



Greater Houston CoDA

Fellowship Service

Committee Meeting

Approved Minutes

Date: 5/17/15 2:00 pm

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Attendees: Cara R (The Woodlands Group), Ellen S (The Woodlands Group), Mary K, Lisa C (The Sunshine Group), Starla B, Ginger A, Pete (CoDA North), Marcela R, Holley W (The Woodlands Group), Alfonso (The Woodlands Group), Linda B (The Woodlands Group), Tina (The Woodlands Group)

12 Traditions were read by Holley W

Officer & Sub-Committee Reports

- Chair-Ellen S.
 - Work continues on the proposed bylaws! They were reviewed at the last meeting. A couple flaws have been found and approval will be suspended until next month. Revised bylaws will be distributed before the next meeting. The plan will be to adopt these bylaws at the next meeting. Yipee!!!
 - A proposal was made by Ellen S to rescind the \$300 gift to CoDA Texas that was approved during the April 11, 2015 meeting, due to the fact that during that meeting Greater Houston CoDA was under the assumption that CoDA Texas needed funding. Since that meeting, CoDA Texas financial information has been distributed showing \$9,200 in the account. Concerns were discussed. A motion was made by Ellen S. Lisa C seconded the motion. 10 votes to approve, 1 vote was dissenting. **Motion passed.**
- Vice Chair-Linda B
 - Linda B expressed her gratitude & excitement about her communications sub-committee! She reported that Greater Houston CoDA now has a cell phone to be used to accept CoDA interest calls. The plan is to have a volunteer carry the phone for a month or two, then rotated to another volunteer. The number is 936-900-3613, and Linda B demonstrated what the message sounds like when it is called. Additionally, work has progressed with the Greater Houston CoDA website. There will be a hosting fee of \$10/month for use of the website. Ellen S made a motion to financially support the website. Linda B seconded the motion. All voted and approved the motion. **Motion passed!**
- Secretary-Cara R
 - Progress has been made on the location sub-committee! After researching several meeting places, The Woodlands United Methodist Church in The Woodlands has been chosen for the location of Greater Houston CoDA meetings. This venue is: available, spacious, equipped for Power Point presentations, and came at the right price (a love offering!) to be paid when we are able. Ellen S made a motion to pay \$1/attendee for each monthly meeting. Options were discussed including preference for a fixed amount. Pete made a motion to pay the Woodlands United Methodist Church \$15/month for use of the room. Lisa C seconded the motion. All voted and approved the motion. **Motion passed!**
 - Minutes from the April 11, 2015 were distributed and read aloud. Linda B requested that she receive travel reimbursement in lieu of Ellen S for travel to Waco for the CoDA Texas meeting on May 25, 2015, since Ellen S did not attend the meeting. It was agreed that Linda B will receive the travel reimbursement. Ellen S made a motion to approve the April 11, 2015 minutes. Pete seconded the motion. All voted and approved the motion. **Motion passed!**
- Acting Treasurer-Erika D (Reported by Ellen S)
 - Erika D has resigned as Acting Treasurer. She relayed a message of gratitude for the opportunity to serve. Thanks Erika! The Treasurer position was announced "open". Marcela R expressed interest in serving as the Treasurer. Ellen reviewed the Treasurer position duties: balance checkbook, check mailbox, deposit checks, use excel, &

prepare monthly meeting reports. Per our current bylaws, officer vacancies are temporarily appointed by remaining officers. **Ellen S, Linda B, and Cara R agreed and appointed Marcela R as Treasurer, to serve until the next election in January 2016.** *Wow!!! Thanks Marcela!!!*

- A new financial institution was requested, as the current Credit Union does not offer 2-signatures for checks. Ellen S reported on research she has done on Wells Fargo, which offers a \$100 bonus for signing-up, 2-signature lines for checks, no fees, and they will classify Greater Houston CoDA as a non-profit organization. **Ellen S made a motion to change the financial institution to Wells Fargo. Mary seconded the motion. All voted to approve the motion. Motion passed!**

7th Tradition Contributions

- CoDA North (Tuesday nights, 7:30pm, Spring Cypress Presbyterian Church, Spring TX) contributed \$41.82, *Thanks so much!!!*
- Licensed Mental Health Professionals (Thursday mornings, 9:00 am, Houston Council on Drugs & Alcohol, Houston TX) contributed \$63.00, *Much Appreciated!!!*

Community Outreach Committee Report-Lisa C

- Super Saturday Seminar. Lisa C opened by expressing gratitude for Ellen's leadership & guidance. She also thanked her committee members: Starla, Tangerine, Holley, Marcela, & Amy. She reported that she has gathered valuable information from successful CoDA intergroups (California) about successful programs and has decided to focus on a Super Seminar Saturday (SSS)!!! This event will include a keynote speaker, special topics workshops, & fellowship luncheon. It is thought to be a bi-annual, city-wide event. **The first SSS is planned for July 25, 2015!** *Woo-hoo, Thanks Lisa!!!*
- Information Letter w/list of meeting groups & CoDA Brochure w/Greater Houston CoDA contact information (our new phone number!!!). Lisa reported this information has been e-mailed to approximately 80 therapists in the area with about 25 responding back. Most exciting, Lisa received the first CoDA interest call from a woman who said her therapist referred her to CoDA!!! It works!
- All-City Step Study-Eating Meeting. Plans are being made for an all-city step study! They will be held on the first Saturday night of each month, planned to meet at the Sunshine Group (Creative Life Spiritual Center, 5:00 pm) to begin in August 2015. All are invited to participate in the step study and after enjoy a potluck meal & fellowship. Sounds great!
- All proceeds support Greater Houston CoDA including the \$40 literature grant for start-up meetings and scholarship fund (for CoDA events). **Starla made a motion to approve a \$300 budget for the Outreach Committee. Mary seconded the motion. All voted to approve the motion. Motion passed!** Congratulations Greater Houston CoDA!

CoDA Service & Structure

- Ellen continues to encourage all CoDA members to go to the coda.org website and read the CoDA Fellowship Service Manual. It is the group conscience decision for all of CoDA by all of CoDA. She stressed that an informed CoDA is a strong CoDA. The inverted pyramid was reviewed, showing authority & power flow down from the individuals in meetings through the trusted servants to Community Service Committees, and on to the Regional Voting Entity and via Regional Delegates to CoDA boards, committees & corporations—with service flowing up through the same levels to the Meeting Groups and their members.

CoDA Regional/CoDA int'l Updates & Announcements

- Regional Voting Entity CoDA Texas had a Spring business meeting on March 25, 2015 in Waco. Financial reports were sent out showing an Equity Fund Balance of \$9,200. The next business meeting is planned to be held at the Regional Assembly in the Fall of 2015 in Austin. There is a CoDA retreat planned for March 18-20, 2016 in LaGrange, TX at Camp Lone Star.
- CoDA International will host the CoDA Service Conference in San Francisco July 14-17, 2015. The International CoDA Convention will be held in San Francisco July 17-19, 2015. We are so excited that Linda B, Vice Chair, Greater Houston CoDA will be attending these meetings as a Jr. Delegate!!! Woo hoo!!! Thanks Linda for your service!

Open

- Brainstorm session for Outreach ideas revealed many creative thoughts including: expression of recovery through art/painting, collage, possibly generating items to be donated to the Spring Retreat.