

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

Location: Plymouth Congregational Church 1900 Nicollet Ave Mpls MN 55403

Greeters: (Don)

- 1. Serenity Prayer (6:30)**
- 2. Introductions (6:32)** 30 Attendees
- 3. Welcome New GSRs and Others (6:40)** Musa (& Abdi) – South East AA, Peter 2218, Abby Mon-Grace
- 4. Intergroup Liaison Report – Jim R., District 18 Intergroup Liaison (6:42)**
 - Unity Open House was a great success. 4 new people came who had never gone to Intergroup.
 - Announced “How to Sponsor your Professional” talks.
 - Board Elections on 9/22 at Mpls Intergroup; 5 positions open. Application Deadline is 9/9/16 but people have been nominated from the floor, so people can come and stand for IG Board seats.
 - Group contributions at GSO are down, possibly due to literature sales.
- 5. Introduction and Announcements (Interim District Committee Member (Riki) 6:47)**
 - **Open Committee Chairs:** Newsletter, Treatment
 - **September 10th Area 36 Inventory**, Bethel Lutheran, Northfield MN (9 - 12 pm)
 - **September 17th CPC District Workshop** – How to Sponsor Your Professional
Mizpah United Church of Christ 412 5th Ave N Hopkins, MN 55343 11:30 – 1:30 Lunch provided
 - **September 24th Concept Study** Third Tradition Group, 416 Odd Fellows Lane, Northfield MN 55057
Concept Nine 10:30 – 12:30
 - **October 8th - Archives Alive #8** Area 36 Archive, Glencoe MN (10am – 12) Potluck BBQ to follow
 - **October 15th Area Assembly**, Hutchinson Event Center, Hutchinson MN (9:00 – 5:00pm)
 - Area Officer Elections & Voting on Budget
 - **October 29th CPC District Workshop** – How to Sponsor Your Professional
Christ Lutheran Church 11194 36th St N. Lake Elmo MN 55042
 - **November 15th District 13/18 CPC Breakfast**
 - **November 5th District 8/18 Workshop** – The Three Ts of Tradition 7
Holy Cross Lutheran Church - 1720 E Minnehaha Pkwy, Minneapolis, MN 55407 (9 -1)
 - **December 3rd Area Committee Meeting**, Best Western Hwy 169, North Mankato MN (9:30-11:30 , 1-5 pm)
 - **Ron P.** passed away - He was the first DCM of District 18.
- 6. GSR Sharing (6:52)**
 - Flo – First ever Grapevine workshop in Area 36 was a great success.
 - Jeanette (Continuous Action) – Business meeting yesterday, meeting is growing, struggling to find a good time for business meetings. All are welcome, and we do Fellowship after every meeting!

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- Charlie – There was a policy change at the Sahara Club. Seeking suggestions and experience from other GSRs; The Alano is asking for 90% of each group's 7th tradition funds. Reply: Sahara is not an Alano. It is an AA club. GSR:: There are people with experience in these matters in District and Area.

7. Officer's Reports (6:57)

a. Interim DCM (Riki); d18dcm@gmail.com (3 minutes)

- Area 36 is voting on the 2017 Area Budget at the next meeting.
- 2016 Conference Report – can be found at Area 36 events
- Group Outreach- Visited 14 groups these past 2 months

Proposal – Increase District 18's funding for the joint workshop to \$400.

- This request is \$100 above the current budgeted amount. The joint committee agreed to have each District (8 & 18) approve an additional \$100. Potential total cost of entire workshop would be \$800 vs. \$600. For Against

Discussion: Matt - Why is it going to cost more? Answer- ASL interpretation;
\$320/rent/printing/paper. Malcolm - great idea

Vote - Favor 20 to Against 1

Minority Opinion (Dave J): You should stick to the budget in order to be prudent
No motion to rescind after hearing minority opinion

b. Alternate DCM (Open); d18AltDCM@gmail.com (3 minutes)

c. Secretary (Brad); d18secretary@gmail.com (3 minutes) approved minutes; no objections

d. Treasurer (Jason); d18treasurer@gmail.com (3 minutes): Doing well, our operating fund is within our financial policy for the first time in years.

8. Concept 9 (Karl) 7:09 How we elect people to service positions in AA. We need to be very careful as to how and whom we choose. When seeking good leaders, ask “what are your motives?”.

- If someone is planning to stand they should understand the responsibilities of the position; what is being expected; what are the duties. Both responsibility & accountability should always be considered.
- When you decide to stand for a service position:
 - Are you willing to be held accountable when other AA members question your actions?
 - Will you invite people to hold you accountable?

General qualities of a good leader - What actions have they taken in the past? Do they invite innovation?

Do they seek outside input from other's experience? Do they have the humility to ask for help? Are they

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willing to consider compromise as a solution?

9. DCM Vacancy Discussion (7:14) (Moderated by Karl R. - Area 36 Treasurer) I will be facilitating your discussion. There are two options to consider:

1. Alt DCM becomes DCM through December -or-
2. Elect a new DCM for 3.5 months, until the end of this rotation

An Alt DCM duties include showing up where the DCM cannot, P33 SM Backup of the DCM

Flo - I would like Riki to be DCM until the End of this Rotation (EoR). But what about Alt DCM? We need an Alt DCM to take over Riki's duties. Alt DCM should be elected by District or appointed by DCM.

A- That decision is up to the District.

Q: Dave: would Riki rotate out at EoR?

A: Riki could be re-elected in November for next rotation.

Kristin: What about voting in a DCM early? Is that an option? A- By-laws dictate elections are in Nov.

Dave: Can't we leave it as is?

Jeanette: I'd like to hear from the committee whether they have the capacity to work together and are comfortable not having an Alt-DCM.

Motion (Jason): Have Riki be DCM through Dec. and she can then stand for election in Nov. No Alt will be elected until November. Donn- Why do we need a motion? (Jason): Our By-laws.

Flo: **Amendment** - Riki should designate an Alt. Malcolm: 2nd Flo's amendment. Vote: In favor - 1

Opposed - 20. **Amendment fails.** Donn **Calls question.** **Vote on Original Motion:** Favor - 21 to opposed

- 0 **Motion Passes**

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10. Committee Chairpersons (7:29) (2 minutes each)

- a. **Archives** (Patrick), Archivist- (Ken R); d18archives@gmail.com not present
- b. **Corrections** (Derek E.); d18corrections@gmail.com not present
- c. **Finance** (Charlie); d18finance@gmail.com defer to Finance Policy discussion.
- d. **Grapevine** (Flow); d18grapevine@gmail.com 612-374-2491 (DCM will check and let Flow know)
Evaluation forms from the Grapevine workshop are being analyzed. Details will be forthcoming.
- e. **Group Records** (Don) d18grouprecords@gmail.com We have 143 groups on file in D18. We know that we have current information on 59% of them. Intergroup has 88 groups that are not in the GSO files we are working with. We are working to visit these groups to get them registered with GSO. We have visited 18 of these groups so far.
- f. **Literature** (Matt); d18literature@gmail.com new; no report
- g. **Newsletter** (Open); d18newsletter@gmail.com
- h. **Public Information/CPC** (Sarah); d18publicinfo@gmail.com Betsy made report for Sarah: Working with D13 on CPC Breakfast. It will be on Tues Nov. 15th. Location and flyers TBA. This is for professionals to learn about AA. Physicians, clergy, court officials, police officers, dentists, lawyers, etc.
- i. **Special Needs/Accessibilities** 5 min (Troy); d18specialneedsaccess@gmail.com
We are alternating with D7 for paying for ASL at Area Accessibility Committee Meeting. We paid for August, and rate has increased due to different interpreters. D7 is going to pay for Dec ACM. \$40 needed for subcommittee meeting interpreter to talk to different deaf alcoholics
1 time expense Answer: That does not need to go to the floor; this is below \$100 and so you can bring to the DCM.
Proposal: To change the District Committee name to just “Accessibilities.” The General Service Conference and Area 36 Committee Meeting has approved the name change. The Committee would like the District to do the same thing. This would also include the creation of a new District email the previous email will be forwarded to the new one.
Motion: Flow. **2nd:** Don. **No Discussion. Motion passes unanimously,**
- j. **Treatment** (Dave - temp); d18treatmentfacilities@gmail.com No report.
- k. **Website** (Donn); d18webchair@gmail.com The website layout has changed. Analytics are generic. Our bounce rate is 40%. Two people looked at the minutes on the web.

11. New District 18 Finance Policy Proposed Changes - Charlie (7:52)

- a. **Low Impact Changes** – 9 changes that don’t impact policy, but clean up wording. Changes of this nature are defined as low impact because they have a limited bearing on the direction of the policy. Mostly these changes are spelling errors, changes in phrasing, or something of the sort.
See Finance document (Appendix I) for list of “low impact” changes:

Motion: Flo: **vote as a batch.** **2nd:** Don. **Discussion:** Any opposition? **Question:** Dave - Does this include the cash card? A: no **Vote:** In favor 19 Opposed 0. **Motion Passes.**

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- b. Signature Authority Change:** Remove Secretary from authorized signatures at bank; on checks.

Authorized signatures on District 18 bank accounts will include the Treasurer, DCM, and Alt DCM. Previous finance policy indicated that the secretary and not the DCM would be signers. See Finance document for details.

Discussion: Karl – What is the reasoning behind the change? A: Secretary duties are not financial.

Vote: In favor - 18 Opposed - 0. **Motion Passes**

- c. Debit Card Use:** Debit cards will now be allowed for the purpose of ATM deposits and payments requiring their use. The use of debit cards will be accompanied by access to online banking for the account signatories as a measure of checks and balances. *See Finance document for details.*

Discussion: Dave - Has there been any discussion about the option to destroy the card after writing down the card number so there is more control? Answer: Jason – I only use the card for deposits, not for cash. I get a receipt. I do not know why a treasurer would need to withdraw cash. Donn - Writing down the card doesn't solve that much.

Vote: In favor – 18 Opposed 3.

Minority Opinion: I think Dave said: I already gave it. I'll try to find notes on this; **Vote to re=vote:** In

favor to Rescind: - 12 Opposed to revoting 6. **Discussion:** Dave - In the past the Debit Card was abused. That is my concern. Betsy - Does the treasurer write checks? Answer: No, a check requires 2 signatures. Karl - Many things and services need a card to pay for those services.

Troy- Can we table this? Greg- Could there a be a “no cash withdrawal feature” assigned to a card?

Answer: Jason: - I can look into that. **Motion to Table:** refer back to committee. **Vote:** None opposed to motion. **Motion Tabled.**

- d. Excess Funds Ideas:** The following addition reflects the need to build a process by which money can't accumulate as it has over the past three plus years. In this section an automatic action must be

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considered by the group after two consecutive months over the finance policies operating budget. The following month (giving GSR's the chance to speak to their groups) votes will be cast in an effort to spend off excess funds. The change lists a four part hierarchy designed to be followed step by step. First, any immediate workshops should be considered. If funds remain after workshops the district would vote to purchase AA literature (second in hierarchy) and distribute as the group sees fit. Thirdly, the group would explore options for supporting grapevine/la vina. If any funds remain the final step in the hierarchy is to vote on contributing excess funds to entities determined by the district. See Finance document for details.

Discussion: Malcolm- This is fine. Flo = let's adopt this. Donn- Our group said "let District spend the money as they see fit. Vote: In favor - 20 Opposed - 1 **Minority Opinion:** Jeanette (Continuous Action) This takes away our opportunities for spiritual growth and doesn't make us address our problems as a district. **Vote to Re-vote:** Not enough. **Motion Passes.**

Treasurer Duties: See Finance document.

Discussion: Dave- Will the checking account be reconciled? **Answer:** The changes reflects a wording change. Transparency tools will be put in place. Donn - Are we keeping all these records from the last 7 years? **Vote:** In favor - 19 Opposed - 0 **Motion Passes.**

e. Budget & Expenditures sections not discussed. (Deferred to next meeting.)

Old Business (8:17)

a. District 18 Web Guidelines Discussion (Donn O.) *See Proposed Website Guidelines document.*

Proposal (Donn) Currently, there are no policies or guidelines in place to guide the Web Committee work; it is all left up to the Website Chair. The policy is being written so that the Website Committee can make changes to layout. However, the material/content on the website would still all be approved by the District. Also, I'm still looking for Committee members. **Discussion:** Flo – We need dual accessibilities on the web. **Answer:** Translation would currently be difficult and costly, but the tools we are using are "screen

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reader capable.” Riki: We’re out of time, I suggest that you take this to your groups to discuss. Troy: Font size could be bigger.

12. GSR Highlights (Malcolm) (8:26)

13. Request for Volunteers for next meeting (8:28): Greeters (Charlie & Dennis) Concept 10 (Malcolm)
GSR Highlights (Jeanette)

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

Appendix I. Finance Policy Supporting Document (for full text see Finance Policy August 2, 2016 proposed revisions.

Summary of changes

The purpose of this document is to summarize and reference the proposed changes to the district 18 finance policy.

Low Impact Changes:

Changes of this nature are defined as low impact because they have a limited bearing on the direction of the policy. Mostly these changes are spelling errors, changes in phrasing, or something of the sort. Below are the references for all “low impact” changes:

S. II

S. II, 3

S. IV

S. VIII, 4

S. VIII, 6

S. VIII

S. IX, 1

S. X, 10

S. X, 11, g

Signature authority:

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Authorized signatures on District 18 bank accounts will include the Treasurer, DCM, and Alt DCM. Previous finance policy indicated that the secretary and not the DCM would be signers. Referenced:

S. VIII, 5

Debit Card Use:

Debit cards will now be allowed for the purpose of ATM deposits and payments requiring their use. The use of debit cards will be accompanied by access to online banking for the account signatories as a measure of checks and balances. Reference:

S. VIII, 8 (and all subsections)

S. IX, 2

Treasurer duties:

The changes to Treasurer duties will eliminate redundant information provided in addition to the monthly Treasurer's report. In addition, bank documents older than 7 years will be destroyed while any other documents will be passed to area archives by the Treasurer.

S. IX, 6

S. IX, 7

S. X, 11, b

Excess fund ideas:

The following addition reflects the need to build a process by which money can't accumulate as it has over the past three plus years. In this section an automatic action must be considered by the group after two consecutive months over the finance policies operating budget. The following month (giving GSR's the chance to speak to their groups) votes will be cast in an effort to spend off excess funds. The change lists a four part hierarchy designed to be followed step by step. First, any immediate workshops should be considered. If funds remain after workshops the district would vote to purchase AA literature (second in hierarchy) and distribute as the group sees fit. Thirdly, the group would explore options for supporting grapevine/la vina. If any funds remain the final step in the hierarchy is to vote on contributing excess funds to entities determined by the district.

S. X, 4

Budget:

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Changes to the budget section of the policy reflect the district's decision to operate under a pooled budget.

S. XI, 8

S. XII, 5

S. XII, 6

S. XII, 8

S. XII, 11, I

Expenditures:

The change to the expenditures clause simplifies the voting process for unbudgeted costs.

S. XIII, 2

S.XIII, 3

S. XIII, 4

S. XIII, 5