

NH INTERGROUP MINUTES – March 5, 2017

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

Anne W. – Peterborough Sunday pm rep, Tuesday pm rep
Beth M. – Derry Saturday am rep
Cheryl L. – Concord Monday pm rep
Cheryl W. – Derry Tuesday pm rep
Claire P. – Salem Friday pm rep
Dee S. – Hillsboro Monday rep
Diane L. – R6 alt rep, 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
Elaine Tostevin – NHI Chair, WSBC del, R6 rep
Jeanne Donnelly – Vice Chair, Bedford Mon & Thurs rep,
Nominating Committee chair
Joe A. – New Boston Tuesday pm rep
Madeleine G. – Nashua Monday noon alt 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

Opening:

Elaine called the meeting to order at 2:01 PM, inviting attendees to join her reciting the Serenity Prayer. All present identified themselves and their NHI roles. Sandy read the 12 Steps, Pat S. read the 12 Traditions. Pat G. read Concept Two. The attendance sheet was circulated and 14 eligible voters were counted. Elaine read the disciplines for the meeting.

February Minutes:

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

Motion: Pat G. **moved** to accept the February minutes as submitted. Jeanne **seconded** the motion. One individual pointed out that date of the next meeting should read “March 5”, not “March 6.” No other questions or issues were raised. **Vote:** The motion to accept the minutes, with the stipulated correction, **passed** by a majority show of hands, with one abstention noted.

February Treasurer's Report:

Copies of the February Treasurer's report had been circulated by email and some were available at the literature table.

Motion: Pat G. **moved** to accept the February Treasurer's report as submitted. Peter **seconded** the motion. **Discussion:** Referring to discussion last month concerning the seemingly excessive \$11,000+ on-hand funds balance on January 31, Nancy pointed out that the February 28 funds balance was down about \$4000, to \$7,334.46, due largely to expenditures for the February retreat and for travel, room and board for representatives to the R6 Spring Assembly and delegates to the WSBC. She explained that, while the funds balance accumulates gradually, via a somewhat regular monthly flow of donations and other income, funds expenditures are large in certain months and minimal in others. Elaine commented that the actual surplus, is currently in the vicinity of \$3,700, and is expected to decrease as a result of increased spending on workshops, public information, and other efforts to carry the OA message in New Hampshire. Nancy attributed a \$26.60 discrepancy between the total fund and checkbook balances to a clerical error which she would track down and correct for next month's report. **Vote:** The motion **passed** by a majority show of hands.

7th Tradition:

7th tradition contributions were collected.

Committee Business:

Budget: As followup to discussion of the treasurer's report, Elaine mentioned that the minutes from meetings of the “General Fund Surplus Usage Committee,,” which met a number of times in the spring of 2016, were available for anyone who wished to see them.

Website: Doreen reminded the meeting that NHI can provide member OA groups with anonymous email addresses, which will be listed on the NHI meeting list. She explained that to obtain an anonymous mailbox, a group needs to designate someone to monitor the email box and to have that person contact Doreen, or <nhiwebsite@oanewhampshire.org> to get the email address and password.

Workshops: Pat S. said plans are going well for a Sponsorship workshop on 3/25 from 9:00-12:30, with registration at 8:30. She said that the Workshop Committee meeting at 1:00, prior to this meeting, generated good new ideas. She advised “Don't be late” to the workshop, since there will explanatory detail at start of the workshop. Pat showed the workshop flyer, copies of which were on the literature table, on oanewhampshire.org, sent to retreat participants, and intergroups that participated in Unity Day. She urged reps to take flyers to their group meetings.

NH INTERGROUP MINUTES – March 5, 2017

Also, Pat talked about Sponsorship Success Marathon telephone workshop to be held on 3/12 from 2:00-5:30 pm EST. She said copies of the flyer for this workshop lists phone bridge number and other details, and was also on the literature table and on NHI website.

With regard to this year's **Unity Day**, hosted on Feb 25 by the Mass Bay and South Coastal Mass Intergroups, Pat reported the event was very affirming, with great speakers and around 60 OAs attending from MA, RI, NH, CT, ME. She said NHI might look forward to hosting Unity Day for this area again perhaps in 2019 or 2020.

Retreat: Cheryl L. gave a summary report of the February retreat. She said, based on her own observations and on the 23 survey responses received, everyone attending had a great experience. She said there were 26 attendees, and that the four occupants of the Quad cabin were happy with that facility. She said attendees had agreed that the February dates had worked well, and that, with only one other small group there, the OA retreat had nearly exclusive use of the center. She said the retreat committee had reserved the same facilities, include one or more Quad cabins for the same weekend next year (2/9-2/11 2018). She noted that due to extensive snowfall forecast, the group had decided to extend Saturday's sessions and shorten Sunday's session so that everyone could leave early on Sunday morning. She expressed appreciation to the Harris Center for graciously accommodating to their changing plans. Cheryl said that the Retreat Committee had held a business meeting at the end of the retreat, and reached out to attendees to join the committee for the coming year. She reported that Dee S. had expressed willingness to chair the Retreat committee for 2017/2018 and that she had unanimous support of the committee. **Nomination:** Cheryl nominated Dee to be chair the Retreat committee for 2017/2018 session. Dorothy **seconded** the nomination. No one responded when Elaine asked if anyone else wanted the position, so she asked for a **Vote:** Dee was confirmed as Retreat chair by a unanimous show of hands.

NHI Business:

Inventory Results: Elaine had emailed, to NHI reps, responses to inventory questions gathered from the meeting's flip chart, along with a worksheet for reps to list and prioritize any action items that they would like to see follow from the inventory results. Elaine said she would combine the worksheet items she received in a single document, and would accept either printed or digital file for input. She suggested that those present pencil some items into the printed worksheet during the meeting and submit them to her before leaving. Elaine then asked for comments on last week's inventory process and some of the feedback offered was the following:

- Pat G. and Doreen both indicated they were very satisfied that the process was thorough and fair.
- Nancy remarked on how many responses referred to activities and practices of past years. She combined that observation with solutions she had seen published on other IG websites, and suggested that it could be useful to take a fresh look at NHI projects of the past & update them with ideas gleaned from other IG websites.
- Elaine was also intrigued by the extensive historical knowledge that surfaced during the inventory, and repeated the aphorism "There really aren't any new problems, just new people experiencing old problems." She said this had reinforced for her the idea that taking inventory should be a regular and fairly frequent practice.
- Dorothy agreed that more frequent inventory review would help to keep all practices fresh and effective. One action she suggested was to update the "What Is New Hampshire Intergroup" (WINHI) flyer.
- Diane urged that any document, such as the WINHI flyer should have only anonymous addresses. She said even non-public documents available at OA meetings, should have individual contact info only if the individuals in question have explicitly assented to the inclusion of their contact info.

Elaine said she would collect whatever worksheets were available at the end of the meeting.

Bylaw Amendment: Elaine introduced the one amendment remaining from January's agenda, which is an amendment to Article VI, Section 6, Item 2, having to do with whether or not a WSBC delegate should also be a R6 representative. Elaine noted that the OA handbook, on page 44, suggests that at least one of an IG's WSBC delegates should also serve as a representative to the regional assembly. She asked if the meeting agreed that this wording should be added to the NHI bylaw. Pat said she agreed with this suggestion, based on her own experience, both as a WSBC delegate and as an R6 assembly rep. Joe and Beth both urged that this condition should be worded as a suggestion rather than a requirement, in order to preserve flexibility which may be useful in the future. **Conclusion:** It was agreed that Elaine would make the language read:

"Current or prior experience as a Region 6 representative is preferable, but not required. It is suggested that at least one WSBC delegate should also serve as a Region 6 representative."

Elaine said she would email revised amendment to NHI reps so that a vote to adopt can occur at April meeting.

2017 WSBC:

The 2017 WSBC will occur May 1-6. Delegates won't be at May 7 NHI business meeting. Elaine acknowledged that the final WSBC agenda was not yet known, but she urged NHI reps to gather information on the membership's positions regarding the proposed agenda items reviewed last month. She asked for yes/no recommendations for items of interest, plus the pro and con arguments that contributed to the recommendations, along with some sense of the strengths of the recommendations. Elaine proposed to meet with reps at 1:00 pm on 4/5, prior to the business meeting to share the information collected from the membership. She said reps can also email their results to her or Dorothy later in April, however that channel would not provide for discussion. Dorothy mentioned that anyone in the membership who is interested is encouraged to attend the 1:00 pm discussion of the proposed agenda.

New Business:

Non-approved Literature: Elaine recalled that at the January business meeting, a rep had raised the question of what action NHI should take regarding a member group that has been displaying and selling non-conference-approved literature. Pursuant to the discussion at the January meeting, Elaine said she had researched OA policy on non-approved literature, had consulted with the R6 trustee and had drafted a document, titled “**NHI Guideline: Dealing with Groups that Use, Sell or Promote Non-approved OA Literature (Draft)**”, for NHI to review at today's meeting. Elaine walked through her process leading to the draft document and then walked through the document itself. The document begins with references to two OA policy documents titled [OA-Approved Literature List](#) and [Guidelines for Locally Produced Literature](#), and to Traditions 4 and 6, which OA policy brings to bear on the issue. The guideline then outlines a process for NHI to follow, beginning with gathering information about the situation, followed by information sharing with the group in question, followed by escalation only if the group in question persists in willing violation of OA policy. **Discussion:** Extensive discussion followed in which many points were registered:

- NHI exists to support its members and member groups in recovery. NHI's goal in encouraging adherence to OA policy is OA unity (Tradition 1), not uniformity. It's up to any member who recognizes an OA tradition being violated to speak up.
- A group found in violation of OA policy should be given every reasonable opportunity to voluntarily comply with OA policy, and should be assisted by NHI to understand OA policy.
- Someone mentioned that the current situation may resolve itself quickly since the member group in question has placed the issue on the agenda of its next business meeting and seems likely to vote to comply with OA policy regarding non-approved literature.
- The proposed NHI guideline drafted by Elaine was generally accepted as a useful tool, which should be completed and adopted, regardless of the disposition of the current situation that inspired its development.
- Elaine agreed to distribute the draft document to attendees of this NHI meeting to gather and incorporate any feedback so that the document can be adopted at the April meeting.
- NHI should call attention to OA's policy on non-approved literature with a posting in the *Promises* newsletter and by word of mouth through NHI reps.
- NHI needs to designate a representative to interact with a member group thought to be in violation of OA traditions. The NHI rep for the group in question is the logical choice, if the group has a rep. Otherwise, the initial NHI contact bringing the matter to NHI's attention would be a logical choice.

Motion to extend the meeting: Beth moved to extend the meeting by 15 minutes. Dorothy **seconded** the motion. **Vote:** the motion to extend the meeting passed by a majority show of hands.

Motion: Joe **moved** that an NHI rep deliver copies of the OA-Approved Literature list and the Guidelines for Locally Produced Literature, to the group in question prior to their next business meeting. Anne **seconded** the motion. **Vote:** The motion **passed** by a majority show of hands. Joe was tagged with the task of delivering the message.

Region Six Spring Assembly: Elaine announced that she and Dorothy and Pat G. were planning to attend the assembly in Albany on Saturday 4/8. She said she would check with Claire M. to learn if Claire planned to attend or if Diane might serve as Claire's alternate.

Reimbursement Guideline for WSBC Delegates and R6 Representatives: Dorothy distributed a guideline document she had drafted to clarify exactly what expenses are reimbursable. She said the need to clearly state the extent of reimbursement had occurred to her when she had observed what seemed to be excessive spending on meals by members of other service boards at a recent OA event. Elaine agreed with Dorothy that, as a non-profit organization, NHI needs to be careful to justify the expenses incurred by its representatives. Dorothy asked that anyone with ideas

NH INTERGROUP MINUTES – March 5, 2017

for changes to the document should send her the changes so she could have an update ready for the next business meeting.

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. 3:45 PM.

NEXT MEETING: Sunday, April 2, 2017

Respectfully submitted by Peter Lewis, Secretary.

Draft