

September 13, 2017

Midshore Intergroup Meeting

Our meeting opened at the Church of the Brethren in Easton, Maryland, at 6:30 pm with the Serenity Prayer. The Chairperson, Andy M. began the meeting with a Chairpersons report, (attached).

The first item to be offered for the Intergroup members was the announcement that the former Secretary, Amy C. has stepped down due to health reasons. Sadly, no meeting minutes were prepared during her brief tenure, July and August, so Jennifer B. has agreed to stand in for the September meeting and a new Secretary will be sought at the earliest possible opportunity.

The next item raised by the Chairperson was the purchase of a printer for the Intergroup office. This item had been discussed and approved at previous meetings and purchase was completed in August. It is an HP LaserJet Pro, with color, legal sized and double-sided copies capabilities which will meet the needs of the Midshore Intergroup sufficiently. Andy also mentioned that he test-ran 20 copies of our "Where and Whens" and the job took less than 5 minutes.

Item No. 3 was the office computer which has been updated – simply removing old files and setting up an Administrator/Guest Access setting on the system, so that visitors and volunteers may have full use of the system, without compromising the security of the system.

Item 4 of the Chairpersons Report was the Vacant Office Management Committee Chair position. Andy has asked all attendees to actively seek a suitable candidate for consideration and possible nomination by the October meeting.

The 5th item raised by the Chairperson was the donation of a realtor's lockbox for the Intergroup office door. The combination to this key receptacle will be made available on an as needed basis to the appropriate persons with an eye towards security and anonymity.

Item 6 was a large literature order was delivered and will be in place for distribution to homegroups and committee chairs by Friday, Sept. 15.

Item 7 – The Chairperson met with the new Activities Chair Teresa K. and committee member Ralph to discuss ideas for MSIG sponsored events.

The final Item for discussion by the Intergroup Chairperson was the registration of himself and the Vice Chair, Jim W., for the AAWS Central Office/Intergroup Seminar on October 5th – October 8th in Herndon, VA. The Chairperson expressed enthusiasm and optimism that the seminar be of use in providing both he and Jim with exposure to the wisdom and experience of “those who have gone before us,” with the sincere desire to bring back what they learn to benefit the Midshore Intergroup and the fellowship at large.

The next report came from the Vice Chair – Jim W. His first comment was to thank all Intergroup members and the AA fellowship for their support and attendance at the Dinner and A Movie Event held by his homegroup, As Bill Sees It, on Aug. 4th in Stevensville. The event was a success and enjoyed by all who attended. The Vice Chair had a special request for the newly elected Committee Chairs, which is summarized as follows: He asked that the new Committee Chairs prepare a Mission Statement for their committees, listing those goals and plans for their committees moving through their term in office. He asked that they also include in the document, their name and contact information, number of projected committee members, planned meeting schedule, with frequency, location, and duration clearly described. He also asked that any other supporting plans, goals, and projected dates for events, etcetera be included so the Intergroup Representatives, the Leadership Council, and others can share those Mission Statements and plans to better inform and educate our fellowship about the Committees and to encourage a new level of interest and participation from our members at large. “If we have something tangible in our hands, we will think so-in-so would be great for this, and perhaps our committees will be more active and fully staffed moving forward.” Andy M., Chairperson, was very supportive of the idea and asked that the committee chairs please begin work to complete the requested Mission Statement and additional requested materials.

The next item on the agenda was the announcement by the Chairperson that there were no August minutes due to the absence of the Secretary. He summarized the meeting, stating that most of the meeting was taken up by the presentation of Linda J., the Area 29 Delegate. Her presentation included information that the GSO in 2016 had operated at a loss but that 2017 showed dramatic improvement. The best way to support the GSO, besides direct contributions from the groups, is to purchase all conference approved literature through New York. Literature is, and always has been, the primary funding stopgap for World Services, and purchasing from GSO ensures that will continue.

Another big item to take place during last month's meeting was the presentation by Chuck R., the new PI/CPC chair. Chuck described his plans for workshops, presentations to medical providers, work with local agencies that serve persons in recovery and those who might benefit from our program. His request for funding in the amount of \$1,000, made in the previous meeting, was approved, and he received that funding from the Treasurer, Charles R. during the August meeting. He will continue to update the Intergroup as to his expenditures and progress on an ongoing basis.

The Treasurer, Charles R., was next to speak and present the monthly report for September. It was not formally prepared as there were some challenges to the accounting process for the month. All necessary financial processes were adhered to, however, checks had to be ordered and that made regular accounting of the expenditures and donations more difficult. Charles R. stated that donations in the amount of approximately \$1,300.00 were received, normal expenses such as rent, utilities and literature were paid, and two one-time expenses, ie; check order and literature were paid. The approximate balances of the accounts were as follows: \$4,020.36 in the checking account and \$5,827.77 in the Money Market account. The Intergroup representatives agreed to a verbal accounting of the Accounts and the Treasurer's Report was approved.

The next item on the agenda was the Activities Chair Report from Teresa K. She was kind enough to submit a typed report which I have attached to these minutes – please review her report, there is a lot of exciting things being planned and I hope we will all pull together to make them successful.

An additional event is in the planning stages and for that item, Meg G. offered the following information. A "Sobriety Show" is in the works, Meg G. attended several shows while in early recovery in Baltimore and enjoyed the fellowship, teamwork, and entertainment value of fellow AA's showing off their "talents." She has prepared an Interest/Sign-up Sheet to be circulated by Intergroup members, which will establish whether to move forward on such a big project. As a professional Event Planner and longtime member of the program Meg G. knows what such an event would involve, ie: planning, coordination, performers, etc. and would like a sincere commitment from the AA community to support the event before moving forward. Knowing that many hands make light work, please circulate the sign-up sheet (attached) and encourage participation of all types, popcorn vendors, rock singers, and tap dancers are all welcome! Pending responses, the event will be scheduled by the next meeting of our Intergroup.

Steve T., our new Institutions Chair, gave his report next and introduced himself to the members of the Intergroup in attendance. He has been an active member of the Institutions Committees in regions including Annapolis and Centreville and looks forward to bringing his wealth of experience and wisdom to his new home area. His first focus will be to enhance the Bridging the Gap program, to include as many institutions in the Midshore region as possible, including the ever-recalcitrant Denton Jail. We wish him much success and many members in attendance offered suggestions offline that should hopefully make his committee the success we all believe it deserves to be. Again, Steve T. was kind enough to include a sign-up sheet which I have attached hereto. Please print and circulate at your homegroups.

Chuck R., our CI/CPC committee chair was the next to give his report. His committee has scheduled a workshop to take place at St. Paul's Church in Centreville, on October 14th, from 9am – 2pm. The workshop will be part educational seminar, part brainstorming session to bring the message of recovery to potential members of AA and to educate the community, doctors, clergy and other first responders about Alcoholics Anonymous and the ways Midshore Intergroup and CI/CPC can spread the message of recovery to those in need. Chuck also showed us a small brochure display he has purchased that he would like to see put in place in those places where they would be of most benefit, doctor's offices, treatment providers, etc. He would like to focus his efforts on a county by county basis to cover as deeply and effectively as possible and asked our Intergroup members for suggestions regarding possible locations and interested parties.

In Old Business, Popeye reported that the Midshore Intergroup Picnic was again successful, the weather, food, music, and fellowship were all in place, however, there were almost 100 less attendees this year sadly, which meant revenues were understandably down. However, with 182 tickets sold, and expenses at (sorry no number here) the Midshore Picnic only lost \$171.00, which equals less than \$1 per person for a fantastic day of fellowship and recovery. It was agreed to confirm with the Richardsons for the 3rd Sunday in July for 2018.

An announcement was made by Teresa K. that the Tuesday 7pm meeting at Dover Street is no longer meeting and it was requested that it be removed from the next printing of the Where and Whens. Additionally, two new meetings on that day, 6:30am on Tuesdays, Rise Up Sober and 5:30pm Tuesdays, Comfort Zone (Women's Meeting) will be taking place at Dover Street. Thank you for your efforts Teresa K.

Finally, in New Business, the Secretary Vacancy was graciously filled by Carrie C. She is a welcome, welcome member of the Intergroup Committee and that vote was unanimous.

In summary, the Vice Chair again reminded all Committee Chairs of his request for a Mission Statement and Outline of Plans and Goals and asked that those be emailed to him at jimwat48@yahoo.com as soon as they are prepared.

The meeting closed at 7:30pm with the Lord's Prayer.