Group Conscience meeting 5/19/2021

Host: Courtney S

Guests: Peter C, Peter F, Bob R, Ana C, Donna H, Jim F, Martin B, Robin H, Brijet M, Dan W

We reviewed the minutes of April 2021. No changes.

Treasurer’s report: (Peter C and Peter F)

Peter C. presented the budget, which was reviewed and approved. SRG holds back a prudent reserve of $1200.00, which is one-year expenses. *The group conscience was* that we would postpone discussion of disbursement of excess funds (above a “prudent reserve”) to a future business meeting.

Old business:

1. Courtney said each individual SRG mtg *could* have its own IGR, so secular people would have more votes, rather than just one SRG IGR. He recommended that Sober She-Devils have their own IGR, that the Tuesday men’s meeting have its own IGR, etc. At some point, the Big Book is going to be re-written/updated, and there will be options to vote, and the more secular recovery people are available to vote, the more likely it will pass in a way that supports secular recovery.

2. Jeffrey Munn: update: Jeffrey Munn confirmed he will present/attend May 29, his preference is a “formal” talk of up to 30 minutes as to how his book came about, then remainder of meeting with be Question & Answer format; *the group conscience was that* Dan will host the meeting; Courtney will be the primary security co-host with Bob R. assisting so that there are just two SRG members admitting people; they will start admitting people to the meeting beginning 12:45 PM Eastern time; people must be in before the start of the mtg, as Courtney will lock the meeting at 1 PM EST so there are no interruptions while Jeffery Munn is talking; questions will be private chat to Dan and Dan will collate/consolidate and ask the questions in the order received. (Dan will be unable to turn the “host duty” to Jeffrey so that Dan can receive “private chat to the host” questions for the Question & Answer session)

3. SRG incorporation: since each SRG meeting may elect its own IGR, there may be no need to incorporate so for now Courtney will not pursue that.

4. IT backup – Dan provided Courtney with the name and number of an IT expert who expressed interest. Courtney will contact his counterparts in other meetings as to options for IT backup, prior to Courtney contacting him. Courtney will do additional research and report back

5. Input is needed from SRG members for the newsletter – “any news worthy of secular information”. The last newsletter went out to over 1600 people and Courtney said there was “tremendous response.”

6. OIAA – to learn about it, go to the web site listed on SRG web site; Anyone who is elected by a representative SRG meeting needs to be on the OIAA mailing list – via the “contact us” tab and in comments section, request to be a “voting member”

New Business

1. Some SRG meeting attendees object to some readings being too long, that bullet points are sufficient. *The group conscience was that readings will be no more than 3 (three) minutes*; Courtney will send an email to all hosts and co-hosts alerting them of that decision.

2. The duration of shares: several SRG meeting attendees expressed concern that some shares are too lengthy (~ 10 minutes). Discussion ensued as to “how long a share is OK.” *The group conscience was that* the hosts will add on the preamble page – “please limit shares to under 3 minutes to allow as many people to share as possible.” It is up to the host to use common sense if, for example, a new person and/or someone in distress, needs to “unload/share” for longer than 3 minutes.

3. Disrespectful language: there was a recent meeting where a member used a disrespectful slang for a group of people. Discussion ensued as to proactively address this. *The group conscience was to* add to our preamble: “please no politics or disrespectful language.” It is up to the host and co-host to quickly mute a person who is using disrespectful language.

3. An SRG meeting attendee asked one of the host “who determines what is “safe” to say in a meeting. The host stated he private chatted the attendee that the hosts and cohosts discuss these issues at Group Conscience meetings, and that in general the hosts/co-hosts use common sense and any there are any questions, they are brought to Group Conscience meeting.

4. The Portuguese meeting is going well, average attendance is 5 to 10 people. Ana will generate a summary of that meeting’s progress. Also, Ana announced that she was recently invited by a traditional AA meeting to talk to them about secular recovery.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned

Respectfully submitted

Dan W.