

GaL-AA Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 10th, 2018 (Skype Meeting) 7:30 pm EST

Attendance:

Present:

Denise R., Chair
Carol N., Deputy Chair
H. Pierre B., Treasurer
Mark P., Secretary
Jim A., Advisor I
Eric W., Advisor II
Randall R., Advisor III
Rob F., Technical Liaison

Absent:

Chair—Denise

- Denise called the meeting to order, opened with a moment of silence, and we recited the Serenity Prayer at 7:30 pm.
- She congratulated Carol, Mark and Eric on their reelections to the committee.
- Denise asked Carol to forward to all the e-mail (if she could locate it) from the French international group about a convention/conference they requested we post on GaL-AA.org. Carol will send to executive committee if she has it.
- For the upcoming face-to-face at the Detroit Together We Can (TWC) roundup, Denise will register all members—we're to send her an e-mail with our names, street addresses, food preferences, and she will process registrations.
- Ron from Atlanta is coming with us to Detroit (he's traveling with Pierre); Randall will check to see if his room is included as part of his other activities on TWC.

Secretary's Report—Mark P.

- Mark distributed draft December minutes in advance of the meeting; upon motion made by Pierre and seconded by Eric, the minutes were approved.
- He also sent an Excel spreadsheet of contributions before the meeting; groups contributed \$0 by check (mail shipment was delayed due to weather conditions in the Northeast [\$188.89 is in transit]), and there was one online contribution from an individual in the amount of \$75.
- Mark will send final December minutes to Eric for posting on the website.

Treasurer's Report—Pierre

- Pierre sent his treasury report for the month ended December 31 prior to the meeting. Our beginning checking balance was \$4,849.88, income and expenses totaled \$342.56 and \$64.08, respectively, and the ending checking balance was \$5,128.36. International conference funds were \$5,001, and the prudent reserve was \$10,003.76. Upcoming expenses include \$175 to incorporation.com (to maintain our corporate status) and \$184 towards our insurance premium. Upon motion made by Mark and seconded by Carol, the report was approved.
- We discussed having ample funds in the checking account for the upcoming face-to-face in Detroit. After a motion made and seconded, in order to have sufficient working capital for the March meeting, it was unanimously approved that Pierre temporarily transfer \$2,500 to checking for that purpose.
- Pierre believes contributions will pick up in the coming year, especially when we start to disseminate more info about the 2020 International Convention and planning/fundraising.

- Pierre will meet with Mark J. (former treasurer) for filing our tax return/Form 990-N for calendar year 2017 (our fiscal year ends December 31, and the filing is due May 15, 2018 [the 15th day of the fifth month after fiscal year end]).
- Pierre has not heard from Greg T. but will reach out again to connect Randall with Greg.
- We all agreed to revisit reformatting the treasury reports in March in Detroit.

Deputy Chair—Carol

- She has not corresponded with GSO as of yet, and last contact was in April/May 2017. She will get the right name of the current contact, write to him/her and indicate GaL-AA is still here and participating in and officially wants to be a part of the International Convention.

Advisor I—Jim

- Nothing new to report in the way of hyperlinking.
- We discussed outreach to the groups in the LGBT+ community, and Jim will research AA-oriented clubs (Pierre will also get info/contacts for several Atlanta clubs). We will discuss mass mailing/form letters and outreach to the various clubs while in Detroit.

Technical Liaison/Web—Rob

- Rob confirmed that everyone is now connected to their new email. If not, executive committee members should reach out to him; he's not heard from Pierre, Randall or Jim about whether they have successfully accessed their new email accounts; but everyone else has logged in.
- Currently support emails are going to everyone, but Rob will discontinue that and train Eric and Denise on management.
- New web theme: The previous WordPress theme we purchased (back in 2017) turned out to be too complicated for our web. Rob has found a different WordPress theme, called Benevolence, that is much easier to use. He's already started porting the site over and plans to work more on it this weekend.
- Online payments: Benevolence allows us to integrate with PayPal and Stripe. For PayPal, we can tell them we're a nonprofit and we'll get discounted per-transaction rates.
- Rob will need API keys from PayPal, and the password he has for that account must no longer be valid.
- New meeting list WordPress plugin: There's a new WordPress plugin for listing 12-step meetings that he is testing out. It's ideal and seems to be exactly what we need.
- The above plugin generates an open-source formatted list of meetings that integrates with a mobile meeting-guide app. We probably could talk to them to get our lists included in this app, even though we're not an area/district office. Rob suggests partnering with them to help other areas use this format and get listed in this app.
- New web server: Rob is pretty sure we agreed in the past to switch our hosting to DigitalOcean's \$5-per-month hosting plan. He has started a server under his personal account to set all the new web design up. When finished, he will create a GaL-AA- owned account and transfer the server over to it. Rob also recommends we purchase a backup plan which costs an extra \$1 per month.
- Rob has purchased the theme, but will pay for it himself as we did not use the old WordPress/University theme. GaL-AA will pay for any updates, typically \$40 or \$50 per year.
- Rob will disable the old DreamHost e-mail site/application.
- We all thanked Rob for his hard work. Concerning Brian, Rob spoke to him yesterday about these new developments and helping with maintenance. If Brian is at TWC, we will meet him there. Rob will organize the new web redesign first so he's easily able to transition to Brian in the future. Rob anticipates the web redesign to be completed by the March face-to-face.
- Rob will update Denise with a report if he is unable to attend the February Skype meeting.

Advisor II—Eric

- The newsletter has gone out; he indicated it was brief intentionally. April will be a bigger edition with reporting on events at TWC and local committee formation.

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- He's done a thorough search for roundup updates, and the major ones are updated on our web calendar (through at least Provincetown in October of 2018). Denise forwarded info to him she obtained from the Ohio roundup.

Advisor III—Randall

- Hotel is all set for us in March.
- For local committee formation, Pierre suggested a 4- or 5-person committee, consisting of chairperson, treasury, hospitality, outreach and entertainment.
- More will happen in March when we get to TWC.

Old Business:

- International/French AA 2018 conference and posting on GaL-AA web (see Denise's opening remarks above).

New Business:

- We have had a request from San Diego's Sobriety On the Sand to post a link for its 2018 roundup in Carlsbad Beach. All on the committee members are to log on to <https://www.classy.org/carlsbad/events/sobriety-sand-2018-registration/e152468>, review content on the group(s) sponsoring/holding the recovery roundup and submit comments to Denise on whether or not to post.

NEXT SKYPE MEETING WILL BE WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, at 7:30 EST

Motion to adjourn was made by Mark and seconded by Jim, and the meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark P.