

MONTEREY BAY ACA INTERGROUP MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, August 22, 2020 2:00 pm

Zoom Meeting

Attendees: Intergroup Representatives

Group#	Intergroup Member Meeting	IGR Name	Present	Proxy	Votes
CA1277	SUN 3:30 pm PAMF "Adult Loving Parent"				0
CA1264	MON 9:30 am Scotts Valley "ACA Scotts Valley"	Jeannie	X		1
CA1337	MON 11:00 am "Quiet Fellowship" <i>meeting on hiatus</i>	Laura	X		0
CA1371	MON 5:30 pm Scotts Valley "Stepping up in ACA"	Beverle	X		1
CA1308	MON 7:00 pm Quaker Meeting House "Authentic Men"				0
CA682	MON 7:30 pm Palo Alto "Monday Night Book Study"	Rachel	X		1
CA1233	TUE 12:30 pm Red Church "Inner Loving Parent – Inner Child"	Evie	X		1
CA1258	TUE 7:00 pm Boulder Creek "Healing the Past"				0
CA1241	WED 6:00 pm Salinas "Freedom from the Past"	Mark			0
CA1373	WED 7:00 pm "ACA@UCSC"	Ursula	X		1
CA477	WED 7:30 pm Palo Alto "Wed. Night Book Study"				0
CA1169	WED 9:30 am Live Oak "Serenity Seekers"	Darren	X		1
CA1170	THU 5:30 pm Quaker Mtg House "Women in Recovery"				0
CA971	THU 7:00 pm Red Church "Serenity Seekers"				0
CA1313	FRI 7:15 pm Barn Studio "Friday Night ACA"				0
CA1075	FRI 7:30 pm Los Gatos "Friday Freedom"				0
CA1276	SAT 9:00 am Barn Studio "Heart Circle"	Sue			0
CA1354	SAT 10:10 am "Saturday Serenity" San Jose				0
CA1015	SAT 4:00 pm "Circle of Hope" Palo Alto	Jean S	X		0

Attendees: Officers, Committees and Visitors

Title	Name	Present	Proxy	Votes	Visitor's Name
Chair	Jean S	X		1	Cate L
Vice-Chair	Laura	X		1	Dave C
Secretary	Renée	X		1	Carol G
Treasurer	Emily	X		1	Patt
WSO Rep				0	
Committee	Chair	Present	Proxy		
Website / Zoom	Chris	X			
Literature	(vacant)				
H&I	(vacant)				
Boundaries Workshop	Jean S	X			
Relationships Workshop	Jean S	X			
Inner Child Workshop	(vacant)				
Potluck Speaker Meetings	(vacant)				
Outreach	Jeannie	X			
Retreat	(vacant)				

Opening: Jean S opened the Zoom meeting at 2:00 pm with the ACA Serenity Prayer and members read the Mission Statement, Commitment to Service, the 8th Tradition, the 8th Concept, and Behavior Goals for ACA Business Meetings. A quorum was established, see attendance above. (IGR's, proxies and officers vote; visitors and committee chairs do not. One vote per person even if filling multiple roles.) 10 voting members were present, meeting our one-less-than-2/3 quorum requirement of 8.

Minutes:

Motion: (Darren/Ursula): The original motion to approve the minutes was withdrawn by Darren. The absence of a motion to approve the minutes indicates the group will wait until next month to approve minutes of 7/25/20 meeting. Rachel indicated she doesn't think everything she said was included in the minutes, but she forgot to bring her corrections. (8-1-1), (Approve-Reject-Abstain)

7th Tradition: Jean S announced how to contribute to Intergroup via Venmo @Emily-Feucht. This information was shared in the meeting's Chat.

REPORTS

Chairperson – Jean S reported that the proposals for the 2021 ABC are due October 31st. The link to begin the proposal process is <https://acawso.org/category/ballot-prep/>. Jean S thanked Jeannie for her memorandum expressing her thoughts which Jeannie sent to the acamontereybay@gmail.com regarding last month's Intergroup meeting. The memo was circulated to the IGRs and Committee Chairs.

Vice Chairperson – Nothing to report

Secretary – **Renée** stated she will be recording the Intergroup meetings for the purpose of producing accurate minutes. **Jean S** asked if this were something the group would like to discuss. **Laura** asked for discussion and a vote. **Darren** said the best way to produce accuracy is to record the meeting. He is not aware of any violation of the Traditions by recording the meeting but would be open to learning if there is a Traditions violation. **Jean** asked if we are being recorded now and Renée responded she was recording the meeting on her phone. **Jean S** asked if any other meetings have been recorded and **Renée** responded that they were and that Jean S has copies of those recordings. **Jeannie** added that at all legal meetings she attended, recordings were taken to reflect accurate minutes. **Jean S** shared at her work, it is illegal to record everyone unless they have prior knowledge and agreement to being recorded. **Rachel** shared she was used to signing a waiver when being recorded and she would like to be aware that she is being recorded. **Laura** said she thought the recordings of the last six Intergroup meetings was a violation of her anonymity because she did not give consent. The SF Intergroup records their meetings but they state that fact and keep the recordings for a month, then discard them. She thinks there are two issues – the past recordings without permission and how to handle recordings going forward. **Ursula** supports recording meetings for accuracy but thinks it is very important to inform people who are being recorded. This is the first time she has heard that we are being recorded. She is in favor of recording in the future but also in favor of being informed of that. **Jean S** said that Zoom meetings that are being recorded have an announcement whenever a participant enters the meeting. The recording goes into the Zoom account and can be accessed through the account. **Jean S** would have liked to have been informed she was being recorded and doesn't know if she would have behaved differently if she had known.

Motion: (Renée/Ursula/Rachel) Record the Intergroup meetings for accuracy on Zoom with notification upon entering the meeting, maintain the recordings for a month, and then destroy the recordings. Evie added the friendly amendment of notification upon entering the meeting. Laura added the friendly amendment that the recordings be made on Zoom. Renée accepted both friendly amendments. (8-0-2)

Chris will change the Zoom account settings before next month's meeting to accommodate recording. She will make the recordings available to Renée for the minutes. Cate asked which version of Zoom Intergroup is using and Chris answered Intergroup uses the expensive version. Laura asked if the meeting script needs to be changed to reflect the recording. Jean S said Zoom announces to everybody entering the meeting of the recording and wondered if the issue of changing the script could be dealt with later in the meeting.

Treasurer – Current balance is \$1,734.42. Emily said the last Intergroup donation to WSO was in October 2019 so Emily made a motion to donate \$500.00 to WSO. Jean S thought we voted to send \$500 when Shelter-In-Place occurred and WSO's literature sales dropped. Emily confirmed the last donation was in October even if there had been a vote, but she will double check.

Motion: (Emily/Jean) Intergroup to donate \$500.00 to WSO. (9-0-1)

WSO Representative – (open position) No report.

IGR (Intergroup Representatives) reports:

- **Monday 9:30am "ACA Scotts Valley" meeting:** Jeannie reported the group is well attended with an average of 16 and 1 newcomer.
- **Monday 11:00am "Quiet Fellowship" meeting:** Laura reported the meeting is on hiatus.
- **Monday 5:30pm "Stepping up in ACA":** Beverle reported the meeting is going strong with an average of 12 attending.
- **Monday 7:30pm "Monday Night Book Study":** Rachel reported there is an average of 12 per meeting with some newcomers. It is a closed meeting.
- **Tuesday 12:30 "Inner Loving Parent-Inner Child":** Evie is the newly elected IGR. She reported a steady average of 5-12 people.
- **Wednesday 9:30 am "Serenity Seekers":** Darren reported an average of around 20 attending this meeting.
- **Wednesday 7:00pm "ACA @ UCSC":** Ursula reported an average of 7-10 per meeting for the past 2 months. The meeting features a rotating focus each week including a speaker, an activity or a reading from recovery related literature.

- **Saturday 4:00 pm “Circle of Hope”:** Jean S. reported a steady group of regulars attending, from 8-16 average. It’s closed meeting with about one new person added per month through email contact.
- **Friday 7:30 pm “Friday Freedom” Los Gatos:** Jean S reported for that meeting that their posting of the Zoom dialing instruction on the MBIG website has resulted in an increase in attendance for this meeting.
 - Wednesday 7:30 pm “Wednesday Night Book Study” Palo Alto does not have an IGR
 - Friday 7:15 pm “Friday Night ACA” does not have an IGR
 - Monday 7:00 pm “Authentic Men” does not have an IGR
 - Sunday 3:30 pm “Adult Loving Parent” does not have an IGR
 - Friday 7:30 pm “Friday Freedom” Los Gatos does not have an IGR
 - Saturday 10:10 am “Saturday Serenity” San Jose does not have an IGR
 - Thursday 5:30 pm “Women in Recovery” does not have an IGR
 - Thursday 7:00pm “Serenity Seekers” does not have an IGR
 - Wednesday 6:00pm “Freedom from the Past” IGR did not attend
 - Saturday 9:00 am “Heart Circle” IGR did not attend

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Literature Committee** – Chair position is open.
 - Renée reported no inventory was taken at the Literature Depot as she was evacuated due to the fires. There have been some sales of literature this past month.
- **Website Committee** – Chris reported an average of 70-80 hits per month with ten hits this month so far.
- **H&I** – Chair position is open. Jean S gave an update on a Los Gatos recovery center that had requested an ACA meeting be brought into their facility. There is ongoing discussion between members of the Friday Freedom meeting in Los Gatos and the recovery center to see if they can mutually benefit by moving the meeting to the recovery center.
- **Virtual Speaker Meeting** – Chair position is open. Last meeting was in July attended by 48 people with 3 speakers on how ACA has worked in relationships and some sharing. If anyone wants to plan the next virtual speaker meeting in October, please contact acamontereybay@gmail.com.
- **Outreach** – Jeannie reported on the July 21st meeting. Volunteers are still being sought to participate on the Outreach Committee. Attendance counts should be collected through October and sent monthly to Ursula who will be giving a report to the Intergroup in November. The next meeting will be held September 22 at 2pm via Zoom.
- **Healthy Boundaries Workshop** – Jean S will start working on this virtual workshop in the next few weeks. She would like the Healthy Boundaries booklet taken down off the website while she prepares the virtual workshop.
- **Relationship Workshop** – No plans yet. The guided discussion on Zoom was successful with 28 in attendance. This was a precursor to the Relationship Workshop. Rachel suggested that Jean S ask for feedback on subjects to be covered in the Relationship Workshop because it is a big subject.
- **Inner Child Workshop** – Chair position is open.
- **Retreat 2021 Committee** – Co-Chair positions are open. Jeannie reported that the pandemic has caused a standstill in planning. The selected facility is not currently open but committee is staying in touch with the facility. There was no deposit given to the facility.

New Business

- Discussion to update the Business Meeting goals. Jean S chose to handle the second New Business agenda item first.
- Emergency vote to dismiss the current Chair and Vice Chair from IG

Darren submitted this agenda item August 19th to Jean S and Jean S responded back to Darren via email. The updated agenda was sent out August 22nd. **Darren** commented on what he witnessed at last month’s Intergroup meeting. Darren wants the people he is asking to be removed to know that he wants them to succeed in the program. He supports the Intergroup. He came to the meeting last month to attend to the agenda items but instead he witnessed an attempt to shame a member’s behavior that had no idea what was coming. Our agenda got put to the side to deal with a personality. Darren said he thought we were supposed to deal with principles, not personalities. The person who was singled out had no idea that this attack was going to happen. He wondered how he would have felt if it had been him to receive this attention as he is not as stable the person in question. Darren thinks that the behavior in that meeting was a leadership issue and an abuse of their power. The Chair, after consulting with other Intergroup Chairs, chose the path of shaming a fellow member. Was this the right way to deal with this personality? His biggest concern was the leadership had prior knowledge of bypassing the agenda to do this. He said he is here to get information to report to his meetings, not to see who gets along with the hierarchy. Darren thinks the Chair and Vice Chair are great members of ACA but he would like them to step down so that we could get leadership who will protect the program, not their own agendas. He thinks he was held hostage last month during the meeting and he asked the Chair if the targeted person knew they were going to be targeted, and the answer was no. The discussion before that question was a direct reflection of our current leadership. We must be safe in order to offer help. He said he failed to represent what he believes in because he did not step up and say that what was going on

last month was not acceptable. An abuse of power has broken his trust and he has had trouble staying in Intergroup. The way the meeting was run is hurting our area's Intergroup. He challenges everyone to pull it back together and serve as we have been meant to serve.

Jean S said she did not know how to handle the issue and has apologized to the person singled out. It was a difficult situation and she asked several times for suggestions and motions. She did not know at the time she was being recorded but now knows the recording reflects that she asked for assistance in how to handle the issue. Jean S said she does not think any action today should include the Vice Chair as she only spoke her opinion like everyone else who spoke in the meeting.

Rachel thanked Darren, Jean S, Laura, and Renée for their service and for what she has learned from the situation. She thinks the Chair and Vice Chair should not be dismissed. She thinks it could have been handled with tact and compassion, but it didn't happen that way. She took away learning. She loves everyone and big lessons were learned. It taught her she can do better and change. She apologized if she offended anyone and is glad to have this platform in which to learn.

Cate, who attended last month's meeting, shared she believed that Jean S thought she had no other option than to bring up the issue to the Intergroup meeting of having members leaving due to one person's behavior, being at her wit's end. Cate does not doubt Jean S's motivation. It felt like Renée was getting blindsided and what was meant to be an intervention coming from a place of love was not that. Cate doesn't have a strong opinion on whether the Chair and Vice Chair should be removed. She does feel strongly that the Officers of the Intergroup should be able to connect and work on their stuff behind the scenes so as not to bring these issues to the general meeting. For Cate, it was a reenactment of a dysfunctional family system with the Officers acting as the parents and they were acting out in front of the kids. Moving forward, Cate asked that whoever is in the leadership roles should have all their issues worked out prior to the meeting. She invites us all to do this moving forward.

Beverle felt very shanghaied at last month's meeting, expecting to talk about the agenda. She was not asked if she wanted to deviate from the agenda and talk about something else that took up the whole meeting. She wished it could have been done under New Business and she felt like she didn't have a choice. She called two people privately after last month's meeting to discuss her feelings about what was said. One person she called has shamed her in the rooms and Beverle doesn't speak up during the meeting very much because of this person's repeated shaming. She told Jean S that if these are the new procedures of the Intergroup, she does not want to be a part of it. Beverle loves the purpose of the Intergroup and she believes in our goals and motivations and we've done a great job. She respects everyone who is here and would like to continue to be a part of Intergroup but if it's going to continue that she does not have a choice about what is to be discussed, she cannot endorse this kind of behavior. Intergroup is a family that has deviated away from the principles of what it means to be a family, in her opinion.

Jeannie circulated a memo last week sharing her feelings about last month's meeting. She found the meeting unsafe and uncomfortable and at first, didn't know who was being singled out. She was relieved to find out it wasn't her. She was personally traumatized by what happened. Several of the Traditions were pushed to the side and we didn't stick to our Mission Statement. Within this group setting, most of the IGRs have an ACA reference, and know about the 13th Step and Crosstalk rules. We read these at most meetings and we are directed to approach someone who feels safe to share their issue. The Crosstalk reading also says we are responsible. Jeannie had asked how many people had left the Intergroup because of Renée. During the remaining discussion, five people kept being referred to. That was not the case. We saw Laundry List Traits acted out at that meeting. Jeannie stayed, even with her feelings, because she represented a group. She had nothing to tell her group after the meeting because none of the agenda items were addressed. Going forward, she thinks we should learn from this. Jeannie hoped there would be a public apology to Renée as well as the group, once again levelling the playing field so we can all go forward in faith and trust.

Laura shared when Jean S brought up the issue in her Chair report, that she was following precedent from the prior Chair who had done the same. The participation of the group filled the allotted time, not the Chair. She believes the Chair brought the issue up to resolve the conflict and air the problem. She tried to maintain the individual's anonymity and did not name names. She repeatedly asked for input on a loving solution to a dysfunctional pattern of behavior, acting on the guidance and support of several Intergroup Chairs consulted prior to the meeting. Laura thought that removing Jean S from the Chair would be hypocritical based on the previous Chair's precedent. Laura thought that would be punishing the messenger when you don't like the messenger or the message. Jean S has been a loyal and committed member of our Intergroup and if there is a vote, Laura will not vote for her removal.

Beverle asked if Laura had prepared that response ahead of time and before Laura could answer the question directed to her by Beverle, **Jean S** stated that Darren did also. **Laura** answered yes, she had prepared something, based on the takeaway from last month's meeting to examine our behavior. Once Laura received the agenda a few hours ago, she did not want to come from a reactive place, so she thought about what she wanted to say and wrote something down.

Motion: (Darren/Beverle/Rachel) Have an emergency election to remove the Chair and the Vice Chair in this group and rebuild. Darren is convinced that this leadership is our major problem. Darren feels the Chair and Vice Chair have violated trust in their leadership abilities, Laura included, and Darren could not trust them to lead him in any type of group until he saw an apology from at least the Vice Chair, but that didn't happen. Safety must come from the leadership level and he is hearing only justifications.

Jean S asked if anyone wanted to take this issue back to the groups. Darren brought up a point of order that there was a motion on the floor that was not meant to be postponed.

Laura read a statement saying she spoke her truth in last month's meeting. She quoted the BRB in defense of her behavior. She thinks there has been gossip about her since the last meeting, that she has been judged, tried, and convicted, which does not show acceptance of differences nor conflict resolution. Laura thanked everyone for their part in her journey. She is tired of the conflict in her place of service and she is choosing love and peace by resigning her position as Vice Chair of the Monterey Bay Intergroup and wants the minutes to show that.

Jean S made a friendly amendment to the motion to remove the Chair as the Vice Chair resigned. Jean counted the votes. (4-0-5)
The motion passed.

Darren and Rachel thanked Laura for her service.

Motion: (Beverle/Evie) To adjourn (9-0-0)

The meeting closed at 3:35 pm with the Closing Affirmation.

Respectfully submitted,
Renée H.
Recording Secretary 8/24/2020