

Ben Lomond Fellowship Steering Committee Minutes July 13, 2023

1) Open meeting with the Serenity Prayer

2) Attendance: Jason, chair; Joseph, vice chair and 6 a.m. Thursday secretary; Ed O., co-sec coord.; Eric, maintenance; Beth, sec. coord. and 6 p.m. Friday secretary; Aimee, H&I rep.; BethAnne, literature chair and 6 p.m. Wednesday secretary; Michelle M., recording secretary/media coord.; Damien; intergroup rep.; Sonya, activities chair; Kelly Raye, 7:15 Back to Basics secretary; Tim M., 7:15 Back to Basics secretary; Tiffany, member; Naomi, member; Erin, member; Nate, supplies chair; Judy, member; and Bruce, member

3) June 8, 2023 minutes — Ed motion; Beth 2nd. Unanimous approval.

Treasurer — Chris B: Bank balances: BLF has \$6,257.15 in the business account and \$9,743.41 in prudent reserve. "We're doing OK" this month, he said, and he'll have the quarterly and monthly report done by this weekend. Ed motion/Kelly Raye 2nd. Unanimous approval.

GSR — Email report from Colleen: The county AA is going to add a donation button to the website to encourage donations. And she's working to try to see if we can get a time share donated for the Labor Day Picnic prize instead of a Hawaii trip. No vote needed.

H&I — No report.

Intergroup — Damien: San Lorenzo Valley needs an area rep; Michelle will put an announcement in the binder. Intergroup closed this fiscal year \$1,500 in the hole but that's not that bad because they're a nonprofit. Spring Fling brought in \$3,600, which is great because last year was a negative. The monthly Birthday Speaker Meeting raised \$1,074 with \$654 in expenses, so it made about \$400 profit. Fiscal report did include the Spring Fling. Intergroup spent around \$190,000 over the entire year. Ed motion/Tim 2nd. Unanimous approval.

Literature — BethAnne: She has a carload of pamphlets and books and just needs to deliver them to the fellowship, and she needs to refresh chips. Her term is almost up so she wants everything to be full when she leaves. Beth asked for a new large-print copy of the Daily Reflections because the one at the fellowship is mangled. BethAnne has one in her car that she will provide. Ed motion/Nate 2nd. Unanimous approval.

Online meeting secretary coordinator — No report. The position is still open, and Jason encouraged people to spread the word and volunteer for the job. Michelle will put an announcement in binder and also disseminate to online secretaries.

In-person meeting secretary coordinator — Beth: Meetings are running smoothly. Beth and Ed help new secretaries, even temporary ones, learn the ropes. Nate motion; Ed 2nd. Unanimous approval.

Media coordinator — Michelle: BLF stickers are still coming and will be sold as a fundraiser. Chris Kerr has been busy but will try to get to them next week. All flyers are posted and the websites is up to date. Ed motion/Nate 2nd. Unanimous approval.

Maintenance — Eric: The coffee pot filter been replaced and the leak on the dispenser has been fixed. Eric also took over the commitment to make sure the Coke machine is being serviced. The machine had been broken but should be fixed now. Eric will continue to make sure it gets serviced. Ed motion/Erin 2nd. Unanimous approval.

Supplies — No report; supplies are up to date. No vote needed.

Activities — Sonya texted her report: The Labor Day Picnic committee is having a meeting on July 25, and she'll keep people posted on planning. Michelle will put an announcement about the meeting in the binder. No vote on virtual report.

Old business — None

New business —

- Building security — Jason detailed an ongoing issue with security. A former secretary who had a key taken away is suspected of making copies and was found in the building several times during off hours. One member found this person smoking meth in the bathroom at 2 a.m. There have been issues with this member for a number of years, including instances of suspected theft. The member's behavior creates a safety concern and puts the fellowship at risk of losing its lease. Meeting attendees had a lengthy discussion about how to handle the situation. One member said that the safe is often overflowing with envelopes, and suggested that the safe be emptied more often. In terms of security, several solutions were raised, including replacing the locks with keypads. But several members said that wouldn't solve the issue, and it would be cost prohibitive and logistically difficult for secretaries if codes were changed frequently. The bulk of the discussion centered around banning the individual. Several options were discussed, including a lifelong ban, a six-months ban, or a year ban. Several members were uncomfortable with a ban, saying that the fellowship should remain open for those who are struggling and should welcome this member if they return to get sober. Others said that this member has been a concern for a number of years, and other meetings are available to anyone who wants to become sober. Ed moved that the member be permanently banned from the Fellowship; Naomi 2nd. The vote failed with 2 in favor, 6 opposed, and 1 abstention. Beth made a second motion that the member be banned for one year, and that members should call the sheriff non-emergency number if the member shows up again and refuses to leave. Eric added an addendum that the ban be revisited in one year to see if it should be

extended. Michelle 2nd. Motion passed with 7 in favor, 1 opposed. Tim M. volunteered to inform the member of the ban, and Eric said he'd also talk to the member.

- Sunday 3 p.m. AA History meeting—Michelle announced that the meeting is on hiatus and has been removed from the schedule. Apparently, no one wanted to take over as secretary. Several members were surprised. Eric said that the secretary of that meeting purchased the books out of his own pocket, so the next secretary might have an overhead issue. Ed suggested that the Central Office might be able to help with cost of books. Judy said that it was a great meeting.
- Steering Committee Meeting minutes—Jason asked for approval to disseminate the monthly minutes by email, instead of sending them over text. Steering Committee members are asked to review minutes before meetings so they can vote on them. He received verbal approval from the group; no vote needed.
- Back to Basics meeting—Kelly Raye said that the fellowship is losing sight of the importance of newcomers. The 7:15 p.m. Wednesday Back to Basics meeting has been pushed to the back room, where it's difficult for people to find. The Men's meeting doesn't start until 8 p.m. on Wednesday, so she questioned why the big room is vacant for 45 minutes while newcomers meet in the back. And she questioned why the announcement of the Back to Basics meeting had been removed from the Secretary Binder. She also questioned why the 7:15 p.m. Monday Women's meeting also meets in the back room when the front room is open. She said the newcomers are the most important people in the room and they should be welcomed and encouraged more. Joseph O. and Bruce said they didn't think there was a conscious effort to move some meetings to the back room. In the past, the men's meeting had more attendees than the Back to Basics meeting, and so needed the larger room. Bruce said he would ask men's meeting attendees for a group conscience to see if that meeting could start at 8:15 or later so that the Back to Basics meeting could meet in the front room, too. Jason tabled the discussion until the August meeting.

Adjourn — Ed motion/Beth 2nd: unanimous approval.

Closed meeting with the Serenity Prayer.

Next meeting: 7:20 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 10