

Minutes of the MWI Business Meeting

April 17, 2021

In attendance via Zoom:

Nate	Chair, WSBC delegate	Janet F	Wednesday 7:15a HOW, newcomer workshop coordinator
Rachel S	Treasurer	Suzanne D	Monday 7:30a Meditation / Writing
Blair	Recording Secretary, WSBC delegate	Alan F	Monday 7p Brookline Men's
Nancy GP	Website Person, R6 rep	Jay	Sunday 6p Brookline
Beth M	Sunday 9a JP	Susan G	Thursday 12p Gov't Center, R6 rep
Barbara J	Sunday 10a BBSS Framingham	Linda C	Saturday 10a Westwood
Ronda	Sunday 7p Framingham Newcomers	Sue M	Member, learning about Treasurer role
Damien	Monday 7p Cambridge writing / meditation, sponsor bank coordinator (left at 10am)	Lane	Member, diversity / inclusion subctc chair special focus workshop coordinator
		Bob K	Member

Nate opened the meeting at 9:05 am with the Serenity Prayer, an introduction of those present, a statement of the purpose of our meeting, and its etiquette. Janet read the 12 Steps, Barbara J read the 12 Traditions, Bob K read the Concept of the Month and MWI's Strategic Plan.

Bob K and Susan G volunteered to review the Minutes.

Old and/or Ongoing Business

1. Treasurer's report — Rachel

March 2021 notable items: Income \$1,367.98 includes \$570 from the Young People's (YP) retreat registrations as 'event income.' YP Expenses: \$91.24 (\$118 total). Working balance \$4,385.69.

Returned \$1,300 WSBC 2020 scholarship we received from R6. Nate received a reimbursement from his flight for WSBC 2020, so we were able to return the entire amount to R6.

Total monthly income is approx. \$1,015. Averaging \$1,000 / month in 7th donations. Quarterly donations to R6 & WS will be sent soon (\$301.02 & \$903.05, respectively).

Nate connected with the YP committee & they are developing a YP IG within the virtual region. As soon as this is created, the income will be sent to the YP IG.

Strategic Goal Updates

- Website — Nancy

We had over 3,200 new users on the website, and strong traffic. Down a little bit since last month. Hits are being driven by Google Ad Words (Is OA for you (over 3K views and interactions) and 15 questions (26K impressions)).

Nancy has optimized the website (took us from 'C' or 'D' to a 'B' for speed). Google is changing how they rank sites by how fast people can get to our site. We won't ever get to an 'A' because of the carousel (rotating top area) on the top.

Crisp chat function was started in January 2021. Chat with folks in real time. This month it went way down from Jan / Feb. The main reason for this is that we added a content library so folks can find info themselves without chat (self-help). Looking for a sponsor (10 visits), Newcomers meeting (6 visits), Newcomers workshop (15 visits) has been added to the MWI website & is working well. Currently we have 4 people supporting the chat (Michael P, Liz D, Laura C and Nancy). Jen B. is now coordinating the volunteers. Thanks to Barbara J for her service in coordinating volunteers. Please send names of volunteers who would like to offer to staff crisp chat to Jen B through info@metrowestoa.org email address.

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MailChimp:

Other intergroups are checking us out! 352 recipients in our email. Intergroups that are viewing our website are Central Mass IG (CMI) & South Bay IG.

Silicon Valley OA is doing outreach to professionals (healthcare, education, human resources, government, and faith communities) in their area:

Silicon Valley OA has developed materials to support outreach to professionals. Their well-developed materials are available for our use. We will need volunteers to do this outreach. Supporting this outreach will not require technical skills. Nancy will volunteer to do tech stuff.

- Social Media — Nancy (Laura C cannot attend these meetings). Laura C has continued to promote posts on social media (IG and Facebook) to target younger demographic, focusing on sharing MWI events and experience, strength and hope (E/S/H).
- Diversity / Inclusion (D / I) – Lane (subcommittee members: Lane, Suzanne & Susan G). Meets once a month. Held open meeting 4/10/2021 and invited folks to attend to join the discussion about how meetings can support D / I. Lane will let us know when the next D / I meeting will be (after our MWI meeting, the D / I meeting was scheduled for 5/8/2021 at 5pm). Lane will ask Nancy to announce on website and ask Michael P to announce in the next blast.

The subcommittee will finalize a proposal (to be submitted for MWI's review) that includes: 1) Possible text to be put on our website about D / I in OA, 2) Link to actions for meetings to help ensure inclusivity in their meetings, 3) Add additional special focus meetings are on website: 100lbs, Anorexic / Bulimic, People of Color, LGBTQ, etc. 4) How to add close captioning to zoom meetings.

- Sponsor bank coordinator – Damien. Reported that there have been 7 inquiries since last MWI meeting (increased from average of ~4 / month). Damien continuing to reach out to everyone on list to ensure they still want to be on the list. 2-3 new sponsors wanting to be added to the list. Received feedback from 14 people about how much they've been contacted since 1/1/2021. On average 1-2 people contacted the sponsors; received info ~25-30 days ago and there has been an uptick in the # of inquiries.
- Workshops:
SPECIAL TOPICS – Lane. We need a new special topic workshop coordinator. Bob K. wants to learn more about this role. Bob K. and Lane will meet soon to discuss. The workshop coordinator will be trained, there are scripts and template emails to support the role. Workshop 'Body Image' will be held on 5/2/2021 – Lane will be leading.

NEWCOMERS – Janet. Janet is sending emails to those newcomers who have signed up to attend the newcomer workshops. Last workshop we had 7-8 participants. Janet has leaders set up until the end of July. We will need to name a newcomer workshop coordinator starting in August 2021. We will need newcomer workshop leaders starting in August 2021. Please connect with Janet if you'd like to volunteer – this is easy to do: there's a format for the newcomer workshop coordinator and a script for those who volunteer to lead the workshops.

Sponsor training workshop – Blair. 6-session 1-hr workshop to go through the 'Where Do I Start?' pamphlet. We've had 3 sessions so far, with the 4th scheduled for 11a today. We have 8 attendees including 2 co-leaders. Easily transferrable for folks to run workshop in future. Survey of MWI – folks are asking for this training.

- Joint speaker bank with MBI – Susan G (subcommittee members: Susan G, Sue M, Jen B, Michael P). The working group met, reached consensus on and recommended to reach out to MBI to explore merging each of our speaker lists. Next steps are to: (1) meet with MBI to determine whether we can reach agreement to merge the list, (2) work out details on how merging lists would work, and (3) report back to MWI before finalizing any agreement with MBI.

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- ‘Where Do I Start?’ pamphlet distribution to MWI meeting attendees — Mark. Still sending out pamphlets, sent 10 last month including places outside of MA. going well! Please remind folks it’s a physical pamphlet that is mailed to their address. Folks will not go on any telemarketing lists. Return address from Mark himself. Mark asked about sending pamphlets internationally. Rachel said we have budget for this and to request reimbursement.

New Business:

1. Interim Vice Chair – Nate. Bob has stepped down. Sue M. will be interim vice chair. Thank you to Bob for his service. In May, we will have nominations (Sue M. will be automatically considered if she’d like) and in June, we will vote. The vice chair will serve in this role starting after the 6/19/2021 meeting and will serve until 12/18/2021.
2. R6 Assembly – Susan G & Nancy. Six items on agenda (budget / bylaw amendments) were discussed and voted on; all 6 passed by vast majority. While discussing the transfer of funds from 1 line item to another for budget to improve region’s website, Google AdWords ‘grant’ was mentioned. There were a lot of questions / concerns about violation of 7th tradition. R6 will bring to the WS level to ask for clarification about Google Ads ‘grant’ and if it is a violation of 7th tradition. Lawyers of BoT at WS are reviewing. If R6 decides to not accept Google AdWords ‘grant,’ our IG can still accept Google AdWords ‘grant.’
 - Fall R6 Assembly: Sept 25, 2021, will be held virtually, anyone can attend.
 - R6 Convention: Oct 22-24, 2021, will be held virtually.
 - MWI typically purchases early bird convention tickets.
 - Should we purchase these for the R6 Convention? Rachel will determine cost and bring this to our MWI meeting in May 2021.
3. Additional MWI Zoom Account: Susan G. Blair P made motion, Susan G 2nd. Passed unanimously. Blair will purchase annual zoom account and obtain reimbursement from Rachel. Groups should contact Blair P. (blairpoa@gmail.com) if they’d like to use any of the MWI zoom accounts.
4. Possible new projects:
 - Switching meetings to “online” to attract newcomers – Nate. Wednesday 7:30p re-registered as virtual meeting (has a new meeting ID) and a lot of newcomers have attended. Encourage meetings to re-register their meetings as virtual meetings
 - Outreach to older people for whom technology is difficult – Ronda Y. Folks who used to attend face-to-face meetings, how can we support them?
 - Brainstorm in the next month how to teach folks to use zoom (1:1 seems best).
 - Nancy GP – early on in the pandemic, the Virtual Region provided trainings on how to use zoom.

Upcoming MWI events:

Sunday MWI Workshops

When: Sundays, 1:30 – 2:30 pm Eastern time unless otherwise specified below.

Meeting ID: 705 658 2426, password 402152. See MWI website for call-in #s

- First Sunday of the month, special topics: 5/2/2021, Body Image
- Last Sunday of the month: Newcomers workshop: 4/25/2021

Other events:

Intergroup Renewal brainstorming sessions [hosted by Westchester United Intergroup (WUIG)]:

1st Thurs of month starting January 2021: 7-8:30 pm Eastern <https://zoom.us/j/668275613>

Meeting ID: 668 275 613, passcode: 121212

Please see Summary of Announcements for IG Reps sent separately.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30am with Rozanne’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Blair P, Recording Secretary