

## St. Louis Bi-State Intergroup Minutes

March 15, 2021, 1:30 p.m.

**Open:** The meeting was called to order by IG Chair, Dianne S. at 1:31 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 3, Concept 3

**Welcome:** 19 members in total were in attendance; all via ZOOM. Five BOT members (PI Trustee unable to attend), two committee chairs, one WSO delegate, eight IG representatives, three visitors including Region 4 Trustee and Region 4 Chair.

**Minutes:** February 14, 2021 IG minutes were distributed via email for review prior to the meeting. One correction noted to be changed was the date of the next IG meeting to March 15, 2021. Minutes were approved with this correction.

**Reports:** Chairperson and committee reports were distributed via email for review prior to the meeting.

IG Operations Administrator, Elizabeth C noted the newly formatted and **revised Where and When Meeting List** will be redistributed due the addition of new and updated information. Representatives were strongly urged to review their groups' information listed in the new format. Elizabeth will make the necessary corrections by end of day March 15 and sent for redistribution. All changes are to be directed to [officeadministrator@stlouisoa.org](mailto:officeadministrator@stlouisoa.org) ASAP.

Representative from the **2021 Convention Committee** reported the committee is proceeding with outlining details. Convention is scheduled via Zoom for May 15, 2021. Three out of town keynote speakers are arranged, as well as breakout sessions featuring special topics and step-study. Registration now available on-line. Paper registration can be mailed to members if requested. We Care Funds are available through IG Treasurer. Committee is currently recruiting local speakers for the breakout sessions. Representatives were asked to inquire with groups for those interested in volunteering as speakers. Abstinence requirement for speaking is 60-days. Please contact Jane F with speaker questions/inquiries at [janeetting@yahoo.com](mailto:janeetting@yahoo.com) or 314-580-4881.

**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.

### Old Business:

- **2021 Bylaws and Policy/Procedure Manual**
  - Delay in getting the updated manual out due to signature sheet issues. Plan to have resolved before next IG meeting.
  - Dianne reported all representatives will receive an electronic version once complete.
  - Manuals will also be posted on our local website.
- **2021 Fall Retreat**
  - Follow up from last month discussion regarding members' preferences for in person, virtual, or hybrid event. Several representatives voiced their groups' response to the type of event. Vote was taken for in person event with the result of four persons in favor of. 11 persons voted to hold a virtual event. IG will pursue a Virtual Fall Retreat.
  - 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.

- A member suggested to distribute retreat chair duties to all group members to inform every one of the requirements and expectations for this service position. The job description will need updated temporarily to apply to a virtual event.
- **WSO Update for Group Information**
  - Elizabeth C noted responses from representatives with regard to updating the WSO website group meeting information. Representatives are encouraged to contact Elizabeth C if their group prefers the Operations Administrator to make updates as they are received locally.

### **New Business:**

- Dianne S led conversation regarding feedback from representatives about methods used to track how newcomers are learning about OA as well as encouraging the newcomer to return.
  - Group offers to mail Where Do I Start? pamphlet to the newcomer.
  - Private communication via chat to exchange contact information.
  - Group adding line to the leader format including asking the newcomer to introduce themselves and how they found out about OA. IG rep will report this information back to Dianne S.
  - Literature chair offered to meet newcomers with the Where Do I Start? pamphlet if groups contact her and newcomer is open to meeting
- Dianne expressed the importance of tracking the newcomer information for determining the effectiveness of the billboard campaign. Billboard will remain in the current I-44 corridor location through April.

### **Workgroup:**

#### **How Will Meetings/Groups transition back face to face and continue benefits of Zoom**

- Meetings are encouraged to hold individual group conscience to determine what is best for each group, keeping with Tradition 4 regarding group autonomy.
- Concerns expressed about groups remaining virtual because of the St. Louis Bi-State Intergroup was formed based on in-person meetings.
- Can the St. Louis Bi-State Intergroup continue to support virtual meetings, or should those meetings switch affiliation to the Virtual Intergroup and have the specific needs of virtual meetings addressed under the existing virtual IG?
- Input was received from Region 4 Trustee and Chair.
  - Region 4 will serve as a resource in the matter of resuming face to face meetings, keeping our IG informed of other Intergroups' resolution or suggestions
  - Concern was brought forward regarding possible financial implication of an intergroup supporting multiple formats within the same intergroup. (i.e., can this intergroup support sending representatives from out of state or another country to Region 4 or WSO events if they are chosen to represent the IG)
  - All St. Louis Bi-State OA members are actual members of our Intergroup, not just the BOT and group representatives. Every member of our meetings deserves to be heard in this matter.
- Attendees were encouraged to discuss this within each group for further consideration at the May Intergroup Meeting

### **Region 4 Update** (By Meg M-Region 4 Trustee)

- Encourage attendance to Region 4 Assembly April 2-3, 2021. Information at: [2021 Spring Assembly – OA Region 4](#)
- Currently outlining workshops for Instructions on Forming Committees by Chairpersons
- Service in recovery is not optional
- Region 4 in need of filling a board position of secretary. All qualified persons are encouraged to reach out to Mary C, Region 4 Chair at [chair@oaregion4.org](mailto:chair@oaregion4.org).

**Review: What needs to be announced in home meetings?**

- Track newcomer information on finding out about OA/meeting. Report information back to [chair@stlouisoa.org](mailto:chair@stlouisoa.org)
- Super Sunday Recovery Event: April 25, 3-5 pm via Zoom
- Newsletter committee seeking articles for upcoming editions. Contact Editor at [newsletter@stlouisoa.org](mailto:newsletter@stlouisoa.org)
- Recruit speakers for the Convention. Contact Jane F at [janeetting@yahoo.com](mailto:janeetting@yahoo.com)
- St. Louis Bi-State Annual Convention: May 15, 2021, 9 am-5:30 pm

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m. with the OA Promise

**Next Intergroup Meeting**

**Sunday, May 16, 2021 1:30 p.m.**

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