

EL CERRITO FELLOWSHIP of AA

**BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES, September 9, 2024 (recorded)**

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

- Sobriety Birthdays: Pam celebrated 21 years on September 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- The minutes of the August meeting were reviewed and approved with a note that in the Treasurer's report outlining how are donations are spent, the 15% shown as allocated to the GSO also includes a donation to the East Bay Intergroup. The minutes were approved with nine voting to approve and two abstentions.

The agenda was reviewed with no additions.

**OFFICER REPORTS, MILLIE B**

**Treasurer's Report, John C.**

John reported that our opening balance was \$17,000 and income was \$1,720.92 with 40% from PayPal, 20% from Venmo and 20% by mail. John reported receiving \$257.50 in cash collections from in-person meetings but noted that some people use Venmo to donate at in-person meetings. Expenses totaled \$1,095.38 and included August and September GSO contributions. The Public Storage fee increased \$50. It is expected to go down \$50 in October but expected to increase again after that. This month's expenses also included our \$144 annual web hosting domain registration fee. John noted that the \$140 rental fee for our in-person meetings will increase now that we have added a second in-person meeting but also noted that these meetings tend to pay for themselves. Net income was \$625.54 and the ending balance increased to \$18,229. In response to several questions, it was explained that our prudent reserve amount of \$12,000 was established in June 2023; that our end balance includes our prudent reserve; and that in June 2023 it was also decided that it is ok to keep an additional \$2,000 - \$3,000 for operating expenses. John ended by remarking that our average monthly expenses are \$900 and our income generally exceeds that.

**Secretary Coordinator.** Millie reported that Laura C. was unable to attend this month.

**Literature:** Catherine reported that we have ample supplies with the only request involved taking supplies to the in-person meetings. Catherine then informed the group that she is no longer able to continue to meet the responsibilities of this role and is stepping down. Millie asked that she give the inventory to John C. who is involved in both in-person meetings. Millie thanked Catherine for her service and said we will post the position and begin announcing that it is open.

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

**Birthday Chips Coordinator** – Phoebe reported that she is catching up on sending out chips after being in Oregon and getting sick.

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

**REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:** KATHY MCP was not able to attend.

**GSR Representative:** Mollie shared a link to the Alameda North link tree explaining that it was an easy resource for keeping up with local AA and District materials and activities. Mollie announced the opening of registration at 9AM September 10<sup>th</sup> for the International Conference which will be held next year in Vancouver; emphasized that we must register and said there also will be options for online participation.

Mollie then explained that she and Margie B had been voted in as GSR and ALT GSR last September and noted that it generally is a 2-year commitment. Mollie then announced that she will be stepping forward to work on accessibility and informed the group that we (ECF) need to be looking for a new GSR and Alternate GSR to start in January 2025. Millie thanked Mollie and Margie for their phenomenal work.

Millie and Margie B encouraged people to attend the International Conference, emphasizing what a wonderful experience it is. Phoebe asked if there are scholarships. Millie replied that as far as she knows people pay on their own. Margie told the group the cost is \$180 and Phoebe expressed the thought that there should be scholarships due to the additional travel expenses.

**Intergroup Rep:** Barbara A was not present.

**H&I:** Millie reported that Clayton was not able to attend but also that he said he didn't have anything to report.

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- Millie informed that the Ten Top Takeaways presentation from the conference that Mollie has made available is now on our website under AA Resources. She said we had created a new tab on the AA Resources page so that we can post things that are coming in from our trusted servants.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- **Recommendation to increase upstream donations, John C. reporting.** In response to the request made at last month's business meeting, he and Bridget (Asst Treasurer who is in Australia) recommend increasing fixed monthly upstream contributions from \$100 TO \$300 to be distributed as follows: \$120 (40%) to GSO; \$120 (40%) to the Intergroup; \$30 (10%) to District 07 and \$30 (10%) to Northern California Coastal Area. This represents a 200% increase in our upstream contributions. John reported that our income is generally \$600-\$700 over operating expenses. He further stated that having a fixed monthly amount for upstream support enables us to best manage our funds and remain prepared for changes that could affect income or expenses.

Margie B. moved to increase our upstream contributions to \$300 and make a one-time donation of \$600.00. Discussion points:

- Asked if this includes the recommended percentage spread. Answer yes.
- Rebekah supported the percentage spread but would prefer the monthly amount be \$400. John said that is easily affordable.

- Frances reported that GSO has done a financial inventory that found funds are being handled prudently. She listed a number of new and upcoming GSO expenses including the 2025 International Conference and the new literature developed and being released this year.

Margie B. repeated the motion which was seconded by Pam. The vote was 7 – yes, 2 – no and 1 abstention. When asked, those voting no and abstaining explained 1) Felt the motion too complicated – that the issue needed multiple motions, 2) Opposed the amount and felt we should give \$400 with a one-time gift of \$800. 3) needed clarification as to whether the recommended percentage distribution would apply. The response was yes. After hearing the minority voices, two people indicated they would change their vote. The second vote resulted in 2 yes votes and 7 no votes so the motion was defeated. Rebeka D. then moved that our monthly donation upstream be \$400 and that the first contribution be \$800. Margie B. seconded the motion. The vote was 8 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 abstention. The motion passed.

- **John C gave an update on the new Friday In-Person meeting**, reporting that 12 attended the first meeting, 6 to 7 attended the second and third meetings. They have identified 5 secretaries who will each choose the format for the meeting they facilitate. Susan C. shared that people seemed excited about the differing formats, and that most of the meetings would be literature and/or speaker. John explained that a number of the people were willing to be secretaries but were not totally available for the remaining months. They now have secretaries scheduled for two months out. Jessica has the key and is keeping track of everyone.
- **Discussion about considering closing the storage unit:** John C informed the group that the current monthly charge is \$211 through the end of the year but will increase to \$261 in January. He noted that the price is going up pretty quickly. John C, also explained that we do not have a current inventory. After a brief discussion of the size and location of the storage unit, the group decided that we need an inventory of the contents of the storage unit in order to go forward. Rebekah, John C, and Margie B. volunteered to conduct the inventory before our next business meeting. Frances also said she could help if done by the upcoming Friday. There was further discussion of the contents, challenges, and expenses being incurred. The volunteers committed to completing the inventory by the next business meeting.
- **Discussion of guidelines on how the Fellowship wishes to handle deaths** of members was deferred until Barbara A. who suggested this item could be present.
- **Discussion of suggestion that we create a phone list as we did for in person meetings.** Rebekah spoke in favor of having some type of list available. The discussion included possible use of a Google Drive, whether such a list could be posted on our website and the email group Millie, and the secretary Coordinator currently have. The issue was tabled for further discussion.

## **NEW BUSINESS – Business Manager Millie B**

- Millie reported on Frances' request that, if possible, our webmaster provide us with a click report. She reported that Patrick is working on creating such a report, but there is a process that requires some reconfiguration and involves privacy and security concerns that must be addressed. It will take another few weeks to generate useful data. She also noted that our meeting secretaries and techs regularly go to our website to read announcements, so there may be question of how useful this data will be. In a brief discussion it was thought that we might be able to generate a report of clicks on each page of the website. Frances reiterated how useful this information could be because at one time it seemed that no one was using the website.

Millie raised the issue of reconfiguring the meetings page. She said she has received complaints that it is confusing and suggested we might redesign it in a calendar format similar to the Intergroup's site. Phoebe shared concern that the current page is confusing, and Mollie expressed support as well as interest in providing information for deaf members. Millie will follow up with Patrick. She also informed the group that a new tab has been added to the AA Resources page to make it easy for us to share materials provided by our GSO, Intergroup Rep and other trusted servants.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully submitted by Millie B. September 19,2024