

MINUTES

SARA-MANA INTERGROUP MEETING

November 16, 2021 at 7 PM

Central Office & Zoom

[Zoom ID: 733 4126 4918 PW: 912785]

- Call the Meeting to Order: by Matt
 - Moment of Silence Followed by the Serenity Prayer: Matt
 - 12 Traditions: Lori
 - Welcome and Introduction of New Intergroup Reps: David, Happy Cookie Hour; Jay, Speakeasy; Robert, Singleness of Purpose; and Sully, YPG
 - A quorum was established. 23 members present
- Reports
 - Chair Report: Matt welcomed new representatives and thanked everyone for increased attendance. He thanked Ross, Gary, and Todd for their work as members of the Finance Committee.
 - Alternate (Co-) Chair Report: Paul shared that he was honored to be voted as Alt Chair/Co-Chair.
 - Secretary Report: Melissa shared the minutes were dispersed and asked if there were any questions or a motion to approve. Lori motioned to accept. Lisa seconded. All approved
 - Treasurer's Report: Per Matt, Craig was unable to attend. No report.
 - Committee Reports
 - Helpline: Greg – Need for women to volunteer with 12-step calls for women. Plenty of men have volunteered. Training for the helpline will place in November with video to be posted on Intergroup's website. Jay asked what the cost is for the H&I – Bridging the Gap and other support provided through the helpline. Melissa reported \$74.21 per month, a major reduction in costs with the transition to Ring Central.

- Finance Committee Chair Report: Ross – Finance Committee met last Friday. New member, Gary, suggested that the prudent reserve was too high and the Gratitude Dinner budgeted amount was too low. Prudent reserve was lowered from \$6,500 to \$4,500. Gratitude Dinner budget was increased by \$2,000.
- As things get ironed out with the Helpline, sub-category line items will be adjusted.
- Thanked Craig for improvements to the financial reports, who was not present for the meeting, and Gary for reviewing the 12-tab spreadsheet and fixed errors in formulas.
- Intergroup is financially sound due to group contributions.
- The Finance Committee reported that Intergroup has a large year-end divestiture and want to contribute Big Books, 12 & 12's, Grapevine, and other AA-materials to local to H&I (hospitals and institutions) groups, rather than AA World Service in New York. The topic was tabled until representatives could discuss at the group level and vote. Please bring your group's vote and ideas to the next Intergroup meeting on January 18, 2022. Matt assured the group that there was time to make this decision, that it did not need to be made before the end of the year. Don suggested Intergroup make this decision in September in the future. Matt was in favor and said it could be added into the Bylaws.
- A motion was made by Gary to hire a paid accountant to review the best option of Intergroup registered as a 501C4 (current status) or 501C3. CS&L was suggested as the best non-profit CPA firm representative either in or outside of the motion. Todd seconded. After questions the majority voted to approve.
- Ross reviewed the still unresolved IRS Civil Penalty matter. IRS penalized Intergroup for not filing a form (that was filed). The Finance Committee sent a letter to the IRS as follow-up indicating that the form had been

filed. IRS has not replied and been unreachable by phone. Jay offered to contact the IRS. The Finance Committee agreed to allow him to do so.

- Virtual basket options were reviewed by the committee. Intergroup is working with Central Office on an ad hoc committee to explore which is the best digital platform, as well as contribution buttons on the Intergroup website.
 - Bylaw updates are underway including new term election periods with two officer positions voted on one year and the two other positions voted on the next year to pass the baton to new officers and provide institutional knowledge and connectivity.
 - Where & When: Samantha – No report
 - Newsletter: Matt (for Christine) – The newsletter will be late due to a member’s family emergency.
- Central Office Report: Greg – Next meeting is Thursday, November 18, 2021. Central Office has a surplus, and as a result, there will not be a fund drive for one year.
 - General Service District 4 Report: Matt – Meeting was last Saturday, November 13, 2021. Next assembly is scheduled for January 14 to 16, 2022, at the Hyatt.
 - Current Practices: No representative, no report
- Old Business: None
 - New Business: Matt – There will not be an Intergroup meeting in December. Dusty raised concerns about elected Intergroup officers handling issues behind-the-scenes and not bring forward to group conscious. Matt reviewed the history of COVID-period, sparsely attended meetings and the matters that had to be handled. Matt assured the group that banking and incorporation matters were handled according to transparency and group conscience standards noted in the bylaws. He was concerned that Intergroup meetings were becoming repetitive and unproductive as the topic has been covered repeatedly in the last several meetings. He reminded the group that a

historical document was created, based on minutes and member experiences, to reassure members about processes during COVID. Melissa said she would once again share the history report created to resolve any transparency issues along with the minutes in the next email for everyone to read and review. Melissa requested that everyone please read the minutes and report attachments and to share those documents with their groups, so that we can move into new business for future meetings and not have long, over-extended meetings reviewing matters already resolved.

- Motion to close made by Robert. Jon seconded. All were in favor. Meeting Closure with the Responsibility “Prayer”. Next meeting January 18, 2022.