

## Meeting Minutes

Task Force : Taking a Look at Area Meetings

### Conference Call #1: March 12, 2017 7:00 pm

1. Lucy opened with the Serenity Prayer at 7:00 pm
2. **General Discussion among members about Meeting Structure** – each person share: a. What works? b. What doesn't work? c. One idea for change?

General Discussion included structure of the weekend, if Assembly needs to be a weekend, why people come or don't come. Looking at a one-day meeting. Cindy discussed some confusion – because she thought Assembly was a one-day meeting. Some discussion of accommodating working people, including thinking about people who work on the weekends.

#### Task Force Thoughts:

\* Working members are accommodated: dates are planned well in advance, and people can plan ahead.

\* The website really works and helps with streamlined meetings

\* Learning how to communicate via Conference Call and on Task Forces has helped with growth in service

\* service has provided opportunities for personal growth.

\* Discussion of Roberts Rules vs KBDM and how positive the KBDM experience is once we get to know it and use it.

\* Timing (starting and ending on time) works really well

\* Friday night of Assembly does not work, seems like a waste

\* Not enough room at one's place setting during meetings (AWSC and Assembly) ; need more room, and ability to move around less conspicuously

\* Improve/change GR Orientation.

\* At the first AWSC add a DR Orientation

\* Dinners at AWSC are really great

\* Maybe start Assembly on Friday with an Al-Anon meeting at 8:00, more relaxed.

*Updated April 17, 2017*

3. **GIP discussion:** a. Rename. There has been some suggestion in surveys that people do not like the name. What about Growth Enhancing Member, or GEM? b. Some basic guidelines – not positive it is necessary, esp if Districts are in good communication with GIPs. But possibly creating some loose Area guidelines that can be on the website.

Keep any guidelines on GEM very simple and straightforward. Website encourages us to look there for information, so having something there may make sense.

4. Some discussion on how to proceed with research divided up among Task Force members. Meeting Research: a. What are the possibilities? b. What are the costs (financial and fellowship)? c. What do other Areas do? Improving Communication between Area, District, Group: ideas?

5. Tasks for next time.

Theresa – What are the possibilities?

Cindy – What are the costs (financial and fellowship)?

Doris – What do other Areas do? (Cindy will forward information from AFGConnects Chairperson group to Doris)

Lucy – Ideas for improving communication between Area, District Group.

6. Set up next Conference Call for Sunday April 9\* at 7:00 pm. Cindy will send out an invitation and an agenda prior to the call.
7. Doris closed with the Serenity Prayer at 8:05 pm

\*Note: We changed the Conference Call from April 9, 2017 to April 23, 2017.

### **Conference Call #2: April 23, 2017 7:00 pm**

8. Doris opened with the Serenity Prayer at 7:00 pm
9. Welcomed Diane C to the Task Force, and gave her a chance to ask questions and make sure she is caught up.
10. Task Force Focus on Cost of Area meetings:
  - Focused on two documents presented by Cindy.

*Updated April 17, 2017*

- One was average costs of Area Meetings – AWSC and Assembly. Discussion of process and how decisions are made. Also some general inertia – we do it this way because we’ve always done it this way.
- Costs rising, and its good to see if this is how we want to continue.
- What are the possibilities.
- Discussed some options for planning the meetings in a given year, and how to get business done in other ways.
- Discussed having a Webinar or Electronic Meeting whereby the Officers log on and show up at a District Meeting. So that people still have fellowship with others, but also participation by people from Area.

11. Tasks for next time.

- Lucy has created a document addressing improved communication between Area and District and Groups
- Doris – What do other Areas do? (Cindy will forward information from AFGConnects Chairperson group to Doris and all members of the TF)

12. Set up next Conference Call for Sunday June 4 at 7:00 pm. Cindy will send out an invitation and an agenda prior to the call.

13. Diane closed with the Serenity Prayer at 8:30 pm

**Conference Call #3 Sunday June 4, 2017 7:00 pm**

DIANE opened with Moment of Silence, followed by the Serenity Prayer

**Improving Communication**

Discussion topics:

- Focusing on Group Reps getting information to Groups
- Forwarding Area Coordinator reports to District Chairs
- Encouraging people to work on things prior to meetings
- Area communication to the DRs seems to be pretty good
- Electronic – we are nearly completely online in our Area
- There is sometimes more information than we can take in

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- Service Sponsorship would be really helpful – like mentors or experienced people to help make the Turnover more viable. Maybe encouraging past persons offering to be Service Sponsors.
- Guidelines for positions are available, and are flexible
- Break out on Saturday Assembly helping train for turning over – “how can I help the next person?”
- Helping each other person –to-person ... technology committee
- Inventory, or conversations, about how we run our meetings etc.
- Knowing a particular document exists (ie District Inventory, District Guidelines) helps us not have to reinvent the wheel.
- Sometimes just asking if what we’re doing is working is a good thing.

### **What do other Areas do?**

Discussion topics:

- Several different Areas and Districts are using electronic/conference calls for different meetings
- Sometimes that will require an upgrade for the service used (rather than just the free conference media)
- Sometimes people can Skype in – accommodations can happen
- D4 has had people Skype in to District meetings before
- Using Conference Calls before District Meetings has been helpful
- Face-to-Face meetings are mostly positive and helpful; some would prefer a combination like one F2F and one electronic.
- Options and conversations about doing things differently
- Electronic technologies are being used regularly and with good effect, and there are different things to consider using.

### **What are some options for our Area?**

- Some flexibility in creating contracts for the Area meetings – not three years at once
- One Area meeting affiliated or combined with Convention to eliminate one weekend of travel?
- Can we combine at least one AWSC and Assembly?
- Can we start the Assembly at 10 am on Saturday and go to Sunday noon?
- Can we have the August AWSC on a conference call or combined with Assembly?
- Do we need to continue to have AISLs as part of AWSC Panel? It is not how the Service Manual defines the Panel.
- Could we encourage our Districts to come on the Panel like Delegates (with 1/3 coming on each year of the Panel)?

Lucy closed us out with the Serenity Prayer.

We may create another Conference Call if needed.

*Updated April 17, 2017*

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