

District 23 Meeting Minutes

for October 13, 2022

Why Do We Need a Conference? Was read

Roll Call + call for special needs + new GSR/Alt GSR. Kimberly asked all to sign the sign-in sheet.

Committee Chair	Member	Present
DCM	Kimberly M	X
Alt DCM	Kyle R	X
LCM 1	Jennifer W	X
LCM 2	Jimmy	X
Treasurer	Mitch	
Secretary	Jami U	X
Web & Technology	Mariah/Josh	Josh
Special Events	Robin R.	
Treatment Facilities (TFC)	Della	X
Correctional Facilities (CFC)	Roberta R	
Cooperation with the Professional Community / Public Information (CPC/PI)	Zach M	X
Accessibilities	Iris	X

14 Groups Present:

Group special needs: No

New GSRs/Alt GSRs present: Alt GSR for Language of the Heart, Alt GSR for Rob GSR Pathway to Freedom, Carlos GSR for Safe Haven, Chrystal GSR for Lunch bunch.

Last month's meeting minutes: No suggested changes. Motion made to accept the September district meeting minutes. Minutes were approved.

Open (Vacant) Committee Chair positions: Grapevine

In-Meeting Committee Chair comments

Cooperation with the Professional Community & Public Information (CPC/PI): Zach - No report

Special Events: Robin – See the full report below in the *Submitted Committee Reports* section.

Correctional Facilities (CFC): Roberta - No report/change since last month

Treatment Facilities (TFC): Della – There are several open slots for volunteers to bring a meeting to the facilities. See the full report below in the *Submitted Committee Reports* section.

Web & Technology: Mariah – Josh (on committee) - See the full report below in the *Submitted Committee Reports* section.

Intergroup: Dave – Three intergroup officers were elected to a second term. Intergroup experienced a drop in contributions and sales during Sept/Oct. There is a request that GSRs inquire with homegroups about contributing to Intergroup. Intergroup has a threefold purpose: Offer a 24/7 hotline, operate as a clearing house for literature, chips, and other related items, and serve the community.

Treasurer: Mitch – See screenshots below in the *Submitted Committee Reports* section. The September treasurer's was approved. A GSR inquired about the use of funds, and response was that a prudent reserve is used for typical expenses, an example being the New Year's Eve party. If there is a surplus at the end of the year, then this district meeting group will discuss how to use/distribute funds.

Alt DCM: Kyle – Nothing new to report

LCM: Jimmy/Jennifer – LCMs may reach out to individuals to encourage GSR/homegroup support and participation.

DCM: Kimberly - See the full report below in the *Submitted Committee Reports* section.

Old Business

- Karen B, Area 51 Accessibilities Coordinator, presented on different accessibility needs and why it's important to address them for the AA community. It is suggested for homegroups to have an accessibility representative; inquire if your homegroup members have accessibility needs.
- Iris stood for the Accessibilities Coordinator for District 23. Motion made and passed.
- Regarding the Gmail email accounts - Mariah worked with Sam on some technical items and the result is that we can either migrate all addresses over to the website host or none; there isn't an option to leave for example two email accounts (DCM and Web Committee Chair) on Gmail. She meets with him tomorrow to execute our decision. The "sense" from the last meeting was to move everything to the website host. Kim said to go ahead and do the migration, but we must pull the files from Gmail before that happens. Kim and Mariah will connect first.
- Reminder to GSRs/Alt GSRs to sign up for the automated text notification reminder for the district meeting event.

New Business

- New GSR Buddy system
 - Find other GSRs who are willing to share their experience as a GSR and/or at the Assembly.

- Review Assembly notice
 - GSRs – please take the agenda items for the Fall Assembly back to your homegroups and (as your group's GSR) come away with your homegroup's group consensus. This can support your decision in voting at the Assembly.
- Regarding email accounts/hosting issue:
 - A motion was passed to reconsider the following old motion (as documented in the August minutes), given that it will cost more to make the move from google Gmail: *"A motion was made to work with webmaster Sam, and pay if a charge is incurred, to move all accounts to webhosting, and then keep two email accounts hosted via Gmail for the DCM and Web Committee Chair, in order to keep access to google docs and drive. The motion was passed."* This route would have also meant no cloud storage.
 - A new motion was made (this is a substitute motion, so it would replace the former from the August minutes above) "to wait on migrating the email hosting in favor of finding a potentially better option and part of that motion is a suggestion from the web committee for district 23 to form an adhoc committee to consider forming a 501". It's not acceptable to not have some sort of file/cloud storage. The motion passed. Kyle will take the task of structuring the Ad hoc committee. Other members volunteered: Dave (of intergroup), Zach, and Chris.
- Also, Zach made a suggestion to have Zoom available for the district meetings, so that attendees who can't attend can still participate in the votes and information sharing.

Meeting adjourned with Responsibility Statement

Submitted Committee Reports

- **Cooperation with the Professional Community & Public Information (CPC/PI):**
- **Accessibilities:**
- **Grapevine:** VACANT
- **Special Events:**

New Year's Eve event which will be at Westminster. The schedule on Dec 31 will be:

- 5 pm doors open (people are asked to bring appetizers/desserts)
 - 6 pm first speaker-Scott F from Philadelphia.
 - 7 pm-dinner,
 - 9 pm-second speaker-Rena K from Punta Gorda, FL.,
 - 10-12 or so DJ and Dancing.
 - I'm asking that everyone who is willing please pass a second basket or a separate jar for NYE donations in your homegroup. More to come..
- **TFC:**
There has not been much change with the Cone Behavioral Health (CBH) facility over the last month. The Monday and Friday night meetings have been going well. *We have openings for daytime meetings on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday at either 2 or 4pm. For the new facility, Cone/Guilford Facilities Based Crisis Unit (FBC)

we have nightly meetings on Tuesday's and Thursday's, and we have daytime meetings on Monday's and Friday's. We still have openings for daytime or nighttime meetings on Wednesday's, Saturday's and Sunday's at either 2, 4 or 8pm.

Just as a reminder, there is a meeting guide at each location which the groups are using to facilitate the meetings. It is intended to simulate an AA beginner meeting with reading of the 12 steps, Bridging the Gap and the Promises. There is a limit of 2 with a preference of mixed gender. If your group is taking meetings into either of these locations and for some reason can't take a meeting in on your date/time*, please let me know as soon as possible so we can either make other arrangements or let the contact know that we will not be there at the scheduled time. *This is critical to their internal scheduling. *

If your home group is interested in some great service work, please contact me as soon as possible for available days/times. *Our goal is to bring a meeting into both of these facilities every available day of the week!! * *Thank you all for your service work!! Let's fill these remaining open slots as quickly as possible!!*

- **Web & Tech:**

EMAIL ACCOUNT TOPIC

Background:

- District 23 uses Gmail for email domain, historically a free service it now costs a monthly fee to use. The cost is \$6 per user, per month; with 19 users currently, monthly cost is around \$114 (~\$1368/yr) starting next year. Current cost is \$3/user/month for rest of this year.
 - o Gmail email hosting comes with many features the district currently uses: ▪ Security and redundancy features used to maintain accounts reduces risks of discontinuities during role changes and position rotations by having everything easily managed by the web and tech committee chair and the paid webmaster.
 - Google suite included gives use of word processor, spreadsheets, analytics, and most important cloud storage for saving files and backing up data. Some features could be done without, data storage is a requirement for the district.
 - o Switching services from Gmail, we will lose all our historical data and all features mentioned above, possibly more that I'm not aware of that we use
- Current state:
- Already approved by successful motion and group conscience is to migrate the email domain to use the same service as currently used for nc23.org website hosting (WordPress).
 - o Email hosting is already included in the cost of maintaining the website costs, so no additional costs
 - o WordPress does not provide cloud storage, would have to purchase additionally (see below)

Different options:

- 501(c)(3) nonprofit orgs. have access to Gmail/Google tools at no cost. o Filling for nonprofit entails application with \$275 fee
- Nonprofit status gets free Google suite, also access to other resources such as techsoup.com
- "TechSoup.org personally and then on your district's behalf, apply to join TechSoup as a qualified nonprofit. There are a lot of benefits for joining, Getting qualified for Google Workspace with an unlimited number of accounts (users) or Microsoft's program that offers 10 free accounts and discounts, too." Quote from Sam H. at TIAA
- o From TIAA forum, other groups experience getting 501(c)(3) status at no cost with no application due – from IRS website "[Exceptions to Application Requirement] An organization that is not a private foundation and the gross receipts (total amounts the organization received from all sources during its annual accounting period, without subtracting any costs or expenses) of which in each taxable year are normally not more than \$5,000."
- Will need to request a taxpayer ID number/employer ID number, simple process

- May need to file articles of incorporation compatible with IRS tax exemption, may have fees, file with state
- Local nonprofit chamber of commerce would have more info
- If committed to leaving Google suite for WordPress, file storage would have to be purchased
 - o Includes no utilities other than email (document sharing, cloud storage, etc.) o Best option is Drop Box (per our webmaster), costs \$15/user per month billed yearly (\$180/year/user, \$3420/year for 19 users, although not all 19 people will require file storage)
- Would likely require more than one user, partly for organization/ease of use and partly for transitional safety and tiered security of documents (don't know if we need tiered security, don't know that we use that now). - Moving some part of this issue to intergroup
 - o Intergroup is 501(c)(3) already, wouldn't have to go through that
 - o Web and tech issues would be under intergroup, no longer district (two separate entities)
 - o Haven't at all discussed with any members of intergroup or anyone outside of tech committee
- Making a bunch of individual/personal Google accounts for district committee members to circumvent having to pay fees
 - o Doesn't make sense as far as safety of information or continuity of transition goes
 - o Accounts would have to be tied to each individual personally (I think), using personal names and cell numbers and whatnot.
 - o Things like help@nc23.org wouldn't exist the way they are now (multiple members getting help emails forwarded so there's a better chance of fast response time)
 - o File storage wouldn't be manageable between different accounts, redundancy would have to be processed manually each time something needed to be done (every revision of a flier would have to be sent to the person who manages the data storage and saved, one person managing incoming files and requests to pull files for the whole district isn't plausible)

Summary:

- Migrating to WordPress for email hosting to avoid paying monthly fees won't end up costing nothing, cloud storage alone costs more than continuing to pay Google at current and future monthly rates.
- Nonprofit orgs. get Google suite for free, district 23 may be able to get 501(c)(3) status for not cost and minimal work.

Opinion of district 23 web and tech committee:

- Make a motion to reconsider migrating the hosting of district 23's email services to WordPress in favor of considering other options with this new information. o If passed, make a motion for the district to form an ad hoc committee to explore registering district 23 as a 501(c)(3).
- "Now where do A.A.'s services — worldwide, area, local — fit into our scheme of things? Why should we provide these functions with money? The answer is simple enough. Every single A.A. service is designed to make more and better Twelfth Step work possible, whether it be a group meeting place, a central or intergroup office to arrange hospitalization and sponsorship, or the world service Headquarters [now the General Service Office] to maintain unity and effectiveness all over the globe.
- "Though not costly, these service agencies are absolutely essential to our continued expansion — to our survival as a Fellowship. Their costs are a collective obligation that rests squarely upon all of us. Our support of services actually amounts to recognition on our part that A.A. must everywhere function in full strength — and that, under our Tradition of self-support, we are all going to foot the bill."

Bill W., October 1967 Grapevine

"Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority."

7th tradition, long form

Resources:

- "A.A. Guidelines – Finance," https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/mg_15_finance_0.pdf
- "Public Charity – Tax Exemption Application," IRS website, <https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/charitable-organizations/public-charity-exemption-application>
- TIAA forum thread with experience from other groups (need to create an account to access), <https://discourse.tiaa-forum.org/t/forced-upgrade-to-google-workspace-for-district-is-too-costly/7432>

- CFC:
- Intergroup:
- Treasurer:

Running Balance September 2022					
Beginning Balance:	\$7,795.43		Ending Balance:	\$7,731.41	Prudent Reserve:
Total Credits:	\$50.98		Total Debits:	-\$115.00	Inc/(Dec) in Assets
					-\$64.02
Contributor	Date	Amount	Check No.	Purpose/Budget	Notes
Webmaster	9/9/2022	-\$22.50			
Truist	9/21/2022	-\$4.00		Service charge	
Google	10/3/2022	-\$66.00			
CashApp	10/12/2022	\$50.98		Cashout	includes previous months balance and \$25 charge for EZText
Webmaster	10/12/2022	-\$22.50			

- AIt DCM:
- LCM:
- DCM:
 - “Service Nerds,” Greensboro’s service manual study meets at 6:15p every Wednesday night on Zoom. Details are on nc23.org.
 - Unity Fund is available for groups that are unable to afford to send their GSR. Please talk to Kimberly if your groups may be interested.
 - Upcoming Events:
 - Fall Assembly November 19-20, Hilton North Raleigh (**Election Assembly) *Must book a room by October 25th
 - Eastern Pre-Conference: March 25, 2023 hosted by Districts 31/35/50
 - Central Pre-Conference: March 18, 2023 hosted by District 18 (Winston-Salem) . Preliminary planning has begun for the 2023 Pre-Conference events
 - Spanish Pre-Conference: March 19, 2023 hosted by District 30
 - Western Pre-Conference: April 1, 2023 hosted by District 21