

OA Middle Tennessee Intergroup (MTI)  
Monthly Meeting  
September 21, 2009

- 1) Angie B., Chair, welcomed all and called MTI Meeting to order.
- 2) Angie led the group in the Serenity Prayer.
- 3) Introductions:
  - Angie B - Chair
  - Barbara B – Vice Chair
  - Sarah G. - Treasurer
  - Bonnie R. - Secretary
  - Jan P. – Representing Saturday 11:00 a.m. 12-Step within Group
  - Linda – Representing Franklin Group
  - Nancy - Group outreach chair
  - Peggy – Representing Shireth Israel, and Facilities Chair
  - Stephanie - Region 8 / WSO delegate
- 4) Angie read the Preamble to this meeting:

We are Intergroup---dedicated to serving the needs of Overeaters Anonymous. Electing to attend, we strive to put aside our illness. Our purpose is to conduct business. We understand the necessity of doing so in an orderly fashion. We leave our feelings at the door when we gather to serve OA as a whole. To maintain OA unity, we place principles before personalities. The quality of our service depends upon our willingness to commit to OA goals.
- 5) Barbara read the Ninth Tradition from the Twelve Traditions of Overeaters Anonymous Pamphlet.
- 6) Sarah read the Ninth Concept from the Twelve Concepts of OA Service Pamphlet.
- 7) The minutes from August were accepted as distributed.
- 8) Sarah gave the Treasurer's report:
  - a) Available funds were \$ 1693.67 as of 9/1/2009
  - b) With \$6,000 in our prudent reserve
  - c) And \$250 prudent rent reserve.
  - d) Beverage sales at MTI this month totaled \$88.
  - e) We are catching up on our monthly donation of \$50 to World Service; \$200 was sent this month, and \$200 is planned for next month. We will catch up within a few months.
  - f) In third page of the report (page 2 of Income), the miscellaneous amount of \$28 is from the clothing sale last month.
- 9) OLD BUSINESS**
  - a) Sarah's term as Treasurer ends in October, so it is now very important to discuss this opening in meetings and to encourage members to learn about the position from Sarah and consider running. (Job description attached.)
  - b) Bonnie will bring a copy of the bylaws to the next meeting so we can clarify requirements for the position.

## 10) NEW BUSINESS

- a) Because downloading information from the OA Region 8 website is not much additional work, Peggy moved that the responsibilities of the Designated Downloader be added to the duties of the Region 8 Representative; it was seconded by Linda, and the motion carried.
- b) Peggy will check with Becky about revising the bylaws to reflect this change, while also clarifying policy and procedure for doing so.
- c) Discussion: communicating with meetings about a variety of topics, including MTI business meeting results, announcements, and so forth.  
Conclusions:
  - i) Google Group is the most effective way to ensure broad communication, while also being paper-friendly
  - ii) We will continue to funnel MTI business and meeting communication through the Google Group.
    - (1) Last month Sharon D volunteered to reach out to all meetings and clarify having a representative and their phone number listed on the meeting list for newcomers and visitors. In addition, each meeting is asked to elect a representative to attend the MTI meetings and to vote as a delegate.
    - (2) We concluded that getting an email address for the meeting is also necessary, along with ensuring they're on the Google Group.
  - iii) MTI has a Communications Chair to continue to champion ongoing communication
- d) Meeting Announcements from the MTI monthly meeting will be recapped on the final page of the minutes. In addition, they'll be put in a separate page for easy distribution to members and for posting on the bulletin board.
- e) Complaint about animals in the meeting room with concern for those allergic to pets and for possible accidents on the carpet. Question was raised about the existence of a pet policy.
  - i) Peggy moved that pets not be allowed in the MTI office, with the exception of service animals. Stephanie seconded the motion. The motion carried. Peggy will post a sign on the bulletin board.
- f) Children: Having some provision for children in our meetings was introduced as a consideration for supporting the membership's ability to attend meetings. Discussion ensued.
  - i) Meetings are asked to consider addressing whether children can be allowed in their meetings, sitting quietly in the back if old enough.
  - ii) If Group Conscience is in favor of allowing children, please be sure to let Brian know so that the meeting list can be updated accordingly.
  - iii) Here is wording that one child-friendly meeting includes in their narrative:  
**Children:** *Children are allowed at this meeting with the understanding that, should the child become disruptive, the parent or responsible party will remove the child from the meeting. If the child's presence causes any OA member discomfort, the parent or responsible party will be asked to remove the child from the meeting.*
    - (1) if a member is uncomfortable sharing with the child present, s/he motions for the adult/guardian to remove the child for the member's sharing time.
    - (2) If the child is disruptive, the parent removes the child until remedied

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) Meeting List - Brian G.  
Angie will check on getting the website updated with meetings.
- b) Communication – Alicia is going to post the recurring events on the google group.
- c) Media Library – Jenny Barriga
  - o We have some new cd's of speakers burned
  - o Need donations of writable CD's and CD cases. Bring to MTI or call Jenny 476 3404 and she will pick them up if you don't attend meetings at MTI.
- d) Region 8 / WSO delegate - Stephanie W.
  - (1) Fall Retreat is cancelled
    - The Chattanooga area is struggling; we're offering them help. Keep them in our thoughts and prayers
    - They've been welcomed to come to Nashville, especially on Saturdays when there are many meetings / workshops on the same day.
  - (2) OA's 50th Anniversary at the 2010 World Service Convention:  
Return Again in 2010: We Are Family
    - August 26-29, 2010
    - Hilton Los Angeles Airport Hotel
  - (3) Region 8 Convention:
    - November 6-8, 2009.
    - Registration forms available at [www.oaregion8.org](http://www.oaregion8.org)
    - Angie and Stephanie will represent MTI at this conference
- e) Phone - Carol K.  
Auto bill-pay is set up and is working smoothly.
- f) Lifeline - Barbara Z.  
No report
- g) Group Outreach - Nancy C.
- h) Twelve Step Within – Open Chair – Please see Angie or any board member, if interested
  - Entails reaching within the membership – encouraging others to make calls to other members and raising awareness about carrying the message within the meetings.
  - Reaching out to people who are not at the meetings (or encouraging others in all meetings to do so, to take a risk, make OA calls)
  - Outreach makes our MTI stronger, along with the fellowship and our own individual recovery. This is a "best practice" of strong Intergroups in OA.
- i) Public Information – Doug
- j) OA Literature - Linda B
- k) AA Literature – Open Chair
- l) MTI Office Manager Chair – Peggy N.
  - Peggy checked to see if we could use the hall area on weekends and the answer was no - that it would violate fire code.
- m) Notes of Hope –Nila B.
  - September Notes of Hope has been put out with future monthly topics included.
  - Question regarding Kinko's account.

- n) Workshops – Sharon D and Rick S (No update this month – carried forward from last month:
  - have volunteered to co-chair this committee.
  - Working with Margaret P. in the fellowship who's developed an experiential approach to the steps, considering something on the first three steps, such as a mini-retreat.
- o) Professional Outreach - Edith C.
  - No Report Filed
- p) Designated Downloader (Please see New Business)
- q) By-laws Committee / Becky M.
  - Better job descriptions are needed
- r) Retreat Committee - Teresa T.
  - No report filed
- s) Webmaster – Tina R.
  - No report filed

**\* \* \*Next meeting: Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM \* \* \***

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OA Calendar of Meetings/Events:

<b>First Friday:</b>	<b>Fellowship Dinner 6:30 p.m. Ruby Tuesday in Green Hills</b>
<b>October 12:</b>	<b>Getting Abstinent meeting: 10:15 to 10:45 a.m.</b>
<b>October 21:</b>	<b>MTI Business Meeting: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. All are welcome!</b>
<b>October 26:</b>	<b>Eighth Step Study: 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.</b>

### Meeting Announcements:

- **Treasurer position** for MTI is open as of November 2009; please consider being of service. Contact Sarah G., retiring Treasurer, for more information.
- **12-step-within chair position is open.** Involves spearheading outreach to membership by the membership – a characteristic of strong Intergroup organizations and one that we want to emulate
- **A volunteer is needed to serve as the AA Literature Chair,** ensuring our supply of Big Books is maintained.
- **We need blank cd's** for MTI Media Library of OA speakers; please bring to MTI office, or call Jenny at 476 3404 for pick-up
- Each meeting is required to **list a contact-person and their phone number in the meeting directory**, so that newcomers, visitors, MTI representatives, and members have someone they can call with questions. Please contact Brian with your group's representative and with changes.
- **Children:**
  - Please consider whether children can be allowed to accompany their parent/guardian to your meeting, provided they're not disruptive
  - If the Group Conscience is in favor of allowing children, please be sure to let Brian know so that it can be noted in the meeting directory.
  - Wording that a child-friendly meeting includes in their narrative follows:

**Children:** *Children are allowed at this meeting with the understanding that, should the child become disruptive, the parent or responsible party will remove the child from the meeting. If the child's presence causes any OA member discomfort, the parent or responsible party will be asked to remove the child from the meeting.*

- If a member is uncomfortable sharing with the child present, s/he signals for the adult/guardian to remove the child for the member's sharing time.
- If the child is disruptive, the parent removes the child until remedied

### Announce at meetings conducted at the MTI office:

- There is a 3-ring binder called "HANDOUTS" with announcements which can be passed around during the meeting for perusal.
- For the health, safety, and comfort of all members, pets are not allowed in the MTI office, other than service animals.