MWI Meeting Minutes – May 21, 2022

Present:

- Sue, Treasurer
- Marge- Wednesday Wellesley
- JB- Acton rep
- Paula, rep for the Weds Acton 7:30PM
- Allan F- Monday Brookline
- Beth K
- Blair, Tues BBSS, WSBC
- Michael, Co-Chair
- Chloe, Recording Secretary
- Brookline Mens mtg
- Jackie, rep for Monday morning meditation meeting
- Rachel Co-Chair
- Connie- rep for Weds 715 HOW meeting
- Jean – new Hopkinton mtg 508-6410144

SERENITY PRAYER 9:00 a.m.

- Introductions
- No new members this morning who need orientation. Jean has been here 15 years ago- did not need orientation. Reminder that our role is to further our strategic goals through projects we identify as action steps, and report back to our meetings on what is going on in Intergroup. The Chair of Meeting will move the meeting along if too much time is given to one agenda item, questions and cross-talk are encouraged, Intergroup Reps are to cast one vote for their meeting and identify their meeting during introductions.
- Readings: Marge read the 12 steps, Connie the traditions, Michael concept of the month, Blair read the strategic plan
- Volunteers for minutes review: Marge volunteered (serenitysanityandpeace@gmail.com, Jean jeaton0@comcast.net Volunteered

OLD and/or ONGOING BUSINESS 9:15 am

❏ Treasurer's report: Sue gave the report. At the end of April we had 7,055, working balance from the end of April to now- 4,165.32. JB asked about one of the invoices, and Sue said she would circle back (see below for the continuation of this discussion when it came back up).

❏ Strategic Goal Updates:

- Website and Social Media: **Blair for Nancy (still seeking Social Media person) Website and Social Media:** Blair covered for Nancy on this part- 1200 users on our website, we are getting direct searches, as well as ad related traffic. Demographics continue to be mostly from the US, except London has surpassed Boston this month, New York, Ashburn and Dublin- lots of UK users. Engagement- how long they stay on the site. 2,700 engagements…Views- newcomers, main websites, is OA right for you, and meetings list. What people are looking for is newcomer and meeting information. Folks are also going to the podcast page. We had 13K impressions based

on 1200 clicks. We get free google ads b/c of being a non-profit. What we would have paid was $6K- we have branded campaigns- eating problems, overeaters anonymous, and how to stop binge eating- when people click on those searched, they get an ad for our website. More detail available on how each campaign works. "Is OA right for you"- email demographic is still 18-34. 15 question quiz- primarily 18-34, usually in the late afternoon and early evening. The reason we spend so much time on this is because we invested a LOT of energy and resources into our website, and we really want to know the user experience for the website is a good one. Part of our budget goes into maintenance of this incredible resource. This translates into carrying the message. Sue added that the website supports our mission statement and our purpose.

Sue mentioned that the invoice we paid was an annual CRISP fee- JB had asked about the invoice. When people land on our website, there is a chat on the bottom- part of that chat is moderated by an actual human, and another one is to have a "library" with pre-populated Q&A that folks can use to navigate. We're paying for that library, while we also have volunteers who support the chat. AND people can self navigate through the library. We pay more for the library. We had TONS of chats before we had the library- now it's been a great system to manage that volume. Michael seconded this info. JB asked about the analytics of the performance of that function- is there a way to know what we're getting from this function. Blair said normally we do have some analytics, and stated that she would ask Nancy if we could get that information. Jackie asked "If you live in London, how do you end up on MWI?" Michael explained that geography is meaningless- we put our ads out and tell google we want folks to see our ads in English speaking parts of the world. So it has nothing to do with OA World Services- we're putting ourselves out into the world and ask Google's algorithm to find who we're looking for, regardless of geographic area. Jackie- Mentioned that on the Thursday AM that there's a very international crowd, and she's been asking about how they find us. Google sells search words. If people organically put "I might be bulimic" into the search bar, we might come up if we've paid for that search word. We try and put content on our website that is reflective of what people are searching for online.

- Hotline / Voicemail: **Steve M./(Blair):** No report at this meeting
- Workshops:
  - ❑ Special Topics: **Michael / (Emily B.)**
    - May Workshop (5/1): **Abstinence and Food Plan -** There were 29 people who attended on Abstinence and Food plans. Michael stated that the attendance this year has been fabulous, and reminded the group that we've been doing workshops based on what we gathered in the "what would you want a workshop on" via survey.
    - June Workshop (6/5): **Building a Relationship with a Higher Power**
- 'Where Do I Start?' pamphlet distribution: **Mark**
- Diversity and Inclusion: POC Meeting Recaps: **Blair, Jeff, Susan G.** Blair reported that there are routinely between 5 and 7 people on the meeting- it's going really well. Yoojin, Jeff, Susan G and Blair started the meeting and are filling the service roles now. Concern raised on a recent meeting- how to manage when white attending members do not respect the goals of the space. OA's traditions state that we cannot exclude members based on identity (gender, race). In this meeting, we are grateful for ally support, but it is truly geared towards creating the safe space for the experience strength and hope for POC. Blair requested that as we continue to announce this meeting, but to please clarify that this is in fact for POC. JB asked for some feedback regarding advertising this meeting, and Blair stated that it is still very important to get the word out.
- Meeting at Turning Point, Walpole treatment center (SCMI, MBI to share): **Michael.** Michael stated he had no updates at this time. We have 4 people who are willing to support the start of this meeting, but next step is to reach out to the center to ask what day/time would work. Blair asked if we've reached out to South Coastal and Mass Bay intergroups and Michael said yes, so right now, all the involved people are MWI. Blair asked about Ocean Bay IG, and Michael stated that if we have 4 people committed it should be enough to get it going. It is an in-person meeting.

❑ Support for meetings transitioning to hybrid format: **Rachel (for Barbara K.).** Rachel stated that Barbara mentioned that Cape Cod IG is setting aside money for this. And there are some documents and resources around moving to Hybrid. Sue stated that she thought we budgeted around 100 for new meeting support, esp. if folks need to make initial literature purchases, etc. if going back to in person. Michael stated that if we get a request, we can provide funds. Blair stated that the one key thing is that if Cape Cod announces they have this money, and we do not currently do so. Sue mentioned we don't have a certain amount assigned to each group.

Initiatives:

- Speaker Bank - Beth K. is the new coordinator. We are looking for PoC speakers, those recovering from Anorexia/Bulimia and Young People: **Rachel.** Beth is our new Speaker Bank coordinator. Rachel stated that there are 10 people on that list right now, and we will be contacting them for updates. Rachel mentioned that we're looking for POC, Anorexia and Bulimia too. Blair mentioned that we can put into the announcements
- Outreach to Healthcare Professionals: **Rachel**
    - Atrius Health, PO Square, 45 minute Zoom presentation happening May 31. We have a PoC speaker with recovery from bulimia and a speaker with recovery from Binge Eating Disorder. Rachel stated that the group will be talking about medicine and OA…..how traditional nutritionists haven't worked for us, and OA did. Rachel stated she has been working with Beilah for one specific event…Michael stated that we recruited a bunch of folks for different initiatives, and Belaih volunteered to support outreach to HCP and this is the first event.

NEW BUSINESS 10:00 am

Report from WSBC: **Michael & Blair.**

Michael stated that if you want to read the report from the World Service Business Conference (WSBC), put your info in the chat, and he or Blair can send out a copy of it. Blair and Michael were both representatives from MWI at the WSBC. Michael stated that in general, it is a profound experience to be around so many people so committed to recovery, but also a trying experience because folks are focused on the weeds/details. But a lot was accomplished and definitely worth it.

A few items we want to bring up are the following:

1) Board of Trustees: One item of new business for the conference to vote on was a reorganization of the board of trustees of OA and to reduce our board to 12 trustees (instead of the 17 we have currently). OA has a trustee from each region (10) plus general service trustees (7). There are very few organizations that have a board of 17. The motion to reduce to 12 trustees failed but an amendment to the motion that passed was to remove the concept of a 'region' trustee. Adding more trustees would be a financial burden. There are 10 regions plus a virtual region; 8 of the regions are ostensibly US-based. The other two regions are not & that is a little lopsided. The international contingent of OA has grown and there are some questions about how well we serve all our members given the growth of OA outside of the US. In addition to national service, WSBC discussed regional service. In some places where they don't have enough members to have regions, they have national service committees / boards. It was put into bylaws that there could be committees and boards that are not tied to region, but by special interest (e.g. virtual integroup). OA is starting to move away from geography and towards helping whoever needs it.
2) The conference voted not to allow **all** conference-approved literature to be shared on video conferencing platforms.
3) OA received 134K in paycheck protection funds from the US government. Some members felt we needed to give that money back because we are self-supporting and this $$ could be viewed as 'an endorsement' from an outside entity. 130-30 voted against giving the money back. The conference is a fellowship and also a corporation.
4) Info about WSBC 2022:
    a) # of delegates: 218
    b) # of countries: 21
    c) This is the 3rd virtual WSBC. This year, it was a 'full' WSBC where we voted for Trustees, bylaw amendments, new business motions, and new literature.
5) Remote vs. In-person WSBC in the future: Motion failed to specify In-person, Virtual, and Hybrid meetings from 2024-2026. 2023 has already been booked since we need to reserve the hotel 1 year in advance. We lost 131K this year (deposit to the hotel) because we did not have an in-person conference. A virtual conference could allow more people to participate (folks who cannot travel, etc). This would allow more members to serve at this level. This is an ongoing discussion. Michael added that trying to codify the WSBC meeting type/frequency/schedule is an operational matter, and that bylaws shouldn't have operational matters in them, so it was decided because meeting schedule/type was an operational matter, it would be given to the trusted servants who do the operational activities, rather than added to the bylaws.
6) Committee service: Each delegate is asked to participate for one year, starting during WSBC 2022.
    a) Michael is on the 12 Step Within (TSW) Committee. He has agreed to be chair of the subcommittee, Each One Reach One. For example, TSW is doing outreach calls on the 12th day of every month.

b) Blair is on the Public Information / Professional Outreach (PIPO) Committee. She served as delegate co-chair of the PIPO committee 2021-2022 and is the interim chair of the committee 2022-2023 until one can be elected. We just learned who our Trustee co-chair will be; Blair will continue to report.

UPCOMING MWI EVENTS
Sunday MWI workshops
When: First Sunday of the month, special topic workshop, 1:30-2:30p Eastern
Meeting ID: 705 658 2426, password 402153 -> see MWI website for call-in #s

- 6/5/2022: **Building a Relationship with a Higher Power**

➔ https://www.metrowestoa.org/news-and-events/

UNITY PRAYER

I put my hand in yours, and together we can do what we could never do alone. No longer is there a sense of hopelessness, no longer must we each depend upon our own unsteady willpower. We are all together now, reaching out our hands for power and strength greater than ours, and as we join hands, we find love and understanding beyond our wildest dreams.

ADJOURN 10:30 am

Zoom details

https://zoom.us/j/7056582424?pwd=SFJlZUR3UmFqcmFoMlZoMzRzZTdYUT09

Meeting ID: 7056582424

Passcode: 402153 (note: new passcode!)