

October 4, 2014 Grapevine Committee Meeting Notes

Meeting opened at 4:47 p.m. with the Serenity Prayer and a reminder to please turn off or silence cell phones.

Introductions were held. Those in attendance were Rodney from the La Branch Group, Lisa from the Good News Group in D31, Kristina from the Rule 62 Group and our Area Secretary, Sarah H from the Lamplighters Group, Dave from the Kingwood Group, Lauren from the Silsby Group, Jerose from the Shadydale Group, and Cassandra from the Shadydale Group. Joel who is our DCM from District 65 joined us mid-meeting.

Minutes from last month's meeting were reviewed and corrections were called for. An opportunity to review by all was given. Cassandra made a motion to accept, which was seconded by Lisa and accepted by all.

Barbara called for someone to stand for the Alternate Grapevine Chair through the end of the year. The new delegates will be elected tomorrow and will rotate in January 1, 2015.

Old Business:

- The GVR handbook will be reviewed next meeting
- SETA Elections will be held this weekend on Sunday, October 5, 2014. Barbara gave a presentation on being the Grapevine Chair and spoke of the joys of chairing this committee and her passion for the position. She spoke of the mutual respect she has enjoyed, and the anticipation she had in regards to the elections for tomorrow.

New Business:

Shadydale workshop:

Cassandra will have her display board and literature available there. She had a few questions and inquired where she should direct those questions to. Barbara said that Rodney would be the best point of contact for these questions since he will be the one sitting on the panel. Cassandra will also gain direction from Kathleen since she was there last week at their anniversary (in regards to what their needs were and for suggestions on how to best facilitate this activity). Suggestions were made in regards to how to facilitate timing of the Panels and Speed Dating for their Workshop. Cassandra asked if she should label each table in regards to what each one represented (CFC, Grapevine, Adopt an Inmate, etc...). The panelists should be the ones moving around and informing the attendees what they have to offer, so the tables will not in fact be labeled. The grape guessing contest and one book (Language of the Heart- provided by the Area) will be given as prizes and to better inform attendees of the Grapevine Literature available. The district will also give away two Grapevine subscriptions. Cassandra will get with Kathleen in regards to refreshments- she should be given \$100 for this in order to complete this. If she provides receipts she will be reimbursed for her expenses.

Maury- There will be a panel of 5 who will be positioned at five different stations, and a separate person calling the time. The attendees will move from station to station in 15 minute blocks of time for the speed sessions. There will then be a break which will be followed by the ask it basket. District 31 will give \$100 for refreshments, which was confirmed by Maury.

December 6, 2014 Houston Intergroup Panel

There will be three people on this panel- one Grapevine representative, one CFC representative speaking about the Intergroup Adopt an Inmate Program for La Vina and Grapevine, and then

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Dick (the Executive Director from Intergroup) will be discussing new literature from Intergroup. The book store will be open during this event for everyone.

Barbara thought she might sit on the panel unless anyone else wants it. There will be a skit and snacks. Following the snack break will be the second panel of the writing guidelines. Requests were made for Lisa and Dave to serve on this panel. Dave and Lisa agreed wholeheartedly. Lisa will do the writing guidelines and Dave will do the recording guidelines. After we will all sit and write our stories for 30 minutes. Joel asked if he could bring his story pre-written since his English is not so great and it would be easier for him to translate his story into English on his own time before-hand for Grapevine since he's already submitted his story for La Vina. It was absolutely agreed that that was acceptable, and the hope is to submit as many stories as possible. Joel said that La Vina submitted 16-20 stories were submitted for each workshop, and his hope is to turn in as many stories as possible.

Requests were made for volunteers to man the display table. Volunteers were called for to man the display table and serve refreshments, Cassandra asked where Intergroup was and what the date was, Jerose will come and help clean up and Cassandra will help serve refreshments. Rodney will man the table.

Whoopie Party

Barbara will be baking Whoopie Pies. Judy will put together the skit at the Whoopie Party, although she is not present today, excitement was expressed at the skit.

The new calendar was showcased as something printed by the Grapevine. The cover was taken by a friend of the Grapevine Committee. The pocket planner was showcased as something also published by the Grapevine. Both of these items feature spiritual quotes, and the Grapevine is where a majority of the well known slogans (easy does it, etc...), pictures (man on the bed), traditions checklist, etc... come from. Discussion was had in regards to the Traditions Checklist and clarification was given as to where it could be located today.

Discussion was had in regards to the request for a Newcomer GVR Packet. Barbara put together a preliminary packet:

- New Grapevine Magazine
- Subscription form
- Why Should I Be a GVR
- Catalogue
- AA Grapevine Statement of Purpose
- Adopt an Inmate Form
- AA Grapevine Today
- Complimentary Materials List

Suggestions were asked for any additional paperwork that we would like to see.

Lisa suggested a list of upcoming grapevine event dates and the last few meeting minutes and a current roster of GVR representatives. These will be provided at the Area Meetings only, not mailed out.

Barbara requested to hear how we inform our home groups about our Meeting in Print.

-Rodney has a Grapevine Box (take one leave one) at his home group and makes announcements.

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-Joel makes announcements and explains why we need support, talks up La Vina and the Grapevine, translates information from English to Spanish and back again, pushes raffles to have the group responsible for this. Joel explained the mentality behind it in terms of his hope for having more literature in more hands.

-Lisa has a home group subscription, and a display of old subscriptions, they do the adopt an inmate, and literature everywhere for the group members to see.

-Kristina has a Grapevine display area set up in the library, makes regular announcements informing the group of their Grapevine options, plays the Grape Guessing Contest at group functions and gives away subscriptions as prizes

-Sarah H brings flyers and hangs them up, at district level she brings new flyers for people to bring back to their own home group and reads her own favorite quote, she also hangs things on her bulletin board. She has shied away from making too many announcements because she has been approached by members saying that she is "promoting" Grapevine.

-Dave had posted on bulletin board, but there are very few announcements made at his group, posters, talking about subscriptions, most grapevines walk away but most are welcome to be borrowed and there is conversation in regards to what is found in the grapevine. A woman in Atascocita read the jokes out of the Grapevine per Barbara.

-Cassandra has a Grapevine meeting every first Tuesday of the month, which allows for full participation, she has things posted around her group, she gives away a magazine if not a full subscription, she is back to seeing if she can put together a full subscription for adopt an inmate, she has her own group display, she has her own Guess the Grapes Contest.

-Laurie has a really small group and she has to take down everything after their meeting, at one point in the last year was approached to make a once a month GV meeting and she will start doing that here shortly and create a poster board. She will start doing that soon.

Joel asked a question about why we couldn't sell Grapevine subscriptions. The response is that the committee does not feel comfortable selling face to face because we are not comfortable having people's cash/ credit cards/ checks laying around.

Why are we necessary if people can get this information directly from New York/ online? It is suggested that they get this information from us, we are the liaison.

If someone has problems with their subscription, do we help with that? Yes we absolutely do, as much as we can, but we don't get involved with people's money.

La Vina representatives are unfamiliar with technology, however Joel is unsure about technology so it takes him more time to get it done but he gets the job done. To be clear, he was hoping to find how to help in terms of the district via the delegate via the GVR via the individual group members and clarify how that chain of command works. The best suggestion would be to stay on the phone with New York and try to correct the issue.

Meeting was closed at 6:00pm with the responsibility statement.

In service,
Kristina F.