

SoCal UA Intergroup
February Minutes - COMPLETE
2/14/23

Southern California Underlearners Anonymous Intergroup Mtg
Minutes – February 14, 2023

CALL TO ORDER:

- Meeting called to order at 12:18pm (approx.) by Chair (Norm) with 3rd Step Prayer
- Janet Marie (Timer) managed one minute timed meditation
- SCUA Purpose Statement and Guide for Participation read by Norm

ATTENDANCE:

- Chair – Norm
- Incoming Web Manager – Eleanor
- Intergroup Treasurer – Susan V
- 11am Saturday Farmer’s Market Zoom Meeting – Rebecca
- Rep Monday Night Goals Meeting - Janet Marie
- Tuesday Night 6pm Artists in Prosperity - Lynna
- Rep 9am Saturday Santa Monica - Jeff S.
- Tuesday Phone Meeting – Ruby
- Thursday 10:30am Return to Prosperity - Deborah
- Rep Friday 7pm Waves of Prosperity – Tarun
- Observer - Becky E.
- Observer - Jonathan S.

JANUARY MINUTES:

Minutes submitted and approved

BY-LAWS:

SUMMARY OF FEBRUARY BY LAWS DISCUSSION:

- If reports available from solvency committee, hear reports
- If not, open March discussion on top of p. 9, SECTION X – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, “The Intergroup Committee shall maintain...”

DETAILED MINUTES OF FEBRUARY BY LAWS DISCUSSION

- 15 minute timed discussion begins
 1. Current starting place: op of p. 9, SECTION X – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, “The Intergroup Committee shall maintain...” etc.

- Request made to step back to the December conversation re: Qualifications for the Treasurer, Section IX; specifically relevance of solvency
 1. Solvency is a larger issue that a committee (Eleanor, Ruby and Deborah) has started looking into
 - Agreement that it is important to have clarity around what solvency in UA means, especially if it is going to be put in the by-laws
 - Ruby suggests that the committee continue its work, presenting research on what each of them found, and then bring that collected information to Intergroup to be shared with everyone
 2. Discussion of DA vs UA definitions of solvency
 - “No unsecured debt” in DA seems to refer to credit cards
 - But if purchasing a car with a loan, one doesn’t put up one’s home for collateral, so doesn’t that mean you’re debting?
 3. UA is separate from DA, so why not have our own definition?
 - Some people are possession unconscious
 - Some people are time debtors
 - Some people are clutterers
 - Some people are deprivation addicts
 4. Individual groups have required different hard bottom lines, and some have required no bottom line at all. It’s up to us.
 - Sometimes the treasurer role is considered a learning experience, with the trust of the larger group
 5. Informal agreement to start March meeting with a report from the solvency committee; then proceed from previous placeholder: top of p. 9, SECTION X – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, “The Intergroup Committee shall maintain...” etc.

OFFICER REPORTS:

CHAIR (Norm) – Previously committed to go through the unchanged stuff with the bylaws. Spent about a half hour on it, and will want to present the proposed changes to the red text, because it’s mostly cosmetic, but still worth sharing. Continues to have trouble sharing the recording, which held up today’s minutes. Has now been fixed and will be making sure scribe gets the recording. In New Business, we’ll be discussing whether we’re a non-profit or just an organization – the NY office of Citibank wants some information, but they’ve given us an extension on the deadline of 2/14 they previously gave us.

TREASURER (Susan) – Susan and Norm went in person to get access to the Citibank account, but she has since been sent a card and pin, neither of which work. Additionally, Citibank is now demanding a lot of paperwork to certify that we are a non-profit, and Treasurer was not aware this was an aspect of our recently opening an account. It has

made her commitment much more complicated and not at all what she was expecting when she took it on.

WEB MANAGER (Eleanor) – No report, as Kate has not handed off role yet.

LITERATURE – Vacant

ISR (Ruby) – GSR liaison between this meeting and World Service, but dispute at the World Service level is ongoing, with NY Attorney General getting involved. Recommendation is to hold back donations to World Service and ignore requests for donations to help with legal troubles.

EVENT CHAIR – Vacant

OLD BUSINESS

- **Literature**
 - Position vacant, needs filling
 - Someone named Dee seemed to volunteer during the Candlelight and Promises event, but her email has gone missing. Possible to track her down?
- **Event Chair** - Tarun suggests that this role would be easier to fill if there were a clear job description.
 - Discussion of the role requirements and possibility that role should really be more of a coordinator
 - Building on the experience of the December event, in which Susan coordinated, other resources were provided by other folks, and Intergroup paid for the Zoom expansion
 - Focus on finding someone who comes up with ideas and then invited them to coordinate with others
 - Or maybe co-chairs, so the responsibilities could be split?
 - In the past, events have been brainstormed in the intergroup meeting
 - Event chair has been the team leader, getting the event done
 - Asking what do we need – speakers? Technical support? Refreshments?
 - Would be good to have a reliable team of people who help with events, so the event chair doesn't have to rebuild their team with each event

TAKEAWAY: Tarun commits to bringing a 1 paragraph job description to the March meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- **TOOLS**

- At the World Service event in October, there were changes to the wording of Tools Number 2 and Number 9, and Eleanor suggests that we adopt that wording
 - She notes that we don't read the tools at Intergroup, but thought it needed mentioning anyway
- Everyone agrees that it's important to stay on top of changes at the World Service level so they can be disseminated through the SoCal UA meetings

- **BANKING**

- Citibank sent a very concerning email, demanding that we prove we are a non-profit
 - Have given us a 30 day extension (from ~ February 10, 2023)
 - "Sakina" is the person working our case
- Most groups don't bother with being non-profit registered groups (meaning 501(3)c)
 - Most treasurers either open a separate bank account or a separate pay pal
- (Previous Treasurer) Paul decided to do it this way, and it has caused more complications than we have the time or bandwidth to work around
 - He submitted some paperwork to make this happen, but apparently not sufficient paperwork
 - Current treasurer was not included in that process and is unfamiliar with the steps taken or not taken
- One possible solution: Take the money out and put it someplace less complicated, without the non-profit status
- UA at the World Service Level is a 501(3)c, and other organizations operate under the umbrella of the parent organization's 501(3)c.
 - Is it necessary for us to get a separate certification?
 - Other fellows agree they have seen how this works in other people's situations
 - Another fellow volunteers that they were in a group that used Chase bank's "community group" designation – maybe that would be simpler?
 - Was a commitment held a while ago, so details may be fuzzy
- Unfortunately, UA at the World Service Level is currently experiencing some disorganization, so it doesn't feel prudent to get involved or connect ourselves with their situation

- If current treasurer puts money in an account of her own, that means the next treasurer will have to do the same, and so on and so on, indefinitely – is that our best/only solution?
 - In the past, Treasurer has shared statement from the specific account for the meeting or intergroup, and shared it at the business meeting or intergroup meeting
 - Always previously at Chase, to be specific

TAKEAWAY: Chair commits to connecting with Citibank and gaining clarity around the needed information.

TAKEAWAY: Treasurer asks for email from Citibank to be forwarded to her, and commits to communicating with Paul about the situation, to see if he understands what's happening

- **CONFUSION AT WORLD SERVICE LEVEL**

- Fellow asks that we try to use neutral language to discuss the situation while it is being worked out
 - “Rogue group” definitely carries connotations of “dishonest” and “unprincipled”
- Two groups:
 - 1. Original Group
 - 2. Group elected by the trustees and not recognized
- Informal agreement that we will use this language going forward, in order to remain as neutral as possible

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

- Takeaways
 - For everyone:
 - Share vacant Event Coordinator role
 - Purpose statement should be read by intergroup rep at each 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.

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- For Chair:
 - To connect with Citibank and clarify situation
 - To forward email from Citibank to current treasurer
- For Treasurer:
 - To connect with previous treasurer and try to gain better understanding of non-profit situation
- For Tarun:
 - Bring 1-paragraph draft job description for Event Coordinator to March meeting

CLOSING:

Chair closed meeting at 1:45pm. Next meeting 3/11/22 from 12:15 to 1:45 pm