

Intergroup Representatives (IR) Meeting Minutes March 4th 2021

The meeting was held via Zoom at 7 pm and chaired by Bill B., Board President. Other Board members present were: Mike P.-Vice President, Annette K.-Treasurer, Mary Kay H.-Secretary, Abby S., and Linda W. Also present was Susan C. -AIS Office.

I. Bill B. announced that March 4th is Lois Wilson's birthday and to commemorate with a moment of silence and think about Lois.

II. Concept 3 was read.

III. Introductions-Board members introduced themselves and the Secretary recorded IR attendance without introductions. New IRs and visitors did introduce themselves. There were 38 members present which included 28 IRs (3 were new IRs) and 2 visitors.

IV. Announcements/upcoming events-There were attachments sent out with the IR meeting reminder.

V. Secretary Report-February Meeting Minutes were emailed prior to the meeting, reviewed and approved unanimously.

VI. Treasurer Report-The Treasurer Reports were emailed prior to the meeting. Annette reported January was a great month with a \$2,000 district group contribution for revenue total of \$7,858 and expenses of \$3,710 for a surplus of \$4,148. She explained that there was an error in the Variance column. The line for last year's literature sales expense was on the wrong line. The variance for the total surplus should be \$2,361 for the month compared to last. The Lois Campaign is also doing well. The treasurer report was approved unanimously.

VII. After Hours Phone Answering Report-Peggy B. reported that they had 4 calls in February.

VIII. Website Report-Chris E. stated that the website had 900 unique visitors. Bill asked if there was a need for a Website Committee meeting. Since there are no major changes or updates needed, no meeting is necessary. Bill recommended that IRs contact him if there are any suggestions for the website.

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IX. Office Report-Susan C. reported that she and Beth have been working on obtaining updated information from volunteers and created a spreadsheet. More help is needed from men willing to speak with new comers, and more people willing to speak at zoom meetings. Volunteer forms are available from the office and can be completed electronically; instructions for return are on the form.

There were 22 newcomer packets sent out for the month of February. The book Reaching Out for Personal Freedom is out of stock and hopefully will be ready for sale by the end of March. IRs are encouraged to ask members to sign up for AIS Office emails as it is the best way to get updated meeting and events information. There will be a staff meeting on March 5th.

X. Outreach Report-Abby S. thanked members for their generosity in contributing to the Happy Birthday Lois campaign which currently has raised \$2,280; contributions can still be sent in. She then introduced Cathy W. from the Public Outreach Committee to report on costs for billboards, and the difference between vinyl and digital billboards.

Cathy W. reported that the location and duration expenses varies. It is less expensive further from the St. Louis area and also less expensive for a 4-6 month contract. They were targeting between I-70 and I-44 but recently discussed having billboards in the City of St. Louis and North St. Louis to attract more people of color.

Cathy W. reported that a billboard in the City of St. Louis would cost about \$2,400 per month. She spoke with two companies: Porlier & DVI. The DVI rep said a 6 month contract would be \$1,200 per month and suggested a digital billboard. A digital billboard will cost from \$1,000-\$1,200 per month but it can be moved to different locations and there's a possibility of sharing with another company. She also stated that there are already pre-approved designs from WSO and the billboards could switch displaying between two designs.

Since we are in the middle of an ongoing campaign, the DVI rep said we can start with \$1,000 per month contract for two months and then add on months as more

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funds become available. She added that they still need to do more research and want to continue the campaign. They hope to have the billboards up by June.

Abby S. added that they are hoping to do more outreach in the City of St. Louis with Zoom meetings. She asked that if any IRs know people of color who would be interested in getting more Al-Anon meetings in their community to contact the Public Outreach Committee.

She also said that they are going to be doing interviews with District Public Outreach members and post them in the Sincerely Al-Anon. They are asking that districts begin having members take care of Public Outreach. WSO emailed the Committee and provided posters which could possibly be used in food pantries, police stations, laundromats, etc.

Lorene M. asked about the goal for the billboard campaign and Cathy W. replied that the original goal was \$2,000-3,000, but now they are hoping for \$4,000-\$5,000 and will then review.

Patty S. asked if bus stops were considered. Abby S. reported they originally inquired about bus stops and bus advertising and learned that they are more expensive than the billboards. Cathy W. added that approximately 20 years ago billboards were used and there was a good response back then.

XI. Old Business:

a. Journal Fundraiser Update-Patty S. reported that 722 of the 1,000 journals have been sold with 84 sold in 2021. She asked IRs to continue to mention the journal. Bill B. reported that he wants to spread the word in the State of Missouri.

b. Donations to Libraries-Bill B. said he is putting this topic on hold and would like someone to volunteer to take over this project. Resources for book donations are available.

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c. Visiting Committee Revival-Mary Kay H. reported she would like to continue asking IRs to visit Zoom meetings. She will send another email to all IRs next week with a list of meetings to visit.

XII. New Business:

a. Welcome letter to new IRs-Bill B. reported that a letter was recently created to be included with the Welcome New IR packet.

b. Reserve Funds-Mike P. shared his report on the excess funds in reserve. He reviewed year-end treasurer reports from the last five years, including 2020. Annette K. stated that there was \$74,400 in reserve at the end of 2020. Mike is recommending keeping 100% of the previous five years rolling average of expense which would be approximately \$12,000 in excess funds. IRs were asked to consider possibilities on what to do with the excess funds. **Topic tabled.**

c. Journal and Pen Donation to Gift baskets-Bill B. reported that the Board approved this recommendation to donate a journal and pen for any events. Members should submit a request to the AIS Office.

XIII. Open Sharing:

a. Shari C. thanked the AIS Office for sending out the Missouri Round Robin. She asked if the Board could provide the IRs with their recommendations on how to spend the excess reserves so IRs could discuss with their groups. Annette K. said she could provide a recap with a corrected January treasurer report. Following discussion, Bill B. recommended that there be a discussion at the April IR meeting and then vote in May.

b. Patty S. recommended using reserve funds to give Newcomers the book "How Al-Anon Works".

Next meeting will be held Thursday, April 1st, 2021 at 7:00 PM on Zoom. Meeting adjourned at 8 pm with the Serenity Prayer followed by the Al-Anon Declaration.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Kay H., AFG STL Board Secretary