

NH INTERGROUP MINUTES – November 8, 2015

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

Bill G. – Multimedia chair
Cheryl L. – Retreat Chair, Lebanon Tuesday alt rep
Cheryl W. – Derry Tuesday pm rep.
Claire Metzger – R6 rep, Bow Thursday rep
Deb Granfield – Parliamentarian
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.
Elaine Tostevin – NHI Chair, R6 rep.
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.
Pat S. – Workshops chair, Back to Basics Chair, Hopkinton
Tuesday pm rep.
Peter Lewis – Secretary, Nashua Thursday pm rep
Rachelle H. – Derry Thursday alt rep.
Sue W. – Lebanon Tues pm rep.

Opening:

Elaine called the meeting to order at 2:02PM, inviting all present to join her reciting the Serenity Prayer. All present identified themselves and their NHI roles. Jeanne read the 12 Steps, Pat G. read the 12 Traditions, and Pat S. read Concept 2. Among attendees, 15 eligible voters were counted and the attendance sheet was circulated. Elaine read the disciplines for the meeting.

October Minutes:

Copies of the October minutes were available at the literature table. Elaine noted an error on page 3, where the text incorrectly included the prudent reserve as part of the ~\$6k surplus. Subject to Elaine's correction, the October minutes were accepted.

Treasurer's Report:

Report Approval: Copies of the Treasurer's report for October were available at the literature table, and were distributed for review as needed. The October treasurer's report was **accepted as submitted**, there being no questions from attendees concerning its completeness or accuracy.

7th Tradition:

7th tradition contributions were collected.

End of Year Surplus:

Nancy handed out a page of notes summarizing results of the October budget committee meeting. She said she wanted to focus here on the first couple of items, which discussed changes that could be made immediately to take effect for the remainder of 2015. To illustrate the surplus, she called attention to line 45 on page 1 of the October treasurer's report, which shows that year-to-date income exceeded year-to-date expenses by \$1,211.14. She estimated, based on previous years' records that the 2015 year-end value for the surplus in line 45 would likely be around \$800. She explained that the surplus is largely due to savings realized by migrating to a lower cost provider for the NHI Answering Service, and by unclaimed reimbursements to committee chairs and officers for mileage and supplies. Nancy called attention to two items in the notes that could immediately reduce the projected \$800 surplus for 2015: 1) Transfer funds to the meeting list and Promises committee accounts to make copies for distribution to 20 meetings; 2) Transfer funds to the Telephone Answering Service to cover mailings to individuals who request information by direct mail. She asked for a motion to effect those two proposals.

Motion: Effie *moved* to restore funding to the Meeting List chair and the Promises editor to make 5 copies available to the meeting reps who attend NHI and to restore funding to the Telephone Answering chair to submit literature and mailing expenses of \$45 by 12/31/2015. Madeleine *seconded* the motion.

Discussion: Dorothy recalled consensus at past meetings that favored paperless distribution, and so objected to spending more money on copies for distribution. She observed that most OAs, and group reps in particular have internet access, can print copies when needed and that many printed copies seemed to go to waste. Dorothy was in favor of funds for the Telephone Answering service to mail out requested information. Pat spoke in favor of distributing printed copies for the benefit of newcomers and internet free attendees. Peter related that in his experience, 5 copies of the meeting list and Promises per meeting per month was overkill; That for most meetings, 2 or 3 printed

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copies would suffice. Diane observed that the budget for both 100 2-sided copies would be at least \$11 per month for both the meeting list and the Promises.

Vote: The motion *passed* by a majority show of hands.

Committee Business:

Meeting List: Diane proposed adding language to the meeting list headers to distinguish between the public version, which omits personal contact information and the non-public version, which contains the meetings' personal contact information. After some discussion, it was agreed that the two list titles should read: 1) Public List: For Public Distribution and Display, and 2) Non-Public List: For Distribution at OA Meetings. Diane also announced that she would drop the Month tag from the header, returning only the date of last revision, since new lists are now released only when the list has been updated.

Retreat Update: Saying that preparations for the January 2016 retreat were well in hand, Cheryl referred listeners to the written committee report for further details on that (November committee reports are [here](#)). She then introduced a proposal by the committee to hold the 2017 retreat on the weekend of February 10-12. She explained that the Harris Center can offer only one lodge with 13 rooms in the current January time slot, whereas for the proposed February weekend, lodging options could include one or two lodges of 13 (mostly double occupancy) rooms each and up to ten cabins (with 4 twin beds each). Rooming in a cabin option could reduce the cost of attending the retreat to around \$150, compared to around \$215 for rooming in a lodge, which has been the only option recently. A write-up of the proposal is available [here](#). Cheryl explained that the retreat committee senses that more people would attend the retreat if more spaces and lower cost options were available, and is eager to see more people, including men, benefit from the retreat experience.

Workshops: Pat S. announced there will be a Sharathon, titled "Celebrate the Tools During the Holidays," at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Hopkinton on November 21 (coincidentally, this is OA IDEA Day). Pat acknowledged that this workshop was put together quickly, but felt that when the location became available it was important to stage the workshop at the start of the holiday season. Pat described the workshop as a sequence of sessions in a single forum. Each session is scheduled for 30 minutes, with a facilitator to initiate the sharing followed by sharing by individual attendees. She urged all who might attend and who would be willing to lead a session to contact her. Pat also noted that **OA Unity Day** is coming up as the last Saturday in February (Feb 27), and that if NHI would be interested in hosting the regional Unity Day event this year, the Workshops committee would spearhead the effort. Pat proposed that NHI should vote in December as to whether or not to host the 2016 Unity Day event, and that she would advise the organizers at North Shore Intergroup of NHI's process.

NHI Budget: Nancy handed out four budget worksheet pages consisting of pages for Income, Expense, and separate pages for the Delegates and Retreat budgets. Elaine explained that the plan is to present and discuss the budget at this meeting and to vote to adopt the budget at the December meeting.

NHI Accounts: Nancy first drew attention to the total revenue line of the Income sheet, which showed the forecast value for 2015 and the actual value for 2014, and noted that the expected revenue for 2015 is down about \$200. Nancy commented the lower revenue for 2015 is consistent with a gradual downward trend over the past several years. Considering current known revenue sources Nancy showed an estimated revenue for 2016 as \$6,856. She showed the effect of extending additional funding, approved earlier in the meeting, for meeting list copies and answering service mailings. The worksheets showed a \$250 increase for Public Information, assuming that one of the two budget committee ideas for PI might pass. Also included is an estimated \$800 for R6 sponsored training sessions for Intergroup officers, which covers 1-day room, meals and travel expenses for 4 officers. Not reflected in the worksheets were other suggestions compiled by the budget committee for new activities to carry the OA message. By comparing the proposed 2016 expenditures with projected 2016 revenue, Nancy noted a shortfall of around \$800, which she attributed largely to the just-mentioned (estimated) cost of R6 training sessions for NHI officers. Nancy indicated that the projection is for guidance only at this point, since the actual cost of the training (and some other budget items as well) is unknown. She indicated that there should be money elsewhere to balance the budget, should these opportunities materialize. As an aside, Elaine explained that the intent of the training sessions that may be offered by Region 6 is to vitalize intergroups.

Discussion: Nancy took questions at this point.

Cheryl L. suggested purchasing OA literature to display and possibly sell at Intergroup events. Also, Cheryl L. asked if delegates to R6 and WSBC are fully funded; Nancy answered that 4 R6 Reps and 2 WSBC delegates have been funded recently (reimbursed for hotel and travel fares). Pat asked if funds are adequate to sustain a full complement of

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delegates to R6 assemblies (4 delegates) and WSBC (3 delegates). Nancy answered that there are sufficient funds, due to funds carried over, but the budget generally plans for 2 delegates to WSBC. Elaine noted that attending WSBC requires a full week of a delegate's time, a major consideration, and that there has been no recent situation where there were 3 qualified delegates available to attend WSBC. She expressed the opinion that it doesn't make sense to load the budget for situations that while theoretically possible, are unlikely to occur, especially since the money could be spent to carry the OA message in other ways.

Dorothy mentioned sponsoring public information tables at fairs to carry the OA message, which can cost \$200 to \$400 per fair. Dorothy also suggested that purchasing billboard space, which can cost \$3k or \$4k, has proven effective for other 12 step organizations. Dorothy asked for clarification of the process to consider and vote on the items proposed and not proposed in the budget worksheets. Elaine suggested that if anyone wanted to propose a change to the proposed budget, that person should make a motion to effect that change and the motion could be seconded, discussed and voted on. Diane asked if motions would also be entertained at next month's meeting. Nancy indicated that modifications to the budget at the December meeting would be problematic in the sense that there would not be time to update the budget worksheets prior to the vote to adopt. Nancy wondered if the vote to adopt the budget might be postponed until January so that measures introduced and approved in December could be incorporated into the budget worksheet prior to the vote. Elaine asked for a ruling by Debi as to whether the budget approval could be deferred to January. Subsequently (near the end of the meeting), Debi announced that, not having found a pertinent reference in the By Laws, she would rule that a budget did indeed need to be formally adopted in December.

Diane brought up ideas mentioned earlier and in the budget for applying some of the surplus to carry the message, as purchasing billboard space, and wondered how these could be worked into the budget process. Bill pointed out that new money is also usually available from Region 6, such as the PI blitz project. Elaine acknowledged that new money is available but wanted particularly to focus on using NHI's accumulating funds to serve the membership from which they came. She restated her suggestion for NHI to form a committee to develop proposals for carrying the OA message and to bring them to the whole group in 2016. She said this approach allow ideas to be collected and shared with the broader OA membership represented by NHI. She said she would add formation of such a committee to the December agenda, and asked attendees to consider formation of the committee and participation on it in preparation for discussion in December. She said she would send out an email describing her vision of the committee's mission and would solicit volunteers to serve. Claire asked what she should do with any budgetary ideas that result from discussions at the meetings she represents. Elaine suggested that reps bring results of local discussion to the December meeting, where they can be passed to the yet-to-be-formed committee.

Delegate and Ways & Means Accounts: Nancy called attention to the rollover of \$2651 on hand from previous years. She noted that the budget forecasts income of \$2800 and expenses of \$2900, for a loss of \$100, which does not seem to justify holding on to \$2651 in the account. She acknowledged that sending a third delegate to WSBC would use about \$900 of the \$2651 rollover, but felt that even with such a possibility, there might be too much money in the account. There were no further questions about the budget for Delegates and Ways & Means.

Motion to extend meeting: Elaine asked for a motion to extend the meeting for 15 minutes. Pat S. *moved* to extend the meeting for 15 minutes and Pat G. *seconded* the motion. The motion *passed* by a majority show of hands.

Retreat Accounts: Nancy explained that the retreat accounts are essentially independent from NHI accounts. The retreat is funded primarily by registration fees, with an assist from the Retreat Scholarship Fund, to which individual OA members and groups can donate directly (care of the NHI treasurer). There were no questions about the retreat budget.

CLOSING:

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

Elaine closed the meeting by leading a recitation of the serenity prayer. 3:42 PM.

NEXT MEETING: Sunday, December 6, 2015

Respectfully submitted by Peter Lewis, Secretary.