

# OA NYC Metro Intergroup Meeting | November 12, 2015

## Meeting Minutes

Meeting is called to order at 6:48pm, and we begin with the serenity prayer. The chair reads the 11th tradition. Reps go around the room and introduce themselves.

Present: 19 voting members, 4 board members. A quorum is present! We can conduct business.

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### Pending Business

#### a) Update on info for alternative meeting location

Barbara explains that the group considered the possibility for low IG attendance could be due to our location. There was a motion for an ad hoc committee to do some research to see if there were some alternative locations. Erin speaks for the committee.

We currently pay \$48/hr.

- Pearl Studios on 500 8th Ave bet 35&36. \$75-\$79/hr. Rooms fit 50-100. Are available. Will take recurring bookings. But they're pricey.
- Hudson Guild: really accessible, only available after 7:30, so we'd need to change the day/time of our meeting. Less than \$10/hr.

Erin reads out a few more spaces that were NOT available for various reasons. Some aren't available on Thursdays, others not available past 7, others don't take advance bookings or can't promise us space on a regular basis.

The group discusses whether we must meet on Thursday. We ponder whether it might be possible to change the day of the week to get into Hudson Guild or another space. We don't vote, but the room seems receptive to the idea of meeting on a different day.

Barbara sums up the info as: lots of work/research has been done. Nothing currently meets our budget.

Marcia points out that we could do more work if we had more people helping do the research.

Devyn moves that we table the issue till next month. Room votes in the affirmative. If anyone would like to help to continue the work, please email Marcia or Erin at [vicechair@oanyc.org](mailto:vicechair@oanyc.org), or [treasurer@oanyc.org](mailto:treasurer@oanyc.org).

#### b) Region 6 Assembly Reports

Barbara explains that NYC is part of Region 6, and that we have a twice-yearly meeting with our region. Because NYC has over 100 meetings, we're entitled to send 11 reps, and this year, we sent 8. Barbara explains that she asked our 8 reps to each prepare a written or oral report. She went on to say that the real meat of what happens at this Assembly happens in committees, and

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she asked our reps to focus on this committee work in their report. Barbara asks for a timekeeper to keep each rep to 5 min on their report.

Andrea begins. Barbara follows. Then Jeff. Followed by Adam. Then Scott.

**--- From Andrea F. ---**

I attended the Fall Assembly and was assigned to the PI/PO Committee (Public Information/Professional Outreach.) We are now at the Radisson Hotel in Albany Colonie, N.Y. Elections were held for the R6 Board. Chair Diana G. rotated out of service.

The new Region Chair is Debbie H. from Nassau County Intergroup. Reelected officers are: Coordinator is Mary T. and Webmaster is George H.

Diana G was affirmed by the Region for GST (General Services Trustee.) She will appear at the WSBC in 2016 for the election. GST's are only elected at the WSBC. Elections were held for the WSBC Bylaws Reference sub-committee members to represent our Region. R6 now has 2 members plus 2 alternates who will serve at Conference.

There was a motion on the floor to hold the 2017 R6 Convention in Toronto, Canada, and the Assembly voted in favor of it.

### **PI/PO Committee**

Chuck F. from Toronto stepped down as chair of the PI/PO (Public Information/Professional Outreach) Committee to take over 2017 R6 Convention matters.

I sat on the PI/PO Committee, and we will have a workshop at the R6 Convention in Hartford. June volunteered to order 100 copies of the "*Courier*" and "*Introducing OA to Health Care Professionals*," for the workshop, but Trustee Karin H. said that the region would pay for them, and we would not have to deduct from our budget.

Our new Committee Chair is Mike C from Westchester United Intergroup. The R6 PI/PO Blitz application form has been revised and is a lot easier to fill out. We are looking forward to having a PI/PO page on the R6 website.

We will be looking into our Policies and Procedures to see if the PI Blitz is listed. If it is not, we will submit a motion to the Spring 2016 Assembly.

**--- From Barbara S. ---**

I attended the Fall Assembly and was assigned to the IGOR Committee (Intergroup Outreach.)

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### **IGOR Committee**

I sat on the IGOR (Intergroup Outreach) Committee. Our new Committee Chair is Don C from Westchester United Intergroup and I was selected as the Committee Secretary. Our primary mission is to complete the R6 Intergroup Handbook. The other major charge we have is to determine whether there is interest among the IGs in the region to have several area workshops focusing on Intergroup Renewal Training.

The committee will schedule regular teleconferences throughout the year in support of these continuing projects.

**--- From Jeff S. ---**

On Saturday, October 3 I attended the Region 6 Assembly on Wolf's Road in Albany, New York. The Assembly convened at 9:00 with an orientation meeting for newcomers which was immediately followed by a general meeting at which Diana, the Chair introduced the Board and then sent all to their respective voluntary committee meetings.

The real work of the Assembly is performed by the various committees.

I served on the By-Laws Committee. We discussed the fact that the By-Laws, as well as the Policies and Procedures, were pretty much up-to-date and satisfactory but that new policies were required for the management of the Intergroup Scholarship Fund. I agreed to draft a motion for consideration by the next Assembly. That motion is under current consideration by the Committee and is expected to be on the agenda at the Spring, 2016 Assembly.

After a lovely abstinent lunch the Assembly reconvened in a general meeting and conducted its business.

I consider region assembly a service which helps my recovery in many ways. It strengthens my connection to Program, allows me to meet and interact with members with long-term recovery from many different environments in the U.S. and Canada.

I strongly recommend this service to all.

Yours in service,  
Jeff S.

**-- From Scott --**

Scott was on the convention committee for the first time. There won't be a convention next year, because of the World Service convention in Boston in 2016. So they're focused on planning for 2017.

**-- From Adam --**

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Adam was on the web and publications committee. Just as we put out metro memo, the region puts out The Messenger. It has all the notes from the Assembly as well as articles about Assembly, and advertises different conventions and OA events going on.

It has to be in English and French, because our region includes Quebec. Adam explains that the newsletter software is hard to work with. The committee has a new rep, and she explained that they're getting new software, so that putting this document out will be easier next time. From now on, everything will be put into articles online, readable/printable—more like a website. They'll be using Wordpress.

The content should be through the proofreading phase by Jan, and online by Feb.

### **c) Jeff's Motion Re: The Recording Secretary's Role in our Bylaws Doc**

As the bylaws chair, Jeff explains the motion: typically, to change bylaws, we need to make the change, post online for 30 days, and then vote. This is just a policy change, so it's a simpler procedure.

The job of recording secretary has changed a bit over time. The old way had the minutes published, read at the beginning of the following IG meeting, discussed, and approved. Now, anyone can download the agenda beforehand, or review minutes from last time, before the meeting. In an effort to save meeting time. We've already been doing it this way without approval or a vote. This is the process catching up with our existing procedure.

Lauren points out that she sends the minutes to the board for approval. Jeff explains that that doesn't need to be highlighted in the Policies & Procedures.

Rita asks if what's posted online is a draft. Jeff explains that everything is a draft.

There are several who speak both for and against the motion.

Lauren opposes the motion on the basis that handling any minutes conflict via email, outside of the IG room, will help to streamline the meeting. Devyn adds that he can create a simple form for people to use, if they have issues with the minutes, so that concerns can be raised easily via the web.

Andrea opposes the motion, because she's concerned that if people can access everything online, it disincentivizes folks to come to IG at all.

A new IG member asks if we can print meeting minutes, and the room explains that we're trying to get away from just that. He makes the point that folks who were not here last time cannot vote without knowing what went on.

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Rita encourages the room to speak up. She asks the room, "What do we want this meeting to be? What do we want to get done here?" The implication of her question was, do we want to spend our time reviewing meeting minutes? Or do we want to support our OA community?

Jeff reminds the group that this adjustment to the motion simply mirrors what's already being done.

Lauren says that's not entirely true. For the past three IG meetings, there's been no in-meeting approval of the minutes. This motion brings it back.

After lengthy debate, the motion passes. Which means the current process functions like so:

- Lauren takes meeting minutes, edits the doc, and sends it to the board for approval
- Once approved, Lauren sends the doc to Devyn to post on the website. At that point, anyone can view the document.
- In our IG meeting, each month, the chair will poll the room to approve the prior month's minutes, which will *not* be printed.

### **d) World Service Conference**

Registration is due by 2/22.

Barbara explains that delegates are sent to WSO from each Intergroup all over the world. We've voted, in this intergroup, to fund 2 delegates to attend in 2016. They are Andrea and Marcia. The WSO business conference requires a registration fee, and our IG has to pay their registration fee up front. Those payments aren't due till 2/22. So we can discuss it another time.

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## **New Business #1**

### **Lauren Proposes Forming an Intergroup Outreach Committee**

Lauren explains that she'd like to do some discovery, first, to see why people aren't coming to Intergroup; and then follow that data with action suggestions, to fix whatever the problems might be.

Barbara explains that a Board meeting has been called, and one of the things on that agenda is this very thing.

Elizabeth and Melissa both want to express their support for the idea. Melissa asks if we can get it moving in a hurry to possibly get the data ready in time for the board meeting. Kate would also like to be part of the committee. Devyn would also like to participate with a specific focus on anonymity and keeping the traditions alive in the work.

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### New Business #2

Rita was asked by someone at a meeting if they could create a flyer for their meeting, to promote attendance, and post it at their venue. She wasn't sure if we're allowed to do that.

Devyn answers: Yes! folks can totally promote their own meetings. They can even get permission to use the OA logo by contacting WSO.

### New Business #3

Gwen mentions that texting is really distracting in meetings. Is there anything that we can do about that?

Barbara answers: each meeting is autonomous.

Marcia adds: Maybe bring it up at your business meeting.

Rita adds: Gwen might bring it up as a privacy issue, to add gravity to her argument, if/when she brings it up.

## Committee Reports

### Chair's Report:

I have sent out an email to members of the Board and to Committee Chairs and Trustees to set up a Board meeting before the end of the year so we can strategize about 2016 IG programs.

In October, after the R6 Assembly, I was contacted by the Chair of the R6 IGOR Committee re: our interest in an Intergroup Renewal Training workshop for R6 Intergroup Officers. I responded to his questionnaire and also will bring up the issue during our upcoming Board meeting. Recently, I have been contacted by a NJ fellow who wants to rent room in Brooklyn or Manhattan. She is currently abstinent and prefers to find a space with someone who is also in program rather than taking her chances with a service like Craig's List. She is requesting any information we might have about such an option and I will provide her name & phone number to anyone who might have a viable suggestion for her.

### Vice Chair's Report / Marcia:

I gave the Newcomer Intergroup Representative orientation to 8 new reps. There were 13 in total, some arrived after we completed orientation.

As Vice Chair I oversee the IG committees and last month I checked in on the Retreat Committee with regards to progress on the upcoming retreat and I helped out with details of the last upcoming step workshops and the Thanksgiving Day Marathon.

### Treasury/Finance Report / Erin:

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Reads from her printed report.

### **Corresponding Sec'y / Rita:**

Oct 2015 IG meeting attendance: 13 new IG Reps, 26 attendees, 5 board members  
Google Voice volunteers for Nov: Lauren and Ellen. Thank you Patrice for covering Oct.  
Region 6 convention basket donation: thank you to (3) individuals and (3) OA groups that contributed to creating the basket – it was lovely!

Deanna and Melissa volunteer to cover Google Voice in December.

**A few pieces of mail:** one about a new phone meeting, articles needed for a new publication on the topic of body image. Rita will send this info out in her email.

### **Archives Committee / Adam**

Adam is a committee of 1 right now. What this committee does is move lots of paper stuff to digital. The next meeting will be at the Gigi cafe on B'way bet 72 & 71 near Trader Joe's, at 6:30 on the first Thursday in December. If you know anyone who might be interested in helping out, have them shoot him an email.

Barbara reminds the group that if we meet in restaurants, we need to buy something so it's not considered a "donation" by the space.

### **By-Laws Committee / Jeff**

Reports only on what we did at the beginning of the meeting, in our procedures conversation.

**Outreach Committee / Marcia:** nothing to report

### **Publications Committee / Ansley**

New meeting lists are available. On the back, the recording secretary is listed as vacant. Lauren will email Ansley to update that.

### **Retreat Committee / Elizabeth**

Retreat registration opens tomorrow!

For singles and doubles, we're going to raise the cost \$5. This was based on an analysis of the costs for the retreat. The first 50 attendees are where we pay the majority of the bills. So, up to that point we could lose money or break even. Beyond that, we're cash positive! So, we raised the singles and doubles per person.

As a committee, they would love to target 75 retreat attendees. This would make retreat history! The first 50 are easy gets. If half of those 50 can convince just 1 other person to go, we'll make money for Intergroup.

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We need champions to talk it up.

Sexy marketing highlight: It's 3 days where you probably can't hurt yourself with food. 3 days where you can support yourself and support others. Also, close friends are made at retreats, no matter what the theme is, or what the agenda is.

Rita asks: What might be new about this retreat, or different from other retreats? If past people didn't enjoy, what might make them go this time?

Elizabeth answers: If people don't want to go, they're probably not going to be convinced. Maybe try speaking with someone else!

Marcia: suggests that people who have been on the retreats, and really like it, can evangelize.

Devyn announces that registration live here and now!

Andrea has been encouraged in the past to send articles to metro memo promoting the retreat. She adds that it's a spiritual weekend that can either keep you very busy or very relaxed. There's loads of fellowship and fun.

Kate volunteers as a retreat evangelist, and says it's the best thing she's ever done in program.

### **Special Events Committee / Ellen standing in for Sandra**

Step workshop on October 19<sup>th</sup>: collection was \$223

Taxi receipt - Pick OA WRCF: \$22.49

Taxi receipt - Pick up speaker: \$14.04

Step workshop on Nov 8: collection was \$163

**12th Step Within Committee / Ellen:** Hi gang. I had to run to my concert, so I missed anything that came after. If anything important happened, can you help me fill in here? Thanks!

### **Web Committee / Devyn**

OANYC.org had 2573 visits by 1663 unique visitors for the month of October and a total of 5238 pages were viewed during this period. The percentage of new visitors was 47% with the remaining 53% being return visitors. On average, each visitor was on the site for 2 minutes and 4 seconds. Overall visitor numbers were consistent with same month in the previous year.

The next web committee meeting is planned for 6:30pm, Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, at the David Rubenstein Atrium at Lincoln Center (Broadway btwn 62<sup>nd</sup> and 63<sup>rd</sup>).

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Meeting closes at 8:35 with the serenity prayer.