

## 4<sup>TH</sup> SATURDAY GROUP CONSCIENCE MEETING\*

Saturday, May 24, 2014

\*These are informal notes taken by Temporary Chair since there was no Secretary.

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Group Conscience Meeting Chairperson from OH closed the meeting at 1:45 due to verbal conflict with another member, and rescheduled the meeting for May 31 at 1:30.

Members remained on the line and voted to hold the Group Conscience meeting today without the Chair from OH. A member tallied the votes: (approx.) Yea - 18 and Nay - 12.

Group voted to elect today's (temporary) Chairperson – A member tallied the votes:

Member1 from NY. (Approx. 15 votes)

Member2 from NY. (Approx. 12 votes)

Meeting began approx. 3:00 with Member1 from NY as Chair

Attendance: approximately 60 Members

Spiritual timekeeper volunteered – all shares were limited to 2 minutes

12 Traditions were read by member from Massachusetts.

Sharing began with those officially representing a meeting. We heard from representatives of the following meetings:

- 6 AM wed
- 12 noon thursday
- 6 AM Monday
- 8 AM saturday
- 12 noon tuesday
- 2 PM sunday
- 10 PM Thursday

### SUMMARY OF CONCERNS/QUESTIONS FOR BILLY

[Billy can be reached at [alanonphonemeetingssecretary@yahoo.com](mailto:alanonphonemeetingssecretary@yahoo.com)]

#### **\*. What is the relationship between phone bridge and Al-Anon World Service, Billy and TJ?**

B: Phone bridge is like meetings that share a church basement. World Service does not help us deal with difficulties in our church basement. Billy is one of the co-founders of the phone bridge and has developed the technical system. He is a member of Al-Anon. TJ owns the company that is used by our phone system.

#### **\*. Monitors - how many are in place now? what are the qualifications? is it possible for someone with visual disability to participate? are there background checks to make sure monitors are trustworthy? how do people get trained to be monitors? is it safe for Al-Anon members calling in?**

B: There are currently 4 trained monitors and 5 or 6 people who are considered trustworthy will be trained this week. As of now, monitors are being assigned to time slots on given days, not to specific meetings. This could change moving forward. Billy will begin to meet weekly with the monitors rather than once a month.

#### **\* Are monitors selected by each meeting or for the phone bridge as a whole?**

B: Currently both options are being pursued. Each meeting can elect a monitor and these new monitors will eventually be trained.

**\*Has a committee been formed to make decisions about the monitors? A previous all-group meeting had voted to form this committee.**

B: At this time, this committee exists with co-founders of the phone bridge. This committee is currently making decisions about how to monitor the meetings. These individuals are making decisions because there is no "voting body" in place for this Group Conscience Meeting.

**\*How do the Traditions inform us about using monitors? Is there a conflict?**

(I do not believe this question was addressed in Billy's responses.)

**\*. There was question about trusting Billy's word and request for TJ to confirm Billy's communication, especially about anonymity and monitoring (i.e only 4 digits visible)**

B: In the past all phone monitors could see full phone numbers. Now only Billy sees all of the information, and 2nd level monitors only see 4 digits.

**\* A phone monitor was elected by a meeting and then removed from service after Billy received messages expressing concern about this individual. What is the policy?**

B: Yes this did happen. A more limited number of people are now being trained to monitor by day and time, not meeting by meeting. These are people who are known to be trustworthy.

**\*. How soon should problems with the phone interruptions be resolved?**

B: The situation should be under control by the end of this week, after the new people receive training to be monitors. However, it is not likely that after-meetings can be monitored.

#### OTHER ISSUES AND CONCERNS:

- \* There is need for rotation of service for those in leadership positions on the bridge. 6 month rotation suggested.
- \*. We have individual "meetings", there are no "groups" on the phone bridge.
- \*. There have been personal (verbal) attacks made against people in the after-meetings as well as gossip. Over 40 emails have been received by our Web Coordinator, reporting this type of experience.
- \* Concern that the Group Conscience Meeting format – as posted on the website -- has not been followed for past 6 months.
- \*. When people tried to volunteer and vote for meeting reps or monitors, other members on the phone who did not want these positions filled, prevented the meeting(s) from voting.
- \* Suggestion was made that Group Conscience Meeting Chair from OH should consider stepping down.
- \* About 5 years ago members of this phone bridge voted to move to TJ's system so we would have access to technology that could help prevent interrupters. Originally the phone bridge was using a different company's phone system.

Meeting ended @ 4:00 pm with reading from Al-Anon Daily Reader by member from NY.

Respectfully submitted by Temporary Chair from NY for 5/24/14 Group Conscience Mtg