



Debtors Anonymous

Minutes of Debtors Anonymous Inter-Group Meeting

Saturday 30th September 2017
Methodist Central Hall Westminster

1: Serenity Prayer, 12 Traditions

1a: Vote in new secretary, ask or someone to take the minutes.

- NM: Put forward that a secretary would be needed for the next Inter-Group Meeting (IGM). NT put herself forward for the position and was voted in majority for/0 against/1 abstain.
- AS put herself forward to take the minutes.

2: Introductions, apologies, GSR count, approval of previous IGM meeting minutes.

- **Present:**
 - NM Chair (standing in)
 - SL ISR
 - SN GSR, Ogle Street, Tuesday
 - AS GSR (standing in), Chelsea, Tuesday
 - NC GSR, Tuesday Phone meeting
 - SP GSR (standing in), Queensway
 - DD GSR, Hinde St, Sat, 11:30am
 - JH Treasurer
 - HB GSR, Bristol
 - NT GSR (standing in for FK, running late), Swiss Cottage
 - FK GSR, Swiss Cottage, Thursday 6:30pm (BDA)
 - JF GST Stevenage & Loner Support
 - DD2 Public Information
 - EN Phone meetings
 - JP GSB, Trustee
- **Apologies:**
 - L Literature
 - R Public Information/Events
 - C Literature Shipping
 - N Website
 - C2 Conference Stalls**
- **Number of GSRs or Reps present:**
 - 7 (Quorate)
- **Approval of minutes from previous IGM**
 - Carried.



3: UK Group Reports

- **Stevenage GSR, JF**
3-7 regulars, some new comers
Solvent, but no donations for Inter-group (IG)
Service: Only Secretary is filled
- **Tuesday Ogle Street GSR, SN**
8-15 regulars
Solvent, but no donations for Inter-group (IG) known
Service: Full
- **Tuesday Chelsea GSR, AS (standing in for PS)**
20 regulars, most regular as this is their home group
Solvent & properous, donations given to IG each quarter (next is Oct, min £50)
Service: Full
- **Phone Meeting GSR, NC**
Good & regular attendance
£15 Cash brought for IG contribution, concern over logistics of 7th Tradition
Service: Need a Treasurer
- **Queensway GSR, SP (standing in)**
12-20 regulars
Solvent, donations are known to occur, but currently no clarity
Service: no PI representative
- **Hinde St GSR, DD**
15-40 regulars
Solvent, contribution today of £100
Service: Full
- **Bristol GSR, HB**
5 core regulars, some new comers from great distances
Solvent, contribution today of £20
Service: Full
- **Swiss Cottage BDA GSR, FK (and NT)**
15-20 regulars, some new comers
Solvent, Monthly donations of £25 for Inter-group (IG)
Service: Only Secretary is filled
- **Sunday GSR, (EN standing in for M?)**
15-20 regulars and increasing
Solvent, contributions of £25 per month to IG (made online)
Service: Full
- **Monday Notting Hill BDA GSR, DD2**
Attendance is good
Solvent, contributions being made, sum of £8.46 to be checked.
Service: Full



4: Service Opportunities:

- **Literature Shipping:**
C currently in role until November. Seeking someone to take over role so there is overlap
No-one put themselves forward
- **Secretary person:**
NT put herself forward for November meeting only, motion carried.
- **Carrying the Message/Outreach** (to form part of PI Community):
AS put herself forward, motion carried.
- **Loner Support:**
JF has been covering for one of his members who is unable to continue role
JF formally put forward today, motion carried.

5: Service Reports

- **Treasury (JH)**
 - Report
 - To be read alongside the spreadsheet (Spending plan)

Phone line,	As planned (on track)
Rent,	As planned (spent)
Website,	No invoice yet (currently no spend)
Outreach,	On track (part spend)
Group Travel @ 50%,	Under-utilised (part spend)
Full fare Travel @ 100%,	As planned (spent)
WS/ISR	As planned (spent)
WS Donation	No spend as of yet
Euro/Inter-group	As planned (spent)
Events co-ordinator	As planned (spent)

Contingency of 8% - not in use.
 - Full Treasurers report due in November
- **Web (N)**
 - N had emailed to say 'All is well'
 - Query about wording on website around Group Travel @50%
 - Query around Online Donation button for UK site
- **Meetings (General)**
 - **Tuesday night meeting closed**
 - New Meeting, Monday, Soho Centre, London, 7:30pm starts October
- **Public Information (DD2)**
 - Phone Meetings Bi-Monthly



- C2 organising stall at conference
- Leaflets and Printed materials in production (budget may be required for these)

- **Literature:** Email from L
 - 125 items over 6 orders
 - No donations
 - Bank reconciliation provided
 - More literature on order for the Convention (28/10/17)
 - Can we consider UK specific literature?

- **ISR Report**
 - SL attended World Service Conference (WSC) in Dallas
 - **Walkthrough of key points**
 - Registration is down at WSC
 - Media Video screened (tool to carry message). Will eventually go on website and intergroup sites with intention of it going viral. Will be screened at UK convention
 - Copies of Spending Report available from IG
 - Financial deficit (Prudent reserve) was \$47k, now \$33k, DA drew from its ample prudent reserve to cover the deficit in the spending plan. This is what a prudent reserve is for, to be clear DA did not and has no means to debt. DA assets are at \$243k.
 - When the projected deficit was noticed an AD Hoc committee was formed of 3 trustees, who met every week for 3 months to look at the spending plan and make adjustments to the spending by lowering the outgoings and planning to increase the income
 - It is thought there are 5000 DA members, as when the 'ebblast is sent out it goes to 5000 emails and the sales of a currency of hope is currently at 6000.
 - A suggested plan to increase the income of DA was to increase the personal contributions. In 2017 there were \$15,600 in personal donations, which was from 48 members donating £21 (\$27) each month for a year.
 - If DA could increase income, so out of our 5000 members ,so if 148 members could donate £21 a month for a year, there would be no deficit in the projected spending plan for 2018 and DA finances would be in surplus
 - Deficit is due to:
 - Online/phone meetings lacking contributions
 - Accountancy issue, funds for Trustees expenses now coming from different account, so this account has been affected.
 - Group income down
 - Expenses up (inflation)
 - There is a projected deficit for DA in 2018 spending plan of \$26K. DA can't keep reducing its outgoings, the income must go up to support the spending plan. *Can we review the amount (%) UK Inter-group contribute?*

- Literature in pipeline,
 - Study guide
 - Meditation guide
 - Basic texts
 - also there is planned moving into ebooks

- Motions carried:
 - BDA Tools, in pipeline
 - Closing statement, being distributed



Diversity pamphlet, to start

Inter-group handbook, in progress

Conference location – 2018 Minneapolis, 2019 Los Angeles

Conference Charter, including remote participation

BDA 'Currency of Hope' – call for more stories

BODA Trademark (BDA) not renewed

- Remote Participation was discussed
 - A lot of questions raised about logistics
 - A policy was carried, available from SL
 - Trail planned for 2018 conference (Minneapolis)
 - Vision that WSR Conference will be in London/Paris within 5 years
 - Up to 8 places to be provided
 - Committee to review & plan, AS volunteered for 1st meeting (carried)
- SL stayed on PI committee, planned work is:-
 - Video to be distributed to Intergroups
 - Newsletter
 - Radio Show
 - Brochure
 - Outreach targets sought (for example DA were represented at an AAMFT Conference (American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy)).
- New caucus (*meeting/body of party members*) set up to review Spiritually Sustainable Earning.
- SL is also serving on the International Caucus committee:

DA is documenting the history of how DA evolved internationally' it was discussed if anyone knew who was at the first UK meeting. A couple of people thought it was Sabrina, someone else thought Jackie B.
- Also there is a call for stories from the UK- can you write your story?
- **Outreach**
 - Phone (EP)**
 - After mention on morning television there was a spike in calls, 30 overall, 8 in one day.
 - Forwarding to meetings/Loner Support
 - EP seeking definition of Loner Support so it can be explained to callers.
 - EP thought she was sharing the role, requests that additional person join her in the role.
 - Phone contributions 'Monzo' account recommended as a method of collecting payment.
 - Email/Post (EP)**
 - AS: Both in the context of Phone and Email, question around whether a policy on data protection is worth considering. To be added as agenda item for the next meeting.
 - Loner (JF)**
 - 3-4 queries, directing these to phone meetings/meetings
 - 1 female looking for female contact (DD & HB volunteered)
- **Events/Conventions/Workshops**

Convention: 28th October

 - Newcomers pamphlet on track, to contain symptoms of UA, 12 steps, Spending plan notes area, convention schedule. 125 pamphlets to be printed.



- Volunteers for PRGs are needed.
- Suggested that leaflets for workshops distributed at convention.
- Service Positions
 - Flower buyer (budget £70)
 - Raffle Organiser
 - MIC runners
 - 7th Tradition collectors
 - Literature helpers
 - Intergroup representative
 - Setter Uppers
 - Setter Downers
 - Signage

Sponsorship/steps Workshop: 11th November, 2-5pm

- Sponsors needed to meet & greet newcomers.
- Sponsors/sponsees needed for shares

Spreadsheet workshop: planned for later in the year

- DD2 to speak to S to get details

7: Gendered Language in Literature

- HB (Bristol GSR) urges intergroup to consider motion for use of gender neutral language
- EP reads letter from M discussing proper use of pronoun 'him' in literature as including he, she, it. M not in favour of change (SL suggests letter sent to Bristol).
- AS: Temperature taken at Chelsea meeting, in favour of change
- NT: Feels it is patriarchal and in this day in age it should be reviewed.
- SL: Reported back from WSC as requested by UK Intergroup. SL found out that this point has arisen over the years and it was discussed at the 2007 WSC and the following was voted on 'DA have permission to use AA's 12 steps and the 12 traditions, only as exactly written, including outdated use of the "He" pronoun for God. DA will not change these pronouns out of respect for AA and their express wish for it not be changed if we want to use them
- JF: Financial implication of language change should be considered in this request.
- NC: Suggested that a sentence could be added to the script to suggest people use the language they are comfortable with, but not change the gender in the script.
- General discussion of meeting autonomy
- NM: Put forward consideration of CODA language (non-gendered)
- JH suggested 'DA UK Intergroup respects the autonomy of each group as stated in Tradition 4
- HB did not ask for the motion to be voted on and said she would bring the information back to her group. None of the suggestions discussed were voted by intergroup

8: AOB

“Ways and Means” a document available to phone/online meetings, is being printed as a daily reader, explaining why there have been no updates to the online content for several years.

Actions to take to meetings

- DA World Service (WS) are currently using one of their Prudent Reserves to accommodate a deficit in the planned spending (details of this are available from



Inter-group on request). Measures are being taken to reduce expenses and to increase donations to make up the shortfall (to be clear, we are using a prudent reserve for the exact purpose that it is meant, highlighting the importance and function of this tool).

- Donations on the whole are down due to the changing shape of the fellowship (online/phone) and to donations not increasing in line with inflation as costs do. Please can members consider their contributions to GSO? This can be done directly online at <http://debtorsanonymous.org/>
- There is a call for BDA stories to go into a new 'Currency of Hope'. If you have a story you would like to share, please let your GSR know.
- Volunteers for PRG's at the convention would be greatly appreciated, if you can give a morning or an afternoon on the 28th October in Westminster, London, please let your GSR know.
- Volunteers for a Sponsorship and Step Workshop on the 11th November would be greatly appreciated, please contact your GSR. Sponsorship continues to be one of the biggest challenges so if you can spare some time for a chair or just be present to meet new sponsees please help! (For those interested as attendees, places are limited to 30 people).
- If using Phone meetings, please consider how you might meet the 7th Tradition. Current options are to donate to your treasurer, in a local meeting, or to Inter-group online (<http://www.datig.net/donate.html>).
- New Meeting, Monday, Soho Centre, London, 7:30pm starts October

Service Positions sought for convention, for more information please contact reinerrecovery@gmail.com

- Flower buyer (budget £70)
- Raffle Organiser
- MIC runners
- 7th Tradition collectors
- Literature helpers
- Intergroup representative
- Setter Uppers
- Setter Downers
- Signage

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9: Serenity Prayer