

District 19 Minutes for March 3, 2015

Members present: Harlan, Suzanne, Jesse, Jim, Mary Ann, John, Johnny, Jerry, Mark, Julia, Genice, Paul, Rose, and our interpreter.

The meeting was called to order by Harlan at 6:00 with the Serenity Prayer.

Introductions and Birthdays: Julia, Valley Girls Alternate, – 1 year; Jesse, our Registrar – 2 years; Harlan, our DCM, – 27 years.

**Recitation of the Responsibility Pledge:** *I am Responsible when anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. For that I am responsible.*

Harlan: introduced the tradition.

Paul read Tradition Three: *“Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation.”*

[http://www.aa.org/assets/en\\_US/en\\_tradition\\_longform.pdf](http://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/en_tradition_longform.pdf)

Paul read the 6 questions that followed.

[http://silkworth.net/aa/traditions\\_checklist.html](http://silkworth.net/aa/traditions_checklist.html)

1. In my mind, do I prejudice some new AA members as losers?
2. Is there some kind of alcoholic whom I privately do not want in my AA group?
3. Do I set myself up as a judge of whether a newcomer is sincere or phony?
4. Do I let language, religion (or lack of it), race, education, age, or other such things interfere with my carrying the message?
5. Am I over impressed by a celebrity? By a doctor, a clergyman, and ex-convict? Or can I just treat this new member simply and naturally as one more sick human, like the rest of us?
6. When someone turns up at AA needing information or help (even if he can't ask for it aloud), does it really matter to me what he does for a living? Where he lives? What his domestic arrangements are? Whether he had been to AA before? What his other problems are?

Discussion about the questions that Harlan included in the agenda.

Suzanne – The questions helped her clarify the tradition.

Rose – What about compassion and fellowship and support for personal issues?

Jim - The Traditions tell us how to act as a group but I have my feelings as an individual.

Jerry – Has this “sub-dermal bristle” regarding our personal comfort zones, and our personal judgements. Because of AA I extend my hand to people I never would have. Its about extending to someone who wants to stop drinking.

Johnny: Despite my being socially phobic, I reach out to a person I see sitting alone, perhaps a newcomer, because someone did that for me.

John – To confess a failing, I have an awfully hard time accepting addicts at an AA meeting if that's all they admit to. I don't understand how addiction impacts differently than alcoholism.

Harlan – I would hate to think I'm part of an organization that expects perfection. I came from an area that seemed intent on Christianizing meetings. The only requirement is to stop drinking. To others who come to closed AA meetings, we offer them other solutions, in a gracious way.

Rose – At my first meeting I introduced myself as an addict. I was asked to leave, in a not very gracious way.

Concept Three: *“As a traditional means of creating and maintaining a clearly defined working relation between the groups, the Conference, the A.A. General Service Board and its several service corporations, staffs, committees and executives, and of thus insuring their effective leadership, it is here suggested that we endow each of these elements of world service with a traditional 'Right of Decision.'”*

[http://www.aa.org/assets/en\\_US/smf-91\\_en.pdf](http://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/smf-91_en.pdf)

[http://www.aa.org/assets/en\\_US/aa-literature/p-8-the-twelve-concepts-illustrated](http://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/aa-literature/p-8-the-twelve-concepts-illustrated)

- Do we understand what is meant by the “Right of Decision”? Do we grant it at all levels of service or do we “instruct”?
- Do we trust our trusted servants — G.S.R., D.C.M., area delegate, the Conference itself?

Mark asked about the meaning of “Right of Decision” and Jerry explained it with an example of a parent making a needed decision during a children's soccer game. Harlan offered the AA Service Manual which also explains it.

Paul shared about the Concepts in a work place.

Harlan shared his experience and how he uses the program in the work place.

Rose presented the minutes and asked: How would you like to see the treasurer's report included in the minutes?

Consensus was details aren't necessary. The group would like to be informed of large expenditures and other such transactions.

Can we have a motion to accept the minutes as read? Motion carried.

Suzanne read her treasurer's report and passed around copies.

Motion to accept. Motion carries.

Jesse read the Registrar's report:

Apologized for being absent last month – was on vacation.

Reported that he has the new GSR registration forms. Be sure to write District 19 if you need to fill out an application.

He also has forms for new groups and a sign in sheet for the meeting tonight.

Harlan's report:

He sent it to all of us. It summarizes the Area 8 committee meeting. (See the report that he emailed.)

The Area 8 meets every third Thursday. Jesse thinks its in Serra Mesa.

Reminder of the 5% sale on literature at Central office.

The vacant DCM position.

Harlan spoke to the responsibilities of the committee officers and explained that the post conference assembly in May would be an event the alternate DCM could handle.

Jerry volunteered.

Suzanne motioned that Jerry be the alternate DCM.

Jim seconded.

Congratulations Jerry!

PreConference Workshop: Jerry and Mark attended.

They read from a packet of notes that Harlan will send to the group.

Dean will represent the district at the conference, on April 11<sup>th</sup>.

Jerry suggested that those of us who represent a weekly meeting can discuss one of the questions on the traditions/concepts each week.

Perhaps we can even create a small committee to further discuss these issues.

Johnny's group finds little interest in these GSR reports. There was some discussion that offered suggestions on how to stimulate interest. Harlan suggested we could offer support by showing up at Johnny's meeting.

Jesse went to the PreConference Workshop last year and noticed that the items were much reduced from the previous year. Jerry said there were approx 50 agenda items. They seemed to be the same year after year.

The "items" that are highlighted are new items sent to us for group conscious.

The follow-up on older items is not clear to us right now but we expect it to become clearer after the conference when Dean returns with his report.

Here are a few examples of the questions:

1. Does your group think pamphlets in general help to carry the AA message?
2. Is your group aware of the 12 Concepts of World Service?
3. Should AA continue to explore Social Media platforms that might be used for Public Information Purposes, as long as it is consistent with our Traditions?  
(Maryann shared her positive personal experience with social media.)
4. General Services is funded by the groups but accepts donations from individuals. Does your group feel that the donation amount should be raised to the maximum limit each year?

Unfinished business was not discussed due to time limitations.

Respectfully submitted by Rose P.