

MINUTES Sunday, June 13, 2021

Approved 7/11/2021 6/0/0

Please take back to your meeting and share with your group. Thank you!

Chair in absence of acting chair: Jenny
Record Keeper in absence of acting Recording Secretary: Julia
Read: Serenity Prayer, 12 Steps & 12 Traditions
Timekeeper: Phil; Spiritual Reminder: Geri
Check-ins and Sobriety Accountability
Quorum present--8 GR with 3 months sobriety

In attendance—15 people (8 group reps)

Avi – Online Queer SLAA
Dani -- group rep Newton Tuesday Beginner's and Fundamentals group
David – group rep Natick Friday night Stepping Forward
Geri -- phone coordinator and database
Jenny -- Treasurer
Jim -- visiting from Hartford, CT
Julia -- group rep for Online Monday Night women's group Answers in the Heart
Mac -- group rep Somerville Serenity on Sunday group
Mickey -- group rep Online Wed Porn Addiction group
Paul -- group rep Maine Thursday night group
Phil -- group rep Plymouth Saturday am Unity
Ted -- treasurer and literature person for WNEI
Trevor -- group rep Boston Wed night men's Sharing Our Strength

Business (Old/Ongoing)

1. Election of open service positions, sobriety requirements (below).

Chairperson	1 year
Vice Chairperson	1 year
Treasurer	1 year (Jenny R to fill for one-year term/ends 1/2022)
Corresponding Secretary	1 year
Telephone Coordinator	6 months (Geri C)
Web Site Coordinator	6 months (Chris T)
Activities Committee Chair	none
Literature Secretary	none (Phil B)
Newsletter Editor	none (Julia K)
Outreach Chairperson	none (Mac)
Recording Secretary	none

-discussion of corresponding sec position—larger job broken into pieces due to the sobriety requirement associated with managing the database and contact information

-Jenny went over positions referenced the By-Laws on the NEI website

-Ted expressed interest in being activities chair possibly

2. **Discussion of how to cover NEI's \$475/month expenses during pandemic.** (Specific focus of the monthly discussion about fundraising ideas. Agreed to be on agenda every month.) TABLED due to presentation of proposed 2020-2021 NEI Budget.

3. **Discuss dire need for Support from meetings/members to continue NEI's mission/purpose.** • **Outreach update.** (Mac) There are 3 people who volunteered to reach out to the groups. Paul and Mac did work based on an old meeting list before the merger of NEI and WNEI. Two people responded to his emails. Of 39 meetings, there are 21 who do not have a rep or a common contact (someone who attends multiple meetings). Mac contacted 7 out of these 21 and heard from Avi and Trevor. Paul contacted 8 people. Still waiting for another report from the 3rd volunteer.

-discussed adding people to the NEI google group

-requested the people present to fill out/update the contact sheet if they have not already

-The only group have not been able to contact at all is Sun 7 pm Brookline women's meeting and Western NEI people. Dani and Julia will reach out to Brookline women's and will email Mac the information. Ted will keep trying to reach Read to get the meeting contact/database details.

-reminder for group reps what responsibilities are: to update their home meetings every week about what is happening with NEI and other upcoming items that affect the groups at large

-Ted reports there is one in person and two zoom meetings happening in Western Mass right now. He will get meeting info to Mac.

• **Does NEI want to discontinue some of the services being offered?** Discussion:

-activities committee needs more in particular; may need to stop events if there are not enough volunteers. The committee has been focusing on gatherings this past year. Would like to add retreats back in.

-possibly eliminate monthly printed newsletter – as it requires someone to make the copies, collating and stuffing envelopes, labeling them, and mailing them. There is a monthly mailing with about 50 people and a quarterly mailing that goes to everyone with the meeting list (approx..200 people).

-counterpoint: there needs to be a printed version for those who do not go on the internet. The copies we make for the mailings have extras for the group reps to take to their meeting. If you're a group rep, NEI asks you to bring the materials/information to your meetings.

-may need to consider keeping it...printing meeting lists

-discussing ways to do it possibly in future.

-mailings include flyers if there were activities, monthly newsletter, treasurer's report, meeting list, minutes from NEI meetings

-Up until COVID--people asked for a hardcopy or email. If they chose email, they got a hard copy of the meeting list quarterly (if they provided a snail mail address.)

-this needs to be revisited when meetings are in person regularly

4. **Retreat for NEI members update** (Paul H. & Ted H.) Paul is interested in putting together a retreat for NEI members for how to make NEI more accessible and to get all groups together to share information and find out who the people are and how we can work together. This is a work in progress. Discussion TABLED.

Business (New)

5. **Recommendations of how to merge/delineate different services offered by the now combined intergroups (NEI & WNEI).** Last month, we agreed to have people with shared responsibilities talk to each other. People did not have a chance to connect. We want to streamline the work to cut down the amount of work being done by a few people.

- Phil would be happy to take over the current NEI literature/physically when it is time to make it available for distribution.
- Ted good with merging WNEI data base. We will need to send emails to the people to make sure they are okay with it.
- hold off on this until there has been more communication and check in next month

6. **Review/Approve 2021-2022 Budget** (Jenny R. & Ted H.)

Explanation of process of getting the draft numbers by Jenny.

- we met our 7th tradition goal for the month of May. We are halfway through June, but we hope to get more donations to meet the budget goal; we've also reduced spending due to Covid (meeting space, food, flying people to the ABM, etc.) so we are on target to break even for the 2020-2021 budget. Last year we were behind \$1500.
- estimates for upcoming year's budget is based on how things might be next year (increased mailings, people in person, merging with WNEI). Projected the 7th Tradition to be even with the current fiscal year. Under expenses looked at actuals and projected if there would be more expenses with increasing services.
- There is approximately \$13,000 in our checking account, which is about 1 year's reserves. The virtual gatherings this year were helpful income making events as they had low overhead. We generally try to project a break-even event with the hope that we raise additional monies to help fund our other services.
- the proposed budget has money included for services we are offering currently; do we need anything else to be added? Do we need, for example, equipment for a hybrid meeting setup?
- It was recommended that we double our FWS contributions, as we have only been donating \$600 a year for the past few years and included that in the proposed budget.

Motion to accept budget, seconded Julia and Ted: Motion passed 9/0/0. The final budget is on the NEI webpage for easy review.

7. **Confirm/Elect Delegates for 2021 Virtual Annual Business Meeting 8/3-8/6** –FWS holds an international annual meeting to do the business of the fellowship world-wide including electing/confirming new board members, creation of new literature, international outreach, diversity, policy, and statements from the worldwide office. This event is usually in person but will be virtual again for 2021.

- Confirm returning delegates –Geri & Phil are serving their 2nd year.
- elect additional delegates (NEI is eligible to send 1 delegate for every 5 meetings-e.g. 40 meetings = 8 delegates)
- NEI pays for the expense of attending the annual meeting. This year it is \$215 per person.
- the delegate is asked to come back to intergroup and let us know what is going on and represent our groups when voting on literature and policies. NEI asks for a report from the delegates. The delegates are expected to attend all 4 days and be a part of a couple of the conference committees of their choice.
- Avi potentially interested

8. **How to inform people about meetings— whether in person/virtual/hybrid.** (Geri C.) There are many emails coming in asking about in person meetings. How do we communicate this information? How do get this information?

- The outreach volunteers with will ask people to update us. Mac will get the interactive link from Chris, our web person. It would be helpful to know which meetings are in-person only, zoom still, or hybrid.
- it may be helpful to summarize/report on how you do hybrid meetings are going and what people are doing to make them happen. We can share it on our website so groups can offer this as an option.
- groups that are starting to test hybrid meetings are Sat Plymouth and Wed Boston.

Department Reports

Activities – (Jenny R.) Our next meeting is 6/18 and are discussing doing a retreat in December 2021.

Recording Secretary – (Julia) Draft of May, 2021 Minutes for approval.

MOTION to accept minutes approved 8/0/0

Website – (Chris T. & WNEI rep) Report: 723 users, 1300 sessions.

Telephone Coordinator – (Geri C. & WNEI rep) Report: 10 calls/emails = 4 calls and 6 emails responded to.

Database Coordinator – (Geri C. & WNEI rep) The database is a mess and Geri is redoing; slow going.

Treasurer – (Jenny R. & Ted H.) We received \$866.44 in donations including 4 recurring groups, 4 anonymous donations, 5 recurring individuals, and 5 one-time online donations. There was no donations received via the PO Box this month.

MOTION to accept May budget Julia/2nd Phil; approved 8/0/0

Literature – (Geri C. & Ted H.) no report

Group Reps Reports

Individual GR/AR reports (if any)

-request that people ask their same sex meetings if they welcome non-binary people.

Delegate reports (if any) None

Confirm contents of next mailing/timing of E-bulletin

- Fundraising update & QR Code & Venmo
- Ask people to send in information about their hybrid meeting experience and any changes from virtual to in-person
- We approved the 2021-2022 budget and a link on the website to review it. Jenny will ask Chris to upload it and get the link to Julia.
- Let people know we still need 5 more delegates to represent NEI at the annual business meeting.

Recommended deadline dates: Materials to Julia by 6/19. Julia write ebulletin 6/21. Reviewers return edits to Julia by 6/21. Julia get the final ebulletin to Chris distributed 6/23 for distribution by 6/23.

Check out & Serenity Prayer