

SUBJECT: NE FLORIDA INTERGROUP (IG) BUSINESS ZOOM MEETING MINUTES ON MARCH 5, 2022

Chair called meeting to order with a moment of silence followed by the long version of the Serenity Prayer and the AA Responsibility Statement. Chair read the Third Step, Third Tradition and Third Concept. This month the chair also read Warranty Six from the Twelfth Concept, which is an especially important reminder for us to always discuss issues in view of principles instead of personalities.

Housekeeping: In person participants signed in on attendance sheet and zoom participants signed in with first name, last initial, position and voting/non-voting/visitor. Meeting was recorded for administrative purposes and will be deleted when the minutes are approved at the next IG business meeting.

There were 29 voting members and 9 non-voting members reported. Only 11 of the 24 Zoom attendees were captured due to technical issues. Those recorded are as follows.

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Kevin G, IG Chair (non-voting) | Gene M, Phoenix Mens |
| Dan B, Vice Chair, Finance | John C, Trout River |
| David M, Central Group, Treatment Chair | Loretta T, Alexis Group |
| Kathleen D, Corrections | Mary D, This Too Shall Pass |
| Walter S, Treasurer, Clean & Free | Patty P, Heart to Heart |
| Andrew M Zoom Host (non-voting) | Renee B, LoveNAction |
| Mike M, IG Office (non-voting) | Rick D, From the Heart |
| Steve C, Corrections (non-voting) | Roger L, Central Group |
| Bob E, Other Side of Bridge | Terry F, Arlington |
| Charlie M, Archives, IGR I am Responsible | Trish M, Switzerland |
| Debra V, 5th Tradition | Linda G, SC D4 (non-voting) |

Secretary's Report

February business meeting minutes were sent via email to be read prior to business meeting. Minutes were approved with one correction, to add Mary D to the list of attendees.

Chair Report

We now have three vacancies: Accessibilities Chair, CPC/PI Chair and Parliamentarian. Lon L had to resign because he just started a new job that requires him to work on the weekends, so we thank him for his service.

Chair nominated Gene M for the Accessibilities Chair, which was approved by vote.

If you know folks interested CPC/PI or Parliamentarian, please ask them to contact me.

Also, per Article VIII f the bylaws we have elections coming up this November for IG Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer. Please submit nominations and resumes at the IG Business meeting in October. Per Article VIII the Treasurer is to rotate in the year opposite the Chair and Vice Chair.

Vice-Chair Report:

- Office is running smoothly and adequately staffed. We're always looking for volunteers however, so if you are interested, contact Mike at the office and he will tell you what the requirements are. We are still requiring masks.
- The new computer software and hardware has been installed, and the office is running a lot more efficiently now.

- We approached the landlord about a new lease but will wait on him to get back to us rather than chasing him.

Treasurer's Report

Account Summary

Checking/Savings

Cash- Regions Bank \$12,690.17

Cash in Drawer \$122.35

Total Check/Savings \$13,923.86

Inventory \$13,923.86

Prudent Reserve

Regions Bank CD 001 \$10,176.90

Regions Bank CD 002 \$10,535.35

Regions Bank CD 003 \$10,086.73

Total Prudent Reserve \$30,798.98

Year over year Revenue and Expenses are outlined in the Add-A-Line. Main difference from 2021 is increase in wages and office expense. Overall, we are in good shape.

Question was raised about the revenue and expenses from the banquet. Dan says it was reviewed, and there was in fact a mistake in the original reporting. It had been reported as \$8700 but corrected to \$8200. Detailed breakdown is included in email with the minutes.

Steering Committee

- Some Safety issues were raised to the Steering Committee, which were discussed. Here is the SC reply:

Our co-founder Bill W. stated on page 319 of *As Bill Sees It*, “The A.A. Traditions are neither rules, regulations, nor laws. We obey them willingly because we ought to. Perhaps the secret of their power lies in the fact that these life-giving communications spring out of living experience and are rooted in love.”

We have lost some perspective. Intergroups are not part of the AA Service Structure. NEFLIGS is a 501(c)3 organization. It is a separate entity. A corporation. And we operate as a service to the community at large. True, we the strive to live up to the Steps, Traditions, Concepts and Three Legacies of AA.

Northeast Florida Intergroup Services, Inc.

The Northeast Florida Intergroup’s primary purpose is to assist the A.A. Groups in Jacksonville and the surrounding areas in carrying the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to those who suffer from alcoholism. The Northeast Florida Intergroup is responsible to the member groups from the seven service districts (1,3,4,6,24,25, and 30), deriving its legitimate authority there from. In all its activities, policies and proceedings, the Northeast Florida Intergroup shall observe the practice and spirit of A.A.’s Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts for World Service, as well as its Three Legacies of Recovery, Unity, and Service.

Recently, I have heard words bantered around that do not adhere to the Three Legacies of Recovery, Unity and Service.

Recovery – what if you are the only Big Book someone sees?

Unity – “Unity is the glue that holds the intergroup/central offices and general services together, but it is communication that jumpstarts mutual cooperation and harmony — vital both in reaching suffering alcoholics and in being attuned to the needs of those who are recovering in A.A.” — Reprinted from [Intergroup/Central](#)

Offices: A.A.'s Front Line — Box 459 — August/September 2007, with permission from A.A. World Services, Inc.

Service – This is a privilege. The more we give back, the more we receive.

And two other words need to be added – Resentment and Safety.

Resentment - “Resentment is the “number one” offender. It destroys more alcoholics than anything else.”

Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book pg.64

Resentment is also defined as “bitter indignation at having been treated unfairly.”

Safety – I read the Safety Card at the beginning of the meeting. Safety can mean more than concern for being mugged. It is emotional and spiritual as well.

We are not going to resort to gossip, name calling, slander, character assignation, or any derogatory term you want to apply. We will wear our sobriety.

- We are investigating When and Where across the country. While we know that Corrections and Treatment facilities need something in paper, but do we really need thousands of full booklets? Would a flyer be sufficient for some places?
- There was some miscommunication about the Bridging the Gap QR code, and it will be discussed further. The consensus was that there should be one source for the information, and it is the NEFL Intergroup website. Who is paying for the redesign and the handouts? The Steering Committee recommends that the committees use their budgets for it.
- Discussed a security camera due to some vandalism that occurred.
- Banquet committee is making great progress.

Old Business

No Old Business for discussion this month.

New Business

- Corrections: There are strict limits and boundaries in what we do, but since COVID has kept us from going into the jails, our perspective has spread into the community rather than just in the jails. One is the Houses of New Hope, and one is the Citi Rescue Mission. David and others have been going to CRM. I would like to start working with Houses of New Hope but want to be sure that it's ok to provide books to these community organizations. These places are contacting us regarding Bridge the Gap. Would like some input on expanding the role of Corrections to go outside the walls of a prison or jail. have been 2 meetings since the last report. Feedback given: Historically, the committees work together. If the Corrections committee wants to work hand in hand with Treatment or CPC/PI committees to get this done, there is nothing wrong with that. Several people voiced their support for providing the books since people coming out of prison or jail are going to these facilities.

Committee Reports:

Accessibilities – no report, new chair appointed

Add-A-Line

You should have received the color version of the AAL. We're always looking for articles, especially stories. Adding a section for 'This day in history'. Request was made for a sponsor list for Gateway. We can't do that because it would be affiliation with an outside enterprise – but CPC could do it. Or the Treatment committee could request a list for all facilities.

Email to editor2022.aal@outlook.com.

Archives

1. Old Timers stories: status
 - a. All old timers' transcripts and stories have been loaded on our computer
 - b. All old timer's stories are now on our website (25 in total)
 - c. Janice J.' s interview is being edited by John C.
 - d. Chaz is trying to set up a time to interview Indian Dave.
 - e. There are over 60 old timers in our area with over 40 years of sobriety who need to be interviewed.
2. An article is being written on the Washingtonian Movement with a comparison to AA.
3. The national Archives Workshop is scheduled for September 22-25 in North Little Rock, Arkansas. We are hoping to participate.
4. We are developing a plan to scan our archives files into our computer. We will need some volunteers to help with this work.
5. We have a budget of \$2000 for 2022.
6. We plan to meet March 21st at 7pm. It will be a zoom meeting. Contact Intergroup or the archives chair for ID and password.

Corrections

We've had 2 meetings since the last report. Both were about Bridging the Gap program for Treatment and Correctional Facilities. We are getting closer to setting up the communication path for clients to access. We will present further information as progress is made. Treatment Committee will present technical details.

CPC/PI - No Report, vacant position

Finance

February bank reconciliation is still in progress. Nothing unusual has been identified. Financial statements were reviewed by the committee and approved. Direct deposit of employee checks is still in progress. Our application to remain a non-profit for 2022 has been approved. Prudent Reserve was calculated at \$40,000, which is 6 months of operating expenses. Last year it was \$39,000, due to being closed part of the time in 2021. Have filed and accepted the Florida State Annual report, which is required as a Florida corporation.

Grapevine – nothing to report this month

Phone Army

Kara is working on the new quarterly schedule. A few more people have dropped off the schedule and have been replaced, but we are always looking for additional volunteers.

Special Events

We are moving along slowly, looking for volunteers. Will set up a meeting in the next month or so. Event will be October 22. Holly is working on some bids for catering. We have our auctioneer and our Count Down person. Moving along well.

Treatment

Bridging the Gap process development:

During February, the Treatment and Corrections Committee members continued to work on developing the process that we call the *BTG Button Process*. The purpose of the process is to find ways to make the

contact loop of: AA-to-Facility Team (input)-to-alcoholic individual-back to-Facility team (output)-back to-AA-to-individual-BTG-volunteer vastly more efficient and simple.

The critical-path tool to facilitate this increase in efficiency is a digital *Bridging the Gap Information Form* that a person anticipating discharge – either a patient or an inmate – can fill out on-line, working in concert with their *Case Manager*. That *Information Form* – think of it as an on-line app – will be hosted on the NEFLAA.org website and reachable there via a link. The *Information Form* is a fillable form. Once submitted, the data on the form goes directly to our team. This critical-path piece of software is now on the NEFLAA.org website. Remaining refinements are underway. We anticipate that usage can begin sometime in the month of March.

Additional steps taken:

In concert with the Corrections Committee, we have defined an overall *Bridge the Gap* process that encompasses *four elements*:

- Process refinement and materials creation
- Communications Outreach to both to facilities and organizations:
 - Both short-term and longer-term Treatment Facilities
 - Various components of the Correctional systems here in our North Florida area
- A roster of Temporary Contact Volunteers who reach out to those who request a hand via the Bridge the Gap Information Form
- An element that handles IT and data collection / management tasks

Development in all four elemental areas continued in lock-step throughout February and continues on as we move into March.

Areas where we need assistance:

- The *BTG Button* software itself is the critical path for proceeding in March. Our thanks goes out to the IG Office staff for their support and teamwork.
- We ask anyone and everyone to help with building the *Bridge the Gap* Volunteers team up. We need a bunch of them and a variety as well.

Inquiries or names of volunteers:

Contact the BTG Button Process team at this email address:

BTG.neflaa@gmail.com

Website

In the last week we've gotten about 12 emails telling us that zoom information for various meetings is incorrect. We're meeting with David and Heather this week about Bridge the Gap. It was not done timely enough for the committee, but other work had been prioritized.

Upcoming Events, Meetings – details in Add A Line

Pre-Conference workshop on March 5, 1-4pm at San Marco Club. Ruth will be giving info on this year's conference.

District 24 Roundup, March 26 from 10-2. Bring a finger food or dessert. St. Marks Episcopal in Palatka. They have a great speaker as well.

District 6 Sponsorship Workshop, March 26 2-3:30, St. Johns County Library on US 1 South.

Expect a Miracle Women's Conference, June 10, Hotel Valencia.

Florida State Convention in Fort Lauderdale on August 7.

Meeting adjourned at 10:38 with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Business Meeting is Saturday April 2, 9:00am – 10:30am at Jaba Club Fellowship at 8:30 with refreshments.

ZOOM ID: 8977 440 1312, PWD: nefl3128