**Minutes of the MWI Group Inventory Meeting**

January 18, 2020

In attendance were: Blair, Chair; Nate, Vice-Chair; Sue, Recording Secretary; Rachel, Treasurer; Yoojin, inventory moderator; Howard M, Brookline Men’s Monday night; Ed R., Sunday J.P.; Bob K., Newton Noon; Lisa Dee, Wed. am HOW/Region rep; Ronda Y, Framingham Sunday night; Mark, member; Suzanne, Thursday am meditation; Steve M, member (via Zoom); Lacey (via Zoom).

Yoojin opened the meeting at 9:10 am with the Serenity Prayer.

Bob K and Lisa Dee volunteered to review the Minutes.

**Group Inventory**

* Introductions
* Why are we doing the inventory? Fact-finding process to see how we are doing as an intergroup, to see if we are serving the still-suffering compulsive overeater both in and out of meetings; do we know what our purpose is and are we achieving that purpose; address problems as they arise; answer if how we can address reduction of attendance and meetings and keep newcomers coming back; come up with plans to be more effective. How might intergroup better address needs of the fellowship and form goals for this next year.
* Answer questions on survey

1. What’s the purpose of intergroup?

* Allows us to form connections with other groups, and find group conscience for our region, and organize ourselves without outside professionals.
* Carry the message to those who still suffer. Various activities we sponsor are designed to look at ways to bring OA to those who still suffer, and help other meetings, e.g. monthly MWI workshops starting this year.
* We are also charged with the finances of each meetings’ 7th tradition donations and using those funds to carry the message.
* We are a link between the individual groups and OA World Service.
* We exist to carry out our primary purpose of serving the groups, as a group conscience to carry out our primary purpose of helping the overeater who still suffers.

1. Any comments on how IG meetings are run? What do people think of the meeting?

* Sometimes we run out of time, perhaps due to readings at the beginning of the meeting.
* The group is well-run and kept on topic and handles what has to be handled, efficiently and in a timely manner.
* Extensive reporting on searches and metrics are too long.
* Most of the time we stick to the 10:30 boundary. Perhaps too much discussion when people all agree on a motion anyway.

1. Do all the groups in the area know about IG/service board and the services we provide?

* The IG tries to stay in touch with the groups and let them know what we are doing.
* Since we began the practice of contacting each group, we have had an increase in donations.
* If the group has no interest and no IG rep, it is hard to know if they are aware of services.
* There are 12-15 reps out of 27 meetings.
* MBI has a designated downloader. Being the designated downloader is way to let people at a group know what is going on, even if they don’t have a rep.
* When making rounds of calls to groups, we could ask if they want a designated downloader.

1. Do we keep in touch with groups who don’t send reps or money to IG?

* Meeting announcements are sent to all who have ever been to the IG meeting.
* Every 6 months or so we try to contact all groups to provide info and let them know of IG meetings, and ask if they have an IG rep.
* We are not doing enough to develop meaningful contacts with groups who don’t have an IG rep. Perhaps have a person go to those meetings and explain the importance of sending a rep.
* We have tried in the past to do that but it is difficult to get volunteers to go to distant meetings. If they don’t believe there is enough value to send someone here, they won’t send someone here.
* Addressing the fairness of what it takes to get things done, the reality may be that the people here will always do more than others.
* This might also be a generational thing. How do we send a message out to everyone, no matter their age or length of time in OA? Need to get message out about how do we help OA survive and help floundering groups?
* This might be a real question for further attention.
* Some groups are very small, and some groups have a lot of newcomers who are trying to get their abstinence.
* IG has to be attractive, just like the personal attraction when 12-stepping an individual.

1. Questions related to communicating with groups

* We have no newsletter. It was very difficult to get contributions. It was quarterly with a list with all the meetings.
* Treasurer informs groups who give contributions how she makes the 60/30/10 distribution.
* It’s important to reach out to all our member groups, to let them know that we’d love to have them join us.
* IG communication would be easier if we had a list of officers with contact info. Officers can also be reached by email at [service position]@metrowestoa.org, or [info@metrowestoa.org](mailto:info@metrowestoa.org).
* We do sponsor workshops and a yearly retreat. Used to sponsor holiday marathon meetings.

1. Literature:

* We do have a stock of literature but need to find a new location for it. Lisa Dee will take the retreat materials. There are materials for professional and PI outreach.

7. Do we help new members find sponsors?

- We do have a sponsor bank, set up as a response to survey a year or so ago.

- We could do more sponsor training workshops.

8. We do have a speaker bank.

9. How do we help floundering groups?

- We make announcements if a group is struggling and needs help.

- It may help to have a person with experience help struggling meetings, giving them suggestions to build up the meeting.

- We may see fit to offer a service to chair a group inventory meeting, sending someone out to help run the inventory meeting.

- Do we go back to basic premise of what OA is? Basic premise is that meetings are open to all, e.g. sometimes “90 Day” meetings can feel exclusionary. Are other intergroups finding the same problem?

- How do we speak of different meetings when talking to others--are we divisive?

- Is the problem that new people come but don’t stay, or that we don’t advertise? It’s both. It’s also getting the word out to all that OA exists.

- MWI does have a Facebook page, and we run Google ads. We do have a social media presence. We have started reaching out to local colleges and hospitals. Region 6 does host workshops on how to carry the message, both in and out of OA.

- It’s been about two years since we have had a booth at professional society meetings.

- A group is developing a pamphlet to give to newcomers letting them know about OA.

- We could form an ad hoc committee to explore merging with MBI.

10. February meeting agenda:

- WSC questions

- Potential IG merger

11. Other 12th Step within questions we have mostly answered above.

12. Carrying the Message outside

- We are making a draft of a pamphlet to distribute to public places.

- The multi-pronged approach to reaching people is very important: face-to-face, online, paper, health care providers, professionals.

- Have an event for anyone in a struggling meeting to come together, to offer suggestions to

revitalize the meeting.

* There is a gap in serving people of color.
* Most meetings are in older building, churches, that are not handicapped accessible.
* Could be helpful to talk about sharing the program across differences. White people can share the message with people of color.

In summary, we have been doing some good things and have identified areas where we need to improve.

Thanks to Yoojin for leading.

**Upcoming MWI (or other) events:**

* Sunday MWI workshops 1:30-4:30pm, Youville Spaulding Cambridge:

1/26/20: 11th step / meditation

2/23/20: ‘On Awakening’ (needs another co-facilitator)

3/29/20: Resentment and art-as-inventory

**Summary of Announcements for IG Reps**

* Sunday MWI Workshop, 1:30 to 4:30, Youville Spaulding Cambridge, 1/26/20: 11th Step/Meditation
* Volunteers for service are needed. Contact your Intergroup Representative.
* Local meeting updates on website.
* Flyers available on website.
* Committee members needed for retreat in 2020.
* Speaker bank and sponsorship bank.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 am with the Serenity Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Sue Mascioli, Recording Secretary