

Ben Lomond Fellowship Steering Committee Minutes Sept. 14, 2023

1) Open meeting with the Serenity Prayer

2) Attendance: Jason, steering committee chair and Friday 6 p.m. secretary; Joseph, vice chair and 6 a.m. Thursday secretary; Ed O., in-person secretary co-coordinator; Eric, maintenance; Beth, in-person secretary co-coordinator.; Chris, co-treasurer; Michelle M., recording secretary/media coord.; Damien; intergroup rep.; Sonya, activities chair; Tim M., Wednesday 7:15 p.m. secretary; Matt M., secretary and fill-in GSR; and Tiffany, member

3) Aug. 10, 2023 minutes — Motion to approve from Ed O., Eric 2nd; passed unanimously

Treasurer — No report.

GSR — Matt: GSR had a good event last month and netted almost \$900. Bridging the Gap needs support and is looking for a coordinator. The Joint committee on Safety needs support and BLF is invited to send a liaison to the meeting at 6 p.m. on Sept. 17. No new district business. Intergroup needs vice chair for areas 1, 2, and 3. Everyone is welcome at a Young People in AA event on Sept. 23 at Blacks Beach. Ed motion to approve/Damien 2nd. Unanimous approval.

H&I — Text report from Aimee: The Fire Camp is open for volunteers and is seeking a coordinator.

Intergroup — Damien: Intergroup still needs a vice chair, but the District 11 Area representative position is filled. Finances are good. The office manager needs help on Tuesday from 1 to 5. About 170 people attended the September Birthday Speaker meeting. The Activities Committee is planning a Halloween Bash from 2 to 7 p.m. on the Sunday before Halloween at the Vets Hall. Four diverter shifts are open for volunteers, and people are encouraged to check out the Grapevine app. Ed motion to approve/Matt 2nd; unanimous approval.

Literature — No report.

Online meeting secretary coordinator — Open position; no report.

In-person meeting secretary coordinator — Beth: The secretary of the Saturday noon meeting has been serving in the position for much longer than six months and isn't able to do it anymore. Beth asked if anyone could fill in, and said the meeting is in danger of being canceled because no one is stepping up to secretary. Beth also mentioned that she's having trouble getting some keys back, and asked Eric to make

more copies. Jason mentioned that it's a security issue to have keys unaccounted for. Beth said she didn't feel that it would become an issue, but would keep the steering committee posted if it became one. Jason asked about secretary workshops and said they're important to show new secretaries the ropes, and Ed said that he conducts them with new secretaries. Ed motion to approve/Damien 2nd; unanimous approval.

Media coordinator — No report.

Maintenance — Eric: Eric and Ed O. fixed the dimmer switch in the main room. And the pilot lights have been relit for the winter and thermostats are set on the heaters. Eric said he'll continue to adjust the heat as it gets colder. Eric is going to be away for at least 7 days and said that someone will need to be sure to take the trash out on Tuesday nights. He said that paper towels and toilet paper are stocked. Beth said she would message the Tuesday night secretary and ask him to take the trash out. Ed/Damien 2nd unanimous approval.

Supplies — No report, but Matt M. was voted in to fill the supplies chair position, following a nomination from Ed and a second from Eric. The vote was unanimous. Beth will get the supplies-closet key from Nate to give to Matt. Eric said supplies are covered through the month, so Matt will need to refresh in October.

Activities — Sonya: Labor Day picnic went pretty good. We don't have a final treasurer's report yet, but we did between \$750 to \$1000 better than we thought we did, so we raised more than last year. She said the activities committee has met to ask about how things could be done differently next year to save money. The fellowship historically spends a lot of money on supplies and rentals and things like that, and the committee is looking at ways to save next year. Jason suggested that the fellowship should seek more donations. Sonya said they tried to get food donated this year, but that didn't pan out. In the past, food has been donated from a food bank, but that raises the risk of violating the 7th Tradition. Sonya said the committee is thinking of doing a Halloween event, like maybe an Alcahthon or a costume party, but they want to keep the cost down. She'll share more details after the committee meetings. Regarding the picnic, Joseph suggested a debrief meeting to brainstorm new ways to do things and "get something on paper to help out for next year." Sonya said her committee has already done some of that and she'll share more details at the October Steering Committee meeting. Ed/Tim 2nd, unanimous approval.

Old business

- Safe — Continuation of an ongoing discussion about the safe sometimes overflowing with envelopes: Jason said that the co-treasurer mentioned that coins are being included in 7th Tradition envelopes, which could be jamming the safe. New notes to remind secretaries to put coins separately in the slot have been put up in the fellowship, and that may help solve the problem. Jason tabled the discussion until October so he could talk with the co-treasurer in more detail to brainstorm potential solutions.

New business —

- Volunteer to be Safety Liaison for GSR—Jason said that in the past, there have been issues when people not feeling safe at AA meetings, especially women. The GSR Safety Committee was formed to investigate some of the issues and provide suggestions on improving safety. The BLF Safety Liaison would talk to secretaries and get their feedback and take it to the safety meeting. Joseph said that it seems like these are isolated incidents that come and go, and it would be good to have procedures for secretaries in case of emergencies. Ed said that the secretaries' handbook does include a section on what to do. Jason said that there hasn't been consistency in terms of handling issues, and said that members should bring any issues to Jason's attention. Tiffany volunteered to go serve as the Safety Committee liaison for the fellowship and she'll attend the Safety Committee meetings on the third Sunday of every month.
- November Birthday Speaker Meeting: Ed said that Area 11 is supposed to host November birthday speaker meeting, and asked if the fellowship wants to take it on. Jason said he'd text Sonya and ask if she feels whether it's something activities committee could coordinate.
- Back to Basics meeting: Tim M. asked that we put the announcement about the Back to Basics meeting back in the secretary's announcements so that newcomers know about the meeting. The purpose would be to let newcomers know that there's a special meeting tailored just for them. After some discussion, the steering committee decided to alter the script secretaries read to mention the Back to Basics meeting for newcomers. We'll also update the meeting name to "Newcomers' Back to Basics meeting" in the schedule. Ed O motion to approve/Eric 2nd — unanimous approval

Adjourn Ed/Damien 2nd —unanimous approval