but if not, further conversation would be needed.)

The treasurer is further asking for guidance from D18 about what to do because the finance policy and budget don't provide him with enough information about how to handle funding requests from the Archivist and how the Archivist position is funded. There is ambiguity that he doesn't feel comfortable interpreting, because he is the treasurer and it isn't within his job description to interpret policy at this level. Background: Last rotation the Archivist position was created and when it was created there was some kind of commitment that it would be funded, but there isn't any record of this. Thus there is no guidance for the treasurer to reimburse funds: there are no numbers or direction about this. Basically, there is a position that needs a budget to carry out some activities, but there is no budget for it and no guidance about what kind of a budget should be allocated by district for the archivist's activities. As treasurer he has found this challenging, especially with a large expense reimbursement request. He is not comfortable going forward with this without guidance. There is no item in the 2014 budget to cover the expenses of the Archivist position. He is looking for guidance. Treasurer personally thinks that the role does very important work that would not otherwise be done, and that the Twin Cities archives are the largest archives outside of New York. Further, that the individual filling the position, Ken, does an amazing job.

What I've done with mileage requests to date is that I take it out of "committee" funds. My rationale is that the Archivist is by default the Archives chair. I'm no longer comfortable with making the decision to do that. It hasn't to date been an issue, because we have had money to do this, but this is also shifting with recent larger requests for Committee funds.

Another issue is that the Archivist (Archives Chair) has not been requesting funds in advance to spending the money (funding requests) as other committees have been doing, and as is required by our present financial policy.

Discussion: Some questions about why Ken isn't actually the archives chair (elected position), if that is what he is in fact doing and what the job description says about all of this.

There is, in fact, a position description that the Archivist authored and that was approved by District 18. It does say that the position is funded for several items, but it doesn't say how much as with other items in the finance policy and position descriptions for other Committees and Officers. Request from GSR for there to be a position description circulated. Q: Is the position discussed in the finance policy? No.

GSR: During this rotation we haven't had an Archives chair, so we need a budget for that committee and then we could simply reimburse to that amount. We can determine a budget for the Archivist.

Treasurer asks for clarification: is what you are saying that Ken and others involved could come up with a budget based on what they consider reasonable expenses and put that into our 2015

budget/financial policy. GSR: Yes, but I'm also saying that a committee chair was supposed to be part of that decision-making process, as checks and balances, and since we haven't had a committee chair, this hasn't been done. The context of the Archivist is that there was to be a committee involved.

Treasurer: The job description does say that if there isn't an Archives chair, then the Archivist is by default the Chair.

Archivist is a D18 job? Yes. The 2012 job description was read into the record.

GSR: It sounds like the position exists, but there is no budget item that funds the position. Yes. The 2014 budget was passed without funds for the archivist, and it wasn't discussed.

Question: Shouldn't it just come out of the Archivist committee funds, since he is by default the archivist? Yes, but this hasn't been coming before D18 as a budget request, and I'm not comfortable continuing to pay these without D18 direction, nor to make this call on my own. That's why I'm asking for discussion and clarification. Should the archivist

**Motion (Sarah S.) to pay Ken the amount requested for reimbursement (seconded). 26 people to vote.**

Discussion:

Archivist: I have seen in the minutes from when the position was created, that there is information in the minutes about how to fund the archivist position; it has already been discussed. The archivist was looking for reimbursement to attend Area Committee meetings, travel to workdays at archives repository in Glenco. We know the amount, because we know how many miles that is; and that constitutes the budget. Also, I was not consulted about the Archivist budget for 2014, nor is there an Archivist report, and I am in fact the archivist, but I have not been asked to give an archives report, so I haven't. Therefore, we have to get rid of this motion.

Committee Chair Question: Do you want to get rid of this motion because we have already committed

to reimburse you, so you don't want us to vote on it? Archivist: Yes.

Committee Chair: When we changed the financial policy so that committee chairs now request funds from a pool, rather than having individual budgets, was this addressed in the policy specifically?

Treasurer: no, not the archivist. Chair: But isn't archives chair (which archivist is by default) supposed to make the same kinds of requests as the other chairs? Is this basically a grey area? Treasurer: Yes, it is ambiguous, it didn't come up when we were redrafting the policy, and there wasn't anything in the policy before, so there isn't any direction for how to deal with this kind of a situation.

Vote: 26 for: 3 against.

Motion on the floor: Reimburse the Archivist/Archives Chair the amount requested.

Minority Opinion: 1) I voted against, because Ken asked that we not vote for it, and I figure he knows more about it than I do; I feel like there isn't clarity about what is being voted on, so I decided not to vote for it. Another comment from floor that also unclear why we were doing this, because she thinks that the financial policy covers this just fine. Treasurer: Actually, this is unclear to me, that is why I am asking for clarification. I do not see clarity in the financial policy on what to do in this situation and where to take the expense from in the budget, especially since if I am to consider this a committee request-- there was no request to D18 for a committee funding request, as IS stated in the financial policy.

I have a point of information I'd like to share about this: When we passed the financial policy, we looked at the committees and we decided that we were going to split the money between the committees on a first come, first served basis. However, we did not look at the archivist position job description, and we did not acknowledge in the financial policy that we had agreed to budget that position. We didn't put it in there separately, so we need to do that now, so that we don't need to do this again.

Now we need a motion to re-vote. Motion made and seconded. Motion to re-vote on motion passed. 14 voted to revote, so motion passes by majority.

**Re-Vote on Motion (GSR): To reimburse the Archivist/Archives Chair the amount requested.**

There was an "interim motion" to table further discussion on the archives position funding until our next meeting. Discussion: Does that insure that this will be on the agenda soon? Yes, it will be in new business at our next meeting.

**Vote was unanimous**, to table further discussion on the archives position funding until our next meeting.

**Request for Volunteers for next meeting (8:30):**

Liz and Brian agreed to Greet

Chad agreed to do Concept 8

Malcolm agreed to do GSR report

8:31: Meeting closed with the responsibility statement.