

Overeaters Anonymous Western Mass Intergroup Business Meeting Minutes September 12, 2021

Attendees: Anne H., Beth C., Carol Ch., Gwen G., John C., Julie B., Karen S., Louise, Mary I., Mary O., Rob R., Sean R., and Sr. Susan (Susan T.)

Board Reports

1. Chair's Report—

WMass OA Intergroup submitted 2 applications to the Regio 6 PI/PO committee for a Blitz grant. The committee asked us to withdraw one request. After surveying those on our distribution list, we were equally divided on applications for billboards and pamphlet racks. A meeting was called to come to consensus. The consensus was to withdraw the application for pamphlet racks and keep the application for subsidizing billboard messaging.

2. Vice Chair Report—

Although the billboard overlooking the Calvin Coolidge bridge between Northampton and Hadley is reserved for another year, the Vice Chair will keep her eye on availability of that location. It is not owned by any of the vendors we surveyed but may be worth another look when available given its location.

The email addresses associated with Intergroup OA positions were used by an unauthorized party to email the chairperson's email. The message included a request for money. In order to prevent another such scam, we disabled all website emails but the Chair's. The Vice Chair asked all in attendance to send an email to the Chair (chair@oawmass.org) to test that it still works, since one person reported sending an email to this address that was rejected. She also asked that the webmaster investigate the problem for us.

3. Recording Secretary's Report—

Carol Ch read the minutes of the August meeting. One change was suggested which she made. The minutes were accepted with that amendment and Carol sent out the revised minutes.

4. Treasurer's Report—

Anne reported that a bogus company had sent an invoice through email which we paid before discovering it was not a vendor with whom we do business. Anne will email a request for a refund and research how to report this activity to the Better Business Bureau.

After suggestion and discussion, it was agreed that future Treasurer's Reports will display a \$1,000 loan to the Retreat account on the Intergroup account report and a \$1,000 debt to the Intergroup account on the Retreat account report.

5. Corresponding Secretary's Report—

Karen S. has resigned from the position. Until a new Corresponding Secretary takes office, Martha has agreed to send the weekly email of upcoming events that Karen forwards to her, and Carol Ch. has agreed to update the meeting list.

6. Region 6 Rep Report— None

7. WSBC Delegate Reports— None

Committee Reports

1. Phone Service liaison –

Gwen announced that since the past month has seen little activity, she would like to wait a bit longer to evaluate which billing plan we want to have with Crocker Communications.

2. Workshop Working Group –

Karen said she would work with Sean on future workshop projects. Sean presented a synopsis of his report on the options for online meeting services. He saw no alternatives that pose a distinct advantage over Zoom. He noted that any group wanting to hold hybrid meetings (ones with a simultaneous in person and online components) needs an omnidirectional microphone and swivel camera. He stressed that knowledge, training, and expertise are prerequisites for starting and holding hybrid meetings. Intergroup may want to draft standard language to add to all hybrid meeting formats. Julie suggested that once the report is reviewed, it should be uploaded to our website. A copy of his report is attached to these minutes.

3. Retreat –

Anne H. announced that the first meeting of the 2022 Retreat Committee would be held at 3pm 9/12. She invited anyone interested in getting involved to attend. Marlene J. is the chair. Looking for volunteers for co-chair.

Open Discussion on:

1) What would you like to see WMI do?

a) Sean suggested we continue to hold First Twelve Days of OA workshops and provide “Where Do I Start” pamphlets to all volunteering to take a newcomer through the process.

b) Carol Ch. would like us to bear in mind how Zoom may be affecting OA. She warned that we may be losing the humanity of face-to-face contact. Encouraging hybrid meetings may help to provide the in person contact that many OAs need and also provide the inclusivity others rely on.

c) Gwen would like to see the reports from Region 6 Reps and our World Service Delegate posted to our website as well as Policies and Procedures, By Laws, and Intergroup meeting Minutes. John C. reminded us that we need to check these documents for confidential information (e.g., last names) before posting to the website. Gwen also asked that our webmaster advise us on the best place to put such documents. She also expressed a need for a website content coordinator to work with our webmaster, Victoria on this and other ongoing website issues.

- d) Julie asked that we put online donation capabilities on the agenda of a future IG meeting.
- 2) How can we attract and engage people? *Not addressed at this meeting*
- 3) Do our 2021 goals reflect your interests and beliefs? Would you prefer different goals? *Not addressed at this meeting*

Old and New Business – *Not addressed at this meeting*

- 1) Crocker Communications' new rates, eff. 10/1/2021 (OB)
- 2) Recruiting for service positions (Corresponding Secretary, Newsletter Committee, PIPO Committee, Sponsor Liaison, etc.) (OB)
- 3) Should we build and maintain a list of available Sponsors? (OB)
- 4) Are we fulfilling our primary purpose? How are we doing on our 2021 Goals? Should we consider holding a group conscience, maybe in October or November? (OB)
- 5) Posting our delegate's World Service Business Conference report on oawmass.org (NB).
- 6) Posting the Region Assembly Report on oawmass.org (which report is this?). (NB)

The meeting adjourned at 2:13 pm.

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, October 10, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,
Beth C