

NH INTERGROUP MINUTES – March 6, 2016

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

Bill G. – Media chair	Jill Meier – R6 rep, WSBC del, Concord Sun 1pm rep, Web chair (Outgoing)
Claire Metzger – R6 rep, Bow Thursday pm rep	Madeleine G. – Nashua Mon noon alt rep.
Debi Granfield – Parliamentarian	Nancy Sullivan – Treasurer, Budget Chair, Derry Thurs alt rep.
Doreen D. – Newsletter, Nashua Tue pm rep, Web chair (Incoming)	Pat S. – Workshops chair, Back to Basics Chair, Hopkinton Tue pm rep
Dorothy Martin – R6 rep, WSBC Delegate, Event Flyers chair, Hillsboro Mon pm rep.	Peter Lewis – Secretary, Nashua Thursday pm rep
Effie S. – Ways & Means Chair, Nashua Thurs 6:30am rep	Sandy M. – Newsletter chair, Nashua Mon noon rep
Elaine Tostevin – NHI Chair, R6 rep.	Sue W. – Retreat chair, Lebanon Tue pm rep.
Jeanne Donnelly – Vice Chair, Bedford Mon & Thurs am rep	

Opening:

Elaine called the meeting to order at 2:00PM, inviting attendees to join her reciting the Serenity Prayer. All present identified themselves and their NHI roles. Pat S. read the 12 Steps, Effie read the 12 Traditions, and Jeanne read Concept 6. Among attendees, 12 eligible voters were counted and the attendance sheet was circulated. Elaine read the disciplines for the meeting.

February Minutes:

Copies of the February minutes were available at the literature table. **Motion:** Dorothy **moved** to accept the February minutes as submitted. Effie **seconded** the motion. There were no questions or discussion. The motion **passed** by a majority show of hands.

Treasurer's Report:

Copies of the February Treasurer's report were available at the literature table and distributed as needed. Nancy noted that the accounts balanced. **Motion:** Claire **moved** to accept the February treasurer's report as submitted. Effie **seconded** the motion. There were no questions or discussion, and the motion **passed** by a majority show of hands.

7th Tradition:

7th tradition contributions were collected.

Policy to accept checks:

Nancy said that NHI had had an informal policy to not accept checks for sales, based on reports by a previous treasurer of a few bounced checks taken for Ways & Means sales. She said she wondered if the policy to accept only cash for sales might be inhibiting some sales, but wanted NHI to vote on the matter before changing the policy. **Motion:** Nancy **moved** that NHI should accept checks for sales and make appropriate adjustments to the practice as needed. Debi **seconded** the motion. **Discussion:** Effie observed that people who had offered to pay by check often came up with cash when told that checks were not acceptable. She cautioned that accepting checks at the WSO Convention might present difficulties, due to the international nature of the event and the potentially large volume of sales. Dorothy related her experience that ATMs are readily available at conventions if cash is required. Bill mentioned that in his experience, bounced checks were costly, even if the original payment is eventually recovered. Doreen suggested that an alternative to accepting checks would be to process credit cards using NHI's PayPal account. Sandy M. confirmed that PayPal accepts point of sale credit card payments, using a USB adapter and WIFI enabled smart device, for a charge of 2.7%. Peter registered support for the motion on the floor, so long as it is understood to allow acceptance of checks on an event by event basis, at the discretion of the organizers of the sales effort for each event. Elaine said that that was her understanding of the motion, and asked for a vote on the motion. The motion **passed** by a show of hands with 7 in favor, 3 opposed, and 2 abstaining. Elaine suggested that if anyone wished to go forward with further discussion and possible action concerning acceptance of credit card payments, she would add it to a future agenda, upon request.

Committee Business:

Web site: Doreen spoke for the web committee and summarized the month's activity. She confirmed that Bluehost is the committee's choice to host the web site, and that total cost for the first year will be \$298.40, as anticipated in previous reports. Doreen explained that the WSO has released new guidelines for “look and feel” of OA service body web sites, and that the new NHI web site has been redesigned in observance of the new guidelines. She offered to share the web site guidelines with anyone interested. She also mentioned that

NH INTERGROUP MINUTES – March 6, 2016

NHI's links to the WSO web site are being updated and tested, since the WSO web site has itself been reorganized in recent weeks. Doreen then showed a projection of the redesigned NHI home page, and pointed out how its features mapped to the WSO guidelines. In line with the goal to make the site more user-friendly to newcomers, the “Welcome Newcomers”, “Find a Meeting” and “Is OA for You” links are given prominence, and an old, fairly neutral, banner image has been replaced with a warmer and more colorful image of individuals joining hands to signify unity and fellowship. She said that this theme has been followed throughout the web site, and noted that on unfinished pages, “Needs Image” place holders will be replaced with images that are consistent with, and that accentuate, the messages of the accompanying content. Doreen commented that the committee is working as a team, that they have each taken pieces of the tasks to be done, and that the holes are filling in quickly. Doreen said that most of the public content on the current (old) site has been given a home on the new site, and that the restricted content is being worked on. She noted one technical change from the old site is that, in order to avoid SPAM, email addresses have been removed, and the public will be invited to make inquiries by filling in forms, which, when completed, will generate emails to appropriate NHI offices. Regarding maintenance of email lists, she said the committee is leaning toward letting the public add themselves to the general lists, using MailChimp to build and maintain the lists. Doreen pointed out that there is still much work to be done, not the least of which is testing of all the links. She said that once the secured section is functional, the committee will circulate login information for the test site to the NHI reps so that they can check it out and offer feedback.

Website Chair Hand-off: Jill suggested that NHI might want to nominate a new chair for the Web committee immediately, since the current chair (Jill) was planning to be away for the next couple of meetings. Elaine agreed that now would be a good time. **Nomination:** Jill **nominated** Doreen to chair the web committee. Pat **seconded** the nomination. Doreen was **confirmed** by ballot vote. **Follow-up:** Elaine expressed NHI's gratitude to Jill for hers and Bill Meier's excellent years of service maintaining the NHI web site. She also expressed gratitude to the current web committee for the work being done now to carry the web site forward in time.

NHI Logo: Doreen explained that WSO has a new process for designing and registering logos for OA service bodies. She showed that the WSO design template actually specifies four logos, formatted for use in different contexts, such as publicity flyers, letter head, or simple short format event announcements. She also offered to share the WSO guidelines to anyone who might be interested. Doreen distributed a copy of the Web committee's logo design, based on the WSO template, for review and discussion.

Motion: Doreen moved that NHI adopt the logo design as presented. Jill **seconded** the motion. In response to questions about the typefaces selected, Doreen explained that WSO specified the typefaces used for the “Overeaters Anonymous” name in each of the four logos, and that the Web committee chose the **Railway** type face for the “New Hampshire Intergroup” name in all cases. **Vote:** The motion **passed** by a majority show of hands.

Logo Registration: Doreen said she would provide a package for the NHI secretary to register the new logos with WSO.

Workshops update – Unity Day results: Pat reported that the NHI-hosted Unity Day event on 2/27 had been attended by over 60 people from at least 5 neighboring intergroups. She noted that a summary of the attendees' evaluations and a comprehensive list of ideas for promoting OA unity, generated in the breakout session, had been circulated by email and were also available to anyone interested. She said that the facility at Elliot Hospital worked very well, is often available on weekends, and that NHI should keep this venue in mind for future events in the area.

Ways and Means: Effie circulated a serenity bracelet for everyone's examination, and suggested that Ways & Means might consider purchasing an inventory of them to sell at the WSO convention. She noted that the bracelet is “OA approved.”

PA system for events: Bill requested 2-month advance notice if he needs to provide PA system support for a workshop or other NHI event, since he usually has other Saturday commitments.

Job Descriptions Update: Elaine called attention to the Job Descriptions document, being shepherded to completion by Jeanne. She said the plan is to use the document as a reference during the nominations and election process beginning in April and culminating with officer elections and committee chair appointments in June. She asked for opinions as to whether the various event-oriented committees, like Workshops, Unity Day, Sharathons, and Back to Basics, which are described separately, but which are currently being handled by a single Workshops committee, should remain separate, or whether they should be merged. Pat S. expressed the view that the different events can have different characteristics and having separate committee descriptions preserves the independent natures of the events. She said that while one committee may be performing all the functions now, that may not be the best arrangement in the future. In line with keeping the committees separate, Elaine suggested that it might be good for committee descriptions to include something like mission statements to clarify the purposes of the committees, rather than to define the committees primarily by listing their tasks. Elaine requested that committee chairs prepare statements of purpose for their committees to go along with the chairs' job descriptions, and email them to her so she and Jeanne could have them ready for the next meeting. Pat agreed to prepare three mission statements for the three workshop committees with which she is familiar. Elaine then asked for, and received, confirmation that the “Designated Downloader” job is obsolete and said it would be deleted. She also suggested that the Nominating Committee needs a description, and Jeanne agreed to work on that. Next, Elaine noted a reference to “abstaining members” in the PI/PO committee description, which Eileen had asked about removing, and asked if anyone knew of a good reason for keeping that wording. Hearing none, she said she would accept Eileen's suggestion and remove “abstaining members” from the description of the PI/PO committee. Lastly, Elaine asked everyone to consider, again, the job descriptions for both committee chairs and officers and to send her any last minute thoughts that she and Jeanne might include in the final edition.

Region Six Assembly April 16: Elaine reminded everyone that the R6 Spring Assembly is April 16. Claire mentioned that she would be unable to attend this assembly and suggested that if someone was willing to serve as an alternate, this would be a good chance to go. Elaine urged anyone who might be interested to speak up or contact her before the April 3 business meeting, explaining that NHI is entitled to four R6 reps, so that if an alternate were elected by NHI on April 3, that person would be eligible to vote at the April 16 assembly.

Other Business:

Event Announcements: Pat announced that other intergroups had left flyers for OA events in their areas which were available at the literature table. Elaine mentioned an October retreat in Biddeford Pool ME, for which flyers were available and which is also posted in the events section of the NHI web site.

Nominating Committee: Elaine reminded the meeting that a nominating committee would be forming at the April meeting to prepare a list of candidates for the June election of officers and committee chairs.

Fragrance-free Meetings: Elaine recalled that the NHI answering service had received a request to consider adding “Fragrance-Free” as an option tag for meetings in the NHI meeting list. Elaine asked for opinions. Peter mentioned that he thought he had heard the subject mentioned at the Unity Day workshop in connection with something being considered at Region 6. Jeanne mentioned that her church bulletin had recently contained a request for members to be considerate of individuals who are sensitive to artificial fragrances. Nancy reported that she attends at least one meeting where the meeting format makes the request that attendees not wear highly scented products. Deb suggested that meeting formats that encourage restraint seemed like best way to handle the issue. She said that in her work environment fragrance has been a complicated and drawn out issue, with some people being allergic or sensitive to laundry products and body care products as well as perfumes and colognes. She thought that in such cases a “fragrance free” designation might not cover the issue. Doreen suggested that fragrance is an outside issue, and that NHI, in observance of traditions 1 and 10, should not support any emphasis on outside issues among local groups. She noted that some OAs feel obliged to mask body odor, which because of their size, cannot be controlled by bathing alone. She expressed concern that some individuals might be unwilling to enter a meeting without the assistance of

NH INTERGROUP MINUTES – March 6, 2016

a fragrance. Elaine acknowledged Doreen's point but also noted that Concept 1, (Unity) in the 12 Concepts pamphlet, mentions fragrance sensitivity as one possible issue that would be appropriate to deal with at a group conscience level. She also suggested that fragrance use might be an appropriate topic for an article in the Promises. Dorothy offered that Region 6 might already have something written, and there might be articles in *Lifeline* on the subject. It was resolved that the NHI R6 reps would consult with other reps at the R6 assembly, and suggested that anyone interested should look for references in *Lifeline*.

Audit of General Ledger: Nancy mentioned that audits are slightly behind schedule and asked if it would be OK if she conducted an audit session at a meeting with NHI reps who live near her, instead of scheduling one after a business meeting. Elaine agreed it was OK and there were no objections, so Nancy will arrange for an audit by two NHI reps at a local meeting.

CLOSING:

Motion: Effie *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. 3:25 PM.

NEXT MEETING: Sunday, April 3, 2016

Respectfully submitted by Peter Lewis, Secretary.