

FOOTHILL INTERGROUP REPRESENTATIVES MEETING

April 29, 2019

Present: Korie Beth, Akilah, Patti, Agnes, Heather, Colleen, Sandy, George, Petra, Michael, Sheila, Susan R.

Meeting started at 7:04 pm.

Chair's Report: COLLEEN

- Colleen opened the meeting by leading the group in the Serenity Prayer.
- Colleen reviewed basic information about the formation, purpose and evolution of Intergroup meetings and noted that the Foothill Intergroup was the first one established. She also described the role of intergroup representatives. IG meeting participants took turns around the room reading the 12 Concepts of Intergroups.
- Colleen passed around a program document presenting suggested formats for various types of meetings, including phone meetings. Sandy had brought another WSO document with sample meeting formats, and that document was passed around also.
- Colleen asked for a volunteer to time chairs' reports as Na'ama, our vice chair and regular timer, was not at this meeting. Agnes volunteered.
- Colleen explained that our Intergroup has received a gift from the LA Intergroup of \$1,500. The LA Intergroup contact explained to Colleen that the gift was a portion of the profit made at the most recent OA birthday party. Meeting participants expressed their gratitude for the gift.
- Colleen reported that our Intergroup's 2018 audit is 2/3 done and that all the months so far reviewed were correct. The audit will be completed this month or next month.

Secretary's Report: SUSAN R.

- Secretary distributed the March 25, 2019 minutes, and meeting participants reviewed it. Akilah pointed out that her name was spelled incorrectly, and Susan verified with her that the correct spelling is "Akilah." A motion was made and seconded to accept the March 25 minutes with that one correction.
- A brief conversation ensued about the probability that the Neighborhood Church would probably be closed on the date planned for our next IG meeting, which is May 27, 2019, as that date also marks the Memorial Day holiday. Susan will check with the church office to see whether our room will be available that evening. If not, she will try to reschedule the meeting for either May 20 or June 3, with May 20 being our first choice. Susan will e.mail the date of the next IG meeting to all officers, chairs and representatives.

Vice-Chair's Report: NA'AMA was absent.

- No report was given.

Treasurer's Report: JENNY was absent.

- Colleen stated that the April 2019 treasurer's report will be presented by Jenny at the next IG meeting, along with the May 2019 treasurer's report.

Special Event Chair's Report: KORIE BETH

- Korie Beth noted that an announcement of the June 25 Stronger Together workshop has been placed in the Footnotes and on our website. Korie Beth stated that two topics to be covered are "how to foster and maintain strong meetings" and "how to strengthen personal recovery through attending meetings."
- Korie Beth reported that she already has two male speakers and that she wants to maximize the diversity of speakers in terms of gender, race, geography, sexual orientation, and so on. Speakers will each talk for 10-15 minutes.

- Korie Beth reported that she will be out of the country from April 30 – May 21, 2019, and will be reachable by e.mail but not phone or text. She asked that speakers e.mail her with their contact information.
- Korie Beth suggested that we use a “marathon” format for this workshop, which would include about 15 speakers. She asked that each meeting enlist a volunteer to speak, and she suggested that during the introduction of each speaker, an identification of the meeting he or she represents will be included.
- During the Memorial Day weekend, Korie Beth will send an e.mail to all IG participants describing progress on the workshop preparations.
- Petra brought up the idea of having a PTSD workshop to create camaraderie among victims of trauma and to help them understand and gain detachment from the abuse they suffered. The workshop would also sensitize non-suffering fellows to the experience of victims and would provide a basis for heightened compassion among fellows.

Young Persons Outreach Chair Report: PATTI

- Patti reported that she is targeting her efforts on starting phone meetings and/or online meetings tailored to young persons’ needs and interests. It was suggested that she come to the June 15 workshop to present her progress on that project. Patti said she is going to be at a workshop in Long Beach that morning on how to use technology effectively in the program. She will incorporate her learning there into her Stronger Together presentation.

Web Master’s Report: JENNIFER was absent. COLLEEN presiding

- Colleen suggested that all IG participants acquaint themselves with our website, which is always evolving and improving. The items on the home screen contain links to further related information and there is a colorful announcement of the June 15 workshop.

WSO Chair’s Report: GEORGE

- George reported that he will be going to the week-long WSO convention the first Monday in May and that he is continuing to serve on the translation sub-committee of the diversity committee. George is a “green dot mentor,” which means he will be orienting first- time convention participants to the procedures and content of the meetings. George will be picking up newcomer (Where Do I Start?) pamphlets and Welcome Back packets for members returning to OA after a lapse in participation.

R2 Chair’s Report: AGNES

- Agnes distributed her R2 delegates report for the March 29-30, 2019, spring assembly. She related that the assembly consisted of long days with meetings from 8 am to 6 pm.
- A segment on how to have a workshop was presented, and the importance of service as a topic was emphasized. Having intergroups present workshops on that topic was recommended.
- It was announced that the 2019 R2 Convention, scheduled to be held in Pomona, has been cancelled due to lack of adequate volunteers to plan and staff the event. The 2020 R2 assembly and R2 Convention are scheduled to occur in Oakland, CA. Members of our intergroup are encouraged to attend the 2020 convention and volunteer for organizing and staging it.
- Agnes reported that she is on the R2 By-Laws committee and that her committee met on its own during the assembly. That committee is charged with updating the R2 by-laws every two years. The R2 Chair also requested that intergroups update their by-laws.
- Agnes’ report from the R2 Spring Assembly follows these minutes as an attachment.
- An IG representative commented on a concept brought up in the R2 Assembly, namely that “service is slimming.” She said that, for her, the concept is not always accurate and that some fellows find it offensive. It was suggested that the concept was introduced in the 1990s and perhaps doesn’t reflect the program’s current perception of the benefits of doing service.

Newcomers Chair Report: KAREN was absent.

- Several attendees have been in contact with Karen and reported that she will be present at the May Intergroup meeting.

Footnotes Editor's Report: SHEILA

- Sheila distributed the new May/June issue of the Footnotes, much to the admiration and delight of meeting participants. Sheila explained that the enboldened meetings in the directory are those that need additional support. She also clarified that the meeting directory has been updated, as well as the list of fellows willing to take outreach calls. Sheila reported that many of those fellows have moved out of our area, though some of them are still willing to take calls.
- Sheila stated that she is looking for content for the next (July/August) issue of the Footnotes. She asked that representatives encourage their meeting members to write and submit essays on program-related topics. She is also interested in publishing pieces fellows have written at writing meetings. An IG meeting participant suggested that a deadline be established for turning in written pieces so that Sheila would have ample time to review, select and edit writings. The deadline of June 8 was established.
- Meeting attendees suggested other material to be included in Footnotes issues. One was changes made in the most recent OA 1212 edition. Another idea was to add a section in the Footnotes detailing the our most recent 7th Tradition contributions

Public Outreach Chair's Report: NATALIE was absent.

- Chair Colleen announced that one healthcare professional has expressed an interest in attending an OA meeting. He will be directed to the largest meetings and given the option to choose between them.
- An IG meeting participant added the comment that there is much information for healthcare providers on oa.org. The above-mentioned provider will be given that resource as well.

12th Step Within Chair's Report: SANDY

- Sandy provided an update on her effort to secure WSO approval to publish, on our website, one page of the several conference-approved 10th step worksheets. WSO declined to authorize our use of any worksheets. Sandy said she had accepted the denial.
- An IG meeting attendee pointed out that the SoBay OA Intergroup has published excerpts from the Big Book and the AA 12X12 on their website. Sandy clarified that WSO is not forbidding the printing and distribution of program materials, rather it is simply declining to approve them.

Old Business: COLLEEN presiding

- George re-opened the discussion of transferring our newcomers' line to a cell phone. He had called AT&T and determined that we cannot port our current phone number to a cellular device because our line supports voicemail only. Thus, we will need to establish a new phone number and update relevant literature to reflect that new phone number. It was also offered by a meeting attendee that forwarding service from our old to our new number would be available for three months, which would provide ample time for correcting outdated literature.
- Discussion ensued about the pros and cons of changing our newcomers' line to cellular service which would also support texting. A motion was made to proceed with the plan to do so. The motion was seconded and passed.
- Other considerations were raised and discussed, including the cost of a new phone and the cost of monthly service. Agnes volunteered to research those issues and report back to the group at the May IG meeting.

New Business: COLLEEN presiding

- Sandy announced that page 1 of the OA website introduces a new format for writing meetings. She also shared that she had read on the OA website that there is a new recommended amount for 7th step meeting donations, which is \$5 per person.
- Petra re-introduced the idea of having a PTSD workshop. She related that she knows of many people in the program suffering from it and that it is equally as problematic as "being in the sugar." She also shared that she has found the steps to be the answer to reducing the pain of PTSD. Korie Beth expressed interest in having such a workshop and said that, after she returns home on May 21, she and Petra can talk about it further.
- Several meeting attendees expressed concern that many people no longer carry cash and that trend presents problems for collecting the 7th tradition. They introduced the idea of allowing fellows to make donations via "VENMO" to cashless OA fellows. It was determined that several other (older) meeting attendees have never heard of VENMO and that, therefore, they would need to be educated about that technology. The topic was tabled for further discussion at the May IG meeting.

Meeting Concerns and Announcements: COLLEEN presiding

- A meeting attendee pointed out that the new welcome pamphlet, "Where Do I Start?" does not have space designated for fellows to write down their phone numbers for the newcomer. That topic will be addressed further at the next IG meeting.
- Other meeting announcements and concerns were also tabled for inclusion at the May IG meeting.

Closing Prayer: Chair Colleen led the meeting in the Third Step Prayer.

Meeting was closed at 8:40 pm. Susan R. will call the Neighborhood Church office to determine the date of the May Intergroup meeting. When that date is established, she will e.mail it to all officers, chairs and representatives, who will in turn announce the date at individual meetings. The May meeting will be held at the Neighborhood Church, 301 N. Orange Grove Blvd, Pasadena, CA.