**MWI Meeting, March 19, 2022**

**Attendance:**

Michael P. Chair, R6 (Web & Pub Cte) and WS Rep

Rachel S. Vice Chair

Sue M. Treasurer

Barbara K. Corresponding Secretary

Chloe Recording Secretary

Nancy G.P. Web coordinator, R6 Rep

Bob K. Rep Sun 9a JP meeting

Jackie Rep Mon 7:30a Virtual meditation meeting

Alan F. Rep Mon 7p Brookline men’s meeting

Blair P. Rep Tues 7:15p BBSS, R6 and WS Rep, Zoom, Diversity & Inclusion (D&I)

JB Rep Wed 7:30p Acton meeting, Newsletter editor

Marge Rep Wed 12p Wellesley meeting

Susan G. Rep Thurs 12p Gov’t Center meeting, D&I

Paula Rep Fri 12p Acton meeting

Kathy B. Rep Sat 10a Westwood meeting

Beth K. Member, Newcomer workshop coordinator

Mark Member, Where Do I Start? Pamphlets

Jeff B. Member, D&I

Michael C. Member

Bobbie M. Visiting, Chair of Mass Bay Intergroup

**Michael P. opened the meeting with the SERENITY PRAYER** 9:00 a.m., and asked attendees to introduce themselves and what they are grateful for. Michael P. offered the orientation for new members but no one needed it. Michael P. then asked for a volunteer to read the following readings: 12 Steps, 12 Traditions, Concept of the Month (short version), MWI’s Strategic Goals.

Susan and Blair offered to review the minutes.

**OLD and/or ONGOING BUSINESS**

* Treasurer’s report: **Sue M.**
  + Income this month: $1,295.00, ($2,561.71 YTD)
  + Expenses this month: $23.85 ($2,457.12 YTD), our only expense this month was paypal fees
  + Current month balance (income less expenses): $1,271.15
  + Ending balance (matches bank statement): $6,649.80
  + R6 and WSO donations ($518) will be paid by the end of the month
  + Working Balance: $5,531.80 (excludes $600 Prudent Reserve)
* Strategic Goal Updates:
  + Website and Social Media: **Nancy G. P. (still seeking Social Media person)**
    - 2.7K Traffic, 3.5K sessions, spike appears to be the Friday before the young persons event. Top location for hits: US, UK, China. Within the US: Massachusetts, California. Nancy G. P. noted we had over 1K “conversions'' to the newcomers page, which is aligned with one of our strategic goals. Nancy G. P. also suggested that we consider directing young visitors to the website to go to the young people’s website (oayoungpeople.org), and we may also consider partnering with their website to send traffic to us as well. Common traffic includes traffic for young women, and those seeking Anorexic/Bulimic support. Nancy G. P. explained Click Through Rate (CTR), when someone clicks on an ad- and noted that anything over 5% is good. We have high CTR. Nancy G. P. showed the young people's website, and noted that there is a large community on WhatsApp, and encouraged folks to direct people to that website.
      * CRISP chat function on the MWI website is now becoming the hotline for zoom meeting passcodes; due to the instances of zoom disruptors, we removed the passcodes from OA.org and on the MWI website.
    - Hotline / Voicemail: **Steve (coordinator)**. Blair reported on Steve’s behalf. Total calls: 16 Missed calls: 5, No caller: 5, Conversations: 6, Most calls are asking for face-to-face meetings, but not all. Sometimes they want the passcode to enter a meeting. Steve did not always have the passcodes. Blair mentioned that sometimes people call with no caller ID due to anonymity.

* + Workshops:
    - Newcomers, last Sunday of the month: **Beth K. (coordinator)**

When the newcomer coordinator role transitioned to Beth K. recently, MWI looked into why so many people registered, but only a few people showed up. MWI website and newcomer coordinators revised the website, re-sent communications to registered attendees, but no changes in attendance occurred. Beth K. suggested we discontinue the newcomers workshop, and instead point people to the Sunday 7p EST newcomers meeting on zoom. Mark said that on average, 1-2 new people show up for this meeting weekly; attendees come from all across the US. There is also a newcomers meeting on Tuesday nights in Western MA. Nancy G. P. has talked on the phone to 4-5 newcomers who had not gone to the workshop and they all explained that they signed up early in the month and by the end of the month, they had already learned all they might need so they did not attend. Susan G. asked if we could highlight that newcomers meeting even more on the website. Barbara K. asked if we eliminate the workshops, are there any other newcomer resources we could “beef up” eg. pointing people to the Sponsor bank, linking to other newcomers meetings in other areas, etc.

Blair made a motion to end the end of the month newcomer workshop and instead to point people to newcomers meeting(s). Sue M. seconded. Discussion: JB stated that he was very impressed with the workshop, and if we could boost up the website with links rather than discontinuing it. Barbara K. stated that if we do continue the workshops, maybe have them be more in depth on specific newcomer topics (eg. tools, sponsorship, etc). Susan G. suggested that since one of our primary missions is newcomers and there are lots of ideas, should we form a working group for Newcomer engagement? Maybe jointly with other meetings. Vote called: All voting members voted in favor, No one opposed.

* + - Special Topics: **Emily B.(coordinator)** Michael P. presented that at the March workshop we had 19 attendees.
  + ‘Where Do I Start?’ pamphlet distribution: **Mark (coordinator)** MWI sent pamphlets to: Las Cruces, NM, Hammond, Indiana, Terryville, CT, Springfield, Waltham, Acton, Allston, Natick. Mark reminded us how valuable it is that we are sending out the paper copies. Mark emails folks also with the MWI website, and invites them to the newcomer meetings as well. Barbara K. asked that Mark offer the mailchimp email distribution. Mark stated he does not want to overwhelm newcomers, but is willing to pass along the mailchimp distribution info when they come to the newcomer meeting. Michael P. suggested that it might make sense to add a sheet to the newcomer packet.
  + Sponsor Bank: **Shelley F.** is new coordinator. Shelley F. responds to sponsor bank calls.

**Initiatives:**

* Diversity committee (Blair, Jeff, Susan G., Yoojin). **Blair** presented. We have identified Weds 8pm POC focused meeting that will start on April 6th, part of MWI. Discussed whether MWI could purchase a 3rd zoom account vs. the new POC meeting would pay for their own account. JB made the motion to have MWI purchase a 3rd zoom account, Chloe seconded the motion. Discussion: Michael P. asked if there were any other solutions to purchasing a 3rd zoom account, and asked if the committee had any other ideas. Blair stated that over the last couple years, we’ve had ~3 requests for zoom accounts for times that conflicted with other MWI meetings that were already using one of the MWI zoom accounts. Those 3 meetings, plus this one would make 4m and that could make a difference. Susan G. suggested that we circle back to the meetings who purchased their own accounts and offer this new account to them. Blair will do this. Vote called, and the motion was passed unanimously.

**Jeff** showed the flier, will need a zoom link added as well as MWI logo. Barbara K. thanked the group for their hard work and asked if we need to state on the flier that all are welcome. Susan G. stated that yes, all meetings are open to everyone, however we don’t want to encourage non-POC folks attending the meeting which would change what this meeting is meant to be: a safe place for people of color. Jeff, when he gets requests for the passcode, will state that all are welcome, but share a few words to clarify the POC focus of the meeting. Jeff explained that it would be against the traditions to exclude anyone, so we cannot turn anyone away, but we will reinforce the special focus and hope that folks can be sensitive to it.

* Joint retreat with MBI? **Rachel S./Bobbie M.** (chair of MBI). **Rachel S.** presented. Introduced Bobbie M. (MBI), and suggested that we create a subcommittee. Rachel S. stated that MWI and MBI aren’t going to do the retreat jointly, but would like to start co-hosting other events in order to heal the divide. Bobbie M. thanked the group for allowing them to come and stated MWI is doing great work. Bobbie M. wasn’t around when the rift between intergroups happened. Bobbie M. discussed the value of diversity in the fellowship, including how folks work the program. Bobbie M. stated that our primary purpose is to reach the newcomer, and we need to do that together. Bobbie M. explained they have a “welcome back” workshop/framework. Bobbie proposed that we could do a meeting together, or a workshop or a fun thing like a family day. Could we pool resources to put these on? Michael P. explained that we are doing some work together already under the heading of Region 6. JB agreed that we could get a lot done if we work together. Nancy G. P. explained it will make more sense to newcomers to do more together. Susan G suggested a family day in a state park. Michael P. suggested that we take up Rachel S.’s suggestion of a working group. Beth K. stated she would be interested in joining the efforts, and explained that she had been there when the split happened and is excited to be a part of this. Susan G. is also happy to help. Michael P. explained to the group that our first tradition is Unity. Susan G., Rachel S., and Beth K. will start the subcommittee/working group, and Rachel S. suggested that anyone who wants to join can contact Rachel S. directly.
* Start meeting at Turning Point, Walpole treatment center (**Beilah**; in touch with SCMI, MBI to share). Michael P. explained that someone reached out to OA to host a meeting at Turning point weekly, which would make that meeting available to their clients. Michael P. stated concern about stepping on other intergroups’ toes, but we could jointly host it. Need: 2-3 people to commit to going to the meeting for 3 months. If we draw from 3 intergroups, this could work. Put out the call to anyone living in/near Walpole to get involved. Michael P. asked that Bobbie M. put out the call to their MBI members. We need to find folks who will commit to this meeting. Jackie asked about what the retreat center is; Michael P. stated that it’s a residential/inpatient private treatment center for people with addictions. MWI would not be endorsing them, it is simply proximity. Susan G. clarified that it is not private, but is a non-profit hosted by Bay State Community services and a free, community-based recovery program. Chloe stated that we may want to consult the traditions book about if there are any things we should consider regarding not conveying that OA is endorsing an outside enterprise. Rachel S. stated that this is standard practice in AA and that we have the same traditions that AA does. Chloe offered to research the 12&12 to see if there’s anything we need to do. JB stated that our mission is to carry the message, and having a meeting at the center is where we may identify newcomers. Michael P. asked that available folks reach out and offer some times they are available to start this meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS** 10:00 am

* Saturday 9:30 HOW meeting joins MWI (#54801): this is the second meeting recently to join MWI. Sue M. noted that the Saturday morning Westwood meeting is not listed on the google list of MWI meetings; Blair will add it. If anyone has any questions about the google list of MWI meetings, they can reach out to Blair or Nancy G. P.

**UPCOMING MWI EVENTS**

**Sunday MWI workshops**

When: First and Last Sunday of the month, 1:30-2:30p Eastern

Meeting ID: 705 658 2426, password 402153 -> see MWI website for call-in #s

* First Sunday of the month: special topic workshops:
* 4/3/2022: **Unwrapping the Fourth Step Process**.
* Last Sunday of the month: **Newcomer’s workshop**
  + 3/27/2022. See MWI website to sign up: <https://www.metrowestoa.org/news-and-events/>