

NH INTERGROUP MINUTES – April 12, 2015

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

Barbara W. – Amherst Saturday am rep.

Bill G. – Multimedia chair

Bob W. – Manchester Tuesday pm rep.

Debi Granfield – Parliamentarian

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

Dorothy Martin – Monday Hillsborough rep, Region 6 rep,
WSBC del.

Effie S. – Ways & Means chair, Nashua Thursday am rep.

Eileen R.T. – Chair: Event Flyer & PI/PO,

Derry Thursday am rep .

Jeanne Donnelly – Vice Chair, Nominating committee chair,
Monday Bedford rep, Thursday Bedford rep.

Jill Meier – R6 rep, WSBC del., Website chair, Concord Sun
1pm rep.

Judy Gothreau – R6 Alt rep., Concord Monday rep.

Nancy Sullivan – Treasurer, Derry Tuesday alt rep

Peter Lewis – Secretary, Nashua Thursday pm rep

Sandy M. – Newsletter chair, Nashua Monday noon rep.

Opening:

Jeanne called the meeting to order at 2:02PM, inviting all present to join her to recite the Serenity Prayer. All present identified themselves and their NHI roles. Eileen read the 12 Steps, Dorothy read the 12 Traditions, and Effie read Concept 9. Of the attendees, 12 eligible voters were counted and the attendance sheet was circulated. Jeanne read the disciplines for the meeting.

March Minutes:

The March minutes were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer's Report:

Nancy provided copies of the March treasurer's report. She gave a brief tour of the receipts and expenses, noting minor items specific to this month (such as receipt of a scholarship donation, and an expense for new checks). With respect to reconciling the checking account, Nancy said that future reports, would reconcile the funds balance with the adjusted balance in the bank statement, rather than just the checkbook balance. Going forward, this will result in new adjusting entries in some monthly reports.

The Treasurer's report was accepted as submitted.

7th Tradition:

7th tradition contributions were collected.

Treasurer's Notes on Expense Reimbursements:

In the spirit of Tradition 7, Nancy urged committee chairs and group reps, who are not submitting expenses eligible for reimbursement, to do so. Committee chairs can be reimbursed by NHI for costs of necessary supplies and services incurred while conducting committee business. Group reps can be reimbursed for mileage (\$0.20/mile) to attend NHI business meetings if the groups they represent are unable (i.e. too small) to reimburse them directly. Committee chairs can be reimbursed for mileage to attend NHI business meetings if not otherwise reimbursed as group reps. Finally, NHI committee chairs and officers who print documents using their own facilities, in fulfillment of their official duties, can be reimbursed at a rate of \$0.05 per page.

Nomination and Confirmation of Committee Chairs:

Newsletter Committee: Since the March business meeting, Elaine had appointed **Sandy M.** to be Newsletter Committee chair (which job is understood to include editing the Promises newsletter). **Vote:** Sandy accepted the appointment and was **confirmed** by a unanimous **ballot** vote.

Meeting List Committee: Since the March business meeting, Elaine had appointed **Diane L.** to be Meeting List Committee chair. **Vote:** Diane accepted the appointment and was **confirmed** by a unanimous **ballot** vote.

Nominating Committee: Judy **nominated Jeanne** for the position of Nominating Committee chair. Debi **seconded** the nomination and Jeanne **accepted**. **Vote:** Jeanne was **confirmed** by a unanimous **ballot** vote.

NHI Committee Business:

Workshops: Nancy read from a draft report on the 4/11 Sharathon, sent in by Pat. There were 41 attendees who signed in and at least one who did not. \$212 in donations were received at sign in. A raffle of 2 baskets donated by the PI/PO committee, plus two books donated by individuals, generated another \$55. The beverage table received \$28.13 in donations. Total income was \$295.13. Total expenses were \$223.79, of which \$125 was for the facility. The net was \$71.34.

Ways & Means: Effie reported \$47 income from book cover sales at the 4/11 sharathon, and expressed gratitude to all who had contributed to the effort and to the creation of book cover inventory.

Twelfth Step Within (TSW): Diane distributed a flyer announcing that the TSW committee has begun the practice of reading and sharing on the 12th step and associated OA literature in the first hour of their regular meetings. She said

the idea is to better understand the step and to gain insight into how best to promote 12'th step practice within the purview of NHI. She invited anyone interested to lend their support by attending the first hour of TSW meetings, regardless of whether or not they join the committee. The next TSW meeting was scheduled for 2:00 pm, Friday, 4/17 in classroom A of the New England College facility in downtown Concord. Future meetings, to be announced, may occur on weekends or other times deemed more convenient and workable.

Nominating Committee: Jeanne asked for volunteers to serve on the Nominating committee. Barbara W. and Effie volunteered, and the nominating committee was thus formed.

P.S.: Dorothy M. joined the committee following the close of the business meeting.

NHI Business:

CDs from Derry Meeting: Jill reported that the Derry Saturday AM meeting has decided donate some of the CDs it has collected, of talks recorded at various OA conventions, to NHI. The idea is that NHI would loan the CDs to reps to “carry the message” to local meetings. These CDs come well recommended by Jill, who will arrange for a first installment to be available at the May business meeting.

Policies and Procedures: Jeanne reminded everyone to provide their input to Elaine regarding the working copy of the Policy and Procedures document sent out by Elaine last week. Elaine is looking for committee chairs and officers to edit the sections that pertain to their particular office or committee.

WSBC April 27 – May 2:

Jill and Dorothy are going and would be happy to receive suggestions and comments on the published agenda items from reps and local groups. In particular, see the [Questionnaire Results](#) link in the “Conference e-documents” section of the [WSBC page](#).

Region Six Assembly April 18:

Dorothy, Jill and Judy are planning to attend.

New Business:

Request to read an OA tradition at each business meeting: Diane *moved* to add a reading, from “The Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous” pamphlet, of one *tradition* at each business meeting. Jill *seconded* the motion. In *discussion*, it was pointed out that the reading of the short-form steps, short-form traditions and one long-form Concept was stipulated by the bylaws, so for consistency it would seem that the bylaws should be amended (eventually) if reading of a long-form tradition is added to the meeting format. Diane *amended* the motion to add the reading on a 3-month trial basis. Jill *seconded* the amendment.

Discussion: Pro: NHI operates according to principles outlined in both 12 Traditions and 12 Concepts; They should get equal play. *Pro:* Attendees would hear the full version of a tradition and be encouraged to carry its message to their local meetings. *Con:* Time is an issue. Business already uses up the available time and often runs over. *Con:* Hard to see this reading as solving a problem in the same way that reading a long-form concept: The Concepts provide guidance OA service bodies and are rarely heard at local meetings; the Traditions provide guidance for OA meetings in general and are widely heard in local group meetings, and are a subject of study for some. *Pro/Con:* It was suggested by at least one person that reading a long-form Tradition has merit, and that when the bylaws are updated, consideration should be given to substituting the reading of one long-form tradition for the current practice of reading the short-form of all 12 traditions.

Vote: 4 for, 6 against, 2 abstaining. The motion **failed to pass**.

Backup for Multimedia Chair: Bill suggested there is a need for a backup operator to run the recording equipment at meetings when Bill cannot officiate. Barbara W. volunteered. Bill and Barbara agreed to do the necessary knowledge transfer at next month's business meeting.

Anonymity and the NHI Meeting List: Referring to the minutes of the last two or three business meetings, Jill reminded attendees of NHI's recently expressed consensus that OA members' contact information should not appear in public media. She then pointed out an unresolved case, the NHI meeting list, where each group's listing includes the contact information of the group's “contact person”. It would seem that this case cannot readily be addressed, as other cases have been addressed so far, by means of anonymous NHI mail boxes and NHI phone numbers. Jill suggested that this matter might best be studied, and solutions proposed, by a working group. Jeanne mentioned that Elaine is already aware of this need and that she intends to place it on the May agenda. Dorothy said she would be on the lookout for opportunities at the R6 assembly and at WSBC to learn how other service bodies handle similar anonymity issues.

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CLOSING:

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

Jeanne closed the meeting by leading a recitation of the serenity prayer. 3:12 PM.

NEXT MEETING: May 3, 2015

Respectfully submitted by Peter Lewis, Secretary.