

Western Mass Intergroup  
September 8, 2008  
Meeting Minutes  
Pittsfield, MA

**Present:** JoAnn S., Beth B., Sue S., Jeffrey A., Bill B., Phyllis H., Rhea, Walter, Susan G., Francine, Terry D. Marie A., Andrew, Connell, JoAnne S., Rhea, Rochan, Francine C., Jill

Jeff opened the meeting at 6:30 with the **Serenity Prayer**. JoAnne read the Introduction to WMI to the newcomers to WMI. We read the **Ninth Tradition** and the **Ninth Concept**.

Beth gave the **Recording Secretary's** report, the minutes for the August 11, 2008 meeting. The minutes were approved as amended by changing from "Terry... has found a new place from which she can make speaker CDs" to "...is checking on a new place..." in the Soft Literature report. Also, under Fundraising Committee, change from "Rhea reported...that the CDs are selling well..." to "Terry reported...that the CDs..." Then add, "Rhea reported that" to "she's only sold 1 candle...."

JoAnne, as her **Chair's** report handed out the bicycle graphic with questions 14 through 20 from the Forum on Strategic Planning from the World Service Business Conference. She announced that WMI will be working on one item a quarter from the WSBC Strategic Plan. For the **Vice Chair's** report, Jeff reported that the March/April issue of "Lifeline" talks about the same thing (Strategic Planning) and what's available from the World Service Office, including information on group inventories.

For the **Treasurer's** report, Rhea said that there was income of \$796.33, expenses of \$241.37, and a new balance of \$1,967.00 as of 7/31/08.

For the **Corresponding Secretary's** report, Sue reported that she sent our newsletter out to those who send theirs to us and asked if they were interested in receiving our newsletter ("Recovery Lines"). They replied that they are interested. The Lee meeting on Tuesday (maybe it's Thursday) is no longer meeting and Connell asked Sue to update the meeting lists to reflect that. The Greenfield 9:30 a.m. Saturday meeting no longer meets at the YMCA; it has moved to the conference room at the Franklin Medical Center, according to Terry. Also, the meeting at St. James in Great Barrington will have to move because the building has been condemned. Someone reported that the Friday/Saturday meetings will meet at Fairview Hospital Conference Room and the other meeting will meet at Patrice's house. Sue will contact them for current information to update the meeting list.

Sue S. reminded us that we will need a new **Archivist** and showed us what the Archivist notebooks look like and talked about what a simple service it is.

**Roll call**, introductions, and newcomer welcome were made.

Terry gave a brief **Soft Literature** report. She has a suitcase full of soft literature, including 30 Newcomer Packets and 114 of the new pamphlet, Is Food a Problem for You? She has \$4.38 in cash plus a pending sale of \$9.70 and \$322.80 in literature, for a total inventory of \$346.88. She also gave a

report on the CDs. She had \$171.06 in expenses and has cash on hand of \$80.57, 50 CDs for sale for \$4.00 each for an inventory of \$200, and 2 sets of CDs on Big Book Boot Camp on sale for \$24.00 each for an inventory of \$48.00. She also has the 15 CD set that we bought to lend out.

Regarding **Hard Literature**, Beth reported she had lots of literature with her and that she would be making an order.

For **Professional Outreach**, Sue reported that she'd received a phone call from Minnechaug High School asking if we could send some OA members to the school to speak to 400 juniors and seniors. They'd like us to just tell our stories over the course of a day and a half in December.

Beth reported that the **Newsletter** had not received any articles yet.

Regarding the **World Service** Business Conference, the delegates reported that the 2009 dates and hotel prices have been set and that there will be a new 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition pamphlet.

As chair of the **Marathon** committee, Sue S. announced that the next meeting will be 9/27/08 at 6:00 p.m., right before the 7:00 meeting at the Holyoke Medical Center and in the same room. The committee has brochures ready for Intergroup and the Region 6 Assembly. Also, Terry reported that she'd gotten the information we requested about taping speakers at the marathon so that the committee can discuss it at the 9/27 meeting.

John was not here so we did not have a **12<sup>th</sup> Step Within** report.

Rhea reported for the **Fundraising** committee that she has sold a couple of candles and has some bookmarks for sale. She said the fundraising committee made a \$100 donation to WMI and that a new committee is needed.

Dan was not here to give a **Website Coordinator** report, but JoAnne reported that there have not been any complaints about the website except for a couple of layout problems.

There was no report from the **PI** subcommittee.

Terry, as **Phone Liaison**, reported that we had 7 calls for help, 4 callers were given meeting information, there was no one on the line on 14 calls, there were 9 days when there were no messages at all, and 3 calls said that they'd call back. Terry is going to ask what the difference is between no one on the line and no message calls. One call was a wrong number and one call was a recording. And there were 3 days when she didn't get emails from the phone service. One caller was referred through the Pennysaver, one from a friend a long time ago, one from Great Barrington meeting info, one from a friend, one from a nutritionist, and one from Baystate Hospital.

### **Old Business:**

The policy for reimbursing WMI attendees for their gas was announced as voted on at the July meeting and reported in the July meeting minutes. The policy will go into effect in January but the budget for it

has not yet been determined. To be clear, here are the minutes from the August meeting concerning reimbursement: "A motion was made to pay \$5, \$10, \$15, and \$20 for 20, 40, 50, 60+ mile round-trips, respectively, at the request of the traveler to the Treasurer of WMI, with the returned check serving as the WMI receipt. The motion passed unanimously. The announcement of the new policy will be made at the September WMI meeting in the Berkshires. A motion was made to make the above policy effective January 2009. The motion passed. WMI will need to write this up as a policy statement."

JoAnne agreed to attach the attendance checklist to the agenda so that everyone's email would be accessible.

### **New Business:**

JoAnne gave everyone copies of the WSBC Strategic Planning notes and we discussed how it relates to WMI strategic planning. We will take one facet each quarter and work on it at WMI. Starting at the October meeting, we will set aside 15 to 20 minutes to work on the first facet.

We will be doing nominations for WMI positions.

Terry suggested that we download and print copies of A Step Ahead for each WMI rep. Sue will ask WSO and will make copies and will get reimbursed. It was moved to allocate funds to print A Step Ahead quarterly for WMI reps. The motion passed. The funds will be taken from the Chair's budget.

### **Group Concerns:**

Sue S. reported that the Northampton Nooners will hold their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary from 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 24; the Promises potluck will be held on Saturday, December 13 from 5 to 9 pm at the Southwick Congregational Church; and the OA New Hope Group will hold their annual Thank-a-thon on Friday, November 28 (the day after Thanksgiving) at Mittineague United Methodist Church in West Springfield.

Monday Voices of Recovery meeting is doing fine despite low number of members.

Jeff reported that, as a WSBC delegate he'd written a note to himself that the WSO then sent out 4 to 5 months later and he was pleased and moved upon receiving it.

Susan G. thanked Sue S. and the marathon committee for the nice flyer and their work.

Bill B. announced that our deceased OA brother Norm P.'s house was being sold to a local social services agency to be used as a halfway house called Norm's Place.

Be sure to give meeting corrections to Terry so that the Phone Service is up to date.

The WMI meeting was adjourned well before 8:30.