



Meeting Minutes

February 14, 2009

Present: Miller – Chairperson
Ashley – Vice Chair
Ellen – Treasurer
Pamela – Secretary
Mary – Rainbow Newsletter/Webmaster
Jody – Meeting Liaison
Robin – Thursday PM Rep
Tawna – Friday AM Meeting Rep
Curtis – Monday AM Meeting Rep
John – Monday PM Meeting Rep
Kathy – Tuesday PM Meeting Rep
Sharon – Standing in for Kim, the new Saturday AM Meeting Rep
Lillian

Absent: Christy – Special Events
Jacob – Public Information
12th Step Within Needs Rep
World Service Needs Rep
Alice – Sunday PM Meeting Rep

Meeting opened at 9:15 am with the Serenity Prayer

Read 12 Traditions

Read 12 Concepts

Pamela read the minutes for the January 10th meeting. Revisions were offered and accepted.

Board Reports:

Chair – Miller announced that she had no report.

Vice Chair – Ashley said she was not sure when her commitment is up; she'll be moving out of state at the end of May and will maintain her position through April.

Treasurer – Ellen gave the January financial report. Opening balance as of January 1, 2009 was \$2,838.88. Income was \$210.12. Phone expenses were \$25.42; leaving a closing balance on January 31, 2009 of \$2,885.15.



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Ellen presented mail:

1. World Service Representative Package.
2. World Service Conference Packages (2).
3. Announcement about new medallions to be presented for birthdays @ \$2.00 ea.
4. A new brochure called "Give as if your life depended on it."
5. Information about the last OA Census, reflecting a 54,000 worldwide membership, 41,460 of whom are in the U.S., the rest, 12,560, from the rest of the world. Nine member average per meeting. OA wants to increase membership 20% by 2013.
6. Unity Day in Roseville on the 28th of February.
7. Unity Day in San Francisco on the 28th of February.
8. Meeting inventory materials.

Secretary – Pam had no report.

Day in OA – Christy was absent. On her behalf, Ellen asked for names of people to help Christy to set up the March event. Miller agreed to do set up and Mary agreed to do take down.

Region 2 – Robin reported that she's met with Kim, who gave her a rundown and asked if Robin needs financial assistance to attend the Region 2 event in June. Robin plans to drive down, instead of flying. The hotel room is \$99. Kim had told her about the different committees; Kim was on the Young People's Committee. Others include the 12 Steps Within, ByLaws, Diversity, Intergroup, and Outreach. Kim will send Robin information about the motions that she'll vote on and the amount of the outreach scholarship that's made available to Region 2 reps from Mexico, Hawaii and Northern Nevada. Robin will attend an Intergroup the week before she leaves for Albuquerque and plans to discuss the motions with the group beforehand. She also wanted the group to know that she could have a guest with her for the trip and would enjoy the company, but she will not be driving back at the end of the conference.

Meeting Liaison – Jody announced that she had checked the main OA Web site and found that the meeting change from Wednesday to Thursday night was there. She asked for more to do as the Meeting Liaison.

Rainbow/WebMistress – Mary said she didn't have a lot to say. The meeting on Wednesday had been changed to Thursday. She is sending out emails once a month with such changes. She asked for suggestions and newsletter ideas. The approved minutes go into the Web site. She asked where the bylaws were that Miller had agreed to type up. Someone (Sharon) said the Secretary should have them. Pam said she would look for them in the Secretary's folder. Mary learned that more Rainbows were needed.



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Public Information – Jacob was absent.

Group Rep Meeting Status Reports:

Monday 9:30 am – Curtis said the meeting is smaller lately, about 3-5 people; it used to be 12. Maybe it was the holidays and ski weekends, etc. It is still a good meeting.

Monday 6:00 pm – John said that the meeting was prospering; huge.

Tuesday 7:15 pm – Kathy said that the group was looking for a secretary; it'll happen. The meeting is stable and a good size.

Thursday 7:30 pm – Robin said that Thursday's meeting is great; each week they hustle to get more chairs (with John's help) The group was 10-12; now it's about 18. It's gotten quite exciting. There's enough room for everyone. Moving the group to Thursday made it much better with the noise levels; now it's much quieter. Parking isn't a problem. Thursday is a good night for people to come to the meeting as well.

Friday 9:30 am – Tawna said that Friday is full and has newcomers.

Saturday 10:45 am – Sharon (standing in for Kim, the new Saturday rep) said that Saturday had gotten huge. Several members from there wanted to know about the crosstalk reading from Intergroup; that meetings were supposed to be autonomous. It was explained that it was up to the individual groups whether to use the crosstalk reading or not; that it was meant as a suggestion.

Sunday 6:00 pm – There being no Sunday rep present, Ashley said there have been 10-12 people and it was growing in last few weeks, but suddenly it had become small with 5 people. The group needs a Secretary; there wasn't a secretary the previous week.

Retreat Liaison Report – Ellen said that the fliers were going out this month to promote the retreat in October. Neither Curtis, nor Jacob have spoken about the men's event. Curtis said they'd probably go to a baseball game or something. Curtis said he'd talk with Jacob about it. Mary asked why the retreat was a women's only event. Ellen explained the development of the women's retreat into a women only event. Last year's retreat was larger than ever before. That may or may not have been because it was just for women. There is a men's event in Santa Cruz; the men should check the date to see if it's the same weekend.

World Service – this position is still open. The convention is the first week in May. The deadline for sending a participant has passed. World Service had sent out proposals from Intergroups and World Service for discussion to determine if the assorted issues deserved discussion. The requirements to be the World Service Rep are service above the meeting level and 1-2 years abstinence. Ellen offered to read these in the time allotted for



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New Business.

12th Step Within – Jacob had stepped out of that role since he and Maureen had done quite a lot recently and it was felt that it could go for a while before more needed to be done.

Old Business

The issue of waving abstinence requirements in individual meetings (the concept of principles before personalities) was on the agenda for discussion. Ashley apologized for not researching it. Suggested opening it for discussion about the 12th Tradition – principles before personalities. Should it be applied when no one has abstinence requirements and someone steps up without them and the group waives the requirements for the position? When someone has said they want the position, is the group voting for that person/ality? How can we follow the principle before personalities in that instance?

Sharon stated that it's the Fourth Tradition about each group having autonomy that rules and that the groups should decide individually. Ashley had brought it up because Intergroup is the place to talk about common issues, such as this one about principles before personalities.

Robin clarified that it occurs when no one is stepping up for a position. So, it's about the position, not the personality. In Robin's case, she offered to be Region 2 Rep because no one else stepped up and because she would have been here a year by May.

Kathy said that it's about progress, not perfection; that absolute precision is not necessary and that it should be fairly close. It's a way to come together and talk. Groups decide what to do with it individually. Each person defines their own abstinence; some people don't have abstinence.

Sharon said that Intergroup exists only to do the business of OA and that the health of the groups should not be discussed by Intergroup. Robin said that recommendations are made and that groups may choose or not to adopt them. Sharon said it is a Tradition 4 issue. John said that the Intergroup isn't here to "help" other meetings; that 12th Step Within works at the group level.

Mary said that the group does ask for Intergroup's help. Ashley said that it's about Principles and Tradition issue awareness. Miller said it was about waiving the abstinence requirements. Kathy said it also applies to abstinence in our actions. It's isn't just a food thing. The group needs to be able to meet and discuss these issues. We all want the meetings to be vibrant and alive.

Sharon said that Intergroup is strictly a service body; that's the way we're organized. Kathy said that Intergroup



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assists in all things – little things being a part. A meeting can go away. We have to be able to step up to the plate. We muddle through and that's the beauty of it. Ashley referred to the Sunday meeting – having no secretary, it should probably make an announcement first. Pam talked about the possibility that principles were being degraded when they are not observed. Curtis said that getting the abstinence to be of service was something he wanted and he likes holding the line and being responsible.

Ellen reviewed the new business motions and bylaw motions and the group agreed that all of them deserved discussion. One of them was the consideration of a new definition of abstinence.

Discussion of the DoubleTree Hotel issues was tabled for the next meeting.

Next meeting is March 14, 2009 at 9:15 am

Meeting was adjourned at 10:30 with Rosanne's prayer.