PCI Intergroup Meeting Minutes 07/20/26

1. Renaming/Roll Call
2. Call to Order at 7:00PM
3. Open with the Serenity Prayer
4. Welcome to all new Intergroup Representatives
5. Statement of Purpose
6. Reading of Second Tradition
7. Motion of Approve Minutes from Previous Month
8. Chairperson's Remarks - Brian

9. **Reports – (See Reports document sent separately with Agenda)**

a) Treasurer's Report
b) Central Office Manager's Report
c) District 1 Report
d) Plain and Straight Report
e) Helpline Report
f) Web Report
g) Tech Report
h) Where and When Report
i) Unity Report
j) Rules Report
k) Volunteer Report
l) Outreach Committee

Discussed Topics

Technical Difficulties at Meeting Opening

The meeting experienced significant audio and Bluetooth connectivity issues at the start, as Allen (Pinellas County Intergroup manager) was hosting the Zoom meeting from home rather than the church. The in-person attendees had difficulty being heard through the room's audio system. Two IT personnel worked to resolve the issue during the opening minutes.

Welcome of New Intergroup Representatives

Brian (intergroup chair) invited new intergroup reps to introduce themselves at the start of the meeting.

- **Details**
    - Betsy new intergroup rep for A New Start in Palm Harbor.
    - Tree Harrison New rep with New Start.
    - Emily new intergroup rep from the Lunch Bunch.
    - Erika Intergroup rep for Downtown Serenity Sisters (2–3 months in the role, formal introduction given).
    - Melissa B. New intergroup rep for Kitchen Table.
    - Amy New intergroup rep from Goya at the Serenity Club.
    - Sissy: Welcomed all new reps and noted an upcoming training in August.
- **Conclusion**
    - New reps were directed to sign up on the intergroup website and register for the August 15th training.

Statement of Purpose and Meeting Formalities

The statement of purpose for Pinellas County Intergroup was read aloud, followed by the Second Tradition. June meeting minutes were motioned, seconded, and approved.

- **Details**
    - Brian Read the statement of purpose and Second Tradition; called for approval of June minutes.

- **Conclusion**
    - June meeting minutes were approved.

Chairman's Remarks

Brian provided several key announcements before moving to reports.

- **Details**
    - Brian) Announced there will be no in-person intergroup meeting in August (August 17th is elections day in the meeting room; all attendees will be on Zoom).
    - Brian Noted only five reports were submitted this month.
    - Brian Reminded all intergroup reps that elections are in October and encouraged people to stand for open positions.
- **Conclusion**
    - August meeting will be fully on Zoom.
    - October elections were flagged as an ongoing reminder item.

Treasurer's Report (Virginia)

Virginia presented the financial report for June and year-to-date figures.

- **Details**
    - Total cash (checking + prudent reserve) stands at $67,222. Prudent reserve is $33,187, earning $85 in interest.
    - June net loss was $2,604, which is $400 unfavorable to the budgeted net loss of $1,664. Contributions were $685 unfavorable to budget; literature net sales were $145 favorable; operating expenses were $147 under budget.
    - Year-to-date (January–June) net income is $4,074, which is $3,183 unfavorable to the budgeted $7,257. Group contributions are at 90% of projection; Grateful Givers at 30%; total contributions short of budget by 13%. Net merchandise sales are $10,574 (78% of budget).
    - Actual net revenue is short of budget for 6 months by 44%, partly due to high January 2025 contributions in the prior year.

- Compared to June 2025, the June 2026 net loss is $718 favorable. Year-to-date net income is $1,760 unfavorable to 2025's $5,834. Expenses are $1,791.80 less than 2025, due to rent, payroll increases offset by accounting fee timing, no legal fees, and lower equipment/printing costs.
- The 501(c)(3) tax return has been filed; accounting fees were paid in July this year vs. June last year.

- **Conclusion**
  - Finances are stable but contributions remain below projections.
  - No questions were raised from the floor.

Central Office Report (Allen)

Allen provided an update on central office operations, GSO group contact requirements, and convention snack donations.

- **Details**
  - June was slow for contributions; this is a nationwide trend, possibly related to the economy. He met with intergroup offices from the US and Canada and with the General Service Office (GSO).
  - GSO is marking groups without a current group contact as inactive. Groups must email groupservices@aa.org with current contact information. The area had over 2,000 groups last year; that number has been cut to approximately 1,000. Pinellas County has over 215 active groups.
  - Pinellas County Intergroup (Alan): GSO changed group numbers approximately two years ago. Groups with old numbers should call the central office to obtain their updated group number.
  - Groups without a current GSR are most likely already in an inactive state in Fellowship Connect (GSO's tracking system).
  - Allen Attended the Area Assembly in Wesley Chapel; contributions to intergroup offices were a key discussion topic.
  - Groups are asked to donate dry/wrapped snacks for the state convention hospitality room; snacks can be dropped off at the central office or the Dunedin warehouse.
  - Sissy: Clarified that central office typically contacts GSRs (not intergroup reps) and that groups should check their registration numbers in their archives.

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    - Keva: Asked about the date for the next open house; Alan confirmed it will be after the state convention, before the Gratitude Dinner (after the Talent Show), but no specific date yet.
- **Conclusion**
    - All groups should email groupservices@aa.org to ensure an active contact is on file.
    - Groups should verify their current group number with central office if they have not done so in the last two years.
    - Snack donations for the state convention hospitality room are welcome at central office or the Dunedin warehouse.

District 1 Liaison Report (Loralei)

Loralei presented the District 1 liaison report, highlighting the district inventory and an upcoming service event.

- **Details**
    - Loralei Noted her full report is available online on the Pinellas County website and encouraged all reps to read it.
    - The District 1 inventory identified areas of improvement and areas to continue working on; encouraged group-level inventories as well.
    - Announced Carry the Message Day on October 17th at St. Luke's Church, 4444 Fifth Avenue North (same location as Monday Night Speakers). Volunteers are needed; Lauren is the event chair.
    - Virginia: Raised a concern that the Carry the Message Day (October 17th) is only two days before intergroup elections (October 19th), leaving little time to inform candidates about open positions.
    - Allen Responded that the district meeting the following day would allow for relaying this information, and that reminders can be given monthly leading up to elections.
- **Conclusion**
    - Loralei's full report is available on the Pinellas County Intergroup website.
    - Volunteers are needed for Carry the Message Day (October 17th); contact Loralei or Lauren.
    - Election information will be communicated monthly in the lead-up to October elections.

Outreach Committee Report (Sissy)

Sissy provided an update on outreach activities and new intergroup rep training.

- **Details**
    - Sissy Welcomed all new intergroup reps. Announced a training scheduled for August 15th at central office, 11 a.m. to approximately 1 p.m.
    - Sissy Noted she was unaware of the number of new reps signing up and does not receive direct notification when they register.
    - Brian Suggested creating a document on how to log into Zoom and how to name themselves in meetings, to be distributed at training.
    - Sissy Welcomed the suggestion and invited all chairpersons to send relevant information to the outreach chair email at AAPinellas.org.
    - Amy Asked how to officially register and sign up for training.
    - Sissy: Directed new reps to fill out the form on the intergroup website; an event listing for the training will be posted on the website calendar.
    - Allen - Clarified that the intergroup rep packet is available on the website under a dedicated tab; printed copies can be provided upon request.
    - Sissy: Confirmed the packet will be incorporated into the training.
- **Conclusion**
    - New intergroup rep training: August 15th, 11 a.m.–1 p.m., at central office.
    - New reps should register via the intergroup website form.
    - The intergroup rep packet is available online; printed copies available on request.
    - Chairpersons are encouraged to send relevant materials to the outreach chair for inclusion in training.

Gratitude Dinner Report (Ashleigh)

Ashleigh provided an update on the upcoming Gratitude Dinner.

- **Details**
    - Chris Kelly from New Port Richey will be the speaker.

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    - Tickets will be $20 each. The dinner is on November 14th; doors open at noon.
    - Tickets will go on sale after the Talent Show.
- **Conclusion**
    - Gratitude Dinner: November 14th, doors open at noon, tickets $20.
    - Speaker: Chris Kelly from New Port Richey.
    - Tickets on sale after the Talent Show.

Talent Show Report (Gene)

Gene provided an update on the upcoming Talent Show, including sign-up logistics, performance limits, and event details.

- **Details**
    - Sign-ups for performers will open on July 21st via the intergroup website (submissions received on July 20th will be disregarded).
    - A controversy from last year regarding the event running too late led to a discussion about limiting performers to 15 (with 3 alternates) vs. 20. Gene indicated flexibility on this point.
    - Performance sets are 5–8 minutes (5 minutes preferred, 8 minutes maximum).
    - Event details — September 26th, Oakhurst United Methodist Church, 13400 Park Boulevard, Seminole. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.; meeting opens at approximately 5:45–6:00 p.m. Snacks and drinks will be available (no full meal). Seating for 300. A 50/50 raffle will be held.
    - Allen - Confirmed sign-up form is live on the website but submissions before July 21st will not be accepted.
- **Conclusion**
    - Talent Show: September 26th, Oakhurst United Methodist Church, 13400 Park Boulevard, Seminole. Doors open 5:30 p.m., show begins ~5:45–6:00 p.m.
    - Performer sign-ups open July 21st on the intergroup website.
    - Sets are 5–8 minutes; 15–20 performers will be selected.
    - 50/50 raffle; snacks and drinks provided.

Planet Straight Newsletter Update (Bill)

Bill provided a brief update on the current issue of the Planet Straight newsletter.

- **Details**
    - The current issue of Planet Straight includes an extra 4 pages dedicated to the state convention, given that District 1 is hosting it and Alan is the convention chairperson.
    - The new issue has been available since the prior week. Copies are available at Oakhurst; Bill dropped copies at the Serenity Club.
- **Conclusion**
    - Current Planet Straight issue features expanded state convention coverage.
    - Copies available at Oakhurst and the Serenity Club.

Old Business: Proposed Motion — Standardization of Non-Officer Committee Chair Requirements and Champion Provision

A detailed discussion was held on a proposed motion to standardize sobriety and service requirements for all non-officer committee chair positions and to introduce a "Champion Provision" for candidates who do not meet baseline qualifications.

- **Details**
    - Brian - Provided background — Sam reviewed the Book of Motions and found inconsistent sobriety requirements across positions (some 1 year, some 2 years). The steering committee recommends standardizing all requirements and introducing a champion/co-signer concept.
    - Sam: Explained that historical one-time waivers caused the current inconsistency. The motion aims to eliminate ad hoc waivers by baking in a structured alternative (the champion provision).
    - Read the full motion text into the record:
        - Section 1 (Baseline Qualifications): 2 years continuous sobriety; 1 year of service outside the home group (intergroup, corrections, treatment, helpline, district, or equivalent); any technical requirements per the position's job description.
        - Section 2 (Term): All non-officer committee chairs serve a 2-year term (consistent with Motion 60).

- Section 3 (Champion Provision): If a candidate does not meet baseline qualifications, they may stand only when paired with a champion who has 3 years sobriety and 6 months of outside service within the most recent 2 years. The champion serves as a senior co-signatory and assumes duties only if the primary candidate fails to perform them.
- Section 4 (Order of Preference): First, pair with a champion; second, leave position open; third (last resort only), grant a one-time waiver.
- Section 5 (New Positions): Any new position created after this motion must reference baseline qualifications, term, and champion provisions.
- Section 6 (Rules Chair Exception): Rules chair retains its existing requirements (5 years sobriety, 2 years Pinellas County intergroup or general service experience); champion provision applies only when the candidate does not meet those stricter requirements.
- Section 7 (Effect on Prior Motions): Supersedes the intergroup representative experience portion of Motion 1270 (2002); all other elements of Motion 50 and Motion 60 remain in effect.

- Steve: Questioned whether the champion provision should be a separate motion; expressed concern about the concept and whether it is necessary given that events have historically always been fulfilled.
- Christine: Asked for clarification on whether this was the same motion discussed last month and why a vote was not taken tonight.
- Brian: Clarified that the motion wording was not distributed last month, which delayed the vote by one month; apologized for the oversight.
- Sissy: Pointed out that not all reps (especially new ones) had received the motion documentation and asked where it could be found.
- Brian: Directed reps to the intergroup website; Alan confirmed the motion is posted online.
- Virginia: Summarized the intent — standardize requirements and use the champion/co-chair concept to set people up for success in service, rather than turning away motivated members.
- Lauren: Asked for a simplified explanation of what to bring back to her home group; also relayed two questions from her group: (1) Are there relationship requirements between champion and candidate? (2) What happens if no champion is available? Brian responded that no specific relationship is required and that the lack of qualified candidates is the existing problem the motion seeks to address.

    - Tommy: Asked whether setting the standard at 2 years (vs. 1 year) would make it harder to find candidates. Brian clarified that 2 years was always the original intent; 1-year requirements arose from one-time waivers over the years.
    - Noted that the anniversary dinner historically used a chair/co-chair model where the co-chair assumed the chair role the following year, which was an unwritten practice. Sam acknowledged this as a perfect example of undocumented institutional knowledge that the motion seeks to formalize.

- **Conclusion**
    - The motion was not voted on tonight; it is to be taken back to home groups for discussion.
    - A vote will be held at the next business meeting (August).
    - The motion is available on the Pinellas County Intergroup website and was emailed to reps on the secretary's list.
    - New reps and those who did not receive the email should access the motion online.
    - If amendments or additional motions are needed (e.g., formalizing the chair/alt-chair succession model), groups should discuss and bring proposals next month.

New Business: Nominating Committee — Intergroup Representative Position

Brian announced the need for one intergroup representative to serve on the nominating committee for executive officer elections in October.

- **Details**
    - Brian: Explained the nominating committee's role is to vet candidates for executive officer positions (e.g., ensuring the treasurer has an appropriate accounting background). This does not prevent floor nominations at the October elections.
    - Amy: Volunteered to stand for the position.
- **Conclusion**
    - Amy from Goya at the Serenity Club was elected by acclamation to serve on the nominating committee as the intergroup representative.

Sponsor Brunch Announcement (Laura)

Laura announced details for an upcoming Sponsor Brunch event.

- **Details**
    - The Sponsor Brunch is scheduled for January 23, 2027, at St. Jerome's (new facility). Start time: 10:30 a.m.; eating at 11 a.m.; speaker at 12 p.m.; concludes by 2 p.m. One speaker. Tentative pricing: $10 per person, $15 if bringing a sponsor (not yet finalized).
    - Ashleigh: Asked whether home groups would still be asked to bring side dishes, as originally proposed. Laura confirmed yes.
- **Conclusion**
    - Sponsor Brunch: January 23, 2027, St. Jerome's, 10:30 a.m.–2 p.m.
    - Home groups are asked to bring side dishes.
    - Pricing to be confirmed.

Sobriety Anniversaries

Participants shared upcoming sobriety milestones.

- **Details**
    - Frank: Celebrating 2 years of sobriety the following day (July 21st).
    - Christine: Celebrating 22 years of sobriety on Tuesday.

Group Announcements

Several group-level announcements were made before closing.

- **Details**
    - Keith: San Martin Group in Pinellas Park is holding a picnic on Saturday, July 26th at 6 p.m. to celebrate 37 years. Dinner (hamburgers, hot dogs) will be served; attendees are asked to bring a side dish. Meeting follows at 8 p.m.
    - Lauren: The Beacon Group (4444 Fifth Avenue North, St. Luke's Church) is changing the last Thursday of each month to a speaker meeting (previously open discussion). Meetings are Thursdays at 8 p.m.
    - Allen: The 68th Florida State Convention is 16 days away (August 6–9, Rosen Plaza Hotel, Orlando). Over 2,200 registrants plus 200 scholarship recipients; approximately 3,000 attendees expected. Encouraged all members to attend and bring sponsors/sponsees.

- **Conclusion**
    - San Martin Group picnic: July 26th, 6 p.m., Pinellas Park. Bring a side dish.
    - Beacon Group: Last Thursday of each month is now a speaker meeting, Thursdays 8 p.m., St. Luke's Church.
    - 68th Florida State Convention: August 6–9, Rosen Plaza Hotel, Orlando. All are encouraged to attend.

Action Items

- **All Intergroup Representatives**
    - Take the proposed motion on standardization of non-officer committee chair requirements and the Champion Provision back to home groups for discussion before the next meeting (August).
    - Ensure home group has a current active contact submitted to groupservices@aa.org to avoid inactive status with GSO.
    - Verify home group's current GSO group number (updated approximately 2 years ago); contact central office if needed.
    - Inform home groups about the state convention (August 6–9, Rosen Plaza Hotel, Orlando) and encourage attendance.
    - Inform home groups about the Talent Show (September 26th, Oakhurst United Methodist Church) and encourage participation and attendance.
    - Inform home groups about the Gratitude Dinner (November 14th, $20 tickets, on sale after the Talent Show).
    - Inform home groups about the Sponsor Brunch (January 23, 2027, St. Jerome's) and that side dishes will be requested.
    - Donate dry/wrapped snacks for the state convention hospitality room (drop off at central office or Dunedin warehouse).
- **New Intergroup Representatives (Betsy, Tree Harrison, Emily, Erika, Melissa B., Amy)**
    - Register on the Pinellas County Intergroup website by filling out the intergroup rep form.
    - Download the intergroup rep packet from the website.
    - Attend the new intergroup rep training on August 15th, 11 a.m.–1 p.m., at central office.

- **Allen**
    - Post groupservices@aa.org in the meeting chat for all reps to reference.
    - Post Talent Show event details (date, time, location, sign-up link) in the meeting chat.
    - Confirm and announce the specific date for the next open house (after the Talent Show, before the Gratitude Dinner).
    - Assist Gene in accessing the Talent Show sign-up portal (call scheduled for July 21st morning).
    - Ensure the proposed motion on chair requirements standardization is accessible on the Pinellas County Intergroup website.
    - Continue monthly reminders about October elections to encourage candidates to stand for open positions.
- **Sam (Rules Chair)**
    - Make the proposed motion on standardization of chair requirements available to all intergroup reps who have not yet received it.
    - Prepare for a vote on the proposed motion at the August meeting.
    - Address any amendments or additional motions submitted by groups prior to the August meeting.
- **Technology (Keith)**
    - Create and send a document to Sissy covering how to log into the Zoom meeting and how to correctly name oneself upon joining.
- **Sissy (Outreach Chair)**
    - Finalize and post the August 15th training event on the intergroup website calendar.
    - Incorporate the Zoom login/naming guide (from Brian/Keith) into training materials.
    - Invite all chairpersons to submit relevant materials to the outreach chair email at AAPinellas.org for inclusion in training.
    - Clarify with Allen the process for distributing new intergroup rep packets going forward.
- **Gene (Talent Show Chair)**
    - Post Talent Show details (date, time, location, sign-up information) in the Zoom meeting chat.
    - Call Allen on July 21st morning to discuss access to the sign-up portal.

    - Finalize performer count (15 vs. 20) and alternate policy; consider changes for future years.

- **Loralei / Lauren**
    - Recruit volunteers for Carry the Message Day (October 17th, St. Luke's Church, 4444 Fifth Avenue North).
    - Coordinate with intergroup to ensure election information is communicated well in advance of the October 19th elections.
- **Laura (Sponsor Brunch Chair)**
    - Finalize ticket pricing for the Sponsor Brunch and post details on the intergroup website.
    - Communicate to home groups that side dishes will be requested for the event.
- **Amy (Nominating Committee)**
    - Begin service on the nominating committee for the October executive officer elections.