

**CENTRAL INTERGROUP OF THE DESERT  
INTERGROUP MINUTES**

October 2, 2008

John called the meeting to order with the Serenity Prayer.

**Board Members**

Chairman: SherAli J.-Absent  
Vice Chairman: John E.  
Secretary: Wendy B.  
Treasurer: Rebecca K.

**Directors**

Jim D.  
Paul A.  
Mike B.

**Also Present:**

Jim K., Office Manager  
Fran G., Special Events

27 people were in attendance

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:** John read the Reason for Central Office and passed around the 12 Traditions to be read by attendees.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW ATTENDEES:** Tracy-Saturday night speaker meeting, Fellowship Hall-P.D., Randy-Desert Cities Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous (AKA DCYPAA)

**MINUTES:** Wendy read the minutes for September 4, 2008. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes were approved as presented.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Rebecca presented the Monthly Financial Report for August 2008. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Financial Report was approved with the following correction: 2 month period is from 7/1/0"8".

**MANAGER'S REPORT:** Jim reported on the following:

- 1) A. Please sign in at the door. This is used for calling with the meeting reminder and also used for the election eligibility determination. Also, please take any Desert Lifelines to your meeting location if the rep isn't here tonight.
- 2) Thanks to Lee F for Step 10, Garrett D for Tradition 10 and Homer A for Concept 10. Jane T. volunteered for Step 11, Tony C. for Tradition 11, and Stewart H. for Concept 11.
- 3) Book of the month – this month is Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers – A biography, with recollections of early A.A. in the Midwest - usually \$8.50, this month only \$7.50.
- 4) I attended the Annual Central Office / Intergroup / AAWS Seminar last week in Edmonton. The attendance was smaller this year – only 98 Central offices / Intergroups represented. This was due it was felt to a combination of the economy and the problems of getting into Canada. Some of the highlights were:

- Outreach – most offices have more participation at Intergroup and a larger number of groups contributing than we do. One office held their intergroup meeting in different areas to help get support.
- Some people are specifying AA in their United Way contributions. This is good for cash to central offices, but there is no way to tell if the contributor is an AA member or not. Some offices send back these contributions.
- Some offices have “gift cards” available for purchase so that people can give to friends or sponsees for gifts.
- Some groups have an “ask it basket” at their intergroup meetings to encourage interaction, similar to our question and answer item at the end of our meeting.
- Some offices have regular get-togethers for their volunteers to show their appreciation. It was stressed over and over again by AAWS and others that Central Offices really are on the front-line of AA with the handling of 12 step calls, etc.
- Big changes coming at AAWS and General Service office. There is a record number of trustees rotating off – lots of “new blood”. The current general manager is leaving at the end of the year after a 10 year term. The new manager should be chosen by the end of November.
- I attended a discussion of compensation for Central Office / Intergroup managers. It was very eye-opening that the compensation and benefits other central offices are getting is higher and better than ours.
- Over 30,000 books & literature orders are processed each year at GSO. 10% of the orders are handled by the secure web site for office and intergroup managers, but this counts for 30% of the dollar volume. 45% of the web orders and 75% of the phone orders are paid by credit card. There were 12,000 phone orders last year. All orders are shipped within 24 hours of placement.
- All videos will now be on DVD – no more VHS. All audio will now be on CDs – no more audio tapes.
- Made another suggestion to repackage the Big Book on CD and to have only the first 164 pages in the packaging, resulting in a lower price.
- Book prices are going up next July – possibly by \$1.00. No idea if all books or just selected books will be affected. This is due to increasing costs at GSO.
- Grapevine prices will also be going up next year. The Grapevine depends solely on subscriptions and book sales – there are no contributions from the groups. Due to increased costs (postage, paper, etc.) they must increase prices. They are also looking to no longer produce the “special” prison issue that is produced without staples. The reason is that they’ve found no increase in sales for that issue over other issues. There is a survey for H&I to send in.
- The Grapevine has a new book – “Beginners’ Book” which is composed of stories from prior issues of the AA Grapevine. The Grapevine has over 60,000 articles in their digital archives. You can get a membership online to access these archives.
- The site committee has selected St. Louis as the conference spot for 2010. Next year it will be in Rochester, New York. Many attendees, including several of the GSO people, would like Palm Springs to bid for 2011. This would take a commitment from the AA community here for things like... hospitality room, rides, etc.
- The group voted to have a secured web site which would require login. . I was elected as chairman of the web site committee.
- Recordings of the sessions will be available within a few weeks. You would have to listen to these recordings at the office – the material may not leave the office.

**SPECIAL EVENTS:** Final meeting for the Gratitude dinner was tonight before the IG meeting. Please make sure you return all money for ticket sales (or return unsold tickets) no later than October 25. We will need to know how many tickets are sold, because we must give a guarantee to Shenandoah. This count is very important because if we guarantee more than we have actually sold then we still have to pay for them and we would lose money. Thank you everyone for your support. We will also be having a traditions play and still need 2 more cast members. If you are interested please contact John E. or Central Office.

**OUTREACH COMMITTEE:** Tony C. reported that he already has a committee formed and they will start “reaching out” soon.

**WEBMASTER:** Jim K. reported on the following:

Stats for September

Highest # of sessions in one day-176

Highest # of hits in one day-5,144

Average sessions-125

Average hits-3,085

Total sessions-3,750

Total hits-92,555

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A. New Board members- The Board approved Garret D. to replace Kara S. and Paul R. to replace Bertha G. Upon motion duly made and seconded the intergroup reps voted and approved this decision.

**GROUP REPRESENTATIVES - COMMENTS AND/OR CONCERNS**

- A. It was brought up and discussed why the Men’s banquet is scheduled so close to the Gratitude dinner. Answer-Gratitude month is November and Men’s banquet set their own date.
- B. Suggested donations from groups-where they should go and how much. Answer-there is a pamphlet on this giving suggestions but it is up to the individual group.
- C. Why are there only speakers for one meeting listed in the Desert Lifeline. Answer-they are the only ones that notify Central Office. Others may do so also if they notify Central Office in time for printing.

**H&I/G.S. Dist. 9 REPORTS:**

H & I- Rebecca reported that they too are moving forward on outreach. Panels are going well. She will bring forms next month if anyone would like to sign up for a panel, the form also shows what facilities need panels.

G.S. Dist. 9- Tracy reported that G.S. is planning to place advertising in the Sun Line buses- Example... “ Is alcohol a problem” They would like to use Central Office phone number and URL address. After a long discussion it was decided that Tracy would take suggestions back to the G.S. meeting on Sunday and bring the results back to the Board meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup>. The Board will take a vote on it at that time. They would like to have this up and going before the holidays.

**SEVENTH TRADITION:** Passed

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned followed by the Lord’s Prayer.

**NEXT INTERGROUP MEETING:** November 6, 2008@ 7:00 PM

**NEXT BOARD MEETING:** October 16, 2008 @ 6:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy B.  
Secretary