

DCM SHARING SESSION OCTOBER 23, 2021

DCM Sharing Sessions Minutes October 23, 2021

11:00 AM – Sharing Session held virtually; opened with the Serenity Prayer by Chairperson, Drew B.,

What happens at a DCM Sharing Session by Drew B.: At the DCM Sharing Session, a District Committee Member suggest a topic and then there is a discussion on the topic with those in attendance.

New to the DCM Sharing Session: Kat C. from District 08

Presentation By: Fran H. DCM District 08 Contra Costa County

Topic Presentation – “What is an AA Group: The nuts & bolts of an A.A. Group,” Presented by

The 10-minute presentation began with the question “What’s an A.A. Group?” It also was an immersive take of the footwork that it took to prepare for the presentation. They gathered information based on their observance of a concern at last month’s DCM Sharing Session and identified by acknowledging there is a problem and asking themselves why there is a problem and what it is they need to know. The gathering of information began with the cache of literature that supplies the alcoholic a type of reliance on the forefathers and founders of

A.A. It was Tradition-by-Tradition and Concept-by-Concept that provides the guiding principles for not only the Group but the individual as well. It was admonished to identify the principle and characteristics within all 36 principles. The presenter shared that “Any two or three alcoholics may call themselves a Group...” -- that each Group is a thumbprint.

What is affiliation? To connect or associate self with another is a concise definition of affiliation. The use of A.A. Group names is an example of how the principle of non-affiliation is practiced. Not affiliating with political or religious organizations. It is suggested by experience that naming a Group after a person could steer the alcoholic into Power and Prestige and Over-Domination. Another example could be Groups that use outside literature (Non-A.A. approved literature, that is to say literature not approved by the General Service Conference). The Principles welcomes freedom to the alcoholic. Everyone has a right to go to meetings that they want to go to. If a meeting wants to read the Bible at the meeting, they have the autonomy to do so. Simply put, we don’t have the right to tell them if they can have a meeting or not. Experience has shown that meetings that played in the playground of outside literature didn’t last. When meetings and Groups go against Traditions, the meetings don’t last, the Group does not last. Go to the group if you have a problem to present the case, and let the Group Conscience have the ultimate authority.

The presenter concluded with a collection of what they learned

in preparing for the DCM Sharing Session, and how their perspective has changed in the process: great Love and great pain are both needed!!

Members Shared that attended the session on their experience and reflections of the presentation. Here is a glimpse:

- That tradition does say the primary purpose is to carry “its” message, not “the” message
- At the risk of being inclusive are we now being exclusive excluding some people?
- What are ways to get people to know about the Traditions?
- Should Groups that just practice the 4th and 5th Steps be registered?
- The differences between fellowships, Alano clubs, shared spaces with church for rent, umbrella Groups
- The need for Atheist & Agnostic meetings especially in the Bible Belts of the Country because when you go to a meeting and they ask if you have been saved by Jesus Christ and you say “no,” are not welcome to the meeting.
- Getting sober in Chicago, there were several meetings that were specified for doctors, lawyers, pilots and caused considerable controversy amongst other alcoholics in the area deeming them not A.A.
- It is not the responsibility of the alcoholic to be punitive. Love and Tolerance is our code and these are spiritual challenges.

Proposed topic for the November 2021 DCM Sharing Session:

“What is a sub-district?” (Suggested by Kris W.)

Closed with the Responsibility Statement – 12:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted, Chase C. | Sharing Session Recording Secretary