

## District 16 Business Meeting Minutes March 18, 2009

**Roll Call By Sign-Sheet Members Present:** Tanea W. -GSR, Pat D. -Access Chair, Rick R. -GSR, Kelly S. -GSR/District Treasurer, Stan P. -GSR, Bernadette S. -GSR, Katie G. -GSR, Roxanne W. -GSR, Andy L. -GSR, Tim B. -DCMB, John R. -GSR, Jim L. -GSR, Gayle W. -GSR, Timaree M. -GSR, Richard R. -Alt. GSR, Mike S. -GSR, Gilbert H. -GSR, Brian D. -Alt. GSR, Carol T. -Alt. PI/CPC Chair, Sue M. -GSR, Eric N. -GSR, Ian C. -GSR/Temporary Dist. Secretary, Mitch S. -GSR, Sue S. -Al-Anon Liaison, Jason E. -GSR, Dusti C. -PI/CPC Chair, Jeremy W. -GSR, Pete J. -GSR, Lucy J. -GSR, Chase B. -OR Area Chair

**Open Meeting With The Serenity Prayer:** Barbara D. **New GSR's:** Pete J. -GSR for the Bridging the Gap Group. This group meets Friday nights at 7:00 p.m. in Medford at the Salvation Army. It is an open meeting. John R. -GSR for the Thank God I'm Sober Group. This group meets Sunday nights at 7:30 p.m. in Medford at the Providence Hospital. It is an open, wheelchair accessible meeting. Brian D. -Alternate GSR for the Thank God I'm Sober Group. Gilbert H. -GSR for the Keep It Simple Group. This group meets at VA Dom. More information to come when available. Jim L. -GSR for the Duck Pond Group. This group meets Saturday mornings at 8:30 am in White City at the VA Dom. It is a open, wheelchair accessible meeting.

**Reading Of The Twelve Traditions:** Stan P. **Reading Of The 3rd Concept:** Pat D. gave a presentation on the third concept this month. If anyone is interested in learning more about this concept or any other concepts, please refer to the AA service manual, which contains a detailed explanation of the twelve concepts. Eric N. has agreed to give a presentation on concept four for the April district meeting. **Reading And Approval Of Last Month's**

**Minutes:** Motion to accept: Tanea W., Seconded By Stan P.

**Treasurer's Report:** Kelly S. has concluded her attempt to balance the District 16 books. There was a \$ 66.87 transaction that she was unable to account for, though not for lack of trying. The total income for the month ( 2/18/09 - 3/16/09) was \$ 205.00. The total expenses for the past month were \$ 407.31. The net income for the past month was -\$ 202.31. The ending balance for month is \$ 2, 510.20. The prudent reserve for District 16 is \$ 1,250.00, which leaves the district with an available of \$ 1,260.20. Also included with Kelly's monthly statement was a copy of bank statements for the months of January, February and March of 2009, a found copy of the District 16 proposed budget, dated 11/18/2008, a spread sheet detailing the differences between the proposed budget and the district's actual financial activity, and a bar graph representing the spread sheet's information. The overall report sparked a lengthy discussion. Tanea W. asked for clarification regarding the difference between the proposed amounts for the months of January, February, and March. Kelly S. explained that the number for March was smaller because it only accounted for half of the month ( the spread sheet was for the period of Jan. '09 - March 15, '09). Eric N. was amazed that as a District we only collect \$ 528 a month ( as reflected in the proposed budget). Barbara D. explained that this number was based on what the district spends in a month. Kelly S. added that the actual numbers are quite different ( for example in January the district's income was \$ 220.00, in February the income was \$ 490.13, and so far in March our income has been \$ 110.00). Timaree M. wanted to discuss the proposed budget. Kelly S. replied by saying that the proposed budget was something that she inherited. She is unaware of it's history or discussions regarding it. She believes Kevin B., our past treasurer, reviewed the financial history of the district and thus created the proposed budget from an average of these numbers. Timaree M. suggested that the district give each committee a financial cushion so if they find themselves needing money they wouldn't have to go through the process of making a motion, presenting it at district, having it tabled and sent back to the groups, and then having it voted on at district. Barbara D. stated that, for the record, the proposed budget had been voted in by the district and thus wasn't a proposed budget anymore, and in regards to Tim B.'s suggestion, she shared that when the budget was being created, Kevin B. had asked each committee chair for an estimate of needed funds and included those numbers in his proposed budget. Tanea W. stated that she remembered voting on a budget, though it didn't look like the one that Kelly S. included in her treasurer's report, thus she wanted to entertain the idea of reviewing this budget. Barbara D. wanted to clarify to the group that the discussion is now about whether the budget included with Kelly's report ever was approved or not. Tanea W. didn't believe it was. Chase B. shared that this district has wanted a working budget for quite some time, though it has never been a reality. He also shared that having a budget may be nice, but it is not a necessity. A lot of districts, in his experience, have not had budgets and function just fine. After some investigation, Barbara D. found in the district minutes from November of 2008, that there was an approved increase in our budgets prudent reserve, leading her to believe that we, as a district, had to have an approved budget in order to have a motion to increase our districts prudent reserve. Dusti C. believed that the increase was for the PI and CPC chairs regarding their annual functions, the 12 Step Information Panel and the Senior Health Fair. Someone suggested that the Grapevine Chair should have a budget so they could make the monthly Grapevine magazine available to the jails. Barbara D. said that the Grapevine Chair position is open at the moment. She also believed that the district had stopped sending Grapevines into the jails some time ago. At this point Kelly S. spoke up and shared

that she believed that we, as a district, don't need a budget. She thought that the proposed budget should be used as a tool, and not as a rigid document. Furthermore, she didn't believe that the district needed to waste a lot of time discussing the budget. Tim B. was in agreement with Kelly. Tim added that quite often he has witnessed committee chairs getting scrutinized for asking the district for extra money. He would like to see an amount set aside for each committee that is reflected in the proposed budget. Pat D. suggested that the Archives rent, which is reflected in the districts prudent reserve, should be added to the proposed budget. Furthermore, she believed that the money made available to the Archives Chair during last month's district meeting, for the purpose of creating archive binders, should be added to the proposed budget. Pat D. also wanted to know what the "Special Needs" column in the proposed budget represented. Barbara D. clarified to her that "Special Needs" was the GSR scholarship fund. Tanea W. shared with the group that the Medford Fellowship Group, which she represents as their GSR, gives money to the district in order for the district to decide on it's own, how they need to use the money. Furthermore, she believes that is not necessary for the district to go back to the groups every time there is a need for an increase in a committee budget. With that being said, Tanea W. made a floor motion stating that the proposed budget be used as a guideline or tool, and not as a rigid document. The group agrees and votes (what appeared to be unanimously) to pass the motion.

**Announcements:** Refer to next month's agenda.

**New Business:** As per the group conscience at last month's district meeting, Dave W.'s motion regarding the DCM's travel reimbursement was moved up in the agenda so that there would be ample time for discussion. Barbara D. began by stating for the group that she will attempt to keep her opinion to herself, for her job as DCM is that of a facilitator, and not a persuader. She then read the motion aloud to the group. Katie G. opened the discussion by sharing that the original change to \$ 0.40 per mile came directly from the groups. This was what her group wanted, and she believes we should keep the the reimbursement rate intact as it is. Bernadette S. asked where the figure of forty cents came from. Barbara D. responded with a little history lesson. Her original motion last year was for \$ 0.35 per mile travel reimbursement. Pat D. made a motion to amend thirty five cents and increase it to forty cents, which I believe was the national average at the time last year. The amendment was voted on and passed at the district level, and then sent back to the groups. Bernadette S. also had difficulty understanding the new 10% reimbursement equation. She continued by sharing that she did not approve( whether it was the old forty cent per mile rate, or the new ten percent equation, I am not clear on), because the line of personal vehicle wear and tear and service oriented wear and tear is not clearly defined. Tanea W. shared that at the last OR Area Assembly, during the DCM sharing session, all DCM's present were polled to get an idea of their reimbursement schedule. She reported that no other district had a reimbursement plan like this new proposal from David W. She personally believes this new formula is "way out there", and agreed with Katie G., that the groups approved the forty cent per mile reimbursement, and that we should uphold our current practice. Roxanne W. wanted to know if there was a way to differentiate personal versus service vehicle wear. Dusti C. wanted to know if she could call the question. Barbara D. clarified to the group that if the question was called debate would be ended. Dusti C. then called the question. The group voted in favor of continuing discussion 13 to 6. Eric N. suggested to the group that we leave reimbursement at forty cents per mile and that we trust our trusted servant to make a fair reimbursement claim. Richard R. asked the group if there was a method to the equation found in the new motion. Tim B. suggested amending the motion to cost of travel plus 15% reimbursement for vehicle wear. Mitch S. shared his opinion which is that the forty cent reimbursement shows favoritism towards the DCM, since most GSR's receive a flat \$150 rate for assemblies and never are reimbursed for their vehicle wear. Bernadette S. asked if this new motion would save the district money. Jeremy W. stated that he believed the DCM would make too much money off of one trip at forty cents per mile. Timaree M. suggested that we table this motion and send it back to the groups for their input. Jason E. seconded her idea, the group voted, and the suggestion passed, all in a matter of seconds. Barbara D. then stated to the group that discussion was still open (I imagine since Timaree never made a motion for the group to vote on, she only stated her opinion). Tanea W. believed there wasn't enough clarity on the motion to take back to the groups. Mike S. shared with the group that he is "math stupid", and though he still has a lot of questions concerning the motion, he does understand the math involved in it. He clarified the information that he has learned throughout the groups discussion. The Federal per mile reimbursement rate is \$ 0.48. The OR Area's reimbursement rate is \$ 0.35. The District's reimbursement rate is \$ 0.40, and as a GSR he receives a flat \$175.00 per assembly. He shared that he would like to see the DCM's reimbursement rate fall into line with what GSR's receive per assembly. Jason E. asked the body what happens to any excess money, in regards to if the DCM doesn't claim full mileage reimbursement. Barbara D. shared with the group that she keeps track of her mileage, for example from Medford to Oakland, CA which was what she she recently traveled to attend PRASSA this year. She continued, if she carpools and receives money for gas, she deducts that amount from the reimbursement claim she turns into the district. She then stated to the group that since

the motion's author wasn't present and therefore available to amend the motion, we should either vote on it as it is written, or table until next month for further discussion. Gayle W. asked Barbara D. if there was a problem with being reimbursed for actual moneys spent. She added that an additional 10% of money the spent was a fair reimbursement for vehicle wear. Chase B. then shared a story with the group concerning how helpful the extra money gained from mileage reimbursement has been in his recent history, since new tires for his vehicle were necessary before a recent service related trip. The total cost of new tires ran him \$600 dollars and he was at that moment grateful for having accepted the OR Area's money. Gayle W. then asked Barbara D. how much more driving she does, as compared to an average GSR. Barbara Then shared that so far this year she has clocked 1100 miles from Portland To Oakland. She did clarify to the group that she only keeps track of mileage during assemblies and events like PRASSA, and that for the day to day driving she does on behalf of the district she accepts as her responsibility. Gayle's last question was directed at Tanea W. She wanted to know what the general consensus concerning reimbursement was at the DCM sharing session. Tanea shared that a majority of DCM's received a flat rate, on average, of \$250.00 per assembly, some DCM's receive a mileage reimbursement, and some DCM's are not funded at all. Bernadette S. asked the group if it was the amount (\$ 0.40) that was the issue. Tim B. suggested that we end discussion. The group then voted on whether this motion was urgent and/or administrative, which it was found to be neither. The motion was then tabled and sent back to the groups for their input. Barbara D. suggested that if anybody had any questions they should contact David W. through our district website, medfordareaaa.org, then select email website, which is a feature found on our homepage. David's contact information is also found on the District 16 roster

### **Committee Reports**

**Access Committee:** Pat D.Nothing to report on this month.

**Archives:** Jack F.Absent

**Public Information(PI)/Cooperation with the Professional Community(CPC):** Dusti C. and Carol T.Dusti C. began by sharing that this years 12 Step Informational Panel was excellent. There were between 60 and 70 people in attendance, and as opposed to last year, the panel had six speakers instead of three. She continued by saying that this year went much smoother as compared to last year, and that Carol T. will be taking over next year, since she will be rotating into the PI/CPC chair position. Carol T. then shared with the group that she had recently been by contacted by ACCESS in regards to AA's participation in an upcoming event aimed to help the homeless in Jackson County (for more information, please refer to the announcements page attached to next month's business meeting agenda). She also reported that this year AA was not represented in the Senior Access Fair. Tanea W. asked if it was because we had failed to contact them earlier enough this year. Dusti C. said it was not. She explained that when she had called the AI-Anon Family Group in regards to sharing a table, which is what District 16 has done in years past, they declined, and by that time all booth spots for the fair had been filled. Pat D. then commented that she believed someone had "dropped the ball", and again Dusti clarified that no one had "dropped the ball", and that it just didn't work out this year.

**Cooperation with Correctional Facilities(CFC):** Open

**Cooperation with Treatment Facilities(CTF):** Gary L.Absent

**Telephones:** Leah S.Leah S. was absent but had given her report to Carol T. to present. In the past month (1/24/09-2/23/09) there were a total of **89** calls made to the answering service. **68** of these calls were regarding meeting tomes and locations. Of these 68 calls, **31** were women and **37** were men. There were **12** 12 Step calls. Of these 12 calls, **8** were women and **4** were men. There were **3** calls regarding information about Central Office. All 3 of these calls were men. **1** man called wanting information about AI-Anon. There were also **5** miscellaneous phone calls.

**Grapevine:** Open

**Schedules:** Russ S.Absent. Jason E. asked the group if it was true that new schedules were being printed soon. He had stopped by Central Office earlier in the week and they were out of meeting schedules at the moment. He also asked if it was possible to contact Russ. Barbara D. replied with a yes. His contact information is on the District 16 roster, or he can be contacted through the District 16 website, medfordareaaa.org, then select email schedules, which is featured on our homepage.At this time a little bit of discussion concerning the correctional facilities broke out. Jason E. asked the group if we were going to resume bringing meetings into the jails anytime soon. Barbara D. replied by sharing that as far as she understood Jackson County was not allowing any meetings, men or women, into the jails at this time due to funding. Furthermore to keep the channels of communications open for a change in the future, it was her desire to downsize the **CCF** positions. Instead of having a men and a women's chair, it has been changed to one chair, available to anyone interested. Her goal is to stay in contact with the jails and provide schedules and literature as requested. Kelly S. then shared something that she had heard. Her information was that the reason for the discontinuing of meetings in the jails was due to the facilities not wanting to integrate different

levels of offenders (typically level 1 inmates are not high risk or violent offenders, as opposed to level 4 inmates being very high risk and quite possibly violent offenders). This was news to Barbara.

**Web Site:** David W. Absent

**District 16 Liaison to Central Office:** Open

**Al-Anon:** Sue S. Sue began by thanking AA for their support of the Al-Anon chili feed. She continued by thanking AA for providing the community with so many functions, giving many people in this time of stress something fun and positive to be apart of. She closed by sharing with the group that if she could be of service in anyway, to contact her. If interested, she can be contacted through the District 16 website, medfordareaaa.org, then select email al-anon liaison, which is featured on our homepage. Her information is also found on the District 16 roster

**DCMC:** Barbara D. Area 58 District 16 DCM February Assembly Report: Hello Everyone! It has been a busy couple of weeks and I am finally trying to get to report writing. Saturday morning I attended the DCM sharing session and was able to get valuable feedback from other Districts on travel reimbursement for their DCMs. The majority of Districts had a flat rate of \$250.00 per Assembly. Then several did reimburse for mileage, of those all but one reimbursed at the federal rate of .48 per mile. Then there were some who were repaid by receipts only and then to my surprise a couple that got no reimbursement at all. Also, at the DCM sharing, we had a presentation from the Portland Deaf Access Committee that provides many services to the Deaf community. I have a few pamphlets and their email is [HYPERLINK "mailto:pdxaccess@gmail.com"](mailto:pdxaccess@gmail.com) [pdxaccess@gmail.com](mailto:pdxaccess@gmail.com). It was pretty amazing and beautiful to watch. After fighting a migraine on Friday, and residual headache Saturday, I decided to rest in my room for a bit after lunch. Thank you to Ian, who woke me with a text, my apologies to the GSRs at the Conference Agenda assignment workshop without the background material. I joined them quickly, material in hand. Our district was assigned Treatment Facilities Agenda items. I was myself a bit confused as I felt the 2 topics we had material for seemed to be addressed already in the workbook... maybe I was not fully awake yet! I would like to look 2 dates to have the discussion group on the topics like we did last year, for GSRs that are interested. The business meeting on Sunday went smoothly. Reports were heard from the Area Officers and Committee Chairs. Alt. Treasure, Samantha D., would like to remind groups to include the group name, number & district number on any donations sent into the area. Also, please make sure your group is using the most recent address in Bend Or. We discussed the tabled motion on adding a Technology line item to the budget of \$2000. It was voted on and did not carry 2/3 majority so the motion failed. More discussion brought up amending the original motion to just increase the Computer/Software line item (already in the budget) to the \$2000. amount. Amended Motion Passed. We had 2 new business motions that were determined urgent and/or administrative. One was allowing WACY PAA 2010 to use the Area's translation equipment during their event. Motion passed. The second was to increase Cooperation with Treatment Facilities budget by \$500. Motion passed. YILAS, Barbara D. DCM, Dist. 16

**DCMC:** Continued Barbara also reported that on Sunday, March 29 at the Medford Alano Club from 4 - 6 p.m., there will be a sharing session regarding this years agenda topics, assigned to District 16, to help our Delegate at the General Service Conference. Absolutely everyone is invited to attend. At this time it was about 8:30. Barbara D. asked the body if they were interested in hearing group reports or if they wanted to adjourn. The body, with the exception of one opposed, voted to adjourn the meeting.

**Motion To Adjourn:** made by Pat D., seconded by Mitch S. **Meeting Adjourned:** 8:33