

NH INTERGROUP MINUTES – January 3, 2016

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

Barbara W. – Webmaster, Amherst Sat am rep
Cheryl L. – Retreat Chair, Concord Mon pm rep
Cheryl W. – Derry Tue pm rep
Claire Metzger – R6 rep, Bow Thurs pm rep
Deb Granfield – Parliamentarian, Media for today
Diane L. – TSW Chair, Meeting List Chair, Manchester Mon
5:30pm rep
Doreen D. – Newsletter, Nashua Tue pm rep
Dorothy Martin – R6 rep, WSBC Delegate, Event Flyers
chair, Hillsboro Mon pm rep.
Effie S. – Ways & Means Chair, Nashua Thurs 6:30am rep
Elaine Tostevin – NHI Chair, R6 rep.

Jeanne Donnelly – Vice Chair, Bedford Mon & Thurs am rep
Jill Meier – R6 rep, WSBC del, Webmaster, Concord Sun
1pm rep
Madeleine G. – Nashua Mon noon alt rep.
Nancy Sullivan – Treasurer, Budget Chair
Pat G. – Bedford Wed pm rep, Manchester Tue pm rep.
Pat S. – Workshops chair, Back to Basics Chair, Hopkinton
Tue pm rep
Peter Lewis – Secretary, Nashua Thursday pm rep
Rachelle H. – Thurs Derry alt rep
Sandy M. – Newsletter chair, Nashua Mon noon rep
Sue W. – Lebanon Tue pm rep

Opening:

Elaine called the meeting to order at 2:02PM, inviting attendees to join her reciting the Serenity Prayer. All present identified themselves and their NHI roles. Pat G. read the 12 Steps, Cheryl W. read the 12 Traditions, and Effie read Concept 4. Among attendees, 18 eligible voters were counted and the attendance sheet was circulated. Elaine read the disciplines for the meeting.

December Minutes:

Copies of the December minutes were available at the literature table. There was no discussion. Pat G. **moved** to approve the December minutes as submitted, Effie **seconded** the motion, and the motion **passed** by a majority show of hands.

Treasurer's Report:

Copies of the December Treasurer's report were available at the literature table and distributed as needed. Nancy presented a brief walk-through of the report. She noted that income for December was minimal (~\$88), which resulted in a monthly deficit (~ \$330); This reduced the annual net from last month's estimate of around \$1000 to slightly less than \$700. She reported that, as voted last month, the \$500 which had been retained in the "Future Rent" account was donated to Region Six. Nancy summed up by pointing out that the fund balance and the Check book balance agree and then asked for questions. No questions were forthcoming. Cheryl L. **moved** to approve the November Treasurer's report. Jeanne **seconded** the motion and the motion **passed** by a majority show of hands.

General Fund Surplus Committee: Elaine reminded attendees that the Committee on the General Fund Surplus would meet at 3:40, following the general business meeting.

7th Tradition:

7th tradition contributions were collected.

Committee Business:

Meeting List: Diane reported that the process for learning about and registering new meeting groups with NHI needs improvement. She said she usually learns about new meetings in offhand conversation rather than through any official channel. She said that when a meeting registers with World Service and elects to associate with NHI, NHI does not get notified. She said that when she learns of a new meeting associated with NHI, she follows up with a call to verify the association, and often learns that the meeting's contact person is unaware of NHI and the significance of intergroup association. Diane suggested that NHI should have a procedure to register and greet new member groups with information about NHI and its mission. Jeanne related that the two Bedford meetings she registered recently with World Service appeared on the NHI meeting list in a timely manner without any direct interaction with NHI, so from her perspective, the issue might be that there was no communication from NHI to make the new groups aware of NHI and its mission. Debi recalled that in the past, NHI had a defined position called "mailing list coordinator", whose job it was to maintain open channels with the member groups. Diane suggested that the NHI web site should have a section explaining the reasons for associating with NHI, including: 1) OA service body organization, 2) Liability Insurance for meetings, 3) Representation at R6 and WSBC. Diane and others suggested that an initial

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registration form, and perhaps regular OA mailings could also contain this information. Diane said she would follow up with the administrators of the WSO Meeting Finder to learn if the NHI meeting list coordinator could be notified of meeting changes, and would try to define a process to formalize the registration of new meetings with NHI.

Retreat: Cheryl L. reported that the 2016 NHI Retreat (January 8-10) is fully subscribed, that preparations are going smoothly, and that the retreat committee is enthusiastically looking forward to the event. She then switched focus to planning for the **2017 retreat:** Cheryl stated that the committee wanted to open up the retreat experience to more people, including men, and that an incremental step to that end would be to rent more rooms at the Barbara C Harris Conference Center (BCHCC). Referring to committee's [January report](#), Cheryl explained that by moving the 2017 retreat to the weekend of February 10-12, up to 10 four-person cabins could be available, in addition to the lodge used by the January retreat (13 two-person rooms). She said the cabins would provide a lower cost (about \$40 lower) alternative to the lodge. She said that Fall and Spring dates were also considered, but it was concluded, based on a poll of current retreat participants and discussion with individual OAs, that winter is preferred, and that competing events, such as OA conventions, other OA retreats, and religious holidays would complicate scheduling of Fall and Spring retreats. Cheryl explained that choosing a new weekend can tend to lock in that weekend for future years, which can be problematic when scheduling around holidays and events that move from year to year. Cheryl concluded by recommending that the 2017 retreat be scheduled for February 10-12 for all of the reasons stated above, and said that she needed to inform the BCHCC of NHI's intentions before the next NHI meeting. **Motion:** Pat G. **moved** to change the NHI retreat weekend to February 10-12 in 2017, and Debi **seconded** the motion. **Discussion:** Pat S. observed that in her experience attending NHI (and other) OA retreats, male attendance has always been very sparse. Diane asked if "day trippers" would be accommodated. Cheryl responded that BCHCC does offer a package for "day trippers" (cost about \$70 per day) and that this would be included in the recommendations for the 2017 retreat. Jill asked if there had been any indication sharing of lodge facilities was a factor in limited male attendance. Cheryl responded that lack of other men, and not the shared facilities was the reason expressed by men inquiring about the retreat. Sue pointed out that adding cabins to the mix reduces the cost of attendance for some participants while increasing the number of spaces available in a flexible way. **Vote:** The motion **passed** by a majority show of hands, with none opposed and 4 abstentions.

Unity Day Raffle Basket: Nancy asked Pat whether this year's plans for Unity Day include raffle baskets, as NHI has budgeted \$50 for a Unity Day raffle basket. Pat responded to the effect that no plans had yet been made for a raffle, but that a raffle might be held if there was sufficient interest among the participating intergroups.

Job Descriptions Update: Elaine announced that the new descriptions had been collected by Sue and that Jeanne was in the process of reassembling and formatting the document update.

Web Site Update: Elaine lead off, saying that Barbara has recreated the NHI website, with an updated look and feel and flexible structure, based on the WordPress framework. She noted that NHI members have had a chance to view the development web site since last May, with generally positive reviews, but that recently, concerns over security have been expressed by some individuals. Elaine explained that a remaining issue, which might relate to security, was whether Bill Meier's company or an alternative hosting service should host the NHI web site going forward. Jill briefly explained that Bill's hosting of the NHI web site arose from an emergency at the previous hosting service, that this was intended as a stopgap solution, and that now (several years later with the site undergoing major changes) might be the time to migrate to a host whose business it is to host web sites. Elaine expressed NHI's gratitude to Bill and Jill for the excellent support they have provided to the NHI web site. Barbara handed out and walked through a one-page outline of features and costs involved in moving the NHI web site to a new hosting service. Barbara's outline proposed using Bluehost.com as the service provider, with a number of options for security and other features, provided by Bluehost's Business Pro package. Assuming that the account would remain in Barbara's name, but be upgraded to Business Pro, Barbara projected the annual cost to be either \$122 or \$212, depending on whether the SiteLock anti-malware option is enabled. **Discussion:** Doreen suggested that NHI should have its own account with the web host and

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not share Barbara's account. Elaine and others agreed. Barbara determined that maintaining a separate Bluehost account for NHI would bring the annual cost to \$228 (\$318 with Sitelock enabled). Doreen said she had other technical questions, that might be better handled outside of the meeting context, and that she would also like to see more research done before settling on Bluehost as the service provider. Doreen said she would gladly help with the research and, at Barbara's suggestion, it was resolved that Doreen would officially join the Website committee. After determining, via question and answers, that NHI decisions on the website issues could be postponed for a month without negative consequences, Pat S. requested that any voting on the web site issues be deferred until the next business meeting, pending further research and deliberation by the website committee. Barbara agreed that the delay could make sense, given that her report, containing her recommendations, had only just become available, but that she could not accommodate requests for technical changes at the plugin level. She said that regular consultation with the web committee on implementation details would be too time consuming for her to handle. With the stipulation that the web committee would pursue the open issues and report their proposals so that NHI could vote at the next meeting, Elaine agreed to put the web site discussion and vote on the February 7 agenda. Nancy requested, and Barbara agreed to obtain, a formal quote for the proposed services from Bluehost.

CLOSING:

Motion: Jeanne *moved* to close the meeting. Effie *seconded* the motion. The motion *passed* by unanimous show of hands. Elaine closed the meeting by leading a recitation of the serenity prayer. 3:32 PM.

NEXT MEETING: Sunday, February 7, 2016

Respectfully submitted by Peter Lewis, Secretary.