

NH INTERGROUP MINUTES – May 3, 2015

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

Barbara W. – Amherst Saturday am rep.
Bill G. – Multimedia chair
Cheryl L. – Retreat chair, Lebanon Tuesday alt rep.
Claire – Bow Thursday rep
Debi Granfield – Parliamentarian
Diane L. – Twelfth Step Within chair, Meeting List chair,
Monday Manchester rep.
Effie S. – Ways & Means chair, Nashua Thursday am rep.
Eileen R.T. – Chair: Event Flyer & PI/PO,
Derry Thursday am rep .

Elaine Tostevin – NHI Chair
Jeanne Donnelly – Vice Chair, Nominating committee chair,
Monday Bedford rep, Thursday Bedford rep.
Judy Gothreau – R6 Alt rep., Concord Monday rep.
Naisa C. – Franklin Saturday alt rep
Nancy Sullivan – Treasurer, Derry Tuesday alt rep
Pat S. – Workshops chair, Hopkinton Tuesday pm rep
Peter Lewis – Secretary, Nashua Thursday pm rep
Sandy M. – Newsletter chair, Nashua Monday noon rep.

Opening:

Elaine called the meeting to order at 2:04PM, inviting all present to join her to recite the Serenity Prayer. All present identified themselves and their NHI roles. Debi read the 12 Steps, Barbara read the 12 Traditions, and Pat read Concept 10. Among attendees, 14 eligible voters were counted and the attendance sheet was circulated. Elaine read the disciplines for the meeting.

April Minutes:

Copies of the April minutes were available at the literature table. The April minutes were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer's Report:

Copies of the Treasurer's report for April were available at the literature table, and were distributed for review as needed. Nancy walked through the income and expense sections and showed the effect on fund balances. She noted that donations from meetings continued to be strong and that the Sharathon made a modest profit, which was shared with Delegate Fund as prescribed by the NHI Policies and Procedures document. Nancy noted that NHI netted \$524 for the month, and that checkbook balance and the bank statement were in agreement. The April treasurer's report was accepted as submitted.

7th Tradition:

7th tradition contributions were collected.

Committee Business:

Workshop Committee: Pat updated her committee report by noting that a Back to Basics workshop may indeed happen in June, since a group in the Concord area has expressed an interest in hosting the event.

Public Information: Eileen mentioned that she would normally order one copy of the WSO Public Information poster for each group but indicated she would increase the order if reps informed her of their groups' intentions to use more in their outreach effort. Eileen agreed to check if it's OK to duplicate the posters, but suggested that duplicated posters would likely be of low quality. She reiterated that copies provided by PIPO would be paid for by the PIPO budget.

Ways & Means: Effie announced that book covers are available for purchase at May and June NHI business meetings. Also, she mentioned that she continues to seek volunteers to produce book covers, so please spread the word. Effie said she would provide a full report on book cover inventory and earnings to date at the June meeting.

Nominating Committee: Jeanne reported that a number of officers and committee chairs whose terms end in June are willing to serve another term. Judy G. agreed to be nominated for Treasurer, to relieve Nancy, who is completing the current term on an interim basis. As a result, Jeanne reported the only nominees lacking in the slate proposed by the Nominating Committee are for positions of one R6 Rep, one R6 Alternate, and one WSBC Delegate. Jeanne read the list of nominees and open positions from the Committee Reports documents, and then solicited suggestions for more candidates. No further suggestions were forthcoming at this time. Elaine pointed out that the process for filling committee chairs is different from the process for officers, and will be discussed later in this meeting.

Meeting List: Diane remarked that copies of the current update of the NHI meeting list were available on the literature table.

NHI Business:

Policies and Procedures: Elaine reported that she had received some edits from individuals pertaining to their areas of experience, and anticipated receiving more. She noted that in some of the edited versions, there were paragraphs marked as "Move to History" and asked if anyone could clarify what this meant. Nancy replied that "Move to

History” arose from a perceived need to trace changes back to the origins in order to better understand the contexts in which they were made. After further discussion with Nancy, Barbara and others, it was agreed that in the process of constructing the new [Policies and Procedures] document, each version that was circulated or shared with others should be labeled with a revision and/or date tag, and that an archive of tagged documents should serve as history.

Anonymity Policy: Elaine suggested that NHI needs a written policy on how to handle situations where there's a need to provide contact information in documents used in public outreach. She noted that the NHI meeting list is an example of how complicated this issue can be. She noted that considerable meeting time has already been devoted to this issue, but an acceptable resolution has not been found or adopted. Here is a summary of discussions so far:

- At previous meetings there seemed to be a consensus that including any personal contact information in any OA publication made available to the general public is a violation of Tradition Eleven and should be avoided. On the other hand, facilitating communication within and between OA meetings by distributing personal contact information to local OA members is OK.
- It was pointed out at the April meeting that the NHI meeting list, as currently handled is a problem, because it contains personal contact information and is made available to the general public via the NHI web site.
- Discussion at this (May) meeting focused mainly on problem with the NHI meeting list.

Here is a summary of some 20 minutes of discussion about the NHI meeting list issues:

- Many individuals argued strongly that retaining first name and phone number on the meeting list is essential to its function. Those who have served as meeting contacts affirmed the value of making timely, knowledgeable, and friendly phone contacts available to individuals of the public who may be searching for the OA solution.
- Several people who spoke don't have a problem putting their phone numbers, first name and initial on the meeting list. These people believe it should be made clear that the meeting list will be publicized and suggest that meeting contacts only supply names and numbers that they are willing to have published. It was suggested that if publishing the meeting list with personal phone numbers is a break of Tradition 11, it is a worthwhile break. Others insisted that the traditions are sacred and need to be honored to the best of our ability.
- More than one speaker suggested that the public meeting list might contain a single anonymous phone number for the public to call. In this scheme, an OA volunteer would need to relay each caller's query and callback information to the appropriate meeting rep.
- Naisa offered that e-voice (NHI's answering service provider) can provide a technical solution in the form of an anonymous phone number for each meeting, with call forwarding to the phone of the meeting's contact person. The details and cost of this approach were not known at the time.
- It was noted that the WSO meeting finder provides personal contact information for each meeting in its database. Since this contact information is presented only after navigating 2 levels of database forms, it is thought that it is not susceptible to search by normal search engines. If WSO enables this level of exposure, perhaps it's OK.
- A suggestion, previously offered by Jill, was for the NHI web site to redirect meeting queries to the WSO's meeting finder. The NHI meeting list could then be moved to the restricted area, and be distributed by reps to group meetings (OA internal use).
- Diane suggested that everyone forming an opinion on this issue should (re)read the chapter on Tradition Eleven in the OA 12&12 (pages pp194-196 in particular) for a clear articulation of the concepts in play.
- Pat offered to inquire of the Region Six trustee as to how other OA service bodies have dealt with this issue.
- Eileen said the pp30-32 of the “OA Handbook for Members, Groups, and Service Bodies” provides guidance on these issues (Note: a copy of said handbook can be found in the NHI Group Representative Notebook.).

Elaine closed the discussion, saying that followup is clearly needed and suggested that it might be good to form a working group to hammer out one or more solutions to put before a future business meeting for adoption.

Web Site Update: Barbara announced that her upgrade of the NHI web site has progressed to the point where she would like others to view it and offer feedback on the new “look and feel.”

Barbara mentioned a number of implementation guidelines she hopes to follow going forward, two of which are:

- Relying less on PDF attachments to web pages. Where practical, content should be directly embedded in the site's web pages.
- Enable more people to contribute content to the web site and post new content without intermediation by the webmaster.

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- Barbara said the new web site will likely provide additional ways to address some of the anonymity concerns raised earlier in the meeting. After the meeting, she collected email addresses from attendees so that she could provide a link to her work in progress and receive feedback on its look and feel.

Region Six Business:

Judy prefaced a summary of the April 18 assembly by saying that she and Dorothy and Jill would produce a combined written report for the June meeting. She went on to highlight the following:

- Judy returned from the assembly with raffle tickets, offering the opportunity to win registration fees and room and meals for the October 2015 R6 convention in Hartford, said tickets to be distributed to and sold by Reps.
- She attended an excellent workshop on Abstinence vs. A Plan of Eating
- She participated in finance committee sessions working on budget. She noted that a key subtopic of this session involved discussion of archiving of treasurer's records and the benefits of paperless record keeping.
- She witnessed an inspiring skit about the October 2015 convention which raised her interest in attending the event.

Elaine added that there is \$50 in the budget to cover construction of a Raffle basket for the Convention that is available to a local group willing to offer this service.

New Business:

Elaine summarized an issue that has arisen lately concerning the installation of NHI committee chairs. The NHI bylaws seem unclear as to whether committee chairs are appointed by the NHI chair, or whether they are nominated and elected by NHI reps, and whether the process is different for mid term vs. full term appointments. She read sections of the bylaws that seem possibly contradictory. Elaine said she leaned toward resolving the confusion in favor of the NHI chair's right to appoint committee chairs in all cases, and sought guidance from the meeting that this solution would be agreeable. Elaine said that she intended to work with others offline to clarify the bylaws with regard to this issue and would submit the draft at a future NHI business meeting for consideration and adoption as part of the normal bylaw update process.

CLOSING:

Motion: Jeanne *moved* to close the meeting. Effie *seconded* the motion. The motion *passed* by unanimous show of hands vote.

Elaine closed the meeting by leading a recitation of the serenity prayer. 3:29 PM.

NEXT MEETING: Sunday, June 7, 2015

Respectfully submitted by Peter Lewis, Secretary.