

## District 53 Meeting Minutes of February 15, 2025

Feb 15, 2025,

zoom meeting

District 53 notes

Members present: Angel B, Steve R, Martina N, Arlene, Lynn N, Catherine S.

Lynn N is the new member for Many Voices One Journey afg

Catherine is the new GR for Cyberserenity afg

Several members we have tried to contact have not responded;

Audrey Oka for Hope for Today afg

Sian Callison for Parenting to Serenity afg

Martha for Libertad afg

Lisa B for Eleventh Step meeting afg

Rosalynn W for Tstep afg

Angel read an expanded declaration of unity, based on page 107 in How Al-Anon works, and the Serenity Prayer.

Share on Tradition 2 and Concept 3, by Martina

Previous minutes (1/25) approved

The next GEA assembly is June 21. All GRs are asked to participate. If unable to go, please try to get an alternate member of your group to act as GR for you— to vote!

In April, Burt, the current Area delegate goes to the World Service Conference. He has not responded to two queries Angel has sent.

### Check-ins:

Arlene B for Key to Harmony afg said she is new to the structural things about Al-Anon. They have meeting topics posted on Sunday and Thursday, and people can post responses over the next several days. They get about 10 comments per share.

Lynn N for Many Voices One Journey afg says they are doing great with Whats App, about 365 members and Daily topics. Angel B, our District rep started it, and she jumps in to add a topic if no spontaneous post comes. Topics are often from THE FORUM.

Catherine S says her group Cyberserenity has about 10 active members, and she is a new immigrant to the southwest of France. She doesn't drive any more, so it is helpful to have an online email group.

Steve R, has the most organized and well-structured group, A Serenity Place, which was started in 1996, and has close to 300 members. there are daily meetings, and there is a service position for posting on each morning's topic. There are about 40 responses per

day. They have a steering committee, a quarterly business meeting, a stable and self-supporting email site, and have a stable bank account and treasurer position.

I reiterated about ThreeLegs' structure, and that we have about 10 active members who keep the study questions going.

## **WEBSITE**

Steve R. has graciously set up a webpage for us, which is sheltered from the public, but accessible to our district and Al-Anon members. Trying to be transparent but also anonymous is part of the needed parameters of the website.

the address is <https://www.serenitysys.com/district53/>

Identifying paragraph for each group:

Steve further asked each of us to give a paragraph to describe our groups, to OLA-is.org. This is for those looking for an email or non-local group, such as we who are part of District53 are.

## **Cross Talk, in the electronic arena:**

A question was asked about cross-talk. Steve pointed out that group autonomy determines how each group deals with this, there is no official wording, but mostly it means not interrupting, questioning or giving advice in a meeting. Private conversations outside of the meeting are encouraged.

The idea is that in a healthy family, there should be friendly and supportive communication and we need to be able to talk to each other, but not criticize others.

Group autonomy also means the importance of groups being able to work out their own solutions, not being told something from higher up in the organization is the only way to do something. "Groups have the right to be wrong".

## **Alternate Group Reps**

This was discussed. One problem is the consistency dearth of people volunteering to do service. No groups have all service positions filled. Attempting to get someone to be the alternate is important, putting energy into inviting them and telling them this is something they would be good at, and that service is the way to grow. We all agreed that the average of service people is about 10% of the members. I reminded people that it is very hard when we are in chaos and crisis to move into positions of service, and that mostly it is after a period of improvement and stability in our lives that we begin to offer to do this service. The WSO and the GEA Area are anxious for us to have GRs, because we need to be the voting members of Al-Anon, and if a GR is missing, an alternate is important. If we get alternate GRs it was voted unanimously that they can attend meetings with us at the District level.

## **The Zoom account:**

Currently we do not have a Treasurer or any mechanism for dealing with 7th tradition money. Johanna from the previous panel was lending her zoom account for meetings. I am the current secretary and I volunteered my zoom account for our meetings for now.

### **Treasurer**

This is the next important step for us. Steve R. volunteered to be “it”. We all thanked him profusely and voted unanimously to ask him to be the Treasurer. He will undertake setting up an account. We explained that the WSO does not have any separate code for differentiating the GEA or its districts, so money is currently not being collected for our District or Area. By having a treasurer and his willingness to set up an account, we can begin to collect and potentially donate up to the Area and the WSO. This is vital in this time of rapid expansion of electronic groups, and far-flung areas which are finally finding accessibility to Al-Anon. His current system uses Paypal, as well as sending checks. As he described last month, the way his group does donations is to keep an ample prudent reserve and then with surplus, donate 60% to the District, 30% to the Area, and 10% to the WSO. His group already has money ready to donate to District 53, as soon as the Treasurer system is set up. He said that with the money they have been able to gather from their group, they were able to send several people to the international meeting, as well as to pay the travel expenses for the trusted servants to go to the WSC meetings

### **Additionally:**

We discussed the issue of group names, no decisions were made.  
We were glad to have Steve present the idea of putting some notes on the district webpage to help new members understand the structure and function of Al-Anon, and also we recommend that new GRs read the Service Manual for additional information.

### **Next month District 53 meeting: March 15, 2025**

The meeting will be again on the 3rd Saturday at 9 am PST. (this is evening in South Africa)  
zoom link is: 899 8105 8955  
passcode 957911

respectfully submitted,  
Martina N