

Eye Opener AA Group
Business Meeting Minutes
Saturday, 2018-04-28

Aven chairing, Cole taking minutes. Others present: Amy, Andrew, Bill, David, Libby, Sabrina.

Meeting began a few minutes after the hour, opening with the Serenity Prayer, followed by Aven's summary of the decisions we have made in the past regarding how our business meetings are run.

Secretary's Report. Cole reported having written and distributed the minutes from last month's meeting, and reported having sent out more attendance-verification emails than in previous months. (Our practice has been to help members who request it by sending these emails each day so that they can fulfill meeting-attendance requirements that are sometimes set by courts, treatment programs, parole officers, etc.)

Treasurer's Report. Aven filled in for our Treasurer and Alternate Treasurer (both unable to attend for health reasons) by presenting a partial [Treasurer's Report for April 2018](#) that he prepared for our Square Cash account, showing a beginning balance of \$231.05 and an ending balance of \$219.06. He noted that in this past month Tracy set up a new PayPal account for us, where we know that at least some 7th Tradition contributions have already been made, but information about how to log into that account to check its balance was not readily at hand.

Intergroup Representative Report. None, but Cole noted (based on the number of emailed requests for additions and changes received last month) that usage of the [Worldwide Hourly Schedule of AA Web Meetings](#) that we maintain on our website appears to have been increasing, now that it is back online after about six months of downtime for repairs. He suggested that we begin thinking about offering that schedule to the [Online Intergroup](#) as a useful resource, once we have established a better connection with that organization.

Old Business: none.

New Business:

1. Discussion of whether we should include the Traditions in our Monday Step Study meeting. Consensus emerged that we should keep the Monday meeting focused on the Steps, at least in part because that is more likely to meet the needs of newcomers and other AA members who don't attend quite as regularly as those of us present today.
2. Aven asked for feedback from the group on how the format changes that we made last month seem to be working, and asked in particular about the new line that says "Is anyone here attending your first AA meeting ever, or your first meeting since your last drink?" General sentiment seemed to be that it has been good, but might be better if the format made clear that we are not asking the question to embarrass anyone, but instead to welcome anyone new or coming back. After some discussion we voted unanimously to add the sentence "This is to welcome you" immediately after the line quoted above.
3. Discussion of changing the format to make our Seventh Tradition announcement more prominent and more clear. (Consolidating at least two agenda items that had been suggested months ago.) After some discussion of why we need to do this where several people mentioned that it would help to be explicit about our acceptance of PayPal, and of various options for making our Seventh Tradition

announcement better in some way, Cole moved that we take out the line at the beginning of the format related to the Seventh Tradition and replace it with the following lines near the end: "Remember that 7th Tradition contributions can be made using PayPal, Square Cash, or your debit card following instructions near the bottom of our web page at PortlandEyeOpener.org. Someone will paste those instructions into the chat box. Contributions are used as decided in our monthly business meetings, which take place on the last Saturday of the month." Motion was seconded by Sabrina, and passed unanimously.

4. Discussion of making it an explicit part of the format that the First Step should be the topic if someone is present for his or her first meeting ever. Consensus seemed to be that we can leave this as a general practice, since most people who have been around AA for at least a few years know that this is what we usually do, rather than making it a part of the written format.
5. Discussion of whether we want to have a timekeeper. Libby had suggested one months ago, and she asked for a discussion today of whether we want to have now. Cole read aloud the suggestion he had made for this meeting's agenda that we add the following lines to the format: "During the rest of the meeting we ask that people limit their shares to no more than 5 minutes. After you have shared, please wait until everyone else has had a turn before sharing again. A timekeeper will help you keep track of how long you have been talking. Who is our timekeeper for today?" After some discussion, consensus emerged that we should start by adding just the first two sentences of that suggestion to the format to see if it solves the problem. Cole made a motion to that effect, and Amy seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Sabrina asked how to suggest agenda items for future business meetings. Aven replied that it's best to send them to WebMeetingChair@portlandeyeopener.org, then reminded us that the date for our next business meeting will be Saturday May 26th, and then asked for a motion to close, which was made and seconded.

Closed with the We version of the Serenity Prayer.