

Hello Everyone!

We held a General Service Board meeting on 05/08/2013.

Attendees:

- Annette H, Phoenix, AZ
- Ruthie, MN
- Rachel F, Phoenix, AZ
- Julie E, Longwood, FL
- Regina, Rockland County, NY
- Catherine, Delray Beach, FL

Notes:

- We reviewed minutes from our April 10th meeting. Annette amended the minutes in two places; Alita (not Fran) had found brochures that referenced the AA “Big Book” without noting the actual name of the publication, Alcoholics Anonymous. Alita (not Fran) had volunteered to find and send in the brochures for correction. Action Items from April 10th that were not completed are listed under current action items. The rest have been completed. The amended April 10th meeting minutes were approved.
- We tabled discussion of website changes since neither webmasters were able to attend. The website is current as of today’s requests.
- We recently had someone volunteer to help with the EDA email responses: Thank you, Laura B! Rachel agreed to reach out to Laura and talk with her about the role. Rachel will send Laura’s email address to Annette when Laura is ready to be on the EDA email distribution list.
- We discussed two submissions for the Balance brochure.
 - We decided to use the shorter submission for the brochure, adding references to the Twelve Steps, reliance on a Higher Power, and very brief mention of the “four legs of a chair” analogy to physical, mental/intellectual, emotional/social and spiritual components of balance.
 - Annette volunteered to draft the brochure as described above before the next GSB meeting.
 - We agreed to include the longer submission on “Balance” in the Stories section of the website as “An EDA Member’s Perspective on Balance”
- We reviewed the GSB policy on use of the EDA Logo. Anyone is free to use and copy the EDA logo and literature free of charge, provided the logo and literature are attributed to EDA and not used out of context.
- We discussed the role of the General Service Board when members report issues with an EDA group.
 - Per EDA’s 4th Tradition, each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or EDA as a whole.
 - If a group has a serious issue that makes people uncomfortable, such as a group leader distributing prescription anti-anxiety medication or promoting their real estate business, groups are encouraged to hold a Group Conscience meeting where the primary purpose of each EDA group – to carry the message of recovery – is discussed. The Group Conscience meeting is a separate meeting, usually held monthly before or after a regular meeting, in which a quorum of group members formally considers whether the group is doing the best it possibly can to carry the message of recovery, and reviews and votes on what it could be doing better. Issues such as leadership abuses and other practices that drive away newcomers are discussed and resolved at Group Conscience meetings and are not the responsibility of the General Service Board.
 - If a group member reports an issue with a group to the General Service Board, a GSB volunteer will make an effort to email or call the person listed as the contact for the group. The GSB volunteer will attempt to confirm the reported issue(s). Whether or not the report is confirmed, the GSB volunteer will recommend (either to the group leader, to the person reporting the issue or both) that the group read the Traditions at least once a month and hold a monthly Group Conscience meeting to enable group members to determine how best to serve those who still suffer. The group member who reported the issue is advised to contact the GSB again, and have another group

member do the same if the situation is not resolved. If the GSB gets two or more confirmed reports about the same issue, **and** the group is not holding or planning to hold a Group Conscience meeting, the GSB will de-list the meeting.

- We discussed whether to have guidelines or a formal editorial process for EDA Stories of Recovery
 - We decided to review and post any stories carry a solid message of recovery on our website in the hopes of reaching the broadest audience among those who most need the message
 - Once we have collected enough stories, we will assemble those that seem the most helpful (probably those that reference using the Steps) into a book format
- Regina requested we list a new meeting in Pearl River, NY – Tuesdays from 6 to 7 PM – at the St. Stephens Church. Annette agreed to list the meeting tonight.
- We adjourned at 7:06 PM MST.

Action Items:

- On April 10th, webmaster Vanessa volunteered to
 - List GSB and online meetings on a web site that enables everyone to see the time adjusted for their location and also agreed to update the GSB and meetings pages to reference the website
 - Update the meetings page so it displays properly on mobile devices (longer term, major change)
 - Build a database to hold meeting information (in progress)
 - Add a web form to capture the needed information from those wanting to announce a new meeting and store it in the database (longer term, major change)
 - Reconstruct the way the meetings page works so it dynamically displays what is in the database (longer term, major change)
- On April 10th, Annette read off changes requested to provide needed attributions discovered in the Step Three Workbook and forwarded the voice mail with the details to Alita, but the voice mail forward did not work. Annette then sent a write up to Alita. May 8th – Annette to follow up with Alita on whether the details in the email were sufficient.
- On April 10th Alita volunteered to make the changes to the Step Three Workbook chapter to attribute quotes. ***Depends on communication of changes needed (above).***
- Annette will post the new Step Three Workbook chapter to the website. ***Depends on completion of changes (above)***
- Annette to update EDA at a Glance brochure to refer to the book, Alcoholics Anonymous.
- Annette to draft the Balance brochure before the next GSB meeting.
- Annette agreed to list Regina’s new meeting in Pearl River, NY – Tuesdays from 6 to 7 PM – at the St. Stephens Church on the website tonight.
- Annette will post “An EDA Member’s Perspective on Balance” in the Stories section of the website.
- Rachel and Julie agreed to review the recently submitted “Working the Steps - An EDA Member's Story” before the next GSB meeting. If approved, Annette will post to the Stories section of the EDA website.
- Rachel agreed to reach out to Laura B and talk with her about the EDA email respondent role.
- Rachel will send Laura’s email address to Annette when Laura is ready to be on the EDA email distribution list.
- Rachel volunteered to update the flyer, “Guidance for Difficult Situations” with an edited version of the discussion above.

Please send these minutes to members of your group if your group maintains an email contact list!

Thank you to all who attended and to all who serve EDA!
 Best regards,
 Annette (aka Michelle)