

SMIA Meeting Minutes – April 8, 2023

Opening: Buddy F. opened with the Serenity Prayer.

Board Members present: Buddy F. - Chair, Rebecca B. – Treasurer, Rob A. – Parliamentarian and Tressie F. - Secretary

Groups & Committees Represented: John Z. – 12x12 for Serenity/ Archives, Paul S. – Cove Point, Bill L – Sunderland/Bookstall, Todd M. - St. Charles Step, Craig W. – Waldorf, Nathan H. – Waldorf, Scott T. – Grapevine, Scott A. – Basic Text, Jamie R. – North Beach, Roy B. – Solomons, Lorraine J. – Bedouin, Amanda W. – ODDAT, George W. – Inspiration, Robert W. – Saturday Morning Breakfast, Kristi P. – Never too Late, Chuck M. – Sobriety First, Rob A. – Popular Hill, Melissa W. – Phone

SMIA Chair Report: Buddy F. – transitioned Bookstall duties. Plan to attend District meetings over the next few months; however, was unable to attend IGLC meeting.

Vice-Chair Report: Katherine L. – not available.

Secretary Report: Read by Tressie F. – March 2023 minutes were accepted as read with corrections.

Treasurer Report: Rebecca B. – 2/25/23 – 3/24/23 report provided. Total assets \$16118.98 with \$125 in contributions. The next report will close out this year’s budget and the annual budget will be presented next month. The Treasurer’s Report is available on-line at <https://somidintergroup.org/finance.html>

Committee Reports

Archives: John Z. – would like photographs of SMIA founders. Anonymity of deceased members is not perceived to be an issue.

By-Laws Committee: Rob A. Parliamentarian. The establishment of this committee occurred (motioned, seconded, and passed) due to issues discussed under Old Business concerning SMIA funds and the distribution of such funds for initiatives and projects. Members include Rob, Buddy, Melissa, Keith, Rebecca, Craig, George, and Lorraine. The By-Laws will be reviewed and edited for presentation to the SMIA membership for consideration, discussion, and modification.

Lifeline: Keith – asked John to provide an Archives feature for the Lifeline. Looking for volunteers to provide service articles.

Phone Report: Melissa – received 18 calls (2 St. Mary’s, 3 Calvert, 10 Charles) with 3 from the Charles County Health Dept.

Serenity Breakfast: Buddy – no chairperson and no facility.

Gratitude Dinner: Buddy – no chairperson and no location as of yet.

Corrections and Treatment: Charles County – Todd per Brandy meetings are being held at Jude House at 8:30 on Sundays. St. Mary’s – Meetings going into Anchor every Wednesday and Compass every Monday. The Anchor would like a meeting brought in the 5th Tuesday of the month. Calvert – Lorraine reports on behalf of Dan S. (Corrections) and Mark B. (Treatment). Meetings are being held at Barstow and 20 people have attended the orientation. Meetings are 1st and 3rd Wednesday for men and 2nd and 4th for women.

PI/CPC: St. Mary’s – in good shape. Calvert – Lorraine delivered Big Books and 12x12 to libraries. John – Brenda provided information to the Health Department and will be setting up a table for them.

Bookstall: Bill L. reported - There were 680 visits to the On-Line Bookstall since the March meeting. There were 18 orders since the last meeting; 8 are processing, 4 are on hold, and 6 were completed.

Completed orders totaled \$271.50.

Processing orders totaled \$477.55.

On-Hold orders totaled \$216.00

AA World Services literature purchases totaled \$1123.24.

I will update the inventory database upon receipt of the physical inventory conducted by Buddy. The total inventory asset value will be forwarded to Rebecca and Buddy when completed.

Where and When: Pat P. – a box was provided for the meeting today. There are 5 boxes remaining. No new changes.

Website: Bill L. gave report.

Total Visitors (initial visit)	2141– Down 3%
5 Most Frequently visited pages	Home Page – 2294 Where and When Calendar- 418 Where and When Search -204 On-Line Meetings - 173 Anniversary Calendar -158
Referring Sites	Direct Others Search Engines – Google, DuckDuckGo, Yahoo

Site Updates and Changes

No significant updates

Meeting Change Information

No additions, changes, or terminations this month

Meeting Status

Currently there are 130 meetings in our service area; 120 meetings are in-person, 7 meetings are hybrid, 6 meetings are on-line only, and 4 meetings are reported as suspended. Of those 4, 1 has an on-line presence.

Document Posts and Updates

Mobile App 2023 4.4 released – 4/3/23

Lifeline posted – 4/2/23

Finance Page updated – 3/27/23

SMIA Minutes posted – 3/15/23

Old Business – Kristi P. volunteered for the Secretary position. A motion was made, seconded and passed to waive the 2 year sobriety requirement. The incumbent Secretary cast one vote to elect. Letters were provided by the Waldorf group (see page 3) and the Inspiration group concerning SMIA use of funds and the requirement for excess funds to be

split between World Services and Maryland General Services (60/40). There was a lot of discussion. The SMIA has a responsibility to the recovering community and attempts to follow the spirit of the traditions; however, we are a non-profit corporation and do not report to Maryland General Services or World Services. Our accountability is to the groups we service in Southern Maryland and the membership. Basically, since the books were already provided to the Round-Up and the additional \$600 contribution to the church that hosts the SMIA, it was agreed those expenditures would stand rather than attempting to recoup the contributions. In both cases, the contributions were voted for by the attending membership. Some felt the Round-up was an outside entity, but some believed we are providing a service to recovering alcoholics. This was considered a special project; however, the By-Laws Committee will investigate defining special projects and determining the funding that will be set aside for those items. It was agreed that in the future, these types of items would be bought before the membership to take back to their groups to discuss before a vote is considered. The membership agreed to withdraw the college scholarship and State Convention sponsorship proposals.

New Business – Buddy – The corporate credit card had been compromised, so when purchases for literature from AA World Services were submitted, the charges were invoiced. Therefore, we had invoices dated back to August 2022 in the amount of \$2862.66. These have since been reconciled with the new corporate credit card. It should be noted that all invoiced literature was delivered.

For the Good of the Order Mini Conference will be held in Severna Park on April 15th. District 35 4th Step Workshop will be held on April 19th. Rebecca B. (Treasurer) will celebrate 4 years of sobriety at Grateful Alive on May 17th.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

Letter from Waldorf group below

March 27, 2023

To: Southern Maryland Intergroup

From: Waldorf Group

Subject: Southern Maryland Intergroup Spending

The Waldorf Group held its monthly group conscience on Wednesday March 15, 2023, following the Southern Maryland Intergroup (SMIA) meeting on Saturday March 11, 2023. We discussed the spending and proposed spending outline in the intergroup meeting minutes from the February and March 2023 intergroup meeting. The Waldorf Group does not agree with the intergroup spending and proposed spending as stated in the February and March 2023 meeting minutes because spending is not in accordance with AA traditions and SMIA BYLAWS. Based on this the Waldorf Group unanimously voted to suspend donations to the intergroup for the follow reasons.

1. **\$900 literature donation to the Southern Maryland Round-UP for the Living Sober workshop.**
 - a. Although The Southern Maryland Roundup is organized and ran by AA members it is not affiliated with any Area, District or Group and is not part of the AA General Service Structure, so it is an outside event/activity and support of it violates **Tradition 6 - An AA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the AA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money , property or prestige divert us from our primary purpose.**
2. **\$600 donation to the Immaculate Conception Church.**
 - a. No matter how well intentioned, any donation above the rent paid for the meeting hall is an in-kind contribution to an outside organization and not aimed at our primary purpose. This donation violates both the 5th and 6th Traditions.

3. Spending of excess funds.

- a. The Waldorf Group believes that SMIA should return to fiscal policy as outlined in the Intergroup Bylaws dated May 16 2022 Article 8 Finance paragraph 8T which states **“In the event that SMIA funds are greater than the Prudent Reserve, and there is no special projects or planned equipment purchases requiring savings, all funds in excess of the Prudent Reserve shall be sent to World Services and Maryland General Services on a 60/40 percent basis after a vote from the membership”.**
- b. If SMIA excess funds are spent as outlined in Article 8 Finance paragraph 8T it would benefit AA as a whole and contribute to lowering the increasing literature prices.

4. A Scholarship for each District to Maryland State Convention.

- a. The Waldorf Group does not understand what criteria would be used to pick recipients of this proposed scholarship. There is no justification for singling out certain AA members for cash rewards.

5. \$1000 Scholarship to the child of an alcoholic.

- a. We agree this is a slippery slope. Although this proposal was tabled, we believe that before SMIA moves forward on this they should contact Maryland General Services and or AA General services for clarification of this proposal.

In closing I would like to make the following motions on behalf of the Waldorf Group.

Motion

1. SMIA should not move forward with spending outline in the February/March 2023 meeting minutes and should return to a fiscal policy in accordance with SMIA BYLAWS dated May 16, 2022, Article 8 Finance, and the AA Traditions.
2. If the Roundup literature donations have already been made, ask that the donation be returned.

Respectfully,

Craig W - Waldorf Intergroup Representative