

RHODE ISLAND AREA  
**ACA INTERGROUP MEETING**

2-4-2022 @ 9:30 AM

Bridget V, opened the meeting with a moment of silence and The ACA Serenity Prayer

Bridget stated the Minutes were in the Newsletter last week and will not be read.

Motion made to Approve Minutes.

Bridget made a list of agenda items and apologized for not taking role call first, and asked for people to state their role too.

**Attendance: In-person: Deana: (Tech/Newsletter, Outreach); Chris C: (NE Reg. Rep.); Joe G: (Literature, Outreach); Pike P: (Secretary, Outreach); Rebecca; Observing, Zoom: Bridget V: (Chair); Lynda: (Rep. Tues. Night); Lynette: (Rep. Learning to Thrive); Jessica: (Rep. 7AM Daily), Observing: Diane, Kelsey, Susan S**

Discussion: Kelsey voiced she hadn't received the minutes until 2 weeks ago and had some omissions specifically they did not reflect her stepping down as co-secretary. Pike offered to amend the minutes once she gets feedback and corrections should be submitted before the next meeting. Kelsey said she was not willing to send them. Bridget offered to have corrections sent to her before the meeting and would then forward them to Pike.

Motion not passed, Minutes not approved.

**1: Committee Reports:**

**Treasury:** Deana stated she is not the Finance Committee head though could report: We have \$723. In the bank account and that the Newsletter on the Website has a current account of the finances. We received \$400 from the Literature Committee, and we have ordered roughly \$400. in new Literature from WSO.

Donations: We have received \$80 in money orders from in person group (Salvation Army Group) and \$60 from individuals since December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021. and noted that we received a nice Thank You note from Salvation Army for our contribution for the Bonnie M. Event.

Disbursements: We paid Zoom bill of \$113. The balance in the account is \$723

Motion Made and accepted to approve the Finance Report

**Literature:** Joe reported that new literature was already ordered and we received the discount from WSO. Bridget inquired about a book inventory. Deana recounted that we had had a bunch of Big Red Books, several Step Workbooks, and several *Loving Parent Guidebooks* and no *Daily Strengthening My Recovery* books. The new order includes 12 *Strengthening (Hard Cover)*; 12 *Strengthening (Soft Cover)*; 12 *Loving Parent*, and 25 Welcome Medallions and 20 Newcomer Welcome Packages.

Motion Made and accepted to approve the Literature Report

**Outreach:** Pike reported Matt M, Deanna and Joe found a new venue in Providence to hold another in person gathering, for a tentative event pending approval. We visited the Church of the Mediator and met the manager. Deanna added that the manager was very receptive to an ACA event for March 26<sup>th</sup> from 2-10 PM and in support of recovery groups offered the space for future 12-Step meetings. The space has a capacity of 50 people, has a kitchen, and 4 pianos and keyboards; a good stage for musicians and dance floor and there is potential for visual artists to exhibit art.

Bridget V asked for discussion about the event under New Business.

Motion made and accepted to approve the Outreach Committee Report

**Newsletter/Website report:** Deanna reported that membership is growing and currently there are 214 persons on our mailing list. The Newsletter has links to financial information and Minutes of the meetings. The ACA WSO Proposals link is on the [Rlarea.org](http://Rlarea.org) website. Please look through them.

Motion made and accepted to approve the Newsletter/Website Report

**WSO Report:** Jessica B reported that she attended the last WSO meeting and Town Hall remotely. There are currently 13 new proposals for consideration and voting at the annual WSO Conference. The proposals are viewable via a link on the ACA-WSO website and they will be holding second of two scheduled Town Halls on Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> to discuss reasons behind the proposals and answer questions. On March 21<sup>st</sup> open voting begins. Jessica reported she will continue as Group Rep and will be stepping down as Intergroup WSO Rep.

Motion made and accepted to approve the WSO Report

**New England Regional Report:** Chris C reported he attended 2 Regional Zoom Meetings and again they discussed asking the Region's Intergroups for needs and goals for 2022. They are considering getting the NE Regional Reps together to survey goals and ways they may assist in addition to hosting 20-Week Step- and Tony A Trait Study Groups, they want to focus more on Traditions and Concepts. Chris reported that if and when groups register meetings of specific demographics that they add more detailed information to clarify descriptions in order to eliminate some of the resulting confusion. He noted that the websites of Regional and WSO offers free downloadable literature. In San Francisco they have reviewed 5 of 13 new Proposals and begun voting and Chris offered that he could be instrumental in addressing proposal reviews.

Discussion: Bridget V asked how Intergroup disseminates information to Regional and WSO. Deanna mentioned Regional's monthly mailer-though some information may be redundant, she reviews and keeps mailers. We are not sure with Zoom how many groups RI Area Int. represents? Chris noted there were roughly 20 groups represented, adding that Local Regional and WSO are well put together with reps and delegates clearly in place and offered that he'd be happy to help. Deanna suggested the next phase of ACA locally is to get more groups meeting in person.

Motion made and accepted to approve NE Regional Report

**Secretary Report:** Pike offered to amend the Minutes once Bridget relays Kelsey's corrections to Bridget. She explained that the deluge of conversation, disagreement and argumentative escalates to a degree that it is difficult to take notes accurately. Discussion or unruly discourse often is not put into the Minutes at all, but only key facts.

Discussion: Kelsey said she got Minutes 2 weeks ago. Deanna said they go onto the Website as soon as they came from Pike which was in early December. Kelsey repeated she did not get email until 2 weeks ago and information was missing. At this point, discourse escalated to a verbal fighting, with accusations and defensive arguing with members shouting and verbal attacks; In other words chaos followed. Some members left the meeting.

Bridget called for order and asked everyone to take a 2-minute breather in silence. [2 min. taken] and asked each member to behave, as she can't control others. It is up to us to keep the meetings safe. Dianne described safety measures established in WSO and explained procedures for Chairperson to have control of meetings by muting inappropriate behavior. Kelsey spoke of feeling unsafe, stating Deanna needing to apologize; Deanna said she was being attacked and we need people to learn the 12 Traditions. Dianne noted we are attracted to chaos and apologized for seeking control. Deanna said

she would make Bridget key host with the ability to mute speakers. Kelsey appeared to leave the Zoom room. Again Chaos broke out. Deanna leaves room.

Rebecca spoke about witnessing a pattern of behavior of interrupting; offering that to her knowledge people can't speak until all others have had the chance to speak. Bridget called for a motion. Rebecca stated the Motion that when there is dysfunctional behavior we will address it immediately.

A Motion was made to address predatory behavior immediately in the meetings.

Voting was incomplete.

Discussion ensued about amending motion to add 'in order not to escalate the chaos'. Deanna and Kelsey return to meeting respectively.

Lynda stated that her heart goes out to Deanna and Kelsey and commended Bridget for having discretion to stop the escalation. Bridget called for amended motion.

Motion made and accepted to immediately address predatory behavior at time it occurs in the meeting and Chair has right to mute.

Point of order was asked to move forward on last months Old Business to define boundaries for observers and voting members to eliminate getting sidetracked. Discussion about having open meetings, while also attracting new working members briefly followed.

Secretary Note: Secretary Report not motioned to be accepted.

Bridget called for next point of discussion.

**2. New Business:** Joe G asked about holding a vote for the next event that would require funding; \$300. for the hall rental at the Church of the Mediator and a \$250 refundable deposit for Saturday, March 26, 2022. Noting that if we charged \$10 for admission we would re-coop the expenses. Chris reminded the group that Regional could assist. There are plans for music, food, art and a meeting.

Motion made and accepted to fund \$500. for the next event on March 26, 2022

Bridget asked Deanna if the Tech equipment could be set up earlier so meeting could start on time. She stated that she loves the individual members and ACA and is clear about her role though she needs the cooperation of all members to be responsible for appropriate behavior in the service of the group.

**3. Old Business:** Bridget said we would take this Order in the Next Intergroup Meeting: a.) Agenda; b.) Role call; c.) Minutes; d.) Reports; e.) Old Business; f.) New Business, and to address the following:  
1. Define Voters, Reps and Observer Guidelines. Chair can mute in alphabetical order if needed.  
2. Planning for new Event

Motion made and accepted to hold next meeting on March 5, 2022 for 1 ½ hrs.

Motion made and accepted to close the meeting: Meeting closed at 11:11 AM

**Meeting closed with the ACA Serenity Prayer**

**Next Meeting: March 5, 2022 at 9:30 AM-11:00 AM**

Respectfully submitted-Pike co-secretary