

HVIG Meeting Dec. 8, 2019 Minutes

Next meeting: Jan. 12, 2020 4:45 – 5:45 p.m.

I. Opening – Meeting called to order by Paige R.

Reading of 12 Steps – Diane Z

Reading of 12 Traditions – Jenny C.

Reading of Concepts 3, 4 and 5 by Chair (Paige)

Timer – Jane B volunteered

II. Roll Call Meeting Representatives by secretary

Sunday 3 p.m. Lance C.

Sunday 6 p.m. Julie R.

Monday 8 p.m. Helen M. (sub)

Tuesday 12:30 No representative

Tuesday 8 p.m. No representative

Wednesday 8 p.m. Maggie Rose M., Nancy P.

Thursday 12:30 p.m. No representative

Thursday 6;30 p.m. No representative

Friday 8 p.m. No representative

Saturday 6 a.m. No elected representative

Saturday 10:30 a.m. No representative

III. Roll Call HVIG Trusted Servants, Committees, Members

Chair: Paige R.

Vice-Chair: Open

Secretary: Diane Z.

Treasurer: Deborah R.

Website Committee Chair: Audrey

We Care List Committee Chair: Jane B.

WSO Representative: Jenny C.

Virtual Region Representative: no representative

Other members at large: Linda S., Elizabeth D., Susan W.

Confirmation of Quorum by Secretary

IV. Welcome by Chair

The Chair welcomed all those in attendance and explained that we would be approving minutes and reports in one pass without going through them in the meeting in order to make time for critical business items.

V. Minutes and Reports (emailed 12/2/2019)

A. Minutes

B. Committee Reports

We Care List Committee Report

Website Committee Report

Treasurer's Report – Deborah suggested we include #1 and #2 from Activities part of report. Diane will amend report and resend.

Report from the Chair

Minutes and Reports were approved, with one person abstaining because she was subbing for a representative and therefore did not receive them.

VI. New Business

A. Telegram/What's App platforms were discussed as the first item because of the lateness of the hour in the UK.

1. Nicola, one of the administrators of the What's App OA HOW group and Elizabeth D., one of the administrators of the Telegram OA HOW group explained these platforms

a. The What's App group was started about 1 and ½ years ago so people can make connections, especially with the international part of our community. The group has reached its capacity of 250 people and therefore has also begun using Telegram, an app with a much higher capacity.

b. The groups request to be part of the formal service structure of OA HOW

c. For those unfamiliar with the apps, Paige R. explained that these platforms offer apps for phones which give members the opportunity to chat in groups and to call privately over wi fi (so without international calling charges). Members exchange information as well as experience, strength, and hope. The apps are used as a tool, similar to an automated We Care list.

2. Audrey asked if the apps would replace the current We Care list, and if all members of the groups are OA HOW members? Paige responded that they are meant to supplement the We Care list. All members of the 2 groups are OA HOW members. People are invited to the group by invitation from another member. Audrey asked if she could put this on the website, as people have been asking her for the information.

3. Nicola thanked Audrey and provided a more in-depth report: Some disruptive behavior on What's App has led to rigorous guidelines and moderators. Examples of guidelines include: We don't give advice, and if someone posts that they need a call we answer them privately in order to preserve anonymity. When What's App reached capacity, there was some discussion about shutting it down and changing to Telegram. However, there were objections to shutting down What's App, so currently both groups are active.

4. Paige suggested that this transition time might be a good time for the group to join HVIG, perhaps as a committee. If they had been a part of the HVIG structure when What's App reached capacity, that issue could have been addressed by HVIG rather than by group moderators.

a. Elizabeth D. added that the We Care list includes people who are not still active in the HOW program. This is problematic for new members who often call non-active members and then don't get calls back.

b. Deborah R. asked, if they are part of HVIG, do they need to register on OA.org like a phone meeting? If they get votes on HVIG they are like meeting reps.

c. Paige and Nicola replied that they consider themselves an augmentation of a tool, like the We Care list and website.

d. Audrey said we get a lot of emails and calls about newcomers not getting return calls from We Care list numbers. What's App and Telegram also help newcomers find sponsors.

e. Helen reminded us that if we want to add them as a committee we need to check the bi-laws.

f. Jenny C. said she found the apps very helpful when traveling. However, if we put them on the website, will use mushroom? If so, the moderators have a huge job. Nicola reported they are working out a structure and more moderators. She said it's not that much work; it's just important to shut down conflict immediately.

g. Paige said the bi-laws establish Website and We Care list committees. They give HVIG power to establish ad hoc committees.

5. Jenny C. moved **To establish an HVIG committee to administer the Telegram group.** Maggie Rose questioned if they are really asking to administer, or for representation on HVIG? Since the We Care committee is described as administering the We Care list, she is satisfied with the wording of the motion and seconded the motion.

6. A vote was held; the motion passed with Deborah R. abstaining.

a. Nicola suggested that since What's App moderators were not present, that we for now make it a Telegram committee.

b. Audrey asked how the Website communicates with the new committee. She suggests we have a process to bring their recommendations to the HVIG.

c. It was suggested that Nicola, Paige and Audrey set up the committee after the meeting and Paige volunteered to write a committee report of recommendations on how to bring it to the website.

7. Jenny C. **nominated Nicola to chair the Telegram committee. Nicola accepted.** She will form a committee. They can vote on a chair (if they want to change it), and will provide a report next month recommending how to implement this into the HVIG and the website.

B. Website Committee Proposal (emailed 12/2/2019)

1. Audrey reported that the website committee did a status report on the current website. The committee recommends building a new website since the current one no longer supports mobile and our traffic is much less than previously. They also recommend reducing the number of pages and no longer listing service positions of individual meetings as it is difficult to keep those up to date.

2. In the proposal the committee presented 4 options. Audrey briefly summarized them as follows.

a. Option 1 is the most expedient and the most expensive. It involves building a new site through BridgePact at a 50% savings (one-time cost of \$995) by the end of January.

b. Option 2 (less expedient, more thrifty) is to establish a new committee of volunteers to create a new website over several months.

c. Option 3 is to keep the current site (no action taken).

d. Option 4 is to research new platforms for 2020.

3. Paige called for questions, concerns, discussion.

a. Deborah R. as treasurer reported that we currently have \$882.95 above our prudent reserve and offered her support for Option 1.

b. Jenny C. asked if the website committee got their “dream” vote, what would it be? Audrey replied that the committee recommends Option 1, but is here to serve group conscience.

c. Diane Z. pointed out that if we pick option 2 it could be time-consuming and/or expensive. Paige added that option 2 might also doom the project.

d. Linda S. said she finds the current website cumbersome and text-heavy and expressed the opinion that a new website that looks appealing would do wonders for us. She thinks it is a really smart investment to spend the money. She said she could offer more specific input. Paige responded that the website committee is always looking for new members.

4. Jenny C. **moved that HVIG go forward with Option 1 and thank the committee very much for their incredible amount of work.** Julie R. seconded. **The motion passed unanimously.**

5. Audrey, as chair, thanked the volunteers. She reported that once the new site is active we can still make updates, so we can include feedback from members. The old website will direct people to the new one.

6. Paige thanked the committee for their tremendous work.

C. Treasurer’s Proposal

1. Deborah R. made a **motion that at the end of December and the end of July, the HVIG treasurer distribute funds in excess of the prudent reserve, 75% to the Virtual Region and 25% to WSO.** She suggested that this could be in the **HVIG Policies and Procedures.** She suggests a higher percentage to the Virtual Region because it is newer and growing, and

because part of its mission is to bring more delegates from virtual meetings to the WSO Business Conference.

2. Audrey mentioned that funds might not be available because we are sending delegates to Virtual Region and WSO meetings. Deborah explained that those expenses are a forthcoming bill, so we will not send a donation in December.

3. Paige clarified that we don't currently have a policy. We would like to establish one so we don't have to vote every time we have an excess.

4. Jenny C. expressed some concern about the amount of our prudent reserve. Paige responded that the amount is codified in our bi-laws.

The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Old Business No old business was addressed due to time constraints. Paige stated that the HVIG Email Proposal will be the first item addressed next month.

Next meeting date: January 12, 2020 4:45 EST

Meeting was closed with Third Step Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Z

December 15, 2019