EDRG Group Conscience - FEB 6th, 2025

Open with Serenity Prayer, 236 present

1. Group Rep Report- Eli, not present

He still needs to formally register as Group Rep but has the information and will do so shortly.

2. Group Secretary report - Sammy

End of February is the next transition in 4-month service positions. Chairs and chat hosts can begin announcing and posting. Secretary will sound out a reminder.

3. Treasury Report- Nkechi

Provided at the end of the meeting. There was also an informal discussion of prudent reserve, need for financial guidelines and a bank account.

Business:
4*. URGENT* discussion of safety concerns and Group Security

DISCUSSION
-One question about the agenda not being sent out and concern expressed about items not being added to the agenda.

-A proposal was made to focus the discussion on group format adjustments to address security rather than reviewing details of the zoom bombing that has disrupted safety.

-Proposal to hold off on motion until full discussion

-Recommendations included

    1) using a 2-step authentication process,

    2) 1-2 safety officers

        -permanent or temporary position

        -volunteers from a trained group of members vs a service commitment

        -suggestion of 1 officer for video, 1 for audio, 1 for chat

        -suggestions of 1 officer per page

        -suggestion of 1 officer for those with video on and 1 for those with video off

        -reminder that position prevents full participation in the meeting

        -the meeting is too big for only one host to manager

        -security needs may change depending on number of people present

        -Clarify security as a service position.   What is the work involved in recruiting and what would the position be?

    3) upon entering the waiting room demonstrate that you are not a bot, then having freedom to enter the meeting and turn the video off.

    4) putting a line or banner at the top of meeting chat script that says

you have to have your camera on to share or participate in the meeting. Using modified chat script rather than host explaining at every meeting.

5) keep chat closed until the bombing subsides

6) Immediately create a new commitment for safety

7) Put changes in place for another month and observe whether effective

8) Increased training for host and co-host.

      -reminder that zoom has a video training that has been helpful to some

      -reminder that there is an option to "suspend all activities" if necessary

9) Safety host should hide non-video participants. This will reduce number of pages to monitor.

10) Removed participants should be moveed to the waiting room because then they can't just re-enter using another name.

11) Several members discussed that sharing with camera off should be allowed to protect anonymity.

      -could host verify video briefly then allow sharing without video

12) Change meeting passcode or change meeting process so that you have to email someone to receive meeting ID and passcode rather than having the information published online.

      -another member believed changing passcode doesn't work

      -another member believed meeting is too large to change

access, would create a barrier for active members

13) Several members brought up that members should be allowed to ask to have camera turned on for sharing so that they don't miss the opportunity to share if they miss the first window of video on. The principle of being welcoming to newcomers was brought up.

    -Suggestion to have a line in chat reminding that members will have a second opportunity to turn their cameras on so please don't leave.

    -Others feel disabling chat solves one part of the problem

    -Add option for members to ask host to turn on the camera to share, but if no request made host should just skip them.

    -If the host feels comfortable turning someone's camera on they should be allowed to share.

14) It is possible to report security violations to zoom that involves taking a screenshot and filling out a form so that zoom can help prevent bombers from entering. Changing passcode doesn't work.

15) Zoom bombers can still intrude with cameras off. Several reminders that with zoom nothing is guaranteed, there are some aspects that are unmanageable. It is a first step issue and at some level we will have to rely on group's higher power.

16) A member says this has long been an issue for other groups and in the past has contacted southern california world service and was reminded "it's not personal"

17) suggestion to think of meeting as an alanon circle and to be present

on video and not walking or doing other activities-if you are going to use the phone or walk around its a distraction. Also encourages members to put number by name to encourage reaching out.

> -other members are in favor of being able to eat or participate while doing other things, increases access including to those with constraints or disabilities

> -another member has had negative experiences related to putting number next to name

> -recommendation to have people name themselves rather than "iphone" or "user"

18) A few members have experienced having their video turned off and were unsure why. 19) A reminder to balance with traditions 1 and 5, and continue to be welcoming. Some would like chat to still be open to hosts and co-hosts so that some communication is available.

20) Concern about the amount of meeting time lost to re-explaining procedures to every person with hand raised. Another meeting has a banner that is seen prior to each person being admitted. Suggestion to make this kind of banner visible after 8:05

21) After working security you begin to get a sense for the bombers, often off camera and only passing through.

> -Recommendation for camera on and face visible

> -Others experience having camera on as making a difference and we just need to give it time.

> -Hosts say that zoom bombing has continued through the past

week.

22) Exit people who do not use video.

23) Suggested language "it is encouraged for all fellows to turn video on before entering the room, but not required." Having your camera off should not be criminalized.

24) recommendation to form a security committee so that people with more knowledge can come up with best zoom settings, how to create banner, now to use waiting room

    -Use KBDM (knowledge based decision making) in committee to gather info for next month's GC

25) reminder to respond not react, use "breath of alanon" so solution is not overly controlled

-One member has written a **temporary proposa**l, submitted for a vote:

1. Change meeting script to include camera on and face visible to participate.
2. Keep chat open for Hosts and Co-Hosts
3. Change chat script to include camere on and face visible to participate.
4. Allow chair to ask member to turn camera on if they feel comfortable
5. Create a new service commitment for 1-2 Safety Hosts.
6. Train Hosts and Safety Hosts with Best Practices
7. Keep this format until next Group Conscience in March

78 participants at vote

47 in favor
9 opposed
2 abstain

<u>Clarification</u>: For the next month we will continue gathering voluntary safety hosts at the beginning of the meeting then add to daily 4 month positions beginning in March.

Closed with Serenity prayer, 49 present