

MINUTES: MEMBERSHIP MEETING

AL-ANON INFORMATION SERVICE OF GRAND RAPIDS AREA

May 21, 2024 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Zoom Meeting ID: **818 5619 1624** Password: **463178**

Board of Trustees: Alison L. Chairperson; open position Secretary; Bobbi R., Treasurer., Vic C. Communications Committee Chairperson; Brenda District 20 Liaison, Karen K. District 18 Liaison, open position District 32 Liaison

Open: Serenity Prayer, Concept 1, Introductions

In attendance: **Five (5) Voting members:** Vic C, Communications Chairperson; Bobbi R., Treasurer; Denise Y; Michelle D.; Anne B. – Non-voting members: Alison L, Chairperson; Brenda C, DISL 20; Karen K. DISL 18

Housekeeping:

- Change to agenda, add schedule printing to new business

Reports:

- Minutes –January 2024 Meeting – approved
- Treasurer – financial and contribution statements
- Communications report – discussion included should usage of services be included in the report. Board will discuss it at next meeting.

Old Business:

- Elected position open – Secretary – no one stood for this position
- Appointed positions open – Phone Committee Coordinator, Web Editor, Schedule Editor. Members were encouraged to take these open positions back to their groups

New Business:

- Website review and discussion. A presentation created by the chairperson and communication chair was shown. The presentation included current website status and options going forward. See attached document for outline of presentation. Members were asked to hold their questions until after the presentation.
- After the presentation all were asked –
 - 1.) How important is having a viable website with local Al-Anon information to our community?
 - Member – Our website is important for our phone service. Less concerned about contents but when some Google Grand Rapids Al-anon our website is the first thing they see. Member – website is the most important thing we (AISGR) does. Member – from Holland perspective. Their members primarily get to meetings from the WSO site. She admitted she is very familiar with the WSO so does not find it difficult to but realizes that may not be true for new members. Member – From a priority standpoint the phone service is the most important. Website is important, meetings. Simple site. Chairperson asked how do they get the phone number if not from a website? Member – Important to have a schedule readily available as PDF that can easily be found and pulled up. Links

are good but linking to WSO for local meetings is cumbersome and for newcomers it needs to be easy. Member – I'm definitely a website person. Use websites to get my information. Member – Yes to a local website .

2.) Which of the presented options do you think we should go with?

- o Member – Likes the MIAFG site. So likes the GoDaddy or Google site option. If could be done temporarily without any investment it would be great. Member – Likes and uses the MIAFG site. For the professional site she knows if we want a good site we need to pay for it because the skill to create a site is so highly specialized. This is a good use for our funds. Members – I love the MIAFG site but we don't have anyone to build it. If we hire a professional to build a site then our Web Editor could be unskilled and easier to fill only needs to do periodic updating of schedule and events. If we don't want to spend the money then we need to leave the temporary page up. The other options are not viable because we don't have a web editor. Member – I am in favor of hiring a web designer. The website has been a mess for too long. Member – Remembers when our website works with current meeting schedule and it was nice. Our website serves an important service. We keep having problems with our web host because we don't have a member that is a web professional. Member – If we don't use AISGR's money for this what would we use it for? A website is an awesome tool in our area for many AI-Anon related things.
- A straw poll to see where the voting members are at. 4 out of 5 choose the professionally built site. 1 GoDaddy.
- In preparation for the motion –
 - o The information that was shown to the web designer was shown.
 - o Members share again in support of this option
- Motion: AISGR hires a professional to build a new website. The cost not exceeding \$3500 without an additional vote. Michelle, Bobbi second. 5/5 passed
 - o Discussion – Reminder we are a group conscience organization. All need to have an opportunity for input. Is this a rushed decision? It would have to wait until the next meeting in September plus time to build. Website has been basically broken for 18 months. This is the most group representation we've had in a long time.
- Next meetings:
 - o Board of Trustees July 16, 2024
 - o AISGR September 17, 2024

Close: Serenity Prayer and Let It Begin with Me