

**DRAFT**

**ACA STRENGTHENING MY RECOVERY GROUP CONSCIENCE BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

**April 18, 2022, 8:45 a.m. EDST**

**Attendees:** 65 people were in attendance at the start of the meeting, among them: Adam K, Boaz, Candy, Caitlyn, Conrad J, Davey, Eddie NH, Jean, Jim R, Kare, Lisa M, Pam, Paul K-F, Pete D, Stephen, Stephanie, Vivienne, Veronica, Wendy C and Will B.

**AGENDA**

1. Call to Order/Opening prayer
2. Meeting secretary, time-keeper and agenda
3. Minutes of and motions passed at the February 21 and March 21, 2022 meetings
4. Reports
5. Old Business
6. New business
7. Announcements and next meeting
8. Adjournment and closing prayer

**1. CALL TO ORDER/OPENING PRAYER**

The meeting was called to order at 8:47 a.m. and opened with the Serenity Prayer. Lisa M read the ACA Suggested Commitment to Service.

**2. MEETING SECRETARY, TIME-KEEPER AND AGENDA**

**GC Secretary:** Boaz

**Meeting secretary:** Paul K-F

**Time-keeper:** Pam

**MOTION** by Wendy C to accept the draft agenda. Seconded by Caitlyn. The motion **CARRIED**.

**3. MINUTES OF AND MOTIONS PASSED AT THE FEBRUARY 21, 2022 AND MARCH 21, 2022 MEETINGS**

**MOTION** by Jim R to accept the draft minutes of February 21, 2022. Seconded by Pam. The motion **CARRIED**.

**MOTION** by Caitlyn to accept the draft minutes of March 21, 2022. Seconded by Eddie. The motion **CARRIED**.

Paul K-F read the motions that had carried at these two meetings.

**MOTION** by Jim R to accept the motions of the February 21 and March 21, 2022 meetings. Seconded by Candy. The motion **CARRIED**.

#### **4. REPORTS**

##### **Treasurer (Adam K)**

- Over the past month, SMR received about \$188 in donations, while maintaining the prudent reserve
- No excess funds were sent to WSO
- Donations have slowly been declining over a number of months
- In response to a question about whether money needs to be set aside for someone to attend and represent the group at the 2023 WSO ABC in person, Jim R noted the organization has decided that ABCs going forward will have a virtual component, i.e., groups need not send someone in person to participate
- Jim suggested that there may be merit in reviewing the morning meeting script because the request to donate was moved to a later point in the text, perhaps de-emphasizing it
- Vivienne asked if there is any difference between PayPal and CashApp; Adam said both platforms are used by donors, with the bulk of the donations sent through PayPal. Venmo requires accounts to be attached to a personal phone number, which is a barrier to being able to pass the account on to another person when they take on being the Treasurer.

**MOTION** by Vivienne to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Seconded by Pam. The motion **CARRIED**.

##### **Service Team Co-Secretaries (Jim R and Will B)**

- Jim R said the team's priorities continue to be scheduling and training
- Periodic gaps in the morning schedule are being filled by people who put a zero in front of their names, indicating their willingness to moderate a break-out room
- The team is suggesting that certain issues (noted in the written report) be discussed at meetings with interested group members so that solutions can be drafted, and brought to a monthly group conscience business meetings for decisions

**MOTION** by Paul K-F to accept the Service Team Co-Secretaries' report as presented. Seconded by Vivienne. The motion **CARRIED**.

##### **Communications Co-Secretaries (Wendy C and Matt D)**

- Wendy C gave the report, which was posted to the website
- A motion passed at a previous business meeting authorized "resource funding for the website", which is being interpreted as including the cost of plug-ins needed for it to function
- Will B said several emails have been sent to the Service Team about the contact/ mailing lists, and said he would follow up with Wendy to discuss this further
- Wendy said the contact list is public (to the members of the group), whereas the mailing list is private; people can unsubscribe themselves from the mailing list using the link that is provided in each mail message

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**MOTION** by Conrad J to accept the Communications Co-Secretaries' report as presented. Seconded by Jim R. The motion **CARRIED**.

**WSO Representative (Vivienne, alternate Jeannie)**

- Vivienne advised the WSO ABC is occurring on May 6-7, 2022 and the AWBC on May 21-22, 2022
- The organization will no longer use Robert's Rules of Order at these meetings, is moving to use some form of group conscience for making decisions, and is providing extended hours for voting to accommodate participation from people around the globe
- ACA has witnessed unprecedented growth worldwide recently, and may need to raise the cost of the ACA Fellowship Book (a.k.a. the Big Red Book) from \$15 to \$21
- Following a complaint of harassment, the organization is reviewing the WSO's Operational Policy and Procedures Manual (OPPM) to decide upon changes so that a process is in place for addressing complaints
- The Global Membership Committee is exploring opportunities for translation into certain additional languages, e.g., Farsi

**MOTION** by Wendy C to accept the WSO Representative's report as presented. Seconded by Candy. The motion **CARRIED**.

**Website (Conrad J)**

- Conrad screen-shared his report
- In response to a recent email to the mailing list, 16 quotes telling of people's experience, strength and hope gathered through their participation in the morning meeting have been submitted for use on the website
- A number of edits were made to the webpage for the men's meeting

**MOTION** by Paul K-F to accept the Web Servant's report as presented. Seconded by Eddie NH. The motion **CARRIED**.

**Service Descriptions Committee (Paul K-F)**

- Paul screen-shared the report
- The committee did not meet in the past month; he did spend some time with Boaz discussing the Group Conscience Secretary's tasks in preparing for and chairing the monthly business meeting
- In response to a question from Jim R about how to amend the approved position descriptions in the future, Paul said that that could be dealt with as one of the remaining tasks of this ad hoc committee, so it is clear how the group can make changes in the future

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**MOTION** by Kare to accept the Service Descriptions Committee's report as presented. Seconded by Jim R. The motion **CARRIED**.

**5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Boaz suggested that Items B, D, E and K could be addressed through one discussion, namely: whether and under what circumstances would the group permit its account to be used for meetings other than the morning meditation meeting? They opened the floor for discussion.

Jim R recalled a motion passed at a previous monthly business meeting that the group is open to members using the account for other meetings that promote recovery. Conrad J said the group should adhere to Tradition 6 in deciding whether to allow additional meetings - "An ACA group ought never endorse, finance or lend the ACA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose."

Paul K-F said that in the early months of this meeting, decisions about allowing other meetings to use the account were made less formally, and a moratorium was put on allowing more of them until a group process was established. The group conscience at business meetings is how the group ultimately decides on matters.

Caitlyn expressed concerned about moving too quickly into other meetings after the morning meditation meeting ends, and made a motion that these be timed so they occur separately from morning fellowship. Jean said, in her experience as a Technical Host, she has not experienced this as a problem, and the Service Team is preparing to offer more technical host training. The motion was not seconded.

Caitlyn and Eddie NH said they were interested in sitting on a committee that would look at the question of additional meetings; Pete D said he also was interested in participating, so that he could bring a Technical Host's perspective into the discussion.

Caitlyn, Stephen, Davey, Stephanie, Will B, and Veronica shared further thoughts on the timing of when other meetings start, the range of meetings occurring now and suggested (e.g., boundaries, men's, Monday goodies, yoga), and the need to establish a process for deciding what other meetings to allow.

**MOTION** by Stephanie that other meetings be allowed to: use the group's morning meditation meeting account; the existing other meetings be allowed to continue for now; and, a committee be established to examine how to make decisions for allowing other meetings. Seconded by Pam. 11 voted in favor, 1 opposed, 3 abstentions.

Caitlyn, voicing her minority opinion, said she opposed the motion because she thought it was not appropriate to have several disparate points in it.

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The **MOTION** was voted upon again: 9 in favor, 3 opposed, 1 abstention. The motion **CARRIED**.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

No new business was discussed.

**7. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEXT MEETING**

No announcements were made.

**NEXT ACA SMR GROUP CONSCIENCE BUSINESS MEETING WILL BE MONDAY, MAY 16, 2022 at 8:45 a.m. EDST**

**8. ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING PRAYER**

**MOTION** by Boaz to adjourn the meeting at 10:13 a.m. Seconded by Jim R. The motion **CARRIED** unanimously.

The meeting ended with the Serenity Prayer.