

Dakota Alano Board Meeting Notes
March 17, 2013

Board Members Present: Susan, Mark, Mary Jo, Julie, Frank, Brad, Lee

Board Members Absent: Dan, Rick

Advisory Board Members and Guests: Katie, Tim, Pat, Rob, Gary, Mary, Mike, Hannah, Tim

Susan opened the meeting at 6:05 pm with the Serenity Prayer and an opening statement. Introductions were made. Julie read the Twelve Traditions.

Secretary's Report:

A motion to approve the February Secretary's Report, as emailed, was made by Lee. Mary Jo seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

- * February donations were up by \$400 from last year, perhaps from the inclusion of the Saturday DRA group.
- * Net income is slightly down from the previous year. Most likely due to the cost of stationary, the printing of newsletters, repair, maintenance, and supplies.
- * The recent printing of meeting cards and envelopes will be part of April's budget.
- * The Gopher State down payment was made and will appear on next month's budget.
- * Julie is working with Mary to resolve the "quirkiness" of QuickBooks.
- * Tim's outstanding balance is due.
- * The down payment for the annual picnic is a security deposit only, no change in the numbers will result.
- * Funds were moved into the Wells Fargo checking account.
- * Some discussion as to why this number is so radically different.
- * Julie will bring YTD numbers (up to Feb of last year) to next month's meeting for resolution.
- * Julie recommended that the next treasurer be familiar with QuickBooks.
- * Mary and Julie to meet over taxes.
- * As a non profit we submit a 9-90 tax form..?
- * Already applied for reinstatement. Applications are pending.
- * Brad would like to know about the yearly budget for supplies.

A motion to approve the February Treasurer's Report was made by Mark. Lee seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Squad Leader and Visitor Questions/Concerns:

(Mike): From the Sat 11am meeting. There has been some concern over the overuse of Styrofoam cups. Would it be okay to bring in reusable mugs? Agreed that it was fine as long as they are responsible enough to wash them. There was some discussion as to if the whole house should be using mugs. Susan said she would include in the newsletter

that the Saturday AM meeting is going green and perhaps encourage others to do the same. Mugs to be donated to the house.

(Tim): The group conscious of the DRA meeting wanted to ask the board if they could bypass paying rent for the next four months so they could spend donations on buying literature for DRA. They would ask for \$10/book, giving the house half of that. The meeting is expanding with the inclusion of the meeting on the meeting cards. The group does not have anything to give to new comers. Tim also wanted to know if they could put the new literature in the bookcase and if so, could he get a key so that so he wouldn't have to commute the literature. Susan said Board members are the only ones to get keys to the bookcase. It is something that has been brought up before and although they understand the hardship, there has to be some kind of rule. Mark had thought there was a group last year (young adults or beginners meeting?) that didn't pay rent for a certain amount of time but may have been mistaken. The Board has always stood firm on that notion. Lee thought it might be prudent. Susan agreed but it is policy. Rob asked what the percentage of rent is. It is 25% of donations. Tim brought up a prior example (from three years ago) remembering an approval for reimbursement. So, with Tim's remembered precedence it was brought up with the DRA meeting and it was decided that it should be brought up before the Board. Julie thought that this is a bigger topic, that perhaps a "grace period" for new meetings should be allowed. It was suggested that we all let it marinate, think about it, and vote at a later time. Perhaps it's time for a policy change to be made? Gary asked Tim if he had gone to intergroup and asked for assistance. Julie thought it would be beneficial to give new groups leeway. We are after all supposed to be supportive. And in the end their growing donations would be beneficial to the house. The group has been contributing up to this point. Mary said last night's meeting was packed. Lee suggested it be tabled for the time being. Brad suggested a poster be made asking for private donations. Julie said that would be in conflict with the pledge drive. Mark stated that we should look at each situation separately. That a new group could easily bring in 30, 40 people and they would need no help. But this is a smaller, more specialized group that could use our help. Keep it circumstantial. Mark made a motion that the Saturday DRA meeting have their fees waived for 90 days and that they be repaid with the money made from book sales. Brad seconded the motion and the motion passed 5 to 2. Susan said she would ask the women's' meeting if they would share the padlocked bookcase upstairs with Tim.

(Katie): Wondered if medallion purchases could be reimbursed by Sunday night's donations. It was stated that yes, she could be reimbursed by the group she bought for.

Committee Reports:

Lit & Med. (Rick): Nothing to report in Rick's absence.

Publishing (Lee/Susan): Newsletter is out. New meeting cards and envelopes are printed and out.

Supplies (Brad): Performed a survey on the house's preference on coffee. He has

decided to purchase a more expensive brand. Watching the pennies. Keeping everything stocked.

Maintenance (Frank): Currently working on the knobs. Should have new knobs this week. Expecting to get reimbursed. He would like to know if he can go ahead and “warm up” the house? It was decided that “yes” he may. Touch it up. The board’s month to clean is May and can be discussed at next month’s meeting. Lights were changed.

Security (Dan): Nothing to report in Dan’s absence. Julie is now running the Saturday 9am meeting and there was some concern as to who has that key because Dan, who previously ran that meeting had his own board key.

Archives (Mary Jo): Everything is up to date.

Old Business:

Squad Leader Guide Progress Report (Lee): Mary and Lee made appropriate changes to the guide. A portion of the pledge section was revised to minimize adversary over finances. Under the 12 concepts of service there was a blank about board member responsibilities. It was agreed upon that said responsibilities are already described in the Ops Journal and do not need to be duplicated in the guide. There was some discussion about the key sign-up sheet. A sheet will be kept in the board mailbox. A board member must sign off on the exchange of keys. Changes will be made and a copy of the guide will be printed for each meeting, for archives, and for the President’s notebook. Mary will send the guide to Julie who gets a work discount at Kinko’s. Julie will print and bind them.

Pledge Drive Update (Julie): Julie, Lee, and Susan have yet to make announcements at their designated meetings.

Website Issues (Susan): Susan talked to Jeff about the website. Only his name is linked to the domain. He paid out of pocket for that domain name and would prefer that the site not be linked to his name anymore. It’s a \$50 fee for year-round support. When we discussed the host a year ago we thought we would be using features that we are not using (ex: pledging online). Maybe we should look at a new/cheaper platform? Jeff gave Susan a list of companies to look into. We currently use MA Web Centers, one of the biggest in the nation. Does someone want to look into this? Gary wanted to know if we need to have an individual’s name linked to the website. Tim volunteered to take on the responsibilities of Webmaster. Susan suggested that he meet and talk with Ellen. Tim said he will look into it.

Gopher State: The suite reservation has been made and paid for. Brad will steer the committee. The menu will be the same, the walking taco. Should we offer food for 36 hours straight or should we do tacos during prime time only? Maybe potluck treats during the off time? A committee has yet to be formed. These questions can be

answered then. Brad will wait for the pledge drive to run its course before he asks for volunteers/donations. He will wait until mid-April to motivate the troops.

Tim's Outstanding balance: Tim paid the \$52 from last year's Gopher State. The money was left over from donations and was given to Brad for this year.

Annual Picnic: Our designated date and time is Sunday July 28th from 10-4 at Black Hawk Park. Perhaps a logistics committee can be formed next month.

Julie and Hannah were excused from the meeting early.

New Business:

New Email list: Do we want to add Katie to the board email list? Mary thought that she hears the board's business at the board meeting, but then again so do guests. Susan thought it would be easiest to just add her. There was some discussion about voting through email and the fact that the Secretary's position can or cannot be a board position. Mark made motion that Katie be added to correspondence and Frank seconded that motion. The board voted and the motion passed.

(Gary): Someone asked him what the board's thoughts were on bringing WiFi to the house vs. having a land line. It costs about \$53 dollars/month for the phone. Is that more expensive than WiFi? How would WiFi help? What would it be used for? It cannot be denied that we do get phone calls to the house and it is part of our obligation to be available. So, for the same price can we keep the land line AND get internet connection? It had been decided in the past that the phone would stay. Tim said he would research this and would be happy to donate a computer. If we did have a computer it could serve as a community resource. However, it could be a headache. It could be stolen or it could get viruses. Pros and cons to be weighed later.

Motion to close:

A motion to close the meeting was made by Brad and seconded by Lee. The motion passed and the meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer at 6:50 p.m.

Yours in Service,

Katie