Berkshire Intergroup

Minutes August 10th, 2026, amended September 14th, 2026

Roll Call: Craig (Secretary, Monterey Rep), Ray (Area 31 Delegate), Debbie (Watch Your Step) Tim (Watch Your Step), Elaine (Keep It Simple Group), Scott (Becket Grapevine), Louise (Cheshire Big Book, Women's Way Laneborough), Robin (office manager), Bob H, Ilene M (Southern Berkshire), Rae L (Sober at Sunrise F2F), Chris (Tues Men's Step), Dwayne (Chair), Marc C (Virtual Sober at Sunrise), Pat M (What a Way to Live Dalton), Sue N (Berkshire Institutions), Ray (Area Delegate), Bob H (Virtual Sober at Sunrise), Bill (Great Barrington Men's), Elaine (Keep It Simple)

Treasurer's Report accepted

Minutes from July 2026 accepted unanimously

Discussion of proposed amendments to the bylaws:

Debbie: Believes proposed changes can only come from a group rep, and that the fact this was discussed and voted on at the Steering Committee means any member of the Steering Committee, even if they are also a rep, cannot vote.

Concerned with the minutes from the Steering Committee which indicated that the SC had taken a vote.

Believes every detail of the incorporation should come from group reps.

Elaine: Proposed postponing incorporation for one year. Believes the groups need more time to discuss.

Craig: This is an issue with the transitory nature of Intergroup, which BIG has already been discussing for more than a year and a half. It's important that members trust the decisions that have already been made so we can move forward. The actual process outlined in the Bylaws is to discuss and vote in the meeting following the proposed changes. The changes were originally proposed December 2025, and therefore should have been voted on in February at the latest. Craig proposed this again before the July IG meeting as Intergroup Rep of Monterey 11th Step. Per the current Bylaws, should have been voted on in August.

The purpose is:

1) To include language necessary for incorporation in Massachusetts and necessary for the IRS so that BIG can stop dodging taxes.
    a) No member profits from BIG
    b) Upon dissolution, BIG funds go to other AA bodies
    c) Notice of meetings and annual meeting
2) Add indemnification and insurance clauses to:

    a) Remove any personal liability of all officers and intergroup reps, including back taxes (which the IRS may say we owe), and slip and fall lawsuits at BIG events. This does not cover willful harm or negligence.
3) Include the Traditions and Concepts in the Bylaws, rather than draft new language to satisfy Commonwealth requirements, including political involvement, rules on receiving public grants. If the Commonwealth asks, we can point to AA Tradition/Concepts.

Craig does not believe that the fact these were discussed at the Steering Committee means that they were a "recommendation from the Steering Committee." As Dwayne, Craig, Bronwyn, are all reps, disallowing the SC would deny these groups a vote in the Bylaws. As giving full names and addresses is required of initial board members, believes it was necessary to ensure those affected were in favor of it.

Ilene: Question about putting Traditions and Concepts in the bylaws as they are not legal instruments. Would like them removed. Questions indemnifications clause. Believes it's too broad.

Robin: Typos in the current draft. Want to change the language of the Webservant. Notes that the AA bylaws (called the "charter") include Steps, Traditions, and Concepts.

Debbie: Believes any member of the Steering Committee cannot vote on anything the Steering Committee discussed. Believes that making the Office Manager the registered agent is too much responsibility. Robin currently overwhelmed.

Marc: Registered agent is not complicated. Marc is executive director of a non-profit. Has always paid $300/year to someone to be a registered agent. It is NOT complicated, and just forwards mail.

Louise: frustrated that all we talk about is the Bylaws. Does not know how to talk about this with her group.

Ilene: Wants process documents on how to do the new procedures and responsibilities before deciding on changes to the Bylaws.

New Business:

Elaine: Wants two people to go to the lawyer. A second set of ears is always good.

Elaine: Open membership on the Steering Committee to include non-voting guests; wants to attend the next Steering Committee meeting.

Craig: Believes that the right of decision gives our Trusted Servants discretion in deciding which matters within their responsibilities to take care of and which to bring to the larger body. As Secretary, this is implied responsibility. No one in the group has so far picked this up, despite extensive discussions. Believes having a motion at the IG Committee meeting directing a trusted servant on how to do their job sets a poor

precedent that the body micro manages Trusted Servants. Craig does not feel trust from a number of members. Believes if this motion passes, it would set a precedent that would be de-motivating for those in the future who want to actually do things.

That being said, Craig reiterates his request for representatives to send him questions for the lawyer, and specific edits to the current language. Outside of the changes to the Webservant role and removal of Traditions/Concepts, has not heard anyone discussing specific changes to the current draft. Does not wish to come back next month where people still haven't looked at it, have not informed themselves, and are unwilling to discuss the content.

Ray: Responsibility and authority is at the discretion of the trusted servant; this is very clear in the Concepts. IG members have been delegated authority by their groups to make decisions at the Committee meeting, and do not need to bring anything back to their groups. They may, but it is not required.

MOTION (Elaine): Moved that the Secretary bring another member to go to the attorney to discuss bylaws and articles of organization.

3 in favor. 7 opposed. Motion does not pass.

Closed with Responsibility Pledge.