

## **Intergroup Representatives (IR) Meeting Minutes**

**March 2, 2023**

The meeting was held via Zoom at 7PM and chaired by Barry R., Treasurer, in President Blake R.'s absence. Other Board members present were: Linda W. AIS Office Liaison, Barb BS - Secretary, Christine M-R and Jan McD, Board Members. Susan C., AIS office staff, was also in attendance.

- 1) **Opening:** Barry opened the meeting with a cleansing breath/moment of silence, followed by the Serenity Prayer and a short reading of Tradition 3.
- 2) **Introductions:** Guests and New members only - There were 28 members present including 5 board members, one AIS staff member, 21 IR's including three new IR's and 1 guest.
- 3) **Secretary Report-** Minutes from February, 2023 IR Meeting were provided in the email sent to the IR's before the meeting and were unanimously approved.
- 4) **Treasurer's Report** - The following treasurer report (which included a spreadsheet with the 2023 budget) was provided to the IR's in an email sent before the meeting. There was discussion including a question on the markup on the literature which Barry explained. After some discussion including some explanation on the budget to one late arrival, both were unanimously approved. Barry explained that the very modest surplus in the 2023 budget was due to not having to incur the expense of reprinting the 500 copies of the My Journey Journals.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT – AFG OF STL**

**As of January 31, 2023**

**Submitted by Barry Russell, Treasurer**

**For March 2, 2023 IR Council Meeting**

**Month of January 2023**

1. Overall, the month of January delivered **Total Revenue** of \$7,440 versus the 2023 budgeted average of \$5,693. **Net Operating Surplus** was \$2,016, which was also the YTD result
2. On a cash flow basis, Literature Sales were \$2,084 [versus 2023 budgeted average of \$1,833].
3. Group Contributions were \$3,456 [versus the 2023 budgeted average at \$2,108]. Miscellaneous Contributions of \$1,624 were above our average 2023 monthly expectations of \$1,108.
4. **Monthly Expenses**, at \$5,424, were \$264 below the 2023 budgeted average of \$5,688.
5. Literature expenditures of \$1,448 were slightly above the 2023 budgeted monthly average of \$1,417.
6. **Total cash in checking and on hand** was \$2,973. Total Cash and Reserves were \$59,434.
7. The previously approved drawdown of \$5,000 has \$2,000 left undrawn. Apparently, on an historical basis, January is often a good month.

### **Comments on 2023 Budget**

1. Total budgeted 2023 Revenue is very close [\$307 higher] to the Actual Revenue received in 2022. Literature Sales are projected to be \$851 higher. After careful consideration with our CPA [and former Treasurer] of results back to 2016, the Literature markup is based on 29.5%. This is an average markup of 2022 and 2021. The AIS Office also produced the current pricing and markup for all literature and books on hand.
2. We have substantial amounts of literature and books on hand.

We project a modest 2023 Operating Surplus of \$70 versus a Deficit of \$3,573 for 2022. All these categories could fluctuate, so the result is unpredictable.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Barry Russell, Treasurer

5) **Public Outreach** - In John Y's absence, Barb, Barry and Linda reported that:

- a) The PO committee had requested clarification on the amount in the 2023 budget allocated to PO - the budget numbers provide this.
- b) The PO committee continues to track the contacts made and literature provided in the Back-To-School initiative with a spreadsheet. It has been very successful.
- c) PO Committee requested that its meetings be listed on the AIS website - Linda said that this has already been done, and is on the Members page.
- d) The PO Committee decided not to pursue the incentive program that was discussed last month because they felt it was not in line with the Al-Anon principle of attraction not promotion.
- e) Linda reiterated that a district or group is responsible for the cost when they request literature/the suitcase for an event. The AIS office can consider a request only in rare circumstances when neither is able to pay.

6) **After Hours and Office Reports** - These reports were sent out via email to IR's before the meeting. Linda W said that the office was running smoothly. No Answering Service Report was provided. Other highlights of the reports are:

- a) Al-Anon/AA Potluck will be held at Deer Creek Park in Maplewood on Sunday, 6/4. Office will be having a jewelry sale to raise funds. Used and unwanted jewelry should be brought to the office between 9-5 M-F. Broken jewelry also accepted and will be sold for crafting.
- b) Newcomer packets are now being sent out via email. An email will be sent and then the Newcomer will be asked if they want a paper packet mailed out to them. 11 emails were sent and 1 packet mailed out in February.
- c) Refreshed AIS website is coming soon, likely in March. New website is not that different - it is more user friendly and will make it easier to find things.
- d) Peggy is stepping down as the Answering Service Coordinator. If anyone is interested in doing this service work, please contact Peggy whose number is listed on the report that was emailed to the IR's before the meeting.

6) **Old Business:** None

7) **New Business:** More discussion took place by Barry and others about how funds could be raised in 2023 in a way that complies with Al-Anon principles. Some members last month raised concerns about this and did not want to have to solicit funds directly or sell things at meetings. One way would be to sell the remaining 250 My Journey Journals. Barry emphasized that just a few thousand dollars for the year would really make a difference in maintaining a prudent reserve. Some still didn't feel that any additional fundraisers were necessary, and felt that we had already discussed his last month and weren't sure why we were bringing it up again. Barry said the Board had heard their concerns. He summarized what we had discussed at the Board meeting and said that we weren't looking to have an "in your face" type of fundraiser but were looking for more low key ways to raise funds. One member suggested that each IR try to get their groups to make a monthly donation. One member emphasized that she made a yearly Al-Anon birthday contribution. Barry said that if each group raised its contribution to the AIS office by 10% over last year, it would eliminate the need for a fundraiser. Barry asked if any member or members would be willing to chair or serve on an informal fundraising committee to come up with ideas for 2023. Barry offered to temporarily chair this committee. Nell G offered to volunteer for the committee but did not want to chair.

8) **Open Sharing:** (None)

9) **Close** - Al-Anon Declaration.

**- Next meeting is Thursday, April 6, 2023 at 7:00 PM on Zoom**