

Southern California Underearners Anonymous Intergroup Mtg
Minutes – September 2023

CALL TO ORDER:

- Meeting called to order at 12:18pm by Chair (Norm) with 3rd Step Prayer
- Marge (Timer) managed one minute timed meditation
- SCUA Purpose Statement read by Marge
- Tradition Two Short form read by Jeff
- Guide for Participation read by Norm

ATTENDANCE:

1. Norm -Chair and acting treasurer (until Jonathan S. Steps into chairperson role in October)
2. Jeff S. - Saturday 9am Santa Monica Speaker and Steps meeting, also Valuing Our Time Zoom sub-committee, Literature Information Officer
3. Zeus W. – Rep for HP in the Goals Pages; Mondays 7:15p-8:15p pst Hancock Park
4. Tarun – Friday 7pm Huntington Beach Waves of Prosperity meeting, subcommittee member on upcoming Zoom event
5. Becky E – Website Manager
6. Marge – 7:30 Thursday Visions Meeting
7. Kate – Scribe, unofficial Rep for Speaking of Prosperity; Saturdays 11am PT
8. Lynna – Rep from Tuesday Artists in Prosperity in-person mtg

LAST MONTH MINUTES:

Minutes submitted and approved

BY-LAWS:

SUMMARY OF AUGUST BY LAWS DISCUSSION:

- The “August” above and below are NOT typos – Intergroup voted to turn the September meeting into a planning session for the upcoming October Time Valuing event.
- Therefore the instructions for October Intergroup meeting are the same instructions we had going into the September meeting – we haven’t done any additional work on the bylaws.
- October discussion should begin by re-visiting the question of taking attendance, and whether it needs to be written into the by-laws.
- After that, we are done with this section and ready to move onto Section XVII – Public Information.

DETAILED MINUTES OF AUGUST BY LAWS DISCUSSION

- 15 minute timed discussion begins
- Review of last month's changes to Section XVI – Scribe
 - Discussion of attendance policy in current by-laws, which instructs us to label meetings as “inactive” if no rep shows up for 3 months
 - Is it draconian? Is it even rational?
 - After discussion of language and agreement regarding attendance policy, motion made to replace original text with this language:
The Scribe has the following duties and responsibilities, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - a. *Record the minutes of the So Cal UA Intergroup Monthly Meetings and send them to the Chair and Intergroup members no more than seven days after each meeting.*
 - b. *Keep the attendance records and provide no less than quarterly attendance updates to the Executive Committee members and Intergroup.*
 - No objections registered, and motion passes.
 - Norm has deleted the outdated language, but changed text remains in red.
 - **TAKEAWAY FOR NORM: Changed text needs to be changed from red to black before next meeting**
- Further discussion of attendance-taking in general, without punitive policy in place
 - Useful data?
 - Might help us identify meetings that would benefit from contact with intergroup?
 - How best to execute?
 - Scribe misunderstands proposal for a checklist and thinks the group is suggesting an interactive sign-in
 - In fact, we're just talking about a Google spreadsheet, with each rep and meeting name, where attendance can be indicated with an X
 - Zeus makes suggestion that each member should put their name, the meeting they represent (time and name), and phone number, in the chat
 - Discussion indicates support for this idea
 - Motion made to adopt this recommendation, seconded
 - Motion approved by a vote of 5
 - New business for later in the meeting or next month:
Format needs revising to include instructions to attendees to put in the chat:
 1. Their name
 2. The meeting they represent (name and time)
 3. Phone number
 - **TAKEAWAY FOR KATE: Create a table or spread sheet to show group what kind of attendance tracker I can come up with**

- October By-Laws discussion should begin by re-visiting the question of taking attendance, and whether it needs to be written into the by-laws
 - After that, we are done with this section and ready to move onto the next section, about public information

OFFICER REPORTS

Note: Most reports were tabled until October meeting, but Norm made a treasurer's report in the middle of the event discussion.

Treasurer's Report: \$8919.88 total, divided between Citibank: \$8240.27 and PayPal: \$679.61. Also, we need to start repeating the request to use Friends and Family when making Seventh Tradition donations, because we are getting dinged on fees.

NOTE: During the August treasurer report, two questions were raised:

1. Why are we sitting on so much money in the prudent reserve?
2. Why aren't we making payments to World Service?

These were not addressed at all in September, and are once again added to New Business, below.

OLD BUSINESS

- October Event/Workshop
 - Jeff & Tarun's availability has been limited, so we moved this item up to 12:35pm on agenda, to prioritize discussion
 - At 1:05pm, Intergroup realized that they needed to use this meeting to figure out full details, and voted to table all other business for the month
 - Tarun's report (Tarun is liaison on this event with Jeff):
 - Thanks
 - To Becky for adding info to site
 - To Zeus for the great flyer
 - Outstanding questions
 - Speakers:
 - Have 3 speakers lined up BUT most speakers have boundaries around staying more than an hour
 - Length:
 - Currently scheduled from 1-4pm – is 3 hours too long?
 - Format:
 - Need to decide/vote on format: breakout rooms vs. Q & A

- Need to create/write format once decisions are made
 - Positions:
 - Need an MC/Moderator to manage flow of speakers
 - Need a Host/Zoom Lead to admit guests, mute/remove disruptive attendees
- Discussion of outstanding questions:
 - Speakers
 - Currently have 3 speakers, but one is tentative because she cannot stay past the first hour
 - Aiming for 4 or 5 total
 - Need clarity on length of share and scheduling in order to line up speakers who can participate in entire event
 - 10 minutes seems like not very much time for a single speaker at an event like this
 - Maybe longer shares, with fewer speakers?
 - 4 speakers for 15 minutes?
 - **DECISION: 4 speakers for 15 minutes**
 - Confirmed speakers
 - We need a 4th speaker, at minimum
 - Maybe more than that, if the timing causes one of the 3 existing speakers to back out
 - **Takeaway: Norm offers to help Tarun figure out the 4th speaker**
 - Availability of speakers on the day
 - Is it reasonable to ask people to stay from 1 to 3pm?
 - **DECISION: We have a huge fellowship and we should be able to find people who can stick around for two hours. We did our part by shortening the running time, but it's not asking much for a speaker to give up two hours on one Sunday.**
 - Topics covered by speakers: Fair pricing & time reverence, as described in flyer
 - Concerns that this is not sufficiently specific and could lead to people speaking on very similar topics
 - Maybe two speakers on pricing, two speakers on time?
 - **DECISION: After 4 speakers are locked in, Tarun will coordinate specific sub-topics with them to ensure non-duplication.**
 - Speakers and Break out rooms

- After some discussion, we tentatively agreed that every speaker must commit to staying for an extra window to participate in a breakout room
- Other staff can stay in the breakout room to manage security
- Or others could volunteer to run breakout rooms – but would they need to be knowledgeable about the material covered by the speaker?
 - Not clear that it will be particularly tool-intensive
 - Not how we've been looking for speakers or preparing them
 - But potentially a big event (200 people) and the breakout rooms will help people connect on a more intimate level
- Add to announcement of event:
 - Volunteers needed to help in breakout rooms, if people would like to be of service
- Format
 - Q & A vs. group discussion vs. break out rooms
 - Maybe half an hour of Q & A with speakers?
 - Not clear how many speakers will stay for Q & A afterwards
 - Tarun says of the 3 he has lined up, 1 definitely cannot stay more than an hour
 - Group discussion for an hour after the speakers
 - Breakout rooms are great because they can go longer and are also smaller, so you get to have conversations/fellowship with new folks
 - Also: Useful to take instructions from speaker and apply practically in breakout rooms
 - Timing:
 - Speaker then breakout, then speaker, then breakout?
 - **DECISION: Event has been officially shortened from 1 to 3pm – two hours total.**
 - **DECISION: Format has been officially set as 4 speakers, for 15 minutes each. With intros and bio break, that will take us from 1 to 2:15. Followed by half hour breakout rooms, then come back for 3 minute shares until 3pm, with parking lot**

socializing afterwards for those who wish to stay

- How long should the breakout be?
 - Half an hour?
- Will probably also need at least one break so people can step away to the bathroom
- Plus small delays/interruptions:
 - Intro of event at the start
 - Intro of each speaker
 - Timekeeping announcements?
- So that first hour will likely be more like 70 minutes by the time the last speaker finishes speaking.
- Creating written format:
 - Susan (Candlelight & Promises event in December) may be able to suggest/offer past format document
- Positions
 - Breakout rooms will need individual leaders to guide conversation?
 - MC/Host
 - Jeff has a lead on someone, but doesn't want to name them until he has confirmed her willingness/availability
 - She is funny, so that may help lighten things up?
 - Takeaway: Jeff will ask friend if she wants to host event
 - Zoom hosting
 - Kate, Norm and Tarun will all help out with that part
- Pricing
 - Important to discuss ahead of time, rather than default to no charge or whatever, without consideration
 - \$10 but no one will be turned away? Or \$12?
 - Event pricing signals what an event is "worth"
 - Don't want to underearn in the planning of this event
 - SoCal Intergroup does have VERY abundant prudent reserve
 - But putting a price on the event encourages people to take it seriously, commit to attending and staying to the end
 - Forms of payment accepted?

- Paypal only? Or Zelle AND PayPal?
- **Decision: \$12 suggested donation but no one turned away for lack of funds**
- **Next Steps:**
 - **Additional meeting needed to hammer out details**
 - **Next Saturday, September 17 from 1 to 2pm**
 - **Agenda:**
 - **Nailing down the MC**
 - **Figuring out topics for breakout room sessions**
 - **Questions for people to consider?**
 - **Rehearsing the breakout room details**
 - **Zeus needs to send out a revised flyer with new details**
 - **Becky agrees to adjust formatting of date on site when she edits the new time details**
 - **Tarun should ask speakers to send him 2-3 sentences to be used for introduction each of them**
- **Additional Details:**
 - **Bumping up the access of the room to accommodate extra attendees**
 - **Takeaway for Norm: He will pay the one-month charge to let the Zoom room admit extra people**

NEW BUSINESS

- **NOTE: As noted in By-Laws discussion, nothing but the October event was discussed in September meeting so there was not enough time to touch on the New Business pasted here from above. So the same content from August is again pasted below, under GOOD OF THE ORDER in the “Topics of Discussion for Next Meeting.”**

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

- **Topics of discussion for October meeting**
 - **The following New Business topics came up in August’s meeting, but we ran out of time to address them. The September meeting was dedicated to planning the October event, so the below information is a re-posting of the info from the August minutes. They are listed chronologically, in the order they came up, NOT in order of importance or urgency:**
1. **Format needs revising to include instructions to attendees to put in the chat:**
 - **Their name**
 - **The meeting they represent (name and time)**
 - **Phone number**

2. Why are we sitting on so much money in the prudent reserve?
3. Why aren't we making payments to World Service?
4. We are unclear on the current situation at the World Service level because our GSR has not attended in June or July. Should we elect a Co-GSR in order to gain clarity in this area?
5. SHARE (an LA-based facility) wishes to communicate that they have space for meetings; what – if anything -- should the web manager do with this information?
6. It is not clear whether SHARE's offer comes with any requirements to conform with SHARE policies which might conflict with the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions. Is it worth investigating further before answering question 4, above?
7. Someone contacted the website manager to ask about starting a new meeting; she told them to attend today's meeting. Is that the appropriate answer, or is there a better one she could offer?
8. The website currently only accepts 7th Tradition donations through PayPal. Should the site offer alternative ways to make this payment, and if so, what? And how would that information be added to the site?

- **Takeaways**

- **For everyone:**

- Share the revised date and time for the upcoming workshop:
 - **1-3pm PST on Sunday, October 1**
- Request volunteers for people to help out in breakout rooms
- Remind people to use Friends and Family setting when using PayPal for 7th Tradition Donations
- Share Event coordinator vacancy
 - “The events coordinator helps the intergroup to plan events throughout the year by scheduling, delegating responsibility to other representatives or UA fellows, and finding speakers. The events coordinator would not be solely responsible for putting together events and would receive support from the intergroup.”
 - Interested parties should attend the next intergroup meeting to learn more.
- Read the Intergroup Purpose Statement at your home meeting:
 - The primary purpose of Southern California Underearners Anonymous Intergroup is to carry the

message to the under earner who was still suffering and to communicate at the meeting level. Our intentions are:

- To guide the groups and financial affairs, according to the traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous
- To hold workshops and special events
- To create and maintain a meeting directory
- And to help SCUA continue to prosper.
- **For the Fair Pricing Event Sub-committee (Tarun, Jeff, Norm and any other interested parties; also fyi for the volunteer flyer-creator Zeus)**
 - Meet in the So Cal UA Intergroup Zoom Room, at 1on Saturday, September 16 to hammer out remaining details
 - Agenda:
 - Nailing down the MC
 - Figuring out topics for breakout room sessions
 - Questions for people to consider?
 - Rehearsing the breakout room details
 - If we're recording the audio, do we need speakers to agree ahead of time?
 - Zeus: Will send out a revised flyer with new details
 - Becky: Will update details on site
 - Tarun should ask speakers to send him 2-3 sentences to be used for introduction each of them
- **For Kate:**
 - To finish notes from today's meeting and share via email
 - To create a table or spreadsheet for use as a future attendance tracker
- **For Norm:**
 - To help Tarun track down a 4th speaker
 - Pay the one-month charge to let the Zoom room admit extra people
 - If not addressed since August meeting:
 - To change the text in the Scribe section by-laws from red to black, if
 - If necessary, fix the formatting in the Amendment Procedures section so clauses have letters, not bullet points

CLOSING:

Chair closed meeting at 1:48pm. Next meeting Intergroup Meeting on 10/14/23 from 12:15 to 1:45 pm, with supplemental event planning meeting at 1pm on 9/16/23.