

GaL-AA Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 22nd, 2018 (in-person meeting, Marriot/Together We Can Roundup [TWC], Troy, Michigan) 8:55 am 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
Ron D., interested AA (Atlanta)/portions of meetings
Newly installed Detroit 2020 International Committee (portions of meetings)

Absent:

Chair—Denise

- Opened with a moment of silence and we recited the Serenity Prayer.
- Pierre has set up appointments to view two hotels (we're waiting to hear from the third); we'll visit at 11 am and 3 pm, respectively (third to be determined).
- Denise indicated she will give a short introduction about GaL-AA from the podium at the TWC speaker meeting; we will set out a table with GaL-AA information/sign-up sheets, newsletters, etc.
- Each executive committee member will reimburse GaL-AA for the higher cost of his/her room this evening (\$50 is the difference; Ron will not have to pay).
- There was a discussion of singleness of purpose and listing requirements for our website by roundups (particularly Sober in the Sun). Consensus was that as long as the roundup purports to be AA (i.e., not another fellowship exclusively), we will consider/review and probably accept/allow the listing.

Secretary's Report—Mark P.

- Mark distributed draft February minutes in advance of the meeting; upon motion made by Rob and seconded by Carol, the minutes were approved (two minor typographical corrections will be made by Mark).
- He also sent an Excel spreadsheet of contributions before the meeting; groups contributed \$343.87 by check, and there were three online contributions from groups totaling \$348.
- Pierre will send Mark passwords and IDs to access the three pay vendors (for ease in reporting to the Executive Committee).
- Mark will send final February minutes to Eric for posting on the website.
- Mark took missing phone numbers from committee members and will update our contact list. He also has contacts--names, phones and emails--for the local 2020 International Committee chair and other members of the International Committee and will add to our contacts.

Treasurer's Report—Pierre

- Pierre sent his treasury report for the month ended February 28 prior to the meeting. Our beginning checking balance was \$5,297.79, income and expenses totaled \$2,000 (a temporary transfer from prudent reserve) and \$1,410.52 (mail, Alliance, Incorporate.com, insurance and roundup registration expenses), respectively, and the ending checking balance was \$6,373.79.

International conference funds were \$5,001.13, and the prudent reserve was \$8,004.06. Upon motion made by Jim and seconded by Randall, the report was approved.

- Eric helped Pierre reformat the Excel treasury report; he will post missing treasury reports on the GaL-AA website when time permits.
- IRS tax return filed, Pierre will contact IRS about our change of fiscal reporting year end to 12/31 (this change was previously reported as completed and accepted with the IRS by Mark J., former treasurer, but not reflected in the IRS Form 440 filing website when Pierre made the recent filing).

Downtown Detroit Hotel/Venue Site Visits

- I. Crowne Plaza. Closest of the hotels to Cobo Center (literally nearest hotel to it); the ballroom is currently under construction. The space for our dance will be more than adequate, and there are open balconies on either end of the large enclosed hall. The space/areas within the hotel for hospitality are less suitable than at the other hotels subsequently visited but would work.
- II. Westin Book Cadillac: Located in the financial district and the second closest hotel to Cobo. The hotel is elegant with a large second floor area, ballroom for dance and rooms for hospitality and meeting(s). We could not view the ballroom as a function was taking place.
- III. Renaissance Center Marriott. Huge and really great public forum. The main ballroom with two adjoining function halls is considerably large and more than adequate for our needs. The center is farthest from Cobo of the three venues, but a tram (People Mover) runs through the center with a stop near Cobo.
- We returned to the roundup.

Advisor I—Jim

- Jim drafted and submitted a piece for the committee to review; it is an outreach to groups on allocations of 7th tradition to include GaL-AA in disbursing funds outside the group into the AA service structure (Mark to distribute with acknowledgements for group contributions going forward); Eric and Mark may also use it to update the 7th tradition article on our website. We could include lingo to gear folks up for fundraising in connection with 2020 into that piece as well.

Ron (former/Atlanta local committee)

- Ron relayed history about how he and others went to San Antonio (prior to the 2015 Atlanta convention) and basically started from scratch for the Atlanta local committee.
- Free space was good; he indicated the most important thing was to find the hotel and go from there.
- Once Atlanta established its local committee; they set up monthly meetings. Getting the right people on board helped (linens, lighting/DJ, entertainment, etc.). Contract-wise, all contracts were negotiated by GaL-AA (i.e., not by the local committee). We gave permission for Randall to sign for GaL-AA Executive Committee in connection with local planning for the 2020.
- The Atlanta committee got a lot of quotes for the dance, estimates, furniture and design. They shopped for DJ and lighting programs (the best was at hotel, and the hotel and its vendors had insurance, etc.). They focused on décor and event particulars.
- Ron suggested to the Detroit committee to talk to the hotel first to see whom the hotel usually works with. Atlanta found out that so much was done by the hotel rather than setting up independent vendors (this may be the case with Detroit once the hotel decision is finalized).
- Budget for the Atlanta GaL-AA dance was based on estimated people, that figure was 2,000.
- Detroit International Committee: Meg will organize and be chair (she has four-five years' sobriety); others have long term (decades). The two entertainment folks have three years and seven years, respectively, and they worked on the dance at recent March mainstream roundup.
- We also sold T-shirts.
- We'll hold one dance, operate a hospitality suite, and have a program/times for hospitality (they will probably be the same as in Atlanta).

- We discussed hotels we had visited--each member voiced pros and cons for the venues. Each space/hotel was acceptable but had good points and drawbacks (see comments in the section above).
- We voted first round to eliminate one hotel: for the first round, Renaissance was voted first choice; then Crowne.
- Carol is working on linking to GaL-AA from GSO and getting our 2020 dance on the GSO International Convention event listing.
- Our one speaker meeting will be held Thursday (July 2) at 8 pm. The dance will be held Friday, July 3, at 10 pm.

Technical Liaison/Web—Rob

- Rob gave extensive overview through a staging site of the new Benevolence theme he ported GaL-AA to.
- Brian, the technical support for Rob, was not at TWC, and we did not get a chance to meet him.
- We get a whole year basically free (we may have to pay for updates in the future; the theme is geared to non-profit groups).
- DigitalOcean is hosting this currently. We will transfer to GaL-AA (we love Rob's thinking, and it is incentive for him to finish).
- Meeting Guide motion: Rob motioned to contact Meetingguide.org to see whether/how we can partner with them to get automated access to Meeting Guide for meetings and get on their list of official AA agency/contact groups (seconded Pierre and unanimously approved).
- In closing Rob said he needs to find a couple hours to transition meetings; so in that time period, our meeting links will be taken down (he'll post a notice on GaL-AA.org during the time he's porting).
- Denise made a motion to make no further changes to the meeting website and for Rob to proceed to the end of April (Eric will assist with roundup updates) when Rob completes transition. The motion was seconded by Randall and also unanimously approved. We'll send a blast e-mail announcing the new/improved site when ready.


The committee adjourned and reconvened the following day, Friday, March 23, in the same meeting room.

Chair—Denise

- Denise reopened the meeting with a moment of silence and we recited the Serenity Prayer.
- We'll not have specific hours to staff the GaL-AA table at the roundup, but exec and local committee members will be around in case people have questions, want information or want to sign up for participation.
- Denise will introduce local people on the committee during a Saturday workshop. The workshop will be a Q&A session; Ron will be there and with Pierre will go over treasury aspect.
- The International Committee members entered the meeting.

2020 Local International Planning Committee

- The local planning committee initially consists of:
 - Chair, Megan M.; Co-Chair, Martin D.; Steve L. on hospitality; and Jesse N. for entertainment/dance.
- Denise went over the hotels we visited yesterday (Renaissance is our first choice) and handed over the sign-up sheets of interested AAs from the 2017 TWC roundup when we visited Detroit last to Meg and Martin.
- Ron handed out position descriptions. Materials, treasury and budget information and other docs are available on the Google drive. Meg and Martin have access and have already started reviewing these.
- The local committee left the meeting and we took a short recess.
- By the end of Friday, we felt good about the choices/people on the local committee; they were enthusiastic had good questions.

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- We will obtain more feedback and answer questions from others attending TWC that have interest during tomorrow's workshop.
 - Money aspect: Pierre discussed that we had tension with locals over multiple accounts in Atlanta for the 2015 Convention. We anticipate eliminating a separate account for 2020. A separate PayPal account may be a possibility though. See subsequent GaL-AA Executive Committee lunch on treasury function within local committee below.

Old Business:

- None.

New Business:

- None.

The committee adjourned (upon motion made by Mark and seconded by Eric/Rob) at 3 pm and reconvened the following day for luncheon, Saturday, March 23 at noon.

Discussion of Local Committee and Treasury Matters

- Session opened with moment of silence and Serenity Prayer (Mark was not present for the lunch).
- The Treasury function on the Detroit local committee was discussed. The decision was carried from yesterday that the local committee would not have a bank account or check-writing capabilities.
- Initially the local committee members will be depositing money from local fundraisers (anyone to make those deposits through local Bank of America branch(es)).
- We discussed other pros and cons, and Rob thinks we should have a treasurer on the local committee in an oversight role and/or for accountability purposes. After further discussion, motions were made by Mark and seconded by Carol that (i) Randall and Martin will be fiscal chairs for the Detroit local committee and (ii) that the Detroit local committee will make a decision a year from now as to the appointment of a Treasurer. The motions were passed by majority vote.

Motion to adjourn was made by Rob and seconded by Mark, and the meeting adjourned at 1:35 pm.

NEXT SKYPE MEETING WILL BE WEDNESDAY, MAY, 9, at 7:30 EST

Respectfully submitted,

Mark P.