

## St. Louis Bi-State Intergroup Minutes

January 10, 2021, 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.

**Readings:** Serenity Prayer, The Twelve Steps, Tradition 1, Concept 1

**Welcome:** 23 members total were in attendance; all via ZOOM. Six BOT members, two committee chairs, one WSO delegate, 13 IG representatives and one visitor.

**Minutes:** November 8, 2020 IG minutes were distributed via email for review prior to the meeting. Minutes were accepted as submitted.

**Reports:** Chairperson and committee reports were distributed via email for review prior to the meeting. WSO delegate, Christina D. added information to her submitted report regarding the completion of committee work on sponsorship. J-MO offered verbal report as newsletter chair. Written report was submitted and distributed to all IG reps during the meeting to be passed along to group members. Melanie T gave verbal report later in meeting while discussing Public Information Summary. Written reports were obtained and distributed to all IG reps after the meeting. Reps strongly encouraged to share public information updates with their groups. No further questions/comments were posed from representatives regarding reports.

**Seventh Tradition and Roll Call:** Participants were documented and signed in by Operations Administrator. Representatives were encouraged to be responsible to contribute for Seventh Tradition at <https://oaregion4.org/stlouisoa/contribute>. Encouragement to continue the positive trend in donations.

**New Business:**

**Introduction of 2021 Officers, Chairpersons, WSO Delegate, and Region Representatives:**

Dianne introduced all existing and new service persons. Each person gave a brief overview of their duties and responsibilities to the St. Louis Bi-State Area Intergroup.

**Financial Overview:**

2020 financial standing reports were distributed prior to the meeting as well as the approved 2021 budget. Dianne gave an overview of income and expenditures comparing previous year to the budgeted amounts for 2021. 2020 resulted in a positive financial balance of approximately \$1,200. Dianne explained the areas of finance to members as such:

- Assets are comprised of money (checking account, savings/prudent reserve, We Care funds) and literature stock.
- Income results from donations (from both individuals and groups) and events (convention, retreat, super Saturdays).
- Expenses are incurred from operating expenses such as the following:
  - Communications (cell phone and Zoom accounts)
  - Insurance (liability coverage for events as well as for BOT)
  - Business Operations
    - Professional Fees (web consultant and bookkeeper)
    - 12-Step Work (expenses for convention, retreats, public information)
  - Travel (Region and World service reps as well as any expense related to our IG hosting the Fall R4 Assembly)
  - 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition (contributions to WSO and R4)

Dianne clarified one question about the meaning of COGS standing for Cost of Goods Sold which is the cost of literature purchased along with the shipping fees.

### **Public Information Summary:**

PI Chair, Melanie T. updated the body on the progress on workgroups for growing OA in our area

- Social Media: Platforms for Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram have been established. Currently using memes to post 7-9 messages for different topics. Currently posting topics related to 12 Steps. Other topics to follow will include OA tools and OA slogans.
  - Requesting ideas from members on other ideas to create future posts
  - Direct ideas, questions to Jennifer L at 314-229-2118
  - This workgroup is planning outreach calls to groups to discuss questions about using the various platforms
- Area Billboard: Reported success in completing this project. Billboard artwork was distributed to all members. Billboard will stay visible for three months. Location is I-44 and Big Bend corridor
  - Special thanks to member Nancy M. for assisting on this project
- Newcomer Welcoming/Preparations: Melanie enforced the importance of always qualifying your status and recovery in meetings. Encouraged all members to include information about their physical, spiritual, and emotional recovery to give hope to others attending the meeting.
  - Currently seeking volunteers to form an Ad Hoc Committee for Welcoming Newcomers into program using the WSO publication for Temporary Sponsors: Newcomers' First Twelve Days
    - Preferring members that attended the Temporary Sponsor Workshop from November 2021
    - Members will possibly hold "mini workshop" with individual group meetings, if the group desires
    - Members will perform outreach calls to groups to discuss questions about being a temporary sponsor/using the WSO publication
    - Members interested in this service are to contact Melanie T. at 314-226-8686 or at [piofficer@stlouisoa.org](mailto:piofficer@stlouisoa.org)
- Proposal for New Sign-In Attendance Sheet: Melanie requested to hold a group conscience to determine if the group is willing to use a universal sign-in sheet for attendance. The sheet was distributed to all members to discuss with their groups. A universal sign-in sheet will help the PI committee track sources for OA referrals from newcomers, help track and communicate with members dropping out of meetings/attendance, and help follow up communication with newcomers.
- Acknowledgement and thanks given to Eileen M for serving to contact various standard media such as print, television, and radio to determine availability of anonymously sharing OA program availability in the area.
- Potential outreach opportunities in the future include forming a committee to connect with health professionals. Contact Melanie T with interest in serving.

### **Service Volunteers Needed:**

Dianne S. reviewed with all representatives the critical need for members to serve IG in the following ways:

- Monitor and answer calls on the Intergroup phone line. Service is for 3 months, having possession of the IG cell phone. Cyndy L gave her account of finishing this service for the past 3 months. Cyndy reporting instructions for use and procedure to follow on getting a call are included with the cell phone. Instructions are easy to follow. She reported answering about 3-4 calls per month. Mostly people called to find meetings to attend. Persons interested in this service are to contact Elizabeth C at [officeadministrator@stlouisoa.org](mailto:officeadministrator@stlouisoa.org).
- 2021 Recovery Events-Dianne stressed past chairs and BOT members are willing to assist and mentor through the process of organizing events. 2020 history shows virtual events are well attended by OAs outside our Bi-state area. Recovery events are lacking for 2021 and in need of immediate attention from all groups/members.
  - Groups willing to host virtual monthly Super Saturday/Sunday/Evening events

- Convention Chair for virtual Spring event
- Retreat Chair for Fall event
  - A retreat center in Belleville, IL has been secured for Late September 2021 for an in-person event. At this date, the Center has not asked for a deposit to hold the reservation.
  - The body was asked to for feedback on everyone's comfort level in holding an in-person event
  - Brief discussion among members resulted in the representatives would like to take the question back to the groups for their input on holding an in-person event.
  - Question will be discussed further and voted on in February once group members are consulted.

**Workgroup:**

Christina D. announced the Clayton Early Bird M-W-F Meeting will host a virtual recovery event on World Unity Day, February 28, 2021. More details will follow.

Christina led a discussion on seeking three different themes for a panel discussion regarding Diversity and Unity within OA. Brainstorming among members resulted in themes of:

- Diversity of the disease
- Spirituality
- Principles before personalities

Christina requested all members to consider members in and outside the bi-state area that may be interested in serving as a panelist on any of the topics for the event. Requested to contact members of the Clayton meetings with suggestions at: Christina D 314-954-1944, Della T at 314-580-4881, or Eileen M at 314-570-9333. Phone numbers made available to attending members via chat function.

**Group Announcement:**

The Ferguson Tuesday 6 pm meeting is in need of support. Dianne S. encouraged members to join the meeting to encourage them from their low attendance. A correction to the passcode on the distributed Meeting List was noted. The correct passcode is 897720 and will be corrected on the next updated meeting list

The meeting adjourned at 3:18 p.m. with the OA Promise

**Next Intergroup Meeting**

**Sunday, February 14, 2021 1:30 p.m.**

**Platform via ZOOM. Communications to follow.**