

DISTRICT 3 MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES: AUGUST 3, 2009

PREPARED BY MOLLY M., SECRETARY

Meeting called to order by David T.

Serenity Prayer

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Sam W. introduced the new GSR for All Saints Group in Saugatuck, Marilyn C.

David T. announced the recording of the meeting tonight for use by the secretary in taking the minutes. Once minutes are prepared, recording will be erased.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL MEETING TONIGHT: TRADITIONS INVENTORY

Dispensed with reading of Secretary and Treasurer reports; also committee reports

Format will be one in which we will review the Twelve Traditions separately choosing three principles under each tradition for discussion. We will be focusing on how well we are practicing the traditions both as a district committee and as individual groups in our district, and looking at areas in which we could possibly improve. A general consensus will then be briefly explained.

TRADITION ONE-Read by Fred S.—Questions 3, 5, and 9

We, as the District 3 committee, are a service group here for the purpose of helping the individual groups to function as they reach out to alcoholics. We are here to offer them support and to help them in any way we are able with any problems that may arise.

TRADITION TWO-Read by Dave W.—Questions 1, 2, and 5

We as a dist. group exemplify unity and have always worked together well to get the job done, regardless of how small or large our group has been at any given time.

TRADITION THREE-Read by Chuck W.—Questions 1, 4, and 6

We as a unified group have been very accepting of others and very non-discriminatory. We have reached out to newcomers and been very encouraging. One area of concern where we could use some improvement would be in helping court appointed attendees who do not express a desire to stop drinking to have a meeting where this is not required and discussion is centered more along the lines of what AA is all about, and about the concept of not drinking.

Sam W. and Del B. shared their experiences with a “Beginners’ Meeting” in the past where newcomers are introduced to the AA program. Also along these lines is a type of AA orientation. It was also felt that planting the seed of recovery through AA is of utmost importance.

TRADITION FOUR-Read by Kurt B.—Questions 1, 3, and 6

Differences between individual groups exist, however, not in the sense of right vs. wrong. We must guard against growing inward if we stay with primarily one group, and be willing to step outside of our comfort zones to embrace new perspectives and new ideas. Our group here at dist. 3 specifically has been very accepting of differences, providing opportunities to step outside the box and consider a different viewpoint. David T. reminded us that each group in the district has the option to be a part of the dist. 3 group or not to be a part, both in terms of giving financially and participating personally.

TRADITION FIVE-Read by Michael N.—Questions 2, 5, and 6

Regardless of the length of sobriety of any individual, our main purpose is to help them stay sober, and to be a support for each other as we strive to live life on life’s terms without alcohol.

TRADITION SIX-Read by Molly M.—Questions 2 and 3

Discussion centered on working with other clubs who may allow us to use their facilities. We always need to make sure they are not using the AA name to endorse their causes or to make money for their own purposes.

TRADITION SEVEN-Read by Tom L.—Questions 3, 4, and 6

Discussion on the renting of buildings for the use of AA meetings, with the cost of rent varying. Generally, a portion of each collection taken at the meetings goes toward any rent owed to that particular facility. Fred S. stressed the need for each individual group to have both a treasurer and a GSR, with the dist. group being available to assist the groups with any problems arising.

TRADITION EIGHT-Read by Sam W.—Questions 1, 5, and 6

Other larger groups and AA organizations have some paid positions—this is not something very applicable to our district.

TRADITION NINE-Read by Marilyn C.—Questions 1, 3, and 6

Groups have a mission statement as stated in their primary purpose. We discussed rotation and the importance of getting as many people involved in service work as possible.

The suggestion was made to have sponsors encourage their sponsees regarding service work, and the importance of this aspect of recovery. The concept of attraction is also very important, even though the reality exists that the minority of the people tend to do the majority of the work (80/20 rule) in any given organization.

TRADITION TEN-Read by Jim K.—Questions 2, 3, and 5

A common topic of controversy often arising at group meetings is that of religion vs. spirituality. However, any controversy over any outside issue distracts us from our primary purpose as stated in the preamble, and that is what we must continually refer back to as these issues arise. Regarding media attention and articles, we may respond as individuals with opinions.

TRADITION ELEVEN-Read by Del B.—Questions 1, 3, and 5

Anonymity is always important. Fred S. reminded us again of the focus at the GSO in New York on this topic, which seems to be ongoing.

TRADITION TWELVE-Read by David T.—Questions 4, 6, and 9

We do well on this tradition as a group. We are very forgiving and yet we do hold each other accountable for their responsibilities as we continue to pull together when difficult situations arise.

END OF TRADITIONS INVENTORY

CONCEPTS INVENTORY

Discussion on various methods to do the concepts inventory. It was decided to discuss the first concept at our next meeting as the first item on the agenda with a time limit in place. The rest of the inventory method will be discussed under new business and a decision will be made then how to further proceed.

MOTION TO ADJOURN—KURT B. 2<sup>ND</sup> DAVID T.

MEETING ADJOURNED 7:20

CLOSED WITH SERENITY PRAYER

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

MOLLY M.

SECRETARY DISTRICT 3

IN ATTENDANCE:

Molly M.	Michael N.	Kurt B.
Chuck W.	Dave W.	Fred s.
Del B.	Jim K.	Marilyn C.
Sam W.	Tom L.	

