



ROCKLAND COUNTY INTERGROUP

MINUTES FROM May 5, 2009

Group Representatives (15) present: Congers By The Book, Freedom of Choice, Grapevine, Key To Sobriety, Live & Let Live, New City, Nyack, Pearl River, Promises (Piermont), RCYPAA, Sunrise, Three-In-One, Thruway Men's, West Nyack

Meeting was opened by Joe at 8:00 pm. Preamble was read. Tradition 5 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 April 6, 2009 meeting were read and accepted.

Treasurer's Report – Frank delivered the Treasurer's Report.

The opening Working Balance was \$ 629.70. Monies received during April 2009 totaled \$ 1,367.00. Of this total, \$ 1,231.00 came from Group contributions and \$136.00 from Meeting List sales. The Treasurer read the list of contributing groups.

Paid expenses in the amount of \$ 1,894.38, including two (2) bills from Foremost Communications for \$1,132.80 and the printing bill from Haverstraw Press for the most recent (March 2009) Meeting List printing (\$ 600.00), were listed and described.

The RCIAAA checking account has been reconciled.

The closing balance is \$ 102.70

Copy of the Treasurer's report was presented.

Funding requests:

The Treasurer recommended that the Committee Chairs and others refrain from submitting any funding requests this month given the low balance in the RCIAAA account.

Frank suggested sending a letter out to Rockland County AA groups to thank them for their continuing support and to alert them to the fact that RCIAAA is now financially challenged and in need of contributions from AA groups. The subject of sending out a letter was deferred for further consideration as New Business.



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Frank also presented a summary report comparing 2008 and 2009 average monthly contributions received from the AA groups and the average RCIAAA monthly expenses showing that average monthly contributions had declined from \$828.55 (2008) to \$691.63 (2009), while average monthly expenses had increased from \$845.18 (2008) to \$1,175.31 (2009). Most of the increase in expenses is attributable to the higher bills being received from Foremost Communications for providing the answering service for calls made to the RCIAAA Hotline and increased printing costs for the Meeting Lists. Frank suggested several possible courses of action, including, but not limited to, discontinuing the printing of the yellow card that is distributed with the Meeting lists, sending the letter to the groups requesting donations and discussing the basis for, and amount of, the charges in the Foremost bills with Foremost.

Trish, the Meeting List Chairperson, noted that there was no additional charge for the printing of the yellow card on the last Meeting List printing so the projected savings of \$150.00 from discontinuing this publication would not be realized.

A suggestion was also made that RCIAA might want to have overdraft protection for the RCIAAA checking account. Joe C. indicated his concern that such an extension of credit by a bank would not be consistent with the Seventh Tradition of AA groups being fully self-supporting.

There was a general discussion about what was going on in or with various groups that could explain the reduction in contributions to RCIAAA or is related to increasing them. Some groups are in transition with respect to their group treasurers and this may account for some delay in sending contributions to RCIAAA (Grapevine). Some are also considering restructuring the suggested 60/30/10 contribution formula on a temporary basis to help out RCIAAA (Grapevine). Some groups may be sending in contribution checks that have not been received or accounted for (Pearl River) a subject that the Treasurer will investigate as well as the group representative. One group (Live & Let Live) believes that bringing up the subject of RCIAA's financial condition at regular meetings as an "announcement for the good of AA" is a more effective way of bringing the matter to the attention of AAs as opposed to just discussing it a group business meeting. Some groups may be experiencing financial strain as a result of significant rent increases and the time it may take for the group's members to realize that additional contributions are needed to remain fully self-supporting (Freedom of Choice). It was also suggested that the Volunteerism Committee can include a request for financial support when it makes its presentations to groups.

A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report which was passed unanimously. Copies of the Treasurer's Report and the Comparison Summary for 2008/2009 are attached.



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Joe asked all in attendance to please speak with their groups and group treasurers about having some money sent to Intergroup, if possible, since Intergroup needs money in order to keep the organization running properly and continue its 12th step work.

SENY Liaison– Bobby reported that General Services had a similar type of discussion about finances and the Seventh Tradition at its last meeting and that money issues are generally affecting AA as a whole. He indicated that he and Keith, the GSR Liaison, will be coordinating their reports in the future to avoid duplicative reporting.

Bobby reported on various events and meetings that have been scheduled, including information about the upcoming 2009 Northeast Regional Forum (U.S./ Canada General Service Board to be held in Somerset, New Jersey (June 26 to June 28, 2009), the 41st New York State Convention (July 24 to 26, 2009) at Grand Island, New York and the 30th Annual New York State Informational Workshop to be hosted by CNY Area 47 on August 14, 15 and 16, 2009 in Painted Post, New York and the 2010 International Convention in San Antonio, Texas.

GSR Liaison- Keith advised that GSO also had a discussion at its last meeting about “prudent reserve”

H&I – Eric, the H&I Chairperson, reported that H&I had a bookers meeting in April, with 13 Groups participating. Eric read a list of the Groups that attended the April meeting and invited future participation by any Group that had not been able to send a representative to the April meeting. Eric also noted that the 13 groups were covering 80+ meetings each month, with an average of only 5 missed meetings

Eric has been continuing discussions with Daytop, at their request, about bringing two meetings, one every Tuesday between 11:00 A.M. and 12:00 noon, requiring a chairperson and one speaker (with Daytop requesting that outside attendance for this meeting be limited to only those two AAs) and a second meeting every other Thursday night at 7:30 P.M. also requiring a chairperson and a speaker. Eric asked that any groups interested in doing this meetings and providing chairpersons and speakers to please contact him.

Eric reported that Lexington in Suffern had expressed an interest in having daytime AA meetings and Eric will be following up on this.



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Because of the current financial constraints on obtaining funds from RCIAAA to purchase new AA literature, donations of literature (new or used) is greatly appreciated more than ever by those at the hospital and institutions, so please keep giving. There was a general discussion about whether individuals could use their own money or make cash donations or be solicited for contributions that would then be used to purchase AA literature for institutions consistent with the Seventh Tradition. The consensus was that such practice was not inconsistent with the Seventh Tradition as long as any individual was not solicited to make a donation to, or in the name of, RCIAAA or any AA group.

Corrections – Roger reported that literature has been supplied to the Rockland County Jail and that the meetings on the Men’s Side and the women’s Side of the Rockland County Jail are being covered except, perhaps, the Wednesday Men’s Side meeting which Roger is looking into . Roger deferred on the bi-monthly funds allotment for Corrections literature purchases.

Answering Service- Rich read off a list of the groups that have the Answering Service rotation commitment through June 7, 2009. Rich reminded everyone of the importance of having the Group’s roster sheet completed and faxed or emailed to Foremost before the start of the group’s rotation shift.

Rich reported that he expects have the new answering service rotation schedule done by the time of the next RCIAAA meeting, that one new group had volunteered to take a shift and was being added to the rotation and that if any other groups wanted to become involved they should contact Rich before the next rotation schedule was prepared.

Meeting Lists – Trish, Meeting List Chairperson, reported that the sales of the March 2009 meeting lists have been going well, that the March 2009 printing is almost sold out and that she is preparing for another printing to be done in July. Trish also commented that she had not printed any more of the yellow cards because she had an adequate supply for distribution. Trish also needs contact information for the Burd Street Group that is discontinuing its meeting so that she could confirm this information for the next printing.

Bookers Exchange – Matt reported that the next Bookers’ Exchange is set for June 2, 2009.

Matt looked into establishing contacts with New Jersey Intergroups to facilitate speaker exchanges but determined that regular attendance at those exchange meetings would be extremely difficult since they are usually held very early in the morning.



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Share A Day- Mason reported that Share-A-Day will be held on August 22, 2009 at Rockland Community College and that the first organizational meeting was held at 7:00 P.M. on April 16, 2009 at Hogan's Diner on Route 9W in Stony Point and that the next planning meeting had been scheduled for 7:00 P.M. on May 14, 2009, at Hogan's Diner on Route 9W in Stony Point. The planning committee had decided upon "Stay For The Miracle" as the theme for Share-A-Day with Steve C. and Connie K. as Co-Chairs, Mason as Treasurer and Jane T. as Secretary. It was suggested that anyone who might be interested in becoming involved in Share-A-Day should please give their name telephone number and email address to Mason

Mason noted that in 2008 Share-A-Day had returned the seed money of \$1,000 provided by RCIAA and, for the first time in Share-A-Day's history, had received a surplus of \$ 496 that was also returned to the RCIAAA treasury. Mason indicated that the Share-A-Day Committee would need to ask RCIAAA for funds soon to commence operations but fortunately Rockland community College does not require an upfront deposit. Frank indicated that he would stay in contact with Mason and Joe C. to see if it was prudent to disburse funds to the Share-A-Day Committee if the need arose before the next RCIAA meeting.

Volunteerism Committee – Bill prepared a written report a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

Bill reported that the Volunteerism Committee had visited with four groups: Another Chance in Spring Valley (8:00 P.M. on Mondays), Spring Hill in Spring Valley (8:00 P.M. on Thursdays). Back To Basics in Stony Point (7:30 P.M. on Sundays) and It Gets Better/Women's Meeting in Pomona (7:15 P.M. on Tuesdays).

Bill also indicated he had spoken with the Executive Secretary of the Intergroup Association of AA of NY, They discussed having the Volunteerism Committee visit with each AA group in Rockland County to gather information concerning each group's officers and meeting chairs and meeting schedules. There was a general discussion as to whether the Volunteerism Committee should be taking on this assignment and whether RCIAAA should be endorsing this information collection process. The group conscience on these issues was that Volunteerism Committee representatives could distribute the Intergroup Association of AA of NY information forms but that it was up to each individual AA group to determine if it would supply information and what information it would provide about its group structure and meetings.

Bill noted that Eric and Stephen were assisting him in the work of the Volunteerism Committee and invited others to join them for an organizational meeting at Panera's in Nanuet at 9:30 A.M. on May 16th.



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Public Information – No report.

Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous Liaison – Jordan, the Group Representative to RCIAAA for the group formerly known as the Rockland County Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous (RCYPAA), reported that, because of issues with respect to naming conflicts and only after considerable thought and discussion, the group had taken a vote and would hereafter be known as the Rockland County Young Peoples Group (“RCYPG”).

The Group has obtained AA Literature and Meeting Lists. Its Sunday night meetings at the Fellowship of Reconciliation at 521 North Broadway in Nyack are being well attended. The RCYPG is continuing to have Living Sober/ Beginners Meeting and will review this format from time to time at its regular business meetings.

Jordan wanted all AA members to be aware that, although RCYPG was set up to serve the young people in AA, there is no age limit for those who wish to attend and all are invited to come to the Group’s meetings.

Old Business

Artie again presented and reviewed the proposed revisions to Article VII of the current By-Laws (to be re-designated as Article IX), which were first introduced at the December 2, 2008 RCIAAA meeting, have been posted on the RCIAAA Website for the required time period and were reviewed and discussed at the February 3, 2009 meeting and the proposed revisions to Articles IX, X and XI (to be re-designated as Articles X, XI and XII), which were first introduced at the February 3, 2009 RCIAAA meeting, have been posted on the RCIAAA Website for the required time period and were also reviewed and discussed at the February 3, 2009 meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to replace current Article VII with new Article IX. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to replace current Articles IX, X and XI with new Articles X, XI and XII. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

The subject of Frank’s proposal to send a letter to AA groups concerning the current state of RCIAAA’s finances and asking for additional contributions gener-



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ated substantial discussion as to whether the letter should be sent and, if so, to which groups it should be directed, as well as various suggestions as to how additional funds might be obtained at the group level.

Joe C. moved that a copy of Frank's draft letter should be given only to Group Representatives with the understanding that each AA group is autonomous and would make its own decision as to how to handle the request made in the letter. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Trish suggested that, instead of reading the minutes of the preceding RCIAAA meeting at the beginning of the next meeting, they be posted on the RCIAAA website and/or emailed to Group Representatives, Officers and Committee Chairpersons for their review before the next meeting to save time. The group conscience was that only approved minutes should be posted on the Website and that prior email distribution might not be practicable.

A motion to close the meeting was unanimously passed and the meeting was closed at 9:28 P.M.