

Committee meeting Mar 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Attendees:**

Nathan	Blue	Steph O.	Marcus	Alec Z.	Mike K.
Lonnie	Paul S. (UK)	Greg	Matthew S.	Stephanie	Brandon
Eric F.	Megan C.	Alex McG.	Chad C.	Mo S.	Jo S.
Evin	Abby A.	Eric F.			

Nathan opened the meeting at 19:03 (ET).

**Old Business:**

R2 held its first meeting on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020. We will celebrate our fifth anniversary during the regularly scheduled meeting on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Welcome to Paul S. (UK) and Brandon.

**Birthday updates:**

Reviewed upcoming birthdays for March and April. No additions or removals.

**Chip Fairy report (Greg):**

We have added 2 new people; 79 chip requests have been received this year. Five monthly and five anniversary chip requests (10 for the month) were received. We currently have 452 years of sobriety in the group. There were no expenses this month.

**Speaker meeting selections (Marcus):**

Added Paul S. (UK) to the wheel.

Speaker selections for April 8<sup>th</sup>:

Primary: Laura S.

1<sup>st</sup> alt: Brittanie

2<sup>nd</sup> alt: Greg B.

Greg B. has confirmed and will be the Speaker in April.

Speaker selections for May 8<sup>th</sup>:

Primary: James P.

1<sup>st</sup> alt: Stephanie NZ

2<sup>nd</sup> alt: Larry G.

**GSR report (Marcus):**

No GSR update as Marcus could not attend the District meeting. Marcus will send an update to Nathan when the minutes from the meeting are promulgated, Nathan will post on the R2 website.

### **Training update (Blue):**

Three training sessions were conducted in the past month. Blue is developing “cheat sheets” for each service position and solicited input from the group. As training occurs, Blue will incorporate the current “Duties and Responsibilities” into the sheets. Steph O. asked if those sheets would be made available to all. Blue suggested that, after review, they could possibly be rolled into the Meeting Tools section on the website.

### **Topic Wheel update (Lonnie):**

The Topic Wheel is updated regularly and posted to the website at the end of month. Lonnie complimented the team assisting him, and indicated some changes may be coming.

### **Sponsorship Concierge update (Angela):**

Angela was not in attendance. Blue, having spoken with Angela, reported that she is responding to all sponsorship requests and additions within 24-48 hours.

### **March birthday meeting:**

Nathan issued another request for photos and videos. Some that were sent earlier are no longer available because some members have “Disappearing Messages” activated in WhatsApp. If your account has that feature enabled and you have already sent something, please re-send. Nathan requested submission before Wednesday and reiterated the celebratory meeting will be held next Sunday.

### **New Business:**

Several items were brought up: Nathan: cameras are not required to attend an R2 meeting. Requests from the Bouncer asking new arrivals to turn on their video is not part of our protocol. Action appears to be a response to recent bombing events. Mike K. added that profile pics have been turned off; does not recall this issue having been discussed in committee. Paul S. (UK) stated that R2 is not promoting [on] the Worldwide Secular Meetings as well as we could. (Also indicated he was willing to wait to discuss this topic, he wasn't sure if this was the time to provide input that he had an item to discuss.)

### **Discussion:**

Mo S.: I am the one who started asking because bombers are showing private parts and are showing up under other peoples' names; it's becoming habitual bomber behavior. The request is to just turn your camera on for a few seconds as, in his experience, bombers do not want to do that. Nathan: Bombers don't want to do that, but newcomers do not, either. Mo S.: Asked what proof Nathan had of that. Nathan: As a reminder, the Third Tradition indicates the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking; no one is required to have a camera turned on. Further, the Twelfth Tradition is about anonymity. R2's protocol is that we do not remove anyone until they violate our safety statement. Chad C.: Turning profile pics off was not a group conscience decision. Both points are valid; these discussions are overlapping. Zoom meetings are easier for newcomers to attend than in-person meetings; but it is also not good for newcomers to see porn their first time in attendance. Nathan: In five years we have not had to have a policy requiring cameras. Alex McG: I don't want to see such a policy, but we don't know... as an alternative proposition, can the Bouncer ask them if they'd like to turn on their camera if they arrive with their camera off? Have them turn their camera on for a second? If they do not, have the Bouncer disable their video? Response: no, not possible, as we can't disable video if the attendee is not sharing their video—the option is not available in the drop down list. Paul S. (UK): Disagree strongly with

requiring cameras. In his meetings attendees arrive muted but a camera is not required. He has been made aware that some people have personal issues with having their pictures taken during the meeting (example: screen shot capture). Bombers should not affect the principles of AA. Greg: Some attendees arrive after the meeting starts; we do not interrupt the meeting to ask them to turn their cameras on. On a personal note, he would have left the meeting if he was asked to turn his camera on in his first meeting. Also noted that, as Bouncer, some backgrounds appear normal, then, with a raised hand, it changes. This implies that, even if asked to turn a camera on pre-meeting, the bombing will happen anyway. Megan C.: Never arrives with camera on; also noted that this action would uphold our First Tradition by keeping people safe. Marcus: Likes the ability to have profile pics available. Related that in his Discord meeting some young people and newcomers don't ever share for weeks and do NOT like to turn their camera on. Acknowledged that Bouncers and other co-hosts are doing a good job; prefers to leave cameras off; and we can't catch everyone. Wants to avoid going to black boxes with names only; group conscience has already implemented a plan with actions to take when someone crosses the line, and re-iterated he does not want anyone to be forced to turn their camera on. Alec Z.: Came to program in August and is still uncomfortable sharing while on camera. Feels a "camera on" policy won't be very effective. Our security tends to prevent bombers from taking over the meeting and feels that requiring video would prevent people from attending. Bouncers are being trained and safety is foremost, but considers this an overreaction. Related he was recently bounced from a different meeting because of this very policy. He signed into a meeting with his video off; he was away from his keyboard when queried; when he didn't respond within the allotted time, he was kicked out. He does not want to remove someone who needs a meeting. Nathan: Referring to Megan C. and the First Tradition: we do have a safe place, but this is AA; breaking the other Traditions is not a sufficient reason to implement this new policy. Mike K.: We shouldn't require people to have their camera on, and wants to re-introduce further discussion on the profile pics. Alex McG: Hasn't heard anybody suggest that we actually kick someone out because they don't turn on their camera. Nathan: Thanks to Mo S. for stepping up. This item was brought up because he has seen this policy in action. We have a safety statement, we are an open meeting, we've been conducting meetings for five years without this requirement; is there a motion to change our current policy? Alex McG: Should we ask people to turn on their video or just mention that it would be appreciated if they would do so before they share? Nathan: It could be possible to address that in the opening or in the Waiting Room. Pertaining to profile pics: They were turned off because some photographs were political and he was getting comments about same. Was following the same process used for political backgrounds; unfortunately, profile pics can't be turned off individually. It was set to "off" with the belief that they could be turned back on during the meeting and did not know they were locked in off. Nathan will change the setting going forward. Abby A.: It was just supposed to be available to the Host due to political agenda—which was months ago. Jo S.: This is touchy; took personal umbrage when discussing this like something that *might* happen—it *does* happen. Personal approach regarding bombers is to close eyes, remove earpiece, etc., but will suffer bombers to defer to the person who comes in with a desire to stop drinking. Even in extreme circumstances, will defer to help the alcoholic who seeks help. Bouncers make decisions in the moment, and hopes we support them as they make those decisions *in the moment*. Mo S.: Thanks everyone for their shares and appreciates all the points that were made. However, the Traditions were written before bombers existed. Suggests we have to come up with a solution for this. Our group is autonomous. We don't have to let these characters come in. Nathan: Anyone can make a motion to change our protocol. Abby A.: Moved to table this topic to a future meeting. Nathan seconds. Megan C. voiced dissent to the motion. Proposal carried. Item tabled.

Paul S. (UK): Wanted to cover his issue. Nathan: We do not promote other causes. Paul S. (UK): The UK has a way to advertise their meetings... Nathan: We have a website. Paul S. (UK) shared screen to display that our meeting *description* is on the Worldwide Secular Meeting list. Marcus: A request was sent to the website. The topic under discussion is on our website. Reminded Paul S. (UK) that they had

already spoken about this privately. Paul S. (UK) indicated that his desire is to only offer suggestions in order to promote our group.

Greg: Noted that he attended a meeting via phone last week. He stated that messages posted in chat block the screen and overlay the person speaking. Voiced a reminder/request to NOT post things in chat while someone is sharing.

### **Service commitment updates for March:**

Sunday:

Host: Greg

Tuesday:

Host: Marcus

Bouncer: Megan

Slides: Lonnie

Chips: Garrett

Scribe: Matthew S.

Topics: Alec Z.

Thursday:

Host: Alex McG.

Timer: Mike K.

Saturday:

Host: Jordee

Timer: Chad C.

Nathan re-visited leadership decorum. This was brought up a couple of months ago; we need to do better. Sexual innuendos, passive aggressive behavior, friendly insults, foul language before, during, or after the meeting is considered bombing and doesn't align with our safety statement. Trusted servants should set an example. Inside commentary is not received the same way if you're not on the inside. Unintentional offense may be taken by newcomers. Chad C: Is active on taking action and owns occasionally condoning this; it is a slippery slope, but isn't sure about foul language as a term. Nathan: When said language is being used as passive aggressive speech and/or as being used against a person or the group. Stephanie: Is comfortable being around all of you, but noticing sexism is coming through from trusted servants; appreciates this topic being discussed. Jo S: We are fallible as alcoholics; for some it's easy to stand up and call out the behavior, others may not be able to. Lonnie: Speaking for self, I'm here to learn, but to show up at a meeting, discuss a topic of this nature, and not name names is not leadership in my opinion. Because we are not naming names, or at least having an individual reach out...as a victim of trauma, he wishes that—*amongst ourselves*—we can trust each other enough to call each other out on behavior that needs to be corrected. Nathan: MUCH appreciated, but does not desire to embarrass anyone publicly. This way addresses the issue in a gentle, yet more forceful reminder than before as nothing changed. He will also address the matter as a one-on-one. We should all try to not put ourselves in a position where someone wants to say something but can't. Chad C.: Appreciates Lonnie's point, but it's not one person; it's a reminder to more than one of us here that we need to do better. Nathan: The safety statement is a good check on our behavior. Greg: The pre-meeting is different from the after-meeting, often the more vulnerable newcomers hang out after the meeting. Please be particularly sensitive at that time. Nathan: We need to pay better attention to newcomers.

Marcus moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alex McG. Motion carried. The meeting closed at 20:15 (ET).

Submitted: Blue