

**Codependents Anonymous
Bay Area Community Service Group
Summit Hospital, Providence Pavilion
Cafeteria Conference Room
Minutes of January 13, 2008**

Present: Chava, Leslie C, Maureen C, Thomas H, Jack S, Martin T

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES:

The December minutes were reviewed. There were no corrections.

REPORTS:

Contact Numbers for Last Month:

NR	Requests by regular mail for meeting lists
3	SF/Marin Calls
8	Voice Mail Calls
674	Web site hits (average: 19/day)
NR	Snail-mail requests

Martin said that 12 people have taken advantage of a new website feature to express interest of getting on the mailing list.

Literature (For November and December 2007):

Beginning Inventory	\$5603.90
Inventory Sold	411.45
Inventory Bought	1037.25*
Ending Inventory	\$6348.00

* Numbers add up to 979.25 on the literature report.

Leslie did a complete inventory since the October conference, and bought a lot of literature including many pamphlets.

Bob gave Leslie chips from a meeting which wanted to "get out of the chip business". Leslie proposed paying Bob for the chips. The vote for this is under New Business.

Leslie proposed to get rid of the one Meeting Starter Packet (MSP) and one Fellowship Service Manual (FSP) she had. Both are available on the internet. Jack suggested to keep one copy of the MSP on hand in case someone comes and wants to start a meeting. It would be easier for the meeting starter to just get the info from us rather than go to the internet to get it, and therefore would be more likely to start that meeting.

Leslie gave all Spanish literature to Fernando. She is carrying it as an accounts receivable item of \$153.95 as it hasn't been paid for yet. She will follow up with Fernando.

Treasurer's Report: No Report

Regional/National: Nothing to report

Leslie moved and Maureen seconded the motion to approve the minutes and reports as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Website Transfer:

A transfer of our website to Dreamhost (free) from our current provider (which charges \$30 per year) is to take place before the contract expires in March. John was not present to give an update on this.

NEW BUSINESS:

Reminder: Elections next month

All positions are available except Treasurer (as Bob D just took it over) and Conference Chair (elected in August for the following year).

Positions available include:

- Chair
- Vice Chair
- Recording Secretary
- Corresponding Secretary
- Literature
- Webmaster
- NCC Liaison
- Outreach Coordinator
- Hospitals and Institutions Coordinator
- Meeting List Updater

Martin will put something on the website to encourage participation.

Reimbursement to Bob D. for Chips

Leslie proposed to reimburse Bob \$196.25 for a total of 131 chips. This was the price she would pay to CoDA to order the same chips, less shipping charges. Leslie made the motion. Jack seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Letter to Therapists:

Jack inquired into the effort to send a letter to therapists to let them know about CoDA. Leslie had drafted a letter, and Nanci A had written and used a similar letter, which she sent to Leslie as well. Dave and Leslie started harvesting names from the internet, but things got complicated and was not completed. The effort did not seek nor receive funding needed for completion. Jack agreed to take over this effort, and proposed to have the mailing sometime in spring or summer. Leslie to forward the letters she has to Jack.

How to attract and keep newcomers:

The issue of how to attract and keep newcomers, in order to spread the message and sustain the program.

Someone said that he had been to meetings which were not accommodating to newcomers. Perhaps this isn't even deliberate. BACSG can do something to give ideas to meetings so that they can keep the newcomers who come.

Some ideas which were brought up:

- Meetings are about carrying the message, which is part of step 12. Meetings can be more accommodating of newcomers by
 - Modify meeting format to give newcomers a dedicated sharing time. It is suggested doing this $\frac{3}{4}$ through the meeting, so that newcomers feel comfortable after having experienced most of a meeting, and after having heard other people share
 - Give newcomers an introduction to the program. Have a person volunteer to answer newcomer questions during a break or after the meeting
 - Make newcomers feel welcomed. Approach newcomers before the meeting starts and introduce yourself, introduce newcomers to others at the meeting.
- BACSG can set up a webpage to help set expectations of newcomers planning on attending their first meeting.
- BACSG can elicit feedback from newcomers regarding their first meeting. This would likely be supported by a new survey to take the feedback.
- BACSG can present a list of things meetings can do to change their format to become more accommodating of newcomers.
- Leslie volunteered to go through literature to see what there is which addresses issues facing newcomers and newcomer accommodation.
- CoDA is developing a "Developing Healthy Meetings" booklet which likely addresses issues around newcomers.
- Meetings can hold a separate adjunct meeting specifically for introducing newcomers to CoDA. This may or may not be feasible due to additional time commitments, but is among the most effective practices when it can be done.

How to bring more people to participate in BACSG:

The newcomer discussion digressed to how to bring more people to BACSG. Some suggestions:

- Post on the website what a GSR (General Service Representative) is and what is its role.
- Re-post the Trusted Servants Packet, which has descriptions of all service positions. Jack will do this.
- Move the BACSG meeting to a different time/day since Sunday morning is often a church/family time.

- The idea of being a “virtual GSR”, by subscribing to the BACSG_business yahoogroups alias. There, one can put things on the agenda for discussion, and monitor the alias for feedback. Jack will post an announcement that the BACSG_business alias is available.
- Hold a distributed meeting via conference call or web-basis. This could allow the meeting to be held on a weekday evening, as people wouldn't have to drive to get to it. Jack to investigate conference call service.

Volunteer hours: 27

7th Tradition (this meeting): \$7

Respectfully submitted,

Jack S

Acting Recording Secretary