

FFG Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: November 13th, 2021 1:30 p.m.

Highlights

Approved Motions:

- **Motion:** Remove pink can from 7th tradition basket for 6 months and move it to the tables to point out to attendees. Information will be given on how people can donate
- **Motion:** Hold a separate group conscience no later than the 1st wed of December that includes both district level motion AND intergroup website
- **Motion:** Having alcathons pending someone stepping forward to be a chair and have an announcement in the rooms that we have to have a chair by such and such date

Opportunities for Service:

- Steering Committee:
 - Facilities
 - Women's Sponsorship Coordinator
 - Meeting Coordinators:
 - Noon
 - 6pm
 - 8pm

- Meeting called to order @ 1:30pm
 - Serenity Prayer
 - Long form Tradition #11: Julian
 - Attendance: 10 (Zoom) 6 (In-person)
 - **Previous meeting minutes for October approved.**
-

Reports

CHAIRPERSON: Grady

RECORDING SECRETARY: Liz

Mary is filling in for Liz today.

TREASURER: Amy M.

- Expenses:
 - Rent: \$1200
 - Facilities: \$113
 - Misc Expenses: \$164
 - Total Expenses: \$1477
- Contributions:
 - 7th Tradition in person: \$1933
 - 7th Tradition Venmo: \$793

- Total: \$2726
 - H&I: \$100
 - Literature: \$54
- Balance
 - Beginning on month Total: \$11,574
 - Beginning of month Checking: \$11,574
 - Beginning of month Venmo: 3300
 - Expenses with Accruals: \$1562
 - Distributions: \$54
 - Contributions: \$2880
 - Available Balance: \$12,749
 - Prudent Reserve: \$6000
 - Distribution Balance: \$6,706
- Just counted some money yesterday about 900 that she will deposit later today
- Attendance in October was 865!
 - We are not at the point of paying above base rent. But this is a positive trend
- Breakdown of room update totals
 - Paint: \$1450
 - Floor \$1606
 - Acrylic table top: \$113.14
 - White board: \$115.66
 - Roster: \$305.51
 - Tablecloth: \$97.10
 - Misc: \$224.16
 - Altogether 3911.57\$
- We are done with room updates. Does anyone else have any ideas? Something that is still pending for literature person for 2022 is maybe getting another bookshelf or a better way to display the books that are for sale.
- Being treasurer has been an amazing experience. It's been humbling and amazing to see how people contribute and care about their fellowship. Looking forward to passing the baton on. It's a rewarding service commitment

Co-Treasurer: Tree

- Nothing to add. Attendance 865

SUPPLIES: Stan

- "Steady as she goes"

FACILITIES: Justin M.

- It's been kind of crickets of his end
- Nothing too much to report other than Hans Erik reaching out over email about moving some stuff in the choir room (Oct 23rd) They only moved a tiny bit in there.
- Checking that we will have proper spacing in the room for the upcoming alcathon

LITERATURE: Walt N.

- Replenished hardback big books

- Taking a look at the grapevines, take an inventory
- Pointed out earlier this afternoon we need more daily reflections for meeting that studies daily reflection - pick up 10-15 of those
- Whenever there are any needs please call Walt or text him. Or email
- We have enough literature now except for daily reflections

GSR: Feilisha

- Attended inventory for Area as well as district inventory. Will send out minutes when they are available so steering meeting can know everything discussed
- Would be great to finalize everyone's thoughts on the proposed 12&12 language change by December.
 - Thank you everyone who reached out to Feilisha
- Will have a little bit of time today to discuss
- *General Service meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month*
 - *Next month: December 8, 2021 @ 7:30pm*
 - *Zoom Meeting Meeting ID: 825 266 6518 Password: Service*

Alt-GSR: Sam G.

- No update

Communications Coordinator: Tavius

- No updates at this time. Meeting with Feilisha and going over stuff at meeting

INTERGROUP: Austin R.

- Bruce K. who was the central office exec director for 15 years, has passed due to covid complications
 - We could send something as a group to his wife - flowers or sentiment
 - Prayers for his loved ones
- We heard a presentation from a couple intergroup people who work in the background controlling things and they want to spend 5-25K to build a brand new website from the ground up
 - Info in email he sent to group
 - (Add thing here)
 - Austin will set up a group consciences
 - We are voting next month per the c
 - Does anyone have a date?
 - Austin will throw something together. If you cant make it, send
- No updates from last month, looking for volunteers. Need COIN Editor
- Our meetings are updated on website
- Enjoyed being an intergroup rep. During meetings they don't discuss much. Hoping next intergroup rep can continue to represent FFG's voice
- COIN deadline for new submissions: November 20th, topics: Step 12, Tradition 12, and Service
 - [How to write for the COIN](#)
- *The Intergroup Meeting is the 1st Wednesday of each month*

- *Next month: December 1, 2021 @ 7:30pm*
- *Meeting ID: 976 2387 0155*

PI/CPC: Joe

- They need volunteers and outreach coordinators
 - Going out to various institutions
 - Staff meetings
 - Looking for spanish speakers
- PICPC is frustrating and it doesn't seem like they get much done. Whoever takes this position continue to represent our group and bring information
- *The PI/CPC meeting is the 1st Sunday of each month*
 - *Next month: December 5, 2021 @ 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.,*
 - *1224 N. Winchester Blvd. in Santa Clara*

H&I: Neil

- **Area 71 is in desperate need of secretaries**
 - Please contact Neil for a list of facilities if you wish to be of service, or check the Facility Handout attached to Neil's email.
 - For anonymity reasons I can not post the H&I highlights
- **Area 71 H&I Business Meeting is held every 4th Tuesday of each month at 7pm**
 - H&I business meetings are in person, no Hybrid, starting this month.
 - The next business meeting will be held on November 23rd, 2021 at 1980 Hamilton Ave San Jose, CA 95125
 - Orientation starts at **630pm** before the business meeting
 - Orientation covers the do's and don'ts when participating in an H&I A.A. meeting inside a facility
 - Orientation is a requirement to be a coordinator
 - Highly recommended for anyone thinking about volunteering
- **Area 71 Santa Clara County Financials**
 - Area 71 Santa Clara County September 2021 Pink Can
 - Contribution 806.10
 - **YTD 13,791.2**
 - If you have Pink Can money to turn in, you can go to our handinorcal.org website and click the Contribution link.
- **How's the surplus doing?**
 - No info
 - There's a lot of controversy involved

Please make checks payable to:

Nor Cal H&I

Please write Area 71 in the memo line

Mail To: PO Box 192490, San Francisco, CA 94119-2490 (Please, No Cash)

- *The H&I business meeting is the 4th Tuesday of each month*
 - *Next month: Nov 23rd, 2021 @ 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.,*
 - *November 23rd, 2021 at 1980 Hamilton Ave San Jose, CA 95125*

Bridging the Gap: Mike M.

- Not here

- *Bridging the Gap meeting is 3rd Monday of each month*
 - *Next month: November 15, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.,*
 - *1980 Hamilton Ave San Jose*

WOMEN'S SPONSORSHIP: Mary

- 1 Name in the box
 - Matched up
- Spent time reaching out to sponsors on the Sponsor List to see if they were still interested
- Add "Availability" to the sponsorship form

MEN'S SPONSORSHIP: Julian F.

- 0 submissions online
- Wooden box got 1 request and hooked them up with a sponsor
- Reached out to some of Sponsors about remaining on the list
 - Heard from some of them

MEETING COORDINATORS

7am: Mike

- Not here, no proxy

12pm: Alan

- 5 meetings, 5 secretaries
- Roster info is up to date

6pm: _____

- Position open

8pm: _____

- Seem to be in ok health
- Need phone numbers for new secretaries at Wombleys

WEEKEND: _____

- Position open

ELECTIONS

Steering Committee	Current	End of Commitment
Chairperson	Mary	January 2023
Recording Secretary	Amy	January 2023
Treasurer*	Liz	January 2023
Co-Treasurer*	Sean	January 2023
Supplies	Stan	January 2023
Facilities	Open	January 2023
Literature	Walt	January 2023
GSR**	Feilisha A.	January 2023
Alt-GSR	Sam G.	January 2023
Communications Coord.	Austin	January 2023
Intergroup	Grady	January 2023
PI/CPC	Tavius	January 2023
H&I	Julian	January 2023
Bridging The Gap	Neir	January 2023
Women's Sponsorship	Open	January 2023
Men's Sponsorship	Justin	January 2023
M.C.: 7a	Belle	January 2023
M.C.: Noon	Open	January 2023
M.C.: 6p	Open	January 2023
M.C.: 8p	Open	January 2023
M.C.: Weekend	Joe	January 2023

OLD BUSINESS

Vote on Group Conscience Document (Bylaws) Titles VII-IX

- Tweaked a little bit a week ago so some of the responsibilities are a little bit clearer, closing the meetings, and established the right to shut the meeting down in an emergency
- **Discussion:**
 - For the bylaws, do we have a hard copy?
 - Not today
 - They are posted
 - Are we doing the elections at the end?
 - Yes
 - Bylaws final draft were sent out yesterday
 - Vote:
 - In Favor: 10

- Opposed: 0
- Abstain: 4
- Motion passes
- Will we be posting the bylaws in the room
 - Yes

Withdrawing the Pink Can from meetings while H&I NORCAL has a large surplus

- **Discussion:**

- It's not required but It's something our fellowship does that people appreciate
- People still want to give. It's up to people if they want to give or not give
- [Money in pink can is] between 20-60\$ a month, if that
- We can highlight in an email to the fellowship that H&I is not in need of funds.
- Taking away opportunity to give is not the right thing to do
- If we do take it out, when do we put it back in? Is there a threshold for when we put it back in?
- There's not much work in passing the basket. If a person chooses to put money in, it's their choice. It may open the door to someone. It's important to keep it going and keep it flowing
- Everyone free to contribute directly to H&I norcal if they wish
- By evidence of our H&I rep, H&I is not being transparent. Not allowing fellowship to be responsive with pink can. Passing it not out of need. Basing calcs on 2019 expenditures. Not calculating correctly, not announcing it correctly. This is why we should stop passing pink can
- If we are going to vote on this I think I would like to see it revisited next. If we can address it once a year in the November and December business meeting, we can decide whether to put the cans back
- There are a few things going on, not a lot of transparency. Every meeting being autonomous can pass if they want to. As the steering committee, we can make people aware and that they can do some research so that they can make their own decisions. We shouldn't decide for people if they can or can't donate. Ask people to do their own research and make their own decision
- We can always just vote to remove it from the basket and leave it on the table and let people know it exists. Vote of revisiting in 6mo or year. Or come back to it another time
- There is a clear divergence from the concepts within the H&I operating structure and culture to avoid a seed of perilous wealth and power. The first 4 concepts, all these things aren't really happening there and I don't think this is healthy. But also it's not healthy that we take someone else's right to contribute. We should do something to some extent. Concept 7, we have the power of purse strings. Guard people's individual liberty. Newcomers think that the pink can in the basket is for FFG. There is a compromise here that is a little less draconian. I would support that but not removing pink can entirely
- We could withdraw the pink can and still make it clear that people who wish to give can do so directly.
- Motion: We remove (disappear it from the room) the pink can and stop circulating it for the period of a year.

- Lack of second
- Motion: Remove pink can from 7th tradition basket for 6 months and move it to the tables to point out to attendees. Information will be given on how people can donate
- Discussion:
 - Will we have directions for this?
- In Favor: 9
- Opposed: 3
- Abstain: 1
- Minority Opinion:
 - This is kind of a pretty extreme precedent to set. I'm a direct result from H&I. It's understandable in my opinion that they weren't getting books out. I understand that there needs to be accountability. Us as a group, taking the can away is an extreme precedent.
- Motion passes

General Services Proposal to change language in the 12x12: Feilisha A.

- Feilisha sent out an email prior
- There is a group in our district that presented a motion to amend paragraph in 12&12
 - Change pg 122, "Practically every boy..." to more gender neutral language.
- Can email, text, or give Feilisha a call
- This issue hasn't been fully disseminated in the fellowship
- This is a potential agenda topic item that we would have an opportunity to discuss with every group in the US and Canada.
- Give it one more month to marinate through the fellowship
- Are we looking for a discussion or a vote? What are we doing here?
 - Ideally like a vote by December
- Any plans to hold Group conscience away from business meeting
 - Not at the moment
- Make a motion to table until December
- Motion: Hold a separate GC no later than the 1st wed of December that includes both district level motion AND intergroup website
 - No Opposed
 - Set a date this week for it. 30 min each topic

Meeting Room updates:

- Back wall and table [Alan/Justin/Shawna]
- Roster Update [Alan]
- Steps, Traditions, Concepts Scrolls
 - Hang from ceiling behind secretary desk
 - Drape on PVC pipes behind secretary desk
 - Other ideas?
- Should we replace the two sofa chairs with chairs that are more accessible for those with disabilities?[Amy]
 - I.e. - comfortable but has firm arms to assist with getting up and down.

- Would be easier to keep clean in Covid times than the fabric chairs that need covers to be washed, etc.
- Request \$110 for acrylic table top [Amy]

Schedule update: 24 in person meetings, 14 Zoom meetings

- Growing

Thanksgiving Alco-thon: Alan W.

- Sent out copy of flyer along with Secretaries Script a few days ago
- Number of those copies have been distributed in room
- Sent flyer to zoom secretaries
 - Disparity of up to date info on zoom roster
- 10 meetings scheduled
- We need more people to step up for service opportunities. Set up, greeters, etc
- Will there be hybrid meetings?
 - Thursday night 8pm is hybrid
 - No plans to make abnormal meetings hybrid

NEW BUSINESS

Christmas Alco-Thon

- Christmas alcathon can be extraordinarily helpful to the newcomer
- Let people know. If we want to hold it for xmas and new years you can find a buddy to help you co-lead
- We might want to make an announcement that we want people to step up to lead the Christmas/New year alcathon to see if people who don't come to these meetings wants to step up
- Does anyone know if Belmont will be doing their alcathon?
 - If we do one or the other maybe do new years day instead of trying to get volunteers for both within a week
- Motion: Having alcathons pending someone stepping forward to be a chair and have an announcement in the rooms that we have to have a chair by such and such date.
 - No opposition

Sub committee to update FFG Safety

- If anyone wants to join Grady, he will set up a zoom meeting to discuss
- Old one is out of date
- Maybe new business for next mont, having a standing business agenda item for safety. If anyone has safety concern we create some space where it can be addressed. Its important to recognize this is an important
 - There are concerns. Maybe help over from previous incidents and individuals

Elections:

- Treasurer: Waiving time requirement opposition
 - We should stick to 5 years sobriety requirement
 - Our current treasurer doesn't have 5 years
 - Let's have someone with 5 years of sobriety step up
 - In my tenure, there have been embezzlement problems and that's when it got voted on. Having both co- and treasure with less than 5 years.
 - Take it out of the bylaws if we don't want 5 years
 - Embezzler had over 10 years sober. We added co- to buff it
 - Would rather have a treasurer with less than 5 years with quality sobriety
 - Current treasurer had 4 years and it was waived in the last election
 - Motion: Waive 5 year sobriety requirement
 - In Favor: 8
 - Opposed: 4
 - Abstain: 5
 - Motion passes

MEETING CLOSURE

Meeting adjourned at ____ p.m.

Closed meeting with _____

Steering Committee	Current	End of Commitment
Chairperson	Grady S.	January 2022
Recording Secretary	Liz C.	January 2022
Treasurer*	Amy M.	January 2022
Co-Treasurer*	Treena Joi	January 2022
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Intergroup	Austin R.	January 2022
PI/CPC	Joe F.	January 2022

H&I	Neil G.	January 2022
Bridging The Gap	Mike MacL	January 2022
Women's Sponsorship	Mary M.	January 2022
Men's Sponsorship	Julian F.	January 2022
M.C.: 7a	Mike McC.	January 2022
M.C.: Noon	Alan W.	January 2022
M.C.: 6p	Open	January 2022
M.C.: 8p	Mary M.	January 2022
M.C.: Weekend	Open	January 2022
Chipmunk	Deb K.	January 2022

Sobriety requirement: 1 year minimum, *Treasurer: 5 years, **GSR: 2 years