WCO Minutes for August 7, 2010

1. Meeting opened at 2:05 with Serenity Prayer

2. Introductions.
    a. Mark L – WCO Chairperson
    b. Joe H – Nutbuckets representative
    c. Kevin – Tuesday Night Lake Grove representative
    d. Robert M – Terwilliger Men's Group; legal advisor assisting with Articles of Incorporation
    e. Jeff – John's Landing; interested AA member
    f. Scott – Terwilliger Men's Group; accounting advisor assisting with 501(c)(3) status (non-profit org)
    g. John W – WCO Treasurer

3. Mark L requested volunteer to take minutes. Joe H (Nutbuckets representative) volunteered to take minutes.

4. Reviewed minutes from previous meeting.

5. Treasurer's Report (John W) – $172 balance at the start of the meeting.
    a. WCO needs to open a checking account
    b. WCO needs to start providing a service – selling books, etc.
    c. WCO needs group contributions in order to get its services funded.
    d. Scott: filing fee for 501(c)(3) is $850. The IRS planned to implement an electronic filing process that would reduce the fee to $200.
        i. Recommends waiting to file; saves $650.
        ii. Also recommends providing groups with explanation of the initial expenses required to get WCO services started. This will give them something tangible to contribute for.
        iii. Scott is also an insurance agent; will help in writing a policy for WCO.

6. Chair Report (Mark L)
    a. Mark spent time over the previous month with Legal Sub-Committee and advisors.
    b. Mark will be absent for September meeting; will seek replacement to Chair the meeting that month.
    c. Question from Scott: what is the motivation behind the WCO start-up?
        i. Mark explained [summarized here]: In 2009, discussions began around the idea of forming one or two more intergroup offices. The Hillsboro-area was especially interested due to geographic isolation. The Clackamas-area was also considered, but after a survey of approximately 100 groups, the Beaverton/Hillsboro area showed the most interest and promise of financial support.

The geographical area currently served by the existing intergroup office is too big to provide focused service in all areas. Group liaisons and service work need more attention in all sub-regions ("reaching-out" to the professional community, jails, and other institutions, etc.)

WCO does not wish to compete with the existing intergroup. WCO is interested in serving alcoholics who still suffer on the west side of the greater Portland-metro area. WCO hopes to provide extended hours and weekend hours with an all-volunteer staff.

Currently, only 30% of groups contribute to the existing intergroup.

d. Question from Jeff: will more groups begin contributing? Or will WCO be splitting the 30% pot that currently contributes, thereby hurting the existing intergroup financially?
    i. Mark explained [summarized here]: The 2009 survey showed interest in supporting a new intergroup on the Westside.

7. Logistics (vacant position) – no change from previous meeting.

8. Legal (maybe a vacant position) –
    a. During July WCO meeting, trustees to be listed on Articles of Incorporation were elected.
        i. Chairperson = Mark L
        ii. Treasurer = John W
        iii. Member-at-Large = Bob S.

9. Finance Report (John W) – reviewed initial start-up costs.

10. Outreach Report (Mark L) –
    a. Mark continues to meet with and present at various groups and business meetings.
    b. Contacts from various groups are asking their groups if Mark can present at their business meetings.
    c. Mark has received positive feedback from making presentations.
    d. Discussion ensued regarding additional meetings/groups that WCO should make presentations to.

11. I.T. Report (Bob S) – Bob not present.
    a. Website: westsidecentraloffice.org (.com redirects to .org)
    b. Jeff is interested in providing support/assistance to the I.T. sub-committee.

12. Old Business –

a. Mark needs to sign the Articles of Incorporation as "incorporator" and mail the documents to Robert.
b. Elections:
    i. Secretary = Kevin
    ii. Logistics = remains vacant
    iii. Co-Chair = remains vacant

13. New Business –
    a. Motion: to create a Literature sub-committee position.
        i. Intent: we will need a Literature person sooner or later; let's get the position created.
        ii. Motion passed unanimously.
        iii. Literature sub-committee chair position is now open.

14. Observed 7th tradition.

15. Meeting adjourned @ 3:14pm with the Responsibility Statement.