



Intergroup Representative Meeting Minutes

July 16, 2024 at 6:30 PM

MEETING ID: 834 8089 6922 (NO PASSWORD REQUIRED)

LINK: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83480896922>

(The waiting room will open at 6:15 PM)

Opened meeting at 6:30 PM, Serenity Prayer - Megan, Twelve Traditions - Sarita

IGR Reports:

Note: The following IGRs were present and all reported STATUS QUO unless noted below:

- High Noon: Christine
- District 30: Ray
- Park Road Acceptance: Sue
- Spiritual Progress: Carol
- Lunch Box: Jane
- Back to Basics: Lynn
- Broad River: Daniel
- Primary Purpose: Michael – Primary Purpose is having an Eat and Speak meeting Sunday, July 28. Eating at 6 PM and Speaker at 7 PM.
- Hartsville: Christina: - Welcome, Christina! Hartsville group has noon and evening meetings every day except Sunday. These meeting changes need to be updated on our website.
- All In Men's: David
- Positive Action: Jeff
- North Columbia: Tony - North Columbia is no longer meeting for Friday's Zoom meetings. This meeting change has been updated on our website.
- Living Sober: Tom
- Smokestack: Ted
- Lugoff Keep It Simple: Brad
- Twilight: Jim

IGR Attendance: 16

STEERING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Outreach – Ryan E. – Ryan shared that there have been two successful bridges from Morris Village this month and there are six pending for August. Ryan shared that he recently attended a BTG Committee meeting with Charleston's BTG in the upstate. This committee is working on creating a system that is all automated, hopefully facilitating faster paced BTG points of contact. Ryan shared that he recently hosted a workshop with District 43. Ryan asked for IGRs to please contact him if they are interested in hosting or learning more about a BTG workshop. More information to come on upcoming workshops. Please email Ryan at gcibtg@gmail.com for more information on BTG service

and workshops.

Shareable Bridging the Gap volunteer sign up form: <https://bit.ly/BTGSignup>

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Outreach report.

Report was accepted unanimously at 6:37 PM

Treasurer – Dave N. – The following expenses, summaries, contributions and balances were highlighted as Dave spoke to the Monthly Financial Summary and GCI Group Contributions spreadsheets for June 2024:

Operating Expenses = \$1,457.92

Inventory Purchases = \$83.15

Total Operating Expenses for June = \$1,541.07

Office Summary: Sales = \$3,225.75

Bank Summary: Website Donations = \$612.13

Bank Summary: Balance = \$8,962.67

Bank Summary: Prudent Reserve = \$12,332.30

GCI Group Contributions = \$1,061.66 - Thank you 5th Tradition, Dutch Square, Five Points Happy Hour, Into Action, KTC, Longbranch Group, Shandon Happy Hour, Starting Over and Third Tradition!

Dave reported that we are doing well financially.

Q: How is the bank balance calculated?

A: This month's bank balance = last month's bank balance + this month's deposits (cash/checks) + this month's credit card deposits - this month's operating expenses.

- $\$7,529.58 + \$1,384.22 + \$1,589.94 - \$1,541.07 = \$8,962.67$

30	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$58,858.17	\$26,623.34	\$32,234.83	\$4,920.67	\$3,811.34	\$4,112.66	\$3,564.68	\$8,672.92	\$1,541.07
31										
32	OFFICE SUMMARY	TOTAL YTD		2022 Final	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
33	Deposits to Checking	\$14,115.77			\$4,640.51	\$1,809.72	\$1,964.62	\$2,431.66	\$1,935.80	\$1,333.46
34	Credit Card Sales	\$9,257.33			\$1,732.10	\$1,351.68	\$988.55	\$1,433.65	\$1,519.40	\$2,231.95
35	Contributions Posted	\$8,706.07			\$2,799.36	\$885.27	\$921.62	\$1,903.76	\$1,034.40	\$1,161.66
36	Sales Receipts	\$23,085.51			\$6,377.56	\$3,331.07	\$2,909.77	\$3,869.01	\$3,372.35	\$3,225.75
37										
38	BANK SUMMARY									
39	Deposits (Cash/Checks)	\$14,945.62			\$4,334.55	\$2,669.68	\$1,781.62	\$2,699.41	\$2,076.14	\$1,384.22
40	Credit Card Deposits	\$8,463.65			\$1,732.37	\$1,284.59	\$1,102.75	\$1,395.78	\$1,358.22	\$1,589.94
41	Refunds & Rebates	\$137.80			\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$37.80	\$0.00
42	Website Donations	\$986.92			\$0.00	\$0.00	\$207.00	\$121.29	\$46.50	\$612.13
43	Website Donation Fees	\$36.16			\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7.88	\$11.41	\$1.41	\$15.46
44	Net Website Donations	\$950.76			\$0.00	\$0.00	\$199.12	\$109.88	\$45.09	\$596.67
45	Bank Balance				\$ 15,104.44	\$14,226.04	\$13,196.86	\$14,914.17	\$7,529.58	\$8,962.67
46	Transfer to Savings				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
47	Prudent Reserve				\$12,329.76	\$12,330.25	\$12,330.77	\$12,331.28	\$12,331.80	\$12,332.30

*Reminder: The 2024 Monthly Financial Summary sheet is included in the Excel financial workbook. This is sent as an attachment to IGRs with the meeting agenda, minutes, Treasurer's report and Literature report before our monthly meetings.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Financial Report.

Report was accepted unanimously at 6:42 PM.

Dave presented the Contributions Report.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Contributions Report.

Report was accepted unanimously at 6:43 PM

Dave reported that rent is increased in July every year and that we are on a five year lease. You can expect to see an increase in rent on next month's financial report.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report. The report was accepted unanimously at 6:44 PM.

Literature – Peri B. – Peri reported \$22,606 total inventory for June. Peri shared that the online bookstore is live. Peri shared that eventually the domain name will change but for now it has been linked to our website aacolumbia.org on the main navigation menu. You can access it by clicking on "Bookstore" or by searching aacolumbiabookstore.square.site online. A flyer with a QR code link to the store will be sent with these minutes. Please share!

Shareable link for online bookstore: <https://aacolumbiabookstore.square.site>

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Literature Report.

Report was accepted unanimously at 6:46 PM

Information – VACANT

i. Vote on May and June Meeting Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to accept the May and June Meeting Minutes.

Minutes were accepted unanimously at 6:46 PM.

Megan stated that we will discuss more about this position's vacancy during Unfinished Business.

Technology – Daniel N. – Daniel shared that he has been keeping up with RingCentral. Daniel shared that some incoming calls are being marked as potential spam that are not spam. As a result, some calls are being blocked. Daniel shared that this is one reason we have multiple people on the line. Daniel is working to resolve this issue. Daniel shared that the goal is for forwarded calls to come through from Intergroup/our phone number instead which would prevent this from happening. Daniel reported that this month there were 58 missed calls longer than 25 seconds. The 25 second mark is where the voice prompt ends. There were an additional two dozen calls that went longer but did not go to voicemail. So far he has not been able to find where those calls went. Daniel is working on figuring that out and resolving that issue. Daniel reported that 129 calls were answered and there were five voicemails left and responded to. Daniel has updated RingCentral documentation for IGRs and reminded everyone to please double check that the correct volunteers are toggled on and off. Daniel is still researching a cheaper internet provider.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Technology Report. The report was accepted unanimously at 6:50 PM.

Chair – Megan L. – Megan is working on meeting changes, contact request forms, website and Information Chair duties.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Chairperson Report. The report was accepted unanimously at 6:50 PM.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nominating Committee Volunteers for Upcoming Election: Megan shared that it is time for the Nominating Committee to be formed. As it is written in the S&P, the committee “shall be composed of the present Steering Committee members and at least two elected representatives designated at the July business meeting”. Megan shared that she, Dave and Peri have reviewed the S&P and worked out what will happen if two volunteers are not elected at tonight’s business meeting. If the Nominating Committee is not formed the following will ensue:

1. The Nominating Committee would not exist and would therefore serve no function.
2. Candidates will not be presented as they normally would at October’s business meeting.
3. Candidates would be presented and voted on at November’s business meeting. There would be no slate to consider or take back to groups for discussion beforehand.
4. An election would only be able to take place if candidates were nominated from the floor at November’s business meeting.

Q: Clarification: Would we present and vote on candidates on the same night?

A: Yes. Candidates would be nominated and voted on at November’s business meeting.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried for the Nomination Committee election to occur at 6:53 PM. Lynn and Jeff volunteered to serve on the committee and were elected unanimously. THANK YOU!

First Draft of 2025 Hotline Schedule in Committee Review: The first draft of the 2025 hotline schedule has been put together. There are some groups who are no longer able to serve in that capacity and there are three groups who are not currently participating in hotline service. Megan will reach out to those groups to see if they are willing and able.

Confidential Service Lists: Thank you to the 14 groups that have submitted their updated lists! Megan shared that this is the most we have ever received. The new list is being put together.

- Buckle up -

Information Chairperson Recruitment: Megan spoke to service apathy in the Columbia area. First, Megan shared that IGRs are facing significant difficulty with the hotline: overall disinterest in this service opportunity, filling volunteer shifts and volunteers following through with commitments made to answer the phone. Passive participation from group members places IGRs in an unfortunate position. We do not want IGRs to feel overburdened with filling empty and missed shifts themselves or to feel overly responsible or guilty for mishaps during their group’s week of coverage. The hotline is vital 12th Step work. It is our hope that group participation will increase and we can better help you help others. Many of our journeys have been touched by the hotline on either or both sides of the phone. We thank you so much for your service and commitment to the still suffering alcoholic.

Megan then spoke to these challenges impacting more than IGRs and groups responsible for their week of hotline coverage. Gaps in coverage are currently being filled by the same handful of willing servants

every week, and while we are grateful for their unwavering commitment to Intergroup, we cannot continue to ask for them to spread themselves so thin.

Hotline challenges at the group level have a ripple effect and are extremely time sensitive. Example: When a hotline shift is unexpectedly missed, an IGR may not be available to fill that shift themselves. They then scramble to find an available group volunteer who can take that shift straightaway. This is then hopefully communicated to the designated Steering Committee member so hotline coverage is ensured and the volunteer and their phone number can be verified.

Each Steering Committee member is responsible for all things hotline as well as coordinating the office for two months every year. Committee members also serve as hotline back-up for two additional months every year. Committee members have been fulfilling the duties of vacant positions in addition to their own. This includes the hotline. This has been a massive undertaking.

Without full participation from groups and a full committee, what used to be a well-organized and uncomplicated service opportunity has turned into an oftentimes dreaded and overwhelming experience for everyone involved.

Answering the phone 24/7 is the most important service we provide. *“Practically every A.A. member declares that no satisfaction has been deeper and no joy greater than in a Twelfth Step job well done.”* (Step Twelve, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p.110)

Megan shared that for multiple years now, GCI has faced several issues with filling Steering Committee positions. Megan shared that the Information Chair position has been open for months now and until tonight no one expressed interest in serving on the Nomination Committee. Dave shared that several years ago the Steering Committee was composed of 12 members. All 12 positions (chairpersons and alternates) were easily filled. Alternates were not stand bys. They had separate duties. Two years ago, GCI was struggling to keep six positions filled. We are now facing extreme difficulty with maintaining at least half of the positions while carrying out the duties of vacant positions, too. The present Steering Committee is spread thin as we have been rapidly training and losing committee members. This has particularly been an issue with the Information Chairperson position, having had four people onboard and resign within the past year.

Megan shared that if we did not have a Steering Committee we would not have an office. Megan and Dave spoke to other thriving and declining Intergroups in our state. We do not want our office to close or shut down. This has unfortunately happened elsewhere in our state. Without an office we may still have a phone-line and website in place, but this would likely be poorly maintained. Who would maintain them? We cannot do what we need to do with and for you without you. We are headed towards a dire situation. At this point we are not asking for you to volunteer. We are asking for your help.

Multiple shoutouts were given to the Tri-County Intergroup in Charleston. It was shared that “people are on fire to serve there” and that their Bridging the Gap Committee through their Intergroup office alone has at least 12 people serving on it.

Q: Can Megan and Dave come speak at my group? I feel group members would take you more seriously than me, an intermediary.

A: Yes. Dave: “Have soap box will travel.”

Q: Can a letter be sent out to share with my group? I feel it would be helpful to have in hand and for specifics and examples to be given.

A: Yes. Megan will send it out by the end of next week at the latest.

Megan shared that this is not a scare tactic and Dave shared that should we continue in the direction we're going, "this office will not last another two years."

Square Implementation: Peri spoke to the phases Square will be implemented in. Phase one: the Square register and instructions for office volunteers will be ready by August 1. The online bookstore is live.

Safety in the Rooms Workshop: The Steering Committee is working to put this together and is reaching out to Charleston's Intergroup to ask if they will come present. Dave and Megan have attended a Safety in the Rooms workshop in Charleston in the past and shared how well done and powerful it was.

NEW BUSINESS

Technology Chair Candidates for Appointment: Daniel will be stepping down in December. Megan shared that this position will be appointed because it is not up for election until 2025. Megan asked everyone to please be thinking of candidates and to put feelers out. Daniel asked for this to be considered sooner rather than later as there is a lot of information exchange that has to take place.

Q: Are committee positions listed anywhere?

A: Yes. They can be found in the Structures and Procedures which have been linked to the last few month's business meeting minutes, on our website aacolumbia.org under the "About Us" tab and there are printed copies at the office. It has also been linked here for your convenience:

https://aacolumbia.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/2024_Structure_and_Procedures.pdf

Megan shared that she is going through the S&P and rewriting position descriptions. The update will remove the duties that all committee members share from individual position descriptions. The shared responsibilities will be listed in one place.

Q: What positions are up for election this year?

A: Chairperson, Treasurer and Information Chair

Other:

A. It was asked that the letter Megan is sending out to be prioritized. Megan assured everyone it will be.

B. Office volunteer guide- Megan is redoing the office volunteer manual. It will look more like a picture book with steps. It will be more user friendly and not outdated.

ADJOURNMENT:

The motion to adjourn was made and seconded. Megan closed the meeting with The Lord's Prayer at 7:25 PM.

NEXT IGR MEETING: August 20, 2024

Intergroup email: GreaterColumbiaIntergroup@gmail.com

Bridging The Gap email: gcibtg@gmail.com

Steering Committee Emails

Chairperson - Megan. - Gcichairsc@gmail.com

Treasurer - Dave N. - Gcitreassc@gmail.com

Literature Chairperson - Peri B. - Gcilitsc@gmail.com

Outreach Chairperson - Ryan E. - Gciseccsc@gmail.com

Information Chairperson - VACANT - Gciinfosc@gmail.com

Technology Chairperson - Daniel N. - Gcitechsc@gmail.com

Greater Columbia Intergroup welcomes you to our online bookstore!

We're live! Shop online or in store today.

**aacolumbiabookstore.square.site or visit
aacolumbia.org**



SCAN HERE

All literature and other items available at the GCI Office can now be purchased online!

We thank you so much for supporting your local Intergroup, and most importantly for your vital 12th Step work- helping get our basic text and other literature into the hands of the still suffering alcoholic.



DON'T SKIP THE FINE PRINT!

A NOTE ON ORDER FULFILLMENT:

At this time, GCI is only able to offer pick-up for orders placed online.

You may pick up your order any time during office hours.

There are always grand plans and designs in the works. We welcome your feedback regarding order fulfillment options or anything else you'd like to see.

Please send suggestions to
gcilitsc@gmail.com

Our office is located at
3014 Devine St.
Columbia, SC 29205.

Office hours:

Monday: 10 am – 2 pm

Tuesday: 9 am – 5 pm

Wednesday: 10 am – 2 pm

Thursday: 10 am – 2 pm

Friday: 10 am – 2 pm

We are closed on
Saturdays and Sundays.