

Minutes of OA HOW Special VSB Meeting June 10, 2018

Next Meeting July 15, 2018 4:45 Eastern Time

I. Opening

Meeting called to order by Chair, Audrey

Meeting began with reading of the Serenity Prayer, 12 steps, and 12 traditions.

Welcome from the Chair – Audrey, who read the OA Concepts #3, 4 and 5

Timer – Julie R. agreed to be the timer, with participants limited to 60 seconds per person: one share per person per agenda item

Chair announced that we would follow Robert's Rules of Order, to the best of our ability, and there is a link to quick guide link on the VSB on the website

II. Roll Call of Attendees by Secretary, Helen M.

Sun 3 PM - Deborah R., Barbara N.

Sun 6 PM – Julie R.

Monday -

Tuesday day -

Tuesday eve – Howard, Revitale

Wed – Charles, Megan (VA)

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Chair – Audrey

Treasurer – Molly (NC)

Secretary – Helen M.

We Care List Committee members - Jane

Website Committee Members – Molly (NC, Chair), Deborah R.

Others in Attendance: Pat B., Diella, Susan W. (GA), Betty M. (MD), Jenny C. (MD), Jim A. (Acting Chair, New WSO Virtual Region)

III. **Overview of VSB History – Audrey, Chair**

The Chair offered the following history and comments: The VSB began in '09, and it took two years to create the Bylaws. It has been 5 years since the Bylaws were updated.

Due to problems with the squarespace website, the VSB authorized creation of a new website, which was created. It has been receiving 11,000 hits per month.

The VSB also coordinates the We Care List. The Chair offered a history of its operation and status.

In May 2018 one email was sent to the membership, announcing the June 10th VSB meeting and encouraging member participation to discuss the future of the VSB.

The VSB Treasury current contains approximately \$1,900.

The purpose of today's meeting is to discuss the future of the VS B, and all opinions are welcome. Attendees were encouraged to speak in terms of who, what, when where and how.

IV. **Introduction of Jim A., Chair of new Virtual Region**

The Chair introduced Jim, who described the creation of the new region: At the recent World Service Business Conference, it was voted to create a Virtual Region, which is just beginning. Other virtual entities will now be renamed Intergroups. Each virtual Intergroup may select a delegate to the Virtual Region.

This means that our current VSB may become a member of this virtual region and may send a delegate to participate. Our VSB could become an intergroup, but because we are autonomous, we are not required to do that.

Jim reported that there are approximately 580 virtual meetings. Jim also reported that intergroups typically have one representative for each 10 meetings. So, it is likely that we would get one representative to this new Virtual Region, if we choose to delegate someone to participate.

Jim emphasized that the Virtual Region is new and the Bylaws are still being developed. He invited interested members to participate. They should contact him. Jim can be reached at jima87144@gmail.com or 703-851-8575.

V. **Website**

The Chair reported that the website costs the VSB \$12.95 per month, with no long term financial commitment.

It was asked whether the new Virtual Region could take over our website, and provide a tab for the HOW groups. Jim reiterated that the Virtual Region is only beginning and everything is up for discussion.

Several members commented that the current VSB website is phenomenal, thanked members for their work on it, and expressed a desire that it remain our VSB website. It was suggested that it could offer links to other OA websites. A member commented that other regions would be lucky to have a website as great as this one. Other expressed a desire to keep it as an OA HOW website, but said that the committee needs volunteers to continue to work on it. Website Chair Molly said that all volunteers are welcome.

VI. **Future of VSB and Upcoming Turnover in Service Positions**

The Chair announced that all service positions will turn over in September, and that new trusted servants are needed. Volunteers for the trusted servant positions of Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary require one to be a 2 hour HOW Sponsor and have a year of back to back abstinence. Those interested in serving should email OAHOWVSB@gmail.com by 8/31/18. The vote will occur on the September VSB meeting.

It was asked what would happen if no one volunteered. The Chair stated that it would be up to the group to decide, but that the Bylaws do have a provision for dissolution of the VSB.

Several members commented that service rotation is part of OA.

Jim A. mentioned that one option would be to merge with another VSB or Intergroup. He said he thought it would be sad for this group to stop functioning, and reiterated that rotation of service is important.

It was reported that currently the VSB is meeting monthly, due to backlog of agenda items.

Service position descriptions are in the Bylaws, which are on the website.

In response to a question, it was reported that the Bylaws say that a minimum of three representatives are required to vote on an issue.

One member commented that service bodies are critical parts of OA and that to lose this, or to have it be "like a small club," would be detrimental to OA. The member expressed a belief that we will get volunteers for the positions and expressed optimism at the number of people on this meeting.

The discussion turned to emails to the fellowship. One member suggested more emails to the fellowship to encourage volunteers. Another expressed concern that the VSB was wrong to send emails to the group without explicit permission from the membership. Another stated that the VSB has only ever explicitly authorized two emails to the entire fellowship, one to notify it of the new website and a second to announce this meeting.

The Chair clarified that the current VSB has no intent of sending mass emails to the fellowship. The current emails regarding the phone list of "Returning Members" etc is coming from the We Care List Committee, not from the VSB.

Another member commented that some adding their name to the We Care List (or Returning members list) did not seem to understand that they might get calls from the fellowship, and that this needs to be clarified.

Jane, as a member of the We Care List Committee, clarified that an email of Returning members, Newcomers and People Struggling goes out every other week. The larger We Care List is sent out every three months. She said she was happy not to send out the "Returning Members" list every other week, but it had been her understanding that it was required. She also mentioned that daily inquiries come in regarding the lists, and that she responds to those. She said the We Care List Committee is happy to send out phone lists as directed by the VSB. She and the We Care List were thanked for their service.

Audrey, Chair, indicated that the original intent had been that a Sponsor List would go out to those requesting it, and that would be it.

Several members thanked the We Care Committee for its service and one stated that whatever the VSB decides, we should support the committee.

VII. **Summary**

The Chair summarized discussions:

The attendees think the VSB should continue. We should publicize the service position openings on the meetings that we attend. We should keep the website going and continue discussions about the use and frequency of distribution of the We Care list.

A Motion was made to have another meeting on July 8, 2018. That was seconded.

The Motion was then amended to change that date to **July 15, 2018**. The Motion passed anonymously.

Following the Third Step prayer, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen M., Secretary