

Akron Intergroup Council Meeting – December 8, 2019

This meeting was opened at 1:00 pm by Chairman Nick B. with the responsibility statement, Serenity Prayer and the reading of the Twelve Traditions. Roll call was taken. A quorum was present.

Groups in Attendance: (31) Afternoon Alkies, Akron Men's Big Book Study, Akron General, Akron Mens Big Book Study Group, Carry This Message, East Akron, Falls Bailey Road, Fresh Start, Garden of Hope, Golden Link, Hudson Terex PM, Into Action Big Book Study, Kenmore Group, Loyal Oak Big Book, Medina Tuesday, Mid Day Serenity, North Hill Men's Group, Northampton, Rebos, Serenity Through Recovery, Seville Monday 12 Steps up, Sober Men and Women United, Steps and Beyond, Sunday Night 12 & 12, Sunday Women's Big Book, The Turning Point, Thursday Closed Women, Thursday Night Freedom, Thursday Night Men's Non-smoking, Towers Discussion, Wadsworth Women's Study

Secretary's Report: Karen K. – Two motions were made to waive the reading of the secretary's report and accept report as written. No corrections needed.

Treasurer's Report: Tim Q. –

This month's numbers are as expected; nothing seems to be out of the ordinary. Fund drive group contributions doubled from last year. Individual contributions are about the same. Total from last year will be lower since we received a very large donation last year. Two motions were made to accept the October's Treasurer's report as written. Accepted without corrections.

Executive Board Report: Nick B. – Special emergency meeting of the Board called on November 11th in response to a motion that was passed at last Council meeting. Two issues were addressed. First, the lack of accountability was discussed along with the critical importance of board members attending and being active in their respective meetings. Second issue was meeting etiquette and how we need to respect one another and remember "Principles before Personalities". It was an effective meeting. Everyone reviewed information in their Intergroup reference binder to ensure they understood what their responsibilities are.

Old Business: Tim Q.

Budget Proposal: Certain members had questions related to why items were budgeted higher than last year. Motion was made to table budget proposal until discussion can take place. Vote taken, seconded, and passed with majority vote. Minority voices spoke. Asking questions about what would happen if we didn't have an approved budget by January 1st. Further question about not having time for homegroup members to vote.

The Treasurer clarified the proposed budget was sent out to groups 1 month ago. It was then to be reviewed by the homegroup. Any questions were to be brought back to the Council meeting for discussion. Second minority voice suggested we have a discussion now and then vote before tabling it. Another member suggested we make a motion to cover January bills then look at budget again next month after further review. Further discussion ensued. Question about reason for increased budget items was explained (increased Founder's Day costs, credit card fees, etc.). Another member requested a breakdown on what line items mean. Was directed to review monthly budget reports for breakdown of expenditures. Lengthy discussion ensued about reasons for having to increase budget and how budget process works. Another member acknowledged there were several levels of understanding of the budget process at the meeting. Clarified that there are very few line items that are controllable expenses.

Motion was made from the floor to accept the budget as written, was seconded and passed with majority vote.

New Business: Tim Q.

Finance sub-committee

Tim reported that with the help of Dick W., several people were interviewed for the accountant position. The Finance committee hired a new accountant. Kathleen Davis of Davis, Nagy & Company LLC to be our new accountant. She will save us money and she offered to help beyond the year-end report. Motion was made to the Board, seconded, and was passed with a unanimous vote.

Tim discussed the topic of spending money in the office with Greg and noted we're spending more than \$4,000/yr. to have our # in the yellow pages. Finance recommends we change a motion introduced on 5-27-89 that states we list the Intergroup in the yellow pages of the 5 counties (cost- \$5,000) Motion was made to cancel yellow pages, was seconded, and passed by the Board with a unanimous vote.

Finance also recommends that we ask the literature committee to look into raising prices on our literature/books. This has not been done in a very long time. Vance S., chair of literature, will research and bring back to the committee

In addition, the cleaning staff is being put on hold because we think our own members can handle that. Several people have come forward and said they will get the volunteers we need.

Founders' Day: Jeff C.

No Report other than speakers are all in place.

Archives: Jim B.- (report given by Gene):

Reported previously that we received a large donation from Women's international. With that money we are currently updating the boards in the hallway from the back parking lot to the office. Having pictures framed professionally. Checking with universities for a graphic artist intern as well.

General Service: Val D. – Went to Unity Day in Youngstown. There was a small panel on service work. Most of the group had less than 3 years of sobriety so it was primarily a discussion about their experience.

Intergroup News: Judy K. –

The December issue was mailed out on time.

Our topic for the January issue is Acceptance. The deadline for articles is December 13, 2019. Put out a request for article submissions because very few have come in for December. The committee voted at our last proofing session to increase the subscription price to \$9.00 per year. We will not raise the email which is \$3.00 per year. Due to increases in paper and postage it became necessary. Looking at past issues available, we know that the price last increased between 1996 and 2003 from \$6.00 to \$7.00.

We are working on the next issue throughout the month.

Next Meeting: December 21, 2019 when we proof the December issue.

Information Tech: Judy K. –

Founders Day updates continue and are going smoothly. The Founders' Day Committee has given feedback that the registration works well. We are on target.

We did get non-profit approval through Microsoft for the software. Everything with the changeover is in progress.

Next Meeting: December 10, 2019 at 7:00 PM at the Intergroup Office_

Intergroup Anniversary: Laura N./Dick W.

Anniversary will be held at Guy's on April 19, 11-3pm, 2020. \$15 per ticket.

Public Info/CPC: Laura N. – No report other budget money was spent on literature rack for use at community events. Also took literature out to court.

New Year's Eve Dance: Jesse J./Pete S. –

Planning moving along well. Colors are blue and silver. Prep for 250 people. Tickets available at Intergroup. Cost \$10. Will have estimate for count by 12/17. Did inventory of supplies from last year – looks good so we won't have to purchase a lot. We're going to have split the pot, money tree, donated baskets. Sign-up sheet available for volunteers. Unsold tickets should be returned to Intergroup by 12/23/19. Location: St. Sebastian's Hall. Cost is \$10.

Office Committee: Dick W.

Last meeting 12/4/19 at 3:00 p.m. Intergroup Office.

Committee discussed disposition of golf outing proceeds. Received projected cost estimate for ADA bathroom compliance. Itemized list on file. To widen the doorway, install new grab bars, ADA sink, and increase floor space slightly would be \$1,095. All labor and work to be done by members of our fellowship at no cost.

Outside light needs replaced also. Funds from golf outing would cover all these improvements. Approved by the Board. Question was raised as to why we are doing this since we are leasing the space. Dick reported we have not had any rent increases. We have a good relationship with the owner. Historically we have used the golf outing proceeds for office improvements as well as for the archives. Christmas bonuses for the office manager and employee were approved by the Board. Issue was raised about bricks falling off the building. Jim B. reported the city was taking pictures and it's actually the building next door. Will report back on progress.

Answering Service: Dan F. –

Office received 15 calls for meetings and 31 calls for other reasons. There was 1 12-Step call

12 Step Fund Drive: Jessie J. – Behind from last year, but last year we received a large donation. Without that we are a bit ahead. Donations are still coming in.

Treatment Facilities: Jerry C. –

- Community Assessment Treatment Services (CATS) - 18 bed men's residential treatment center in Wadsworth. We have been successful at providing them with volunteers to conduct a Saturday meeting. At the request of the Director, our committee prepared to bring an AA meeting into the facility on Thanksgiving Day. The day before, a plumbing emergency occurred, and they had to transport all residents to their Cleveland facility. They are repaired and back in operation.

- Root House – Ravenna. We continue to seek volunteers to conduct a weekday meeting at the request of the facility. Much positive feedback from the Director about their Sunday meeting.

- Arrangements have been made to hold a luncheon for Treatment facility Administrators from our 5 counties at Serenitie Restaurant in Medina on Friday, Feb 7th at 11:30 a.m. The program will be a PowerPoint presentation created by past chairperson Dee T. on what AA is and what it is not.

- We are scheduled to meet with Administrators of several area treatment facilities:

1) R.A.M.A.R., Akron, 2) Safe House, Norton, 3) Horizon House, Kent, 4) A New Day, Lodi

- We continue to seek used Grapevine magazines to take into the area treatment facilities. We encourage people to subscribe if you do not already. Once per year, please bring your magazines to the Intergroup Office and give to Greg or Cheryl.

Our next meeting is Wed., Dec. 18th at 7:00 p.m. Akron Intergroup Office. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

Group Services: Lynette J. – Last meeting 11/16/19, 11 am at intergroup office. We had 4 in attendance, and everyone agreed to take 3 meetings. Group Services is coming along. Lynette went to Cathy's House and stated she felt we need to change how we have them listed. It is not an AA meeting. Brought it up to the Board and Board stated well, they donated \$400. This is against our Tradition of being self-supporting. Will need further discussion.

Question was raised as to whether flyer about accessibility was distributed and chair responded affirmative, and that the office manager more people have responded to that flyer than anything else. Question was raised about whether Cathy's House is listed as an institution in our meeting schedule and Lynette reported yes.

Next meeting will be Nov. 16th.

Intergroup Picnic: Lynette J. – Picnic for 2020 is reserved at same location.

Next meeting: 12/21/19, 11:30 a.m. Intergroup Office.

Literature Committee: Vance S. –

Will start reviewing cost of literature. Will bring recommendations to next Board meeting.

Looking into Tradition of how much profit we can bring in from Lit. sales.

Next meeting 12/18/19 6pm at Intergroup Office.

Corrections: Michael B. –

Corrections Committee met November 16 at 10am at the intergroup office.

Discussed Corrections Workshop, budget and date.

Corrections Workshop will be held March 7 at the Pilgrim Church in Cuyahoga Falls.

Orienna House is still well the process is long for approval for volunteers.

SCJ meeting is great.

Need women volunteers for a few facilities.

Good and welfare:

*St Vincent's group is not meeting this Holiday season and are talking about closing their doors in January. If anyone is interested in keeping the meeting open, please see Joyce after the meeting. *Brenda W. celebrated 31 years on the 15th. *Keep Bill Elrod in our prayers

The Council meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Karen K., Board Secretary