

SOUTH COASTAL MASS INTERGROUP INVENTORY 2017

1. Are we satisfied with the function of our intergroup service board? There was some discussion, most agreed we need more members. Mary W.'s goal is to visit all meetings this year within the intergroup to promote interest.

2. Have we ever taken an intergroup service board inventory? Yes, but not recently.

The function of the intergroup:

1. What is the purpose of the intergroup/service board? All agreed to "carry the message" and provide information to the meetings.

2. Do we have a Statement of Purpose or Bylaws? The Purpose is the first statement within our Bylaws.

3. Do we use Robert's Rules of Order and our Bylaws during our business meetings? Yes we do and we all think of the consensus of opinion. On occasion the group can be indecisive regarding a change and will make the change for a period of time and at a later meeting revote on the change.

4. Do the Twelve Traditions take precedence over "Robert's Rules" in our intergroup/service board's bylaws?
The members agreed that the Traditions should supersede Robert's Rules.

5. Do intergroup/service board bylaws and policies protect and/or extend the tenure of certain "trusted servants"?
Yes.

6. Does our intergroup/service board dictate or suggest? We dictate when we have to accept the requirements of the position. On all other matters we suggest.

7. Are we incorporated? Do we have a nonprofit tax status? No to both questions.

8. Do we set realistic short-and long-term goals? Yes, we do set realistic goals, ie Unity Day and long-term Workshops.

9. Does our intergroup/service board have a need for regular steering committee meetings or board meetings?
They are not needed.

10. Are there frequent steering committee meetings for discussion and decisions beyond the purview of the entire group conscience? They are not necessary, occasionally members are emailed as needed.

11. Does a select group make most of our intergroup/service board's "important" decisions? No, all decisions are made by group conscience.

12. Is the group inclusive? The group is inclusive.

13. Are all our intergroup/service board's activities open to the scrutiny of each member of the Fellowship?
Yes, and all our meetings are announced.

14. How can we keep the WSO group registrations up-to-date? Kathy responded that last year she sent WSO an up-to-date list. Intergroup members received a recent email from OA Region 6 Coordinator to update WSO census for 2017 and Mary responded that she would complete this request.

15. Are committees meetings open to all members? Yes.

16. Are committees' recommendations presented to the entire intergroup/service board for consideration and deliberation? Yes.
17. Do we choose our service people with care and consideration, placing principles before personalities?
We choose on availability as well as principles before personalities.
18. Is anonymity honored within our intergroup/service board? Yes.
19. Is an opportunity given to each member to participate in the intergroup/service board's activities? Yes.
20. Do we have a budget which includes a prudent reserve and contributions to region and WSO? Yes.
21. Have we done all we can to provide an attractive and convenient meeting place? Yes.
22. Are we committed to participating in the region and world service structure? Yes.
23. Do we make every effort to fund our representatives to regional assemblies and the World Service Business Conference?
Yes for the region. We are working on financing a delegate to World Service Conference for 2018.
24. How often do our "trusted servants" say "Trust me, I know what's best?" It does not occur, the board would need to see the facts.
25. Is there a frequent need for quick decisions? It depends on the subject matter, then we deliberate when needed.
26. Is there a place on our intergroup/service board's agenda for open sharing and expressing group concerns?
Yes, questions and concerns are part of the agenda.
27. Who decides how our intergroup/service board's agenda spends money? All attendees make the decision by discussion and vote.
28. Do we see complete monthly financial reports, or just the general fund's beginning and ending balance?
Yes, a complete and concise financial report.
29. Does our intergroup/service board have special savings accounts? No for separate accounts, everything is designated as a line item.
30. Are funds readily available, or are they invested? They are readily available.
31. Is the prudent reserve really prudent, or is it a hedge against worldwide recession? It is a prudent reserve which is based on 6 months expenses.
32. Are the requested for intergroup/service board contributions consistent with expenditures shown on the financial reports? Yes.
33. How long has the Treasurer been in control of the books? Since November, 2016 and can only have the position a maximum of 2 years, according to the bylaws.
34. Are there multiple signatures on all accounts? Yes, two signatures are required for checks in the amount of \$300. or more. Lee, Kathy, and Rita have signatory authority.

35. Does someone other than the treasurer reconcile bank accounts? The treasurer reconciles the account with the bank and gives a copy for the recording secretary to keep on file.

36. Have the books been audited lately? No.

Part II

1. Do all groups in our geographic area know about our intergroup/service board and the services we provide?
This is a work in progress as Mary plans to visit all meetings within our intergroup.

2. Do all groups in the area belong to an intergroup/service board? Unknown.

3. Do we keep in touch with groups who don't send representatives or contributions to intergroup/service board?
Yes, through the newsletter and website.

4. Do we let all groups know how they can support the intergroup/service board through service and financial contributions?
Yes, through the newsletter- the Breeze.

5. Do we encourage the Seventh Tradition's 60/30/10 contribution formula, making sure our area groups know about it?
Yes, documented in the newsletter- the Breeze.

6. Do we inform all members and groups of the structure of OA? The Breeze could be more informative with space permitting.

7. Do we sponsor OA workshops and marathons for OA's in our area? Yes.

8. Do we keep our meeting list current? Yes.

9. Do we publish a newsletter for the groups in our area? Yes.

10. Do we maintain a stock of OA-approved literature for sale? Do we encourage subscriptions and written contributions to *Lifeline*? Intergroup does not maintain literature, yet some meetings do have literature for sale and also encourage subscribing to *Lifeline*. It was suggested to add in the Breeze to subscribe and contribute to *Lifeline*. It was also suggested to include information during the Holiday Workshop.

11. Do we help members find sponsors? Not regularly but it is done at the meetings. Intergroup did co-sponsor Unity Day which encouraged sponsors to acknowledge their availability. Intergroup advertised the Region 6 Phone Workshop on Sponsorship. Andrew mentioned how difficult it is to get male sponsors. The group suggested the Chelsea Men's Meeting and phone meetings including a men's meeting on-line.

12. Do we arrange a system for groups to obtain abstinent OA speakers? No, but Region 6 is updating a list.

13. How do we help floundering groups? Some intergroup members try to attend, may need to change the time or format of the meeting. It was recommended that during the business meeting to go over the "strong meeting checklist". Discussion of the Hingham Men's Meeting may change to part of the meeting time be just for men then open the rest of the time allowed to all persons.

14. Do we assist unaffiliated groups in nearby areas to form their own intergroup/service boards? The discussion spoke of a meeting in Brockton which remains independent. Joan and Sandi will investigate further. Lauren stated at the Assembly there are a total of 831 affiliated groups in Region6 and a total of 29 unaffiliated

groups located in Region 6 area. Sandi checked on-line and there were 2 meetings of OA but the location was not in our intergroup area.

15. Do we address special needs of our members, e.g., young people or the physically challenged, and try to find ways to meet their needs without isolating them? Some of the meeting locations are handicapped accessible with handicapped facilities including hospitals and some churches but not all. Lee mentioned that young persons may have meant under 18 years and would need parental attendance. Some thought that the younger adults may prefer to go on-line or attend phone meetings. We had a college student at Abington Meeting attend for awhile. Sheryll stated she continues to reach out to her.

Part III "Carrying the message"

1. Do we have a permanent address and phone number that is answered twenty-four hours a day? We do have a PO box and phone number.

2. Is our intergroup/service board phone number listed in area phone books? No, it is available on internet.

3. Are we reaching compulsive overeaters in our community through-

a. Meeting listings in local newspapers? Not at this time.

b. Radio and TV public service announcements? No (however, there was an OA announcement on local area radio station advertising OA)

c. Calendar notices? placing notices in libraries, hospitals and meeting places.

d. Newspaper and magazine articles? Discussed placing in church bulletins and senior centers.

e. Newsletters? St. Bridget's Church, Lutheran Church, Braintree Churches.

f. News releases about special OA event? Our website and newsletter.

g. Bulletin board notices? Intergroup members have placed on bulletin boards in several locations.

h. OA literature in Libraries? discussed purchasing Overeaters Anonymous book for several libraries and do have posters in some libraries.

i. Special Newcomer Meetings? discussed none at present. Do give out newcomer packets to all newcomers at most meetings and greeters assigned to speak with them.

j. Speaker lists for various community organizations? No.

k. Others? No.

4. What have we done to bring the OA message to the attention of the professional community, such as: medical professionals, physicians, nurses, dieticians, nutritionists, medical technicians, psychiatrists, psychologists, counselors, teachers, social workers, clergy, military, employee assistance counselors, and others? We have provided some of these offices handouts, pamphlets, cards, in churches and other meeting places posters.

5. What are we doing to carry the message into institutions, such as: schools, prisons, and detention centers, hospitals, training facilities, nursing homes, and retirement communities and others? We have

provided posters to libraries, churches, COAs in Brockton and Mansfield. We have with assistance of World Service, communicated to someone in prison.

Final Question. Are there other alternatives to the present intergroup/service board structure that might be more useful in meeting the area's needs? If so, what? We all know of course, how to identify dysfunction. So, it isn't so much an issue of not knowing there's a problem as it is about doing something. Being long on wisdom, do we opt for serenity, or courage? Do we accept it or change it? Intervention or avoidance? If not you, who? Intergroup decided to review the compiled document and the final question at the September Intergroup meeting.