

NH INTERGROUP MINUTES – September 7, 2014

ATTENDEES: (in alphabetical order by first name – Officers are listed with their first and last names)

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| Bill G. – Multi-media chair | Jeanne Donnelly – Vice-Chair, Saturday Amherst rep, Monday & Thursday Bedford Rep |
| Debi G. – Parliamentarian, elected today | Jill M. – R6 rep, WSBC delegate, Webmaster |
| Diane L. – alt Monday Manchester rep | Judy G. – Concord Monday rep |
| Dorothy M. – Monday Hillsboro rep, Region 6 rep | Kat R. – Saturday Nashua rep |
| Effie – Monday Nashua noon rep | Mo L. – Monday Laconia rep |
| Eileen R.T. – Derry Thursday rep, PI chair, Event Flyer Chair | Naisa C. – Answering Service Chair, Belmont Wed. rep |
| Elaine Tostevin – Treasurer 'til Now / Now Chair, Region 6 rep | Peter Lewis – Secretary, Tuesday pm rep, Thursday pm Nashua rep |

Opening:

Jeanne, acting as chair, called the meeting to order at 2:00pm, and invited all present to join in the Serenity prayer. All present identified themselves and their NHI roles. Diane read the 12 Steps, Dorothy read the 12 Traditions, and Jill read Concept 2. Of the attendees, 10 eligible voters were counted and the attendance sheet was circulated. Jeanne read the disciplines for the meeting.

Secretary:

The June minutes, prepared by Debi G. were accepted as read.

Treasurer:

The treasurer's summer summary report and the detailed reports for June, July, and August activity, all prepared by Elaine, were all accepted as read.

Open Positions: Chair, Region 6 Reps/Alternates; WS Delegates; Parliamentarian

Chair:

Jeanne introduced this agenda item by relating recent history, starting with the incomplete officer elections in June followed by Bill P.'s resignation as newly elected NHI chair. Referring to extended conversations between her and experienced NHI board members, with willingness having been expressed by Elaine T. and Nancy S., Jeanne proposed that Elaine should be nominated for election to the Chair, and that Nancy S. should assume the balance of Elaine's term as treasurer.

➤ **Nomination:** Jill nominated Elaine T. for Chair; Dorothy seconded the nomination.

➤ **Vote:** Elaine was unanimously elected Chair by the 9 eligible voters.

Elaine assumed the role of Chair immediately.

Treasurer:

Election of Elaine as Chair vacated the office of Treasurer.

Elaine announced that Nancy S. would be present at the October 5 business meeting, where Nancy could be nominated and elected to serve the balance of Elaine's term as treasurer. It was noted that Nancy has recent experience as NHI treasurer.

➤ **Appointment:** Elaine appointed Nancy as temporary treasurer until the election is held at the October meeting.

R6 Reps:

Dorothy nominated herself for one of the two open R6 rep positions.

➤ **Vote:** Dorothy was elected unanimously by 9 of 9 eligible voters.

Remaining vacancies: 1 rep, 2 alternates.

WS delegates:

Two vacancies remain.

Parliamentarian:

➤ **Nomination:** Jeanne nominated Debi G. for Parliamentarian, Debi agreed, and Naisa seconded.

➤ **Vote:** Debi was elected unanimously by 10 eligible voters.

Committee Chairs Needed: Sharathon, Back to Basics, Ways and Means

No one volunteered to chair either committee. Elaine initiated a general discussion about the nature and importance of the services these committees are intended to provide. One idea mentioned was to study the pros and cons of combining the two committees. Elaine volunteered to look into whether this was possible according to the by-laws. She also said she would contact the committee chairs of all current committees to determine their status, seek ideas, and encourage members to attend NHI meetings in the future.

Budget Planning:

Elaine requested that officers and committee chairs review their budget requirements and bring requirements for 2015 to the Oct 5 meeting. She noted that for comparison, budget amounts for 2014 are listed in the financial reports on the web site. For example, see column E of page 1 of the April 30, 2014 at <http://oanewhampshire.org/restricted/financials/2014/2014-04-financial.pdf>. Elaine announced that the first budget planning meeting will occur immediately after the Oct 5 business meeting, and asked for volunteers to stay and help with the process. Judy volunteered.

Answering Service:

Naisa reported that the new NHI answering service provided by eVoice is up and running on a temporary 800 number. Other info she shared:

- NHI will continue to subscribe to the old (expensive) service until official NHI 800 number gets ported to eVoice, in about a month.
- The NHI 800 number will be added to the DO-NOT-CALL lists to eliminate marketing and political calls, etc. See the Answering Service section of the September 2014 committee reports, at <http://oanewhampshire.org/restricted/committee-reports/2014/2014-09-committee.pdf>, for more information.

R6 Public Information Blitz:

Eileen summarized the Public Information committee's work on the R6 sponsored PI Blitz. Significant effort went into cultivating contacts with public libraries to place OA literature where it would be likely to reach appropriate readers. Eileen remarked that many libraries were willing to receive books and pamphlets, but not magazine subscriptions (e.g. **Abstinence**, the book was well received, but **Lifeline**, the magazine was not). The committee also bought ads in a number of Senior Newsletters. See the Public Information section of the September 2014 committee reports, at <http://oanewhampshire.org/restricted/committee-reports/2014/2014-09-committee.pdf>, for more information.

Retreat:

Elaine mentioned that the retreat chair, Barbara (not present today), has produced a flyer which has been approved and is available on the NHI web site. Elaine urged reps to use the flyer and 'talk up' the retreat at their local OA groups. Eileen suggested that reps emphasize that scholarships (½ and ¼ expense) are available for the retreat and that if a group wished to make a donation to fund a retreat scholarship that they could choose if they wish to fund a ½ or ¼ scholarship, the deadline for scholarship application is Nov 15.

Raffle Baskets for R6 Convention:

Jill explained that NHI has usually budgeted funds for a raffle at each R6 convention and that this is an important source of funds. Further discussion revealed that the Sept *Promises* encourage individual meetings and / or individual OAs to assemble raffle baskets and deliver them to the NHI table, managed by Beth and Peggie. Eileen emphasized the importance of getting information and encouragement about both Raffle Baskets and retreat scholarships to the local OA groups ASAP, in order to enable local meetings to budget for both projects in a timely manner.

Ways and Means:

Elaine initiated discussion of the Ways and Means committee status by noting the following:

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- Income from Ways and Means is dedicated to the Delegate Fund.
- The Ways and Means Chair is vacant and no one has yet expressed a willingness to take it on.
- Recently Ways and Means fund raising has been limited to Book Cover sales at local OA events.
- Book cover inventory is thought currently to consist mainly of slow-moving items. As a first step toward reactivating Ways and Means committee, Elaine suggested that someone take inventory of Ways and Means assets and asked for volunteers. Effie volunteered to do the inventory and agreed to take temporary custody of Ways and Means assets for that purpose after the meeting.

Policies and Procedures:

Elaine noted that the Policies and Procedures manual on the NHI web site was last updated in 2009. Several attendees, including Elaine Jill and Dorothy, expressed awareness of off-and-on work aimed at updating the manual and that completing the job was proving difficult. Jill volunteered to locate the ongoing work and bring it to the October 5 meeting.

NHI Meeting List – 90-Day Designation:

Jeanne expressed frustration that meetings created with the 90-Day designation are so marked on the WSO web site, but not on the NHI meeting list. Jill explained that NHI's suppression of the 90-Day designation was the result of an explicit vote some years in the past, and that the issue could be revisited.

- **Motion:** Eileen moved to include 90-day designation, mirroring the WSO designation. **Second:** Effie
- **Discussion:** Bill G. opposed the 90-day designation on the grounds that it facilitated discrimination against meetings not so designated. Eileen argued that the 90-day designation provides useful information for members looking for meetings. It was pointed out by Jill and others that the WSO offers no clarification of the 90-day tag; Hence the actual meaning is determined by the consciences of the individual groups. Dianne suggested that filtering the meeting descriptions could be viewed as unwarranted interference with local meetings' discretion. Further discussion led to no real consensus.
- **Tabled:** Dorothy moved to table the discussion, pending further study. Eileen seconded the motion to table.
- **Vote:** The motion was tabled by a vote of 6 to 4.

NEW BUSINESS:

On-Line Payment: Jeanne proposed that NHI accept on-line payment for meeting contributions. It was mentioned in discussion that R6 and WSO accept on-line payment and that NHI doing so would be service to the groups. Elaine noted that if Pay Pal were one of the solutions, NHI might also pay expenses, such as the answering service subscription online. Elaine agreed to look into this at the upcoming R6 convention and report her findings at the October meeting.

Co-sponsoring Events: Eileen proposed that NHI seek opportunities to co-sponsor a workshop or other event with other intergroups in order to broaden NHI's reach. Elaine agreed to add this consideration to the October agenda.

Strategic Plan: Elaine volunteered to review the current strategic plan with an eye to bring it up to date. Eileen agreed to bring to the October meeting the strategic plan updates that were contemplated in the most recent work in her custody. Eileen and others noted that there had been growing consensus that it might be best to create a new strategic plan using the WSO strategic goals.

CLOSING:

Motion: At 3:25, Bill moved to end the meeting. Naisa seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion was approved unanimously.

Elaine closed the meeting by leading a recitation of the serenity prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Peter Lewis, Secretary.