**GMNI meeting 11/20/2024**

Attending Karen G (chair), Judi S (vice chair), Nance (Middlebury), Carrie M (treasurer nominee), Aileen (Colchester), Sue R (Essex Jct), Amy B (treasurer)

Minutes from previous GMNI meeting 9/18/2024 accepted without change.

**REPORTS**

\* Karen reported that the Board met. The OAVermont.org meeting list was updated with corrections, which were similarly updated on oa.org. Corrections meeting addition, start time correction, and changed category of meeting type at oa.org.

\* Phone Service Report: Katrine H answers the phone and subsequently gives out meeting information. She emailed Karen there was no uptick seen in phone call volume. Katrine said she was not getting text notifications from Freedom Voice any longer, just emails. Amy will contact Freedom Voice to get settings corrected so Katrine will get text notifications again when a voicemail message is left.

\* Karen reported for Joshua that there was no uptick in website hits.

\* Treasurers Report (Amy B): (see report for details)

Current balance is $6997.57

GMNI's Tax ID is currently invalid, likely a result of failing to fill out a yearly report in some unknown prior year. Amy believes a current Tax ID number isn't required for our operations. Applying for a new Tax ID would mean setting up a new bank account which is felt to be too onerous.

World Service published new distribution targets for meeting treasurers as follows:

50% intergroup

40% world service

10% regional group

**OLD BUSINESS**

\* Budget: (see report for details)

Prudent reserve increased from $400 to $1200 to cover all yearly obligations in the event GMNI closes

T7 income from 2025 estimated at $3,000. Groups should remind members that world service’s recommended 7th Tradition contribution is $5

Judi moved to accept the proposed 2025 budget; Nance seconded; unanimously passed

\* Electronic Payments - Amy & Joshua have tried to add a PayPal button to our website to facilitate T7 donations. Roadblocks to this effort included requirement of a social media account and recently the need for a valid Tax ID number. GMNI is officially abandoning this effort.

\* PIPO Campaign

Amy reported that GMNI received an R6 PIPO blitz grant of $424 for publicity, to use with our budgeted $200 from GMNI. She arranged for free “Calendar” listings in multiple local newspapers including Seven Days, Addison Independent, and papers in Manchester, Bennington, and Brattleboro. This extends where information is being published with GMNI phone and website offerings. Drawing attention to the 5 in-person meetings is important. Amy proposed using the money to place ads in the Services sections of the Brattleboro Reformer, Bennington Banner, and Manchester Journal towards that end. She also shared rates for the Rutland Herald. Sue suggested the Milton paper as well. Nance noted that 5 years ago GMNI spent considerable funds advertising in Front Porch Forum. Subsequent surveys found no one new came to meetings as a result of this campaign. However, it was believed that the campaign planted seeds. So Amy will calculate the costs and follow up on these newspaper ad expenditures to utilize the grant by the end of the year. The group thanked Amy for her efforts on this project.

**NEW BUSINESS**

\* Treasurer - Amy's term as Treasurer technically ended in September 2024. Carrie M was nominated as our new Treasurer. Acceptance was unanimous. Her term will start in January; she will work with Amy to recieve our "books". Amy, Karen, and Carrie will meet in Johnson after the 1st of the year to complete the necessary changes on our account with Community Bank.

\* New In-Person Meeting in Essex Junction – There is a new in-person meeting starting Dec 5 at 6:30pm in Essex Junction. Sue R is their rep. GMNI budgeted $150 in 2024 budget to support up to 2 new meetings. Sue will reach out to Amy for reimbursement on some of her start-up expenses. Judi has literature from in-person meetings that closed. If Sue wants any of it, Judi will happily pass it along.

\* Other Meeting Info

Karen recommended a newcomers meeting hosted by the Western Mass intergroup (oawmass.org) on Tues @6:30pm as an excellent newcomer resource, including access to temporary sponsors for the first 12 days of OA.

Aileen pointed out that GMNI's list of nearby intergroups is missing the Westchester United intergroup which also has a sponsor bank as well as a speaker's bureau.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

\* The Region 6 April assembly will be virtual. Check the events calendar on R6 website (https://oaregion6.org).

\* Next GMNI meeting is January 15, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

*Judi S, Vice-Chair*