

## New York Crystal Meth Anonymous-- Intergroup Monthly Meeting

Date: August 29, 2012

Location: GMHC

Signed In Attendees:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Christopher E.	GSR- Friday Beginner's Meeting
Mark G	GSR-Tuesday Beginner's Meeting
Stephen L	Share A Day
Daniel L	GSR- Harlem Renaissance Mtg
Conor M	NYCMA GSR Coord
Scott W	GSR-Tuesday 6:30 Mtg
Billy U	NYCMA PI&O Officer
Michael K	GSR-GMHP Meeting
Carlos V	GSR-Long Term Sobriety Meeting
Nadir W	NYCMA Chair
Mark V	NYCMA Vice Chair
Freeze	NYCMA H&I Chair
Edward P	NYCMA PI&O Chair
Bill B	NYCMA Activities Chair
David H	NYCMA GSO
John H	NYCMA Treasurer
Roger S	GSR-Astoria Meeting
Jeff P	GSR- Sunday Beginner's Meeting
Brett S	NYCMA Secretary

### Minutes:

Carlos V read "What is CMA?"

Mark V read the 12 traditions.

Nadir W explained the purpose of Intergroup, it's origins, and its structure and related its functioning to the CMA traditions.

A quorum was called and reached with 15 voting attendees present at the start of the meeting.

Minutes for July were distributed to attendees for review and had previously been submitted to committee chairs via email for feedback or corrections.

A vote was held to accept the minutes, with 15 affirmative votes and no abstentions or nays.

**Treasurer's Report** John H. handed out an 8/27/12 Cash Report of Expenditures and Revenues and a Budget vs. Actuals report.

7th tradition contributions of \$ 1,083.65 were received in August, with \$205 in new expenditures, leaving a \$5,010.90 balance.

The treasurer pointed out that despite higher than expected contributions, NYCMA is still on the line for over \$ 3,600 in Share-A-Day activities and \$ 2,000 in Expressions of Hope costs—which would use up more than its current available balance if no additional funding comes in.

John H reviewed our carry forward/prudent reserve patterns and reminded us that other fellowships operate with much more significant prudent reserves (up to 1 year's budget). He pointed out the pitfalls of our continuing to operate without a formally voted on final budget built on tight committee expense and revenue predictions.

After an inquiry about the nature of expenditures, we reviewed 2012 actual expenses, which have included: holiday parties 2011 and 2012 costs; start-up costs for the anniversary meeting; \$1,000 for game night; MARCMA travel expenses; \$ 1,300 in literature; webmaster costs; outreach costs; PI & O expenses exceeding FY 2011 levels; and \$ 1,800 on a storage unit for NYCMA and committee materials; and Share-A-Day initial layout costs.

The treasurer anticipated that rolling contributions should cover remaining debts and year-end expenses.

The Treasurer's Report was unanimously accepted.

The Structure and Finance committee had no report.

Bill U offered the PI & O Committee report on behalf of himself and Edward P. He indicated that the committee continued to monitor the phone line and nycma.org and that they had represented NYCMA in a World PI&O Conference Call and a World Communications Conference Call.

Billy offered a mini-meeting list that has been used to answer help-line calls and help provide newcomers with a easy-to-carry reference.

Billy described two new initiatives from World CMA that might affect the NYCMA fellowship:

## 1) a World Public Service Announcement

World has developed a PSA that will be placed on the World Website and youtube, offering an 800 number with live assistance. World is offering the PSA for regional use, allowing local helpline or contact information to be added at the end.

Feedback from PI & O and the GSO representative was generally positive and shared that engaged discussions had occurred at MARCMA to examine the pros and cons of its usage.

In response to questions, it was established that NYCMA has option to develop its own PSA content as an autonomous function or to edit and adapt the world PSA. It was also suggested, however, that we consider whether we need to add to the materials that exist or can build on the linear identification with World activities to expand the 12-16 calls for support we are getting monthly.

It was agreed that the 30-40 second video would be shown at the September Intergroup meeting, at which point discussion of its usage would occur.

## 2) World is conducting a survey to take a statistical snapshot of the fellowship.

Billy U had a role in developing the original draft of questions, later modified by World. The questionnaire was modeled on AA and NA world surveys and seeks to examine questions like: age/race/language/rehab or not/steps you've completed/are you sponsoring/ continuous sober time/gender/relapse- attempts at sobriety/religion/etc..

A mid-Atlantic region representative or area delegate will be deputized to bring surveys to his/her body of meetings and get them physically returned within a short turn-around time. The results will be tallied and presented at the 2013 World conference. The goal is to get as many objective responses from individual members as possible via group meetings, hospitals, and institutions. Online survey options were excluded to avoid issues of access.

Questions were raised over the choice to use names on the surveys to avoid duplication, with a request to ask World about the use of numbers or another technique to preserve anonymity.

As per requests from the Intergroup, Billy U. will develop a script and GSRs are asked to start making announcements to business meetings and weekly meetings with the script to allow 4-5 weeks of advanced notice, making all aware that the surveys disseminated in October are expected to be completed for return by December.

We agreed that the Anniversary Meetings and newsletter will also promote the survey.

Final information from the surveys will be posted on the World web site as a pie chart, breaking down demographics and other information to help the fellowship better understand its populations served and needs.

The **Hospitals and Institutions Committee** report was given by Jeff Freeze. He indicated that Ms. Eddy, the Director of Community Partnerships at the **New York City Department of Corrections** had been discussing opportunities for **bringing meetings to jails**, and would be meeting with him face-to-face in the weeks to follow.

Jeff F also spoke on World's efforts with a "Behind the Bars" pamphlet. He also raised a New Business request to formally approve usage of the H&I World Packet without its cover page to allow prospective organizations to understand the design and content of the meetings or "panels" we would be bringing into their sites. [Note: time constraints did not allow this to be covered during New Business].

Nadir asked questions regarding the structure and speakers in prison site meetings, and it was reviewed that the 2-person chair structure and speaker combos for institutional meetings would necessarily require H&I committee vetting specifically trained persons who are also eligible according to state policies to be on-site in such institutions.

**David H presented the Literature Committee** report on behalf of Mark L, indicating that copies of **Crystal Clear- Early Recovery edition** were still available.

He also indicated that final edits were being made on **Expressions of Hope**, with an imminent submission to the printer, a review of digital proofs, and a receipt of the **finished print run in September**.

Questions were raised about the **anticipated cost of the book**—and the cost to NYCMA for printing. The at-cost price for printing is approximately \$2 with a print run of 1,000 copies expected. The committee had considered price points of 5, 8, or 12 dollars. Shipping to other parts of the country was cited as another possible costs.

David H indicated that the **Anonymity in the Digital Age brochure** anticipated for August had been delayed by committee members' schedules.

The **GSR coordinator** indicated he had **no report**.

Bill B gave the **Activities Committee report**. He raised concern over the Treasury concerns for end-of-year expenses, trying to balance activities

planning with cash flow. He indicated that he believed many of the Activities hosted were fiscally sound with a strong ratio of participant contribution.

Bill B indicated that Brian K was working on offering space for a **post-Share-A-Day event**, that Tim B is working with the committee on hosting a **mid-October Gratitude Day event at the Botanical Gardens**, and that the committee is searching for new space for the **Holiday Event** as the Center will be under construction.

Public school settings were discussed as an alternative for the December event, and Brett S will investigate.

Our **GSO World Representative** David H indicated that he had **no report**.

Our **Vice Chair** Mark V gave an **Anniversary Meeting report**. The July meeting had 15 celebrants with between 1 and 11 years and took in \$119 as part of the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition. It was reiterated that the monthly anniversary meetings are bringing old members of the fellowship back. In addition, it was shared that construction at the Center would cause meeting room switches in the months to follow.

Stephen L reported on **Share-A-Day** is set for Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, from 9 until 4 p.m., indicating that subcommittees were working very hard and progressing on all areas of the event nicely. All **workshops were set** with facilitators and a training of trainers led by Bruce C on Saturday September 8<sup>th</sup> at the Center.

**3 Speakers have been booked**—2 locals representing a member with 1 year and a member with 13 years. A non-local speaker from Los Angeles will be the main speaker at the event.

Event promotions and marketing is done with **tickets and promo cards prepped for distribution with sales beginning at the September Anniversary Meeting**. Tickets are **\$10 with online paypal purchase of tickets** (\$ 10.60) or donations as an option.

Hospitality will insure that breakfast and lunch are set for attendees. **A HALT station** will offer people an option to check in with supportive folks. A **sign interpreter** will be present at speaker meetings.

An anonymous **“secret” Facebook invitation system**, led by event members was planned for event promotion. Questions were raised by committee members about past years’ issues with guest list/invitation privacy as concerns online invitations.

**Old Business**....No Old Business was on the table.

**New Business**

### 1) Sales Price for Expressions of Hope

A discussion of exact printing costs, World's price point for a similar edition, and goals of accessibility were discussed.

A motion was made with a \$5 price point with pros suggesting that other fellowships minimally mark up literature costs, and that \$5 is close enough to the \$ 2.15 cost to make it affordable and sustainable for further production.

Cons were raised about the volume of production and the potential issues of production costs against available budget, reigniting a discussion of budgetary processes.

**The motion to charge \$5 for Expressions of Hope passed** with 12 affirming, 3 abstentions, and 2 opposed.

### 2) A discussion of the Share-A-Day Facebook invites occurred with questions occurring about the mechanics and safety-checks on the invite process focused on the visibility and administration locks.

An initial motion to develop a clubhouse group was suggested and withdrawn after initial pros and cons were presented about whether intergroup should be involved in such a process, and with concerns raised over making such a decision before NYCMA develops social media guidelines.

**A new motion to empower the committee members of Share A Day to conservatively use their judgment and act as trusted servants was put forward and seconded.**

A con was raised that this shouldn't happen at all, that Facebook is not a mandate. A con was offered that other events have successfully occurred without a Facebook presence. A pro suggested that in 2012, many activities in such groups have online presence. A pro suggested that the secret, non-invite sharing model would restrict inappropriate invites.

con- other events not done via FB

pro- it's 2012 and many activities have had a group...

The vote for entrusting the Share-A-Day Committee with the Facebook outreach was:

7 in favor!; 5 opposed; 5 abstentions

**The motion passed.** A question about current and future policy with plurality versus majority in votes was discussed.

\*\*\*

The Astoria Group announced that it wanted action about the GSRs to examine whether NYCMA should return to warehousing literature for groups.

Based on time constraints, all additional business was moved to Old Business for the following month.

A motion was made and seconded to close the meeting.