

MINUTES SMR Business Meeting Study
August 6, 2023

Attendees: [#19] Name(s): Jim, Boaz, Alisia, Vivienne, Caitlin, Charlotte, Chris, Christine, Gail, Hala, Joy, Karen, Lisa, Macy, Nancy, Patricia, Stephen, Tanya, & Theresa

I. Call to Order [9:08A]

Jim called to order the meeting of the Business Meeting Study Group, on the SMR Zoom account at 9:08 am Eastern, on August 6th, 2023. We opened with the Serenity Prayer.

II. Call to Service

The following attendees offered to be of service as:

Meeting Chairperson – Boaz (*adjourned by Caitlin)

Timekeeper* - N/A

Recording Secretary - Joy

Other* - Caitlin

Record the meeting* - Not Recorded

*optional

III. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes will be posted to our website. They will be found at: MINUTES SMR Biz Study 23-8 Aug6. The minutes will not be read into the record. Participants may read the minutes and be prepared to voice any concerns.

Motion to accept minutes: Caitlin

Seconded: Macy

Opposed: None

IV. Open issues. These are the topics of discussion that have either not been concluded, or have been raised, yet not discussed:

[From Sunday, Aug 6] After thoughtful meditation, each participant would bring a suggestion (or question or comment) based on the Wednesday Aug 4 meeting for further discussion.

AND, ideas/suggestions from earlier meetings, for example:

- Work the Business meeting into the SMR meeting time slot instead of our regular format. Perhaps do this once, as a trial or test, to see how well it works. Create a poll to ask the members.
- Have the business meetings on a weekend day.
- Alternate business meetings, month by month - reports one month / Group Conscience proposals the next month
- Consider recommending that the Traditions be the Self-care reading for the day of our business meeting
- Forgo the newcomer session on the day of the Business meeting

V. New business

a) New ideas:

1.) **Boaz:** as we're a big group and don't yet know how to have successful business meetings in an effective way, Boaz proposed creating an "SMR Intergroup"- style committee, such as creating a delegation or board of trustees. Meetings could follow a quarterly retreat format and provide comprehensive conversations around ongoing issues that are usually too long for regular business meetings. A discussion followed:

a.) Tanya supported this idea.

b.) Hala raised concerns with this idea.

c.) Vivienne supports the WSO delegation-style focus on safety in service

d.) Jim supports the idea of an intergroup, as our website is "ACA Morning," not specifically "SMR," Liked the format of our recent 3rd Anniversary celebrations.

e.) Caitlin raised a question about "WSO guardrails" and commented on Vivienne's WSO ABC report from prior months. WSO ABC has guidelines about how we show up and treat each other in service. Supports the idea of scheduling brief, meditative pauses in business meetings. Also suggests a regular election schedule.

f.) Christine raised concerns as a newcomer about trusted servants' behavior outside of meetings, such as in parking lots and after-meetings.

2.) **Theresa:** a simple suggestion to have a weekly business meetings to address the backlog of issues, such as one a week. Once addressed, we can have a fresh start for new ideas.

3.) **Hala:** invites more service-oriented conversations, volunteer opportunities, and fun activities (e.g., Sunday Service Day) around the traditions in general, and not just structures and guidelines, in order to create safety and a healthy rotation of service. A discussion followed:

a.) Vivienne asked for clarification on whether there is a lack of service opportunities service, or what we could do to be more inviting.

b.) Jim likes the idea of using technology more, such as online polling. Also supports Caitlin's previous idea of field trips as a group, such as attending ACA workshops.

c.) Caitlin supports a healthy structure and new energy. Supports structures around rotation of service, such as tighter service descriptions and terms, and clear guidance and expectations around elections and overlapping of service for cross-training.

d.) Hala noted that the current safety committee meets at a time that is too late in the day for those outside US timezones.

e.) Charlotte noted there may be some disheartened attitudes around service in our group and what might be helpful now is to make the call to service be more personal. Such as inviting "is there anyone who has never given service" instead of the way it's currently scripted/announced. Supports the idea of retreats as a form of refreshment.

VI. Announcements

Meeting schedule is the 1st Wednesday of the month at 9A ET and the following Sunday at 9A ET.

VII. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Vivienne

Seconded: Christine

Closing prayer: From BRB 354 & , Chapter 10 “Service in ACA” and the Serenity Prayer

Next meeting(s): Wednesday, September 6th 2023 at 9A ET & Sunday September 10th 2023

Minutes submitted by: Joy