

NH INTERGROUP MINUTES – October 5, 2014

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

Barbara G. – Retreat chair	Jeanne Donnelly – Vice-Chair, Saturday Amherst rep,
Barbara W. – Guest	Monday & Thursday Bedford Rep
Bill G. – Multi-media chair	Jill Meier – R6 rep, WSBC delegate, Webmaster
Cheryl L. – Lebanon Tuesday rep	Janet S. – Guest
Debi Granfield – Parliamentarian	Judy G. – Concord Monday rep
Diane L. – Monday Manchester rep	Naisa C. – Answering Service Chair, Belmont Wed. rep
Dorothy Martin – Monday Hillsboro rep, Region 6 rep	Nancy Sullivan – Treasurer, Derry Thursday alt rep
Effie – Monday Nashua noon rep	Peter Lewis – Secretary, Tuesday pm rep,
Elaine Tostevin – Chair, Region 6 rep	Thursday pm Nashua rep

Opening:

Elaine called the meeting to order at 2:04PM, inviting all present to join her in the Serenity prayer. All present identified themselves and their NHI roles. Dorothy read the 12 Steps, Effie read the 12 Traditions, and Diane read Concept 3. Of the attendees, 11 eligible voters were counted and the attendance sheet was circulated. Elaine read the disciplines for the meeting.

Secretary:

Several corrections to the September minutes were adopted. The minutes were accepted with the stipulation that the agreed-upon corrections be made.

Election of Treasurer:

Nancy Sullivan had been acting treasurer since being appointed by the chair at the September business meeting. Elaine explained that a ballot vote is needed to elect Nancy to serve out the current term which ends with the June 2015 business meeting.

Nomination: Effie nominated Nancy to serve as treasurer for remainder of the current term. Diane seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations.

Vote: Ballots distributed, collected and counted by the parliamentarian.

Result: Nancy was elected unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Nancy presented the September treasurer's report, a printed version of which was available to attendees. There were no questions. 7th tradition contributions were collected.

Region 6 Fall Assembly Update:

Elaine summarized her experience at the Assembly, and indicated that her written report will be added to the October committee reports document, to be posted on the NHI web site. She attended the Finance Committee meeting, which included a spot audit of some expense and income transactions. Elaine took note of the Intergroup Outreach committee report as pointing to a resource that NHI might want to tap. She also mentioned that the OA Young Persons' committee is encouraging intergroups to promote OA for young persons, and has produced an OA Young Person's packet which can be purchased from the OA bookstore. Elaine relayed, once again, the message that Region 6 prefers to receive contributions electronically, such as via Pay Pal.

Dorothy reported on her experience at the Bylaws Committee meeting. Among items worked on were job requirements and job hand-off for committee chairs, which are both sources of difficulty in current practice. Dorothy suggested that in the future, R6 representatives should consider consolidating their reports in a single document.

Effie reported on her experience as a guest at the Assembly. She appreciated that she was able to observe, and socialize with, diverse OAs from across the Region 6, gain new insight into the structure and spirit of OA, and have a great deal of fun doing it.

Jill gave a brief summary emphasizing the spirit of OA unity as she experiences it at Region 6 Assembly and other OA gatherings. "Together We Can" was the by-phrase she emphasized, and urged attendees to read her written report for further detail.

Open Positions: Region 6 Reps/Alternates, WS Delegates

One Region 6 Rep position is open. Two Region 6 Alternate Rep positions are open.
Two World Service Rep positions are open.

Retreat Update:

Barbara reported preparations for the January retreat are going smoothly. There are 5 registrants so far, 3 of whom are applying for ½ tuition scholarships. The retreat leadership has communicated that they plan to lead attendees through the 12 steps focusing on abstinence and spirituality. It was noted that the retreat flyer, which includes a registration form, is posted in the Events section of the NHI web site.

Ways and Means Inventory Report:

Effie reported the results of her inventory of assets of the (currently in need of a chairperson) Ways And Means committee. The inventory consists primarily of book covers for OA associated literature. A few covered journals, book marks and refrigerator magnets were also in the inventory. Total nominal value of the inventory is about \$900. A spreadsheet summary of the inventory was distributed at the meeting, and will be included in the committee reports under the Ways and Means heading. As an aside, Bill G. suggested that items for sale be labeled as “Made in USA” or some similar designation.

R6 Convention – Ways and Means Table:

Effie described the provisions for retail sales by OA groups at the convention. She stated that there is a room reserved for this purpose and a table would be available there at no charge for Ways and Means to sell its wares. Effie further volunteered to manage the Ways and Means table using the existing inventory. Elaine suggested that there be a signup sheet so that staffing of the table could be shared among the NHI attendees. Dorothy noted that historically, the table would be staffed between meeting sessions and other high-traffic intervals and would be covered over at other times in order to free volunteers to attend their sessions of interest. Management of the cash box is among the details still to be worked out.

Telephone Service Update:

Elaine stated that there are still a few details to be worked out related to the transfer of the two phone numbers (800 and local). In particular, account setup requires designation of authorized individuals, with mail addresses, etc. as account contacts. Elaine expressed the opinion that as a matter of policy, an account contact should be a board member, and that, since a financial relationship is implied, the treasurer would be a logical choice. In further discussion, questions arose as to whether it's unnecessarily complicated to keep the original phone numbers and what the consequences might be if the numbers were changed. After a time it seemed clear there were too many details and too little information to define the path forward in detail. Elaine, Nancy and Naisa will carry on.

Online Payments:

Motion: Naisa moved to have the Treasurer, in cooperation with other officers as necessary, set up electronic payment via debit card and PayPal. Effie seconded the motion.

Discussion: Dorothy expressed concern that electronic donations need to be traceable and so that the proper groups get credit and the proper accounts (e.g. general fund, scholarship fund) get credited. Elaine indicated that she has learned, from other groups that take electronic payment, that thorough documentation of electronic payments needs to be handled by web forms filled out by the paying party. Diane said she is acquainted with an OA member who is familiar with the mechanics of extending web sites to accept payments by PayPal and offered to make inquiries to this person if NHI so requested. Barbara G. raised the issue of cost. Elaine responded that she understood the cost to be 5% or less, which would be subtracted from the amount of the payment. Elaine indicated that the details of cost will be worked out as the process goes forward.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Extension of Meeting:

Motion: Effie moved to extend the meeting by 15 minutes.

Modified: Debi requested that the extension be reduced to 10 minutes. Effie agreed. Naisa seconded.

Vote: The (modified) motion passed unanimously.

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Meeting List descriptors:

Motion: Judy moved to allow NHI meeting descriptors to include the 90-day designation.

Modified: With Judy's consent, Nancy modified the motion to allow any meeting designation allowed by World Service so that NHI meeting descriptions can mirror WSO meeting descriptions. Jill seconded the motion.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Policies and Procedures:

Policies and Procedures discussion and / or action was deferred to a later meeting.

Repartitioning of Committees (e.g. Combining Sharathon and Back to Basics):

Elaine explained that her suggestion that Sharathon and Back to Basics committees should join forces was motivated by a desire to have NHI offer at least one workshop per year with the resources available. But having reviewed the bylaws and committee descriptions, reconfiguring the committee structure did not seem practical. She urged attendees to think creatively of ways for NHI to deliver at least one workshop in the coming year.

CLOSING:

Motion: At 3:43, Jeanne moved to close the meeting. Diane 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.