

ACA SMR, WEB0120
Group Conscience Business Meeting
December 20, 2021
Meeting began at 8:49 am

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order**
2. **ACA Serenity Prayer**
3. **Call for Service**
4. **Attendance**
5. **Reports**
6. **Reading of the Motions**
7. **Old Business**
8. **New Business**
9. **Announcements and Next Meeting**
10. **Adjournment and Closing Prayer.**

OPENING

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting is called to order by Kimberly. at 8:49 am.
2. **ACA Serenity Prayer:** All invited to recite the ACA Serenity Prayer.
3. **Call for Service:** Kimberly identified the service people for the meeting:
 - Recording Secretary: Jim R.
 - Timekeeper:
 - Tradition of the month: opted to be unread
Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.
 - The Suggested Commitment to Service: opted to be unread
"I perform service so that my program will be available for myself, and through those efforts, others may benefit. I will perform service and practice my recovery by:
 1. *Affirming that the true power of our program rests in the membership of the meetings and is expressed through our Higher Power and through group conscience.*
 2. *Confirming that our process is one of inclusion and not exclusion; showing special sensitivity to the viewpoint of the minority in the process of formulating the group conscience so that any decision is reflective of the spirit of the group and not merely the vote of the majority.*
 3. *Placing principles before personalities.*
 4. *Keeping myself fit for service by working my recovery as a member of the program.*
 5. *Striving to facilitate the sharing of experience, strength, and hope at all levels: meetings, Intergroups, Regional committees, service boards, and World Services.*
 6. *Accepting the different forms and levels of service and allowing those around me to each function according to their own abilities.*
 7. *Remaining willing to forgive myself and others for not performing perfectly.*

8. *Being willing to surrender the position in which I serve in the interest of unity and to provide the opportunity for others to serve; to avoid problems of money, property, and prestige; and to avoid losing my own recovery through the use of service to act out my old behavior, especially in taking care of others, controlling, rescuing, being a victim, etc.*
9. *Remembering I am a trusted servant; I do not govern.*

Attendance – ask all members, participating or observing, to raise their virtual hand. Take a count and record names.

ATTENDANCE: There were 24 participants in attendance, at the start.

REPORTS & BUSINESS

4. Reports: [17 Minutes]

Except for the group’s financial figures, reports are no longer read during the group conscience meeting. They are posted on the website prior to the meeting for members to peruse. Members are offered an opportunity to ask questions about the reports.

Treasurer reports on the financial standing of the group. Primarily the figures from the previous month.

<i>Month</i>	<i>November</i>
Available funds	400.10
Contributions	352.56
TOTAL, for the month	752.66
Earmark (ABC Delegate)	(120)
Expenses; Zoom	(50)
Expenses; Website	(29.99)
Expenses; Other	
Disbursements; WSO	0
Disbursements; Other	
Ending funds	552.67

Year to Date Totals	
Contributions	5924.00
For ABC Delegate	840.00
Expenses – Zoom	701.00
Expenses – Website	61.00
Disbursement - WSO	3800.00

Treasurer:

- That the group explore the opportunity to designate 25% of our disbursements to World Service as earmarked for their International Scholarship Fund.
- That the group address the choice of sending someone in person to the ACA Annual Business Conference in April.
- That the service position of Treasurer be expanded to include a Assistant Treasurer or Vice Treasurer, for the security of access to our funds.
- That Adam K be considered as the next Treasurer for our group.

Election: Treasurer

Adam K: Member of SMR for 1 year; opportunity to give back to the group; familiar with spreadsheets, also PayPal and CashApp; feels capable; willing to take the role and look for ways to make improvements.

Voting: No discussion. No opposition, 1 abstention. Adam was elected as Treasurer.

Additional Reports. Participants have an opportunity to raise questions concerning the reports posted online.

Service Team: Will B. and Jim R. (Co-Secretaries)

Q: Are you looking to expand the service Team (note: it was mentioned that Barbara is part of the Service Team)

A: As a matter of fact, we are.

Report accepted. Paul K-F/Laura

Communications: Kate (Secretary) not present. Report is on the website. Report accepted. Barbara/Paul K-F

Website: Conrad (Webservant). No questions. Report accepted. Barbara/Christy

Service Description Committee: Paul K-F (Chair) No questions. Report accepted. Krista/Jim

WSO Representative: Vacant. Vivienne interested in serving. Jim offered to share his insights. Earlier reports on the website. If interested, write to gc@acamorning.org.

5. Reading of the Motions of the November GC: [2 Minute]

Motion 21_1115_1: Barbara. Find a time to speak to Adam with the purpose of having him elected as Treasurer. Second – Paul K-F. No opposition, motion carries.

Motion 21_1115_2: Barbara. Accept the revised script as it currently stands. Second – Brian G. Motion passes without objection.

Motion 21_1115_3: Jim R. To table the Issue to create a Policy Committee. Second – Krista. A vote confirmed a desire not to table, but to vote on the issue. A final vote resulted in not creating a committee for policies and procedures.

Motion 21_1115_4: Christy. Have Tony A's Steps, along with an introductory paragraph, used as a self-care reading on Wednesdays, replacing the Bill of Rights. Second – Steven. Motion tabled for discussion till next month.

Top Priority Business Item [11:00 Minutes] – Service Position Description Committee.

Motions 21_1220_1-5: each proposed by Paul K-F, on behalf of the Committee,

- Tech Host description. Dissolve the position of Keyholder. /Jim R
- Service Team Co-Secretaries description. Remove reference to Keyholder. /Barbara
- Newcomer Coordinator Position. Eliminate the position (vacant for months). /Barbara
- World Service Representative position. The position may be supported by an Alternate Rep. /Barbara
- Common Elements document revision:
 - Service is teamwork.

- Make volunteer opportunities known.
- Invite people to do service in the order in which they volunteer.
- ensure a healthy rotation of service.
- create standards for putting reports onto the website (2 days prior to the GC.
- announce stepping down from service and invite members to read the position description. /Barbara

All motions pass without objection.

NOTE: Kimberly announced that her term as GC Chair will conclude in February.

6. Old Business: [38:00 Minutes]

Motion 21_1220_6: Kimberly. Any agenda item that changes the way the meeting functions be addressed then tabled and announced for one month, so everyone had opportunity to engage in decision.

Discussion:

Comment: Limit to script and slides. The group conscience IS the intention of the group and members have a choice to participate.

C: Announcements would be helpful, especially for members who work and may have to take time off to attend a business meeting. Not everyone is adept at searching the website.

C: Go beyond script and slides. Find a broader consensus than those members who can attend the business meeting. Like the idea of announcing upcoming issues/motions.

C: In favor of having a period in which to decide. Not sure of the time period.

C: Significant change, with a range of views, it's good to take some time. The BRB talks of achieving substantial unanimity, however that is defined by the group.

C: Hearing that the group is looking for taking the time to announce and reflect. How do we decide which issues are important enough?

NOTE: Information about reaching a decision may be found at the bottom of the GC Secretary position description (taken largely from the BRB). <https://www.acamorning.org/group-conscience-secretary/>

Tabled. Kimberly asked that the item be tabled to address other issues.

Q: Where are last month's minutes posted? It is difficult to find them on the website.

A: Kimberly will work with the webservant Conrad to organize that page.

Motion 21_1220_7: Christy. Have Tony A's Steps, along with an introductory paragraph, used as a self-care reading on Wednesdays, replacing the Bill of Rights. Second –

Discussion:

C: Keeping in mind the newcomer, it may be confusing – different steps.

C: Confusing. We do not read any Steps in our meeting. No reference to these Steps in the ACA Literature.

C: Like the idea of Tony A's Steps. Addresses shame. Divinely inspired. ACA's are capable of understanding (learning) about the other steps.

C: Does this fit with the format of our meditation meeting? Value in introducing the Steps in some form as they are foundational to our recovery.

C: Not many meetings offer these Steps, which are unique to ACA. Basis of our program is reparenting – Tony A. emphasized that ACA recovery is different. Self-compassion.

C: This item has been on the agenda for a year. “Confusing” brings to mind the critical parent. I was able to work the Yellow workbook while incorporating Tony A’s steps. It is life-changing. The introduction (in the self-care reading) could be edited – powerful and poignant and tied into the SMR meeting.

Point of Information: There are 2 reasons why Tony A’s Steps are not recognized by the World Service Organization. 1.) WSO does not own the copyright to the steps and cannot publish them. 2.) To be identified as a 12 Step program, the steps need to conform, to some degree, with the 12 Steps of AA. It is uncertain if Tony A’s Steps would meet that requirement.

C: Agree that Tony A’s Steps were instrumental in my recovery. All the same, the material is not Conference Approved. What will we offer the newcomer when they ask for more information? What do we suggest they purchase? Where do you lead them next? Could be confusing.

C: The ACA Bill of Rights is not approved. We are autonomous. As long as we do not affect other groups or ACA as a whole. We get to decide.

C: Can we be sure that we will not be affecting the newcomer and other groups by using these steps? Can we be so confident?

C: I don’t take care of other people’s emotions. And the Bill of Rights is not approved. We get to say. The impact on other people is out of my control.

C: Tony A. wanted his work to be shared.

Point of Information: The ACA Bill of Rights is currently in the Literature Committee’s final review process. To learn more or to participate in the review go to:

<https://acawso.org/2020/02/08/aca-bill-of-rights-in-final-review-process/>

Vote: to accept Tony A’s Steps as the self-care reading for Wednesdays.

12 members present. In favor – 7; against – 2; abstentions – 2

Dissenting Opinion:

Motion 21_1220_8: Barbara. To table (suspend) the voting procedures until next month. Second – Conrad.

Discussion:

Vote: No opposition. The vote on the use of Tony A’s Steps shall resume in January.

7. New Business: [0 Minutes]

Motion to adjourn. Unopposed.

CLOSING [10:02 am]

8. Announcements and Next Meeting

- Next meeting – January 17th

9. Adjournment and Closing Prayer