

NH INTERGROUP MINUTES – January 8, 2017

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

Anne W. – Peterborough Sunday pm & Tuesday pm rep
Beth M. – Derry Saturday am rep
Cheryl W. – Derry Tuesday pm
Claire Metzger – R6 rep, Bow Thurs rep
Claire P. – Salem Friday pm rep
Dee S. – Hillsboro Mon rep
Diane L. – Meeting List chair,
Doreen D. – Website chair, Answering service chair,
Manchester Mon pm rep
Dorothy Martin – WSBC del, R6 rep, Event flyer chair,
Hopkinton Tue pm rep
Effie S. – Ways & Means chair, Nashua Thurs 6:30am rep
Eileen R. T. – PI/PO Chair, Derry Thursday am rep

Elaine Tostevin – NHI Chair, R6 rep
Ginny B. – Bedford Wednesday pm rep
Jeanne Donnelly – Vice Chair, Nominations chair,
Bedford Mon & Thurs am rep
Joe – New Boston Tuesday pm rep
Nancy Sullivan – Treasurer, Budget chair
Pat Gocklin – R6 rep, Manchester Tue rep
Pat S. – Workshops Chair, Back to Basics Chair, Hopkinton
Tues pm alt rep.
Peter Lewis – Secretary, Nashua Thurs pm rep
Sandy M. – Newsletter Chair, Nashua Monday noon rep
Sue W. – Retreat Chair, Lebanon Tue pm rep
Tracy M. – Peterborough guest

Opening:

Elaine called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM*, inviting attendees to join her reciting the Serenity Prayer. All present identified themselves and their NHI roles. Beth read the 12 Steps, Claire P. read the 12 Traditions. Effie read the Introduction to the 12 Concepts. The attendance sheet was circulated and 18 eligible voters were counted. Elaine read the disciplines for the meeting.

***Editor's Note:** This business meeting began at 3:00 PM and was abbreviated in order that NHI might conduct an “Intergroup Inventory” from 1:00 PM until 2:45 PM. The inventory process used the questions outlined in the “*Twelfth Step Within Handbook*” and was facilitated by the NHI Chair. Today's session completed Part I of the inventory questions. It was agreed that a second inventory session, to be held from 1:00 PM until 2:45 PM on February 5, would attempt to complete the inventory process, and that the February 5 business meeting would take place around 3:00 PM, following the inventory session.

December Minutes:

Copies of the December meeting minutes had been distributed by email and were also available at the literature table.

Motion: Jeanne **moved** to accept the December minutes as submitted. Effie **seconded** the motion. No questions or issues were raised. **Vote:** The motion **passed** by a majority show of hands.

December Treasurer's Report:

Copies of the December Treasurer's report had been circulated by email and some were available at the literature table. Nancy asked for questions or comments with respect to the report, and there were none. **Motion:** Joe **moved** to accept the December Treasurer's report as submitted. Dorothy **seconded** the motion. There was no discussion. **Vote:** The motion **passed** by a majority show of hands.

7th Tradition:

7th tradition contributions were collected.

Unfiled Positions:

Elaine reminded those present that two openings for WSBC delegate and two openings for alternate representatives to Region Six have existed since June, with no “takers” so far.

WSBC Delegate Election: Elaine then volunteered to be nominated to be a WSBC delegate. **Nomination:** Jean **nominated** Elaine for WSBC delegate. Sandy **seconded** the nomination. **Vote:** Elaine **was elected** as WSBC delegate by a majority show of hands.

Region Six Alternate Representative Election: Diane L. put her name forward for the position of Alternate Representative to OA Region Six. **Nomination:** Beth **nominated** Diane for election as Alternate Representative to Region Six. Jeanne **seconded** the nomination. **Vote:** Diane **was elected** to the position of Alternate Representative to Region Six by a majority show of hands.

Committee Business:

Spring WSBC Preparation: Elaine noted that the organizing documents for the Spring WSBC will be available in the near future on the oa.org web site and that she and Dorothy will send email to NHI reps to make everyone aware of the information they contain and where to find it.

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Retreat Scholarships: Sue W. reported that one individual, who has no available funds, but wants to attend the 2017 retreat, had inquired about a full retreat scholarship. Sue asked the meeting if NHI could provide a full scholarship in this case, since the scholarship fund has sufficient resources (about \$640 not yet applied for) at the moment.

Discussion: Individuals at the meeting remembered NHI had adopted a policy of offering ½ scholarships at most, since there had been a problem with “no-shows” among recipients of full scholarships. Also it had been thought that the awarding of full scholarships was somewhat contrary to the 7th tradition, which encourages everyone to contribute financially to support their recovery. In current discussion, it was pointed that offering the full scholarship to just one individual would be unfair to those who had not had the opportunity to apply for full scholarship. **Conclusion:** It was decided in discussion, without any formal motions, that the existing policy of providing only ½ and ¼ scholarships should be preserved.

Retreat Status: Sue reported there are 24 registrants so far, and that about \$640 would remain in the scholarship fund after satisfying those applicants who have registered. She said that January 20 is the absolute deadline for new applications.

Workshops: Pat S. acknowledged a strong sense that NHI should hold a sponsorship workshop in 2017, and said that anyone willing to work on that committee should contact her to get started. Pat said, as noted in her committee report, that she was looking for centrally located sites that included breakout rooms for future workshops and would welcome suggestions for suitable facilities. She said she intended to inquire if Elliot Hospital could provide breakout rooms, since NHI's experience in the auditorium at last year's Unity Day was very positive.

NHI Business:

Bylaw Amendment: Elaine said she would update the wording of the pending amendment to Article IV, Section 6, Subsections F and G of the NHI bylaws, as agreed in December's meeting, and that she would distribute the new wording by email in order that the amendment can be voted on at the February 5 meeting. She noted that purpose of the amendment is to clearly state that experience as a R6 rep is a desirable, but not mandatory, qualification for a WSBC delegate.

Place Holders: Elaine walked through a short list of topics from past discussion that she wanted to keep alive for future meeting agendas:

- Recruiting – In order to accomplish more, NHI will need to recruit effort and leadership from local group members other than NHI officers and representatives.
- Spring Sponsorship Workshop – A workshop on sponsorship has been identified as a significant project NHI should spearhead.
- Recovery Blog – The NHI webmaster has proposed for the NHI website to host a “recovery blog” to capture stories of recovery contributed by the membership as a vehicle for sharing the OA message. **Editor's note:** A test example of this blog exists; Ask NHI webmaster for details.

Meeting List: Diane pointed out that there are now four versions of the NHI meeting list online, each version suited to a slightly different purpose. She said she and Doreen had discussed how best to maintain the NHI lists. They propose that the webmaster should update the web page at <http://oanewhampshire.org/find-a-meeting> whenever new information becomes available, whereas the two PDF versions should be reconciled with the web page and be distributed and posted on a monthly basis. Doreen noted that the answering service does receive calls from individuals who have been inconvenienced by out of date meeting information. She said that the find-a-meeting page calls attention to the revision dates in the headers of all of the list formats and urges the user to use the most up to date information. Diane said she also filters the WSO meeting list to capture updates to NHI meetings, in order to make all NHI generated lists agree, and be as accurate as possible at the start of each month. There was general approval of this process, as described by Diane and Doreen.

Non-Conference-Approved Literature on display at local meeting: Joe reported that he had recently attended a meeting that intentionally offered a non OA approved publication for sale along side OA approved literature. He said when he pointed this out to the group, the the group's literature agent replied that the non-approved item in question had been specially approved at a group business meeting by a group conscience vote. Joe expressed his understanding that display or sale of non-approved literature was a violation of OA traditions and that corrective action of some kind should be taken by NHI to urge the group to offer only OA approved literature. No action was formally agreed upon, but it was thought that NHI should communicate, to the OA group in question, that continued display of non-approved literature is a violation which might require formal action by NHI. Pat G. and others commented that it would be important to cite the tradition(s) violated when a meeting uses or displays or sells non-approved literature. Pat S. suggested that a NHI board member should visit the meeting to verify the facts, and then send a letter, if necessary,

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requesting that the non-approved literature be removed and, if the offense persists, to confer with the Region Six trustee, for advice on the proper action to take. Diane agreed that NHI should proceed carefully and deliberately, and suggested that NHI members should first inform themselves on the issue, should then make every effort to share their information with the OA group in question and to encourage them to honor the traditions prior to taking any further corrective action. Elaine said she would discuss the matter with the R6 trustee to get further insight on the matter.

Editor's note: see https://oa.org/files/pdf/oa_approved_literature_list.pdf for OA WSO's position on approved and non-approved literature offerings.

CLOSING:

Motion: Sandy M. **moved** to close the meeting. Sue W. **seconded** the motion. The motion **passed** by unanimous show of hands. Elaine closed the meeting by leading a recitation of the serenity prayer. 3:47 PM.

NEXT MEETING: Sunday, February 5, 2017 – See Editor's note in **Opening** section on Page 1 for additional detail.

Respectfully submitted by Peter Lewis, Secretary.