

NH INTERGROUP MINUTES – October 4, 2015

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

Barbara W. – Webmaster, Amherst Saturday am rep.
Cheryl W. – Derry Tuesday pm rep.
Claire Metzger – R6 rep, Bow Thursday rep
Diane L. – Twelfth Step Within chair, Meeting List chair,
Monday Manchester pm rep.
Dorothy Martin – R6 rep, WSBC Delegate, Event Flyers
chair
Effie S. – Ways & Means chair, Nashua Thursday am rep.
Eileen RT – PI / PO chair, Derry Thursday am rep
Elaine Tostevin – NHI Chair
Jeanne Donnelly – Vice Chair, rep: Bedford Monday &
Thursday

Madeleine G. – Nashua Monday noon alt rep.
Naisa C. – Answering Service chair, Franklin Saturday
11:00am alt rep, Laconia Monday pm rep.
Nancy Sullivan – Treasurer, Budget Chair
Pat G. – Bedford Wednesday pm rep. Manchester Tuesday
pm rep.
Peter Lewis – Secretary, Nashua Thursday pm rep
Rachelle H. – Derry Thursday alt rep.
Sandy M. – Newsletter chair, Nashua Monday noon rep.
Sue W. – Lebanon Tues pm rep.

Opening:

Elaine called the meeting to order at 2:05PM, inviting all present to join her reciting the Serenity Prayer. All present identified themselves and their NHI roles. Effie read the 12 Steps, Sue read the 12 Traditions, and Diane read Concept 1. Among attendees, 14 eligible voters were counted and the attendance sheet was circulated. Elaine read the disciplines for the meeting.

September Minutes:

Copies of the September minutes were available at the literature table. The September minutes were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer's Report:

Copies of the Treasurer's report for September were available at the literature table, and were distributed for review as needed. Nancy mentioned that meetings' donations to the general fund continue to be strong, but encouraged reps to relay the message that donations to the retreat scholarship fund would be helpful. Naisa identified the need to purchase stamps as a new expense for the answering service to facilitate mailings in response to phone calls. Nancy responded to further questions and then introduced a motion (see below) concerning reimbursement of the Ways & Means chair. The Treasurer's **report**, was **accepted as submitted**.

7th Tradition:

7th tradition contributions were collected.

Reimbursement of Ways & Means Convention Expense:

Motion: Nancy introduced a **motion** to reimburse the Ways & Means chair for \$100 worth of expenses to be incurred at the upcoming R6 convention, using \$100 transferred from other accounts that have money left at year end. Sandy **seconded** the motion. In discussion, Nancy cited as precedent the customary award to the retreat chair of a scholarship to the annual retreat. Other points of discussion were: a) A primary purpose for attending the R6 convention is to reinforce personal recovery, which is not a reimbursable activity. b) Managing the inventory and sale of merchandise incurs effort and expense by the Ways & Means chair, and reimbursement of \$100 worth of expenses should be thought of as a “scholarship” to the convention, in recognition by NHI of the service received. It was mentioned that income of \$500 from the event is consistent with recent experience. **Vote:** The motion **passed** by a clear majority of voters in a show of hands.

Budget Committee Announcement:

Elaine announced that the budget committee would meet to prepare a budget for 2016, to be discussed and finalized at the November business meeting, and adopted at the December business meeting. Elaine asked for volunteers to stay for the budget committee meeting, to be chaired by Nancy. Barbara, Naisa, Effie and Peter volunteered to stay for the meeting.

Proposed Amendments to Bylaws:

Background: Last month's business meeting proposed changes to three articles of the by laws, to be voted on at this meeting See this [link](#) for detail.

Board Vacancies: Elaine led off discussion with Article IV (board election), explaining that based on recent experience at the R6 Assembly, she wanted to rethink this change and defer the vote on Article IV until a future meeting. She said that current practice at R6 would be to elect officers by ballot if the election is contested, but

NH INTERGROUP MINUTES – October 4, 2015

otherwise, election of an officer could be by ballot or by show of hands, at the group's discretion. Elaine asked for discussion of formalizing this voting practice in the NHI by laws. Dorothy suggested that any voter present should be able to force a ballot vote by requesting one. Elaine agreed with Dorothy's suggestion. Sue offered her opinion that ballot votes are unnecessary and should be avoided to save time. Elaine replied that ballot voting provides for anonymity and is generally thought to be an essential practice for contested elections. There being no more discussion, Elaine agreed to put new Article IV wording forward for adoption at a future meeting, along with other by law updates being considered.

OA Preamble: The proposal is to change the **Purpose** section of the by laws to match the wording of the OA Preamble as recently updated by OA World Service. **VOTE:** Elaine asked for a show of hands in favor of adopting World Service's wording for the OA Preamble as the Purpose section of the by laws. The proposal **PASSED** by clear majority.

Committee Chair Nominations: Elaine read the proposed new wording for Article VI, Section 3 of the by laws, as published with the 9/13 minutes (see same [link](#) as above for detail). **VOTE:** There was no further discussion and the new wording for Article VI, Section 3 **PASSED** by clear majority.

Committee Chair Vacancies: Elaine read the proposed new wording for Article VI, Section 8 of the by laws, as published with the 9/13 minutes (see link above for detail). **VOTE:** There was no further discussion and the new wording for Article VI, Section 3 **PASSED** by clear majority.

Committee Business:

Retreat Committee: Sue gave a brief summary of the committee status, saying that the publicity flyer, with embedded registration form, is up on the NHI web site and registration is open (closes November 14). Donations to the Retreat Scholarship Fund by OA groups and individuals will be most welcome. Diane reported that the flyer on the web site still does not meet anonymity criteria, since it reveals Cheryl's last name and personal phone number. Sue said that an anonymous version had been prepared for posting on the web site and that the wrong version must have been posted. She agreed to follow up with Cheryl. Elaine suggested that the anonymity criteria need to be documented in the event flyer checklist maintained by the Event Flyer Committee.

NHI Web Site: Barbara reported that the retooled web site, implemented on WordPress is nearly complete and that she will work with Jill over the next month or so to verify that all required features are functional. She anticipates a switch over to the new web site in the October - November time frame.

Ways & Means: Effie announced that book covers and God cans were available for inspection and/or purchase at a table at the back of the room. She said the committee had met recently to work on pricing and projection of inventory needs. She encouraged NHI members who will attend the R6 Convention to sign up, or call her, for a shift to help staff the Ways & Means table there.

R6 October Convention:

Raffle basket: Elaine confirmed that Doreen had assembled the NHI's raffle basket for the convention and that Effie and Doreen are also assembling a basket from their group in Nashua, and that Effie will be taking the baskets to the convention. She reiterated that receipts for expenditures on the NHI basket are required for reimbursement.

Policies and Procedures Update Process:

Acknowledging that progress updating the Policies and Procedures documentation has been stalled, Elaine asked for a volunteer to facilitate update of the NHI job descriptions document as a first step to get the process moving. The prospective volunteer would break out individual job descriptions, distribute them for update to the current holders of the respective jobs and collect the results. In discussion, it was revealed that the Policies and Procedures document contains a section on Job Descriptions, but that the document Elaine is seeking to update is a separate document. Sue volunteered for this task.

R6 Assembly Highlights:

Elaine gave a preliminary account of the Region Six Assembly, which had occurred the previous day. She said that Jill, Dorothy, Claire and Elaine had all attended and that they would prepare a joint written report to be presented at the November business meeting. Elaine noted that many intergroups were represented sparingly or not at all, whereas NHI was fully represented. Elaine explained that reps to the assembly were assigned to working committees, the work of which would continue over the next year. Elaine and Dorothy are on the By Laws committee; Claire and Jill are on the Convention committee. Elaine said the R6 Trustee

NH INTERGROUP MINUTES – October 4, 2015

gave an informative summary of issues that the R6 board has been working on and also touched on new information contained in the updated “Handbook for OA Members, Meetings and Service Bodies” from World Service. Elaine mentioned two example issues. One was an assessment that the practice of including non-OA announcements in meeting formats should be discouraged as a violation of Tradition 6. The other example was the objection by Alcoholic Anonymous to wording substitutions, such as 'food' for 'alcohol' and 'compulsive overeater' for 'alcoholic' in some of the OA adaptations of AA literature. “Read the handbook!” was part of the Trustee's message.

Claire reported that the 2017 Convention will most likely be held in Toronto the weekend 10/20-10/22. She said that the registration and hotel costs look to be very reasonable. Claire noted that there won't be an R6 Convention in 2016 because the OA World Convention is in Boston that year.

Dorothy seconded Elaine's observation that R6 Trustee gave a lot of information in a short amount of time. Dorothy's impression was that the trustee was sharing the board's point of view on to issues brought to them by various OA members, and groups. Dorothy also noted that Tradition 7 receipts have been decreasing due in part to a growth of virtual meetings (60 new) at the expense of face-to-face meetings (30 discontinued). Dorothy anticipates that the joint representatives' report should provide material for thoughtful discussion to be shared by NHI reps with their local meetings.

New Business – Prudent Reserve:

Elaine introduced the issue of how much money should be held in reserve by NHI. Nancy noted that on average over 12 months, NHI has about \$12k on hand in all accounts. Elaine pointed out that about half of the \$12k on hand (including the Delegate's Fund, Retreat Fund, and \$3k of “prudent reserve”) is actually spoken for, and that the discussion should really focus on the approximately \$6k remainder in the General Fund. Elaine noted two key questions are: a) “What should the Prudent Reserve cover?”, and b) if there is a surplus, “How should any surplus be used?”. Elaine opened the floor for discussion. Dorothy suggested checking for guidance from World Service on prudent reserve. Nancy offered that she is familiar with wording from WSO to the effect: “each OA entity should establish a prudent reserve fund to cover expenses for a nominal period (e.g. 3-6 months) and that they should review this fund periodically to make sure that it meets the stated need. Pat suggested that some surplus might be transferred to Retreat Scholarship Fund, but Elaine noted that subsidy of the Retreat Fund by NHI had been avoided as a matter of policy, because the Retreat directly benefits only a small number of individuals. Elaine suggested that this discussion should continue at the next meeting, in conjunction with discussion of the 2016 budget.

CLOSING:

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

Elaine closed the meeting by leading a recitation of the serenity prayer. 3:30 PM.

NEXT MEETING: Sunday, November 8, 2015

Respectfully submitted by Peter Lewis, Secretary.