

**3rd World Service Conference
of Survivors of Incest Anonymous
August 7, 2010
Fallston Building, Fallston, MD
Minutes: *DRAFT***

Present:

Lee-Hampstead, MD
Helen-Los Angeles, California
Denise-Gettysburg, PA
Amanda-New York, NY (Thursday)
Cynthia-New York, NY (Thursday)
Linda-Forest Hill, MD (Fallston WSO)
Elias-New York, MD (Brooklyn)
Juanita-Hopwood, PA (People of Courage)
Becky-Connellsville, PA (People of Courage)
Kathleen-Lansdale, PA (Ambler)
Lisa-Baltimore, MD
A.J.- Philadelphia, PA
Greg-Baltimore, MD

9:21 am Standing Chair: Elias-Opened with the Serenity Prayer
Reading of the 12 Steps
Reading of the 12 Traditions
Reading of the Proposed 12 Concepts

Linda's Overview-current SIA Service Structure

Elias/Juanita(WSC committee member) additions to Agenda which were inadvertently left off

XII. B 3 Rotation of Service Positions-
a.2011 Conference Planning Chair
b.2011 Conference Standing Chair

Silent Reading of 2009 minutes-Juanita will make corrections on master copy-add the word "minutes", Add Lee's name to attendees and committees

Motion: Amanda to approve 2009 minutes

Second: Juanita MPU

New topics to add to agenda:

- Feedback on perpetrator statement From NY Intergroup
- Discussion of low attendance at the conference

-discussion of how to do brief breakout committee meetings, reporting procedures, and accountability.

20 minute break for past committees gather their thoughts. Actual break time 35 minutes

Elias's comment about procedure – let us try to strike a balance between having as many ideas come out as possible, and having a procedure that makes us "timely"

Committee Reports/Proposals:

Conference Committee:

1. The Conference Committee suggests that the SIA membership be asked to recognize the WSC, its Mission and Structure.

Motion: Becky, That the 2010 World Service Conference create a survey to go out to all the groups to further open the lines of communication between the World Service Conference and the groups. **Seconded:** Amanda. Vote – **10 approved, 0 abstention, 1 against. PASSED.**

Possible items for aforementioned survey:

- The WSC as it exists as a result of the 2008, 2009, 2010 WSC's,
 - The WSC Structure and mission
 - The Proposed SIA 12 Concepts of Service
 - Feedback from name change question
2. The Conference Committee asked for group input about how to increase attendance at the Conference-results of each attendees sharing:
 - Periodically inform the membership of what is going on
 - In addition to a conference, also have a convention, not that there would be two events simultaneously, but a long weekend with workshops and speakers, nothing in competition, but that SIA members could attend both.
 - Publicize
 - Communication, has to do with Internet
 - We need to change the economy and the weather, and distance
 - Uproar over perpetration issue, some people might feel confused and have strong feelings about what is going on here, and might be turned off to coming in here, why would they want to do service?
 - A lot of people felt disenfranchised in New York after the perpetrator statement.
 - August is vacation time for many people
 - In other fellowships, they pass around a second envelope, so that they can send someone to the WSC, it might be a suggestion to put out in the newsletter. If you don't have enough funds, maybe you can pool in with another group.
 - Agree with the timeframe, some people are followers, some people feel like they need to be fed, the concept of feeding people spiritually, emotionally, that is a winning combination.
 - Money – it costs about a thousand dollars to come from CA, and the travel time, so that is a 5 day commitment, Teleconferencing, Weather – the humidity
 - Vacation comment, a lot of families are gone
 - Money again
 - How did people misunderstand intentions with the perpetrator issue? This is a lack of communication. We have no intention of disenfranchising anyone.
 - Explaining SIA service in various ways through literature, example, participation in a joint conference and convention.

Lunch break from 1:15-2:15

Finance Committee report:

1. We have a T-shirt design that will eventually be on mugs and tote bags-the word “innocent” in child like letters with the SIA dove on the above right
2. The creation of a “Big Book of SIA”. Member's stories already collected. Could call for more; include a release with the submission. Book would also include the current writings of the 12 and 12 and the Slogans-both expanded further. Needs a name.

Group Concerns Committee report:

Spoke about the perpetrator statement from the Board, a member from New York brought some concerns from the NY Intergroup.

The main concerns that have been presented are as follows:

1. Who defines a perpetrator, especially that those who have perpetrated might not necessarily care that there is a statement, but those that are not perpetrators might self-elect out. It is a statement that could bar people who are honestly seeking recovery.
2. The 3rd tradition has one requirement for the fellowship: that the person have a relevant desire. The only requirement is the desire to recover from childhood sexual abuse. In the fourth step inventory of other groups, a question about the possibility of sexually abusing a child is included.
3. The statement perpetuates the myth that survivors of childhood sexual abuse are likely to abuse.
4. Most of us don't know our full story. Who is to say that as we work towards our story, we won't realize that we perpetrated. How can I feel safe in my recovery if my recovery leads me to more honesty, and then as a result, I won't be allowed as a member of the group.

Motion: Juanita, that we ask the Board of Trustees to further refine the Perpetration Statement, with prior and current membership feedback in mind, and further move that we seek written legal opinion of the Board's final perpetration statement to insure that SIA as a whole is protected from liability.

Second: Kathleen MPU

Motion: Linda, that the above decision is reflected in our newsletter, the mechanism to be determined later. **Second:** Becky MPU.

Let the minutes reflect how the WSC was appreciative of all the feedback from individuals, groups, and intergroups regarding the perpetration statement.

Literature Committee Report:

The Literature Committee Chair was not present at the conference. Discussion:

- The conversion of literature to pdf for sale on the website. The logistics of the literature sale will be worked out soon.
- There is a proposal that the Literature committee explore how to convert literature to electronic readers/apps.
- A question was brought up about prisoners' need for literature, also that prisoners share their stories so that others can hear them.
- How we can get our literature translated into different languages, such as French and Spanish. Someone present stated that they knew of the resources needed, including contacts with other companies, and knowledge of the field, to help these tasks get underway.
- One member is consolidating information on eating disorder information. One challenge is avoiding certain phrases that are associated with another fellowship. Work has been done on compiling the diagnosable eating disorders, and how being a survivor of incest can influence a person's coping mechanisms regarding food. If people could submit their desired topics regarding eating issues and being an incest survivor, that would be appreciated. Examples: exercise bulimia, occasional binging, people who have a normal weight but have eating issues, and so on.
- Members shared their desires to have an SIA service manual created, a pamphlet that explains the 12 Concepts from an SIA perspective, and a group inventory structure. The suggested group inventory format could be part of the service manual.
- A suggestion was made for someone in the group to create a step workbook to help people work the 12 steps in SIA.

- Becky offered to pursue getting permission to be able to reprint Surviving with Serenity. We can also work on our own meditation book.
- Discussion of procedure for obtaining writing submissions from SIA members and copyright permission.

2010 Literature Committee members: Becky,

Outreach Committee Report:

- A big part of the outreach job and work is being done by Cathy R. and Kathy G. in keeping the website updated, the meeting lists updated, and other behind the scenes work. It would be helpful for everyone in SIA to understand how groups have the power to list and update their group contact information online. There are about 100 groups online, and an additional 100 groups that elect not to appear on the website. The store is a tremendous undertaking, and it is getting improved on all the time.
- One service position is email responders, who respond to queries via email, using form letters for their responses. A typical email responder receives about 1 or 2 emails a week. This can be a very rewarding experience to give information about where a meeting meets. The email responder system has helped to grow groups.
- We need help fixing grammatical errors on the website-feel free to point these out.
- A request was made for a person to be available to field phone calls at either a certain time each month, using either conference call technology, or an answering system, to field group concern questions from Intergroups or individual groups. This mechanism exists for many hotlines, in terms of phone calls being forwarded to personal phone lines without publishing the person's phone number. One possible answer to these queries is "I don't know, I will get back to you." As it stands now, any member can call in to the World Service Office, and a member can return the phone call. A potential service to answer questions in real-time was added to the survey item list.
- If it is not possible to verify whether a group still meets, whether to delete it from the meeting list.
- A radio interview occurred last year, that included different members.
- The meetings in Southern California have increased from 5 to 11 groups. The Intergroup meets once every 2 months. They are sending out public outreach emails to different entities. A link to the current newsletter from Southern California could be created at the national SIA website.

Report on this year's conference:

Conference Planning Committee Report:

There was an original fee of \$25 for the conference. There is no longer a cost for the conference room. So far there is a receipt for \$65.24 for food and paper products. A suggestion is to ask people to give what they can, to not burden the World Service Office with the cost of the conference.

Suggestions for next year:

- To include more nurturing activities, such as speakers and workshops.
- To have regional conferences for 2 years, and then have representatives from the regional conferences to present at a national conference.
- To create a teleconference, using a combination of Skype and conference calls. Could we consider 2011 to be a teleconference year, and then have 2012 to be a face to face event? Have a volunteer from each Intergroup with a computer with a webcam, and have individuals use the webcam technology. Wherever the Intergroup meeting is being held, plan to use that space on the day of the Conference. In order to make that work, we would need to be more conscious of time. We could have a trial run of this concept.
- Discussion of nominations or volunteers-poll of who is willing to stand for each position-

Accept by acclimation: Standing Chair: Amanda and Conference Planning Chair: Denise. MPU

Motion: Denise, to choose Sept. 30-October 2nd, 2011 for our next conference, location TBD. **Second:** Helen MPU

Motion: Becky, to accept volunteers for the Conference Planning Committee “Becky, Elias, Kathleen, Juanita, Helen (possible west coast liaison)” **Second:** Helen. MPU

Committees:

- 2011 Conference Standing Chair: Amanda, Planning Chair: Denise
 - Becky, Elias, Kathleen, Lee, Juanita, Helen (possible west coast liaison)
- World Service Conference Structure:
 - Chairs: Kathleen and Juanita Committee: Linda
- Finance:
 - Becky, Linda, Chair: needed
- Group Concerns:
 - Cynthia, Linda, Chair: Elias
- Literature:
 - Cynthia, Denise, Lee, Amanda, Kathleen, Linda, and Juanita, Chair: Becky
- Outreach (12th step work):
 - Linda, Helen, Becky, Chair needed

Sunday, August 8, 2010

10:27 am

Agenda Items:

1. Service positions transition
2. Discussion of feedback of name change
3. New Matters
4. Survey items

1. Service positions transition

Working definitions and names of WSC Service positions-all positions are 3 year terms

Conference Service Committee: 12 Concepts of Service (expanded explanations), Service Structure

Conference Standing Chair: Receives quarterly report from committees, Chairs the yearly meeting of the conference

Conference Planning Committee and Chair (is aware of all progress, but does not have to do it alone!):

Plans the physical conference

- Secure location
- Create announcement and registration form
- Receive registrations and send back a confirmation (either snail or email)
- Folders, nametags, handouts, favors, etc.
- Refreshments and decorations (minimal)
- Create basic schedule (keeping in mind past practices-what worked, what needs tweaked)
- Coordinate Conference Agenda with Standing Chair and whole committee

2. Discussion of feedback of name change

*not attached to either name, for financial concerns keep the same*did not know for sure if she qualified and it kept her away at first, name recognition is huge, opposed to change, may lose those

who 12th step people*not sure if she qualified it first either, money and sacredness of what has been in existence, add the tag line *for Adult Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse**add the tag line without incurring cost*leave in the word incest-keep it as it is with a possible tag line*leave incest there, in keeping with WSC mission, tag line without it being an official part of the title*tally of comments were overwhelmingly for keeping the SIA name, for the subtitle because when a survivor googles those words-they can find us*this would not be a good time for us to change it, the word incest is very powerful*like the tag line, need not change the literature all at once, just a little at a time*the tag line softens it, it is a spiritual program so the money will come if we need it.

Motion: Linda: based on the feedback the WSC asked for and received from the groups, in the next policy survey we will ask the groups to vote “yes” or “no” or “abstention” on including in italics *for adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse* whenever the SIA name is used as a title or logo.

Comments will be welcomed. Second: Becky MPU

Survivors of Incest Anonymous

for Adult Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse

3. New Matters;

- a. Improve anonymity in groups amongst members-policy?
- b. Accessibility-single sex, third gender, lgbtg
- c. Support, between meetings, sponsorship
- d. Ways WSC can post it’s progress-conference corner in newsletter-Becky volunteered to coordinate

Motion: Becky, WSC moves that a clarification of anonymity be placed in the next newsletter at the level of press, radio, TV, films, internet, social media websites (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn) as well as within meetings and across other 12 Step fellowships. Second” Denise MPU

- e. Reports on how intergroups are faring-need for a liaison

Motion: Linda, to elect Cynthia as intergroup liaison. **Second:** Helen. MPU

f. Volunteers needed:

- i. Especially someone to inventory our stock
- ii. Literature submissions be electronic and with an automatic copyright release.

Question from next years standing Chair; do we need to decide on procedural things now? Answer: No refer to the 12 Concepts-

Thanks to outgoing service position holders-Elias and Becky

4. Survey for Next Newsletter

Motion: Juanita, WSC connect by email on the contents of the survey to be sent out in an upcoming newsletter (the WSC its structure and its mission, the proposed 12 Concepts of Service, and separately include other possible policy issues.) **Second:** Amanda MPU

2010 Conference close, Check out, sharing time....

Reading of the World Service Conference Mission Statement

We gather in service with the intention to hear from individuals, groups, intergroups and committees as to progress, problems, and visions for the next year, to insure the integrity, commitment, continuity, growth, and accountability to the mission, steps, traditions, and concepts of SIA as a whole. Let the hand of SIA always be there to carry the message of hope to the survivor who still suffers.