**GMNI Meeting 5/16/2024**

***Attended by Karen G, Judi S, Ramona A, Amy B***

**Concepts of Service:** Karen read Concept of Service 4 (Equality) and 5 (Consideration)

**Minutes:** Typo was noted in the March minutes (Karren -> Karen), and they were adopted as corrected.

**Reports:**

**Chair’s Report:**

Karen reported on the Spring Assembly held in Albany, NY on April 6 (see report attached). She highlighted the that Region 6 is in sound financial shape, provided one PIPO Blitz grant, completed enhancements to the website, and initiated prep for the 2024 Convention in Nashua, NH Oct 23-25. She also described the successful launch of a simultaneous audio human French-English/English-French translation service during the meeting.

**No Web Report or Telephone Report Submitted**

**Treasurers Report:**

Amy reported on March and April expenses and income (see report attached). Our current bank balance is $9604.64, minus $400 prudent reserve, leaves us with working capital of $9204.64 as of May 1, 2024. Also, Amy is trying to get the zoom accounts all switched to annual, for cost savings, and will reach out to Joshua again to get this accomplished.

**Old Business:**

1. **Info Blast to Healthcare Providers:** Ramona presented a list of electronic pamphlets, survey results, and oa.org PDFs that would provide helpful information to care providers. In order to mount an disseminate this information, a small group would need to finalize which would be included, create a cover letter, and determine the distribution. Karen asked everyone to reach out to their meetings for anyone willing to work on this. Karen thanked Ramona for her research on this.
2. **Free Conference Call Functionality for Meetings:** Karen reported that she and Rosemary B met with Nance K to learn about managing Free Conference Call meetings using the computer dashboard. Nance provided written instructions that Karen will send out with these meeting notes. The Monday 5:30pm Bristol meeting operates smoothly using these functions every week. Ramona said everyone in the group has been trained and can take the host role.
3. **Retreat Investigation:**While this idea was asked about in GMNI meetings, there were no individuals who expressed interest in serving on a committee to work on sponsoring a retreat. The idea will be dropped until more interest is expressed.
4. **Newspaper Campaign:** Amy reported on her outreach to VT newspapers. She is identifying ones that offer free listings for public service, and those who offer ads for sale. Where free listings are available, the group decided Amy should go ahead and get our organization and contact info listed right away. For those who change, Amy will get pricing so we can put together an application for a Region 6 PIPO Blitz grant to cover the costs of a limited newspaper campaign.
5. **PayPal/Venmo:** At WSBC,Karen met with Sandy C. the Treasurer of the Virtual Region who is an expert on electronic payment applications and options for OA meetings and intergroups. Karen will give Amy Sandy’s contact info to discuss our current questions and seek suggestions.

**New Business:**

1. **Mileage Reimbursement Rate:** Ramona moved to reimburse mileage to Karen for the Spring Assembly at the federal government rate of $.67/mile. It was seconded and passed. Amy will send Karen an expense reimbursement check. The shortfall for mileage was considered insignificant in light of other items costing less than budgeted.
2. **WSBC Highlights:** Karen used the remaining time to share a few highlights from WSBC.
   1. Concern over perceived America-centric leaning within Overeaters Anonymous was identified and addressed through much of the workshop materials and business transacted. Encouragement to recognize the global nature of the fellowship; and the diversity of language, culture, and custom was emphasized throughout the meetings.
   2. Motions to change He/Him pronouns to “God” in the Steps and Traditions went to the Reference Subcommittee, where it was debated, amended, and eventually referred to the Unity with Diversity Committee. Ultimately, however, the original motion makers withdrew the motion altogether.
   3. The motion to include language in the Bylaws directing the Board of Trustees to avoid all religious holidays when scheduling the WSBC in May, met with great debate, a defeat, an emotional appeal, a recount, an adoption, a next-day reconsideration, an amendment, and final acceptance. The final adopted motion passed without inclusion of named holidays or the words “religion” or “religious”.
   4. Call for Stories about Mental Health and Recovery (see OA.org for details).

**Upcoming Dates:**

5/19 Region 6 Intergroup Forum on “Abstinence and Service”

6/7-9 OA Retreat at Hampshire College (Western Massachusetts Intergroup)

6/30 Healing from Loss Webinar (Westchester United Intergroup)

7/18 next GMNI meeting

***Submitted in Service by Karen G. 5/19/24***