

Finger Lakes Area Intergroup

St. John's Episcopal Church
32 East Main St., Clifton Springs, NY 14432

Minutes of Mar 16, 2024 – Hybrid meeting



2:30pm - Call to Order & Declaration of Unity

Attendance = 23: 18 IR's / Alt IR's, 3 Committee Chairs, 5 Officers (incl. FLAI Chair), and 2 observers.

Quorum: 30% of active voting members = 10. We had 20 of 33 voting members present = 60%
Thank you for the ongoing support of FLAI! It is critical to our success!

Area Demographic: 69 groups = 26 have IR's, 14 are inactive, 22 have no IR, and 6 too small to support an IR.

Robert's Rules: Discussion, Motion, 2nd the Motion, Discussion, Vote, Minority Opinion, revoke if necessary.

Announcements:

- **District 200** - Liaison Frank B. – Bridging the Gap is a growing program and District is working with Area's on representing this better. Postcards have been made and distributed. He will have a link available for GSO.
- **Newsletter** – event recap.

Review & approval of previous meeting minutes:

Dave M. made a **motion** to approve Feb 17th, 2024, meeting minutes. Seconded by Kevin M.

Vote: 20 Approve / Unanimous = **Motion passed.**

Officer Reports:

Secretary – Kurt V. / Asst. Secretary – Justin S.

- Meeting lists are being scrubbed for a new print edition to happen in the coming weeks.
- Memorandum sheets have been created by Heidi K. and saved into the secretary hard drive.

Question: Does GSO need to be updated too

Answer: Information is given to Web Committee to change things in the Meeting Guide App. That is all that needs to happen to inform GSO.

Sandy M. made a **motion** to approve the Secretary Report. Seconded by Walt B.

Vote: 20 Approve / Unanimous - **Motion passed.**

Treasurer – Heidi K. / Asst. Treasurer Maggie M.

- **Feb 2024 Fiscal Inc & Exp Summary:** Contributions = \$1,310.10, Expenses = \$405.93, Variance = \$905.06
- **1/31/24 Checking Account Balance:** \$2,454.23
 - **This Includes:** Operating funds (YTD Fiscal Variance) of \$861.38 plus: \$1,592.85 Surplus.
- **Prudent Reserve:** \$2,501.64
- Group level contributions were great! Way of Life Sent in over \$900.00!!!

- Consider reading the General Conference Approved literature, “Where money & Spirituality Mix”.
 - See on page 13, the recommendations to homegroups as to how to split up their 7th tradition contributions between Intergroup, Area, GSO, etc.
 - Every Homegroup of course is autonomous and has the right to choose what to do with their contributions.
- Expenses were higher than normal for the month of march. Expect to see that.
 - Question: Are the expenses from march a mistake or are those budgeted expenses?
 - Answer: There is no mistake. The expense was budgeted and approved; it was just not expected to have it expensed all at once.+
- The questionable donation noted to come from “Harris” has been corrected. We did communicate with the donor who mentioned that annually they donate to local food pantries and that they decided to donate to us this year. As they are not members of A.A., the funds have been returned to them with notes stating they can contribute their donation to CAAFL or FLACRA.

If there are questions about the Treasury Reports, please reach out: treasurer.flai@gmail.com.

Justin S. made a **motion** to approve the Treasurer Report. Seconded by Kevin M.

Vote: 20 Approve / Unanimous - **Motion passed.**

Old Business: Bylaw Changes/Additions

Discussion:

Question: Has there been any update or information regarding duplication of efforts to start BTG here at the Intergroup level

Suggestion: Matt M. is observing, and he is the Treatment Chair for Area 47, perhaps he could comment.

Matt M., Area 47 Treatment Chair - It would be extremely helpful to me if Intergroup also assisted with Bridging the Gap. If individuals are in treatment settings in Albany coming to Clifton Springs, It is a lot of work for me to handle that coordination alone. We have been working lately to change things up and increase traffic and knowledge of the BTG program. It makes me think back to phone lists and how many individuals utilize them to their potential anymore. With this program we’re trying to be more thorough, and it would be a major help to the entire area if BTG had localized coordinators. If Intergroups collected lists of volunteers and individuals seeking temporary contact and were able to share that information up to the area and vice versa it would really help to grow the program. The guys that are involved in making this happen for your intergroup have already been very helpful to me with my efforts at the area level.

Comment: When we talk about “duplication of work”, we need to keep in mind that A.A. contains duplication of work at each level when looking at the Service Map. From GSO down to the Homegroup, there is duplication of service work.

Frank B., District 200 Liaison – Bridging the Gap is a Major Agenda Item at the District level right now too. The flow of communication between the different service levels, like from intergroup to area, is very important for the success of any committee.

Comment: While working with the treatment committee, we discussed several times working out a plan for Bridging the Gap, and each time, it was determined that it was too much for our treatment committee to handle.

While continuing to bring meetings into facilities some of us believe we are not taking all of the necessary steps to connect individuals with A.A. once they leave their treatment settings.

Comment: My homegroup recognizes the need for the Bridging the Gap program. We are in full support of getting this program started but we do not believe it is necessary to make changes to the bylaws.

Comment: This is a difficult program to handle for the treatment committee because treatment facilities cannot talk about or promote A.A. It is hard for me because when I was at Tully Hill, meetings were brought into the facility, and I refused to give it a chance, but I got hope from those bringing in the meetings. I am torn with the idea of this because our committee just does not have the manpower to handle the program.

Comment: I discussed this with my home group, and we do not see why others are having such a problem. This is only going to help. This program promotes another way for an alcoholic to help another alcoholic. That's what A.A. is. I can't see any stipulations in the proposed change that should make us not approve this.

Comment: Just let Area handle it, we don't need this.

Matt M., Area 47 Treatment Chair – I have done a lot of networking lately and have discussed this program with several others at NYRASSA. It seems that in other states, this program is running extremely well, and home groups are seeing a benefit from it and a lot of growth. There are some areas that see hundreds of temporary contact requests per month. I haven't had many experiences with it myself, but if we really gave it a try, things would pick up. I won't have a stance on whether you should have a separate committee, but I will say that the program is important. If anyone would like to speak directly with me, please email me at Treatment@cnyaa.org

Comment: It would be nice to have once central coordinator to handle all our volunteer lists. Between 12-steppers, answering service, corrections, and treatment, we have a lot of people out doing this type of work already. Perhaps a volunteer coordinator would be beneficial for us.

Comment: FLACRA alone services more than 4,700 clients with about 80% of them coming directly from within our service area. There are a lot of missed connections there with individuals already seeking recovery. The number of individuals who would be a consistent captive audience for this program is about 40% of that total. Given that we have A CPC committee, I can't see why we can't leverage the relationships we have with the professional community and have our committees work together to achieve success in the operation and functionality of the Bridging the gap program. I see no reason to not approve this proposed change.

Sub-Committees:

Accessibility – No Representation

Answering Service – Committee Chair, Dave M. provided report.

- Kate C. is making calls to organize and update the 12-step caller list.
- We discussed BTG and have been asking volunteers if they would be willing to participate as temporary contacts for the program and interest is there.
- I will have a quarterly report next month.
- Always looking for new volunteers and people looking to do some service work. Please contact us at help@fingerlakesaa.org

Archives – Committee Chair, Kate G. provided report.

- We welcomed 3 new committee members: Bob, Susan, and Daniel.

- We also have a Co-chair now!!
- Reminder- If you would like for Archives to present at your event, please contact us 2 weeks in advance with information as to how much space we will have, if tables are provided or not.
- If you will have speakers at your anniversary events, and would like them filmed/recorded, please send request in well in advance.
- We are always accepting historical items as donations.

Corrections – No Representation

PI&CPC – Committee Chair & FLAI Secretary, Kurt V. provided report.

Facebook – 2024 Overview:

- Spent: \$134.82, Clicks: 380, Cost Per Click: \$0.35, CTR: 2%, Reach: 18,897

FLX Digital – January 2024 Overview:

- Statistics were 30,189 impressions with 391 ad clicks.
- Age demographic with the most ad engagement: under 34. Geolocation engagement shows Victor, Waterloo & Wolcott at the top of the list.

Treatment – Committee member, Diana S. provided report.

- We are seeing record attendance at the meetings we bring & Lots of dedication by those taking meetings into facilities – We could use some more women that could bring meeting to Hannick and more homegroups willing to take on commitments with other facilities.
- We bought Big Books! – That is the larger than usual expense you will all see in March.

Website – No Representation

New Business – NONE

3:30 pm - Meeting Adjournment –

Kurt V. made a **motion** to close the meeting. Seconded by Dave M.

Vote: 20 Approve / Unanimous - **Motion passed.**

Next Meeting: Saturday, April 20, 2024. It will be a hybrid. Doors open at 2:00pm, Zoom Room opens @ 2:15 and will be locked by 2:45...Please be on time to minimize distractions and interruptions during the meeting.