

## NH INTERGROUP MINUTES – February 1, 2015

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

Barbara G. – 2015 Retreat chair

Barbara W. – Amherst Saturday am rep

Bob W. – Manchester Tuesday pm rep

Cheryl L. – Retreat chair (confirmed today) Lebanon  
Tuesday alt rep

Diane L. – Twelfth Step Within chair, Monday Manchester  
rep

Elaine Tostevin – Chair, Region 6 rep

Jeanne Donnelly – Vice-Chair, Bedford Monday & Thursday  
rep

Jill Meier – Web Master, Region 6 rep, WSBC del

Judy G. – Concord Monday rep

Nancy Sullivan – Treasurer, Derry Thursday alt rep

Pat S. – Workshops chair, Hopkinton Tuesday 5:30 rep

Peter Lewis – Secretary, Nashua Thursday pm rep

Sandra R. – Nashua Monday noon sub.

Sue W. – Lebanon Tuesday pm rep

### **Opening:**

Elaine called the meeting to order at 2:05PM, inviting all present to join her to recite the Serenity Prayer. All present identified themselves and their NHI roles. Diane read the 12 Steps, Pat read the 12 Traditions, and Sue read Concept 7. Of the attendees, 12 eligible voters were counted and the attendance sheet was circulated. Elaine read the disciplines for the meeting.

### **January Minutes:**

The January minutes were accepted as submitted.

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

Nancy distributed copies of the January treasurer's report, noting that it reconciles with the bank statement. She pointed out that 6 groups made 7'th tradition contributions via PayPal, which worked well, and encouraged group reps to publicize PayPal to their groups' treasurers. She mentioned that the annual insurance premium gets paid in January, making the month's balance leaner than average. Also she stated that the NHI's non profit tax form for 2014 has been filed and accepted by the IRS. Elaine observed that the retreat scholarship fund is nearly drained, and suggested that reps should encourage their group business meetings to consider donating retreat scholarships. Nancy mentioned that the new donation form on the NHI web site facilitates the targeting of donations to specific NHI funds. Pat noted that Back to Basics and Sharathon are still represented as separate accounts in the treasurer's reports, and wondered if they should be combined. Nancy agreed to group the two accounts under a "Workshops" heading in future reports but indicated that the funds should be accounted for separately, since profits are treated differently in the two cases. Diane initiated discussion of the allocation of funds in "Events / Plans to 'Carry the Message'" account. Elaine suggested that allocation of "Events" funds to particular projects should be considered at an NHI meeting when potentially qualifying proposals are brought forward.

The treasurer's report was accepted as submitted.

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

7'th tradition contributions were collected.

### **Committee Updates:**

**2015 Retreat Wrap up:** Barbara G. reported that the 2015 retreat went well. Comparing 2015 and 2014 retreat occurrences, she noted that reliance on scholarships increased markedly, to 8 of 20+ attendees, in 2015. She characterized the 2015 experience as a true retreat, emphasizing meditation and reflection on the role of the 12 steps in one's life as opposed to a workshop focused on working the steps. Issues for next year that came up in post-retreat review included difficulty with acoustics, overly warm rooms, and difficult mobility for older attendees; Registration forms had encouraged the flagging of individual needs, but these needs had not been indicated or captured. As volunteer retreat chair for 2016, Cheryl concurred that the 2015 retreat had been personally rewarding, and that she was enthusiastic about working with others to conduct a successful retreat in 2016. The 2016 retreat will occur on the weekend of January 8, 9, and 10.

**Workshop Committee Update:** Pat acknowledged that she had received both workshop and retreat supplies from Barbara G. and would forward the retreat supplies to Cheryl. She reported that she would meet soon with the Franklin meeting about hosting a Spring workshop (April 11) and that she hoped to have a flyer ready for review at the March

## NH INTERGROUP MINUTES – February 1, 2015

NHI meeting. Pat also indicated that preliminary work is underway to select a site for a workshop in western NH later in the year.

**Appointment and Confirmation of Retreat Chair for 2016:** Elaine appointed Cheryl, who had already volunteered her service, as Chair for 2016 Retreat. VOTE: Cheryl was confirmed as 2016 Retreat Chair by unanimous vote (12/0).

**Twelfth Step Within:** Diane requested clarification of the expectation that the TSW committee should sponsor an event to “Carry the Message”. Elaine recalled a recent NHI decision to sponsor an IDEA (Experiencing Abstinence) Day event, and agreed that any such event could be driven by the TSW committee. She also acknowledged possible overlap with responsibilities and need to coordinate with the Workshops Committee, depending on the detailed nature of such an event.

### **WSBC Business:**

Elaine announced that the WSO recently distributed a list of by law amendments and new business motions proposed for the next WSBC agenda, and has solicited feedback from the intergroups as to which motions should appear on the agenda. She characterized the NHI business at hand as discussion and a vote to decide NHI's feedback to WSO. She said that rather than have the entire NHI business meeting consider individual motions for inclusion on the WSBC agenda, she had asked WSBC delegates, Jill and Dorothy, to filter the list and come up with one or more NHI motions to be voted on. Jill explained that on WSO's list, many of the proposals are straightforward house keeping and do not require deliberation. Jill said she and Dorothy considered the remaining items to comprise a manageable list and to be all worthy of deliberation by the WSBC. So Jill and Dorothy (Dorothy not present today) proposed a motion to include the entire list on the WSBC agenda. There was discussion to clarify the intent of items G and J on the WSO new business list, and of the WSBC mechanisms for resolving conflicts and overlap of motions later in the process. Diane and Barbara G. recalled that last year the entire business of answering the WSBC agenda questionnaire, including consideration of individual motions, was put before the NHI business meeting and carried by reps to local group meetings for their consideration. Elaine pointed out that such a process was somewhat redundant, since the intergroups and their constituents get a chance to indicate their positions on these items, after the agenda is set and prior to the WSBC. Elaine made note to insure that NHI reps be notified when the WSBC agenda becomes available for consideration by their local groups prior to the NHI meeting where the local results can be input.

**Motion:** Barbara W. *moved* to accept the recommendation of the NHI WSBC delegates to put all of the proposed agenda items listed by the WSBC on the agenda for the next WSBC. Judy *seconded* the motion. **Vote:** The motion *passed* by a vote of 11 to 0, with 1 abstention.

### **NHI Business:**

**Unity Day:** Elaine stated that Seacoast Intergroup is hosting a Unity Day workshop in Portsmouth on February 28, and has confirmed that NHI is welcome to contribute a raffle basket. She solicited one or more volunteers to assemble a basket, and Nancy confirmed that NHI will reimburse the volunteer up to \$50 in expenses. It was left that reps would seek volunteers, at their local meetings, to arrange construction and delivery of the NHI raffle basket for Unity Day. Effie was mentioned as a possible contact to convey the basket, since she has expressed her intent to represent NHI Ways and Means at a table to sell OA book covers on Unity Day.

**Meeting Verifications:** Diane reported on her work to verify the correctness of the NHI meeting list and to reconcile the NHI and WSO lists. Recently resolved: Jeanne will insure that the Monday morning meeting in Bedford gets registered with WSO as affiliated with NHI. Still unresolved: 1) Is the Colebrook meeting listed by WSO still active? 2) Status of the Brattleboro VT meeting, listed by WSO as affiliated with Western MA, not listed by NHI, but occasionally contributing 7<sup>th</sup> tradition to NHI. 3) WSO lists a Wilder NH meeting affiliated with NHI. NHI lists a Wilder VT meeting with the same number (#47976); Nancy reports a Sept 2014 donation, with contact info, from a Norwich VT meeting also identified as WSO #47976. Sue from Lebanon will try to pin down the Norwich/Wilder meeting.

**Anonymity Concerns for NHI Web Site Documents:** Elaine reported that her investigation into R6 anonymity practices is pending.

**Policies And Procedures (P&P):** Elaine said she had obtained drafts of P&P updates from persons involved in past efforts to update the document and was in the process of figuring out how to leverage the information. She also indicated that she would send the P&P documents to committee chairs and ask them for input on to how to reconcile the P&P with current committee operations.

## NH INTERGROUP MINUTES – February 1, 2015

**Intergroup Telephone Tree:** The P&P document declares that a phone tree should be maintained and used in the event of cancellation of NHI meetings, along with email to the NHI reps distribution list and a posting by the web master on the NHI web site. There was discussion of alternative methods such as a message on the answering service and sending text messages to a phone tree. Elaine agreed that multiple mechanisms are useful and that the phone tree, once updated, should be one of them. Peter agreed to provide an updated phone tree. Cheryl pointed out that the cancellation procedure needs to take into account the need for early notification of reps from distant parts of the state.

**Nominating Committee:** Elaine reminded attendees of the need for a nominating committee to start work in April to identify candidates for election in June. She encouraged people to consider chairing and / or serving on the committee, to contact her about it, and to see the NHI bylaws for an outline of committee responsibilities.

### **Region Six (R6) Business:**

**Spring Assembly – April 18, Albany:** Elaine announced that she cannot attend the Spring Assembly and that NHI would benefit from representation by another delegate or alternate in her place. Currently, there are openings for one R6 Delegate position and two Alternate Delegate positions open. Anyone interested in serving should bring this to her attention in time for an election to be held at the March 8 business meeting.

### **New Business:**

**Motion:** Diane *moved* to postpone consideration of the new business item (Request to add a reading from the Traditions Pamphlet to the monthly disciplines reading) until next month. Pat *seconded* the motion. The motion *passed* by unanimous show of hands *vote*.

### **CLOSING:**

**Motion:** Pat *moved* to close the meeting. Jeanne *seconded* the motion. The motion *passed* by unanimous show of hands vote.

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

**NEXT MEETING:** March 8, 2015

Respectfully submitted by Peter Lewis, Secretary.