

**CHICAGOLAND G.A. INTERGROUP
MINUTES OF JANUARY MEETING
January 15, 2003**

Chairman: Steve S.
Secretary: Tom D. #2

Meeting called to order at 7:34 PM

Readings:

One Day at a Time - Sandie M.
Unity Program - Jeff T.

Steve S. indicated we would read the entire Unity Step for that given month, i.e., Step 1 for January, Step 2 for February, etc.

Unity Program Step 1 from the Red Book - Allan S.

Excused Absences:

Jim F. and Barry from Libertyville

Opening Remarks:

Chairman Steve S. suggested the following agenda for this evening's meeting:

1. New Business, specifically for the purpose of electing a secretary
2. Old Business
3. Committee Reports

Introduction of new room Reps.:

Mark T. – Naperville
George S. – Schaumburg
Dan B. – Romeoville
Jim M. – Elmhurst
Mike H. – Mayfair
Jeff T. – Arlington Heights

Review of November Meeting Minutes

Postponed until February, as the minutes are not available to review

Review of December Meeting Minutes

Accepted with no changes

New Business

Allan S. distributed the Intergroup Meeting Schedule for 2003. All meetings will be on the 3rd Wednesday of the month except for October, which will be on the 4th Wednesday of the month.

Elections

Secretary

Nominations accepted: Tom D. #2, Max W.
Nominations declined: none

Decision by the group that the top vote-getter will be the secretary and the other individual will be the assistant secretary.

Tom D. #2 voted secretary; Max W. voted assistant secretary

Co-Treasurer

Nominations accepted: Sandie M, Scott N., Alan H.
Nominations declined: Dave M.

Scott N. voted to be Co-Treasurer

Motion from Denise M. to make the treasurer a two-year term since it takes so long to figure out how to do the job

Proposed amendment to the motion by Bill S. to have the elections of each co-treasurer alternate from year to year so that there will always be an experienced person involved

Amendment approved by Denise M. - **Motion passed.**

Agreement from Denise to have 2003 be a one-year term for her and have her position up for election in 2004

Agreement from Scott N. to take on a two-year term as co-treasurer (up for election in 2005)

Clarification that there is no limit on how long someone can be treasurer, i.e., if Denise M. wants to run again in 2004, she can

1st and 2nd Chair:

Nominations accepted: Dave M., Bob O.
Nominations declined: Phil S., Gail B.

Agreement that highest vote-getter would be first chair

Bob O. elected first chair; Dave M. elected second chair

Pressure Relief:

Nominations accepted: Wayne B., Jim F., John D
Nominations declined: none

All three nominees were approved. They are to decide who is the main spokesperson.

Public Relations:

Nominations accepted: Tom M., Frank K.
Nominations declined: Alan H., Scott D.

Both nominees approved as Co-Chairs for Public Relations.

Phone Service:

Nominations accepted: Rene B., Phil S.
Nominations declined: Kathy H.

Both nominees approved as Co-Chairs for Phone Service.

Internet:

Nominations accepted: Tom S.
Nominations declined: none

Tom S. approved for Internet Committee Chairperson

Pinnings:

Nominations accepted: Kathy H.
Nominations declined: none

Kathy H. approved for Pinning Chairperson

New Meetings:

Nominations accepted: Myra F., Big Joe
Nominations declined: Alan H.

Both nominees approved as Co-Chairs for New Meetings

Supplies:

Nominations accepted: Sam D., Jim M.
Nominations declined: none

Both nominees approved as Co-Chairs for Supplies

Fundraising

Discussion about the need for a Fundraising Committee. Spring Conference is the only real fundraiser and that has a separate committee. The picnic and holiday party have been part of this. Both have gotten so big that each could have its own committee

Motion to dissolve the fundraising committee and establish two separate committees – one for the picnic and one for the Holiday Party. **Motion passed**

Picnic Committee:

Nominations accepted: Dave M., Myra F., Jim M.
Nominations declined: Frank N., Tom L.

All nominees approved. Committee will decide a chairperson among themselves.

Holiday Party Committee:

Nominations accepted: Rene B., Linda T., Mark T.
Nominations declined: Alan S.

All nominees approved. Committee will decide a chairperson among themselves.

Activities:

Nominations accepted: Barb J., Tom S., Lillian B.
Nominations declined: Alan S.

All nominees approved. Committee will decide a chairperson among themselves

Sunshine:

Nominations accepted: Diane L., Linda D., Barb J.
Nominations declined: none

All nominees approved. Committee will decide a chairperson among themselves

Other New Business:

Path Newsletter:

Jerry G. made a motion to approve having the newsletter for 2003:

Discussion on the motion:

Enough money for 3 or 4 more issues
Not getting a lot of contributions

When does it come out? – April, July, October, December
Needs contributions by the first of the month it is published

Motion passed after discussion

Members who come to meetings and have no place to stay

Meg L. inquired about what to do when a new member comes to a meeting and has no place to stay. Can we have information about shelters available so the new member can be told where to go?

Several examples of shelters in the area were given, including The Wayside Inn in Elgin and, perhaps, the local Salvation Army.

After further discussion, it was suggested that this be handled at the group level and have the meeting secretary call the local authorities in their town to get the information

Intervention Program

Dave S. asked what happened to the Intervention Program that was part of Intergroup a few years ago. Subsequent discussion included several examples of how this is typically handled at the group level by a Retention Chairperson for the group.

Dave S. suggested that this is very important and worthy of having an Intergroup Position to oversee retention.

Scott D. clarified the difference between Intervention and Retention. Retention is designed to keep new members coming to meetings and is normally handled at the group level by a retention chairperson for that group. Intervention is when GA members are specifically requested to meet with a person and their family.

Recommended after further discussion to continue handling Retention at the group level and handling Intervention on a case-by-case basis.

Phone Service – calls about Intervention

This discussion was deferred until the February meeting

Marriage Conference

Dave M. announced that he is planning a Conference entitled “Building your Marriage the GA Way” and will have flyers next month.

Question about whether this was a GA sponsored activity. Answer is no.

Chairman Steve G. indicated that this should not have been brought up since it is not a GA function. All discussion stopped.

Pinnings

Date	Day	Location	Time	Person	Years
1/18	Saturday	Elmhurst	8:00 PM	Ed S.	1 year GA
1/30	Thursday	Orland Park	7:30 PM	Mark T.	1 year GA
2/17	Monday	Oak Lawn	7:30 PM	Mike S.	5 years GA
2/24	Monday	Joliet	7:30 PM	Cindy F.	5 years GA
3/30	Sunday	Chicago Hts.	6:00 PM	Laura N. Lillian B. Barb J.	1 year GA 5 years GA 5 years GA

Previously approved pinnings are in gray

There were no objections to the new pinnees presented to the group and all were approved.

Old Business

Gamanon Literature

Arnie B. spoke with ISO. There is nothing written about what can be handled/talked about in the business portion of a GA meeting. However, it is the opinion of ISO that a closed GA meeting implies the Business Meeting is also closed. The bottom line is that each group can follow their group's conscience and make the Business portion of the meeting open.

Question about room reps taking Gamanon literature back to their rooms. ISO had no opinion on this. Basically, it is up to the room representatives to take Gamanon literature back to their meeting location if they feel they want to.

Arnie B. was asked to define the GA and Gamanon relationship.

- Necessary to each other, but separate
- No Gamanon literature is approved as GA Literature
- Only approved GA literature permitted in a closed GA meeting

Spirituality Conference

Arnie B. reported that 115 people had signed up. However, he indicated that prior to Intergroup, only 40 people had signed up – the rest were brought in that night. The concern was that the hotel had called and asked about a final count and they had to be put off a day

He requested that room reps once again go to their rooms and reiterate how important it is to get applications in early and not wait until the last possible day.

Jerry G. then reported that anyone wanting to attend the Spirituality Conference could show up and go on Sunday.

Spring Conference

Arnie B. reported that at this time last year there were over 200 people signed up for the conference. This year, there are only 33. Room representatives should push for sign-up so that more people are registered after the February Intergroup Meeting. Encourage people to fill out the application and, at least, provide a down payment for the conference.

Alan S. reported that 76 rooms have already been reserved for the conference.

It was reported that the conference committee had a meeting on 1/12 and only half of the committee chairs showed. So, there is a real need to have more people become involved in the conference.

A flyer was handed out to the room representatives regarding conference volunteers.

The next committee meeting will be 2/16 at the conference hotel in the Butler Boardroom at 1:30.

The Entertainment Committee will meet on 1/28 at the conference hotel in the Prince of Wales room starting at 7:00 PM.

Committee Reports

Supplies

The collection for the evening was \$73. A total of \$731.49 was spent for supplies since the last meeting.

Treasurer

The collection for the evening was \$1785.50 for GA and \$907.00 for ISO. The room collection was \$55.00.

Motion to reimburse Steve G. \$100 for the picnic permit. **Motion passed.**

Steve G. pointed out that several expense line items were higher in 2002 than 2001. Some items, such as supplies, went up because the number of meetings in the area increased. Others, such as Trustee Expenses, went up due to the location of the National Conferences.

Steve indicated he would prepare a detailed look at this so everyone can see how our expenses have increased as our fellowship has increased.

Steve also indicated that our income has gone up in some areas, supplies, for example, since there are more meetings involved.

Public Relations

Alan H. reported that the Wellness Institute For Recovery presentation at a high school in the area is still expected to occur, but no date has been set.

Alan H. reported that the Tribune did publish an article on Internet Gambling based on interviews with members in our Fellowship. It was published in the Tribune's Red Eye edition on 12/31/2002. The author was Jimmy Greenfield.

Frank K. reported that he is still wanting to create a list of people who are willing to talk about their gambling in case other inquiries from the media come in.

Tom L. asked if there is a specific amount of clean time needed to talk to the media. There is no specific amount of clean time, but it was suggested that someone with some amount of experience in GA would be preferred.

As always, all requests for interviews should be reviewed with the Public Relations Committee.

Internet

Tom S. reported he had met with Vixay S. and the site is up-to-date for meeting times and pinnings as of 1/15/2003.

He has removed the old activities and will add in the new ones as soon as he learns how to use the software.

Motion made to put the gachicago.org website as a referral on the phone service message.

Discussion about relying on the website to get people to a meeting. This isn't replacing people, just augmenting the service.

Motion passed. Phone service committee to make the change to the phone service message.

New Meeting

Scott N. reported he attended the Oak Park Saturday morning meeting. The meeting appears to be functioning well.

Phone Service

Phil S. reported that the most recent phone bill was for \$50.54 and that there were 198 calls to the phone service.

There are no current openings for the phone service, but Phil S. asked all meeting representatives to tell the phone service people to be diligent about minding their shifts so that calls are returned.

Question about the phone service and returning calls. A member asked how come a real person answered the phone? Is our service 1-800-Gambler?

Clarification that GA is not associated with 1-800-Gambler and that our hot-line is for the Chicago area and is run by GA members.

Question about how long the messages are checked. Last time slot ends at 10:00 PM and restarts at 8:00 AM. Concerns were raised about missing people or people waiting so long for a returned call. Barb J., who has an 8:00 – 11:00 AM time slot indicated that she rarely gets a call overnight – most people call before 9:00 PM.

Trustees

Alan S.

- Attended a meeting in Milwaukee with 5 other Chicago area members. About 18 people attended the meeting, 4 of which were out on parole, which made for an interesting view of our disease.
- Spring Conference – Trustee Chairman Tom M. and ISO Secretary Karen H. will be attending.

Bob O.

- Will be removing meetings from the ISO national list that are no longer in existence
- Went to Springfield with a representative of the Outreach Foundation to meet with the FBI and District Attorney to explain GA and gambling problems in the state of Illinois. This was on behalf of a member from that area with some legal problems.

Scott D.

- Received a call from a new member (3 weeks) who was in tears and upset because their anonymity had been broken which may have caused them to lose their job.
- Asked all of us to carry the message back to our rooms to be careful and respect the “what you hear here, keep it here” policy.

Brian B.

- Attended several meeting he hadn't been to before
- Also attended several pinnings
- Goal is to visit 5 meetings by the next Intergroup Meeting

Pressure Relief

Scott D. reported the following Financial Pressure Reliefs occurred (14 total):

Joliet – 2; Lisle – 2; Elgin – 2; Bloomingdale – 2; Orland Park – 2; Naperville – 2; Hinsdale – 1; Bolingbrook – 1

Suggestion to talk-up the other three interventions – marital, employment, legal – at meetings

Sunshine

Barb J. asked members to pick up cards from her since she was gone last month.

Activities

Barb J. reported that nothing is planned right now.

Good & Welfare

- Midge B's twin sister passed away in Phoenix

Meeting was adjourned at 9:44 PM