

## Intergroup Meeting Minutes: July 11, 2018

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### Meeting Chair: Sandy K., Intergroup Chair

- Meeting opened at 7:00 PM with a Moment of Silence, followed by the Serenity Prayer
- Reading of 12 Traditions by Mary K., Hand in Hand
- Sandy welcomed all the reps. Emilie K. was welcomed as a new rep and Sandy spoke on how the process works with Intergroup and asked people to stand and use the microphone when speaking.
- Introductions from the floor. Groups in attendance: By the Book, Hull Liberty, Back to Basics, Search for Serenity, Stittsville Second chance, Parkwood Hills, Pinecrest Group, Attitude of Gratitude, Lunch Bunch, Awakening, Discovering the Big Book, Fellowship Group, Labyrinth, Vanier, 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. Recovery, Podium Hill, Hand in Hand, Westboro Big Book Study Group, New Day, Step by Step, Orleans Hub, Ottawa South, Women in Step, Alta Vista Open Door, Friday Night Chelsea, West End Group, Heritage, Back to Basics, Beacon Hill, Step Sisters
- 29 voting members present and 4 non-voting members (excluding 5 Executive members; absent Executive Anne D. and Caterina C.).

- Sandy invited the membership to make a motion to accept the previous month's minutes to which Mike B., Westboro BB Study, raised a concern about the acclamation of the new Treasurer at the June Intergroup meeting as identified in the minutes.

He felt that the election was in contradiction to Article 19.1 of the bylaws in that an election should have taken place at the following intergroup meeting (i.e. July vs. June). He noted that the election of a new Literature Rep would be held in July so the Treasurer election should have been handled the same way.

Sandy asked the membership if anyone wanted to appeal the acclamation of the Treasurer and no one did. Position replacements (for both Treasurer and Literature) to be discussed further in New Business.

- Motion to accept previous month's minutes as presented: Frank K, Hull Liberty; seconded, Motion carried.
- Sandy invited the membership to make a motion to accept the agenda and Patrick G., Pinecrest Group, asked for the item re: "allowing a group to meet in the Intergroup office" be corrected to Pinecrest Group Traditions and Bylaws. A typing mistake was also noted for the McNabb Report item showing February instead of June.
- Motion to accept the updated agenda made by Anne R., Alta Vista Open Door; seconded by Isabelle P., Fellowship Group. Motion carried.

## REPORTS

### **CHAIR PERSON: Sandy K.**

1. Status on employee hiring committee
  - The board identified there were 9 resumes submitted, 4 that were qualified for the position
  - The hiring committee put together a questionnaire for the interview process - 4 people were invited to attend interviews as candidates
  - 2 of the 4 invitees showed up - 1 person said they couldn't make the commitment and was given an option for another commitment - they weren't able to make it
  - 1 person is being recommended by the hiring board. We are reviewing references and have been given permission by the candidate to review a recent security check. We suspect that will happen very quickly.
  - A member asked for clarification on how the schedule was set up. Sandy responded that the interviews were scheduled on the same day in different timeslots

### **VICE CHAIR: Harry B.**

1. Harry stood in as treasurer pending Bill P. coming on board
2. Newsletter has been a group effort by the board but we would like to elect an official coordinator.
3. We are speaking to some individuals about the position but we are positioning it as a committee responsibility to take the burden off one person
4. Insurance - only 9 groups still on the program last year. If there aren't at least 10 they won't support it. Cost is \$108 per year for \$2M liability. It's underwritten by Cooperators. Harry has been discussing it with the Cooperators and they advised him that changes to group board members seem to have resulted in lack of renewals (probably an oversight). Standalone policies will cost anywhere from \$500 to \$700 so we recommend groups look into this. Renewals will be issued in August for effective date of November. The \$100 is flat - no pro-rating so any groups wanting to get onboard will pay \$100 and another \$100 upon renewal.

### **SECRETARY: Carolyn O. (for Anne D. – absent)**

1. Please use the sign-in sheet on the table to confirm attendance.

### **WEBMASTER: Carolyn O.**

1. Was on vacation for a couple of weeks but kept on top of announcements for website.
2. The mobile site needs updating and since it was designed using a different coding process than the main site it is difficult to modify so it is on the work plan to be re-created over the coming weeks.

### **TREASURER: Bill P.**

1. Bill is learning new software and hopes to finalize the Spring Conference financials shortly.
2. There is a meeting set up to go through everything with the Spring Conference treasurer.
3. The financial statement hasn't been modified but deposits are being made and updates will be made by next month.
4. Nigel L., Labyrinth, stated that he didn't believe that the money provided by Intergroup to the Canadathon should be considered an advance.

#### **TAS COORDINATOR: Mickey R.**

1. 27% of shifts in June were empty.
2. Mickey wants to remind the membership that they can take open shifts – just email [tas@ottawaaa.org](mailto:tas@ottawaaa.org) to let him know.
3. Scheduled training: We can Recover - this Sunday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, Vanier Early Birds and Happy Nooners.

#### **NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Harry B. (representing vacant position for now)**

1. The newsletters are in the box on the side table and posted online.
2. As covered during the Vice-Chair report, we are looking for a Newsletter Committee Coordinator.

#### **LITERATURE: -- vacant**

1. Election to be conducted during New Business.

#### **12-STEP COORDINATOR: Caterina C. -- absent**

#### **SPRING CONFERENCE – no report**

#### **FALL CONFERENCE: Gene M. (Chair)**

1. We are waiting on final confirmation from the venue for the proposed September 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> dates. \*\*Confirmation was received after the meeting and before the publication of these minutes\*\*

#### **CANADATHON REPORT: Gene M. (Vice-Chair)**

1. 100-200 people participated – attendance was down due to extremely hot and humid weather but the event was financially safe. Gene offered a cheque for \$120 back to Intergroup.
2. Sandy thanked the Canadathon for their act of generosity and said she'd take it back to the board for consideration
3. Sandy confirmed that the commitment for a literature table at Canadathon was met.

#### **MCNABB MEETING:**

1. Paul from Step by Step reported for June. Attendance averaged at around 21. Everything went well and the 7<sup>th</sup> tradition was \$90.00.
2. Paul recommended that host groups remember to bring chips and maybe leave some supplies behind for the next group.
3. Sandy advised that the August commitment has been filled by the Friday Night Chelsea Group.

#### **OLD BUSINESS – MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT – Harry B.**

1. Harry is the chair. A committee will be put together to go out and let groups know what Intergroup does. By raising awareness maybe we can secure some support.
2. Could be at regular groups or business meetings ... will include all groups in the area – especially those that don't have reps.

#### **NEW BUSINESS – REPLACEMENT OF BOARD MEMBERS WHO RESIGNED**

1. Harry B. presented the board's interpretation of the bylaws with respect to replacement of board members which was that the Treasurer's resignation was received *before* the June Intergroup meeting so, in actuality, the July Intergroup meeting was "the following" meeting and Bill P. was acclaimed.

2. Since the Literature Coordinator resigned "at" the June meeting the election should be in July (and it is scheduled on the agenda).
3. Sandy feels that the membership took the right of decision for accepting the board's appointment of Bill P. as the interim Treasurer. Tom K., West End Group, made a motion to confirm Bill P. as our Treasurer, seconded by Isabelle P., Fellowship Group. Motion carried.

#### **NEW BUSINESS – LITERATURE COORDINATOR ELECTION (for remainder of term – 5 months)**

1. Further to the June meeting, there is one nomination on the floor: John G., Back to Basics.
2. Doris M., Discovering the Big Book, offered herself as a candidate and gave a brief service summary. Doris is an Intergroup Rep, volunteers for TAS and has 30 years of sobriety. She works in the office on Friday afternoons so is familiar with selling literature and the need for stocking, etc. She is retired so can devote time to the position.
3. The membership chose show of hands vs. secret ballot as the voting method with a 2/3 majority requirement.
4. Doris was elected with a 2/3 majority.

#### **NEW BUSINESS – NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE COORDINATOR**

1. Sandy asked if anyone wants to stand for the position (or has heard of anyone who wants to stand. <No>  
Will carry to next month.
2. The theme of the next newsletter is about Telephone Answering – please send in your stories (how it kept you sober or how you got sober because of it?) Please submit by July 27<sup>th</sup>.

#### **NEW BUSINESS – PINECREST GROUP TRADITIONS AND BYLAWS – Patrick G.**

1. The Pinecrest group came to the office to fulfill their TAS commitment (they often take it from home). Last month, when they came, there was a group of people holding a meeting in the office. The person answering the phone had to go out into the hall to take the call. The group feels that it goes against 7th tradition and the by-laws.
2. Sandy response: the meeting Patrick is referring to is a "start-up" young people's group.
  - A member approached the board expressing the opinion that there's a need for a young person's group in the area. They wanted to use the office to try and get it started and the board wanted to support the endeavour.
  - Part of the board's decision was based on the inventory that was taken last August and one of the things the membership told us was to use the office space in more creative ways. We felt it was creative and supportive.
  - When Sandy identified the problem to the group, they immediately took action by changing their script to ensure they would be quiet if the phone rings or if 12-step work is being done in the office.
3. One member expressed concern that AA has had a reduction in membership in the last 2 years that is a concern even to GSO. Encouraging new groups to start up is a great way to possibly add to the membership of AA.
4. Another member suggested that the issue be taken back to the groups and discuss it again at the next Intergroup meeting.
5. Mary K., Hand in Hand, made a motion to give the group 4 weeks notice to find another venue; seconded by Mike B., Westboro BB Study.
6. Discussion:
  - Sandy asked if the people at the meeting should have a voice

- Patrick G., Pinecrest Group, feels we're making a motion to break a tradition and would like to see where in the bylaws it says we can allow groups to use the office.
- Harry responded to the question about bylaws citing that one of the responsibilities of Intergroup is assisting and advising new groups.
- Nigel L., Labyrinth, asked people to wait for their turn to speak per Robert's Rules of Order. We can't make decisions for groups. We have no say in how they follow the traditions and challenged those opposed to letting the group use the room cite the bylaw that states we should not. The executive board made a decision and brought it to the membership in June and there were no objections at the time but making a motion now is the way it should be.
- Sue B., Parkwood Hills, thinks the bylaw is good but feels the 7<sup>th</sup> tradition is still being broken. Sandy asked "who" is breaking the 7<sup>th</sup> and Sue feels that Intergroup is breaking the tradition by letting them hold a meeting rent free.
- Isabelle P., Fellowship Group, stated that many churches take donations casually, "give us what you can, when you can". This confirms that a meeting doesn't "need" to pay rent.
- John G., "Back to Basics", reiterated that we are losing members worldwide. It's getting more difficult for groups to find places. As long as they are looking for a place they can afford we should let them stay. AA started in homes and they weren't charged for it.
- Arie C., Back to Basics, chastised some of the members that were, in his opinion, bullying the membership toward their point of view for disallowing the meeting.
- Mike B, Westboro BB Study, expressed that he wanted to dispel a myth about membership health by stating that numbers are stable according to GSO.
- Amid the commotion of the very heated discussion that ensued, Mike B., Westboro BB Study, called the question (i.e. per Robert's rules it is a call to close the debate / vote now)
- Motion defeated.

#### **NEW BUSINESS – SAFETY IN THE ROOMS – Sandy K.**

1. A few months ago someone brought forward the topic of Safety in the Rooms and members were encouraged to discuss their experiences so we are considering – time permitting – adding an agenda item for the last 10 minutes of the meeting to share experience on a topic (like 12-stepping, etc.). Sandy asked if anyone is interested in the idea and the membership would like to bring it back to the next meeting.

#### **COFFEE VOLUNTEER FOR AUGUST**

1. Sandy thanked Frank K., Hull Liberty Group for coffee for the July meeting.
2. Frank volunteered again for the upcoming August meeting.

**Motion to adjourn Meeting by:** Guy B., Search for Serenity, seconded by Emilie K. Heritage. Motion carried.

Meeting closed at approximately 8:40 PM with the Responsibility Pledge

**Next meeting: August 8, 2018 at 7:00 PM, Mac Hall, Bronson Centre.**