

Minutes August 2023

The meeting was called to order with the serenity prayer and read the short form of Tradition eight.

1. Roll Call By Mary C. Sent around sign in sheet.

2 Minutes. VOTE to accept.

3. Debbie gave an update of plans for picnic

3. Motion to suspend the business meeting in order to hear from our area 60 delegate was accepted: Jon spoke and the following is a synopsis of his speech on world services, etc.

- A delegate is elected every two years to represent an area at the General Service Conference in New York, with 93 areas in the US and Canada.
- The General Service structure is an upside-down triangle with groups (represented by GSRs) at the top, followed by districts, areas, the General Service Conference, and the boards at the bottom.
- The purpose of being a GSR is to facilitate communication up and down the triangle.
- There can be challenges with this structure, including groups not having GSRs or inactive districts.
- It's essential for groups to take responsibility for solving their problems instead of appealing to higher authority.
- The term "politics" is often used to describe service positions, but it's more about responsibility than authority.
- General Service relies on contributions from groups, and the goal is to be completely self-supporting.
- New York publishes AA literature, maintains a clear and consistent message, and handles a significant volume of phone calls, emails, and literature orders.
- The Grapevine board publishes the Grapevine magazine and serves as a vital tool.
- The membership survey reveals trends, such as AA getting older and the racial and gender demographics.
- The plain language project aims to simplify the language in the Big Book to make it more accessible.

- The project involves translating the Big Book to simplify its language.
- The goal is to make the book more accessible as it's currently written at a collegiate reading level.
- The Big Book is not being replaced; a new plain language version is being created.
- The new book is still in draft form and hasn't been approved for printing. It is still a few years before it is printed
- The translation introduces gender-neutral language in some places.
- Some parts of the translation are clearer, while others may need improvement.
- There's support for the new book, especially for making AA more accessible to newcomers.
- Concerns include the potential for softening the message about the consequences of alcoholism.
- The new book may coexist with the original Big Book.
- The project has been in the works for several years and involves professionals.
- It's seen as a tool to reach a younger generation and those with reading difficulties.
- There's a suggestion to create a fact sheet to help inform GSRs and groups about the project's details and potential impact.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Carroll