

MINUTES SMR Business Meeting

Monday, October 16, 2023

Opening Attendance: [#?]

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Jim R.

WELCOME

2. **ACA Serenity Prayer:** We opened with the Serenity Prayer.
3. **General Guidelines:** We read the guidelines
4. **Call for Service:**
Recording Secretary: Jim R
Timekeeper - overall: Stephen
Timekeeper - for shares:
5. **The Agenda:** The Agenda was adopted without objection
6. **The Readings:**
 - o The Traditions were read: Stephen, Vivienne and Chris (Madison)
 - o The Commitments to Service (BRB, pg 601) were read: Jim R and Lisa M

BUSINESS

7. **Approval of Minutes:** September Minutes were sent to me, but were not put on the website. At next month's business meeting we will approve of both September's and today's minutes. Please read the minutes before the next meeting and be ready to approve of or ask for corrections to the minutes.
8. **Reports:**
 - o **Treasurer:** [Jim & Shana]
Overview - In September we received \$720.80 in member contributions via PayPal; \$700.00 were disbursed to WSO - \$550.00 to the WSO general fund and \$150.00 to the International Literature Scholarship Fund. The only expense for the month was \$50.00 for our Zoom account.
Current Balance:
 - CashApp - \$277.00. We are making transfers from CashApp to PayPal
 - PayPal - \$946.98 (Including October contributions of \$308.50)*Prudent Reserve of \$350.00*
PayPal Balance - \$288.48 (available funds)
NOTE: This 'collection' includes contributions from the Wednesday night Men's Meeting.
 - o **Service Team:** [Boaz]
No written report at present. Nothing has changed since last month:

- We have an election scheduled for Nov 5th, new Co Secretaries
- Comment: Rick (Utah) would like to Chair on Mondays for 3 months
- o **Communications:** [Joy]
 - Report composed.
 - Password to Contact List changed to Healing
 - With new purchased MailChimp account we now have 825 members on our email list, with 13 new members and 5 unsubscribed. And the contact list has over 600 members.
 - Is such a large contact list effective and workable?
 - The October newsletter was sent to 825 subscribers; 516 members opened it - 63% open rate
 - MailChimp has a web link - members may open messages from the link.

Question: Is it possible to ask members politely if they would like to remain on the contact list? It's probably a lot of work.

Answer: Yes, it's a lot of scrolling in such a long list. Yes, we could ask ourselves what was the original intent of the Contact list? Totally doable - we can send a targeted email to see if members would want to remain on the contact list. It's up to the Group Conscience.

Q: Have you compared the Contact list to the Mailing List?

A: At a glance, there are 825 people on the mailing list, it would be interesting to see if there is an overlap.

Q: Would it be possible to tailor the Contact List to subcategories, like men, women, regionally even. Perhaps other categories.

A: There is a way. They are called 'tags'. We could create tags which would make the List sortable, with filters. We haven't asked the members yet. Our Paid MailChimp account may offer ways to do this. We can look into the options.

Q: Would you be willing to be a member of a team to look into this?

A: Sure. Aside from Wendy, I don't know of anyone else who knows about MailChimp.

Q: Finally, is this a pressing need or something that could be looked at in the new year?

A: It is not urgent. It's working. People can unsubscribe. They can write to us for changes to their listing. It's just that this was initiated years ago and could be looked at.

NOTE: Perhaps this could be brought up at the next business meeting.

- o **WSO Representative:** [Vivienne]

There is no report this month, since there was no Monthly Teleconference.

Comment: The Board of Trustees for the ACA World Service Organization (WSO) had a sort of strategic planning meeting in Boca Raton, Florida, while the WSO Committee Chairs also met, for the first time, for their own conference. Two and a half days.

- o **Website:** [vacant] Please consider this position if you have some technical knowledge.
- o **Ad Hoc Safety Committee:** [Lisa]
 - Report for Sept and Oct - on the website. Generally developing policy.
 - Had to focus briefly on a safety incident.
 - Returning now to policy and process - to be brought to a Town Hall and eventually to a Group Conscience decision.

Question: Is it still appropriate to have a 'waiting room' and not a 'password' for this meeting, and is this something that the Safety Committee would look at?

Answer: We will put that issue on the agenda for the next meeting.

9. Old Business:

NOTE: The original tally of 'issues and proposals' exists. We will return to the list with the election of a Business Meeting Chair.

| 45 minute mark - Meeting extended for 15 minutes |

10. New Business:

Opened the Floor to new Business. No other hands raised.

Jim R guided the members through the new webpage dedicated to the SMR Business Meeting Study. <https://www.acamorning.org/study-business-meeting-practices/>

All members are invited to participate in the Study.

Looked at our latest Minutes; the Book of Motions; and Resources.

Question: What is the status of moving the business meeting to Sundays?

Answer: The decision is made by the Group - at business meetings, in surveys and with Town Hall discussions. The challenge - do we create a whole package for adoption, or introduce the suggested improvements piece by piece?

Q: Will this Group look at the huge list of earlier proposals that have been tabled?

A: We do not have a process for looking at that list, presently, and we dont have a Business Meeting Chair. The issues may no longer be of concern. Moreover, we will be looking at the whole process - how does someone propose an item for the agenda.

CLOSING

11. Announcements and Next Meeting:

There were no announcements

Next meeting will be held on November 20th, 2023 (the third Monday)

12. Adjournment and Closing Prayer:

Motion to close: Stephen

Seconded: Vivienne

Without opposition, the meeting was adjourned at 10:03, eastern

We closed with the ACA Serenity Prayer.

Minutes submitted by Jim R