



Date: 6/28/15

**Meeting Called to Order:** Ellen opened the meeting with the serenity prayer. 12 Traditions were read by Cara R. Introductions were made.

**Attendees:** Cara R. (Secretary), Marcela R. (Treasurer), Pete (Parliamentarian), Jenna (CoDA North Alternate Group Service Representative), Brenda (Member at large), Linda B. (Vice Chair), Lisa C. (Outreach Sub-Committee Chair), Paula (Member at large), DeDe W. (Member at large), Michele (Member at large), Delphine (Member at large), Joan M. (Mental Health Professionals Group Service Representative), Alfonso (Member at large), Ellen S. (Chair)

**May 2015 Minutes:** Minutes were read by Cara R. Suggestions were made to change:

- "First United Methodist Church" to "Woodlands United Methodist Church".
- The All City Step study/Pot Luck Dinner (first Saturday of the month) is hosted by Greater Houston CoDA at Creative Life Spiritual Center for the 1st three months (Aug, Sept & Oct). Comments: Joan M. expressed concern that the planned events mentioned in the minutes are located on the north side of town. An invitation was extended for assistance in finding more centrally located locations.

Brenda made inquiry about the motion to rescind a \$300 gift to CoDA TX, explaining CoDA North had given Houston CoDA a \$250 scholarship contribution in August 2014 for the State Assembly. Ellen shared her predecessor had declared all 2013 and 2014 Meeting Minutes lost, our current Officer team having no way to know how the prior team handled CoDA North's contribution. It was suggested that future contributions to CoDA TX be sent directly to CoDA TX.

A motion to approve the May 2015 minutes with the above corrections was made by Linda B., seconded by Lisa C. All voted and approved the May minutes. **MOTION PASSED!!!**

**Old / Pending Business:**

**Bylaws Sub-Committee:** Ellen advised the Committee has continued to operate per CoDA TX Bylaws --- and reported Greater Houston CoDA's Bylaws ready for approval.

Comments: Jenna asked who votes under the new Bylaws. Ellen explained, per our new Bylaws, each officer and group service representative has one vote. Further, it is a common CoDA practice to extend voting privileges to all meeting attendees when approved by a group conscious decision taken at that meeting. At Special Meetings, the common practice is for only officers and group service representatives to vote. Joan M. asked how do the bylaws protect against a large number of members at large diluting a vote. Ellen explained that situation is and has always been a possibility as voting privileges might be extended to all meeting attendees.

Ellen called for all officers and group service representatives to vote to extend voting privileges to all members today. All voted: 5 for, 1 against, motion passed to open voting to all members.

Joan M. asked about "non service board voting". Ellen replied that the Parliamentarian and the Regional Representative are non-voting board members. Joan M. asked when do only officers & Group Service Representatives vote. It was explained that tends to mostly occur with a "Special Meeting." Joan M. raised concern over the "voice vote." Ellen S. replied that she believes it is standard practice to allow for "voice or hand" voting methods.

Lisa C. made a motion to adopt the bylaws immediately. Linda B. seconded. 11 voted to approve, 2 voted against, 1 abstained. **Greater Houston CoDA Bylaws were adopted!**

#### New Officer Positions.

- Pete was nominated for Parliamentarian. All voted to elect Pete as Parliamentarian, **congrats Pete!**
- The Regional Representative position was announced. No nominations were made. This position would attend CoDA TX meetings and work with the editor of the CoDA TX Newsletter.

Business Communications. Cara R. reported that as Secretary, she takes & distributes Meeting Minutes to our local fellowship. Importance of Meeting Minutes include: (1) Drives action by clarifying how, when why and by whom decisions are made; (2) Maps out a plan of action, and (3) Provide info for those not in attendance. Minutes also act as a historical record and measure our progress. They reflect, "Who We Are" as are the Committee's goals and plans to grow the message of recovery through service.

Service Communications Sub-Committee: Linda B. gave a big thanks to Ellen for spearheading our Committee's start-up! Introduced the [www.GreaterHoustonCoDA.org](http://www.GreaterHoustonCoDA.org) website, reviewed its subpages and features, including: Activities/Events, Meetings, CoDA Readings & Who We Are. Awesome!!! Additionally, our area's phone number for CoDA interest calls was displayed, the number is **936-900-3613**, which is published on the website. Please visit the website & check out the progress!

Community Outreach Sub-Committee. Lisa C. discussed the 3 parts of outreach that are progressing well.

- E-mail outs have been sent to over 100 therapists/counselors & 26 responses have been received, WOW!
- Camp CoDA 2015 is planned for July 25, 2015 from 9-4ish to include light breakfast, speakers, workshops on meditation/affirmations/CoDA tools, & raffle, fellowship, SUPER FUN!!! Please plan to come & bring a friend!
- Step Study/Pot Luck is planned to kick off the first Saturday. An invitation was extended to locate other locations for the Eating Meeting to allow for this event to travel around the Houston Area.

All funds raised by outreach events will go to fund further outreach events, to fund scholarships for CoDA events, and new group start-up grants.

T-shirts. Ellen S. presented information regarding a possible t-shirt with "precious & free" text and smiling sun design to be made available for a donation. She proposed proceeding with this project if Greater Houston CoDA would receive \$3-5 profit from each shirt.

A motion was made to pursue this project by Cara R, seconded by Lisa C. 11 voted to approve, 1 abstained. **MOTION PASSED!**

Open. Michelle suggested other items with "precious & free" including water bottles. The idea was received warmly. Cara R. requested help with secretary duties beginning in September through December 2015. Please look into your hearts and consider this awesome opportunity to serve and grow!!!