

Intergroup Representative (IR) Meeting Draft Minutes

April 26, 2016

6:30 PM Soldiers & Sailors Club

283 Lexington Ave, 2nd Floor, South Lounge

IG Board Present – Dolly, Roger, Rebecca, Elizabeth, Ellen, Jude, Jasmina

IG Board Absent – Michael C.

The meeting opened at 6:31 with the Serenity Prayer. Having a quorum, we proceeded.

CAL Reading – Concept Two from *Reaching for Personal Freedom*

ACTION:

The January 2016 IR Meeting Minutes were accepted with one correction and one abstention.

Introductions:

- The IRs introduced themselves and identified their home meetings.
- The Board of Trustees introduced themselves and identified their home meetings.

Elections:

Dolly and Ellen were up for re-election to the board and offered the following blurbs:

- *Dolly has been a grateful member of Al-Anon for nine years. She attends her home group “Topic and Steps” at 7 West 55th Street weekly. She has held all the service positions at the group level and has been on the Intergroup Board of Trustees since 2013. While on the board, she has served as Secretary and is currently serving as the Board Chair Person. The opportunity for her to deepen her recovery continues each day that she is on the Board sharing and exploring new things with other Board members and the IRs. Her passion has been and continues to be outreach and she has enjoyed attending many varied events as the outreach liaison. She has several sponsees and two service sponsors as well as a program sponsor.*
- *Ellen entered the rooms of Al-Anon to learn about alcoholism over 25 years ago and has been a grateful member since. She has done service in the rooms as chair, literature service and treasurer. She has also been an IR. When asked to join the board 3 years*

ago, she saw an opportunity for growth. Never having served on any board, she was starting to think about retirement and how important service was to her. It has been a privilege and huge learning experience to work on this board. My focus has been on literature as customer service along with office volunteers. With board duties, she spends 3 hours a week at the office answering phones. Most calls come from newcomers under a lot of fear and stress, looking for their 1st meeting. She is always grateful to share the hand of Al-Anon.

ACTION:

- The IRs voted to re-elect Dolly and Ellen with one abstention.

Reports

Administrative Report (DH)

- We had a shortfall last year and our office manager Nancy moved upstate. So we formed a subcommittee and created a **new office manager position** that covers both the management of the office and the sale of literature. This will save us some money. We have hired a new person. Her name is Sara. Our treasurer, Jude, has been working with her and highly recommends her.
- We sent an email blast out to the IRs asking for a donation of a **conference call speaker system** to allow people to phone in to meetings and participate remotely. We got an offer of a 50% matching grant toward the \$500 system. We are asking the IRs to go back to their groups and help us raise \$250 in earmarked donations. This will be a one-time purchase - the conference call number is free. If we can raise the money, IRs from all over 5 boroughs will be able to call in and participate in our quarterly meetings.
- We have a **new and improved IR sign-in sheet** to help us track participation. We will also have a sign-in monitor at every IR meeting.
- We facilitated **outreach** for the AA SENY event by consigning literature. We sold \$107 in books. We also participated at the EACYPAANYC event by consigning literature and staffing a literature table. We sold approx. \$146 in books.
- **Call forwarding**: we are going to do a mini trial-run with board members to test the idea and see if there is sufficient participation to warrant expansion.

Treasury Report (JG)

- We are in the black and have caught up on our bills.

New Business

April Fund Raiser (DH)

- Following up on our announcement in January of bi-annual fund raising appeals, we are planning on holding appeals in April and in November.
- The April fundraiser is for a literature fund. This will allow us to have a fully stocked inventory. We also hope to give away newcomer packs to new meetings. (see attached letter)

Old Business

Literature sales report/ideal inventory (EG)

Our Literature Liaison Ellen went through all the books and created a “schedule to buy” so that the office knows when to replace diminishing stocks of books. At present, we have a reduced inventory which holds up sales. This is why we are focusing our April fundraising appeal on creating a literature fund – so that we will have sufficient funds to be able to have enough stock on hand. We invite you to visit the office and check out the literature.

Column: Look for it and Contribute (EP)

Please visit the website and read our column, *Al-Anon Works*. This year we are focusing on the traditions in tandem with the new tradition workshop meeting every Wednesday night at the Intergroup office at 6 pm. Every month will bring a new tradition. The column includes shares from members so please email your thoughts on Tradition Five for the May column to nycalanoncolumn@gmail.com.

Open House at the IG office (DH)

- The dates for the Open Houses are: May 4th 4 to 6pm and May 7th 12-2pm
- Please help spread the word and come to the open house. This is open to all members.

7th Tradition Collection

New Business

Board Recommendation to the IRs on Literature Prices

- The Board recommended keeping literature prices the same for the time being.
- In January it was a year since we brought the new price increase onboard following an 18 month period of research, discussion and a vote by the IRs. John W did research to determine what it cost to be a self sustaining LDC. His conclusion was that we would have to raise the prices 60%. Instead we asked for a slight increase to help buffer the cost. We are trying to make changes – with our office structure, our buying structure, our

new staff – so we want to keep the prices the same while we are fundraising and making changes.

- There was some discussion about prices. Some meetings are struggling and can't afford the new prices. We also need to reach out to more meetings and get their input. Literature is critical to recovery so we need to keep the prices as low as possible.

Action: IR Vote on literature prices

- A motion was put forward to keep the prices the same until January 2017. During discussion, the idea was raised to table the vote until the July meeting so as to be able to inform meetings more fully and to assess the impact of the April fundraising drive. The motion to keep the prices the same until January 2017 was withdrawn in favor of a motion to table the vote until the July meeting. The vote was 19 for, 7 against with 2 abstentions.
- The motion to table the vote until the July IR meeting passed.

Summer Fellowship Event (MC)

Tabled due to Michael C's absence.

Topic: Outreach... Take 2!

Let's share ideas on how to get the word out! Intergroup is here for all the meetings. How can we reach them? Will you volunteer to go to a meeting and spread the word?

The following members reported on outreach:

- Jasmina visited the Greenpoint meeting Wed at 6 in Bklyn. They voted to send an IR.
- Cassie visited the Williamsburg 4pm Sat meeting. One person spoke about the possibility of becoming an IR.
- Fred visited several meetings in Brooklyn.
- Wendy visited three meetings in Inwood.
- Elizabeth visited the Sun 4 pm meeting at Holy Name on the Upper West Side and asked the meeting to elect an IR.

Announcements

- Sign up for the Discovery Conference on July 8th at the Ryebrook Hilton.

- AA Manhattan Share A Day – Sunday May 1 at 525 W50th St.. There will be 4 Al-Anon meetings.

We closed with the Serenity Prayer at 7:57.

Next IR Meeting: Tuesday, July 26, 2016 at 6:30PM

Dates for the 2016 Meetings:

October 25, 2016