

"Bridge Technical Service Meeting Minutes"

March 28, 2015

Meeting was started by Chair at 2:01pm EST

Began with the Serenity prayer

Handicap meeting - 6pm on Sunday Web Coordinator to post

St. Patrick's meetings 6pm happened, 12 midnight meeting happened, 2pm meeting happened, some people liked it, some people did not like it – many people commented that they did not like that it interfered with the after meeting.

An Al-Anon spoken here workshop was suggested, Chair asks member from Maryland about doing Workshop, she replies that it has been awhile since she has done a workshop;

Four different members, who did not identify themselves, spoke about different aspects of giving service and then members responded. Some suggested that we workshops be held on an alternate phone number so they would not take up the after meeting time. Member from Ohio says this is a great idea. Member from Massachusetts say she is the dissenter as the alternate phone number will cause confusion. She supports staying on the same line so new comers will know where to find all of the meetings. Member from Maryland says she would like to remain on the main line even if there are interruptions so that we are not isolating.

Member from New York suggests workshop on the 3 obstacles so more can understand the true definition of dominance and so we can get more voices for leadership. Member from Chicago, says it is a good idea to have the work shop starting here on this number but that moving onto the other line would be a good idea because meetings could become rushed with having meetings every hour to an hour and a half. Chair says it would be nice to keep the workshop on this line but not sure where we would put it. Chair poses question where would we put the workshop? Chair additionally asks if members who are interested in having this workshop, members from Ohio ,Chicago, Maryland, and New York would form a committee to work out the details of a day, time, and format.

Another member from New York comments that announcements in meetings are getting long and that members are getting upset but that announcements for new meetings will need to be made ; Chair asks member from Maryland directly if she will head the committee for the workshops. Member from Maryland agrees but states she is not that happy about doing it. Then states she will pray on it. Chair asks if there are objections no objections were made.

Member from Ohio asked what happened the last time the phone bridge was down. Should have been shut down from midnight to 4am. Instead was instead was shut down from noon to 4pm. Rep from the phone line states that it was a misinterpretation of a letter from the owner of the phone-bridge.

Member from Ohio would like to ask for an agenda item for this phone number with a different pin for people to have a fellowship line.

Another agenda item from the member from Ohio asking for a recording on our phone line of all of our meetings that we have available.

Member from California would like to ask for silence except for chair.

Why did a member get blocked? Why after 22 meetings voted to allow this person to come back was she not allowed to come back. Member from New York wants to know who made the decision to block her. The chair did.

Chair then read the statement about the MSBR's, which the chair states is the future of the bridge. Chair states that if those who got together to be reps to the WSO conference call would be the reps to this meeting that would be great.

Member from Massachusetts asks about double winner (member in AA and Al-Anon); member from Brooklyn clarifies about how this voting body works.

Member from Brooklyn further states that when people end up on this Saturday meeting people do not know that this is NOT an Al-Anon meeting. This member further states that it would be really helpful for everyone to know that fact. That it would be really good to remind people at the beginning of the meeting that this meeting is about the "building" and not about Al-Anon.

Member in Manhattan wants to know if we are really applying the principles to the member who is not being allowed to come back. Are we really remembering that this is a gentle program? She states that as far as she is concerned that we should forgive, forget, and let go. She says that it is about time that we let the past go by. Member from Manhattan restates that it is time to forgive. Member from Chicago also states that it is time to forgive. Member from Chicago goes on to state that if it were done to any of us that we would not like it. Further states that it is not right, that it isn't right. Same member from reads from the service manual and reads the 3 obstacles states that there has been a lot of dominance here but that there is hope. Member from Chicago asks "are you saying that this is not Al-Anon? I thought I was dialing into Al-Anon." Chair replies "the meetings are Al-Anon meetings. The structure is not Al-Anon." The member from Maryland says that what the member from Chicago read, referring to the 3 Obstacles, was exactly what happened. The dominance however came from the member that was banned. She states that what the chair did was no different than what would have happened in a church building if you asked them for help with a problem member. Member from California says that person who was thrown off bridge was scape-goat to bring the "secret group" to the light. Member from Illinois states that she looks to the service manual for guidance, when she goes to a business meeting but she doesn't vote because she doesn't regularly attend, states that the answers are in the traditions and concepts. This member further says she understands that the WSO prohibits groups from allowing landlords from kicking out members and that groups should pick-up and leave.

Member from California would like to be heard. Repeats this is not an Al-Anon business meeting. Chair states we do not have an ideal number, we are not recognized as a meeting. If you do not like what is going on here go to another line. Go there where none of this is going on. This is not Al-Anon because you are not in an Al-Anon building. Member from Ohio states that to disband a group would be a

violation of the traditions. Unidentified Member states that she is frustrated because the same people share all the time on the same topics. What happens in the building meeting is the responsibility of everyone. What I heard early on which I found interesting was that if all meetings voted in a rep. to be on this meeting board then the person who was blocked could be unblocked. But that has not been done. At this point it just seems that the person who can un-mute the fastest and talk the loudest gets heard. Same member states that on a phone line it doesn't seem reasonable that like face to face meetings where you can ask an individual to leave and go to a different meeting, that you can block a person from one meeting that you must block them from all. Then that person can choose to go to another phone line.

At this time the chair recognizes that it is past 3:30pm and calls a close to the meeting.

The meeting closes at 3:34pmEST with the serenity prayer.