

Minutes for District 43 Informal Action Item Meeting held on April 14, 2020

1) Zoom meetings

- a. Members have voiced concerns that using PSU zoom account conflicts with AA being self-supporting and possibly anonymity. Some groups and other 12 step fellowships have purchased accounts for their groups (\$15/mo for Zoom Pro); to do this, groups could set up a group email for this purpose.
- b. How do members that do not have access to internet/Zoom/smart phone access our remote meetings? It appears that Zoom Pro account does not include a toll-free calling feature but this add-on can be purchased at an additional \$100/mo. Lisa will look into the specifics. Another option to help those without access to internet/zoom/smartphone would be to have them call “you” while “you” are logged into the meeting and keep “your” phone on speaker; we tested this and it works.
- c. Should district purchase a zoom membership available to all groups? This may be helpful for purchasing a more expensive membership with toll-free calling. This could be set up like a clubhouse to be open 24 hours a day (using a bot). If we setup a meeting like a clubhouse, we could collect money to support paying for the membership.
- d. NY intergroup website has a “Hot To” use Zoom
- e. Things that have been working for groups:
 - i. Using reoccurring Zoom meeting ID
 - ii. Create a Zoom-specific opening reading
 - iii. Using the raise hand feature for those who want to speak
 - iv. Keeping everyone muted until ready to share
 - v. Make the meeting feel as much like an ‘in-person’ meeting as possible
 - vi. Screen sharing feature to allow others to read the preamble or other readings (could someone write a “hot to share your screen” and share with all GSRs?); just be careful with this feature because NY has had intruders
 - vii. Continue trying to encourage and teach others how to use Zoom; considering reaching out to those who do not have access to Zoom
 - viii. Exploring different meetings across the US
- f. Challenges:
 - i. Careful posting your meeting publicly (e.g., on Facebook pages, Zoom postings) because you may have disrupting attendees, attract those with bad intentions, or max out your attendance limit
- g. How to know about other Zoom meetings offered outside of State College ...
 - i. Facebook page for 12 step recovery
 - ii. Intherooms.com
 - iii. You can look up Zoom meetings by region
 - iv. Google AA Zoom meetings

- h. How to get other groups online who are not already ...
 - i. Tad will create a list of all meetings not currently holding Zoom meetings; then we can reach out to offer help if those groups would be interested in going online.

2) 7th tradition

- a. How do small groups do this?
- b. Gratitude meeting set up a PayPal account for 7th tradition collections. Kizzy volunteered to write a “how to setup guide” to help other groups.
- c. PayPal and Venmo are 2 digital platforms available. Groups do NOT need to have a bank account to set these up. Importantly, these platforms keep transaction records.
- d. How to donate using these platforms? Groups can use a QR code or can provide information in the Zoom chat box at the meeting.

3) Virtual Medallion night

- a. The district unanimously was in favor of holding Medallion Night via Zoom. This could be a teaching tool to help members/groups not familiar with Zoom learn how to use it
- b. A committee has been setup for planning the logistics (Dev, Brianna, Tad, Corey, Jules, Daniel, Jamie) – they plan to setup a dry run.
- c. We need to consider the type of Zoom account needed based on participant limit and the revised date

4) Other

- a. The idea of creating a fund for AA members in distress during this time. While the intention is wonderful, this will not work.
- b. Should we post links to other resources on the district website. While the motive is good, this does not align with our traditions. CentreHelps is a great resource for those seeking direction outside of AA.