**Overeaters Anonymous Western Mass Intergroup Business Meeting Minutes**

**April 9, 2023**

Meeting opened at 6pm by Chairperson Ellen with a full moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

Tradition 4 and Concept 4 were read by Karen S.Comments were provided by Karen S. & Rob R., as to the meaning& value in both their OA lives. Thoughts shared in regard to autonomy, we can make mistakes, we are not mistakes

& a reminder to be humble.

Roll Call read by Ellen.

**Attendees:** Deb T., Ellen C., Joette S., Karen S.,Leo R & Rob R.

Note that there weren’t enough attendees for a quorum, so no voting on any items for this meeting could be done. Items that require voting on, will be done at the May meeting.

**Board Reports**

* Ellen had no report and Julie wasn’t in attendance.
* Recording Secretary: Correction noted regarding the housing of the buses with the WMI signage in Amherst, Northhampton & Springfield.
* Treasurer’s Report- Joette wanted it noted that she has received some checks for the Retreat which will be represented in next month’s report.
* Corresponding Secretary: No report.

**Standing Committee Reports**

* **PIPO**: Karen reported that Sue is doing a booth at a Health Fair at Westfield State on April 13th from 11- 3pm.
* **Phone Service:** Ellen reported in Patty’s absence that the Phone Service had one phone call in the month.
* **Website-** Please see the attached report provided by Rob & Victoria regarding the value and our reasoning for switching to BlueHost for our website.
* **Marathon-** Karen reported the date has been secured for the Marathon and she will be sending out a “Save the Date.”
* **Retreat-** Karen reported that there are 18 spaces left for filling. There are 37 spaces in total. She has received some money towards to scholarships. Any excess money donated for the scholarships will be earmarked for providing scholarships for next year.
* **WSBC Delegate-** position still vacant
* **Archives –** No report.
* **Region 6 Reps-**Karen & Sue attended the past meeting for a very busy agenda.

**Old Business:**

**Tax Exempt Status:**Discussion tabled until May Intergroup meeting.

**New Business:**

**Intergroup Member Survey:** Ellen will send out survey again separately prior to the next WMI meeting for members to read for discussion & to vote on at next meeting to see if we want to use it.

**Group Concerns/Brainstorming**

* Discussion regarding moving the May Intergroup meeting to May 7th considering concerns of low attendance if the meeting is held at regular time on May 14th. Moved to move meeting to May 7th. Ellen will send out a memo to members announcing the May meeting date change.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:01pm with recitation of the Responsibility Pledge.**

**Next meeting is on Sunday, May 7, 2023, at 6pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Deb T.

Recording Secretary

Report attached from Investigation by Victoria Strauss:

Investigation, Analysis and Remediation of Slow Page Load Speed for oawmass.org

Victoria Strauss, Webmaster

April 8, 2023

The WMI website is built on Wordpress, which recently updated its platform. In February 2023,

the WMI website suddenly became significantly slower, with frequent failure to load images.

Wordpress has acknowledged widespread problems as a result of the update, and functionality.

has since improved.

However, I discovered that some of the problems were due to Powweb, our hosting service,

running outdated software that was not compatible with the Wordpress update. I’ve long been

dissatisfied with Powweb, which has a glitchy website with pages that often fail to load, making

it hard to manage things like billing and email accounts. It was clear that we needed to move to a

better hosting service.

I did some research, and settled on Bluehost, which is one of several hosting services

recommended for Wordpress websites. It provides improved functionality – and at less cost.

Cost Comparison

If we stayed with Powweb’s annual plan, which is almost at the end of its yearly term (renews

5/19/2023), we’d pay $366.88:

no-frills hosting plan, domain privacy included $215.28

site backup $36.11

SSL certificate, necessary for secure operation of the website $95.50

domain name (oawmass.org) renewal $19.99

$366.88

Bluehost is $85.14 less expensive, at $281.74 per year:

Choice Plus hosting plan, site backup and SSL included $239.88

domain privacy $21.87

domain name (oawmass.org) renewal $19.99

$281.74

Cost Savings

We are canceling our Powweb plan, which renews May 19, a month early. We’ve paid some

Powweb expenses that we won’t use because we’re canceling early, as follows:

1 month on the annual plan $17.94

1 month of site backups $ 3.00

11 months on the SSL certificate (which is paid through March 2024) $87.54

$108.48

However, this expense is more than offset by savings in our first Bluehost year, since I was able

to take advantage of a one-time signup bonus, reducing the cost of our first-year hosting plan

from $281.74 to $65.40, a savings of $216.34 over the Bluehost yearly expense.

Website Migration

I worked with Bluehost support staff to migrate the WMI website files. The transition is

complete, and our domain has been re-routed from Powweb to Bluehost. Some downtime is

possible as the changes take effect, but this shouldn’t exceed 48 hours.

Request for Reimbursement

Bluehost’s first year, discounted $65.40

Research, 2 hours @ $25 $50.00

Site Migration (calls with Bluehost’s tech

support, testing, troubleshooting and page/file

cleanup, 4 hours @ $25 $100.00

Total $215.40

Monthly Maintenance

WMI has been paying me $50 per month for website updates (updating meeting list and content

as required, keeping event page current, checking and testing all links, removing outdated

material, and anything else that’s needed) since March 2021. Six-month payments of $300 are

typically made at the end of June and December.

I find that I’m spending an average of one hour per week on these tasks, or 4-5 hours per month.