

St. Louis Bi-State Intergroup Minutes

February 14, 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 2, Concept 2

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

Minutes: January 10, 2021 IG minutes were distributed via email for review prior to the meeting. Two corrections to be made: Billboard will be displayed for two months as purchased rather than three months as stated incorrectly in minutes. Correction to email address for Elizabeth C, Operations Administrator on page 2. Minutes were approved with the corrections as mentioned previously.

Reports: Chairperson and committee reports were distributed via email for review prior to the meeting. No further additions offered to submitted reports except as those listed below:

- Elizabeth C offered additional changes to the Bi-State Meetings List for the “Office” meeting 10 am on Saturdays. Login change to 899 392 4934 and Password 121212. Office group member, Pat O, requested to add call in phone number for this meeting of (312) 626-6799 for those without computers/tablets. Updates will be made to the formal meeting list.
- Pat O offered addition to the Newsletter Report regarding all Traditions articles should be sent to her at osheabp@sbcglobal.net

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 [Products Page – Overeaters Anonymous – St. Louis \(stlouisoa.org\)](#). Encouragement to continue the positive trend in donations.

New Business:

- **World Service Business Conference Motions:**
 - Voting body was determined by Elizabeth C to be at 22 then increased to 23 as additional representative joined the meeting. This count did not include the visitors to the meeting. Reminder to all voting members that no person shall have more than one vote if serving to represent more than one service position. Voting was completed via Zoom functions of raised hands, text messaging to Chair, and visual count of raised hands for members present. A member was established to serve as parliamentarian, a member established to count votes, and a timekeeper for the discussions was established.
 - Representatives were asked for questions or concerns for motions in listed Groups 1, 2, 3, and 4
 - Comments from members were addressed and clarified before proceeding with vote to accept groups as prepared by WSBC delegates
 - One IG member requested to have Motion B pulled from consent in Group 3. Motion B was pulled from consent and moved to Group 4 which all will be discussed prior to voting.
 - Motions listed in Group 1 were agreed upon by the IG body to be voted on as a unit. At this time, voting body was confirmed at 22 members and vote was unanimous to submit items to WSO as worthy of discussion at the Conference. Motions in this grouping were D, G, I, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, and 17

- Motions listed in Group 2 were agreed upon by the IG body to be voted on as a unit. At this time, voting body was confirmed at 22 members and vote was unanimous to submit items to WSO as worthy of discussion at the Conference. Motions in this grouping were A, E, and 2.
 - Motions listed in Group 3 were agreed upon by the IG body to be voted on as a unit (with the exception of item B-which was pulled from consent agenda and moved to discussion). At this time, voting body was confirmed at 23 members and vote was unanimous to recommend the items were not worthy of discussion at the Conference. Motions in this grouping were C, F, H, 1, 3, and 9.
 - Motions in group 4 were 13, 14, and B. Each motion was discussed following parliamentary proceedings regarding comments three (3) each for Pro (to submit to WSO for discussion) and three (3) each for Con (to not proceed with discussion at WSO). Comments were limited to time restriction. The voting body was confirmed at 23 members. After discussion was heard, voting proceeded for motions 13 and 14 to be discussed at WSBC. After discussion, voting proceeded for motion B to not move forward for discussion at WSBC.
- See Addendum A for specific motions
- See Addendum B for comments offered from members that will be submitted to WSO
- Delegates will submit Questionnaire Summary and Comments to WSO as directed by Conference
- **Where and When/Virtual Meeting List/WSO Meeting Information**
 - Elizabeth C led the discussion in regards to merging current meeting documents of our local information of Where and When and the Virtual Meeting List. The updated all-inclusive document will be distributed to groups and available on our website once completed.
 - Representatives were asked to inquire with all groups if any new group information submitted to Elizabeth C if she should update the WSO information as well. Representatives should be prepared to answer this inquiry at the March IG meeting.
- **2021 Annual Convention**
 - Co-Chair Nomination Application
 - Nominations for AmyJo and Connie H were distributed prior to this meeting date. However, Bylaws require nominations must be submitted to IG representatives for review at least 15 days prior to the vote. Nominations were submitted after the 15-day deadline. Chair asked representatives to waive requirement in the essence of being able to move forward with convention preparations instead of waiting to vote on co-chair positions until the March IG meeting. No objection for this request was voiced and the vote proceeded based on the nomination applications submitted and questions from representatives in attendance.
 - AmyJo confirmed as co-chair
 - Connie H confirmed as co-chair
 - Virtual Event hosted by Webster Groves 10 am Saturday Step Study Meeting
 - May 15, 2021

Old Business:

- **2021 Bylaws and Policy/Procedure Manual**
 - Dianne reported all representatives will receive an electronic version once complete.
 - Manuals will also be posted on our local website.
- **2021 Fall Retreat**
 - Discussion on offering an in-person versus a virtual Retreat for Fall 2021. The reserved Retreat venue has contacted Cyndy L regarding confirmation of the reservation and will be requiring a non-refundable deposit to secure the reservation.
 - The majority of representatives voted for a virtual event. However, discussion was brought forward regarding a hybrid event utilizing both virtual and in person options. Many representatives voiced agreement with a hybrid event as an option. Cyndy L agreed to contact the venue to determine if they

would agree to postponing the deposit payment until after the March IG meeting. If this is not agreeable with the venue, a hybrid event will not be an option. She will also discuss additional charges from the venue regarding virtual broadcasting of the event to registered members not physically on location. Representatives will discuss their groups' interest in members registering for a hybrid event to get an idea if attendance would be in great enough demand to support the cost of holding an in-person event with a virtual option. Representatives are to be prepared to discuss their groups' opinions at the March IG meeting.

- Dianne S. stressed the importance of securing an individual(s) or group willing to be Chair of the Fall retreat. Representatives were highly encouraged to discuss this need within their groups.
- **Newcomer/Billboard Project**
 - Dianne S requested feedback from groups regarding the origin of newcomers attending meetings. Feedback is needed to determine the effectiveness of the billboard project. She suggested to groups to possibly change meeting format to include inquiry with newcomers about how they heard about OA and specifically if they saw the billboard display.

Review: What needs to be announced in home meetings?

- M,W,F Clayton Early Bird meetings are hosting Unity Day Super Sunday, February 28
- Sunday 10:45 am meeting will not be on-line February 28 so members can attend the Unity Day Event
- Newsletter committee needs articles for upcoming issues. Please ask group members to submit articles
- Ask newcomers how they found OA
- Inquire with group if they would like IG to update WSO meeting changes as they occur
- Inquire with group regarding interest in a hybrid Fall Retreat
- Ask members and/or group willingness to chair the Fall Retreat
- Relapse from recovery group is forming. Group will follow the Slipping and Sliding format from WSO. Interested members should contact Melanie T at mdwt5691@gmail.com

The meeting adjourned at 3:12 p.m. with the OA Promise

Next Intergroup Meeting

Sunday, March 12, 2021 1:30 p.m.

Platform via ZOOM. Communications to follow.

ADDENDUM A

The World Service Business Conference (WSBC) delegates, Christina, Pat and Cyndy, discussed the policy and bylaw amendment motions that have been submitted for the 2021 Agenda and recommend the following for your consideration. Please reference the Agenda Questionnaire document that is a part of this mailing for more information. Review the complete versions of the policy motions (<https://oa.org/app/uploads/2021/01/new-business-motions-21.pdf>) or the bylaws amendments (<https://oa.org/app/uploads/2021/01/bylaw-amendments-21.pdf>) on oa.org.

Recommend the first list be sent to WSBC for consideration with no discussion by the Intergroup as they are housekeeping motions that are needed to bring the policies and bylaws into current practice. Or, there are motions the delegates believe need to be considered as they were on the 2020 agenda, but not actioned because the 2020 WSBC was unable to meet. If you want to discuss not sending one of these motions forward, ask that it be pulled from this list.

D. Clarify the event weekend in situations where the first of the month falls on a Sunday.

G. Change the name of the Young Persons Committee to Young Peoples Committee

I. Define Hybrid Group

4. Update the section to use current language to define region boundaries.

5. Remove unneeded language.

6. Allow for virtual WSBC conference as needed.

7. Clarify that the selection of region delegates is made by the regions.

8. Restructuring of the Board of Trustees

10. Revise trustee nomination process with restructuring.

11. Consolidate the three sections of the bylaws that cover the existing service structure and further clarify the Language Service Boards definition.

12. Define how a hybrid group is to be registered.

15. Clarify the representation at WSBC to ensure no groups are represented twice.

16. Add another type of Service Board called Special Focus.

17. Further refine the section on composition of Special Focus Service Boards

Recommend these three items go forward but thought the IR's might want to discuss.

A. Rescind the 2019 definition on Abstinence and Recover and return to previous version.

E. To further update the Preamble making it more general and encompassing of all types of eating behaviors.

2. Set lifetime limits on Trustee service.

Recommend these seven items not go to WSBC but want to confirm that IR's agree.

B. Restrict the ability to change the definition of abstinence and recovery to every 10 years.

C. Reword the wording of the current definitions of Recovery to "improve" the language.

F. Establish a redundant policy that duplicates existing practice in the Conference Literature Committee guidelines.

H. Change the language of the Unity with Diversity Policy

1. Change the process on when the Trustees can vote.
3. Stipulate region residency for a Trustee.
9. Change the qualifications for a Trustee to include service at the region level.

No recommendation, looking for feedback.

13 – Remove the gender reference in the Steps.

14 – Remove the gender reference in the Traditions

ADDENDUM B

IG WSO #: 09029

St. Louis Bi-State Intergroup

Christina Dougherty, World Delegate

Comments to be shared with World OA:

B. (restricting consideration of a vote for a decade)

Pro: Limit will ensure we do not keep changing fundamental issues. It is not a good use of time.

Pro: Issues must be settled so as to ensure continuity of basics

Con: Restricting a decade of group conscience and a decade of our OA fellows' voices is detrimental and contrary to our Principles and Traditions. Trusting that decisions can be rethought is part of our fundamental faith—the outcome is not ours to ensure. The process must always be thoughtful and open.

13/14 (Gender Identity)

Pro: OA becomes all people's idea of h.p. and all people of any identified gender identity. This allows us to become more inclusive.

Pro: Listening to arguments and discussion is positive. The reason to include this is not to decide whether it is passed or not but to encourage open discussion and thought on this important issue.

Pro: Allowing discussion also allows for the World body to amend, accept, change or decide against a motion. That process is organic and not just a yes or no.

Con: We may engage copyright restrictions if we change Invitation to You.

Con: It would be prohibitively costly to reprint editions of nearly all our literature should the changes be approved