

Finger Lakes Area Intergroup

St. John's Episcopal Church

32 East Main St., Clifton Springs, NY 14432
Minutes of November 16th, 2024 – Hybrid meeting

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



Attendance: 32 = 17 IR's / Alt IR's, 2 Committee Chairs, 6 Officers (incl. FLAI Co-chair), and 7 observers.

Quorum: 30% of active voting members = 9. **We had 25 of 30 voting members present = 83^%**
Thank you for the ongoing support of FLAI!

Area Demographic: 69 groups = 24 have IR's, 18 are inactive, 20 have no IR, and 5 too small

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

Announcements:

- Newsletter – event recap.
- District 200 Representative, Frank B., shared that District 200 recently contributed to FLAI and that we should receive that shortly if we haven't already. He also shared about the release of the *Plain Language Big Book* and how that is now available for purchase online.

Review & approval of previous meeting minutes:

Walt B. made a motion to approve Oct 19th, 2024, meeting minutes. Seconded by Dave M.
Vote: 24 Approve / Unanimous = Motion passed.

Officer Reports:

Secretary – Kurt V., provided report / Asst. Secretary – Justin S., present

My apologies for not getting reports out sooner via the email distribution. As I am sure most of know, life gets very busy at times, and I am grateful for your patience and understanding. As stated last month, a printer will be purchased in the month of November as approved within a budget of \$400.00. Aside from that, I am grateful to be here. Thanks for allowing me to be of service.

Heidi K. made a motion to approve the Secretary Report. Seconded by Maggie M.
Vote: 24 Approve / Unanimous - Motion passed.

Treasurer – Heidi K., provided report/ Asst. Treasurer Maggie M., present

October 24 Fiscal Inc & Exp Summary: Contributions = \$1049.22, Expenses = \$776.25, Variance = \$272.97

YTD 24 Fiscal Inc & Exp Summary: Contributions = \$8,643.36, Expenses = \$8,357.85 Variance = \$285.51

10/31/24 Checking Account Balance: \$1,647.83

This Includes: Operating funds (YTD Fiscal Variance) of \$285.51 plus: \$1,362.32 Surplus. Prudent Reserve: \$2,501.98

- The Post was collected from the PO Box today and we had 3 contributions in there. Based off current

deposits, we may end the year in another surplus situation.

- The Corrections Committee had an order of Big Books that is delayed due to the recent production and mass shipping of *Plain Language Big Books*. It seems that as soon as they are back on regular pace, they will ship out.
- If there are questions about the Treasury Reports, please reach out: treasurer.flai@gmail.com.

Kurt V. made a **motion** to approve the Treasurer Report. Seconded by Justin S.

Vote: 24 Approve / Unanimous - Motion passed.

Old Business:

Bylaw Amendment: As proposed and discussed, we need to make an addition to our Bylaws in “Article V - Miscellaneous Provisions” for our application for NYS Tax Exemption approval.

Heidi K. opened the floor for any final discussion prior to the vote. No discussion.

Chairman, Barry L., called the question to vote;

Dave M. made a **motion** to amend the bylaws as proposed and discussed. Seconded by Maggie M.

Vote: 24 Approve / Unanimous - Motion passed.

2025 Budget: As proposed and discussed, we need to move on the 2025 budget.

Maggie M. opened the floor for any final discussion prior to the vote. No discussion.

Justin S. made a **motion** to approve the 2025 fiscal year budget. Seconded by Matt C.

Vote: 24 Approve / Unanimous - Motion passed.

2024 Day of Sharing: Yvonne brought up the DoS and mentioned that for it being the first time in Yates, it went very well. She suggests we bring some folks together who have experience doing this in the past and create a sort of instruction guide or booklet of recommendations to aid future groups in being more successful and avoiding extra costs and operating within the given budget for the event. The food was amazing, but we ended up with a lot of extras and we went way over on the expense of the decorations.

Kurt V. – States that the attendance sheet listed 32 members signed in, and in consideration of the Area 47 Speaker, Christopher W., we had 33 in attendance. Kurt V. also asked Yvonne if she is recommending that the Chairman create an Ad-hoc Committee for this task. Yvonne says YES.

Barry L. – Asks if there is a volunteer to head up a special ad hoc for Day of Sharing to complete the recommended request. Nobody jumped to the task and Barry L. appointed Dave M. to head up this special ad hoc committee. Dave M. accepted the task.

Sub-Committee Reports:

Accessibility – Committee Chair, Karen S. provided report

Can not have committee or make major decisions with less than 3 members. Makes it hard to get anything done when we don't have more individuals interested. We are considering making a flier to promote the committee. We are currently meeting on the 1st Thursday of each month. Please email accessibility.flai@gmail.com for more details on the meeting.

Question: What does your committee do?

Answer: essentially, we are a resource to aid and assist individuals with special needs, physical disabilities, language barriers, transportation issues, auditory or visual complications, etc., in finding and attending meetings and assisting homegroups in becoming more inclusive for individuals that may experience barriers to their recovery as listed above.

Question: Has anyone from the committee gone into county offices to inquire on the local demographics and area needs assessments?

Answer: At this time, we are not certain where to begin looking for that information. If there is someone within the intergroup or a homegroup that has insight, please contact me and if willing to assist the committee with would be grateful to have the help.

Question: Can our meeting lists be made available in Spanish?

Answer: I assume yes.

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

- The quarterly report was given last month. At any time, if a call comes in, we are answering it. That's what is the most important thing.
- I hear when I am out at meetings that people are unaware that Intergroup exists. People approach me after meetings have questions about what Intergroup is because I introduce myself and introduce Answering Service.
 - Kurt V. – States that this is a very important message as we have a PUBLIC INFORMATION committee, and it has been mentioned time and time again over the past year that the committee is desperate for assistance as without the minimum of 3 members – we can't put out any new information. How can we expect to inform the public if we can't even inform our own home groups?

Question: Does anyone ever call-in speaking Spanish and do we have a automatic switchboard for English or Spanish?

Answer: Not sure on both parts of the question.

- We are considering creating some linkages with Rochester Intergroup for different solutions to language barriers, if anyone is interested in volunteering with us, please reach out.

Archives – Committee Chair, Kate G., provided a report with report from Susan (Archivist)

- The display was set at the district 200 day of sharing went really well. We saw a lot and gained great insight.
- We have received a few private donations of historic/archival items.
- We currently do not have any speakers lined up to record for the website or archives. If anyone is interested or has any suggestions, please contact us and let us know.
- The Rochester Intergroup Archives have moved into a museum setting and is always set up. We think it would be great to make such an arrangement with a local organization to do something similar.
- Susan crafted a "book cover" in an attempt to keep our archival records safe from dust in the future and is considering other options to keep records safe and secure from light, dust, bugs, etc.
- You may have items in your homes that could be of great value to the Archives, consider making donations if you come across anything.

Corrections- Committee Chair, Andrew S. provided report

- There are people going into all the county jails as well as Five Points Correction Facility once per week.

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

- No FLX Digital report
- No Facebook Report
- Can't stress this enough folks: Please attend the committee meeting on each 2nd Tuesday @ 6:00pm
- If you have concerns, please contact Kurt at picpc.flai@gmail.com

Treatment – Committee Member, Kevin M provided report.

- In the spirit of rotation, the chair and co-chair roles have new members voted in. the vote takes place in December.
- Kevin states that he will be the new Treatment Chair in 2025
- When we go into the facilities, we are giving out MIAP booklets and other literature.

IR Statement: I recently took a meeting at FLACRA's Cadence Square unit, and I brought a book with me to leave for someone and I was directed towards a bookshelf and told to just leave it with the others. There were a ton of Big Books on the bookshelf. Can we investigate providing other forms of literature like the 12&12?

Response: Not now, but feel free to come to a committee meeting and chat with us more.

Website – Committee Chair, Toby G. Provided Report

- We have had a lot of event fliers and updated files uploaded to the site recently.
- Updating the website is a lot of work and we are seeking members who have an interest in this kind of service work.
- We could benefit from having more volunteers for the committee.

Message from the Chairman – Barry L.

Our committees are needed to spread the message of Alcoholics Anonymous, and the work is necessary to save lives. I know I am preaching to the choir here, but please spread the word back to your home groups that our committees need support.

New Business: Day of Sharing/Budget for 2025

Reminder: Livingston Area Intergroup Book Contribution

- The LAI has donated 3 cases of 1st edition reproduction Big Books. 1 Case was given to Yatesville for Day of Sharing. The other two cases will be present at the November Intergroup Meeting for further discussion on dissemination to committees. Lets come to next months meeting prepared with some ideas on how to disseminate the remaining 2 cases fairly between committees or determine a singular avenue in which to go with utilizing them.

Meeting Adjournment –

Justin S. made a motion to close the meeting. Seconded by Maggie M.

Vote: 24 Approve / Unanimous - Motion passed.

Next Meeting: Saturday, December 21th, 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.