

Minutes of the MWI Business Meeting

January 2019

In attendance were Sue M, Recording Secretary; Blair P, Chair; Nate, Vice-Chair; Nancy G.P., Corresponding Secretary (via FaceTime); Rachel S, Treasurer; Bob K from the Sunday Jamaica Plain meeting; Howard M from the Monday Brookline Men's Focus meeting; Jen B, Terri O from the Tuesday Newton Big Book Step Study.

Blair opened the meeting at 9:11 am. with the Serenity Prayer and an introduction of those present, the purpose of our meeting, and its etiquette. Terri O read the 12 Steps, Jen B read the 12 Traditions, and Howard M read the Concept of the Month.

Bob K and Terri O volunteered to review the Minutes.

Treasurer's Report

Rachel S said there was nothing in particular of note except that expenses this month are higher than usual to cover some yearly expenses.

Old/Ongoing Business

- Budget:
2019 projected expenses are greater than projected income, but there is currently enough in the bank account to cover the deficit. It was noted that we have never spent as much as we budget to spend, and the budget is meant to be a goal of how much is spent. We have new web and social media expenses (which are bringing in newcomers). Discussion took place to remove the \$2600 in "WSBC Reserve" from the Prudent Reserves category in the Treasurer's Report, as Conference expenses are now an item in the budget. Bob made a motion to remove the \$2600 WSBC Reserve from the Prudent Reserves; motion passed. That item in the Treasurer's Report will be deleted so that the new Prudent Reserve will be \$600 and the \$2600 will be absorbed as part of the working balance. Possible liability insurance for officers could be a future expense; however, Blair reported that so far what she has learned from the state indicates that officers would not be personally liable but she has further inquiries to make. Question arose if spending down our savings to balance the budget is sustainable, if all items in the budget for this year will be ongoing for every year. General discussion about areas in the budget where expenses could be cut. Nancy will look in to using Google Voice to replace existing answering service. Current payments to Tom will be discontinued. Future web/social media costs will only be about \$200. No more Branding expenses. Bob K moved, Terri O seconded, to approve the 2019 budget as amended and it passed unanimously.

- MWI Web and Social Media report from Nancy:
Expense of \$75 for security certificate for the website will be paid back to Nancy. Metrics show new people are coming to the site and mostly looking for meetings, at which point they are redirected to oa.org. Reps are encouraged to ask at meetings if newcomers are using the website to find the meeting. She will send out another Blast this week; email her if there is anything to include (retreat, craft workshop, 15-week workshop). She discussed with Nate how to make website "sticky," meaning to get people to come back to interact more with the website. She wants any suggestions for items to include on the web site. She, Nate, and Tom discussed necessity for having a paid person in overall charge of the technical aspects of the website (webmaster). Nancy and Nate see no need to have

professional webmaster at this time as they can cover anything that Tom does now. Nate made a motion, seconded by Bob, to terminate Tom's contract 30 days from now; motion passed. Nate will email him and send letter by mail.

- Group Contributions to MWI:
Rachel S handed out reports listing each group's 2018 contributions highlighting those groups that did not contribute at all. Some groups may be inactive. There are more groups not contributing than are contributing. Rachel asked for volunteers to call contact people for the groups and find out status of the meeting. Bob, Jen, Sue, Blair, and Terri volunteered to make calls to all groups for two purposes: to see if the meeting is still active, and to ask if they want to send a rep to intergroup meeting. Sue will write draft of a script and send to others. Blair will divvy up the list with calling assignments. Script will include thanking groups that do contribute, asking if they get the Blast, asking what Intergroup can do for them, and getting an email address to forward them an email with the information imparted in the phone call. Try reaching the group several times. If no answer, a personal visit will be necessary.

New Business

- Strategic Planning: tabled until next month due to time constraint.
- 15-week workshop:
Jen and Lisa D will put on a workshop on the steps, using the script provided by WSO. January 24 – May 9, Thursdays 7-8:30am, Eliot church in Newton Corner, 474 Centre St. January 24 is the introductory session. It is a closed workshop with a limited number of participants. No new members after Jan 24 with the only requirement to attend all the sessions. Cost will be \$200 to cover rent. Participants bring their own copies of literature. Jen asked for an advance to cover rent, and permission to conduct 7th Tradition contributions to cover incidental costs. Motion made by Bob to advance \$200 to workshop, allow the workshop to submit invoices for copying costs up to \$100, and let workshop have 7th tradition collections. Passed unanimously.
- Craft event:
Blair and Lisa D will host an event for members to gather and do crafts with other OAers. February 23, 9:30 to 11, in NWH Cafeteria, 2nd floor, rear room.
- Retreat:
Blair will send email to Margaret Ann asking about the facility availability and date. We need co-chairs, flyers and info in a Blast ASAP. Ask at meetings for volunteer co-chairs.

Summary of Announcements for IG Reps

15-week workshop

Craft event

Retreat—need cochairs. News will be forthcoming.

Remind meeting members to take a look at MWI website and provide feedback.

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 am. with Rozanne's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Sue Mascioli, Recording Secretary