

Minutes 17 February 2018
Greater Western USA Region
11:00 am – 12:30 pm, Pacific Time
VIA Teleconference Call:
(605) 472-5354
Access Code: 861824



Chair, Carole, open with traditional Serenity Prayer

Note: All Region Reps are required to furnish the Minutes of the business meeting at which the Intergroup voted to appoint them as representatives to Greater Western USA Region (aka Region 2) and a Commitment to Service and a Representative form, which they must send via email to gwuregion@gmail.com.

Regional Representatives Roll Call: Guy, Rosalie, Laura, Carole

Roll call of Volunteers: Denise

Approval of December 2017 & January 2018 Minutes: Approved

Officer Reports:

Chair - Carole: We need a new Chair!

This Chair is also the Regional Representative to WSO, on its Service Structure Committee and Literature Development Committee, Liaison to the Board from the Nominating Committee, and Vice Chair of the Members and Public Service Committee (MPS).

I must attend the ABC/AWC each year and a Strategic Planning Retreat/Work Session once or twice a year. I attend at least one teleconference per week for part of my work on those committees.

As Vice Chair of the MPS Committee, I have been helping to hire a MPS Special Worker. I read 15 resumes that WSO received and narrowed them down to 5 qualified applicants. I then helped with the interview process. We hired that MPS Special Worker and she will begin work on March 1.

I feel it is important to have a solid ACA WSO Board of Trustees that the membership trusts to do what is good for them. In addition, I am helping to develop a functional service network by making sure that the Regional development has the membership and growth in mind. That is why I am on the MPS and Service Structure committees. They are currently drawing maps to decide where future Regions will be in the United States. I am working hard to keep our area intact as I believe we need it to be this large until we have a lot more meetings and Intergroups.

BOARD MEMBERS & COMMITTEES

Board Officers :

GWU Chair: Carole RR
Treasurer: Rosalie IG Rep WA#595
Assistant Treasurer: Delfina IG Rep CA IG#076
Other Board Members:
Laura CA IG#6520
Guy D. CA IG#630

Potential IG and Meeting Reps.:

Brie #ID038
Terry #AK020
Denise #AK021
Mardi #MT026
Jay M. CA IG#
Libby CA IG#
Kurt S. IG#637

Committee Chairs:

Member Outreach: Laura IG#620
Archivist: Denise #AK021
Website: Guy D. IG#630

Committee Members:

Special Events: Susan IG#637
Literature: Rosalie IG#595

The Board appointed me Liaison between the Board and the newly forming Nominating Committee. This committee will insure a fair and impartial appointment of future Trustees by keeping Board involvement in that appointment process at a minimum, while still insuring that any new Trustee has the qualifications necessary for that position.

I also believe that our literature is important to our continued growth of membership and the members. That is why I am on the Literature Development Committee. Our Region needs to step up and start vetting the IG literature to send it to the WSO Literature Development Committee for vetting and editing.

As a Trustee on the WSO Board, I am fiscally responsible for what the Board does, including overseeing the website build. This means attending other committees to get a handle on what they are doing. I also am on the Slack channel daily to vote on emergency measures, usually having to do with ordering the printing of more literature or make decisions on last minute Financial items.

I have also been helping to answer the email and voice messages for months and will continue with that until the new MPS Special Worker gets onboard.

As my work for GWU, other than the usual paperwork correspondence, I spend a lot of time looking at the meeting and Intergroup listings on the WSO website. Last night, I spent the evening looking at them to get a better handle on our challenges and potentials. I have not completed my research, but I can tell you some of what I found. It appears that most of our 13 states have no Intergroups. Many States have only one Intergroup each and they have 20 to 40 meetings in each state. So far, the states with no IGs are New Mexico, Montana, Utah, Wyoming, Hawaii with, and Alaska. I have not finished with our 13 states. I have three or so to go. One challenge is how to get the GWU Region's states together at one place at least once a year, outside of the ABC.

Last, but not least, I am an active member of my Intergroup and its Literature Committee and attend three ACA meetings each week.

I see that what we need are more Intergroups participating and an IG Rep who can take up the Chair position. Meanwhile, I think having a Secretary for GWU will help me very much.

Treasurer - Chair Rosalie: Nothing new since last month due to lack of time to communicate with Assistant Treasurer.

Assistant Treasurer - Delfina: Not present, but Chair said that we still have not found a local Credit Union or bank who will take any new non-profit accounts. Chair has an account at the local credit union and so does Central Coast ACA Intergroup. So, Chair volunteered to go there and see if we can somehow open another account tied to the Intergroup. Someone suggested we consider using a Pay Pal account as a holding account, but that would not solve our problem as they would not have a bank to transfer money into that they receive. Also, Rosalie said that Pay Pal does not transfer the money until it reaches \$500.

Secretary - Needed

Committee Chairs & Members Reports

Literature: Chair Needed, (Rosalie continues as a committee member)

We did not work on any literature recently, although we do have literature coming out of IG#076 that we will send to the WSO Literature Committee. Rosalie wants GWU's help with their Meeting Directory Trifold. She sent a copy to our email. It seems their meeting list is outgrowing the trifold. Yeah!

Chair - H&I: Lisa D. with Jay as assistant: Not present - no report

Archivist: Denise - Meeting #AK021: All up to date with List of Motions

Member Outreach: Laura - IG#620

Applied for the gwuregion.org domain name for 5 years with domain hosting of one year (unable to obtain longer period). Carole and Laura will have the username and password as backup and will give them to our web person when he is starting on the website. We will have to figure out how to keep track of this deadline (2/10/23) for the domain name and (2/10/18) for the one-year hosting service. When we get a bank account, we can just have that on automatic renewal. Domain name is: gwuregion.org

- Once filed, we will need to renew the Statement of Unincorporated Association in 5 years with CA Sec of State.
- We will need to file the Annual Charities filing (annually post UA Statement filing date) with California's Attorney General's Office.

Communicated with the Greater East Bay IG. They are going to be with us next month.

Laura suggests IG reps attend a WSO MPS focus group on Regional service.

Special Events: Chair needed / Committee Member: Susan IG#637
(if Susan did not attend this meeting, we will remove her name from the committee.)

Website: Guy (www.SoCal.org) (IG#630): Question for Guy from Laura: When will you need access to domain account to build site for Region? Guy said needed assurance that we have at least two people to continue working for at least 3 to 5 years adding to the website and keeping it up once he builds it. He said Namecheap was a domain host he recommended, and Laura said that was the one she used for both already. Discussion continued about web sites and web hosting.

Guy mentioned that ACA-Arizona.org (The Arizona Intergroup) has a document called "What is Intergroup?" that is one he is going to put on the SoCal IG website. It starts with **What is intergroup, and why should we support it?** It assures the reader that an Intergroup is not an authority figure that will tell them what to do, what to think, how to run their meetings, or what to do with their meeting's funds. It says that Intergroup is an unpaid ACA WSO sanctioned assembly of unpaid local (in this case, Arizona) meeting volunteers, devoting their time to help ensure ACA thrives in their state. It goes on to say what they do and what a meeting will ideally do to help with that. To read it yourself, go to ACA-Arizona.org.

This news fueled a discussion about using similar wording when we build our Region Website and blending its wording with the graph WSU developed in its early months.

Intergroup Event reports:

Western Washington Intergroup asked for ES&H on the best topic for a first effort at holding a recovery event.

"Even though we have had as many as 120 attending the retreats, this is only a small representation of our membership now. According to the keeper of our meeting list and schedule, we now have 55 registered meetings statewide. We had only one meeting when I started in 2000!" Rosalie, Chair WWIG

Rosalie, (Western Washington IG) mention a meeting in Ocean Shores, WA where they focus on Drug and Alcohol recovery centers and doing an excellent job.

Laura, IG#620 said their IG recently repeated an event they had previously held and increased their attendance from 10 to 35 people. The format was one where they began at 11:00 with a speaker, broke for lunch, had a guided meditation, and then a talk about Loving Parent. The event closed at 3:00.

Events From WSO:

The help and recovery exchange in Culver City (SHARE) asked Adult Children of Alcoholics to their multi-12 Step Festival of Recovery. For information, call 323-338-0268.

WSO news:

At last count, the Traveler went out to just over 3,500 subscribers. The list is still growing by the day. WSO is open to suggestions for short news and current event articles. Send to either mepschair@adultchildren.org or information@acawso.com.

Old Business or items carried over from earlier teleconferences.

None

Motions: None

New Business:

RR will be voting at the ABC in Canada on behalf of the Region on the ballot motions that they will present there. Please vote for your Intergroups before the end of the month and then, if you want me to consider your opinions at the ABC when I vote for all of you, please send me a copy of your marked-up ballots. If you also give me the reasoning behind your votes, I will be more able to consider everything when I do vote for GWU in April.

Chair wants volunteers to contact group meetings that are not affiliated with an IG to tell them about Intergroups and Regions and what we can do for them. We need to let them know that we have a service structure that can help them develop new meetings and make the current ones stronger, help them get literature, answer questions that they usually reach out to WSO to get answers to, and be available for support.

Your RR is going to lobby for Regions to get the 30% discount on literature so that when we have large meetings forums as we are planning to do, we will have literature to sell at the discounted price.

Ideas for next Agenda:

Develop survey questions for our IGs and unaffiliated meetings to respond to that are like the one attached that the developing Great Lakes/Midwestern Region sent out. Ask Matt what they used for the survey.

Develop a blending of our graph with Arizona type statement of "What is a Region?"

Begin a To Do list of items discussed and Items done. For instance, contacting meetings in each of the Region's states to let them know the Intergroups and Region are here for them.

Date Next Meeting: Saturday, March 17, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. Pacific Time.

Adjourned the Meeting with ACA Serenity Prayer