

District 53 Meeting Minutes of January 18, 2025

Notes for D53 meeting, 1/18/25

Angel B, DR presided

Attendees: Jerry M, Steve R, Arlene

Martina N. Secretary

D53 has 17 groups.

Announcements of next AWSC meeting, and GEA symposium about group names

Confirmation of plan that the District 53 meetings will be the 3rd Saturday at 9am

Short reflections on Tradition One and Concept One by Martina

Angel B introduced the Rose, Thorn and Bud method of checking in. (What we are thankful for, what is a challenge, and what is something we look forward to).

Angel's check-in from the group Many Voices had to do with the structure, and increased solidarity, struggle to get volunteers for service, and hope for more participation.

Arlene,

Rose- the email group works well; also thanks for Angel's leadership

Thorn, the same 20 people volunteer the most

Bud- the increased connections between group, district and area

Martina, email group 3 legacies, about 10 active members but more people in list-serve

Rose- it is a good structure and help to deepening knowledge of our program

Thorn— not enough people are responding to the study questions

Bud— We have a few new members

Steve,

Rose- GR from A Serenity Place, email group since 1996 with exceptionally strong foundations and procedures, and 300 members. 40 shares a day. I chair each day for all 7 days a week.

Posts are made at 6 am

email business meeting takes one month, with 1 officer report per week, and feedback

Steering committee who are behind the scenes working on the structure of meetings.

Thorn— problem that the meetings listing of groups on WSO website doesn't list by platform, but by time. So most people do not see it, because it is at the bottom of the list of meetings.

Bud— there is money in the treasury to offer the district, area and WSO, once we have a treasurer at the District level. Their 7th tradition plan is to have a prudent reserve of 1600, which is about a year's operative costs. Then they divide the rest, in 60% to District, 30% to Area, and 10% to WSO.

Gerry,

A shorter check-in, (because he is from my group), presented the importance of one person one vote for trusted servants, because some of us belong to several groups. He also pointed out that it is hard when we ask for volunteers, but if we approach one person and tell them we think they would be good in this position, often they do respond.

Expanded discussion about the need for a website, and for interaction with the WSO website.

Steve presented a very complete picture of the website they have used for 30 years with the group "A Serenity Place". He has extensive experience in designing and maintaining the website for the group, and previously for the district, prior to becoming GR to the D53 group. His hope for getting together to connect the WSO with the electronic meetings more effectively would be for the WSO to ask when someone looks for a meeting, that they are asked which interface they want to use:

Email

Text messaging

Video conferencing

Phone meetings

Social Media group

This would give our groups a better chance to be seen by potential new members, and it will give AL-ANON as a whole more visibility in meeting people's needs in these settings.

Steve's website is www.asp.afg.org. The domain is serenitysys.com

His email is Steve@serenitysys.com. His phone is [REDACTED]. (Please wait til after noon to call (PST). Calls ok until 11 pm.

After some discussion, unanimously we voted to have him create a website for D53. This will be at serenitysys.com, in a separate block.

We are all grateful for Steve's institutional memory of over 30 years, and skills at building and maintaining a website for Al-Anon, and having a stable group over time.

Additionally, his group has worked out the solution for donations, by incorporating. The initial cost was about \$800, and yearly maintenance of that is \$30-40. This allows them to have a treasurer, and to collect without having to have the treasurer have a separate bank account, with taxes and identity overlapping with personal banking matters. When a new treasurer is elected, they are added as users to the bank acct, and the old Treasurer is removed. Jerry brought up the problem of vulnerability in a person being treasurer, if something would happen to them, the funds of the group become vulnerable. SO this is a good solution, although it is expensive.

Possibly in the future, this idea could successfully be implemented at the District or Area level, so that all the groups in the jurisdiction could be umbrella-ed by it.

Our delegate to the WSO is Burt P. Angel will be connecting with him about these ideas.

The current recommendation for new groups is to use the groups.io platform.

In it is the GEA main information, and files, and list of officers.

Our new Area Chair is Brenda.

CONTINUING ISSUES

We still need to reach out to phone meetings and other groups in our district. We need to encourage them to have GRs. I offered to try to go to some of the meetings, especially the Spanish-speaking one, to connect.

Since we have no treasurer, and no current mechanism for a treasury, we don't have funds to offer Angel for the ability to join phone meetings from South Africa. So we will keep working toward solving that issue. It is time-consuming to go to other groups, and we are all busy, so we will do what we can to get outreach to other meetings, but having a D53 website will really help. 10 groups have GRs and we hope we can get more to participate.

Our next zoom meeting is Saturday. February 15. 9 am

Meeting ID on zoom: 893 2505 5320

Passcode: D53

Respectfully submitted,

Martina N.

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Santa Cruz, Ca.