

Unapproved Minutes for District 18 Business Meeting: April 14, 2016: 6:30-8:30pm

Location: Plymouth Congregational Church 1900 Nicollet Ave Mpls MN 55403



Greeters: *Malcolm and Flow*

1. **Serenity Prayer (6:30)**
2. **Introductions (6:32)**
3. **Welcome New GSRs and Others (6:40)**
4. **Intergroup Liaison Report – Jim R., District 18 Intergroup Liaison (6:42)** May 7th and May 14th after orientation meeting there is an outreach program from 11:15 to 11:45am. We will be going out to meetings and checking to see if meetings are still active and see if they can get them active within the area. At 412 5th Avenue North. / Intergroup cash position: group contributions 3% over budget, expenses under budget. St Paul office has moved. New business cards reflect the change.
Unity Open House in August 18th, 9 am – 1 pm
Proposal to shorten registration delay of new groups to 3 months, Board decided to leave it at 6 months.
Looking for groups to take shifts at our Hospitality Suite at Gopher State
5. **Introduction and Announcements (District Committee Member (Kevin) 6:47)**

Open Committee Chairs: Finance, Literature, Newsletter, Web Chair

- **April 17th-23rd 65th Annual General Service Conference**, New York NY
- **April 30th Archives Alive #6**, Area 36 Archive Repository, 712 E. 10th St. Glencoe MN (10am speakers / 12pm Potluck BBQ) **Covering history of Grapevine Magazine.**
- **May 14th Area Committee Meeting**, Best Western Hwy 169, North Mankato MN (9:30-11:30 , 1-5 pm)
- **May 27 - 29th Gopher State Roundup**, Doubletree Bloomington Hotel, 7800 Normandale Blvd. Bloomington MN 55439 (4 pm Friday – 11:30 am Sunday)
- **June 25th Area Assembly**, New Ulm Community Center, 600 N. German St., New Ulm MN 56073 (9 – 5)

6. **GSR Sharing (6:52)**

Pocket Our Pride: our business meeting attendance doubled after we did a group inventory and now we have a new GSR and Alt GSR. We did our inventory in place of a regular meeting. Our inventory was a team building experience. A lot of frustration was expressed. Processing it well afterwards is a must.

Joy (Sahara 4:30 on Friday) How are business meetings handled? We don't have a set time. Hard to do before, and there's another meeting right after.

Charlie (Sahara 7:30 Thurs,) same situation, bracketed by meetings.

Dave (Rock Solid Sahara Mon 8) Curran's is a great place to have a business meeting. They have private rooms and have been serving AA community for 20 years. Let them know what you need and they'll accommodate you.

Flow (Central Pacific) Would D18 take a survey, with Group Records, and find out how many groups have GSRs, Intergroup Reps, Grapevine/LaVina Reps. How often do they have business meetings or inventories?

7. **Officer's Reports (7:00)**

- a. **District Committee Member (Kevin); d18dcm@gmail.com** (3 minutes)
GSO keeps AA together. If my grandson needs AA, we need it to be here and available for him.

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And that's why we need the GSO. If you can say something to your meetings about this, that would be great and help people understand the importance.

- b. **Alternate DCM** (Riki); d18AltDCM@gmail.com (3 minutes) Attended the Delegates Workshop. Worked with Group records and a booth with CPC. Seeking ideas from meetings and members for themes for the District 18 Workshop this year for 2016???
- c. **Secretary** (Brad); d18secretary@gmail.com (3 minutes)
March Minutes--- Moved by Flow, seconded by Ryan. **Approved 26-0.**
- d. **Treasurer** (Jason); d18treasurer@gmail.com (3 minutes) For March, contributions \$179.75, expenses \$1031.13. We currently have \$1261.00 in our operating budget OVER the maximum amount stated in the Finance Policy.

8. Committee Chairpersons (7:09)

- a. **Archives** (Elaine), Archivist- (Ken R); d18archives@gmail.com Area invites Groups to bring their history and archives to the Archives in Glencoe, and they will be shown how to archive their stuff. D18 has over a million documents there, over 10% of the Archives. We'll ask for RSVPs, and have people there to help. Archivist Paul H. has done a really good job of taking care of our really old and decaying documents.
- b. **Corrections** (Derek E.); d18corrections@gmail.com
- c. **Finance** (Open); d18finance@gmail.com
- d. **Grapevine** (Flow); d18grapevine@gmail.com 612-374-2491 (DCM will check and let Flow know)
New Project: "Way to Grow" about how groups can contribute to overall process of AA and how we can fulfill our primary purpose. Projects that groups can take on themselves.
- e. **Group Records** (Don) d18grouprecords@gmail.com May have another committee member!
Has been hanging out with Area Group Records Chair and cleaning up the website. Trying to consolidate all Group Records into D18 gmail account.
- f. **Literature** (Open); d18literature@gmail.com
- g. **Newsletter** (Open); d18newsletter@gmail.com
- h. **Public Information/CPC** (Sarah); d18publicinfo@gmail.com
My committee is meeting and reading the guidelines for this committee. Have had multiple requests to contribute money to PSAs. Need an Alt Chair to attend ACMs and sit in on one of the meetings since Sarah can't sit in both.
- i. **Special Needs/Accessibilities** (Troy); d18specialneedsaccess@gmail.com Deaf Awareness Day April 23rd, 8-4, need volunteers for 1 ½ hour shifts. North High School.
- j. **Treatment** (Pierre); d18treatmentfacilities@gmail.com
- k. **Website** (Open); d18webchair@gmail.com

9. **Concept 4: Ken R. (7:23)** Right of Participation, in accordance with your position. So can't go to GSC unless you are Delegate. I go to Concepts to get information on historical angle on AA's successes. Just to see what questions have been asked over and over, what has been tried repeatedly by others.

10. Feasibility Study – 7th Tradition Support for GSO (7:28) Jeanne H. – Secretary Area 36th Southern Minnesota

The feasibility study has been surprising, because we don't seem to get a lot of communication from GSO. The various Boards don't seem to talk to each other much. So for them to distribute this study and ask for feedback and ideas from all the areas is really different.

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There has been a disconnect between GSO and the groups for some time. It's hard to keep our group contact information up to date and accurate. I believe that a lot of this disconnect starts with us at the local level. We are the ones that can start to fix this. Only groups with accurate contacts can be kept in the loop. Apathy in AA: people do projects, but don't know what other people are doing. This study points out the communication problems, both internal and external. Also, that the GSO might be doing our 12th Step Work for us.

AAWS is our publishing arm, and if we aren't supporting them through book sales. then book publishing will suffer. Self Support for GSO: it begins with me. Birthday Plan!! If your district is flush, then maybe send your district birthday money to GSO. How do we know what to spend our money on if the groups aren't participating and letting us know what they want/need? How does GSO know what we want/need if communication is suffering? Delegates at GSC will be brainstorming ideas in response to this study. As we discuss this, ideas will come forward. Some may be big, like moving GSO location, or GSC locations. We are not in panic mode, but need to be aware and looking to the future.

Can buy directly from GSO!

Can have local PSAs instead of relying on GSO to do them. What can we step up and do for ourselves?

11. Old Business (7:38)

a. **This Simple Program literature proposal for District approval and possible future General Service Conference item. (Donn)**

Proposal: have these QR codes posted on AA.org, and possibly other entity websites, so that these would be available for download by groups to display on their literature tables.

Confusion expressed about the codes

Concern about encouraging digital purchases instead of physical copies directly from GSO.

You can get an AA E-reader and download e-copies direct from AA.org

--- But the reader is horrible and keeps crashing!

Proposal is for GSO to figure out which links they want to promote, and promote more digital sales by giving a tool to groups to display at their meetings.

You can download Big Book for free.

New tech and market forces are affecting AA and decreasing the amount of money we can bring in. We need to get people farther down the chain to think about these things.

Motion: Sarah: D18 prints a complete list of QR codes, laminates them, and let groups take them at their discretion.

Seconded by Donn.

Discussion:

Could there be a link for downloading a code reader?

Is this premature? Shouldn't we have an idea of the money involved?

Put it on the website, make it available. Print sure. But laminate just to spend money? No.

Against it-- I don't think people will use it.

Lamination will protect it from getting destroyed.

Our group's original intent was just to have it put on the websites.

Vote: 3 in favor, 24 opposed

Minority opinion: if we can get the message out easier, then that's good

Motion does not pass

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12. New Business (7:48)

a. Biltmore Group – Literature Proposal - AA Directories for the Hennepin County DWI Court - \$150
Revisit next month with more details.

b. **Literature Purchase for Eden House** – Paul

Paul is paying out of pocket for big books. No written proposal yet. Revisit next month.

c. **Big Book Purchase for NuWay House II Men's Sober Living**--- 35 Books for \$346.50 (Dave J.)

From Treatment Committee, for Big Book Study meeting there. Sober houses that have government funding are not allowed to bring God in, so they ask outside people to bring in meetings and books. Once present, they can maintain the number present if taken.

Treatment committee is on board, so motion already seconded.

Discussion:

NuWay is an outside entity. To bring our own books is OK, but to buy for them presents an issue?

Historically we have purchased books for entities that have 12 step programs. Once given, they belong to that entity. Do not mark them as D18.

26 in favor, 1 opposed.

Motion passes

13. GSR Highlights: Patrick (8:26)

14. Request for Volunteers for next meeting (8:17): Greeters (Malcolm & Dennis); Concept 5 (Donn);

GSR Highlights (Sarah)

15. Closing: “Responsibility Statement” (8:29)