

GSA Phone Bridge Open Intergroup Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2009

The meeting opened with the *Serenity Prayer* at 5:00pm EST.

The **12 Traditions** were read.

GSRs Present included: [REDACTED]

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the minutes from the previous meeting as distributed.

Old Business

- A. Report on GSAWS communication: the secretary of GSAWS wrote to tell us that we will be hearing from WS in several weeks.
- B. Statement about new formats on the website: The GSA Phone Bridge Intergroup wanted to clarify that any formats posted on the website are there as resources for meetings to choose or to modify as they see fit. Additionally, the format has removed the statement quoting the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous until we have received permission to print a quotation.

New Business

As a point of order, we would like to remind all those attending the GSA Open Phone Bridge Intergroup meeting that we have decided to use the AA "Sharing Session" approach for all topics of discussion. For each topic, a member may speak for up to two minutes. No one will speak more than once per topic until all members have shared at least one time. Please be respectful of this approach. The purpose is to allow all voices to be heard in order to see if we have substantial unanimity on a topic. Our open sharing sessions are not necessarily attempting to reach substantial unanimity at this time.

- A. Moderators (Sharing Session)
 - Do the meetings have a felt need for moderators?
 - Sat 7am EST has a felt need for a moderator.
 - Fri 10am EST has requested a moderator.
 - Tues 7am has a felt need for a moderator.
 - Mon 7am has a felt need for a moderator.
 - Thurs 5:30am has a felt need for a moderator.
 - Wed 7am & 10am Wed both have felt need for a moderator.
 - Sun 6pm has a felt need for a moderator.
 - Any suggestions to get more moderators:
 - [REDACTED] reported that there are 5-6 people who have stepped forward who have volunteered as moderators.
 - Will there be a training meeting or will there be an informational meeting?
 - There will be a training session for those who have volunteered already. There will also be an informational meeting for those who might be interested in serving as moderators, but would like to ask questions.
 - If people did not step up for positions, we have "moderator" as an expected trusted servant position, then the group just won't have a moderator, if no one steps up.
 - One GSR asked if we could we lower the time requirement for the moderator's position?
 - 2 other GSRs said their groups also would like to lower the requirement to 90 days.

- Various GSRs shares reflected substantial unanimity that the abstinence requirement should be lowered to 90 days.

A motion made, seconded, and passed (with one abstention) that the abstinence requirement for becoming a moderator be lowered (from six months) to 90 days of GreySheet abstinence.

The issue of whether or not meetings could establish a trusted servant position of moderator was tabled until a future Open GSA Phone Bridge Intergroup meeting.

- B. Adopting guidelines of GreySheet meetings for the phone bridge as a whole (Sharing Session)
- Do the meetings wish to see the GSA Phone Bridge Intergroup adopt guidelines (similar to those on the www.greysheet.org website) that describe what constitutes a GreySheet meeting?
 - Are these guidelines a requirement or a suggestion?
 - AA Conference approved literature refers only to literature that is published by the AA.
 - The #7 guideline does not apply to phone bridge meetings (folks can eat during the meeting, the newcomer may not be aware that this is not a requirement).
 - A motion was made to table the discussion until a future GSA Phone Bridge Open Intergroup meeting to allow GSRs to bring the issue to their groups.
 - One GSR suggested that the GSA Phone Bridge Intergroup propose a set of meeting guidelines (what constitutes a GreySheet meeting) for the Open Intergroup to discuss.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to table this discussion until the Steering Committee brings forward a proposal of guidelines for what constitutes a GreySheet meeting that could then be brought to the groups for discussion.

Additional New Business Items

1. One GSR (10am Friday meeting) raised the issue about formats and format changes.
2. One member suggested that the format include the explanation of how to mute and un-mute before identifying ourselves and giving day-count and milestones.
3. One GSR brought forward a concern about a tone of disrespect and that individual members have been dominating. The GSR raised this as a question about whether or not this could be addressed. Some meeting members are held accountable and others are not. (There seemed to be a concern about exclusivity or treating some members differently than other members.)
4. One GSR raised the question about promises that leaders might take to be a leader to place principles before personalities.
5. One GSR made a suggestion that these topics be brought to the Steering committee.
6. One GSR suggested the possibility that we have more than one 7am meeting to accommodate all the callers.
7. Several others shared their thoughts about the 7am meetings.

Our next open Intergroup Meeting will be on February 8, 2009; 5-6pm EST; (pin: 4320188#)

The meeting closed with the *Serenity Prayer* at 6:01pm.

Respectfully submitted,

