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**Secular Recovery Group**

Minutes of the Monthly Group Conscience Meeting

December 16, 2020 5:00 PM EST

Location of Meeting - Zoom Video Conference

**Meeting Attendees** – Amy B., Ana C., Ana Maria, Bob R., Brijet M., Carol P., Courtney S., Dan W., Daran N., Gail L., Metrognome (Bruce Seattle), and Peter C., and Phred S.

The seventh Group Conscience meeting of Secular Recovery Group was called to order at 5:08 PM EST on January 20, 2021 by Carol P.

**Agenda for the January 20, 2021 meeting is as follows:**

* **Treasure report** – Peter C.
* **Carried over from last month**:
  + **Standardized format for SRG meetings**, preamble/script changes continued – Dan W. / Carol P.
    - **See below** - Dan’s updated format listed first, then Carol combined with previous versions.
  + **Revisit meeting rotations -** which meetings will be on a rotating schedule – Courtney S.
  + **Review & establish guidelines for service positions**. – Courtney S
  + **Start planning the first SRG Webinar** – Courtney S. / John C.
* **“God-bashing” during meetings**

**On-going:**

**Group –** If you consider SRG to be your ‘home group” send Carol P. your email information if you would be available to step in to temporarily host a meeting in the event Courtney is unavailable.

**Meeting Positions to fill:**

Wednesday’s Closed Discussion, 7:00pm ET - **Need Co-host**

Secular on Thursday, 12:00pm ET - **Need Co-host**

**On-hold:**

Find an SRG member who would be available to be a backup IT person. Person preferably would-be expert level / webmaster, and a sober member of AA

***UPDATE****: (As of 12/20) Courtney has a lead and will be ‘working on it’ over time. Tabled for now.*

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**Treasure report** – Peter C.

Peter reviewed the budget below and there were no follow-up questions or concerns.

The “Recurring Expenses” on the top are the annual expenses. Below are the YTD contributions since last August. December was a record month for contributions giving us over a year’s reserve. We need $2200 in reserve before we start sending donations to AA.



**Standardized (script) format for SRG meetings –** Carol P. reviewed what Dan W. had presented, followed by a few changes to include each groups ‘logo’ and the logo for the AA intergroup.

* **“God-bashing” during meetings**

We also discussed adding to the preamble to include wording to address the ‘god bashing’ issues that happens now and again at some meetings. Carol P. read what her Tuesday group uses, and it was decided to add that to the SRG preambles. Knowing this will not fully prevent ‘god bashing’, we agreed it is up to each host to decide when to step in and respectfully stop the person from continuing.

Also discussed was Tradition 10 regarding outside issues. Some folks would argue that religion and politics are outside issues and therefore not allowed in meetings. Others say Tradition 10 speaks to television, radio, and other public entities.

After discussion the consensus is that each meeting is autonomous, and the SRG, “This Group”, had decided not to have religion or politics discussed in its meetings.

**Revisit meeting rotations –** The question had come up regarding which meetings are on a Host rotation schedule. Some of the meetings that were running before Covid would not be included in the meeting rotations for hosts. When we were looking for a host replacement for the Fearless Friday meeting, it was then that the rotation of hosts of first discussed and agreed on. The reason for rotations is to give folks opportunities for service positions. Currently, meetings with rotating hosts are the Thursday, Friday, and Saturday meetings.

**Review & establish guidelines for service positions –** This topic has come up before and because we are so new, we had put it off. With little discussion, it was decided each position would be a year long commitment. Elections would be held if there are more than one person interested in the open position. The Treasury position is the one position that has requirements. It requires knowledge of money and the person must have at least a year’s length of continuous sobriety. If less than a year, they would need someone to co-treasure with them.

Currently the SRG positions we have are: Treasure, Secretary and IT.

Bruce (Metronome) brought up the urgent need for a back-up for Courtney S. Courtney thought he found a replacement, but the person was not interested, so we are still looking. Regarding the website, Courtney explained it is quite the process to add someone and explained the legal chain of custody and is something the back-up replacement person would have to have extensive knowledge as there are updates and changes made pretty much on a daily basis.

Knowing the importance of this position combined with the fact that we are having trouble finding a qualified AA member, we all agreed we need to look to an outside source. Courtney S. will check out the options and the costs involved. It is possible we may need to pay a retainer, as we do not need someone on a monthly basis but need someone in the event Courtney is no longer able to serve.

Amy B. says she know several folks that might be able to fill the position. Amy will reach out to her IT resources and directly reach out to Courtney with what she finds.

**Start planning the first SRG Webinar -**

There was a lot of discussion on holding a Webinar. The reason to have a webinar is to bring value to the community.

Some of the things we need to think about that we would like to cover would be:

*Speakers*, suggestions i.e. Scientist in recovery

*Topics*, Re: Women’s issues, Yoga / Meditation, Lifestyle issues.

*Date* when to hold this? April? May? June? Sometime in the first or second quarter.

*What is needed*? Are there opportunities for service volunteers?

*Options* - If we have a speaker that cannot attend the date we decide on, we can record the speaker at an earlier date and play it at the Webinar. This would not allow a Q&A session, but it is an option.

**OR**

* We have a one speaker webinar with a Q&A following. Bruce (Metronome) suggested we reach out to Jeffrey Munn.
* Courtney will investigate Zoom options.
* It was suggested to have folks register in advance to prevent Zoom bombers. A person must be registered to attend. We would also have the option to replay at a later date for folks who could not attend.
* Any questions for the speaker would be sent to the moderator and the moderator would then present them to Jeffery Munn, or whomever, to avoid inappropriate questions or bombers…

The group decided on the second option. Having a one speaker webinar would simplify things for our first webinar. Bruce will reach out to Jeffrey Munn. We would work around Jeffrey Munn’s schedule to decide a date.

**New Business brought up during the meeting -**

Ana C. & Ana Maria stated they would like to start a Portuguese meeting. The date and time decided would be Sunday’s at 3:00pm eastern time. Carol & Gail offered to do a host training session with them and then Courtney S. will set them up with the SRG Zoom account for their meeting. (At the time of this writing, both of these items have been completed)

**New Action Items:**

Carol P. – finalize SRG script/preamble (see below)

Courtney S. – check into outside options for his IT back-up/replacement as well as the cost

Amy B. – check her IT resources and connect with Courtney S. to discuss your findings

Bruce/Metronome – contact Jeffrey Munn, will he do a speaking engagement and if so, what date

**On-going:**

**Meeting Positions to fill:**

*Wednesday’s Closed Discussion, 7:00pm ET* - **Need Co-host**

*Secular on Thursday, 12:00pm ET* - **Need Co-host**

**Group –** If you consider SRG to be your ‘home group” send Carol P. your email information if you would be available to step in to temporarily host a meeting in the event Host is unavailable.

**Need to review a previous meeting’s minutes?**

Go to<https://secularrecoverygroup.org/>

At the top hover your cursor over the About tab then from the dropdown menu, click SRG Homegroup which will take you to the **Service Positions** page. Here you can see the current and past SRG Group Conscience meeting minutes and current agenda.

**Members available to host, co-host or lead a meeting if a substitute is needed:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Carol P. | Gail L. | Lioba J. |
| Bob R. | Robin H. | Kathy B. |
| Sara Y. | Aaron N. |  |

If you Host, Co-host, or lead a meeting and need coverage for any reason, please contact Carol P and she will assist you in finding coverage by contacting the folks list above. If you have their contact information, feel free to reach out to them directly.

NOTE: If your name is not on the list and you want to be added, please contact Carol P. via email.

Courtney S. – [srgit@secularrecoverygroup.org](mailto:srgit@secularrecoverygroup.org)

Carol P. - [srgsec@secularrecoverygroup.org](mailto:srgsec@secularrecoverygroup.org)

**Updated preamble:**

“This group of A.A. attempts to maintain a tradition of free expression and conduct a meeting where alcoholics may feel free to express any doubts or dis-beliefs they may have, and to share their own personal experience. We do not endorse or oppose, criticize, promote, or condemn any form of religious/spiritual beliefs/disbeliefs, any form of religion or atheism, or political affiliations. Our only wish is to assure suffering alcoholics that they can find sobriety in A.A. without having to accept anyone else’s beliefs or having to deny their own.”

Please - No Politics!

**Next SRG Group Conscience Meeting – February 17, 2021 @ 5:00pm EST**