

## **2020 NEI Business Meeting Minutes** **Sunday, May 17, 2020 at 5pm via Zoom**

Attendees: Lisa P, Jennifer R., Mark S., Geri C, Phil B. Aaron H., Katie G., Betsy L

Chris volunteer to chair today's meeting in absence of acting chair

Timekeeper: Phil; Spiritual Reminder: Geri

Serenity Prayer/12 Steps & 12 Traditions

Check-ins / Sobriety Accountability

Affirm there is a Quorum 5 GR and AR with 3 months sobriety:

If needed, vote to allow webmaster to bypass Sobriety requirement for this month: 5-0-0

**Ask for volunteers for open service positions:** Chair, Vice Chair, Newsletter Editor, Corresponding Secretary, Outreach Chair, Activities Chair. – No takers.

### Department Reports

Every meeting: Fundraising Ideas – Aaron (15 minutes) – Saving on costs now, but what is fundraising to stay on budget with no in person meetings and limited donations? Many current NEI members when on Zoom meetings when 7<sup>th</sup> tradition is mentioned, note that giving to FWS and NEI is an option. No donations have come through the website in months; only one donation in the P.O. box. Note: Newburyport is collecting via Venmo. Power of word of mouth. Issue: can we cover \$300 phone/answering service cost per month during pandemic.

**Recording Secretary** – Betsy L., Review draft of April minutes (attached). Betsy didn't incorporate edits emailed earlier in the month. Will do so and include for June meeting.

**Treasurer** – Jenny noted NEI donation of \$600 was left off FWS summary. Jenny volunteered to contact FWS to make sure recognition is given. No contact yet with FWS, will follow up later when FWS is back in the office.

**Website** – Chris: 556 users; 1,000 sessions; top page: COVID meetings 1,700. 32 emails.

**Telephone Coordinator** – Geri, April: 122 total calls; 5 calls returned by responders. One of the responders concerned about calls being recorded. Geri to reach out to answering service and find out if an option to not record.

[Katie left]

**Activities** – Jenny

- Activities Committee Event Guidelines/Fall Gathering (see Jenny's email dated 6/13/2020)  
Change language to be more about "we would like you to" rather than must/should. Guidelines in place because of issues that have come up in the past (e.g. workshop leaders not sober, etc.)  
Motion to allow don't meet sobriety requirement be able to vote: Betsy/Geri  
Motion to tweak and send 5-0-1. (Group conscience: okay for volunteer chair to vote – yes).
- Decision on July Retreat? – Discussion with Nikki, retreat host, Nikki is okay with limited group in July, 10 people, can meet. Guidelines to follow. Solo rooms, masks when less than 6' feet apart. Perhaps order out food rather than cooking in the kitchen. Maybe eat in two shifts. Indemnification for Nikki, NEI should consider the same. Still considering a doctor's note. No freebie for the leader? This pandemic sucks!

**Printing** – Jenny volunteered to do this month's, but as of May 17, it had not gone out. Status on that?

- Confirm contents of next, combined mailing: most current E-bulletin, Vermont retreat, Opt Out.

**Literature** – Aaron, not much to update on literature.

- Bylaw Review (comparison document distributed to NEI members) -- Tabled.

- Discussion: requirement for each group to send GR or not to be listed. Require Group Reps to attend. Concern, NEI serves the groups, not vice versa. – Tabled.

### New Business

Overheard complaint of SLAA member in Boston area who never gets to share in the meeting because a couple people just talk forever and dominate the meeting. Does NEI address this, given that every meeting is autonomous? (Submitted by Chris T) – Discussion: each group does have a chair and it's up to the chair and the meeting participants to self-manage.

Discussion of a Crisis plan. Who was the member that originally brought this up? – Tabled.

How to generate more participation on NEI, and make those new to NEI feel welcome and included – perhaps personal follow-up when someone does attend NEI. – Tabled.

Check outs & Serenity Prayer

Submitted for review. Yours in service,

Betsy L.

June 14, 2020