

Minutes of the San Diego County CoDA Business Meeting  
November 19, 2022

Present: Sharleene, Michelle, Sonya, Nadine, Joe, Laura, Jim, Aaron, Gary, Csilla, Tony, Dominic, Tina, Bryna, Marlene, David, Laurine, Beth, Diane

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Sharleene, Community Rep. Attendees introduced themselves, their position (Group Service Representative, GSR, officer or chairperson) and their meeting. The meeting purpose & function were read. The meeting serves the CoDA fellowship and carries the message to those who suffer. The meeting coordinates intergroup recovery, serves as voice of the group to state & national organizations, provides information and starter materials to new groups. The 11<sup>th</sup> Tradition and Service Concept were read.

Officer/Chair Reports:

Joe, Webmaster: Joe has been updating the meeting list and was waiting on one more response to complete the update. He has uploaded many Business Meeting Minutes back to 2007 in PDF format to the website. There may be an issue with our website host with regards to forwarding to certain email addresses. He will keep the group updated on this. Sharleene mentioned that she has a box of physical copies of minutes and will get them to Joe. Joe will send an email out to the group to locate any missing minutes in the process. Gary mentioned that he has a meeting change and will email it to Joe.

Laurine, Recording Secretary: Not present. Sonya will do minutes this month.

Erin, Treasurer: Not present. Sharleene reported a checking balance of \$13,902.31, a savings balance of \$7,602.48 for a total of \$21,644.61. Income was \$1755.86 and expenditures were \$1107.37.

Michelle, Parliamentarian: Michelle explained that the Community Meeting is conducted in accordance with the 12 Traditions, group conscience, and Roberts Rules of Order. Any member in CoDA is welcome to attend this meeting and has a voice. However, only Group Service Reps (GSRs) and most officers and chairpersons can vote. A quorum is reached when 30% of the total number of meetings has a representative at the meeting. Michelle also said that anyone having a motion or discussion item is encouraged to write it in the Zoom chat box.

Aaron, Regional Representative: Aaron reported that the next SoCal meeting will take place on Dec.3. He would like to give a SoCal conference report at that meeting. There are still open positions on the So Cal board, both Recording Secretary and Delegate are currently open if anyone is interested. The meeting is currently hybrid. There are not any Delegates to CoDA World currently from San Diego.

Diane, Alt. Reg. Rep: Diane informed the group that she is stepping down from the position as of today's meeting.

Gary, Literature: Gary reported sales and a deposit of \$684.55, Petty Cash of \$110.00, 3 CORE orders for a total of \$1107.32, and inventory totaling \$1655.20.

Gary, Public Information Phones: Gary reported 15 calls this month. There were a range of reasons for the calls but this service really helps people find meetings.

Csilla, Newsletter: Csilla reported that the November newsletter is on the website. She asked GSRs to please remind their groups to share this information. The newsletter contains activities, SoCal news

and the CoDA Moment which is a place for people to share their stories, their inspiration and hope. She is taking submissions for the CoDA Moment. Please email any submissions to [newsletter@SDCCODA.org](mailto:newsletter@SDCCODA.org). Laura asked if she is planning a Holiday event what is the last day for submissions for the newsletter. Csilla asked for submissions by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month for inclusion in the next month's newsletter.

Laura, Activities: Laura is working on Holiday activities with Dani in North County. They are collaborating on possible picnics with fellowship and are collecting ideas. Tina asked if any of the flyers she created as the Activities Chair were still available. Sonya affirmed that they are and are on our Google Drive. Sonya will share them with Laura. Laura will submit the flyer to Joe and the information to Csilla for inclusion on the website, the newsletter, and possible e-blast.

Sonya, Alternate Community Rep: No report

Sonya Public Info Mail: Sonya reported that all mail has not yet been collected but will be in the next few days and will be sent to Erin.

Workshops, Panels, and Seminars: Open

Mika, Hospitals and Institutions & Outreach: Not present. Beth reported on her behalf that Mika has received the materials for the Outreach position and has no report for Hospitals & Institutions. Sharleene reported that Veterans Village has reached out and is interested in starting a new meeting at their location. A meeting used to be held there in the past.

Laurine, Insurance ad hoc committee: Laurine reported that the Certificates of Insurance for the individual meetings are now available and meetings just need to reach out to her. Gary reminded the group that the insurance bill should be coming soon. Sonya said she would send the insurance bill along to Erin as soon as it arrives.

Michelle, Email ad hoc: Michelle indicated that there would be a discussion item regarding this area later in the meeting.

Tony, Michelle, & Nadine, Conference ad hoc: This committee of 5 reported that they have settled on a theme for the 2023 SoCal Conference; "CoDA: A Journey, Not a Destination: Are We There Yet?" A website and email have been created. The email is [arewethereyet023@gmail.com](mailto:arewethereyet023@gmail.com). Sharleene shared that the group is still deciding on whether the conference will be 1 or 2 days and if it will be live or hybrid. Nadine is working on the visuals.

#### GSR Reports:

Tina, Women's Truth & Recovery (CA1247) Tina reported that the Thursday meeting on Thanksgiving would be open to both men and women and would have at potluck at 4:30pm with a sharing meeting at 6:15pm. The information is on the website and in this month's newsletter.

Bryna, Friday Serenity Lifers (WW741) Bryna reported that the meeting is officially switching to a WW designation as they are fully virtual now. She wondered if they need to close out the previous CA designation or if it will happen automatically. Joe answered that CoDA World will take care of it for them when the new WW number is issued. Gary reiterated this information and shared that Joan is the person to speak with at World. Bryna has already been in contact with her.

Marlene, Monthly Speakers Meeting (CA0859) Marlene reported that more people are coming in person and asked the GSRs to please let their groups know about it. The meeting is a great way to connect with other CoDA members across the county.

Break was called at 10:56am

The meeting resumed at 11:05am. It was determined that we have 30 meetings. Roll call was taken and quorum was met by 10 voting members. Michelle reiterated the procedure for submitting motions and discussion items.

Approval of the minutes:

Sonya moved to approve the October minutes as presented. Csilla pointed out a correction in the time recorded from 11 to 10am.

Sonya re-moved to approve the minutes with the noted correction. Gary seconded.

VOTE: 12 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain. The motion passed.

Old Business:

1. Releasing the Quickbooks Subscription - Michelle felt as if she might have overstepped her authority regarding the revision of the accounting process. She felt as if it should be the decision of the incoming 2023 Treasurer. Sonya thanked Michelle for designing the easy-to-use form. Gary commented that in his opinion the form still needs work in terms of continuity from month to month. The current treasurer Erin isn't happy with Quickbooks and Michelle simply tried to help and did not overstep. Sharleene commented that Erin is not here today to be part of this discussion and possibly won't be here for the December meeting and then there will be a new Treasurer. Csilla expressed concern about letting Quickbooks lapse and wondered if it was better to let it lapse or to carry it over for the new Treasurer to decide. She also asked if we are able to re-purchase and the answer was yes. Jim asked if we could consider using an older version of Quickbooks and Michelle reminded him that Quickbooks itself was too complicated rather than being an expense issue. The new Treasurer can consider an older version if they wish.

New Business:

1. Budget 2023 - Sharleene shared the budget for 2023 as Erin was not present. There were still some items in question that will require further revision before the group can vote on the final version. Michelle will check on the amount spent on literature. The budget shows a deficit between income and expenditure on Literature. Sharleene reminded the group that we subsidize the literature to make it available to all of our meetings at a reasonable cost. Joe commented on the loss currently showing at \$375.00. Gary shared that 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition actually subsidizes literature so they are not actual losses showing. The budget should be sent back to Erin for further work.

Csilla moved to extend the discussion a further 2 minutes. Marlene Seconded.

VOTE: 11 yes, 1 no, 0 abstain. The motion passed.

Zoom will cost \$150.00 next year. No funds were spent on Activities in 2022 but that item should remain in the budget for 2023. H&I's only expenditure was on Literature. Web hosting remains a cost for 2023. Sharleene reminded the group that running the budget at a deficit for a non-profit is acceptable. Aaron wondered if his mileage is reimbursable via our budget or via SoCal's

budget. Gary confirmed that SoCal should be reimbursing his mileage. Gary suggested tabling further discussion of the budget until next meeting.

Elisa moved to extend the discussion a further 5 minutes. Laura Seconded.

VOTE: 7 yes, 6 no, 2 abstain. The motion passed.

Gary moved to stop payment of the rent to the church in the amount of \$15.00 per month and to remain on Zoom. Elisa Seconded.

VOTE: 14 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain. The motion passed.

Sonya moved to authorize Zoom at \$149.00 per year going forward. Gary Seconded.

VOTE: 11 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain. The motion passed.

## 2. Bylaws

Michelle brought up a question about the interpretation of length of term for officers and committee chairpersons.

From Article V, section B: *The term of the above-named officers shall be for two calendar years. No officer shall hold the same office for more than one full term. No officer shall hold more than one office at any one time. No person shall serve for any combination of positions for more than four consecutive years. After one year in a non-officer capacity, full eligibility for holding office is reinstated.*

From Article VI, section B: *Standing Sub-Committee Chairpersons shall be elected at the same time in the same manner as Committee Officers (see ARTICLE V, Section 0), shall have the same terms of office (see ARTICLE V, Section 0), and meet the same qualifications (see ARTICLE V, Section 0).*

Sharleene explained that we are looking for a group conscious on the interpretation of these sections of the bylaws with regard to how long a person can serve in an officer position and in a chair position or in a combination of both. If combined, everyone would only be able to serve for a total of 4 years between both officer and chair positions. Is it separate or is it combined? Sonya commented that her interpretation is that officers and chairs are separate and that one could serve as both an officer and a chair each with separate time limits. Laura commented that her interpretation was the same as Sonya's. Aaron commented that this is confusing. Elisa shared that she finds the one year and two-year limitations interesting.

Sonya moved to extend the discussion a further 5 minutes. Elisa seconded.

VOTE: 14 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain. The motion passed.

Csilla shared that the four-year limitation pertains to officers that come into the position in mid-cycle. And the same applies to chair-people. She feels that it is a total of 4 years of service combined between officer and chair positions. Sharleene clarified that elections of the positions alternates so that the entire board doesn't leave at the same time. Half on odd and half on even years. She also clarified that you cannot hold more than one officer position at a time. After one year of non-eligibility one can return to an officer position. The chairperson by-law is very vague on if it means combined eligibility or not. Gary is feels that chair and officer positions are separate. Csilla clarified that the bylaws specify that a full term so if someone comes in mid-term, they are still eligible to hold the office for the remainder of that term plus one additional full term. Michelle commented that the phrase "*one year in a non-*

*officer capacity, full eligibility for holding office is reinstated”* is key for her understanding that you can hold a chair (non-officer) position while being out of an officer position for that one year.

Elisa moved to extend the meeting a further ten minutes to 12:10pm. Csilla seconded. Sharleene requested the motion be amended to extend the meeting until 12:15pm. Elisa agreed to the change to her motion.

VOTE: 11 yes, 1 opposed, 0 abstain. The motion passed.

### 3. Upcoming Elections

Sharleene asked for a show of hands of who believes their office is coming open in the elections. The folks holding the following duties: Sharleene, Michelle, Csilla, and Gary (Literature) all believe their job is up for re-election. Sharleene asked if they believe that due to their interpretation of the bylaws. Newsletter & Phones said yes, Michelle indicated that she has served three years as parliamentarian and her office is up on its every other year election cycle. Bryna questioned that treasurer is up for election this time as well. Sonya mentioned that Public Info Mail is also up this year. The list of positions open for this year's election is:

1. Community Representative
2. Alternative Community Representative
3. Alternative Regional Representative
4. Recording Secretary
5. Treasurer
6. Parliamentarian
7. Workshops, Seminars and Panels Chair
8. Public Info-Mail Chair
9. Public Info-Internet Chair
10. Outreach Chair
11. Newsletter Chair

Michelle clarified that the current office holder might not have been in the position for a full term but the position itself is up for election. Current office or chair holders can re-run for their existing positions if they still have eligibility.

Sharleene asked if Aaron was planning on staying in the Regional Representative position. He clarified that he is indeed planning on doing two years in the position. Gary reminded the group that Aaron won't come up for election until next year. Sharleene reminded the group that according to her interpretation of the bylaws, Aaron can finish the term in which he is currently serving and still be eligible for a full term. Gary clarified that Aaron hasn't fulfilled his term and is not up against a four-year term-out. Marlene feels that Aaron is confused. She left the Regional Representative position halfway through her term and Aaron took on the position and is currently fulfilling the second half of Marlene's term. He will be eligible for a full two-year term in 2024 should he choose to take it on. Laura questioned her position – she like Aaron is fulfilling a partial term and then will be eligible for a full term should she choose to run again.

Elisa moved to extend the discussion a further five minutes. Csilla seconded.

VOTE: 11 yes, 2 opposed, 0 abstain. The motion passed.

Elisa clarified that if someone takes on a position mid-term, they can run and be re-elected in the same position and serve a full two-year term in that position for a total of over two years and up to 4 years per the bylaws. Could someone actually serve over four years due to this? Sharleene responded that four years is the max of service but you can serve more than two years in a position if you came in mid-term. The clarification Sharleene is looking for is, can you serve two years as an officer and an additional four years sequentially as a chair without going off the board entirely. Gary feels that the four-year maximum service is a combination of officer and chair. Michelle feels that you cannot serve a partial and a full term but only a maximum of two years per position whether or not you come in during a partial term. Aaron feels like we are shooting ourselves in the foot with adherence to the letter of the bylaws. He feels it is more important to be serving our CoDA Community and the Co-Dependent that still suffers. He understands that it is important to rotate the positions and isn't sure it is realistic to change that frequently.

Michelle announced that the discussion had taken us to the end of the extended meeting period. She and Sharleene will take all discussion and input under advisement for the upcoming election process.

Nadine moved to adjourn the meeting. Sonya seconded.

VOTE: 13 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain. The motion passed.

Sharleene announced that there will be a CoDA-thon over the holiday and meetings can be added at CoDA World.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:16 pm, followed by the Serenity Prayer.