



Intergroup Representative Meeting Minutes

October 15, 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)

Open meeting

Serenity Prayer and Twelve Traditions (Peggy A.)

Intergroup Representatives Introductions and Reports

(status quo unless indicated)

- All In Men's – David R.
- Back to Basics – Lynn E.
- Blythewood - Alan
- Broad River – Kim - Experiencing very low attendance. Need support for Monday and Thursday meetings.
- Brown Bag – Paige
- District 30 – Ray O.
- District 31 – Van B.
- Dutch Square – David L.
- Fifth Tradition – Debbie W.
- Hartsville – Christina P. - Thanks to Dave and Megan for speaking at Area Assembly
- Horseshoe – John
- Into Action – Peggy A.
- Irmo Group – Jon H. & Connie – Hickory Knob has been cancelled because of Hurricane Helene damage
- Living Sober – Tom
- Lugoff – Brad
- Lunchbox – Jane M.
- Men at Work – James
- North Columbia – Tony
- Park Road Acceptance – Sue M.
- Positive Action – Jeff – Thanksgiving bash on November 23 (flyer available).

- Primary Purpose – Michael
- Shady Grove Group - Smiley
- Shandon Happy Hour – Richard
- Smokestack – Ted – Halloween party (7 p.m. meeting, chili cookoff and costume contest)
- Spiritual Progress – Carol
- Starting Over – Dennis
- Third Tradition – Dena – Speak and eat meeting on October 17 at 5:30 p.m. Mark C. is speaking.
- Twilight – Jim
- Young Peoples Group - Michael

Steering Committee Reports

Outreach – Ryan

Ryan had a family obligation and wasn't present. There are more bridges every month and Ryan is continuing to work with Heather, the Area 62 BTG Chairperson. Ryan was appointed Area 62 Alternate BTG chair and got kudos for his presentation at the Area Assembly.

Treasurer – Dave

Dave discussed operating expenses, supply expenses, inventory purchases, credit card sales, contributions, sales receipts, credit card deposits, Square sales and processing fees. Dave stated that literature sales typically surge in January and that we will need to buy literature now. Annual projections show we will be \$100 under budget. Dave said that he is always available for questions.

Question from Peggy A. about the *Plain Language Big Book*. Peri created a preorder form and is sending it to the IGRs.

Dave discussed the contributions report and asked everyone to please review and let him know if any contributions that had been made were omitted.

Megan reported that tonight's quorum is 12 and we have more than we need. David R. made a motion to accept the reports which passed.

Literature – Peri

Inventory is \$21,389.00. Peri thanked Dave and Megan for their help. Peri stated that newcomer kits are ready but asked that everyone wait until the end of the meeting to pick them up. Copies of the *2024 Conference Report* are being ordered in English and Spanish. It is also available online. Peri reported that she fixed a few website issues with the online bookstore and added new tabs, all of which should make things easier to access.

Ray noted by Zoom that he will get to Columbia to pick up his 50 newcomer kits ASAP.

The literature report was accepted.

Information – Michael B.

The September meeting minutes were approved.

Dan C. - Technology

Added additional microphones in room as a quick and inexpensive stop-gap fix. We will be budgeting for a long-term solution for 2025. Dan is working on updating the Ring Central instructions.

Unfinished Business

Nominating Committee/Introduction of Candidates

Megan thanked Lynn and Jeff for their service on the Nominating Committee before introducing the slate of candidates.

Introduction of Candidates

Chairperson - Peri B.

Peri Baker introduced herself as a real alcoholic. Her sobriety date is April 27th, 2020. She got sober at 21. Her home group is Horseshoe women's meeting.

She has a sponsor who has a sponsor who has a sponsor. She sponsors other women. She has a service sponsor. She continues to take our Twelve Steps. She has had deep and effective spiritual experiences. The central fact of her life today is the absolute certainty there is no hell God cannot rescue His children from (Alcoholics Anonymous p.25, as Peri sees it).

She feels as humbled as an alcoholic can be to receive your nomination for chairperson. She has the desire to serve in this capacity and feels equipped to do so. She has served on GCI's steering committee as literature chair since June of 2022.

Over the last few years WE have accomplished the following:

2022: Retired and donated obsolete literature; created a clearance/free section in our bookstore; expanded sales and storage capacity for easier access; expanded Spanish-language literature and created a designated place for it in our bookstore; to ensure GCI prices were equitable, updated our woefully out of date master price list. GCI is no longer unintentionally overcharging. We are committed to making prices as equitable as possible. We are not for profit.

2023: Reorganized our bookstore; distinguished Conference-approved and non conference-approved literature; created a designated place for our basic texts; expanded medallion availability to 66 years; deferred GCI price increases through EOY/ ≈18 months after AAWS' 20-30 percent price increases in April; began providing groups the opportunity to preorder through GCI to stay ahead of price increases. GCI prices for our basic texts still remain lower than those of AAWS. And our other vendors, Too.

2024, so far: Created and launched GCI's online bookstore (thank you for keeping me sober); implemented a fully synchronized POS system through Square; implemented new Square hardware including a touchscreen register, customer screen and mobile card readers; provided the opportunity for groups to obtain newcomer kits at no cost by use of excess funds; rolled the price of our hard cover Big Books back from \$13 to \$11. Thank you for helping get our basic text into the hands of the still suffering

Alcoholic.

Let's crunch some numbers:

*2021 Financial Summary:

Literature Sales: \$27,160

Literature Purchases: \$21,813

Balance: \$5,347

2022 Financial Summary:

Literature Sales: \$22,793

Literature Purchases: \$23,414

Balance: \$641

2023 Financial Summary:

Literature Sales: \$27,177

Literature Purchases: \$27,208

Balance: \$31

(Slay)

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING YOUR LOCAL INTERGROUP!

A little frothy emotional appeal, because what's a standard order of business without an alcoholic sob story?

Involvement with Intergroup is a blessing that continues to fold in on itself. She brings this up not just because she loves attention, but to make clear in this season of her life that she has the time to pour into Intergroup and all things A.A. In January of 2023 she survived a car accident she should not have. There is no part of her life today or the future left untouched by this. Things may never look the way she'd choose on this side of Heaven again. Beginning in her Ala-Teen days, (that did not go her way either, thank God!) you taught her she can get well regardless of any circumstance and our real purpose is to fit ourselves to be of maximum service to God and the people about us - all those things she can pretend make her different now be d*mned. Now bearing hopefulness greater than cynicism, aiming always to be a member not an attender, somehow, some way, she has the time and morale to show up as a member of Alcoholics Anonymous - unless it involves lifting and bending, and snap! (Elle Woods voice).

A special thank you to Megan and Dave who have done all her lifting and bending since January of 2023 and simply have no idea how grateful she is to have been led by their example. She is so grateful for the opportunity to have served with all members of our past and present steering committees and IGRs. She is better for knowing them, and for each of you, too. In all sincerity, she prays the rest of her life is lived out as a grateful, indebted response to the gift of sobriety. There is no part of her, her life today or the future left untouched by this. To be happily and usefully whole: she'd choose this every time. She thanks you for all the ways you have continued to allow her to be a part of.

Grand plans and designs ad-infinitum, she looks forward to continuing to serve on our steering committee as literature chair or as chairperson should she be so privileged to be elected. She is committed to carrying out the responsibilities of whichever service position you and God see fit; she owes this Fellowship my life.

Me me me. On to what's important: carrying The Message to the alcoholic who still suffers. We have a common purpose to carry out. We seem to be up against service apathy, and we are responsible. She is hopeful that operations and functions of our office, steering committee and IGRs can be better explained, understood and carried out; for a better two-way flow of communication between groups and Intergroup- please help us help you; for more information exchange with Districts and Area; that your group's voice feels heard because you are our voice; that more may benefit by our cooperation; for GCI to be good stewards of each contribution; for more awareness and participation in local Twelfth Step service. We are all on the front lines of helping the still suffering alcoholic. Wherever we are headed, she's grateful for the opportunity to trudge with you. She thanks you for allowing her to be of service with and for you. You're her favorite friends of Bill W.

Treasurer - Sarita G.

Sarita's sobriety date is May 1, 2021. Her home group is Serenity Sisters. In the past year she has learned that she can get through absolutely anything without drinking by losing her son to a tragic motorcycle accident. Service work with her group, District 42, and Intergroup has given her a way to get outside of herself and concentrate on helping others.

In her work life she deals with balancing accounts payable and accounts receivable. She has 20 years of fast food experience which also dealt with handling money transactions, inventory and balancing numbers. She believes all of her cumulative experience would be a benefit to her performing the duties of Treasurer for GCI. She loves to help others. She owes AA her life and enjoys giving back in any way that she can. It would be an honor to serve as GCI Treasurer.

Information Chairperson - Michael B.

My sobriety date is August 4, 2023. Primary Purpose is my home group. I attend Primary Purpose two to three times a week. I go to a meeting almost every day and average at least a meeting per day. I regularly attend Shandon Happy Hour, Renegade, Ashland Road group, All In, Irmo group, Why Not Wednesday group and Transitions. I have worked the steps with my sponsor since coming back to AA in August 2023.

I have been around AA for several years. I have been involved in service since I began attending AA. I have served as the IGR for Primary Purpose for 2023 and 2024. I love doing service work. I take a meeting to Transitions every Saturday morning at 11 am and have been involved at Transitions since before COVID.

I am currently serving as the Information Chair for GCI and have been since I obtained 1 year of sobriety in August 2024. I am determined to continue doing service work and to stay sober by continuing to work the steps with my Sponsor, sponsoring new people and continuing to regularly attend meetings. I am employed as a night auditor at a hotel and am working on getting my license to practice law back.

Question – What about Literature Chair position if it becomes vacant? Megan explained that would result in a mid-term appointment at the January 2025 meeting by the Steering Committee.

Office Manager Qualifications

There was a lot of discussion tonight about the possibility of hiring an office manager. Questions about qualifications arose after last month's meeting. The Steering Committee suggests at least two to five years of continuous sobriety. Multiple questions arose about why we are doing this, how it would be funded, and the possibility of it being a nonpaid volunteer position.

Question from Dena. Her group has questions. Group has money and can commit more. How many groups are going to participate in raising money. Is there a willingness to fund?

Dave explained that the salary would be budgeted. Intergroup has never failed to meet its budget through contributions but this would be a significant expense.

Question from David R. - can we set up some way to receive comments?

Question from Lynn – Can we send out questionnaires?

Question: Could we put together committee to address issue

Jeff from Positive Action made a motion to create a committee to determine the position's qualifications.

Tom from Living Sober said he took the possibility of hiring an office manager issue to his group and a motion to hire office manager passed overwhelmingly at his group. He added that the Steering Committee positions should not be a full-time job.

Jane from Lunchbox stated that the position would create continuity. Came across very positively.

Question: How many groups are in the Greater Columbia area? Dave said there are 111; however, not nearly that many are contributing to Intergroup.

Ted from Smokestack said his group is opposed and that Intergroup's request for help had helped. He noted that he has fundraising experience.

Debbie W. from Fifth Tradition said the difficulty would be in raising the money. How do we equitably distribute the load and Dave responded that would work the same as our \$23,000 budget. Dave added that several old-timers have told him that if you budget it then the groups will fund it.

David R. from All In Men's said rushing into it is not a great idea. Dave noted that the IGRs would need to determine something fast if it is going into the 2025 budget.

A vote was called on the motion to create a committee to determine the office manager qualifications. The motion passed 14-3. Kim from Broad River asked if the committee could look at funding position.

Peri spoke on behalf of the no votes to say that this should be a volunteer position.

Dave said that office manager positions in other intergroups are volunteer and that one is paid almost nothing and another one refuses to take any money.

Dan noted that a majority of the Steering Committee members as of January 2025 will have full-time jobs which will limit the amount of time available to volunteer considering other personal responsibilities and priorities.

Dena from Third Tradition noted that Megan already sent out qualifications in a previous email.

Ring Central Call Data

We will evaluate the data at the end of October and report the findings at the November meeting.

Motion to Adjourn at 7:54 pm, Seconded and Approved.

Lord's Prayer

NEXT IGR MEETING: November 19, 2024

Intergroup email: GreaterColumbiaIntergroup@gmail.com

Bridging the Gap email: gcibtg@gmail.com

Steering Committee Emails

Megan. - Gcichairsc@gmail.com

Dave N. - Gcitreassc@gmail.com

Ryan E.- Gcioutreachsc@gmail.com

Michael- Gciinfosc@gmail.com

Daniel N- Gcitechsc@gmail.com

Peri – Gcilitsc@gmail.com