

WMIG Area 31 Committee Report – 1/13/21

First and foremost, I would like to thank the area for allowing me time at their meeting and please send a great big thank you to all groups in your districts for their continued support of Western Mass Intergroup.

The office is currently closed for business and will remain closed until Monday, January 18th due to Joy being extremely ill. The office can still be reached by phone: 413-532-2111 or email: Interagro4@aol.com. Please check the website for updates at: www.westernmassaa.org.

- WMIG Meeting was held on 12/10/20 and began promptly at 7:00 pm with the Serenity Prayer
- Articles of Purpose: Joy
- Tradition of the month: John, Tradition 12
- Steering Committee members in attendance: 5
- New reps recognized and introduced: (2) John, Holyoke Group, Johanna, Saturday Women's Health
- Secretary's Report: Read and Accepted
- Steering Committee report: Two new members were added last month: Nancy P and Carolyn
- Treasurer's Report: Read and Accepted
- At our last Intergroup Meeting we discussed the PPP (Paycheck Protection Plan) loan. There was much discussion and it was ultimately voted that Intergroup will not pay the PPP loan back and that any discussion regarding future PPP opportunities will be brought to the body for discussion and vote.
 - (Side note) The decision to apply for and accept the "PPP loan" was made prior to when the "Zoom" era actually took hold so based on time restrictions and absolute uncertainty of the financial well-being of Intergroup and its ability to pay employees, this decision was made.
- The details from the secretary's report are cited below, you can read them when the minutes are posted:

OLD BUSINESS: *Last month the discussion on the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) was tabled to give Intergroup Representatives the opportunity to return to their groups for discussions and to ascertain Group conscience on whether the PPP is a loan and should be paid back or a forgivable loan/tax break.*

Questions:

- *Maureen: Which account was it put in?*
- *Kevin: It was put in the general account in April, 2020, to be used for payroll only, which is handled by a payroll company.*
- *Nancy P: Is it all spent?*
- *Kevin: Yes, \$6300.00 was for six months of payroll and it is all spent on payroll over the course of six months beginning April.*

Motion: *Arthur A: We accept we did this and stipulate any future PPP initiative be brought to the group for discussion and vote. Seconded by two members.*

Discussion:

- *Nancy P: her group feels it is a loan that should be paid back or paid forward somehow.*
- *Maureen: stated her group thinks the prudent reserve could be used to pay it back.*
- *Johanna shared that she made a document to recap the issue, Mike R shared it on the screen.*
- *Carolyn: Group – pay it back with prudent reserve.*
- *Patti B asks:*
 - *Was this through a local bank? Yes*
 - *The government may wish to label it as forgivable and not want the money back*
 - *Maybe it should be paid forward somehow.*

- Dan B: Intergroup pays payroll and government taxes as a business entity. Is under impression it can't be paid back.
 - Nancy P: Huge thank you to Joy & Kevin for working through a pandemic.
- The motion on the floor was that we accept the situation as it is, leaving it the way it is as a forgivable government PPP "loan", but that any PPP monies come up in the future, must be brought to the body for a vote.....
- **Vote: 7 in favor, 4 opposed, motion carries.**

Carolyn states she is confused about the vote on **the previous motion.**

Maureen brings new Motion: Motion made to pay back the PPP. Seconded

- **Vote: 4 in favor, 7 opposed. Motion does not carry.**
- **New Business:** Any groups that are struggling are encouraged to reach out to the Intergroup office for support.
- Mike B./Alternate Delegate: Gave Alternate Delegates Report
- Steve M./Area Chair: Gave Area Report
- Lara C.: Gave CPC Report
- Charlie M.: Institutions Chair: Gave Institutions Report

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 pm with the "Responsibility Pledge"

Steering Committee Report

- Steering Committee was held on Thursday 1/7/21 and began promptly at 7:00 pm
- There 7 of 11 members present.
- Kevin's availability will take on normal business hours (9-5) at which time he will return emails and phone calls. This will ultimately be posted on the website to curb expectations. An automated reply will be incorporated on the Intergroup email, Interagro4@aol.com, indicating that response time will be during "Normal Business" hours.
- WMIG will begin sending out electronic New Rep Packets
- WMIG will begin asking reps for their name, group, phone # and email so that we can send out pertinent information prior to the monthly Intergroup meeting.
- WMIG would like to ask the DCM's make a space on their agenda for Intergroup Steering Committee members to give a brief report or pass along information

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm with the "Responsibility Pledge"

- Next Intergroup Meeting will be tomorrow at 7:00 with the bookie meeting will be at 6:30 pm
- Next Steering Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, 1/28/21 at 7:00 pm