

MBAR Committee Minutes

Martinez Hall, Marina CA

Saturday, May 8, 2021

I. Call to Order:

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Time: 11:00 am

II: Serenity Prayer

III: **Tradition 5 was read:** "Each group has but one primary purpose: to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers." Arthur summarized this tradition as meaning it's better to do one thing well than many things badly. We focus on the most important aim, which is reaching out our hand to the newcomer.

IV: Introduction of all attendees: 9

V: **Recent A.A. Birthdays:** May H. celebrated her 31-year A.A. birthday May 1. Thomas L.'s 15th Al-Anon birthday was in April.

VI: **Minutes:** The minutes were voted on and unanimously approved.

VII: Chairperson's Report:

a. It was mentioned, as always, that the meeting was being recorded.

b. Cindy brought up meeting security, specifically the avoidance of Zoom bombing. Arthur suggested having a waiting room, but not changing our password. Other members agreed with this. Cindy said she would be willing to have a waiting room, but would need a co-host. A motion was made to use a waiting room, with a different co-host for each meeting. The motion passed: 7 in favor, none against.

c. Cindy shared a copy of our logo. The next step is to order the banner. A copy can be shown at in-person meetings when they resume.

Cindy gave the Treasurer's report. The current balance is still \$5555. We filed our state tax information return (nothing owed). Mercy will start looking into what we need to do about Federal taxes. We currently don't have Federal non-profit status. Thomas said our old EIN is probably still available, so we wouldn't need to apply for a new one. May confirmed that we do in fact have (and know) the old number.

Jill gave the Treasurer's report. The current balance is \$5555. This includes the \$2500 paid to the Conference Center. Jill also said that we are now officially tax-exempt in California, according to a recent letter. We may now look into a Federal tax exemption as well.

Milestones:

a) Budget: We paid \$540 for security last time. (Conference Center has its own security, but mostly for keeping watch on its property.) Arthur suggested adding security if need be, depending on future circumstances. In response to a question from Roger, Cindy said that our security person would not be armed, and would need to call the police in case of violence. A motion was made to wait until next year before deciding whether to put security in the budget. It passed unanimously.

AV is estimated at \$3600 (\$3800 budgeted). A suggestion was made to bring in an offsite speaker (virtual presenter). Up to 500 people could call or Zoom in, while others watched the speaker projected on a big screen. This would cost an extra \$6400! May pointed out that the Salinas Gratitude Dinner had a virtual presenter, and didn't think it cost them nearly that much. She suggested finding a technical person from Salinas to help. But the Conference Center might require us to use their approved AV company, even if we could bring in our own people and/or equipment. So virtual speakers do not appear more cost-effective than live ones.

Roger suggested getting speakers from within driving distance. He said the ability to meet speakers in person is a plus. Thomas proposed having a registration fee of \$25 for virtual presenters, which would recoup much of the cost. May said she

would like to have a mix of virtual and in-person speakers.

Roger proposed keeping the budget for speakers the same as last time. Later on, the speaker committee could propose changes including virtual speakers.

Cindy said that we could save \$400 by using the Filipino Center as the Hospitality Suite. But it is not known if that is possible. We could also buy \$400 worth of Starbucks gift cards. It was decided to keep the \$400 in the budget, although Thomas pointed out that it may be too low for a 2-day suite. Roger said a contribution bucket for coffee could offset most of the cost.

It was decided to leave \$200 in the budget for tax filing fees, since this is currently an unknown for Federal taxes. Thomas said that the amount could actually be \$400 (or more).

May proposed approving the budget as is, leaving open the possibility of making needed changes later. The motion passed with none opposed.

A new flier is available to share at meetings.

Bylaws have been approved by the tax committee, and will be presented to everyone later.

Registration fees and other prices will be discussed at next month's committee meeting.

VIII. **Seventh Tradition:**

IX. **Next Steering Committee meeting:** Wednesday, June 2, 2021

X. **Next Committee meeting:** Saturday, June 12, 2021

XI. **Meeting adjourned:** at 12:13 pm with the Serenity Prayer

Respectfully submitted by Andy V.T., MBAR Recording Secretary