

MBAR Committee Minutes

Zoom Meeting

Saturday, September 24, 2022

- I. Call to Order:
 - Saturday, September 24, 2022
 - Time: 11:00 am
- II: Serenity Prayer
- III: Tradition 9 was read: "A.A., as such, ought never be organized, but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve." Chris T. discussed this tradition, pointing out that it is very appropriate as we prepare to pass it on. She said that as a chairperson she is an orchestrator, never an authority. She also emphasized the spirit of handoff, in which new committee members prepare to take on responsibilities. Some of these responsibilities include making sure bylaws and traditions are followed.
- IV: Introduction of first-time attendees: Katherine, Kim V.
Total including all attendees: 28
- V. Recent Anniversaries: Hilda has 32 years today.
- VI: Minutes: The minutes were approved with none opposed and two abstentions.
- VII: Chairperson's Report:
 - a. Cindy thanked everyone for doing a superb job. She said she received many thanks from attendees, which should really go to the whole committee.
 - b. Passing it on: Cindy suggested having another BBQ like the one in Oct. 2021. She also said the Sunday schedule could have been more balanced between A.A. and Al-Anon (it was mostly Al-Anon), and that some complained the Sunday A.A. meeting was too late.
 - c. Multiple people had asked for discounted rooms; Cindy suggested putting that in the next contract. We also paid \$1500 to the AV company for button pushing, which several of our members could do. Another suggestion is liability insurance for directions and officers.
 - d. We have been approved for tax exempt status by California, but rejected by the IRS. It says we are not really a charitable organization. Perhaps we could try under a different category; this will be looked into.

Treasurer's Report: Daylene gave the report. She stressed that it was not a financial report, just a quick look at some income and expenses from the event. Registration brought in \$5158, the 50/50 raffle \$2090, and the regular raffle \$1356. In-kind expenses totaled almost \$3400, including nearly \$1800 from Phil for the Hospitality Room. Daylene plans to immediately reimburse Phil the \$400 budgeted for the room. Once the accounting for the event is complete, she will then pay all in-kind expenses before disbursing anything to Al-Anon/A.A. A full financial report will be ready by the October meeting.

Committee Reports (Passing It On):

Registration: Naomi said 84 registrations were made and fully paid for at MBAR. Another 43 people made partial contributions. There were 21 Helping Hands. Including previous registrations, a total of 477 people registered and/or paid, or were there to be of service.

Naomi thanked all the people who helped during the event. A few attendees said they registered but no paperwork could be found for them; they were asked to fill out a form there. Also, many people didn't pick up their packets, especially those from the Spanish community. This may have been due to communication issues. Naomi suggested having a Spanish-speaker at the registration table next time. Overall, she said everything went smoothly.

Naomi counted 30 tasks she was responsible for. She recommended delegating some of them to others in the future. Printing expenses were large, many paid by Naomi. Without the discount she received at work, they would have been much higher still. So the next MBAR will need a considerably larger printing budget.

Forms of payment beside checks and cash would be helpful. Naomi had a square but couldn't get it to work. VENMO or PayPal should probably be considered next time.

Old-timers: All panel members came at their own cost, and all but one paid for their registration. In the future, Mary Grace would give each member 15 minutes to speak instead of 10, and eliminate the Q&A session (there were only two questions). Also, she would ensure that the panel session was recorded, which it wasn't this time. She hopes MBAR will continue to have an old-timers panel, with priority given to diversity and those willing to pay their own way.

Facilities: Billy said things went off fairly well, although he started the position late. He would like to see if we can reduce fixed costs, such as AV. He also wants to work with the center to help those wanting a reasonable room rate, or coffee. Billy said all comments regarding facilities and staff were positive. He offered to help whoever wants to take over his position. Because making payments is a big part of the job, it might help if the next person could be more involved in financial planning.

50/50: Cole said it was successful and that he enjoyed doing it, although his appointment was also last-minute. He would do it similarly in the future. There was a lot of support from the Spanish community. Problems include having to share the table with the main raffle on Saturday, creating some confusion. There could also have been better communication with the treasurer on money collection, and a better-organized drawing. Cole would recommend continuing to hold the 50/50 on both days.

Signs: Gina was responsible for creating the signs and communicating with different committees about their needs. She did most of the signs by hand and had the smaller ones printed. Hilda was very helpful to her. In the future, she would probably check into more places to get the larger signs printed, although there were no complaints about the hand-written ones. Also, committees should finish submitting their requests a couple weeks in advance, to minimize last-minute changes. Gina said she didn't spend much on signs, using a little of the decorations budget.

Ice cream: Jim put his passing it on answers into an email, which is available to whoever takes over his position. He or Maria will give the full report at the next meeting.

Decorations: Hilda added floral bouquets to the conference, as well as candy. Vases were available from the previous conference. The bouquets added ambience, and everyone loved the free candy. In the future, she would also provide bouquets for Bethlehem Church, as was done in the past. She considered finding A.A. slogans to put on posters; this may be attempted next time, assuming there is a permissible way to attach the posters to the wall.

Hospitality room: Jo Todd said most brought sweets to the room; she would suggest other goodies as well, such as fruit. The leftovers from Sunday breakfast were very helpful. She called the hotel to compliment the staff on their excellent job. In the future, she would suggest having money in the budget for those who can't afford to tip. We should have planned in advance to have ice, which was a last-minute addition.

Al-Anon: Sidney said that everyone did an amazing job. It was great for her to be able to meet people in person. She could use feedback from this committee to take to her next Al-Anon meeting. The feedback would include what worked and what didn't regarding Al-Anon. Committee members are also invited to come to the meeting and give their feedback in person.

Thomas wanted to check on the status of A.A. reimbursement for the speaker flight. Cindy said Daylene will take care of this once Thomas fills out a form.

Arthur nominated Carolyn H. for the next Welcoming and Social Committee Chair. She gladly said yes. Cindy invited anyone else wanting to make nominations, or volunteer themselves, to come to the next meeting and do it then.

May volunteered to be Literature Chair again. She said that the 50/50 and main raffle need to be separate entities. She also thanked the Salinas Central Office for wrapping the raffle tickets, which is a good way to sell them. In addition, May commended Mona for all her assistance.

Katherine volunteered for the raffle, whichever one needs her most. Cindy said that would probably be the prize raffle, which is the most complex.

Phil C. clarified that the Marriott gifted us the Hospitality Room, and gave us half off for coffee and service.

Cindy pointed out that while we now have a Chair (Chris T.), we are still looking for other Steering Committee members: Co-chair, Treasurer, possibly Co-treasurer, Recording Secretary. Cindy sent out an email with bylaws and requirements for members of the Steering Committee. One requirement is to have been a past MBAR committee chair. A list of this year's chairs was included in Cindy's email. If you have any in mind as a potential Steering Committee member, let her know. Cindy also suggested checking out previous year committee chairs.

VIII. Seventh Tradition:

IX. Next Steering Committee meeting is Wednesday, October 5, 2022.

X. Next Committee meeting is Saturday, October 8, 2022.

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

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