

## NH INTERGROUP MINUTES – January 4, 2015

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

Barbara G. – Retreat chair	Jill Meier. – Web Master, Region 6 rep, WSBC del
Bill G. – Multimedia chair	Judy G. – Concord Monday rep
Cheryl L. – Lebanon Tuesday alt rep	Naisa C. – Answering Service chair, Belmont Wed 5:30 rep, Laconia Mon alt rep
Debi Granfield – Parliamentarian	Nancy Sullivan – Treasurer, Derry Thursday alt rep
Diane L. – Monday Manchester rep	Pat S. – Hopkinton Tuesday 5:30 rep, Workshops chair (confirmed this meeting)
Dorothy Martin – Monday Hillsborough rep, Region 6 rep, WSBC del (elected this meeting)	Peter Lewis – Secretary, Nashua Tuesday pm rep, Thursday pm rep
Effie – Thursday am rep, Ways & Means Chair	Sandy M. – Nashua Monday noon rep.
Elaine Tostevin – Chair, Region 6 rep	Sue W. – Lebanon Tuesday pm rep
Jeanne Donnelly – Vice-Chair, Bedford Monday & Thursday rep	

### **Opening:**

Elaine called the meeting to order at 2:01PM, inviting all present to join her to recite the Serenity Prayer. All present identified themselves and their NHI roles. Judy read the 12 Steps, Effie read the 12 Traditions, and Jeanne read Concept 6. Of the attendees, 13 eligible voters were counted and the attendance sheet was circulated. Elaine read the disciplines for the meeting.

### **December Minutes:**

The December minutes were accepted as submitted.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Nancy gave a brief tour of the December treasurers report. It was accepted as submitted.

### **7'th Tradition:**

7'th tradition contributions were collected.

### **Confirmation of Workshop Committee Chair:**

Elaine recapped discussions and actions at recent NHI business meetings in which the responsibilities of the Sharathon and Back to Basics Committees were combined into a single Workshop Committee. At December's meeting, Elaine had announced that Pat S. , who had a record of relevant experience and service, had expressed a desire to chair the Workshop Committee. Formal appointment had to await Pat's presence today and a confirmation ballot by the NHI representatives. Deb conducted the balloting and announced that Pat's confirmation as chair of the NHI Workshop Committee was unanimous.

### **Presentation of Plan for Workshop Committee:**

Having been confirmed as chair of the Workshop Committee, Pat presented her ideas for organizing the committee and its activities. She said she would want the committee to run four workshops a year, including a Back To Basics workshop, and that these workshops should be distributed geographically in the North, South, East and West regions of NH, so that every region would be well and fairly served. Pat indicated that she already had a volunteer committee member from the southern region, and would be seeking committee volunteers to represent the North, East and West regions. In the eastern region, Pat indicated that she hoped to join with the Seacoast Intergroup to offer more ambitious programs. Pat also said she has had discussions with two groups interested in holding a workshop in the spring but that the date and venue have not yet been set. Pat finished by inviting OAs, particularly from the northern, western or eastern regions of New Hampshire, to contact her if they are interested in joining the Workshop Committee. Pat's email and phone are <psangillo@mcttelecom.com>, 603-746-4931.

### **Retreat Update:**

Barbara G. reported that there are 21 registrants for the retreat and that since her last report, money has become available to fund a scholarship for the person at the head of the scholarship wait list. She added that except for some last minute details, such as the purchase of perishable supplies, preparations for retreat were practically complete.

Barbara then changed focus to the next retreat, suggesting that NHI should decide as soon as possible whether to continue sponsoring retreats in the future. If the answer would be yes then Barbara would attempt to recruit a 2016 retreat chair from among the attendees at this 2015 retreat.

Barbara observed that NHI and the 2016 chair should review the choice of venue, time of year, retreat format, etc., since these topics have all been called into question in the past year.

Barbara noted that the Barbara Harris Conference Center (BHCC) in 2016 will charge \$7 more per attendee than in 2015, and Barbara recommended raising the registration fee by \$10, assuming BHCC continues to be the chosen venue.

#### **Retreat Decisions:**

Responding to questions presented by Barbara, Elaine proposed that the meeting could answer the primary questions immediately. **Motion:** Accordingly, Jill *moved* that NHI should sponsor a retreat in 2016. Pat *seconded* the motion. **Discussion:** Sue asked for discussion on the Pros and Cons of having a retreat. Pat said that years ago there had been two retreats, in Fall and Spring, but that the winter retreat seems to have persisted as a good way for attendees to establish connections with a supportive community at a critical time of year. Elaine noted that the retreats are self-funded by registration fees and scholarship donations and have enjoyed sufficient attendance as to seem a worth while NHI service. Dorothy observed that NHI retreats have a long history and that not sponsoring a retreat seems unimaginable to her. **Vote:** The motion to offer a retreat in 2016 was *passed unanimously* by a show of hands.

**More Discussion:** Nancy suggested that, in addition to Barbara's proposed survey of retreat attendees, NHI might conduct a survey of the NHI distribution list and member meetings in order to measure satisfaction with recent retreat offerings and interest in alternative times of the year (e.g. to accommodate snow birds), alternative formats (e.g. 1-day to reduce the cost), etc. With regard to venue, Barbara and Pat both expressed the opinion that BHCC offers quality accommodations at a competitive price that would be hard to beat. At this point Elaine suggested that a practical approach would be to resolve to carry the 2015 retreat arrangements forward for 2016 and to defer further discussion of 2016 retreat issues until the 2016 committee chair is in place.

**Motion:** Jill *moved* that NHI should move forward with arrangements for a January 2016 retreat at BHCC. Dorothy *seconded* the motion. **Discussion:** Diane requested that the 2016 retreat be open for Saturday-only or day-only attendees, primarily to offer a lower cost option. Barbara recalled seeing provision for day-only attendees in the paperwork for the 2015 retreat. Elaine suggested that this matter too should be addressed by 2016 retreat chair and in NHI discussions of the 2016 retreat. **Vote:** The motion passed by a count 12 for, 0 opposed, 1 abstaining.

#### **Ways & Means Update:**

Effie brought new book cover inventory for interested individuals to inspect and Barbara to take to the retreat for sale. She said the new book covers were made by one crafter who also provided expertise in the selection of materials and improved pattern detail. Effie said she continues to search for crafters to make book covers and God cans and urged listeners to pass on her contact information to prospective contributors. Effie's email and phone number are <estew1@verizon.net>, 978-302-8949.

#### **Appointment of Twelfth Step Within (TSW) Committee Chair:**

At Elaine's request, Nancy agreed to follow up with the transfer of NHI property from the outgoing TSW chair to the treasurer, pending reconstitution of the TSW committee. Elaine announced that the search for a new TSW chair is ongoing. Diane inquired as to the nature of the TSW chair's responsibilities and Elaine responded by reading the job description from the NHI Job Descriptions document, which can be found at [http://oanewhampshire.org/nhi\\_reps/nhi-job-descriptions.pdf](http://oanewhampshire.org/nhi_reps/nhi-job-descriptions.pdf). One or two others offered descriptions of particular activities sponsored by the TSW committee. **Appointment:** At this point Diane volunteered for the position of TSW chair. Elaine *appointed* Diane to the chair of TSW. **Confirmation:** Diane's appointment was confirmed by a unanimous ballot vote.

#### **Election and Funding of Second WSBC Delegate:**

Elaine announced that Dorothy has volunteered to be nominated as NHI's second delegate to the WSBC, and that she is qualified according to the bylaws. **Nomination:** Pat *nominated* Dorothy as a NHI delegate to the WSBC. Jill

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*seconded* the nomination. **Confirmation:** Dorothy was confirmed as WSBC delegate by unanimous ballot vote. Next, Elaine explained, and Nancy confirmed, that the budget passed in December allocated funds for only one delegate in 2016, but that the delegate fund has sufficient reserves carried over to fund two delegates. Elaine requested the following **Motion:** Jill *moved* to authorize payment of expenses for a second WSBC delegate from the accumulated carry-over in the delegate fund. Pat *seconded* the motion. **Vote:** The motion *passed* unanimously by a show of hands.

### **PayPal Update:**

Elaine announced that the content of the web pages related to implementing PayPal has been determined for now, based in part on example from another intergroup using the process. She indicated that Jill will go ahead and enable PayPal contributions as soon as possible, and that NHI representatives will be notified via an email when the process is available for general use.

### **NHI Email Addresses:**

Elaine related, and Jill confirmed, that most of the NHI email addresses have been implemented as forwards to lists of individuals, (e.g. oanhireps@oanewhampshire.org and oanhinfo@oanewhampshire.org), and that list forwarding has become problematic on the Internet due to a growing prevalence of SPAM email. Jill said that email forwarding is no longer supported by NHI's web host, and that an alternative needs to be found. It was decided that a reasonable interim solution would have two parts: 1) Individual email boxes would be provided for officers who need them, such as the treasurer (oanh treasurer@oanewhampshire.org). 2) Lists, such as oanhireps@oanewhampshire.org would be handled manually by the individuals sending email to the lists. The lists would be maintained centrally, as text files, on the NHI web site, to be downloaded and copied into the Blind Copy (to preserve anonymity) addressee section by individuals sending to the list. Jill agreed to implement the individual mail boxes and the list text files as needed. There was no agreement to pursue other potential solutions.

### **Unity Day:**

Barbara G. relayed her knowledge of Seacoast Intergroup's plans for Unity Day this year. She said Seacoast Intergroup is hosting Unity Day and plans to invite the Southern Maine, Northern Massachusetts and New Hampshire intergroups to participate. Representatives from each of the four intergroups will speak. Barbara will inquire about plans for raffles. Elaine and Nancy will also inquire about opportunity for Ways & Means to sell its wares.

### **Meeting Verifications:**

Diane reported on her ongoing effort to reconcile the WSO and NHI versions of the list of meetings belonging to NHI. Diane stated that the latest NHI list contains 37 meetings, and that she has verified that none of the meetings listed by NHI is also listed by a neighboring intergroup. She said that the WSO list was offline when she attempted to access it most recently, and that she would call WSO to get more information. Diane asked that if anyone knows of meetings that are not on the NHI list, and should be, please let Diane know. Diane's email address is nov2210@comcast.net. In response to a questioning from Elaine, Jill stated that 37 meetings should entitle NHI to send up to four delegates to the R6 assemblies, since the governing formula allows one delegate per 10 member meetings plus one for any non-zero remainder. Jill said that WSO uses the formula of one delegate per 15 member meetings plus one for any non-zero remainder, which entitles NHI to send up to 3 delegates to WSBC.

### **Updates to "What is NH Intergroup" (Officers; Committees and Committee Chairs)**

Elaine observed that the "What is NH Intergroup" document needs to be updated with current information. Diane requested that her email and phone number (Indeed contact information for all NHI members) should not appear in the document, since its content is visible to web search engines, which breaks the anonymity tradition. There was further discussion concerning the content of the document and how to present it in a manner that accommodates Tradition 12. It was agreed that the document should be removed from the web site for now and that this topic would appear on next month's meeting agenda. Pat suggested, and Elaine agreed, that someone would investigate how Region 6 secures the anonymity of its membership in preparation for next month's discussion.

### **Policies and Procedures and Bylaws:**

Elaine said she is thinking that updating the NHI Policies and Procedures and the NHI Bylaws documents may best be handled by considering short sections of the documents at any given meeting, in a ongoing process.

### **Nominating Committee:**

Elaine again proposed that NHI create a nominating committee to prepare nominations for the June elections. For a schedule, she proposed that the committee be activated by the April meeting and report a list of candidates for the open positions at the May meeting.

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### **Region 6 Business:**

Conflicting dates for the springtime R6 assembly were offered by Elaine (April 4) and Dorothy (April 18). Elaine said that the true date should be ascertained prior to the next NHI meeting. Elaine noted there is still an opening for a R6 delegate and encouraged anyone who might be interested to contact her. She also noted Feb 3 last date submission of motions, applications for scholarships or funds for special projects, etc.

### **Other Business:**

Jill stated that, in preparation for the May WSBC, delegates will be submitting proposals for agenda items until the end of February. Subsequently, the list of proposed items will be sent to all intergroups for culling by group ballot. Last year's experience with this process inspired the suggestion to have an NHI committee filter the agenda proposals to eliminate obvious decisions from consideration by the entire NHI business meeting. Jill proposed that formation of this committee should be on the NHI agenda for February, and volunteered to be on the committee. Elaine agreed to add formation of a committee to filter WSBC proposed agenda items to the February NHI agenda.

### **CLOSING:**

**Motion:** Jill *moved* to close the meeting. Effie *seconded* the motion. The motion *passed* by unanimous vote.

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

**NEXT MEETING:** February 1, 2015

Respectfully submitted by Peter Lewis, Secretary.