

Business Meeting Minutes - November 28th, 2020

Any Lengths Group

Reports:

- ✓ **Website**, Pat D: The website still experienced random display anomalies, but fewer outages; homepage display on phones particularly has been an issue, given that no related code changes were made to cause it. Site overall is also slow. A re-theme is in the works to a lighter, streamlined design to address these issues.
- ✓ **Treasury**, Kris E: Contributions in Nov-\$147, in Oct-\$232; Total contributions since 6/1/20: \$1,798. Available balance: \$1629. \$292.45 in payouts were made to reimburse Pat D for out-of-pocket startup expenses. One reimbursement remains for Deb W for birthday chip costs. No contributions to GSO, etc. yet.
- ✓ **Coins & B-days**, Kris E: Kris has taken over handling of all birthday-related functions from outgoing team of Deb & Colleen. Numerous chips have already been shipped out (count not documented in minutes). Discussed various ways of getting more people involved and interested in celebrating milestones/birthdays given we have so many new people.
- ✓ **Soberfest 2020**, Mike G: Annual conference in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. Any Lengths Group was represented by Mike meeting; information about the group and our meetings was passed along to them; possibility of us having some type of group involvement next year, such as a speaker slot.
- ✓ **Meeting Health Reports**, Chairs: Two chairs present at the time to give health reports - Kenny (Step 123, Wednesday) and Jason (Saturday Speaker) - both reported strong, consistent attendance with attendees engaged and participating; a lot of positive feedback from people about both meetings.

Old Business:

1. **Prudent Reserve** – tabled the last few business meetings, the group discussed and decided on the amount of **\$700** to be set aside in the treasury going forward as our prudent reserve. All voted in favor. Tabled for another time was the discussion about what amounts the group will distribute and to which AA organizations. Also Pat D was asked in the last business meeting to come back to group with estimated out-of-pocket monthly costs for the data he goes through managing the group's website, email communications, etc. Said he will have it for the Dec.
2. **"Super Admin" Role** – brief status was given (Kenny M & Pat D) on the recently expanded admin/tech-host role, specifically about training, duties involved, possibility of having more individuals trained up for it in the future. Until recently, duties related to this role, which include staying in the loop on key administrative functions of Zoom that affect us, were handled just by Pat every day, every meeting, for months, until Kenny stepped in, freeing Pat up to focus on website and other administrative tasks. In a short time then it was all Kenny, every day, every meeting, for several more months. The idea of training a small team for the role to share the burden and help avoid burnout was discussed and approved back in the October business meeting. Today, the small team of Sarah M, Mike G, Kenny & Pat is working out well.
3. **Back-up Contact Lists** – we now have back-up contact lists for all service positions (except Tech Hosts, a group that generally is always in contact and ready to cover each other whenever needed. The back-up lists ensure we have experienced people on deck who can step in and fill any spots without impacting the flow of our daily meetings.

New Business:

1. **General Group/Meeting Health:** Having been up and running for 3/4 of our first year as an online group, having experienced a lot of growth and with it, growing pains, the group started the first of a series of ongoing, candid discussions to look at areas of strength, areas of concern, ideas for ways to improve, etc. Attendance was noted as being down over the last couple months from 70-80 daily to 40-50, sometimes reaching the 60s – but that can also be attributed to reasons that have nothing to do with our meetings, or causes beyond our control. Still, it's a good idea to pay attention to what is and what is not working.
 - a. Ideas for monitoring health included keeping track of general attendance, getting more people in service (newer people and long-timers alike), a commitment to the spirit of rotation, revolving our service volunteers so that (1) it's not always the same people stepping up, and (2) so it's not always on them to keep our meetings operating smoothly. Everyone see that it takes a lot to put these meetings on daily. Online meetings may require less financial resources to operate, but *more* in the way of people resources for them to run smoothly, structured and organized. And we need to avoid people getting burned out.
 - b. Also brought up was the fact that we often have the same people sharing in nearly every meeting. Should we consider having some meetings where chairs call on people (*different* people, being the main point) especially during the lulls of silence when no hands are displayed?
 - c. Also touched on was the question of how much chatter should be acceptable from our meeting chairs, given that it's usually frowned on at in-person meetings when chairs respond after someone shares; or give feedback; or giving advice (crosstalk-?). This could be helped with training, also addressed in special meetings of chairs only, or addressed on a personal level. Something could be added to the meeting scripts too.
 - d. Members can all be watching over the coming few months to see what we can come up with for suggestions and improvements that can be made. For example, because it's not widely known we open the meetings early or stay after, the fellowship aspect of our group could be affected. (group conscience vote - all in favor of Pat adding text to all the scripts advising members of the extra fellowship time before and after meetings.)

2. **Logo for Website:** Primarily the chair in the logo on our website, also in a few service documents, needs to be updated/changed. It began as a modified form of what has since become a *registered* trademark of Alcoholics Anonymous (*if* they're using the circle-R properly). Pat D suggested one option is we could have a logo contest (without prizes) to come up with one, or we could do a collaborative project. There is no pressure to act immediately and nobody is asking us to do anything, just want to do the right thing. A contest or collaboration is TBD.

Meeting closed with the Responsibility Statement and was adjourned.

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Treasurers Report:

Any Lengths Group

NOVEMBER 1, 2020 - NOVEMBER 30, 2020

Beginning Balance on November 1, 2020	\$	1,629.00
November Contributions Received	\$	147.00
Debits	\$	0.00
Reimbursements	\$	292.25
Prudent Reserve	\$	700.00
Contributions Distributed	\$	
Available Balance on Nov 30, 2020	\$	783.75
Account Statement _____	\$	

2020 YEAR TO DATE

Beginning Balance on July 1, 2020	\$	436.00
Contributions Received	\$	1,798.00
Debits	\$	22.00
Reimbursements	\$	292.25
Prudent Reserve	\$	700.00
Contributions Distributed	\$	0.00
Available Balance on Nov 30, 2020	\$	783.75