

BAIG March Meeting Minutes

Sunday, March 16, 1-2:30 pm

ATTENDANCE: Karen B. (Chair), Karen M. (Treasurer), Alan H. (Region Representative), Sue B. (Region Representative), Janet M. (visitor), Janis D. (Thursday Baltimore), Lina (acting Vice Chair), Benjamin D. (Communications Chair), Sue B (Friday Timonium), Tricia (Friday afternoon Columbia), Connie (Secretary)

1. SERENITY PRAYER

2. INTRODUCTIONS: All attendees introduced themselves and their positions.

3. READINGS

- 12 Steps of OA – Lina
- 12 Traditions of OA – Alan H.
- 12 Concepts of OA Service – Karen M.

4. REMINDER ABOUT BAIG MEETING CONDUCT

- One person holds the floor at a time, recognized by the chair
- Robert's Rules of Order
- BAIG group conscience is no food during the meeting, drinks are okay.

5. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF RECENT MEETING MINUTES

- The group reviewed the minutes from the February meeting. Connie addressed comments and corrections from various members. Minutes were adopted as amended.

6. ONGOING BUSINESS-BOARD REPORTS

- **Chair report:** Karen B. sent the results from the February meeting votes to World Service for the World Service Business Conference. She also participated in the B'More Healthy Expo.
- **Vice Chair report:**
 - Lina reached out to the Serenity Center to ask if we can use their location for hybrid meetings in May, August and November. She has verbal confirmation but is waiting to have it in writing.
 - She will coordinate with Janis to schedule the Thursday meeting visit in April, avoiding speaker meetings. She will be attending other BAIG groups as well, including the Monday night Timonium meeting and the new meeting which will be discussed later.
- **Secretary:** Connie A. See review of the minutes, above.
- **Treasurer:** Karen M.
 - Karen M. discussed the group's financial situation, noting that they had spent \$4,000 in the previous month and had \$200 come in for the month year to date. She mentioned that they had paid for some 2024 related expenses in 2025 and had a budget for future expenses. Karen also discussed the possibility of using Zelle as an alternative to PayPal for contributions, noting that it would be less

- expensive. The group agreed to present Zelle as a preferred payment method on their website.
- She provided an update on the group's financial matters, including transaction fees for payment platforms, tax status, and website expenses. The group is not a 501(c)(3) organization and is likely not tax-exempt. Karen M. will investigate whether they should become a 501(c)(3). The website has two main expenses: domain hosting, and webmaster fees. Karen M. will discuss the webmaster's compensation with Sherry to ensure it aligns with the group's self-supporting principles.
- She will also review insurance with Karen B. and Alan to get a better understanding of it and then she will review the policy.
- Karen M. will review archival boxes from Hans and determine what to keep

- **Region 7:** Alan H, Sue B

- Confirmed the Region 7 November Convention is canceled. Karen B. added that the World Service Business Convention will be held in Orlando in August, to which all are welcome. Registration for convention and hotel rooms will be opened in April.

- **World Delegate:** n/a

ONGOING BUSINESS - COMMITTEE REPORTS

PI/PO: Jane: Sue B. (Timonium) presented on behalf of Jane about the success of BAIG's participation at the B'More Healthy Expo on March 8. Visitation to the OA booth was high throughout the day, with distribution of OA materials, many of the visitors having never heard of OA before.

12th Step Within: Vacant

Communications: Benjamin

- Discussed the potential switch to Brevo, an email system that allows individuals to sign up and unsubscribe themselves. Benjamin proposed this as a solution to the issues with the current Google groups system, such as spam implications and difficulties in managing the email list. The team agreed to consider this option, with Benjamin to look into the phone number function and the cost implications. They also discussed the possibility of transferring the existing Google Docs to the new system. Karen M. suggested considering a phone number if the email system proves to be a good fit.
- Benjamin discussed the upcoming issue of *Stepping Stone*, which will be released after the next meeting. He also mentioned that they are accepting submissions for the magazine. Lina suggested the idea of using QR codes for submissions, which Benjamin agreed to look into.
- Update website once May intergroup meeting location at Serenity Center is confirmed

Local Meeting Rep Reports

Janet announced that she will be hosting a face-to-face meeting at her home in Ellicott City starting from March 27th. She also mentioned that she will be introducing a new format for the meeting, which includes a 3-minute meditation and a discussion on sponsorship. Benjamin offered to help with the posting of information on the BAIG website.

- Janis requests postponing the intergroup visit to her meeting until April, citing ongoing meeting improvements and the need for more preparation. Lina agrees to reschedule. Karen B.

clarifies the purpose of intergroup visits, emphasizing the importance of individual meeting representation and participation in the intergroup, especially for meetings without current representatives.

OLD BUSINESS – none

NEW BUSINESS

Abstinence Anniversaries:

- Alan H. 11 years
- Connie 1 year

Key Takeaways

1. BAIG had an OA booth at the March 8th **B'More Healthy Expo**. The booth successfully drew attendees throughout the day, many of whom had not heard of OA and also large numbers of men came up to learn about the program.
2. The **SteppingStone** newsletter's first issue will appear in April. The editor is **actively seeking articles**. To submit an article or ask a question, please contact the editor at steppingstone@oabaltimore.org
3. A **new in-person meeting** will begin on Thursdays from 7-8pm in Ellicott City. The first meeting will be March 27. Information will be posted on the OA Baltimore website soon, providing a phone contact so you can get the address.
4. The **Region 7 November Convention** has been **canceled** for this year. However, **every** OA member is welcome to attend the **World Service Convention in Orlando in August**. Information will be posted on the oa.org website in April

The Next BAIG Meeting: Sunday, April 27th 1-2:30pm

ADJOURNMENT