



# Greater Houston CoDA Fellowship Service Committee Meeting Minutes

February 22, 2015

Call to Order at 2:15pm by Ellen S., Greater Houston CoDA Chair.

Powerpoint presentation was started (attached).

Serenity Prayer

Introductions

12 Traditions-Ted

Fellowship Service Committee Reports:

- Chair-Ellen S. Reported she has researched what it means to be an intergroup including contacting other cities in other states. Thanks Ellen S.!
- Vice Chair-Linda B. Reported she is excited & willing to work. Yee Haw!
- Secretary-Cara R. Passed out January 2015 minutes for review. Cara R. read minutes from January meeting. Ellen S. made a motion to approve, Lisa C. seconded, 10 votes to approve minutes, 1 abstained from voting, motion passed. After David L. arrived minutes were revisited. David L. corrected the January minutes that stated “David L. agreed to serve as treasurer for another year”, and reported that his term of treasurer was not yet complete. Linda B. asked if the term was a 2 year term. It was affirmed the term was for 2 years. David L. did not request an amendment of the January minutes. Thanks Cara R.!
- Treasurer-David L. Passed out January 2014-December 2014 financial report and January 2015 financial report (attached). David L. read the report. Thanks David L.!!! Ellen S. voiced concern about \$250 income entry on 8/5/14 from unknown source. David L. apologized for not knowing from whom those funds came. Ellen noted that current expenses for Greater Houston CoDA are for the birthday party, mailbox rental & sending the Greater Houston Chair to the State Meeting. Lisa C. asked about how her group’s funds are to be allocated. David L. advised keeping a 2-month rent as prudent reserve,

then the traditional 60% sent to Intergroup (Greater Houston), 30% sent to voting entity (Texas), 10% sent to CoDA World. Ellen S. mentioned that other, thriving, CoDA intergroups are investing 7<sup>th</sup> tradition contributions in CoDA service and support of their groups and local committees. Ellen S. asked if David L.'s group had contributed in 2014. David L. replied that his group did contribute. Ellen S. made a motion to freeze all funds until a service plan/budget were set in place. Cara R. seconded. Discussion followed with the following concerns: Gary G. requested Houston CoDA provide drinks/snacks for the upcoming Texas CoDA meeting in April. **Stacie G. volunteered to research a service plan.** Concern about the time it will take to create a service plan was voiced by group members. Ellen S. revised the motion to state: freeze funds until next month (March). Cara R. seconded. 12 votes to approve, 2 abstained, **motion passed.** No motion was made to approve the treasurer's report.

### Other Greater Houston CoDA Community Reports:

- New group updates: Lisa C. "The Sunshine Group" meets on Saturdays at 5:00 at Creative Life Spiritual Center on Spring Steubner in Spring, TX. This meeting was started in Nov/Dec 2014. This group hosted a CoDA Christmas Party in December 2014. Thanks Lisa C.!!!

### CoDA Texas Updates/Announcements:

- Gary G., CoDA Texas Chair, representing our voting entity, spoke about concern regarding comparing our area to San Diego due to socio-economic status. He supported the idea of a service plan & budget. Encouraged our group to learn more about our local groups & their needs. He noticed that Greater Houston CoDA has a great core group based on participation at the Assembly in 2014. Thanks Gary G.! Ellen S. added that having a Group Representative from each group will enhance communication between the intergroup and the local groups. The idea was warmly received.

### New to CoDA Service?

- Ellen S. referred the group to review the CoDA Fellowship Service Manual which can be found at [www.coda.org](http://www.coda.org). CoDA organizational and service structure was reviewed (see power point presentation attached).

### The State of Affairs:

- Infrastructure. Ellen S. requested a volunteer to research bylaws for our intergroup, as currently Greater Houston CoDA (intergroup) is using CoDA Texas (Voting Entity)'s bylaws. Gary G. asked if Greater Houston CoDA's bylaws needed approval from CoDA TX. David L. responded that Greater Houston CoDA is autonomous and does not require approval from CoDA TX. **Ellen S. volunteered to research bylaws.** Woo Hoo!
- Outreach. Ellen S. reported on the current state of the 1-888 CoDA information phone line that is published on the CoDA TX website. It presently goes to voicemail that have not been returned after several attempts. Many group members expressed deep concern over this problem. Also, there are several meetings that are published on the Texas CoDA website that do not respond to inquiries and have not donated funds to Greater

Houston according to reports from the current treasurer. **Linda B. volunteered to research the 1-888 information line problem and to investigate removing non-active groups from the CoDA TX website.** Thanks Linda B! Additionally, a request was made for a volunteer to begin a committee on outreach. **Lisa C. volunteered to head the outreach committee.** Thanks Lisa C.!!

- Funding. Stacie G. has volunteered to research a service plan (stated earlier). Thanks Stacie G.!!!

Open:

- Gary G. asked for suggestions/issues that could be brought to the state level. Ellen S. asked what has been historically requested from the intergroup (Greater Houston CoDA). Gary G. deferred to David L. David L. deferred to Karen (prior CoDA TX Chair), as she would be aware of past issues faced by Greater Houston CoDA.
- Ellen S. called for all members present to return to their local groups and elect (via group conscience) a Group Representative and an Alternate Group Representative.
- Frequency of Greater Houston CoDA meetings: Linda B. suggested a monthly meeting for the first 6 months. The idea was accepted by the group verbally. **Cara R. volunteered to find a semi-permanent location for meetings.**
- Delphine Z. requested a summary of the meeting. Ellen S. listed: Education-read the service manual, Service- in our community, Plan-where we will go from here, Ad-Hoc Sub-Committees formed:
  - ✓ Service Plan Ad-Hoc Subcommittee-Stacie G.
  - ✓ Bylaws Ad-Hoc Subcommittee-Ellen S.
  - ✓ Outreach Activities Ad-Hoc Subcommittee-Lisa C.
  - ✓ Communications Ad-Hoc Subcommittee-Linda B.
  - ✓ Meeting Location Ad-Hoc Subcommittee-Cara R.

Raffle: Lisa C. won the raffle. You go girl!

Meeting adjourned at 3:50pm.

Attendees present:

- ❖ Cara R
- ❖ Lisa C
- ❖ Ginger A
- ❖ Ellen S
- ❖ Gary G
- ❖ Marcela
- ❖ Linda B
- ❖ Michelle
- ❖ Stacie G
- ❖ Pete
- ❖ Ted

- ❖ Joan M
- ❖ Delphine Z
- ❖ David L