



Intergroup Representative Meeting Minutes

September 17, 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 (Dennis)

Intergroup Representatives Introductions and Reports (status quo unless indicated)

- All In Men's – David R.
- Back to Basics – Lynn E.
- Broad River – Daniel N. - Experiencing very low attendance. Need support for Monday and Thursday meetings.
- Brown Bag – Paige
- District 30 – Ray O.
- District 31 – Van B. – Next district meeting is Saturday, 9/21/24, after High Noon's 12 p.m. meeting.
- Dutch Square – David L. - Has diverter week of September 23. Needs three shifts covered.
- Fifth Tradition – Debbie W.
- Hartsville – Christina P.
- Horseshoe – John
- Living Sober – Tom
- Lugoff – Brad
- Lunchbox – Jane M. – First Saturday of month there is a speaker at 10 a.m. and birthday celebration at 11 a.m. Wednesdays will be Big Book and Twelve & Twelve starting next year.
- Men at Work – James
- North Columbia – Tony
- Park Road Acceptance – Sue M.

- Positive Action – Jeff – Thanksgiving dinner (flyer available).
- Shandon Happy Hour – Richard
- Smokestack – Ted
- Spiritual Progress – Carol – Women in Recovery retreat is this month (almost full).
- Starting Over – Dennis
- Third Tradition – Dena – Speak and eat meeting on October 17 at 5:30 p.m. A couple from Greenwood are speaking.

Steering Committee Reports

Ryan – Outreach Chair

Had 11 bridges for August and eight were successful. August was very busy. Ryan conducted a workshop for District 20 and the district now has a Bridging the Gap representative. There are two new facilities in District 30. Ryan stated again that he is willing to go to home groups and do workshops.

Dave – Treasurer

Dave presented the monthly financial statement. He discussed operating expenses, inventory purchases and Total Operating Expenses. Contributions continue to cover our operating expenses, and we are on track to be under budget for the year. Dave reported the group contributions for the month and asked the IGRs to please check to see if we missed anyone's contributions.

Dave reported that we are going live with the Square register October 1, 2024. We are already using it to process contributions and office volunteers are being trained in its use. We are going to start emailing receipts. Dave asked the IGRs to please consider setting up a treasurer or generic email for their group so the receipts can be emailed. Dave suggested a generic email so it doesn't change when the people in service positions change.

Peri – Literature Chair

Peri reported an inventory total of \$22,732 and that she received an email from AAWS about new literature. These include a totally redone Black in A.A. pamphlet, a large-print Spanish language Daily Reflections and the Plain Language Big Book: A Tool for Reading Alcoholics Anonymous, which will be available November 1, 2024. IGRs will receive an email that includes a link to a pre-order form for the Plain Language Book.

Question – What is Plain Language Big Book?

Peri shared AAWS announced *Plain Language Big Book: A Tool For Reading Alcoholics Anonymous* will be available November 1st, 2024. Like all conference-approved literature, this will be made available at the GCI bookstore. There were questions and concerns raised from several IGRs. Peri stated there will be no

discussion regarding the content of *Plain Language Big Book: A Tool For Reading Alcoholics Anonymous*. Further input from IGRs and others continued. Peri stated that GCI makes all conference-approved literature available and that GCI nor the steering committee has an opinion on any literature whatsoever. Peri explained that we are not the appropriate point of contact for the questions and concerns raised tonight. Peri stated she will provide guidance to those contacts along with the pre-order form to order from GCI. Peri asked groups to please fill out the form so GCI can better gauge how many to order this fall. Peri thanked everyone for their service and encouraged IGRs to contact their group's GSRs and to attend Area Assembly in October and their District's monthly meetings.

Comment from Ray – There will be information on the Plain Language Big Book at Area Assembly in October.

Comment from David L. – Provided a synopsis of the intentions for the book, which included it being written at a fifth-grade level by education professionals and explained that it is not changing or replacing the Big Book.

Peri reported that newcomer kits are being made available again and IGRs should have received an email with ordering instructions earlier in the day.

Question – How long will it take to get them?

Response – It will take a few days to process newcomer kits. IGRs will be notified when their kits are ready for pickup.

Michael – Information Chair

August business meeting minutes were approved.

Dan C. - Technology Chair

Megan introduced Dan, who was appointed to the position at the Steering Committee's last meeting, and gave kudos to Daniel, who has stepped down but is still going to assist as needed. Megan noted that Dan will be eligible to stand for election to a two-year term next November.

Dan noted that Daniel had done a great job with the switch to RingCentral and setting up how the call transfers are made. He stated that he wants to focus on our old, outdated website first.

Unfinished Business

Intergroup Status Update

Megan stated that we have now have a full Steering Committee. As to hotline coverage for smaller groups, she restated that we encourage smaller groups to combine efforts with another small group to get their week covered. Megan also talked about the Hotline Heros, which is a group of folks who are willing to take the hotline when there is a vacant shift.

Question: Has 2025 diverter schedule been released?

Megan responded that it was discussed at last month's meeting and was sent to IGRs with last month's meeting minutes. She reiterated that we need the IGRs to review the schedule and let us know if they have any concerns we need to address before the end of year.

Question: What percentage of groups cannot fulfill obligation?

We have very low overall representation considering how many groups are in the districts we serve. Some districts are working hard to encourage groups to participate but are being met with resistance. We have about five groups that have very few members. Most others don't seem to be interested in hotline service.

Nominating Committee Update

We have one person standing for Chairperson, one for Treasurer, and two for Information Chairperson. The Nominating Committee did not meet last month. The next Nominating Committee meeting will be October 1, 2024, at the Steering Committee's next meeting. The slate of candidates will be presented at the October 15, 2024, business meeting and candidates will provide information about themselves at this meeting.

Confidential Service List – Keep 'Em Coming

We have had a great response to the request for updated information. We now have updates from 17 groups. We are almost finished making the updates and will publish the new list without any of the information from groups who have not responded.

Office Manager Possibility

Megan drafted a position description which was sent to the IGRs the day after this meeting. The position's salary is still unknown. Maui pays \$1,300 per month. Upstate pays \$500. Both managers are putting in 40 hours. While TriCounty Intergroup in Charleston has money budgeted to pay a salary, neither the current nor previous office manager would take it.

The Steering Committee preliminarily envisions 20 hours per week at \$15.00 per hour (\$13,000 per year), which would need to be provided through additional group contributions.

Question – Does it have to be an A.A. member?

Response: Not necessarily; however, it's hard to beat one alcoholic handling a call from another.

Question: Do you have any time requirement to work in the office?

Response: There is no sobriety requirement for office volunteers. We suggest potential volunteers ask their sponsors if they think it would be good idea considering where they are in their sobriety. There is no time requirement in the *Structure and Procedures* document.

Comment: Would like to have more information on why the position is needed.

Megan shared that the time commitment she and Dave have made has easily reached 40 hours a week. This is due to the Steering Committee not being fully staffed for any functional length of time in the past two and a half years and the amount of time it takes someone to acclimate to their new position and its duties. Dave pointed out that both he and Megan are retired and have been able to put in the time, but after December 31, 2024, Dave and Megan will no longer be on the committee and most of the committee members work full time.

Question: What kind of time requirement would there be for the office manager position?

Response: There would be a sobriety requirement of between two to five years for several reasons, one of which is having access to money.

Question – Can we look for someone who has experience handling money in a trust?

Response: Yes

Discussion and Possible Vote on End of Steering Committee Phone Backup

There was an explanation of the RingCentral calling order, which starts with the shift's volunteer, then the group's IGR, then the Steering Committee member with primary hotline coordination that month followed by the Steering Committee member who has backup duty that month.

Steering Committee members are also responsible for checking voicemails and returning calls.

Comment: Would really hate to give up the backup factor.

Daniel responded that he would be willing to provide training on viewing missed calls and accessing voicemails to any IGRs who are interested.

Comment: Helps to say thank you for your service.

A motion was made to remove the Steering Committee from backup calls for 30 days after which an analysis of the call data will be reviewed and presented to the IGRs. The motion was seconded and discussion ensued.

Comment: There appears to be two separate problems: covering the diverter and the Steering Committee being backup on phone calls.

A motion was made to table the vote until the next business meeting; however, there was already a motion on the table for which we were having the requisite discussion prior to a vote.

After acknowledging the dissent, Megan asked if there was any additional discussion and being none, Megan called the motion to remove the Steering Committee members from hotline backup to a vote. The motion was carried with 15 yay votes and one nay.

We need to set up training for how to view missed calls and access voicemails. We will work out the details of that by email so the meeting, which had gone over the allotted time, could continue.

Safety in the Rooms

Status quo

Mandatory Office Volunteer Training

The first training session went well. Next session is Saturday, September 21, 2024. The question was asked if there is a sobriety requirement for office volunteers. Megan responded that there is not a requirement but any time someone asks, we suggest they talk with their sponsor to see what their sponsor thinks about the idea.

Motion to Adjourn at 7:36 pm, Seconded and Approved.

Lord's Prayer

NEXT IGR MEETING: October 15, 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