

SMIA Meeting Minutes – August 10, 2024

Opening: Buddy F., Chair, opened with the Serenity Prayer.

Board Members present: Buddy F. – Chair; Lorraine J. – Vice-Chair; Bruce O., Treasurer; Paul S. – Parliamentarian.

Groups & Committees Represented: Bill L – Harmony/Bookstall, Paula S. - Bedouin, Norma H., !2 Steps Home; Andy X., Keepin’ It Green; Nathan H., Waldorf; Lisa T., Awakenings; Zee S., Sunday Morning Sobriety; Mandy W., O.D.A.A.T; Keith H., Almost Normal; Melissa W., Phone Chair.

SMIA Chair Report: Buddy F. – reported on the July 29th CARC II ZOOM meeting. Power Point specific to this CARC is available upon request at delegate@marylandaa.org. Info on the process for submitting a “Proposed Agenda Item” (PAI) is available on marylandaa.org. Scott B., Area 29 Corrections Chair discussed his PAI on developing service guidelines for the Corrections Committee/updating the Corrections workbook/guidelines for providing tablets to corrections facilities. CARC II members voted to address this PAI at the August Assembly. CARC II process will begin October 2024 for the 2025 General Service Conference. If you are interested in becoming a CARC leader and recorder for the next CARC II, contact Lori M. at altdelegate@marylandaa.org.

Also attended the SMIA Liaison Meeting on Monday, August 5th, where Kathy K, Maryland Deaf Access Committee (MDAC), Treasurer, presented information on that committee.

Vice-Chair Report: Lorraine J. shared information on Kathy K.’s presentation. MDAC has been a “freestanding” committee since December 2023, no longer a subcommittee of the Accessibilities Committee and not connected with Area 29. Since April 2024, MDAC has offered one ASL-interpreted meeting per month and is adding a second. Meetings are on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month beginning in September. There are an estimated 1.2 million deaf people in Maryland. The World Health Organization estimates that 5% of U.S. adults have an alcohol use disorder—5% of 1.2 million means there are potentially 60,000 deaf AA members in Maryland. Shared examples of challenges faced by deaf individuals seeking recovery—being turned away from closed meetings because the interpreter they brought was not alcoholic, being told they needed to bring 4-5 other deaf individuals to a meeting before the group would seek funding for an interpreter. American Sign Language (ASL) is a visual language with no written form, very different grammatically from English so closed captioning isn’t a good substitute for an interpreter. Briefly discussed whether SMIA can support this entity and include information about them on the website and in the Lifeline since they are not AA. No conclusions or were reached. Yellow can label to solicit individual donations with QR code for PayPal payments was provided.

Secretary Report: Read by Lorraine J. – July 2024 minutes were accepted with one correction noted.

Treasurer Report: Bruce O. – shared the Treasurer’s report for the period ending July 24, 2024. There is approximately \$9,500 available for \$10,000 in budgeted expenses. All picnic expenses have been accounted for.

After a 3-hour visit to Bank of America Account Buddy and Bruce were able to change the signatories on the account and obtained a secured credit card with a \$1,000 limit. Must be paid in full each month. Going forward authorized users can be changed by providing a copy of the meeting minutes documenting the change in leadership. Motion and second to accept the Treasurer’s Report as presented, all in favor. The Treasurer’s Report is available on-line at <https://somidintergroup.org/finance.html>.

Committee Reports

Bookstall: Bill L. –

There were 2024 visits to the On-Line Bookstall since the July meeting--12 orders; 11 completed and 1 out-of-state order cancelled and refunded. Orders totaled \$745. Literature purchases from World Services totaled \$401.54.

Web Report: Bill L. -- 07/13/24 -08/10/24. Total visitors (initial visits) 4,135, up 3.9%. Most frequently visited pages, Home page, Where & When Calendar, Where & When search, On-Line Meetings, Anniversary Calendar. No significant site changes.

Meeting Changes/Status:

The Upon Awakening Group, which meets at The Great Recovery Lounge, added Tuesday and Thursday meetings, so it now meets Monday through Friday. All meetings begin at 8:00 AM. There are currently 129 meetings in our service area; 122 in-person, 6 hybrid, 6 on-line only, and 1 meeting reported as suspended that has an on-line presence. Document Posts and Updates: Lifeline posted – 8/2/24; Finance Page updated – 8/4/24; Minutes posted – 7/29/24; Where and When PDF updated – 7/1/24.

Gratitude Dinner: Scheduled for November 16th. Need a chair.

Institutions/Corrections: Calvert – Lorraine J reported on two upcoming Volunteer Orientations for individuals to be cleared to take meetings into the Detention Center; Wed, Aug. 14 and Wed. Aug. 21. Men and Women needed. Volunteers also needed for Avenues Treatment Center, Riley F coordinating. **Charles** – No report; **St. Mary's** – Kim, new chair, anticipates they are still 3 weeks out from completing renovations and being able to take meetings into jail. Contact Keith H. if you are available to take meetings into Anchor on the last Tuesday of the month.

Lifeline: Keith – Anniversary Calendar is only for sobriety anniversaries, not group anniversaries. When submitting flyers, keep in mind they will be reduced to a quarter page. Use simple, larger fonts, bullets, avoid text heavy formatting and use “True Type” (TT) scalable fonts. Bill L encouraged group to check “The SMIA Publication Guidelines” available at: <https://www.somdintergroup.org/smiadocs.html>. Deadline is 27th of the month for the following month's edition. Discussed creating a “Service Opportunities” flyer. Asked Keith to increase number of print copies to 25/month.

Public Information: Calvert – Lorraine J reported that Kenny G is doing a phenomenal job. Charles – No report. St. Mary's – Buddy F. is the new chair. Checked and filled a lot of racks over the past month.

Serenity Breakfast: Need chair.

Telephones: Melissa W. – reported she is now the District 36 DCM. Go To Connect, the service used to route calls, is not particularly user-friendly and recently changed their reporting process. There were 18 calls, totaling 27 minutes, but info on breakdown by county wasn't available.

Where and When: Pat P. – Three full boxes remaining, 375 per box.

Workshops: No report

Old Business –None

New Business – None.

For the Good of the Order – North Beach picnic is tonight at 4:00 p.m. District 36 is planning a camping trip at Navy Rec Center—check online for details. Sunday, August 18th Solomons will celebrate group's 40th anniversary with eating meeting starting at 5:30 p.m. Lanny will celebrate 33 yrs. and Babe 40 years at Harmony on September 19th.

Meeting adjourned with the Responsibility Pledge and the Lord's Prayer