Archives Committee Minutes

Meeting opened at 2:04 by Leslie H.

31 present, 1 on Zoom

Moment of Silence, Serenity Prayer, Guidelines were read

June minutes were read in full and unanimously approved

Committee Chair Report

Primary thing going on right now with this committee is that we have had the report come back from the Ad-hoc Committee charged with the task of Archives Committee Guidelines and consequently Area Guidelines. Marsha spoke with committee and felt as though it was all in goodwill and liked their work.

(Area Chair Cliff P. interjects to note that our Archives Committee Guidelines are not on the agenda, but the Area Guidelines changes will be discussed from on the floor today and potentially voted on in January.)

Most important thing facing our committee is understanding the archivist's role and how the area guidelines outline it. She suggests that all committee members attend tomorrow's business meeting to voice their opinions.

There are many implications— budgetary, voting, whether or not the Archivist is an officer, and part of what matters is how people feel the Archives position should be treated. This is unique inasmuch as we now have a new Archivist (who is very creative and artistically gifted!) who still needs time to navigate the role and to "grow into her job." Difficult to do with an undefined position!

Marsha has been busy and has not been able to visit our Archives as much as she'd like.

Archivist Report

Paige is thoroughly enjoying being Archivist. She attended the Institutions Forum and that was very fun. She had never been to an AA convention before MSC and she loved seeing A38's display as well. The display cases are very heavy but she had a lot of help. She is proud of her display.

The display for this assembly was also very fun to make, and her next upcoming function is Colors of Fall. She was also given charge of the Big Book which is on display upstairs. She has a "really viable" idea: having talked with several people, including our Delegate, and she will present it the right way to ensure she gets her point across with humility, grace, and directness. She would like to see if all the districts in A39 will help contribute to the purchase of this Big Book, and potentially if A39 itself can help as well. She has the lineage of the book and it is

amazing. It is a second edition with a misspelled word in the Forward— when they caught it, they immediately stopped printing— signed by all the delegates from the 1955 GSC and a note from Bill W. Earl Paxton, who was our delegate from MO and Sedalia, was the owner of the book. It feels very serendipitous for us to have an opportunity to add it “back home” into our archives. The misprint: on page xx of the Foreword, “really” is misspelled as “realy.” She is not sure how many there are.

Paige has been trying to get to our Archives more. She has been up to the space several times.

Question for the Archivist:

Do we have the Big Book currently?

It has been given to her to hold onto, lended to the Archives. To purchase it feels like the next right thing, especially if all of Area 39 could contribute. It was given to her by the original owner, and she thinks it would be appropriate for us to purchase it. She is not sure of its financial value, but is aware of its significance.

Question:

What about “A good faith contribution” from GSRs?

Paige says it’s a thorny issue. He is losing his hearing and sight, afflicted with cancer, and he doesn’t seem to have a financial concern or motivation. More will be revealed.

Ad-Hoc Guidelines Committee Changes Presentation

Composed of Ken, Diane, Debbie, Adam, Sammy

Met about 4 times by Zoom (with Archives chair present and Archives chair invited but unable to attend)

Reviewed Committee Guidelines, Area Guidelines, and GSO Guidelines. Sought input from people who were involved in Archives from the past and listened back to the floor discussion as well.

Main issues addressed:

1. Is the Area Archivist required to be an Area officer?
2. Rules for the election of the Archivist?
3. When we changed the guidelines, is a simple majority or substantial unanimity required? ⅔ suggested because that affects the whole fellowship.

Inconsistencies across Area Guidelines and Committee Guidelines and times in which things were repeated, and repeated items were removed from Committee Guidelines if it is also present in the Area Guidelines.

Debbie adds that Archivist would not be an Area Officer and therefore would not be on the Area Committee, but wanted a plan to address that. Wanted to ensure that the Archivist would have a part of and therefore have a vote in the Assembly. Also had to wait for the transcript of the minutes from the June assembly.

Area Officers are responsible for area business which is not really the Archivist's job. Debbie went back to "ex officio" officers which came back in 2006, which just gives the Archivist a vote by virtue of their role as a Trusted Servant within the Area.

Having one committee attached to the guidelines made everything messy, and the committee was set up to ensure that Paige and Marsha were set up to succeed. The committee gave it a lot of thought and didn't want to just make minor changes especially if there were a cluster of things to be opened up again.

Ken wants to add that in considering whether the Archivist should be an officer or not- wanted to be very certain that it was respectful to the Archivist and ensured that the position was respected.

It is noted that there is no suggested length of sobriety for the guidelines (but our old guidelines have it at five years in A.9.b).

Suggestions are only relegated to the position being an Area Officer, not a Committee Officer. The Area Committee is made up of Area Officers, DCMs, and Committee Chairs, not just the Area Archivist. And the secretary still receives reports from all Committee chairs!

New Business

Open discussion for workshops— archivists from districts or groups, if any of them would like to jump in and show us how it is working there? Or any other presentations that people may want to see or want to do?

April would like to point out that there is an opportunity to continue this discussion on Slack.

Chuck would like to know how groups started in different districts— like what group came from what resentment? Like a family tree of resentments. And in St. Joe there is a tree— some districts aren't very large so how did these small areas wind up with a surprising amount of groups?

If any members have ideas, we can use Slack or reach out to the Secretary.

April reminds us how to use Slack!

Steve B brought two boxes of items from the 61st and 62nd GSC, notebooks and items. Either Marsha or Paige will get them back to the Archives.

District Reports

D10 just nominated their first Archivist and he will be reaching out to Marsha soon.

Paige was given a list of names, times, dates of all the meetings in all the districts. She is copying it. It is an amazing list; some meetings she recognizes and some she doesn't. She is scanning them.

Meeting closed at 2:58 with the Responsibility Statement.