

St. Louis Bi-State Intergroup Minutes

May 17, 2020, 1:30 p.m.

Open: The meeting was called to order by IG Chair, Dianne S. at 1:30 p.m.

Communications: Meeting was held via ZOOM due to Illinois and Missouri state-wide restrictions on large gatherings due to viral covid-19 pandemic precautions. Members were instructed on meeting ID and Password via email. Options for voting were supplied to members via ZOOM, text messaging, or email to vicechair@stlouisoa.org.

Readings: Serenity Prayer, The Twelve Steps, Traditions 4 and 5

Welcome: Twenty-six people were in attendance; all via ZOOM. Visitors to the meeting were noted as: Marysia H. from the Saturday morning meeting #07418 and Susan T. from Thursday morning #53332

Minutes: March 8, 2020 IG minutes were distributed via email for review prior to the meeting. No corrections were suggested. Minutes were accepted, as submitted, IG representative stated a motion to pass followed by a second.

Reports: Multiple reports were distributed via email for review prior to the meeting. One question from Susan T. to treasurer requesting final total on group contributions from 2020 Convention. Pat M. to review with bookkeeper to answer request. No other questions from representatives were voiced.

Seventh Tradition and Roll Call: Elizabeth C. and Christina D. documented and signed in by Vice-chair. Representatives were encouraged to be responsible to contribute for Seventh Tradition at <https://oaregion4.org/stlouisoa/contribute>

Old Business:

1. **March 2020 Motions and Proposals:** Two (2) proposed bylaw and policy/procedure changes remaining from March meeting that resulted from the passing of the motion to close the IG office/meeting space.
 - a. Dianne S. made a motion to table this discussion until the annual November Business Meeting as the changes does not warrant immediate action. Request for a second to the motion was requested and obtained. No discussion followed the motion. Voting on postponing the discussion was passed and these items will be noted for discussion at the November Business Meeting
2. **Survey Results for Communication Q1, Q2, and Q3.** Refer to <https://oaregion4.org/stlouisoa/oa-survey-results-multiple-reports> for details on individual questions.
 - a. Dianne S. held discussion reporting survey results for various avenues of communication within the bi-state area intergroup regarding newsletter, website, and printed materials called "newsletter packets."
 - i. Newsletter: Majority of members responded favorably to written edition of the monthly newsletter. It is highly rated as a recovery tool as well as serving a priority in recovery for members. Suggestions from members regarding content were mostly requesting articles of member stories on recovery, strength, and hope.
 - ii. Website: Majority of website users were in search of finding meetings or upcoming OA events. The website is moderately rated as an effective recovery tool. Suggestions from members were to continue to keep information updated to be of maximum use.
 - iii. Newsletter Packet: Clarification was made that this is the written copy of newsletters, revised where and when, current financials, and event flyers obtained by IG representative at monthly IG meetings or mailed to IG rep on months when IG does not meet or rep is not in attendance. Members reported event flyers and revised where and when sheets are of moderate use when shared at home meetings. Respondents preferred to continue printed distribution of the newsletter packet. The majority of members denied usefulness of obtaining financial reports from IG. The Board responded to this suggestion by discontinuing distribution of financial information.

New Business:

1. **OA Office (Physical Space):** Office is currently closed due to viral covid-19 pandemic "Stay at Home Order." Once the order is lifted, social distancing is impractical for group meetings due to the size limitations of the physical space. BOT recommendation is to continue keeping the office off limits to general members.
 - a. BOT has notified the leasing company that rental of the space by OA will terminate as of July 31, 2020.
 - b. Bookkeeper has transitioned to a home office.
 - c. P.O. Box has been purchased at the Afton post office. Mail forwarding and change of address will begin June 1, 2020.
 - d. Purchase of cell phone to receive calls from prospective members in search of program/meeting information, ASAP. Hopes are to transfer the office phone number to this cell phone, eliminating a change of phone number on the website.
 - e. Terminate Charter/Spectrum phone and internet services by June 15, 2020.
 - f. Obtain centrally located storage facility for records, supplies, literature, etc. by June 30, 2020
 - g. Arrange appointment times for members/groups to obtain their personal/group materials before July 31, 2020
 - h. Encourage members who have made personal donations to the office décor to contact Dianne S. to arrange pick up.
 - i. Encourage groups to ask for volunteers willing to work individually in the office to move supplies, literature, etc. to storage unit. BOT will establish a schedule.
 - j. All items left in the office by July 31, 2020 will be donated.
2. **Board of Trustees Secretary:** Susan T. has submitted application for review by the Board and representatives for consideration of this opening. Application was forwarded to all members for review prior to this meeting. Floor was opened to questions. Elizabeth C. inquired about her personal abstinence and understanding of the BOT workings and position requirements. Susan confirmed she meets the abstinence requirement as well as knowledge of the Board workings. Susan understands the job description requires proof reading and editorial suggestions of the monthly newsletter. She voiced her concern this is not a strong asset of hers and requested someone with more skills to perform this task. J-MO responded she is willing to do this service on-going and will work with the newsletter editor on a monthly basis. Voting was conducted. Susan T. is the secretary for BOT.
3. **Endorsement for General Service Trustee** at World Service Organization: Cyndy L. expressed desire to serve at WSO to fill a vacancy on the board. To do so, she needs the endorsement of her local intergroup. Two-thirds majority of the voting body is required to move forward with her application. Voting was conducted. Cyndy L. will proceed in the process of pursuing work as a general service trustee. Dianne S. will sign application for Cyndy to submit.

Work Groups:

1. **Public Information-Social Media:** Melanie T, PI Chair, discussed the BOT determination to postpone/cancel purchase of a billboard promoting OA locally. Factors considered were the economic issues surrounding the viral covid-19 pandemic, cancellation of the 2020 Convention fundraising event, and preservation of monies. Melanie proposed moving toward social media as a useful resource to reach younger persons suffering in our disease.
 - a. Jennifer L. has volunteered as helping Melanie T. with ongoing projects
 - b. First priority will be to establish an Internal Facebook page. Request to all representatives to ask individual group members if they are interested in submitting their personal email address to Melanie T. or Jennifer L for communication.
 - i. Several service positions will be needed to initiate/maintain a Facebook page. Melanie and Jennifer will develop number of moderators and guidelines to follow. Their main focus will be to keep the environment safe to share information and develop relationships with other OA's within the bi-state area.

- ii. Volunteers to assist with the social media platform were Margaret M and Brigid W. Contact information was shared.
- c. **Possible YouTube clips:** Melanie asking to locate members with YouTube platform experience
- d. **On-Line Blog:** Melanie asking to locate members with blogging experience
- e. **Possibility of using Twitter and Instagram** as a platform to reach younger persons in the disease of food obsessions.
- f. **Possibility of creating new podcasts** to post on the local OA website

General Announcements:

1. Considerations for November 2020 business meeting. Seeking nominations for Board openings:
 - a. Vice-Chair
 - b. Treasurer
 - c. Public Information Chair
2. Contact Jeanine M. at 314-631-5023 for information about assisting a member seeking transportation in the Wentzville area to attend local meetings.
3. Next OA Event is Super Friday ZOOM Meeting on May 22, 2020 "Lighting the Way" 6:30-8:30 p.m. hosted by Thursday morning St. Charles Group

The meeting adjourned at 2:56 p.m. with the OA Promise

Next Intergroup Meeting

Sunday June 14, 2020 1:30 p.m.

Platform will likely be via ZOOM. Communications to follow.