

MINUTES: EDRG Group Conscience- February 1, 2024

Opened with Serenity Prayer – 135 members in attendance

1. Group Rep Report-Laura

- Assembly meeting took place and Group Conscience voted to accept the recommendations of the committee to divide into districts. Groups in the Global Electronic Area will now have a voice in the worldwide fellowship.
- Districts will be divided by UTC time
- Assembly Minutes yet to be received, Laura will let us know of any other info at our March Group Conscience Meeting.
- Our group will need to elect a District Rep when we have a district
- District Rep term will be abbreviated, serving only until end of current board (Dec 31, 2024) then will be a 3-yr rotation so DRs remain in sync.

2. Treasury Report- Bill R

- \$611.08 in 7th Tradition collected during the month of January.
- \$65.99 Zoom bill paid
- \$795.09 in the treasury, including \$250 Prudent Reserve after Zoom payment
- \$545.10 to be divided equally between WSO and GEA. (\$272.55 each)
- There were 77 individual contributions in January

3. Group Secretary Report-Jen R

- Rotation announcement – sent out to all members currently in service and the EDRG Service Group WhatsApp.
- Friday, March 1st is the first day of the new rotation for our 4-month service positions: Chair, Chat Hosts, Phone List & Sponsorship Coordinator. The Spring Rotation runs from March 1 to June 30, 2024.
- Current Chair and Chat Hosts, please continue announcing daily and direct members interested in serving to contact the Group Secretary post contact info in the chat: Jen R. 707-287-0847 or EDRGsecretary@gmail.com. This helps track which positions are open and creation of the service roster.
- Group Secretary – next rotation begins April 1 for 12-month term. If interested, please contact Group Secretary at same contact info above.
- Group Conscience Chair – next rotation begins June 1 for 12-month term. If interested, contact Amanda B at mandabadgett@gmail.com

4. Group Conscience Chair Announcements-Amanda

- Transition email/materials are a work in process
- AI notifications and Zoom – some chairs getting messages about AI during meetings. This is because some members may be using an AI tool in their

calendars or other personal settings which follows them into the meeting. The ability for AI to transcribe or create minutes of our meetings is exclusively controlled by EDRG and our settings do not allow this.

As a group we will not be considering allowing AI transcription or minutes.

New Business

1. Does the group want to add Greeter as a service position?

- Current chairperson got feedback from members about being greeted. We don't have a greeter position and we don't have time for fellowship after the meeting because of the after meeting. If we have someone to say hello to each person it takes up the space for other fellowship. It has also gotten in the way of chairperson doing their business such as asking for timer and changing settings – not in favor as an assigned position
- This meeting used to be quiet, dry and cold. All screens were off, as a newcomer to the meeting being greeted personalized it was done in a soft gentle voice there can be a balance. Being greeted gave member the opportunity to open up and that created space for her to share and connect. Prefers the genuine organic greeting rather than a formal position.
- Chair already comes on early and says 'hi' and welcomes people. It hasn't been a big deal when others chime in before all are muted.
- Loves it when someone greets and says hello when impromptu and not structured.
- This is a big online meeting the chair sets the tone for the meeting. It is more appropriate for the chair to be greeting.
- If greeting getting in the way chair can ask for a moment. If we have a greeter does that mean that everyone else is precluded from saying hello? Greeting organically slows down as people rush in which is usually a couple minutes before the meeting and all are muted anyways.
- Being seen can be difficult. A comment on my profile picture reminded me I'm part of something and I belong. My reaction is mine to take care of I don't need to make it someone else's responsibility.
- Unnecessary to have a greeter – just another spot to fill.
- Love the first 15 minutes of the meeting. Especially for people who are nervous and felt recognized hearing her name.
- We have GC because we care and want it to be there for the next person. Perhaps the chat could be an area to issue greeting?
- Tradition 5 – “and by welcoming and giving comfort to families of alcoholics.” *How* we do that is what we're talking about. In support of whoever it is
- Sometimes I don't want to be welcomed because I don't want to be seen whether it is our chair or chat the concept of welcoming should be, encouraging members in a general way. Welcome, we are so glad you are here,

that warmth coming across. Spontaneity is great. Chat with a similar general greeting.

- Appreciate the conversation – prefer organic. As a Chair it can seem that when one individual person is greeting intensively, they are taking away the Chair's ability to participate and set the tone.
- Chair says welcome everyone, I think we try to do that.
- In consideration of principles before personalities. It's not that there won't be a welcome. If it's being brought up there's a need to discuss and feels dominating when there is one specific person. Not having a greeter, we have flow and chairperson to chair and lead the meeting that's why it's being brought up.
- Formalizing what is organic flow will make it too rigid and less heartfelt.
- When some are greeted or invited in to share more warmly than others it can create in group/out group feeling so need to be careful to not create that kind of environment. Stating the intention.
- **The general feeling of the group is not to go with a greeter.** GC Chair asked for show of hands to take temperature and confirm. In seeing the response by show of hands "not to go with a greeter" GC Chair confirmed this as the current position.

2. Rotation of Leadership:

Current Guideline: members wait 4 months (1 rotation) between serving in the same position.

Proposed Guideline: increase wait time to serve in same position to 12 months.

Example: **Currently**, an individual serving as Chair in the November through February cycle is eligible to serve again in same position beginning in the July rotation. **Proposed**, individual serving in November through February cycle would not be eligible to serve again until the following November.

- Very much in favor of extending period. Rotation is the one of the most important parts of our traditions. Repeated service, can feel like dominance.
- In addition to email the GS communicates to current roster via a WhatsApp which is open to members currently or previously in service. Primary function of this WhatsApp group is to provide another avenue for rapid communication for announcements and members needing already trained substitutes. After posting about rotation yesterday there was a question about a member from a prior rotation asking for a service position. Lengthening the time for members to be able to serve in same position may address one part of the question but not members rotating between positions.
- Who is the sheriff of this? Does the GS look back and make sure? Is it Obedience to the unenforceable? Perhaps asking members already or in service in a prior rotation to wait 1 week or after announcement to stand for a

position in addition to the not go back-to-back in same position guideline makes more sense? It's easy to come up with a guideline in theory without acknowledgement of how it will be enforced or by whom.

- Would be more in favor of waiting until the last week before rotation begins to step up again for a position in addition to the 4 months
- Providing context. Rotations used to be at 3 months then moved to 4 a year ago because there was difficulty in filling positions it was decided to wait just one rotation. That was when meeting was 150 on average. Now the meeting has closer to 300 members in attendance regularly. It does seem there's an appeal to be the chair but that might be another topic. It's time to extend the duration, the meeting has grown. People should wait a year.
- Remembers how difficult it was to fill service positions. Instead of 12 make it 8 months. Split the difference. Compromise to see how it goes.
- Giving it some time. In these large meetings it does happen that it takes time. Suggestion that members previously in service, hold back and wait to jump in. If there's still a need then they can step up.
- In support of the change to a year but making it be a suggestion and not a hard and fast rule. Communication has been crucial. We're doing better at announcing there is rotation in advance. Being proactive is working well to fill commitments. The communication from GS has helped a lot.
- Repetition of service becomes an issue of dominance. Always deleterious. 1 year wait, any downside to us trying it? Seeing if it works.
- This rotation we're not struggling to fill positions. We're 1 month from rotation and we have 4 of 7 chair positions filled. Besides, this change wouldn't take effect until next rotation anyways.
- Spirit of rotation – support that as much as we can.
- Seems we have a lot of rules.
- We could also say that if there's a person who asks for a spot who has **not** been of service, they get first dibs. It was announced to current rotation this was to be discussed at GC so they are prepared to follow a different guideline.
- We could loosen the rules if we are having difficulty – waiting period like was already suggested.
- As a prior person in service she self-polices not to jump in too quickly. Service has helped her so much. Would love other newcomers to step in.
- Express guideline as a tradition of the meeting – give it a go try it out.
- Caring more about a person's spiritual progress than their progress in the material world. So, she cares more about people rather than who chairs and how often. Everyone is on their own spiritual journey as some point they will think it's time to move on they will
- If I'm not jumping in fast enough, it's is a lesson for me – sounds like if someone likes taking service positions they can still be of service in another role.
- Prefers suggestions to rules. In favor of 12 months,

- Soft poll: GC Chair asked for show of hands “those in favor of extending the service guideline to 12 months”. Based on hands, there is not substantial consensus to move forward with changing the guideline.

At this juncture we can bring it back at next GC

Closed at 9:34, 34 members in attendance