

Meeting held on Sunday, April 9, 2017 in AR 100 at Newton-Wellesley Hospital. Meeting convened at 5:00 PM with Serenity Prayer, reading of Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, and brief check-ins. Members Present: Seth S (chair and spiritual reminder), Michael T (timekeeper), Tom O, David B, Warren P. On the phone: Lisa P, Matt T, Craig G, Jenny R, Mary Ann

Quorum: 1 elected group representatives with 3 months sobriety. **Motion to waive 3-months sobriety for tonight (Michael/Seth): vote 2-0-0.** We have 4 voters for tonight.

Committee Reports

- Chairperson (Seth S) – Vice-chair position is still open. All other positions have been filled or we have made accommodations to cover those positions, e.g. Corresponding
- Recording Secretary (David B) – Some corrections. **Motion to accept minutes as amended (Michael/Tom): passes 4-0-0.**
- Corresponding Secretary –
 - Mailing Report (Lisa P, David B, Jenny R) – The April U.S. mailing went out on March 30th to 38 addresses. It contained the April newsletter, February NEI meeting minutes, Mt. Wachusett Hike on May 20th Flyer, and the Spring Recovery Gathering Flyer. The email mailing was sent out on April 6th to 272 contacts and included links to April 22nd Spring Gathering flyer, February meeting minutes, Hike at Mt. Wachusett, April Attleboro 12-Step Retreat and the April newsletter. It also included a link to the 2017 Bookmark summarizing NEI Events, Retreats and Fun Activities.
 - Telephone Coordinator Report: (Peter S.) – The answering service received 116 calls in March. The responders returned 6 calls on the following topics: 4 asking for retreat info, 3 requests for meeting list, 2 requests for program info, 1 request for meeting info, and 1 report that no one was at the Fitchburg meeting.
 - Internet Coordinator Report: (Lisa P) – The web site received 16 inquiries in March: 5 inquiries on the Attleboro retreat, 4 inquiries on Vermont 12-Step retreat, 4 requests for meeting lists and general S.L.A.A. information, 2 requests from newcomers for general information, and 1 request to purchase IRC audio recordings.
 - Meeting List Changes (Lisa P) – Not sure if “Restore to Sanity” meeting (Fitchburg Sunday) is still active. “Partnerships in Recovery” meeting (Newton Monday) needs support.
- Treasurer (Michael T) – Can’t give a report on March financials because haven’t received the bank statement yet. Michael emailed treasury report and brought copies. February report: \$225 in 7th Tradition Contributions in February, \$75 below budget. As of end Feb, \$600 below budget in 7th Tradition contributions. Scholarship donations have been up. \$1369.50 by end of February and we’re over budget on that. Started receiving money for March retreat in Vermont. Retreat income is tracking the budget well. Year-to-date net income is \$5721.36, which is \$465.36 over budget. **Motion to accept (Warren/Tom): 5-0-0.** Verbal update for March report – not final yet: March retreat generated net revenue over \$300. Checking account has \$11,000 and scholarship fund has \$900-something. 7th Tradition donations have increased in March. Expenses for Vermont retreat were less than budgeted.
- Literature (David B) – Add details later. What about money for books that retreat coordinator has?
- Activities Committee including Retreats (Jenny R) – Lisa sent information about run in Barre, MA. Someone wants other S.L.A.A. members to join her for a run in Barre, MA. Can we include information about this in newsletter? Round robin discussion. Consensus is when we sponsor activity, it should have recovery component. Including in newsletter seems like an endorsement of the activity. Suggestion that we suggest to her how to find other S.L.A.A. members to join her, encourage her to be part of activities committee. Jenny will follow-up with her.
- Activities Committee has been meeting every 3 weeks. We have a full calendar with events every month and bookmarks with a calendar of events. Primary focus now is the gathering. We have

keynote speakers, but we still need leaders for topic sessions. Six sessions do not have a leader. Need items to donate to raffle and bake sale. If they do, they get two free raffle tickets. Voted to use money from raffle and bake sale to pay for ABM hospitality suite expenses. Vermont retreat had 15 people. Attleboro had 14 people. We'll try to have a retreat in Attleboro for New Year's Eve. Planning hike at Mt. Wachusett on May 20. Hike starts at a different location this year for a longer hike with greater change in altitude. We have 1 preregistration for the Spring Recovery Gathering. Michael can bring a large coffee maker. We'll have something to boil water also. People will bring coolers too. Kim has leftover stickers and nametags from the IRC last year. Grace Church needs a check for Fall Gathering deposit and key deposit.

- ABM Delegate & ABM Committee (Seth S) – Organizational meeting will be in the next couple weeks. Seth will send email to NEI for people interested in participating.
- Newsletter (Craig G) – Seth will put something together on volunteering for the ABM. Craig wants information for the canoeing/kayaking event in June – Johanny is still getting that information. Craig will include information about Mt. Wachusett hike. Suggestion to ask for donations for ABM Auction, i.e. basket of recovery books.
- Group Reports – Warren brings 7th Tradition donations for FWS and NEI from his group.

Old Business

- Open Positions
 - Vice-chair – No volunteers
- Outreach / Increasing NEI Footprint – Some mail from group contacts has bounced back, so we lost those group contacts. Seth has contact from Newton Friday meeting. David has a contact in Rhode Island.
- Treatment Center Meeting – no information

New Business

- 12-Step Retreats – Carrying the Message. Are we doing this the right way to drum up support for our retreats? At beginning of year, we create flyer with dates of retreats and we mail it out. For each retreat, we mail out flyer 2 months in advance. Vermont Retreats get more advertising because Nikki promotes all retreats herself. Lisa collected list of pros/cons of Attleboro Retreat. Suggest marketing retreats at the Fall Gathering. Can we find another location that requires fewer participants?
- David got the NEI meeting room rescheduled for 3rd Sundays in October and November this year.

Tabled Items

Contents of Mailing for February: Deadline for Printing is Wednesday, April 19

- May Newsletter (Craig G)
- March Meeting Minutes (David B)
- April Meeting List (Lisa P)
- Canoe Flyer (Jenny/Johanny)

Next NEI Meeting is Sunday, May 7 2017, at 5 PM. Respectfully submitted, David B.