

Minutes of Extraordinary Intergroup meeting to discuss WSBC motions

Saturday 11th Feb 2017 2-4pm

Attendance

Holly	WSBC delegate
Caroline	NSB rep
Francene	Region 9 Chair
Juliet	Beaconsfield
Judy	Visitor
Alex	Wimbledon
Dee	Wembley Friday
Denise	Roehampton Priory
Kate	East Finchley
Charlie	Soho Sat
Robert	Visitor
Zoe	Friday Reading
Kathy	Monday Reading
Lea	Spitalfields
Freya	Sunday/Thursday Cambridge
Linda	Sutton
Kai	St Albans
Geraldine	Visitor
Caroline	Sunday Brompton Road
Terry	Borehamwood

Readings:

Preamble – Juliet
12 Steps – Julie
12 Traditions - Alex

Discussion of motions

New Business Motion C – 10th tool of mindfulness

On agenda?	Yes	6	No	5	Abstain	1
In favour?	Yes	3	No	8	Abstain	1

Comments:

- A good idea, question around definition of the term
- Many use it already in their programme
- It is diluting the Big Book message, OA Is about 12 steps and mindfulness is outside issue, lots of other literature available on that
- How would it actually be put in place?
- Rationale not compelling. Meditation as a tool rejected recently
- Already part of the steps. It's part of working programme anyway.
- It's a broad and perhaps fashionable term that wouldn't add to OA programme
- We already have meditation in step 11

- Is a tradename/commercial label?
- Not a fit with spiritual programme
- A good tool to have in relation to meal times and avoiding compulsive eating
- Whole programme already about mindfulness
- Rationale is all about food but it shouldn't just be about that, about other issues
- It could actually fuel the obsession, and a plan of eating already talks about the food and how to deal with it.
- Does it open up to telling people how they should practice meditation, endorsing particular strands of practice?
- Part of our individual work on ourselves but not part of OA
- Mindfulness can be associated with particular religions

Bylaw Amendment 2 – Changing definition of OA group to specify using OA Preamble, Steps and Traditions

On agenda?	Yes	12	No	0	Abstain	1
In favour?	Yes	11	No	1	Abstain	1

Comments:

- It strengthens the meeting if you have that format
- Steps and Traditions foundation of fellowship
- Surprised it isn't already there
- No brainer, should be automatic
- Didn't realise there were groups who don't use them
- Concerns that for a 1 hour meeting, this could reduce sharing time
- Amendment – just add Preamble?
- Yes, continuity and clarity of the programme
- Would it include having them on display?
- Yes, we are a 12 Step fellowship
- Some meetings read 2 steps and two traditions each week, does this need to be clarified?
- No, Meeting does traditions on rotation so not every week but once a month
- Sponsor is responsible for sharing Traditions with sponsees.
- Question: Is it acceptable to have them read at some meetings, to have some of them read each week, to have them on display and be referred to? As it is, the motion is not prescriptive and can be interpreted by individual groups in any of these ways – this is in accordance with Tradition 4 of autonomy

New Business Motion H – adding using OA Preamble, Steps and Traditions and Tradition 7 to Unity with Diversity Policy

On agenda?	Yes	8	No	2	Abstain	1
In favour?	Yes	10	No	1	Abstain	1

Comments

- In favour, reasons as before.
- Question: Never heard the statement read at any group, should this be used in meetings? There is a Unity with Diversity statement which is in the recommended meeting format.

- Questioning why it belongs in that particular policy
- If it is already being added to Bylaws, this is redundant.

New Business Motion N – Sponsorship Day third Sat in August

On agenda?	Yes	7	No	3	Abstain	4
In favour?	Yes	6	No	5	Abstain	3

Comments:

- Group abstained, already in the tools, not sure how useful it would be in helping people find sponsors.
- The timing is not ideal as in the middle of summer holidays. Sponsorship already runs through anything we do.
- In favour of any efforts to highlight and support sponsorship.
- Probably more of an American thing and wouldn't really work in the UK.
- Useful, there is a huge lack of sponsors and this could be opportunity to educate people on how to sponsor.
- We need other ways to address the lack of sponsors in OA, there are not enough and it puts a lot of pressure on those who do sponsor.
- Group extremely concerned about lack of sponsors, can we look at what other fellowships do?
- August wouldn't work a lot of groups have low attendance anyway.
- No need for it. Will we have a day for every tool?
- Newcomers in favour, but in reality it will just be one more day in the calendar as we don't really celebrate the ones we have.
- Need more info, don't know what it meant. It's too little to make a difference, one hour a year is no use.

Bylaw Amendment 8 – Change WSBC from every year to every two years

On agenda?	Yes	13	No	2	Abstain	0
In favour?	Yes	9	No	3	Abstain	1

Comments:

- For cost reasons, in favour, especially with increase of electronic communication.
- Less is more, can focus and then take action over 2 years.
- Emphatic no, 12 step within, delegates coming together solidifies sense of unity
- You can have online/phone conferences.
- Sometimes, people who take on roles are attracted to the travel. Maybe you need to put effort to earn the 'carrot'.
- Would service bodies lose focus on attending conference if not every year?
- What about work done by committees, would they be able to keep their motivation over 2 years not meeting face to face?

- Questions: What is the usual amount of business at the Conference, is this year's typical? Holly explained consent agenda, that not all motions are discussed one by one.
- Question: There's a lot of motions, if it goes to every other year will the amount of motions doubled? Difficult to know.

Bylaw Amendment 3 – remove religious from the type of organisation that could receive funds if OA ceases to exist

On agenda?	Yes	11	No	1	Abstain	2
In favour?	Yes	5	No	6	Abstain	3

Comments:

- Anything that takes away from the religious part of the programme is good as it can be one of the barriers that stops people coming into OA.
- Against, we are not affiliated with education, charity, science either so why only pick that out to remove
- If you take out religious, why not take out all the other ones too? The money needs to go somewhere. Counter-argument: There are certain organisations we wouldn't want funds to go to, eg political, corporations.
- Feels politically correct.
- Religious organisations provide us low cost meeting rooms
- Money should go to other fellowships instead.

New Business Motion K – To investigate alternatives to using Roberts Rules at WSBC

On agenda?	Yes	12	No	1	Abstain	1
In favour?	Yes	11	No	1	Abstain	1

Comments

Roberts Rules is a set of procedures used to ensure a democratic process in decision making. Can seem like it prohibits this but the aim is to ensure that everyone's opinions get heard, both majority and minority.

- Agreed there could be a better way, good idea to explore this and see what other groups do.
- Yes, it's only a motion to consider alternatives and good idea considering that Robert's Rules can be unwieldy and confusing.
- Whatever works best which is simplest, only OA use them and it is overcomplicated.
- In my opinion it works well.
- It has to go, old fashioned.
- Group didn't understand the motion.
- Having been to National Assembly, see how essential it is, it does work with large groups.
- No harm in looking into it.
- Question: Would this mean other service bodies need to change? No, each is autonomous.