

EL CERRITO FELLOWSHIP of AA

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES, August 12, 2024 (recorded)

The meeting was opened by Millie B., Business Manager, at 5:30 pm with the Serenity Prayer, followed by Clayton reading the 12 Traditions.

- Sobriety Birthdays:
- The minutes of the July 11th meeting were reviewed and approved with correction of a typo.
- The agenda was reviewed

OFFICER REPORTS, MILLIE B

Treasurer's Report - John C. reported income was \$1572.92. Expenses were \$836.00. Net income after expenses was \$736.92. The ending balance July 31st was \$17,603.90. Barbara suggested that contributions to GSO and Intergroup be doubled. She also suggested that the storage unit be let go. Public Storage rates are going up \$50.00 but they rolled it back after John called them until December or January. Bridget suggested we review our contributions to District 7 and Area 6.

John presented a detail of where our money is going.

From each dollar donated:

- 30 cents to our operating fund
- 22 Cents to website management
- 15 Cents to GSO
- 13 Cents to Public storage rental fee
- 10 Cents to Veterans Hall rent
- 8 Cents to GSR and ALT GSR expenses
- 2 Cents to our Zoom account.

Thanks was given to John for preparing the report.

Frances ask if web site person, Patrick, can give us a report on how many clicks we get on the site. Millie and Kathy will forward this request to Patrick.

Millie presented a letter from the Inter-Group requesting additional financial assistance. Bridget said we have a large surplus of money which should be distributed. Ann questioned intergroup budget amount. Our Intergroup Rep, Barbara A. explained that the Inter-Group has a paid staff person and also talked about the services of the Intergroup and the work of the executive secretary. Ann was satisfied with the explanation. When asked if we could receive financial reports from the Intergroup, Barbara advised that their budget (report) is available online on their web page and is updated monthly. Margaret asked for a recap of funds we have sent upstream in the recent past, and she and John both noted that we are steadily accumulating dollars that not only cover our expenses, prudent reserve and operating fund, but also enable us to be generous in our upstream donations. Millie asked John and Bridget to develop recommendations for additional or increased upstream contributions.

Secretary Coordinator – Laura C. reported that the secretary positions are fully staffed. No current roster as yet. Hopefully next month.

Birthday Celebration Secretary – needed but not found yet. Millie will continue to cover.

Birthday Chips Coordinator – Millie reported for Phoebe as she is taking finals this week. Phoebe sent out chips in July. Chip requests are caught up.

Special Events Coordinator – Paula was not present. No special events report.

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS: KATHY MCP

GSR Representative: Molly was sick. Bridget filled in for her and gave her report. Last weekend we had a summer assembly in Campbell, Ca. There were several Workshops, one on rotation of service, another on social media and connecting with AA.

District 4 which is Santa Clara County is conducting a safety survey, all are invited to fill out this survey and invited to attend a hybrid workshop planned for October.

There is one more assembly this year which is the election assembly. Starting in January there will be an entirely new panel of trusted servants. Molly and Margie B's term as GSR & Alt GSR will be ending at the end of December, so it's time to start searching for volunteers to take on these important service positions.

Two members asked when we would have information about the GSO Conference and timelines for implementation of changes and release of the Plain Language Big Book. Question from Margaret about website for this information. Answer: District 4 website

John asked about the implementation timelines of all the changes, specifically the release of the Plain Language Big Book. It was noted that providing information of this sort is one of the main functions of Intergroup. Bridget reported that she understands the Plain Language Big Book is expected to be out this Fall and members will be able to purchase it from the Intergroup bookstore and avoid shipping fees. Also, there is a PowerPoint presentation entitled the "TOP TEN TAKEAWAYS from the 2024 General Service Conference", created by our area delegate, Eric L. This presentation explains in detail the major "takeaways" which includes information about the new pamphlets and the Plain Language Big Book. Margie B asked if we could post the presentation to our website or perhaps a link to it. Kathy thought this could be done and that she would work with our webmaster on it.

Intergroup Rep: Barbara A. After the discussion regarding the Intergroup's request for additional financial support, Barbara said she did not have much more to report. She offered to do an analysis of the Intergroup budget; pointed out that the Intergroup has a physical bookstore at Rockridge as well as an online bookstore; and explained that an independent Intergroup board reviews its finances and the process is very clear and transparent.

H&I: Clayton attended the area 53 H & I committee meeting last Wednesday. Most of the meeting was taken up with elections. He submitted an updated and improved August facilities roster for Area 53 Alameda County. It's posted on our website. He is available to steer people in the right direction and answer questions; he's almost always at the 9 am meeting. He also has access to Area 52 Contra Costa facilities rosters. They don't permit theirs to be posted, but Clayton can assist with that. Appreciates being able to be of service to the fellowship.

Question from Rebekah, wanting to get pink cans for in person meeting. Clayton said H & I person for District 53 Alameda County could meet halfway and bring pink cans. He will text Rebekah the person's contact info.

OLD BUSINESS

- Election of new Birthday Celebration secretary. No volunteers have stepped forward, so Millie and Britt will continue to support the celebration meeting.
- Discussion of format and day for a new beginners meeting. Laura R and Sarah B. reporting. Laura noted that there are 44 newcomers meeting in the East Bay and said ECF already has a newcomers meeting, referring to the Tuesday 8:30 Come to Believe Meeting. She stated that we are proposing a new one to be held on Fridays at 5:30 pm and suggested it be a literature meeting which would focus on newcomers and more about alcoholism. They also suggested that

the last ten minutes be reserved for questions and mentioned 2 name possibilities, "Just for Today" or "There is a solution". Laura commented that she hopes this be considered a 6-month experiment and further stated that she hopes it gets good attendance, and if it doesn't, she hopes we won't keep a "non-viable" meeting going as we have with some of our meetings.

Margaret asked what other newcomers meeting do we have? In response the group clarified that while the 8:30 PM meetings report having newcomers in attendance, at this time ECF does not have a designated Newcomers meeting.

Margot putting in a plug for Living sober, which we used to give to Newcomers at their first meeting. Bethany volunteered to be Tech for the new meeting. Ann H volunteered to be secretary and Sarah shared that she also wanted to secretary the new meeting. Laura reminded the group the one secretary per meeting is now the default and suggested that Sarah serve as Ann's backup.

In discussion of the format, it was agreed that newcomers be encouraged to speak throughout the meeting and that the last ten minutes be set aside for questions. Rebekah suggested the "beginner" be in the name of the meeting. The motion was made by Barbara A to start a Beginners Living Sober meeting at 5:30pm (Pacific Time) on Fridays. Laura R seconded. Voted in affirmative, then asked that a vote for abstentions and "no"s be noted.

Majority "yeses". 2 abstained and neither wanted to explain. Motion to September 23rd to allow time to get the meeting posted and announced.

- Barbara A. had suggested that we establish guidelines on how we will respond to the deaths of ECF members. Suggestion that the death be announced in meetings for one week and be posted on our website. Barbara doesn't have a specific proposal. Wanted a group conscience on having a meeting for remembrance of members who have died. Like we just did with Dawn. Laura recalled, a card used to be sent around during days of brick and mortar. Sometimes families would invite the Fellowship to their memorial. Bridget informed the group that at some point we had memorials, and then at another point we stopped doing them. Kathy discussed a memorial the Fellowship had for Steve to which his family was invited. She said that volunteers would take on planning the memorial, which would be planned not to disrupt a scheduled meeting. Millie stated that this sounds like a group conscience will require more thoughtful on-going discussion and we will carry the discussion over to our next meeting. John said "So everyone stay alive until the next business meeting".
- Report on 8:30 meetings. John C said Wednesday night has a secretary, Talia, and that it's running well. Learned that it had not been posted on Inter group listing and that it is in the process of being added. Rebekah confirmed the secretary opens the meeting on time; they read Living Sober and share. She said all is moving along.
- Should we create a phone list as we did for in person meetings? Ann H. has offered to take this on. Discussion deferred in the interest of time.

NEW BUSINESS – Business Manager Millie B

- Consideration of sending additional money to East Bay Intergroup. Millie asked John and Bridget to prepare a recommendation for increasing ECFAA upstream contributions.
- **Proposal to start a second in-person meeting.** John C is suggesting we start a second in person meeting at Veterans Hall on Stockton Avenue in El Cerrito. He said that members who attend the Tuesday in person meeting made this request. John explained that this is an opportunity to carry the message to people who don't have computers, and it wouldn't compete with our online Zoom Meetings. ECF would have to agree to paying \$35.00 in rent until it begins paying for itself. John believes that in a few weeks or months it would be like our other in-person meeting and we'd actually make money.

Barbara: only question, can we get secretaries for it going forward. It's been an issue for Tuesday.

Jessica asked about making the Sunday step study meeting in person too, but Susan explained that some regulars are from out of town as far away as Guatemala, so not possible. Jessica expressed support for adding another in person meeting.

Millie: Propose that we establish meeting and then volunteers come back with suggestion as for the format, however John disagreed, stating that he thinks the group should decide since most folks at this business meeting do not attend the in person. With one minute left for this business meeting, Laura moved that we add an in-person Friday noon meeting at the El Cerrito Veterans Hall. Bethany seconded the motion. The motion carried with 2 abstentions from members who explained they live out of the East Bay area so the issue isn't relevant for them. After brief discussion, it was agreed that assuming permission from the Veteran's Hall, John C will get the key, be the beginning secretary and start the meeting on August 23rd

ADJOURNMENT

Millie ended the meeting at 6:45 pm with Who Is Responsible

Respectfully submitted by Ann H 08/31/2024