

**Mid-Shore Intergroup Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, February 8, 2017**  
**Easton Church of the Brethren**

The February meeting of MSIG was held at the Church of the Brethren in Easton on February 8, 2017. There were 18 members in attendance, with 2 general AA members also in attendance. They were:

Joe H - Chair MSIG  
Andy M - Treasurer MSIG  
Jennifer B – Activities Chair  
JoAnn B - Thursday Night Group, St. Michaels  
Jackie K – General Member of the AA Community  
Debbie H - General Member of the AA Community  
Jim R - Oxford Group  
Johnny E - BYOL  
Amy C - Morning Recovery Group  
Charles R - Trinity Meeting  
Bob T – Little Red House, Sunlight of the Spirit  
Doug M – Sunday Stepping Stones, GSR  
Chuck R – What We Are Like Now – Church Creek  
Sue R – Kent Island Lunch Group  
Chuck L – Sat. Morning Eye Opener  
Mary D – Monday Noon Women's Meeting, Cambridge  
Terry K – Tuesday 5:30 Safe Harbor Group, Dri-Dock  
Kevin H – Monday Night Chestertown Group  
Popeye T – Denton Thursday Night  
Barry B – Chestertown Saturday Morning Step Meeting

The meeting opened at 6:30pm with the Serenity Prayer.

The January Minutes were read and approved.

The Chairperson, Joe H., opened the meeting with some comments regarding an event he attended in Caroline County supporting Homeless Outreach. The event was sponsored by various community organizations, including the Sheriff's Department, the Caroline County Jail and other organizations that serve the homeless and at need populations in Caroline County. Various agencies distributed information and literature and Joe H. was approached with great interest by persons in those organizations seeking information regarding meetings in the area, access to literature, Bridging the Gap and other outreach efforts that could be done by MSIG. Joe offered all the information and literature he had on hand and made contact with Caroline County Addictions providers, Jail Recovery Staff and Representatives from the Jail system and combined with

Jason's efforts of the past few months, should finally garner MSIG a meeting inside the Caroline County Jail. Specific details will still need to be finalized but by all indications we are going to be successful. Great teamwork and effort – thank you all.

On another subject, Joe would like to see a symposium developed for our MSIG community addressing Anonymity in the Digital Age. Social Media and the Internet have offered some challenges to the traditional understandings of anonymity and Joe feels that by gathering some expertise from MD General Service and the Districts we can better inform our members of how to uphold this, our most important tradition. Jennifer, our Activities Chair addressed the idea of a symposium favorably and offered that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Margenser had several articles addressing that very subject and that some of those authors might be prevailed upon to present at such a gathering. A tentative date of April has been set forth to be planned and approved.

The Treasurer, Andy M. offered the Treasurer's report for review and approval. He did note there were two annual expenses that are regular but uncommon for the report. They were the Web Hosting fee and Website Domain Renewal. Otherwise there were no abnormalities or issues to report and the Treasurer's report was approved as submitted.

The Activities Chair, Jennifer B. offered information she had gathered regarding the possibility of professional development of our MSIG website as our current webmaster, Paul D. has expressed a desire to step down from his duties. Based on recommendations from the community, Jennifer contacted Spiderweb Connections in Easton. She had a very informative conversation with the owner, Susan, regarding website design, and ongoing maintenance of the site. The development of the site would range in cost from \$1,500 to \$2,500 depending on requested elements and that price would include training for 3 – 5 persons from MSIG on ongoing maintenance and updating of the site. Jennifer also contacted website administrators from the surrounding Intergroups – including Annapolis, Salisbury and Ocean City. Those persons were responsive and helpful, in fact, Todd, the administrator from Salisbury, volunteered to help us update/redesign the website but was unable to commit to an ongoing maintenance/upkeep of the site and indicated that training novices to update the site would be beyond his comfort zone/abilities. The topic then entered discussion with various contributions made by the members in attendance, Kevin H. suggested that Greg W. of the Chestertown area was very knowledgeable about internet/website programming and would be an excellent resource. Barry B. echoed the sentiment and offered to provide contact information for Greg to see if he might have interest in helping MSIG. Doug M. agreed that an AA member updating/designing the site would alleviate any concerns regarding anonymity but offered that those efforts have value in the marketplace and that MSIG should consider paying an

AA member (if contracted) just as it would an outside resource. There was consensus among those in attendance that Doug's suggestion was reasonable and valid and would be in keeping with the Traditions. Hopefully contact will be made and progress will be made to relieve Paul D. of his long and valued contribution and juice up our website with the ability to independently update the site by the various committee members. Yay!!

In other old business, Joe H. brought up the convention/workshop presented by the Crofton Area group (the controversial group that had presented a similar event in St. Michaels several months ago). Well, they are offering another such event, this time in Rehobeth, DE. They had asked to advertise on the MSIG website again. In addition to a loose connection to AA related seminars, they are also offering acupuncture, yoga, and meditation courses. Additionally, they have scheduled this event to conflict with the MD Convention taking place in Annapolis. A healthy conversation ensued, with contributions from Chuck R. who suggested that the event was not specifically AA endorsed/approved and Popeye who added that a MD group hosting an event in DE, without consulting DE State AA or the local AA groups " didn't smell appropriate. " A consensus was reached that unless said group was to appear before MSIG and make a presentation as to what/why/how they should receive tacit endorsement and approval from MSIG that they would not be allowed to post anything further on the MSIG website.

Finally, the meeting turned to the changes to the MSIG By-Laws that have been proposed and discussed for the past several months. Those changes are to Article 7 – Committees and Article 10 – Approval and Amendments. As of the producing of these minutes, I was unable to procure an official copy of the changes to be made to the bylaws as amended however – these are the changes as reflected in the October 12 MSIG minutes:

"We did not have sufficient members for a quorum to vote on the two proposed changes to the MSIG by laws, so there will be another vote in November. To reiterate – Article VII Committees of MidShore Intergroup Council Proposed - Consolidate the existing 8 committees into 4 committees- 1. Correction Facilities Committee will become Treatment & Correctional Facilities Committee 2. Telephone Committee will continue to maintain a 12th Step list. 3. Office Management Committee will continue to serve as stated in the bylaws, with Literature Committee and Public Information/Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee added as sub-committees. 4. Activities Committee will continue as originally stated. Article X Approval and Amendments The current bylaws require a quorum of 18 voting members in order to make amendments to the bylaws. The motion was made to reduce the quorum to 14 voting members."

Barry B. summarized again for our members the changes proposed, which differ slightly from the above minutes – they are: changing Article VII to four

committees – Namely, Activities, which shall remain effectively the same, PI/CPC - which would also remain effectively the same, Institutions – which would combine the Treatment and Corrections Committees, and Office Management Committee – which would now encompass the Intergroup Office, Telephone Committee and potentially the Newsletter Committee – pending clarification from the members of MSIG. A discussion of these changes ensued. Popeye questioned voting privileges of MSIG board members versus Intergroup members and their alternates. Joe H. offered that MSIG board members should and do have a vote on these bylaw changes and with that decided, the amendments were proposed, seconded and passed with Popeye abstaining from the vote.

In new business, information was shared by Jim R. regarding the MD convention, updating of MSIG Where and Whens and the MD GSR Intergroup Liaison Committee Conference Call. He has again offered that the conference call is an amazing resource of information and knowledge and hoped that someone from our AA community would express a willingness to join those calls from our area. With regard to the MD Convention – MD General Service will be offering scholarships to local attendees to the convention and while Midshore members might benefit logistics would present a challenge and a liability. Perhaps if they get transportation for the day, their admission could be waived.