

Unity Intergroup Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2023

ATTENDEES: Jean k, Meg M., Jane S, Annette PR, David L, Betty, Cathy G, Theresa, MaryAnn W, Peg M, Peggy, Lisa D, Amy D, Deb C., Christi C.; Region 4 trustee – Meg M.; Region 4 Chair – Annette PR; Region 4 treasurer – Amy D.

UIG Trusted Servants: IG Chair – Jean K; IG Vice Chair- Open; IG Secretary – Open (Christi C. filling in this month); IG Treasurer – Peg M; Region 4 representatives – Cathy G, Amanda A, Jane S; Region 4 rep ALT – Amy R; WSBC Delegates – Amy D, Cathy G; By Laws Chair – Open; Quick Steps Co-Chairs – Scott P, Jackie K; Hot Line responders – Val; Literature Coordinator – Amy D; Newsletter Editor – Open; Print Coordinator – Nancy K; Zoom Meeting Manager – Christi C.

1. Welcome: Jean opened the meeting with the Serenity prayer and introductions.
2. Tradition 3: Cathy G. read and pitched on Tradition 3
3. Secretary report: Jean read the minutes from the February meeting and Christi shared screen with minutes. After the review, Cathy G. made a motion to accept, Deb C. seconded the motion, no one opposed, and minutes were approved.
4. Treasurer's report: Peg M. presented the February expenses and Christi C shared screen to present the report.
 - a. Buffalo retreat receipts and balance due were shared.
 - b. Discussion around electronic payment options and bank/PayPal fees were discussed.
 - c. Christi C. made a motion to accept, Peg seconded, no one opposed, and treasurer's report was accepted.
5. Newsletter: Jill has completed her 2 years' service for the newsletter. She completed the March newsletter. We ask groups to volunteer to write about the monthly step and tradition. Burnsville 6:30 has volunteered for April. We need a group for May and June. David L. of the Waterville group volunteered his group for June.
6. Intergroup Business:
 - a. Meg M – R4 Trustee and Annette PR- R4 Chair shared about service.
 - i. Service in the fellowship is struggling – not enough people stepping up
 - ii. Meg is touring R4 going to meetings to carry this message of service and asking important questions: Are we expecting and having these conversations with our sponsees to do service; how are we self-supporting in our service opportunities; are we carrying the message?; what are we doing with 12 Steps Within/; what are we doing for our newcomers – are our meetings offering what we can and following up with newcomers? Are people participating in intergroup? Focus on what you can do.
 - iii. WSO is looking at creating a more substantive newcomer packet and outreach, including a PSA commercial.
 - iv. Meg spoke about Zoom bombing concern that has been hitting other regions – Deep Fake – they take video of a specific person, and they request host status or

code, and they will take over the meeting. WSO is working on this and there is an ad hoc committee working on meeting security. It is suggested that meeting passwords are not on the website – they should contact meeting contact for this information.

- b. Annette shared about resources:
 - i. Community Conversations - 3rd Sunday of each month at 5:00pm – listed on Unity Intergroup upcoming events or see oaregion4.org for more information.
 - ii. Topics include: PIPO (Public Information & Professional Outreach) on March 19; April will be newcomers and how do we bring them in
 - iii. Twice a month there is a newsletter called the “Our Forward” – information about intergroup, region and OA worldwide. 2 pages but informative. Send flyers or information for events you would like advertised to go to admin@OAreion4.org
 - iv. Assembly twice per year where regional business is handled – March 24 – 25 in person in Iowa. is the next one. Reps from Intergroup are welcome. Visitors are also welcome. The second one is virtual, so it is easier to participate.
 - v. Region is here to serve intergroups and they want to be part of the solution.
- c. Open board positions: Secretary and Vice chair
 - i. Meet once a month to talk about the agenda and any special items the board needs to address.
 - ii. Abstinence requirements are 1 year to be on the board.
 - iii. Jane volunteered to do the secretary job for April.
- d. Open Unity Service positions: Newsletter editor and By-laws chair
 - i. Christi C. volunteered for this position. She was nominated and voted in as the newsletter editor.
 - ii. By-laws chair – no one volunteered so this position is still open.
- e. Convention financing and scholarship discussion
 - i. Intergroup wants to help subsidize, not wanting finances to be a barrier for anyone.
 - ii. Keep the registration fee reasonable and accessible – we have enough money to help support events.
 - iii. Potential of subsidizing meal on Saturday due to high cost for some
 - iv. Scholarships can be “repaid” with service.
 - v. OA members can donate additional funds towards scholarships.
 - vi. Jane is chairing the scholarship committee.
 - vii. Intergroup has significant excess over and above prudent reserve that we need to allocate – how can we use these funds to help the still suffering, outreach, etc.
 - viii. Intergroup has never lost money on a convention.
 - ix. OA is creating a new PSA commercial which is \$50,000.
 - 1. Peg made a motion to allocate \$10,000 towards this. Cathy G. and Amy D. asked clarifying questions which were answered by Meg M. The motion was amended to say that “OA Unity Intergroup will donate

\$10,000 to WSO with the express interest for public outreach but may use as needed to support the organization. "Lisa D. made a motion to accept, Christi C. seconded the amended motion, no one opposed, and motion was carried.

7. Events/Committee reports:
 - a. Buffalo retreat – chairs were not present. Only 2 open spots as of today, but there are commuter spots still open.
 - b. MSSA March event is staffed.
 - c. Quick steps – we need more leaders – contact Scott P and Jackie K. The question was asked if we can request that they not overlap with intergroup meeting.
 - d. Big Book study with Lawrie C. coming up in May – Zoom event – more information to follow.
8. Announcements
 - a. People are not receiving the e-mails – if not receiving them, let Jean know
9. Closing – Jean led closing with the responsibility pledge.
10. Committee meeting – we broke into two breakout rooms.
 - a. Professional outreach
 - i. MAARCH Conference – Addiction Professionals conference October 30 – Nov 1, 2023, at St. Paul Conference and Expo center. Booths start at \$1000.
 1. Action items: Christi will find out if we can be an exhibitor vs a sponsor.
 - ii. Facebook Ads – geo targets – QR codes
 - iii. College campuses - Augsburg Step-up program
 1. Action item: Christi will contact them to ask about leaving flyers or information with them.
 - iv. Alex Carlson is our current social media manager but does not want to continue and Howard, our Constant Contact person would like to step down. Discussion around possible solutions for this.
 1. Action item: Christi to check with former social media manager for her business to see if she is willing, interested, and cost.
 - b. Twelve Step Within
 - i. Discuss what can we as a committee do to support recovery from relapse.
 - ii. Jean to check with convention chairs if there would be a way for us to do a recovery from relapse breakout/small group at convention in October
 - iii. Explore possibility of a Zoom event December 10 1:00-2:30 pm topic recovery from relapse with speakers and small group breakout.
 - iv. Plan to get something in the May newsletter