

## **Akron Intergroup Council Meeting – March 6, 2022**

This hybrid Zoom/in-person meeting at Paradise Club was opened at 12:00 pm by Chairman Mike B.. Did a group check for quorum then opened with the responsibility statement and Serenity Prayer. Roll call was taken. A quorum was present.

**Groups in Attendance:** Akron General, Akron Men's Big Book Study, Carry This Message, Coffee Donuts and Discussion, Dry Peoples Wednesday Night, East Akron, Faith & Hope, Fairlawn, Golden Link, Hudson Terex PM, Hudson Tuesday Clockwatchers, Kenmore Group, Keep it Simple, King School Group #1, Medina 12 Step, Medina Tuesday Night, Mid Day Serenity, North Hill Men's Discussion, Northampton, , Saturday Night Lost and Found, St. Anthony's Womens Group, Sunday Night 12 and 12, Sons of Ebby, Tallmadge Heritage AA Group, The Turning Point, Thursday Night Freedom, Thursday Night Men's Nonsmoking, Thursday Closed Womens

**Chairman's Report:** Michael B.- Present-

No report.

**Secretary's Report:** Nikki M. – Present

The reading of the February's Secretary's Report was waived –  
Motion was made to accept  
Seconded  
Accepted by a unanimous vote

**Treasurer's Report:** Tim Q.- Present

Motion was made to accept February's Report  
Seconded  
Accepted by a unanimous vote

**Old Business:** Will be discussed with Ad Hoc Committee report in regard to the bylaws

**New Business:** Dave- asked Board members to hold back after the meeting

**Ad Hoc Committee-** Jeff C.- Present

Mike- we will open it for discussion do one at a time

Article one- Jeff- the first 2 are legal things that should have been in there the whole time for the nonprofit status

Q- is this absolutely necessary for our bylaws to put this in

A- Yes, they should be in every 501c3 legally

Joyce- We will be voting on this next month

Q- Jim- I make a motion to approve the wording of this to go out to the groups

Q- I don't believe what Joyce said was correct- we have to take this back to our group to discuss then bring it here

Q- You said this was put in by an attorney?

A- Yes, he is on the board, looked at it and saw it needed to be put in

Q- so we are not voting on this next month, we need a process to have this sent to the groups, then have a discussion next month, then vote on it after

A- So, this is going out and will be to the groups in the next few days- then groups will discuss it, then we will vote on it next month

Q- So we will vote on it in April

A- Yes

Q- When will we discuss it?

A- We can discuss it at the council meeting before the vote

Q- So can we send in any questions before the vote

A- From what I understand you discuss it then bring your group's vote to council

Joyce- It can always be postponed as well, we can't force you to vote, we work for you

Q- What did this look like before

A- It wasn't there

Q- So, we have been following it all along but never in the bylaws

A- 1 and 3 were never there but they always should have been

Article two-

Q- Can someone give the definition of indemnification

Joyce- that the board members will not be responsible for the decisions of the board

Mike- Because I sign the checks, I can't be held responsible, it gives us a little financial protection

Q- You can't be sued personally

Q- At one point, we had looked into getting the board bonded, or some of the members bonded, we turned down the bond because some of our members couldn't be bonded because of their felonies, on this insurance do we have to give the names of the board members and will a felony be an issue

Mike- This isn't the insurance; this is just something in our bylaws as an added protection

Q- So, this wouldn't exclude some members?

A- No, we were told this needs to be in there

Q- The Founder's Day treasurer needs to be bonded, will this replace it?

Q- No, from the time I was in insurance, this will not replace, it is just to protect them from being sued personally

Q- It is just to protect the board from being financially responsible for the decisions that are made

Tim- I will find out our coverage and bring it

Article three-

Mike- Bylaw change to give the archivist a vote

Q- I think it should have been a long time ago

Q- I went through the archives workbook and went through the guidelines and it very clearly defines the roles for the archivist's role, one area does say, who should be selected as an archivist, some are elected some are appointed, usually AA members, varies in the length of vote, if they can vote. We wouldn't be going against any guidelines but I wonder why, based on this description why they would be interested in the finances and running of the office etc.. their main job is to work, if they do get a vote it would need to follow the guidelines now, they would have to be voted in, for a length of time, they would only be able to be in for the most 5 years, that would defeat what is outlined in GS workbook and AA Guidelines- think it is a mistake to bring it up unless it a position looking to be an elected position with term limits

Bill- I called 6 intergroups to find out how their archivist works- no main policies some have 6 year term limits, some are for life, some can vote, and some cannot, this was brought up at the meeting last week- we can't ask NY as they will just say they will honor what we decide, there is no set policy

Mike- Jim why did you make this motion

Jim- Every entity in World Service depending on their responsibility of position should have a vote in what is going on, the treasury has to keep the treasury report and has a vote, the chairman doesn't have a vote unless there is a tie. There are varying decisions for the positions, They have a lot of responsibility- I always thought they should have a vote but I didn't want to ask until I was rotated out so it didn't seem like I was trying to ask for power for myself

Q- I took this back to the group and because they are not voted in and don't have a set term they have no accountability to the group,

Q- My thinking is just because they have the ability to vote doesn't mean he has to vote, he can abstain, correct?

A- Yes

Q- So if we vote this into approval, will this change the rotation of the archivist

A- That would bring up a whole new issue, if so, that would be another conversation we need to have

A- So, this is like a group or committee and they would be on the board and it would almost be like you have more of a say on the board than any other member because you are not voted in and other board members have 5 year terms, it would be better if they had a vote in council

Q- Why executive board instead of council

A- If they are given a vote at council then they can't be a homegroup rep- they can't vote for both

Q- I would be more likely to vote yes if it was a vote on council, if you are a board member you can't vote anyway

Q- If voted in, this person would have a permanent vote on board, at present we have 13 votes on executive board, if we add one vote, then we can have ties, how are we going to break ties

A- Then there would be 14 people the chairman only voted with a tie but now there wouldn't be able to be a tie, we also need to know who has a vote, is it just the offices or the entire executive board, members at large are not voting members, other boards I have talked to chairman had a vote, it is something we need to clear up in our laws

Q- Our executive board cannot vote as a member of council, area 54 rep cannot vote but we want a permanent vote

Q- This is supposed to be a God conscious; the archivist should have a voice as he sits through all the meetings

A- He does have a say, doesn't have a vote

Bill- we have been going over this for years about the chairman having a vote, we have not been able to find anything saying they should not have a vote, has just been tradition but we really need to look at this

Q- In looking at the Archivist workbook I do support and appreciate them but just because they are sitting in a meeting, then I think Founder's Day and treatment should also have a vote, I think we are opening up a can a worms especially since they are an appointed commission

Bill- treatment committee is a voting position, they are on the Board, the Founder's Day committee is appointed by the chairman-

Article four-

Q- The biggest thing was trying to identify cause, because we can't remove someone for breaking tradition- where do we draw the line to breaking tradition, people break tradition all the time of Facebook, do we remove them from every committee? This is where we are supposed to sit down and discuss. Really, this should never be used. It has to be there in the bylaws in case the chairman goes

crazy and starts spending all the money. This is not something that should be haphazardly used. It is something that should give us time to sit down and discuss it.

Q- Based on the bylaws this is just changing some of the wording- that whole part is new, identifying having some type of mediation process, and then changing from a 5 day process to a 14 day process.

Mike- what is being mailed out will have the old and new on there

Q- this is basically trying to put principles before personalities, giving a cooling off period

Q- Cause shall be limited to cause- should sobriety be put in there somewhere, I know we have sobriety requirements to get the position but to maintain sobriety?

A- That's a good point

Q- It does say board member, committee member, does that mean whole committees?

Q- How many whole committees go on a rampage

Q- Isn't that what happened last fall, I just wanted to put it in context.

### **Answering Service:** – Bill M- Present-

Total Calls:

Meetings:

Founders' Day:

12 Step Calls Office:

Bill- I want to ask people from Medina, Portage or Wayne county- Medina County put the word out we need heavier coverage for 12 step calls, especially in Portage, Wayne and Holmes, if you go out there, please put the word out

### **Group Services:** Dusty S. – Present –

Nothing to report for Group Services.

### **12 Step Fund Drive:** Joyce B. – Present-

The purpose of our committee is to get funds for Intergroup- we are planning a poker run, the flier has gone out next meeting March 19, 2022 at 9 am- we would like some input, there are ways to volunteer.

Q- Last year we had banquets and dinners by groups, Son of Ebby will be doing that soon, can do car washes, anything can be done to raise money,

Tim- that is really what got us through last year, groups doing what is needed to raise money to operate

Q- We are having Founder's Day but please do not get complacent that it will take the place, we are down in the prudent reserve, it will not replace that

Q- Where can we get more information about the baskets

A- You can get it from intergroup or bring it with you

Tim- intergroups all over don't have Founder's Day, they have to raise the money, if every group registered donated \$8 a week we could support- the worst that happens if we have a surplus is we donate to World Services and help more alcoholics

**Corrections:** Anthony B. -Present -

We have changed the time back to 10 am 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month, back to 10 am, pre-pandemic that is always how it was, we think maybe that is why lower numbers, going to be doing a corrections workshop, decided we are doing it but don't have a date

**New Year's Eve Dance:** Anthony B- Present

New Year's Eve dance no report.

**Treatment Facilities:** Melissa C- Present-

Committee Reports

Chairman Report: We received 4 phone calls from individuals wanting to be of service somehow to the treatment committee. I reached out and left voicemails informing them of the date and time we were meeting, only receiving 1 call back.

Summit County: Brightview and Northcoast Behavioral Health both received the literature we provided from our inventory.

Northcoast has a need for AA meetings and one of our committee members will be reaching out.

We are currently gathering information from ADM, St. Thomas, and IBH to find out about AA meetings and qualifications to bring meetings in so we can get facility coordinators in place.

Portage County: Recovery works detox is requesting literature on loan for clients to check out while in detox. We are providing them with 12 big books from our inventory. Horizon House still has a zoom meeting with AA women every other Thursday but still would like AA women to come in person also.

Medina County: Cathy's House currently has no meetings coming in. They are willing to give us tours of the facility.

Wayne County: No report

Holmes County: LightHouse women's facility has weekly meetings on Thursday and Path Way men's facility has weekly meetings on Sunday. Both facilities have 12 residents and both meetings are looking for help and requesting literature. We are providing pamphlets from our inventory.

Literature Report: We are continuing to watch our budget and still currently using literature from our previous inventory.

New Business: Committee reviewed our manual and structure and how we are supposed to follow it. Our main objective and current goal is to get facility coordinators in facilities where they are currently having AA members come in starting with ADM detox.

Next treatment committee meeting is Tuesday 3/29 at 6PM

**Office Committee:** – Melissa C- Present-

No report.

**Literature Committee:** Dave H- Present

This was just brought up- we are talking about raising the cost of literature, going into Founder's Day- we talked about raising pamphlet .25 per and books \$1.50 per- The IT needs to start programming registers and getting it ready to go but they delayed their meeting waiting for us. Coins are the same, but we are looking at everything else and we decided this is a safe place to stop losing money

Q- some are a quarter you will raise to .50? That makes no sense

Tim- The cost is through the roof- some of these we are selling for less than what we are paying

Bill- Cleveland has 2 pamphlets they had been giving to us- they sell for \$2-\$3 and their place wanted \$7 to print, so they gave it to us because we have a way to print

Q- Has the prices from World Service where we order our literature gone up?

A- We still need to look at it but

Tim- I don't have definite proof up our prices are cheaper than other intergroups, inflation is there and we haven't adjusted our price

Q- Do we have a Founder's Day stamp for literature?

A- No, we have Akron Intergroup

Q- can't we charge for that?

A- It is something we are looking at and- with \_\_\_\_\_

Motion made to extend meeting by 15 minutes

Seconded

Passed unanimously

B- Q- Do we need to vote on this it seems urgent?

C- Dave- that is why I asked Board members to hang back, this can go through the board

**Intergroup Picnic:** Dave H- Present

Sent a flier out.

**Public Info/CPC:** Doug M-Present-

Letters mailed out for CPC list for Portage County courts; as well as, Wayne and Medina County schools by Office volunteer. No response to date.

**Founders' Day:** Matt H- Present

Founders' Day registration opened March 1<sup>st</sup>. Off to a great start, up 117% compared to 2019. No new information on availability of the Stadium for the main meeting. University lifted the mask mandate on campus for the time being. Additional information will be shared as received.

Still don't know if we will have the stadium, when I know you will know, the cost is going up at Akron U.

Nikki- I was in NOLA for Mardi Gras- I announced Founder's Day, someone might be coming, don't forget to announce if you travel out of state out of country as people come from all over, give them the website all the information is on there and it is easy to register

Matt- Yes, all the hotels in the area are full that weekend, we have a speaker from Canada, they have people coming from there, the bus trips from previous years are all coming

**Archives:** Chris B. – Present

**Archives:** Chris Bryan – Present- The remodeling of the rear hallway display boards has begun. The goal is to have the display boards done by Founders' Day. John continues the scanning of our collection. The digitizing of our collection is ongoing as it continually expands. Last week there was a HA convention in Cleveland. We had approximately 50 people from the convention come and tour the archives. Archives currently has about 100 group histories on file. Out of these groups, 1 will be showcased on the main board in the lobby for a 3-month rotation. We encourage any homegroups that have not submitted a group history to please do so.

**Intergroup News:** Jack B - Present-

No report.

**Intergroup Anniversary:** Jack Beegle – Present-

We need gift baskets from local groups, any donations will be appreciated.

Went to Anniversary dinner in Youngstown and they had over 600 people gift baskets everywhere, spaghetti dinner for \$15, this year we are making about \$5 per head, only \$25 per, no deposit for 130, have 52, we could use some support, we made a little money last year, that is our goal, date April 24<sup>th</sup>- tickets on sale on line or at intergroup- can bring basket to the anniversary-

Tom got the gold outing out as well

**Information Tech:** Hugh M – Not Present-

Present- Date: 02/08/2022 6:00 pm Intergroup Office

Archives:

Akron AA Archivist Chris B. thanked the committee for quickly updating all of the Archives equipment and said everything is running smoothly.

Server:

Tim and Wes are looking into some error messages on our server that suggest updates are not always being downloaded. However, the issue does not seem to be causing any problems with the operations of our websites at this time.

Founders' Day:

The testing of the online registration system has been completed and everything appears to be in place for the March 1 opening. Founders' Day Committee members are proofing some information pages to be put online as well as the content for the confirmation letters we will be mailing out during registration.

The FD Committee has asked that a QR code be produced that will allow people on campus to scan and have access to an Akron U map. This will be produced shortly.

IT Committee members reviewed the technical specs of our server and determined that we are in a position to handle the expected registration traffic.

Daily backups of the site will be held throughout the registration period in case there are any unexpected issues with the website.

Next Meeting: 03/08/2022 6:00 pm Intergroup Office

**General Service:** Heather F– present

The 47th Annual Area 54 General Service Mini-Conference will be held in Westlake March 25-27th. Registration is \$30.00, we encourage all GSRs and other members of AA to attend because here we will be addressing the agenda items for the General Service Conference and bringing an informed conscience to our Delegate. We also spoke this month on the importance of a GSR and what a GSR does. If your group does not have a GSR that means you do not have a vote at the assembly or at the General Service Conference, and do not have any connection to the world of AA. The GSR is vital to a group to keep it connected as a whole and connected to GSO. (General Service Office)

Fliers on table for registration, \$30, suggest for all General Service Reps-

**Good and welfare:** -

Jeff- 15<sup>th</sup> of Feb 28 yrs

Motion to adjourn- seconded and passed unanimously

The Council meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted:

Nikki M., Board Secretary