



ROCKLAND COUNTY INTERGROUP

MINUTES FROM March 3, 2009

**Group Representatives (22) present:** 306 Group (Wesley Hills), Any Lengths, Airmont, Fellowship Road, Freedom of Choice, Grapevine, Key To Sobriety, Live & Let Live, New City, Nyack, Pearl River, Pomona, Promises (Piermont), RCYPAA, Sloatsburg, Spring Hill, Step By Step, Sunrise, Three-In-One Thruway Men's, Unity Group, West Nyack

Meeting was opened by Joe at 8:00 pm. Preamble was read. Tradition 3 was read.

All persons in attendance introduced themselves.

The Secretary determined that a quorum was present for the transaction of business in accordance with the provisions of Article VIII, Section 5, of the By-Laws of Rockland County Intergroup Association of Alcoholics Anonymous.

**Reports:**

**Secretary** - Minutes from the February 3, 2009 meeting were read and accepted.

**Treasurer's Report** – The opening Working Balance was \$1,171.17. Monies received during February of 2009 totaled \$ 439.80. Of this total, \$ 399.80 came from contributing groups and \$ 40.00 from Meeting List sales. The Treasurer read the list of contributing groups

Paid expenses in the amount of \$ 396.86 were listed and described.

The RCIAAA checking account has been reconciled.

The current balance is \$ 1,214.11

Copy of the Treasurer's report was presented and accepted.

**Funding requests:**

PI requested \$80, passed.

**SENY Liaison**– No report.

**Answering Service**- Rich distributed packets to all group representatives present at the meeting whose groups participate in the Answering Service. The Answering Service has not been operating as well as it should. Rich, as the default person to whom calls will be forwarded if no rotation schedule is transmitted to Foremost or if the person listed on the rotation schedule does not



## ROCKLAND COUNTY INTERGROUP

respond to a call, has been receiving an unusually high volume of calls. After doing some research and discussing the matter with the PI Committee, Rich handed out copies of the current rotation schedule, highlighted to show each group's service commitment cycles for the coming months. He asked the Group Representatives to pass the highlighted schedule on to their Group's Answering Service Coordinator.

Rich generally reviewed the Answering Service documentation and procedures.

As part of the packet, Rich included a copy of the standard Sign Up Log. On the Sign Up Log, the Group Coordinators need to fill in their Group's name and the Coordinator's own name and telephone number in the spaces provided. The Group Coordinator's name and number are important. The Group Coordinator is the first "default" to whom Foremost will go in case the AA Group member listed for that shift is not available to take the call. In the shift rotation boxes, each Group Member who has volunteered to take a shift should put in their name and the telephone number to which all calls should be forwarded.

The Group Coordinator should then send the completed Sign Up Log, either by fax or by email, to the contact person at Foremost Communications (whose name and contact information are also included on the Sign Up Log). The Group Coordinator should send the completed Sign Up Log to Foremost either the day before the Group's rotation cycle is scheduled to begin or before 8:00 P.M. on the day when the cycle starts. Foremost will then know to whom the 12<sup>th</sup> Step calls it receives are to be routed. If the Sign Up Log is provided in advance to Foremost, it is also suggested that the Group Coordinator contact Foremost to confirm that Foremost has received the Sign Up log and can read the names and numbers of the Group members who are taking the calls. If so, the Group members will not have to call in to Foremost in advance, at the beginning of their shift, unless they need to change the number to which the calls are to be forwarded.

Because of confidentiality and personal anonymity considerations, it appears that some of this information was not included in the Sign Up Log sheet that was posted on the Website for download by AA members. Thus, it is suggested that the Group Coordinators use the Sign Up Log that Rich handed out.

Rich also handed out copies of the "Do's and Don'ts" which those Group members who are taking the calls should review prior to their shifts by. The Do's and Don'ts have instructions as to how to respond to callers and include the numbers of the police, local hospitals and rehabilitation facilities and nearby AA answering services in other counties. Rich will also be circulating an updated list of those AA members who have volunteered to make in person 12<sup>th</sup> Step calls to.



## ROCKLAND COUNTY INTERGROUP

those who have called in to RCIAA hotline and are or may be in need of a personal visit from AA members to deal with their alcohol problems

Hopefully if this documentation is filled in and forwarded to Foremost and the procedures are followed, the Answering Service will operate in an efficient manner in performing its primary mission of taking calls from people who are seeking help with their problems with alcohol and assisting such persons.

**GSR Liaison** – No report.

**H&I** – Eric, the H&I Chairperson, reported that H&I had a bookers meeting on February 19, 2009, with 16 Groups participating. Eric read a list of the Groups that attended the February meeting and invited future participation by any Group that had not been able to send a representative to the February meeting. Eric also indicated that H&I would welcome any invitations to come to speak at a Group's business meeting to explain what it is that H&I does and how AAs can help out with this important 12<sup>th</sup> Step work.

Eric noted that over the past month and a half there had been some problems with commitments that were taken but not fulfilled. Eric compiled a list regarding this issue which will be taken back to the individual Groups for discussion purposes and to see if corrective and/or preventative action can be taken.

Donated literature (new or used) is still in demand and is greatly appreciated by those at the hospital and institutions, so please keep giving.

H&I has replenished stocks at T5 (Good Samaritan) and will be replenishing Nyack Hospital this week on Thursday (March 5).

Daytop has approached H&I about having AA bring in a daytime meeting four or more times a week. Eric was uncertain whether RCIAA can fill such a commitment during daytime hours but will bring it up at the next H&I meeting to see if volunteers are available to do this.

All commitments are presently filled but H&I continues to look for back-up chairpersons and speakers and will be compiling a list of these back-ups.

**Meeting Lists** – Trish, Meeting List Chairperson, advised that the new meeting lists have been printed up and are available for sale. Joe asked about whether



## ROCKLAND COUNTY INTERGROUP

the new Spanish speaking AA meetings, in Haverstraw (Mondays @ 7:30 P.M. at St. Peter's Church, 115 Broadway, Haverstraw, NY), in Spring Valley (Tuesdays, and Thursdays @ 6:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. at St. Joseph's Church, 245 N. Main Street, Spring Valley, NY) and in Suffern (Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays @ 8:00 P.M. to 9:30 P.M. at 27 Lafayette Street, Suffern NY (Back Room), had been included. Unfortunately the information concerning these new meetings had not been available in time for them to be included in the most recent Meeting List. However, at Joe's request, Fabio, who has helped organize these meetings, will supply the information to Trish so Trish can have these meetings included in the next printing.

**Corrections** – Roger reported that all meetings on the Men's Side of the Rockland County Jail are covered. The scheduling coordination and communication issue that Roger had raised at the February 3, 2009 RCIAA meeting, concerning one group's visits to the Jail, has been satisfactorily resolved to the satisfaction of RCJ administration and the involved Group.

**Bookers Exchange** – Mike, speaking for Matt, reported that the Bookers' Exchange had met that evening, with nine (9) groups in attendance and participating. The next Bookers' Exchange is set for June 2, 2009.

**Share A Day**- No report.

**Volunteerism Committee** – Bill apologized for his absences at the last two RCIAA monthly meetings due to health issues.

Bill traced the history and mission of the Volunteerism Committee and described what it does in RCIAA, having been formally recognized as an RCIAA Committee in recent amendments to the RCIAA By-Laws.

Bill's term of office will be expiring in December of this year and because of Bill's health issues, the Volunteerism Committee now needs and will, in the future, need additional assistance from Group Members to discharge its important functions, including arranging for visits by the Volunteerism Committee with AA Groups to describe what it is that Intergroup does as parts of its 12<sup>th</sup> Step work and how AA members can participate in that work by taking on various service commitments. Bill is ready, willing and able to meet with anyone who is interested in joining and serving with the Volunteerism Committee.



## ROCKLAND COUNTY INTERGROUP

**Public Information** – Eric, the PI Chairperson, reported that 9 of the 18 libraries in the County are presently being covered, with the literature racks there being filled as necessary. The PI Committee would like to have more Groups participating in the work of the PI Committee. Groups can become more involved by sending representatives to the PI Committee's regular meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. at the Christ Church of Ramapo, Washington and East Maple Streets in Suffern. PI also remains ready, willing and able to visit Groups to explain what PI does and the importance of PI.

Last month, the Website recorded approximately 4,500 "hits".

**Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous Liaison** – Stefanie, the Rockland County Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous (RCYPAA) Liaison to RCIAA, reported that the RCYPAA had organized and held their first Group meeting at the Rockland Council on Alcoholism, 25 Smith Street, Suite 101, in Nanuet at 8:30 P.M on Sunday, March 1, 2009. Many AAs were in attendance at the meeting. All were extremely energetic and enthusiastic. In fact, so many AAs came to the meeting that they overflowed the conference room provided by the Council. Larger quarters will be necessary to accommodate the meeting if attendance remains at the same level as at the first meeting. A search committee was organized to look for other space for the meeting. Those at the meeting agreed to adopt a "Living Sober" based format for the meeting, on an interim basis. All commitments were decided upon at the first meeting by nomination and election, with Jordan being selected to serve as the RCYPAA Group Representative to RCIAA. Future meetings will be every Sunday at the same time with business meetings to follow to work on the many organizational details.

Stefanie indicated that she was preparing a proposal to be submitted to the Council at its next Board meeting on March 11, 2009, for authorization of funding for setting up a clubhouse (including possible State grants or other funding). Any clubhouse would be organized and operated at all times in a manner consistent with the AA Traditions and the GSO Guidelines on Clubhouses.

Howard, the Freedom of Choice Alternate Group Representative, and former Meeting List Chairperson, bought up (for future discussion and action by RCIAA) the issue of whether RCIAA should agree to waive the requirement that a new



## ROCKLAND COUNTY INTERGROUP

AA Group or meeting be in existence for at least six (6) months before the Group is recognized by RCIAA for inclusion in the Meeting List in view of the fact that RCYPAA had been initiated at the specific request, and with the express authorization, of RCIAA. The subject was tabled for future discussion.

### **Old Business**

Artie was not available to make a presentation concerning the proposed revisions to Article VII of the current By-Laws (to be re-designated as Article IX) which were introduced at the December 2, 2008 RCI meeting, have been posted on the RCI Website and were reviewed and discussed at the February 3, 2009 meeting. The matter was tabled for further consideration, discussion and another review at the April 2009 meeting. At that time, it is anticipated that Artie will also present proposed revisions to Articles IX, X and XI.

### **New Business**

Corrections requested the ordinary semi-monthly disbursement of \$150.00 for the purchase of literature for the RCJ. A motion was made to approve the expenditure. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

A motion to close the meeting was unanimously passed and the meeting was closed at 8:50 P.M.

