

Monterey Bay ACA Intergroup
Preliminary Group Inventory Meeting Minutes
Saturday, September 12, 2020 at 3:00 pm

The meeting was opened at 3:00 pm by Emily, Intergroup Treasurer, with the ACA Serenity Prayer. Serving as co-chair for this meeting was Patt. The meeting was recorded for the purpose of accuracy and all present were informed of the recording. The purpose of this Group Inventory Meeting was to provide a forum to voice perceptions and concerns about the Monterey Bay ACA Intergroup and to make recommendations for its improvement. The bulleted items listed in these minutes represent the main ideas from members who attended this Preliminary Group Inventory Meeting and will be presented at the next scheduled Intergroup (IG) Meeting on Saturday, September 26th at 2:00 pm.

Present: Emily (co-chair and IG Treasurer), Patt (co-chair), Renée (IG Secretary), Chris C (Zoom host and Website Chair), Jean S*, Terrie, August, Rachel*, Sue*, Victoria, Carol G, Evie V*, Beverle*, Janet, Cate, Elli, Paul, Shari, and Darren*. (* Intergroup Representative [IGR])

The Twelve Traditions, Concepts of Service, Working to Achieve an Informal Group Conscience (p. 595 BRB), Crosstalk Reminder, and MBIG Business Meeting Guidelines were read and Rachel served as Timekeeper.

Individual sharing limited to 3 minutes followed and is summarized below.

- Safety in the IG meeting is important. It is a place to practice relationships and hone service skills.
- IG is a dysfunctional family and we have an opportunity to make it a functional organization, to be welcoming and accepting by practicing the principles and guidelines.
- IG gives us an opportunity to practice dealing with making mistakes.
- We need to interact with each other in a more compassionate and loving way.
- There needs to be a definition of group conscience which represents the hearts of the group.
- The material read at the beginning of this meeting concerning consensus and unanimity was valuable.
- We need to obtain substantial unanimity more effectively when using Roberts Rules.
- We need to follow the Behavioral Guidelines read at each meeting.
- IG is valuable to the area by providing speaker meetings, potlucks, get togethers, literature and workshops in a healthy manner.
- The tone and tenor of the IG is strict and uncomfortable.
- IG is supposed to support the meetings. What do the members think the primary purpose of the IG is?
- Roberts Rules should not be used. Something more informal would be better. Roberts Rules are not welcoming and are hard to learn.
- Our purpose is to help those still suffering so maybe we need to talk about how to help newcomers at the meeting level.
- By having food or coffee available at IG, it would make the meeting more enticing and relaxing. Have more fun while conducting business will promote participation.

- I like the activities offered by the IG but I cannot tolerate IG meetings due to the charge/hyperstimulation/agitation which caused me to flashback, so I walked away.
- I'm concerned about the issue of recording the meetings being a breach of trust, confidentiality, and anonymity.
- The results of the last vote to remove the Chair were questionable.
- I am confident we have everything in place to solve the concerns of IG.
- IG is a group which cares about itself and its community.
- IG needs a structure for safety, perhaps a behavior referee handing out red card violations or an objective observer grading a recording of our meetings.
- I trust our Higher Power is taking care of us.
- The purpose of the IG is to bring healing and support to people in recovery,
- The Commitment to Service should be read at IG meetings.
- An evaluation of the meeting should be an agenda item at the end of each IG meeting to review what went well and what needs improvement.
- Check-ins during introductions could be used to release tension at the beginning of the meeting.
- A mentorship program for new IGRs would have been helpful to me.
- A list of phone numbers for IG members would have helped me connect with others as I didn't know many faces at IG.
- Service in IG has been beneficial for me with overcoming over the stress and lack of gentleness at IG meetings.
- We can ask ourselves, "What parts of myself can I heal to feel safer at IG meetings?"
- A workshop or study group on the Behavior Goals would be helpful.
- I came to listen without judgment.
- I've seen a lot of value in the activities and programs presented by the IG.
- Minority opinions are especially important to be heard.
- The materials read at this meeting could be posted on the website for reference.
- Roberts Rules takes casualties and hostages. A different consensus system is worth considering.
- I needed help in my service position and I didn't ask for it and I resigned. This was a huge lesson learned.

The Promises were read and the meeting was closed with the Unity Prayer at 4:28 pm.